

NEWS

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CRP SIGN-UP DOING WELL BUT SIGN-UP ENDS NOVEMBER 14, SAYS GLICKMAN

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10, 1997--Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman today reminded farmers and ranchers that the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)'s 16th sign-up period will end November 14, 1997.

"Initial reports from the field show the 16th sign-up is going well," Glickman said. "However, I realize that many farmers have been busy bringing in their harvests and may not have had a chance to come in and offer acreage for inclusion in the program. I want to take this opportunity to remind all producers time is quickly running out."

The new, environmentally-focused CRP provides benefits to producers, ranchers and taxpayers through reduced soil erosion, improved water quality and expanded wildlife habitat. Under this voluntary program, landowners enter into 10-15 year contracts with USDA to protect highly erodible and other environmentally-sensitive cropland. In exchange, landowners receive annual rental payments for the land and cost-share assistance for establishing those practices.

"I want to encourage all landowners to consider enrolling their eligible environmentally-sensitive land in this program," Glickman said. "USDA field employees are working hard to inform producers about this important opportunity and are processing offers to enroll land nationwide."

All land that is offered for enrollment during this general CRP sign-up must compete for acceptance based on an environmental benefits index that ensures fair and equal consideration for all types of land. Sign-up for the program began October 14 and will continue through November 14.

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