

# Purpose and Use of Contracted Acres

## Under Corn and Wheat Adjustment Programs

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### 1. What are "Contracted Acres"?

On each farming unit covered by a corn-hog or wheat reduction contract are "contracted acres." Their number is represented by the per cent of reduction required from the base acreages of these crops. These acres, representing the reduction, are to be used only as specified by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

### 2. Why Have Contracted Acres?

Contracted acres are the means of retiring land from production of farm products for market. We find them, therefore, set up on every contracted farm for one purpose—to bring reduction. Obviously, the producer's use of them must be such as to contribute to that single end. It is clearly the intent of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration that the contracted acreages retired from wheat and corn growing "shall not be used to contribute to surpluses of any agricultural product" in the year or years the land is under contract.

### 3. Crops Intended for Sale Barred.

The production of any crops for sale, either directly, or indirectly as live-stock or livestock products, is not permitted on the contracted acres.

### 4. What Crops are Permitted on Contracted Acres?

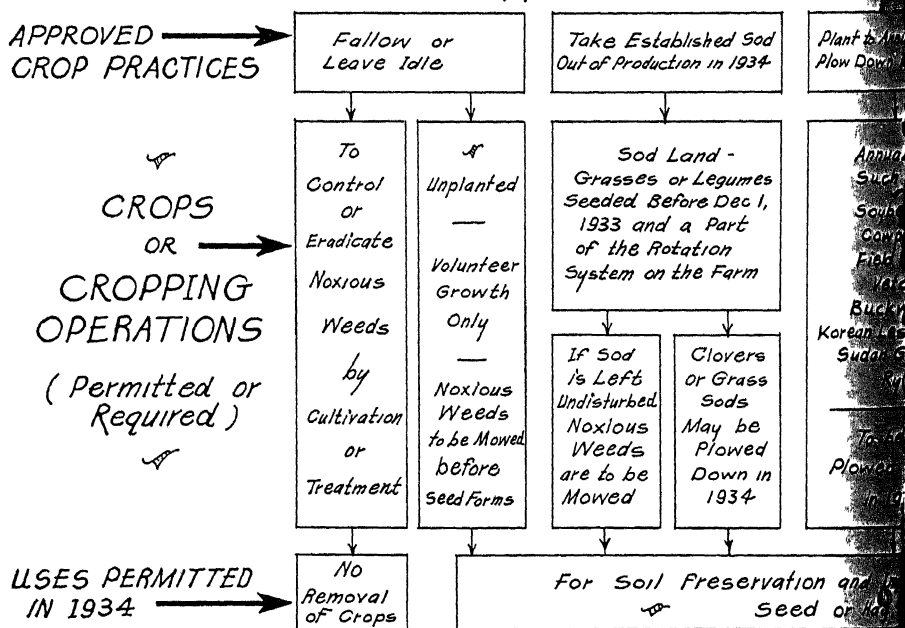
The producer is not required to seed any crop on his contracted area. He may leave it idle or fallow it for weed control. He is, however, permitted to seed it to certain crops. Which he should do will depend upon: (a) need for weed control; (b) need of the particular soil area for improvement or for protection against sheet or gully washing; and (c) need for additional and better quality grazing or meadow lands for future use. Designed to promote those ends, the regulations under the Wheat and Corn contracts permit the growing of a wide range of crops suitable to Ohio conditions (see diagram on next page).

(a) **Continuing Established Sods.**—Established meadowlands and pasture sods, "which are part of the rotation system" may be retired from use this year. In this class may be included mixtures of grasses and legumes, as well as second year or older stands of the clovers and alfalfa. Such acres may not be pastured, nor may hay or seed be removed from them in 1934.

(b) **Planting for Soil Improvement.**—To provide rapidly growing soil-building crops for plowing down this season, the annuals are available under the rulings. Chief among these is the soybean. Others are sudan grass, buck-

# CROPS and CROPPING CONTRACTS

Applicable to Corn and Soybeans



wheat, lespedezas, as well as rye for fall seeding. All of these permit later seeding than do the biennials and perennials. They afford shorter-time protection against soil washing and hence are less suited to slopes prone to erode. The largest measure of benefit is had by turning these crops under before they ripen seed. If that were done and the area put to rye, the full period of the contract may be spanned with active soil building crops.

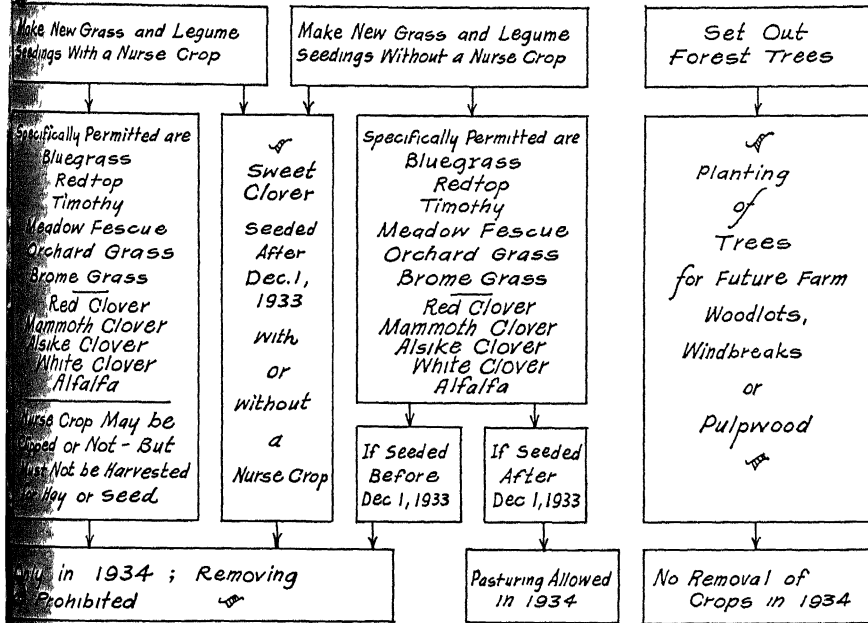
Sweet clover, the common clovers, and grasses, are available for seeding areas to be plowed down in later years or to protect against washing during this and future years.

