



United States Department of Agriculture

The Conservation Reserve Program

54th Signup Results

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Farm Services Agency
Conservation Division

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REPORT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

September 28, 2020

Dear Conservation Partners:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) this year. Since CRP was established in 1985, it has grown into one of USDA's largest voluntary conservation programs, thanks to the support and passion of partners like you.

While the program was originally created to remove environmentally-sensitive lands from production, particularly in erosion-prone areas, it has evolved over the years to provide many additional conservation benefits to our producers and to the public.

CRP is a great tool for producers who are interested in better managing their operations while conserving their valuable natural resources. For 35 years, CRP has addressed several resource concerns, including protecting fragile and environmentally-sensitive lands, improving water quality, protecting and restoring wildlife habitats, providing pollinator forage habitat, sequestering carbon in soil, and enhancing soil productivity.

To date, CRP has prevented more than 11 billion tons of soil from eroding and has reduced nitrogen by runoff by 95% and phosphorous runoff by 85%, compared to its previous use as annually tilled cropland. CRP has also helped producers sequester an annual average of 48 million tons of greenhouse gases, the equivalent of taking 9 million cars off the road. In addition, the program has created more than 3 million acres of restored wetlands while protecting more than 2 million acres with riparian forest and grass buffers.

This general signup included offers for State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), which allows producers to install practices that benefit high-priority, locally-developed wildlife conservation objectives through the targeted restoration of vital habitat. Over 95% of SAFE offers submitted were accepted under this general signup. This acceptance level highlights USDA's commitment to SAFE as an important part of CRP and underscores the value of partnering with state and local wildlife conservation groups.

After 35 years of CRP, the 54th General Signup was one of the largest in many years, proving again that there are no better stewards of our environment than our agricultural producers. This report shows how farmers, ranchers, and landowners have willingly stepped up and demonstrated a continued commitment to protecting our environment and natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Northey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Northey
USDA Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation

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CRP Overview

Background

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary land conservation program for agricultural producers who agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agriculture production and devote the land to long-term resource-conserving plant species that will improve the health and quality of the environment. Producers enrolled in the CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers, such as introduced or native grasses or trees, to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. CRP may also be used to preserve existing grasslands. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance for 10 to 15 years.

CRP has a 35-year legacy of successfully protecting the Nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

CRP has prevented more than 11 billion tons of soil from eroding, and in 2018, the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous leaving farm fields were reduced by 503 million pounds and 98 million pounds, respectively. CRP also benefitted bees, and other pollinators, and increased populations of ducks, pheasants, turkey, bobwhite quail, prairie chickens, grasshopper sparrows and many other birds. CRP has sequestered an annual average of 48 million tons of greenhouse gases over the past decade, equal to removing 9 million cars from the road annually.

In addition to conservation benefits, the \$1.8 billion CRP provides annually to landowners through rental, cost share, and incentive payments makes its way into local economies, supporting small businesses and creating jobs.

The 54th CRP Signup

The 54th CRP general signup began on December 9, 2019, and continued through February 28, 2020. As of March 2020, 21.9 million acres of land were enrolled in a CRP contract.

Eligibility Criteria

For land to be eligible for general signup, it must be:

- Cropland that has been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity 4 of the 6 years between 2012 and 2017; and
- Physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

Note: Alfalfa or other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation, not to exceed 12 years, also may be eligible.

Also, cropland must meet one of the following criteria:

- Have a weighted average Erodibility Index of eight or greater;
- Be expiring CRP; or
- Be located in a national or State conservation priority area.



CRP Overview

General Signup

FSA enrolls most CRP acres during “general signups” that occur annually during announced periods of time by USDA. Land is offered into the program on a competitive basis and ranked based on environmental benefits and costs. Land offered is evaluated and ranked using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) based on the environmental benefits expected to improve the land if it is enrolled in the CRP.

The EBI is used to ensure that the most environmentally-sensitive lands relative to cost are selected and that all offers are fairly considered. The six EBI factors are:

- N1, Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits;
- N2, Water Quality Benefits from Reduced Erosion, Runoff and Leaching;
- N3, On-Farm Benefits of Reduced Erosion;
- N4, Enduring Benefits;
- N5, Air Quality Benefits; and
- N6, Cost.

SAFE

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) areas, which allows producers to install practices that benefit high- priority, locally developed wildlife conservation objectives using targeted restoration of vital habitat, were included for the first time in general CRP signup 54. SAFE projects provide habitat for important wildlife species such as the black bear, mule deer, and lesser prairie chicken that benefit from larger blocks of land for their habitat. General signup provided additional opportunities for expiring CRP land to compete and enroll through SAFE. In addition, under general CRP signup, eligible land located within a SAFE project area has an annual enrollment opportunity and receives additional points under the EBI.

Rental and Cost Share Payments

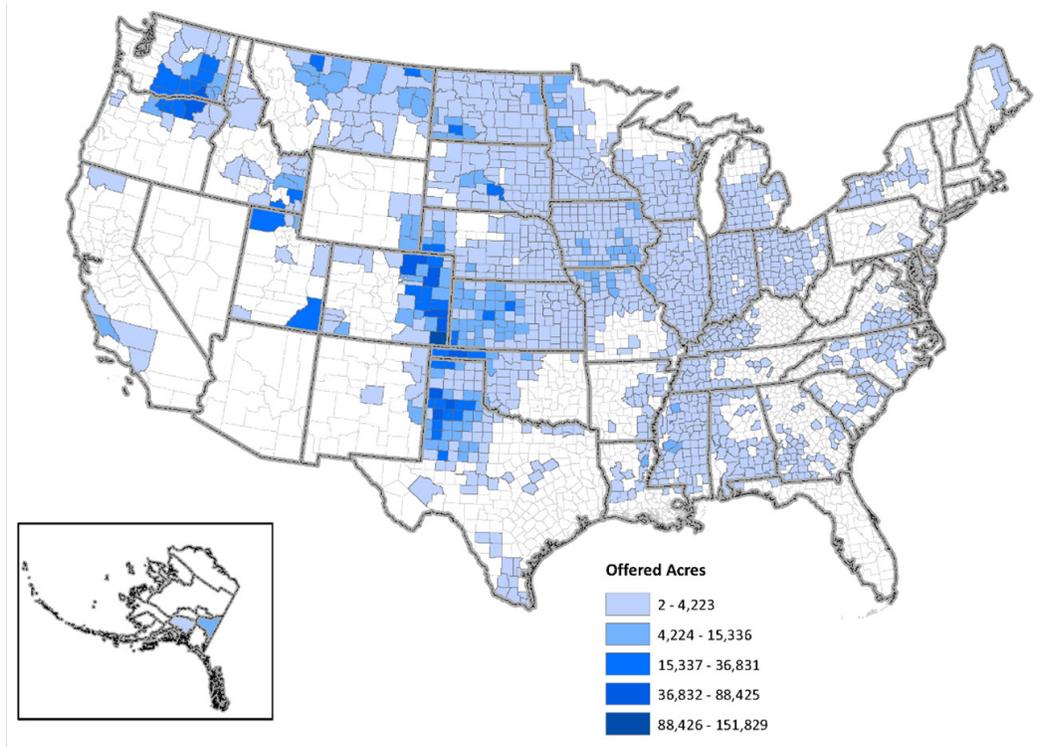
Generally, CRP rental rates are based on the relative productivity of the soils within each county and the average local dryland cash rental rates subject to an 85 percent proration. Producers may offer land at these rates or may offer a lower rental rate to increase the likelihood that their offer will be acceptable. CRP cost share assistance is available to eligible participants in an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the eligible costs of establishing the approved practice.

