



Farm  
Production  
and  
Conservation

Farm  
Service  
Agency

1400 Independence  
Ave, SW  
Washington, DC  
20250  
Mail Stop 0513

May 24, 2022

Dear CRP Participant:

Thank you for being part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Farm Service Agency records show that one or more of your CRP contract(s) scheduled to expire on September 30, 2022, have not currently been accepted for re-enrollment under any CRP signup type. Therefore, you may be eligible for the following options:

**Voluntary Contract Termination.** Exceptional circumstances are shaping global food production in 2022, including the potential global food supply challenges caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In the public interest, USDA will consider written requests from CRP participants who voluntarily seek to terminate a CRP contract set to expire September 30, 2022. However, USDA will NOT approve such request for termination prior to the end of the Primary Nesting Season (PNS) in the state/county in which your CRP contract acreage is physically located. For voluntary termination of a CRP expiring September 30, 2022, USDA will waive the requirements to refund all, or part of the payments made by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) with respect to the CRP contract, plus interest, and liquidated damages.

**Continuous Signup:** All or a portion of your CRP contract acres may be eligible for reenrollment in CRP through continuous CRP signup. If you plan to return a portion of your land to production, important conservation benefits may still be achieved by reenrolling sensitive acres such as buffers or wetlands. Expiring water quality practices such as filter strips, grass waterways, and riparian buffers may be eligible to be reenrolled under the Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers (CLEAR) and CLEAR 30 options under CRP.

Offers for continuous enrollment meeting the minimum thresholds for the particular practice will be approved after a review and will be accepted **through August 5, 2022**. FSA also partners with states and other partners on local targeted Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) projects. If FSA accepts your offer for enrollment, you will be eligible to receive a 10- to 15-year CRP, CREP, or for CLEAR30, a 30-year contract, that will become effective on **October 1, 2022**. You will be required to develop and have approved a new conservation plan and meet other eligibility requirements before the new contract can be approved.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Programs.** Land currently under a CRP contract may be eligible to transition into conservation easements to provide long-term conservation benefits. USDA's NRCS' Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), or state or private easement programs, may be such an option. If you are planning to convert your CRP land to agriculture use, NRCS' programs, including Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) or Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), may be available to address your resource needs. In many cases, a combination of approaches can be taken on the same parcel. For example, riparian areas or other sensitive parts of a parcel may be enrolled in continuous CRP and the remaining land that is returned to farming can participate in CSP or EQIP and may be eligible to receive additional ranking points.

**CRP Participant**  
**Page 2**

**Transition Incentives Program (TIP):** If you are not planning to farm the land from your expiring CRP contract, TIP may provide you two additional annual rental payments after your contract expires on the condition that you sell or rent your land to a beginning or veteran farmer or rancher or a member of a socially disadvantaged group. New landowners or renters are required to use sustainable grazing or farming methods as they return the land to production. TIP offers a way to create new farming opportunities while continuing conservation efforts. If you are interested in TIP, contact your local FSA office no later than **August 5, 2022**.

**Conservation or Land Improvements:** During the final year of the CRP contract, owners or operators of the land may also make certain conservation or land improvements for economic use that facilitate maintaining protection of the land after contract expiration. Activities such as installing fence, ponds, wells, pipeline, water developments, and wildlife enhancements may be authorized. Participants must file a request to perform the activity, agree to maintain the existing cover after the contract expiration, and obtain a modified conservation plan. Activities are not permitted during the PNS. There is a 5-year prohibition on reenrollment in the CRP and a pro-rated payment reduction will apply for conducting the activity.

If you choose not to reenroll, terminate, or conduct conservation or land improvement activities, your CRP contract will expire on September 30, 2022, as planned. You will receive your final payment in **October of 2022**. Since CRP land typically does not have a recent history of pesticide or herbicide application, the land may be valuable for organic production. Prior to your CRP contract expiration, you should visit your local FSA office and review the current crop acreage base re-instatement provisions. Before planting, check with FSA or NRCS to see if your land may be subject to conservation and wetland compliance provisions.

Please contact your local FSA Office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp> for more information about CRP.

Sincerely,



W. Scott Marlow,  
Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs