CRP CLEAR30

Photo's courtesy of NRCS
Introductions

- Deputy Administrator of Farm Programs Scott Marlow
- Virginia Green, Continuous CRP Program Manager
Introductions

Purpose
Eligibility
Monitoring and Maintenance
Payments
Compatible Uses
Deadlines
Q&As

CRP CLEAR30 PILOT

Photo courtesy of NRCS
Pilot Program: CLEAR 30

- In 2020, Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes States
- Expanded to be available NATIONWIDE in 2021!
- Expiring CRP water quality benefitting practices re-enrolled into 30-year contracts

Photo courtesy of NRCS
Sources of Authority

• The Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, Section 1231C. [16 U.S.C. 3831c] PILOT PROGRAMS
  • Secretary shall establish a pilot program to enroll land in the conservation reserve program through a 30-year conservation reserve contract (referred to in this subsection as a “CLEAR 30 contract”) in accordance with this subsection.

• 7 CFR Part 1410.8
CRP CLEAR30 PILOT

SU57 CLEAR30 Signup Period

Start: April 1, 2022
End: August 5, 2022

Photo courtesy of NRCS
Eligible Land

Land that meets all the following criteria will have the opportunity to be offered for reenrollment into a CLEAR30 contract:

- expires on September 30, 2022.
- has a CRP CLEAR initiative practice established.
- practice is in compliance.
## Authorized Practices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CP8A</td>
<td>Grass Waterways, Non-easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP15A</td>
<td>Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP15B</td>
<td>Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips) on Terraces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP21</td>
<td>Filter Strips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP22</td>
<td>Riparian Buffer</td>
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**CRP CLEAR30 PILOT**

**Authorized Practices, *continued***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CP23</td>
<td>Wetland Restoration on a Floodplain</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP23A</td>
<td>Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP29</td>
<td>Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP30</td>
<td>Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP31</td>
<td>Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP37</td>
<td>Duck Nesting Habitat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Producers may offer:
- all or a portion of the expiring acres
- new acres, in addition to the expiring acres, if necessary, to meet the current NRCS practice standard.

**Example:** An expiring CP22, Riparian Buffer was originally established with a 35-foot buffer width. NRCS conducts a site visit and determines that a 100-foot width is needed to meet current practice standards or address natural resource concerns.

The additional 65 feet is eligible to be enrolled in CRP CLEAR30.
CLEAR30 Payments

• SIP and PIP are not authorized for CLEAR30.

• Cost-Share is not authorized for CLEAR30.

• SRR’s for signup 57 CLEAR30 will be calculated:
  • Using FY22 Soil Rental Rates for the 3 predominant soils, or MPL, as applicable, including the following:
    • SPI adjustments;
    • The reduction to 90%
    • The 10% inflationary factor.
CLEAR30 Payments (cont)

- SRR’s for signup 57 CLEAR30 will be calculated to also include:
  - The **Climate-Smart Incentive**, applicable for the CLEAR practice
  - The **Water Quality Incentive** of 20%
  - A **CLEAR30 adjustment of 27.5%**.
- The maximum per acre payment rate for all CRP CLEAR30 signup 57 offers is $380 per acre.
- Rental payments will be issued for CRP CLEAR30 contracts on an annual basis on the same schedule as other CRP contracts.
Example CLEAR30
Annual Payment Calculation

10 acres CP22 CLEAR30 Offer

- The following incentives apply:
  - 10% Climate Smart Incentive
  - 20% Water Quality Incentive
  - 27.5% CLEAR30 rental rate adjustment

57.5%
Example CLEAR30
Annual Payment Calculation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>COLS Soil Rate</th>
<th>Total Rent</th>
<th>Weighted Average SRR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CR1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$99.00</td>
<td>$396.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADC2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$124.00</td>
<td>$372.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVa</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>$188.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>$956.00</td>
<td>$100.63/acre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 acres of Soil CR1 – COLS rate = $99 X 4 acres = $396.00
3 acres of Soil ADC2 – COLS rate = $124 X 3 acres = $372.00
2.5 acres of Soil PVa– COLS rate = $75 X 2.5 acres = $188.00

• Total Incentive Adjustment (57.5 percent) = $100.63 X .575 = $57.86/acre
• Maximum rental rate = $100.63 + $57.86 = $158.49/acre
• Annual payment = 10 acres X $158.49/acre = $1585.00/year for 30 years.
Monitoring Site Visits

- NRCS or TSP will complete monitoring site visits every 3 years for all CLEAR30 contracts.