Benefits

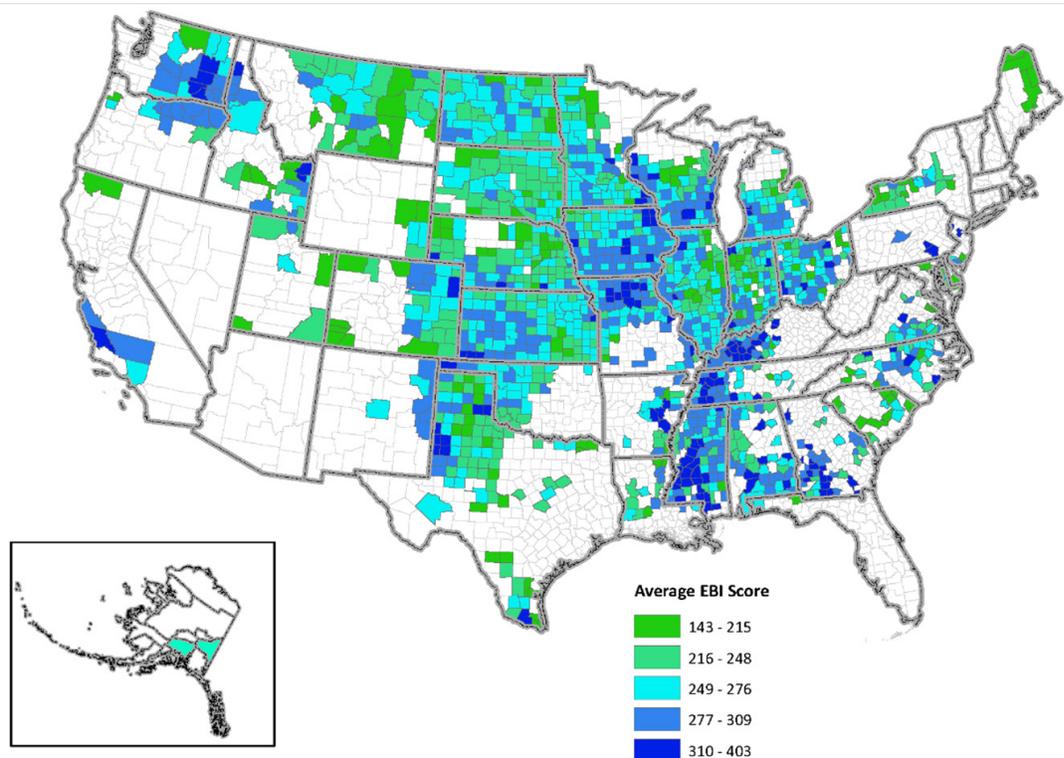
In addition to providing a safety net for America’s agricultural producers during times of low commodity prices, CRP generates significant environmental benefits. The program enhances soil health by effectively reducing soil erosion on each acre enrolled. The enrollments also impact water quality and quantity by intercepting sediment and nutrient losses from upland fields before they reach surface waters and contributing to aquifer recharge. CRP restores important habitat, such as prairie, wetlands, and longleaf pine. CRP is credited with aiding grouse populations in the West, ducks in the Prairie Pothole Region, bobwhite quail in the Southeast, and songbirds and ringed-neck pheasant throughout the Great Plains.