(c) **Seeding to Grasses and Clovers.**—One of the prime objectives of the Agricultural Adjustment Plan is a shift to a larger percent of pasture and meadow acreage. A wide range of plants is permitted for making new seedings on contracted acres for future pastures, meadows, or erosion control. Bluegrass, timothy, red top, orchard grass, red, mammoth, alsike, and white clovers, alfalfa, and lespedezas may be seeded alone or in combinations either with or without nurse crops. From among these may be selected one or a combination that fits the soil and climatic conditions of each Ohio farm. Sweet clover may be seeded but it must not be pastured until 1935 (see diagram).

Any seedings of these crops made prior to December 1, 1933, and that resulted in an appreciable growth by that time fall in the established sod group. A volunteer 1933 stand of alsike clover, though only partial, and though supplemented by further seeding in 1934, does likewise.

(d) **Setting to Forest Trees.**—The regulations permit planting forest trees to serve as a future windbreak, woodlot, or source of pulpwood. The setting of fruit trees is not permitted.

**REGULATIONS and USES of**  
**Contracted Acres in Ohio**  
**in 1934 -**



(e) **Fallowing to Kill Noxious Weeds.**—Patches of troublesome weeds on contracted acres may be brought under control by periodic cultivation or through other measures. Nothing in this privilege shall be construed to mean pasturing or removal of plant material from the area.

(f) **Leaving Land Idle or Unplanted.**—The producer may elect to leave the land unplanted, permitting natural growth of any material that may volunteer. Pasturing or crop removal is not permitted in this situation.

**5. Uses Allowed on Contracted Acres.**

Permission to seed and grow certain crops on retired land is one thing. The use that may be made of such crops is entirely a different matter. Rigid restrictions are necessary in what utilization may be made of the product produced on those acres during the period the contract is in force. A field is regarded "idle" if not seeded after December 1, 1933. Such land is not available for pasturing, regardless of how meager may be the stand of grasses or the amount of weed growth. The same applies to an old or established sod, by which is meant any grasses or legumes seeded prior to December 1, 1933. For either situation, regulations as to compliance require the mowing of noxious weeds, if any, before seed formation.

A sweet clover stand in its second year of growth in 1934 is an example of the established sod class. This crop need not be mowed unless badly infested with weeds, but may be plowed under for soil improvement any time during the period of contract, or allowed to lie over for subsequent plowing. Nothing can be taken from such areas. The regulations clearly and definitely bar the producer from pasturing, from harvesting hay, or taking seed from this class

of crops. The only privilege left to the producer is that of plowing down in 1934, and reseeding.

Under no circumstances is it permissible to allow a matured annual to stand over until December 1, 1934. The material must go under the ground. The regulations require that annuals be plowed down at the approved time for effective results on the soil.

Pasturing of biennials and perennials seeded in 1934 is conditional upon non-use of a nurse crop. Pasturing is confined strictly to those areas of these plants seeded without a nurse crop. No hay can be harvested in 1934 from clovers, alfalfa, and grasses newly seeded in 1934. Clipping of a nurse crop while yet green and before heading time, does not open the use of the area for pasturing. The mere fact that a nurse crop was seeded bars pasturing for the entire season.

## **6. What Is to Be Done with Contracted Acres in 1935?**

What is done with the contracted acres in 1935 is immaterial and has nothing to do with compliance in 1934. Under the wheat program one may replace his 1934 contracted acres with different acres in 1935.

## **7. Are the Regulations Covering Corn and Wheat Contracted Acres the Same?**

They are worded somewhat differently, but practically they are very similar. As stated in section 6 of the Wheat Allotment Contract, wheat contracted acres may be planted "to food crops for home consumption on this farm, or to feed crops for the production of livestock (or livestock products) for home consumption or use on this farm." This "home consumption" clause does not apply to corn contracted acres. However, subsequent regulation (No. 26) on Use of Wheat Contracted Acres states:

"It shall be deemed to be a violation of his contract for a producer, who has executed a contract, to shift food crops grown for home consumption on the farm, or feed crops grown for the production of livestock (or livestock products) for home consumption or use on the farm, to the contracted acreage, thereby releasing other lands on the farm for the planting of crops for sale or for feed for the production of livestock or of livestock products for sale.

The contracted acreage of 1934 and 1935 shall not be used to feed or to produce feed for dairy cattle, beef cattle, hogs, sheep, or poultry kept for sale or kept for the sale of their products."

It is, therefore, very difficult to take advantage of the "home consumption" clause and not at the same time release the produce of other acres for sale. So in practice, the permitted uses of contracted acres under the two programs should be looked upon as being identical.

Livestock may be allowed to graze over wheat contracted acres after wheat harvest, provided such contracted acres are in the same field as the 1934 wheat stubble land which the operator desires to pasture. These contracted acres must have been newly seeded to the same meadow or pasture crops as sown in the adjacent wheat.

## **8. May Wheat Be Seeded in the Fall of 1934 on Contracted Acres?**

If it has been the custom on the farm to seed wheat on corn stubble land or in standing corn, then the corn contracted acres may be seeded to wheat in the fall of 1934, provided planting is delayed until corn land has been seeded to wheat on this farm or in the community.

Acres contracted for 1934 under the wheat program may be seeded to wheat in the fall of 1934.