- Modifications to the conservation plan will occur as needed after the site visits to schedule needed maintenance activities over the next 3 years.
All of the following activities are considered CLEAR30 maintenance activities and are eligible for maintenance payments:

- practice establishment/re-establishment, activities needed to maintain the practice and included in the conservation plan,

- traditional “mid-contract management” activities,

- operation and maintenance activities as determined by NRCS monitoring site visits and planning.
CLEAR30 offers additional assistance to participants to perform maintenance activities throughout the contract period. Participants will have 2 options for performing maintenance:

**OPTION 1:** Participant performs all needed maintenance activities; FSA issues maintenance payment to participant.

**OPTION 2:** FSA will enter into an agreement or contract with a third-party vendor who will perform the needed maintenance activities onsite; FSA issues maintenance payment to vendor.

**Note:** Producer will elect their maintenance option on the form CRP-2C-30.
### Maintenance Activities and Payments, continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maintenance Option</th>
<th>Maintenance Payment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Option 1</strong> – Producer performs maintenance</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Option 2</strong> – Vendor performs maintenance through contract/agreement.</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Photo courtesy of NRCS
Maintenance Activities and Payments, continued

To assist CLEAR30 participants that elect **OPTION 2**, FSA will enter into a contract or agreement with partner organizations or third-party vendors who will facilitate completion of maintenance activities on enrolled land on a regular basis.

Maintenance payments are authorized for all CLEAR30 maintenance activities, including conservation cover re-establishment and management, **consistent with conservation plans**, NRCS or TSP monitoring, or other documentation made a part of the CRP-1, upon completion.
Maintenance Payment Rates

- Maintenance payment rates are established by the FSA State Committee, in consultation with NRCS, for all CLEAR30 maintenance activities to be used within the State.
Maintenance Activities and Payments, continued

- Site Prep
- Seeding/Inter-seeding/Planting
- Control of weeds – chemical/mechanical
- Mowing/Discing
- Prescribed Burning/Firebreaks
- Maintenance of structures, i.e:
  - Grassed Waterways
- Re-establishment of conservation practice damaged by no fault of producer
- Maintenance of installed structures, i.e:
  - Fence
  - Watering components
  - Livestock crossing
CLEAR30 Provisions Common to CRP

- CLEAR30 will be subject to same AGI, payment limit, HEL/WC, and many of the common provisions of CRP
- CLEAR30 will use the same policy as the rest of CRP regarding ACEP/Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) including any future change
Compatible Uses

CRP CLEAR30 will allow the following compatible uses if the use is consistent with the conservation plan and does not degrade water quality or other purposes of the practice:

- hunting and fishing and wildlife food plots
- managed timber harvest
- periodic haying and grazing (according to 2-CRP Part 19)
CRP CLEAR30 PILOT

Outreach

Postcards will be mailed from the National Office to each unique address associated with an expiring contract that is potentially eligible for CLEAR30.

- contracts expiring Sept. 30, 2022
- eligible practices

Webinar Recording and Slides will be posted on FSA Outreach's Webinar page:


Photo courtesy of NRCS
Contract Effective Dates

All approved CLEAR30 Signup 57 offers, will be effective on:

October 1, 2022
CRP CLEAR30 PILOT

Deadlines

- **August 5, 2022**
  - Deadline for producers to submit signed CLEAR30 offers.

- **September 9, 2022**
  - Deadline for NRCS/TSP to complete the conservation plan and return the conservation plan to FSA.

- **September 30, 2022**
  - Deadline for FSA to approve the CLEAR30
If Conservation of natural resources goes wrong, nothing else will go right.
- M.S. Swaminathan