The 54th CRP Signup Results

Acres Offered by County

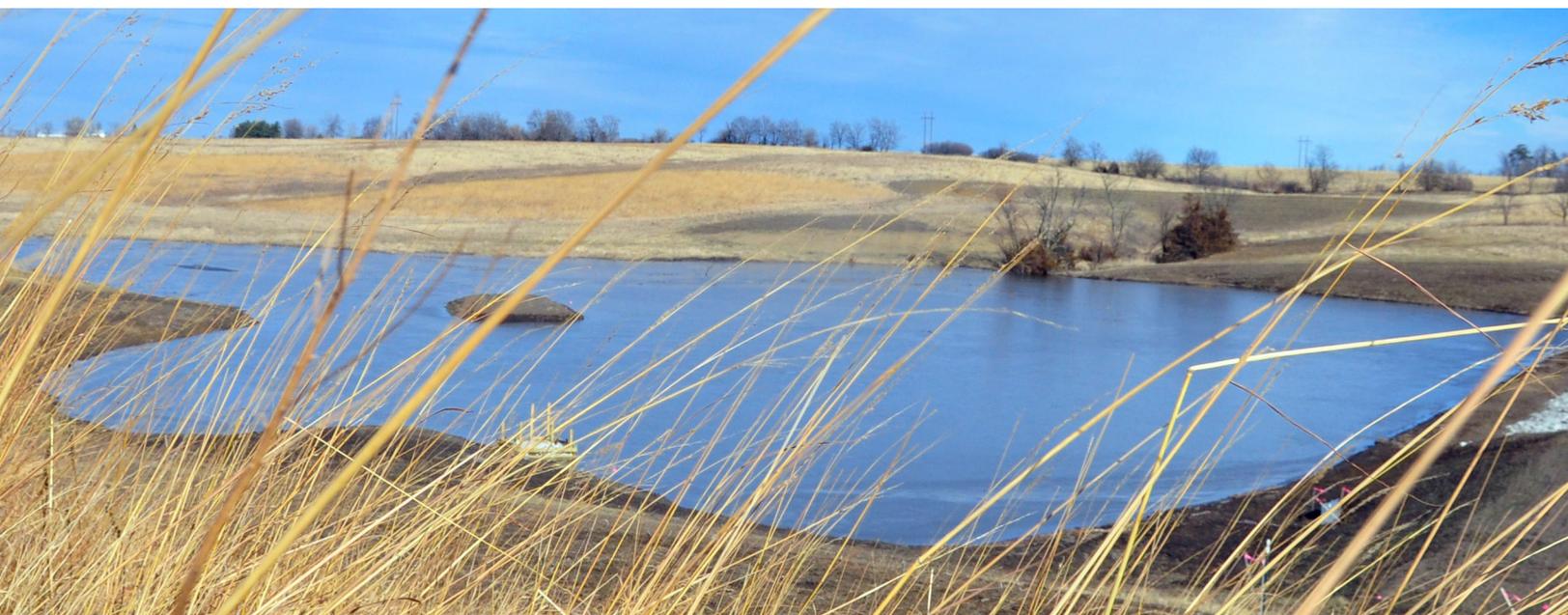
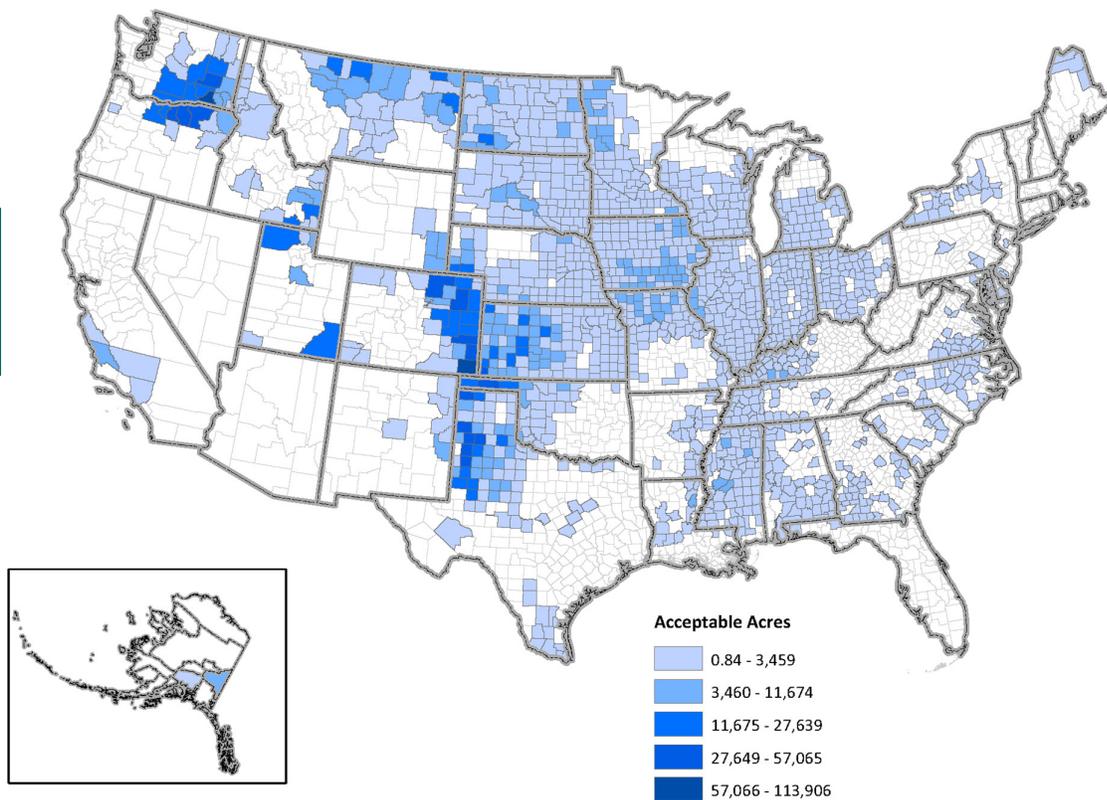


Average EBI Score by County



The 54th CRP Signup Results

Acceptable
Acres by
County



The 54th CRP Signup Results

Table 1 - Offers Received, Acceptable Offers, and CRP Acreage							
STATE	Offers Received	Acceptable Offers	Offered Acres	Acceptable Acres	Enrollment March 2020	Expiring 9/30/2020	Oct. 2020 Enrollment before Continuous and Grasslands 1/
U.S.	56,788	51,615	3,839,488	3,418,782	21,946,763	5,359,299	20,006,246
ALABAMA	420	379	24,359	20,291	196,532	49,311	167,512
ALASKA	16	12	10137.57	7,967	2,549	2,332	8,184
ARKANSAS	149	137	8071.5	6,525	215,413	26,904	195,034
CALIFORNIA	46	40	11,543	10,873	42,427	11,032	42,269
COLORADO	2561	2042	547,866	435,455	1,831,679	693,603	1,573,531
CONNECTICUT					1		1
DELAWARE	3	1	32.52	8	3,587	413	3,183
FLORIDA	7	6	158.58	125	21,636	5,461	16,299
GEORGIA	245	237	8,090	7,944	205,510	21,498	191,956
HAWAII					1,274		1,274
IDAHO	496	440	70033.24	59,504	534,995	113,804	480,695
ILLINOIS	6,514	5,778	120,992	108,555	841,228	138,409	811,374
INDIANA	1301	1088	22349.31	18,494	213,973	34,611	197,856
IOWA	9,975	9,562	274,562	267,182	1,704,077	327,767	1,643,491
KANSAS	6010	5771	450065.86	436,120	1,897,748	522,168	1,811,700
KENTUCKY	976	935	27,362	26,577	198,354	30,304	194,628
LOUISIANA	198	169	9899.35	8,306	272,291	48,768	231,830
MAINE	31	11	859	211	5,638	1,418	4,430
MARYLAND	42	23	788.72	358	48,864	4,527	44,695
MASSACHUSETTS					10		10
MICHIGAN	468	431	9932.4	9,182	115,992	20,669	104,505
MINNESOTA	4,514	4,167	114,879	105,322	1,022,813	165,288	962,847
MISSISSIPPI	1141	1111	63116.15	61,491	590,049	106,540	545,000
MISSOURI	3,170	3,069	120,162	117,297	827,358	136,343	808,312
MONTANA	990	833	161037.53	132,885	1,022,396	331,552	823,728
NEBRASKA	2,373	2,046	148,368	131,209	1,052,265	195,101	988,374
NEVADA					146		146
NEW HAMPSHIRE					4	4	0
NEW JERSEY	15	11	169.36	149	1,873	261	1,761
NEW MEXICO	51	51	10,195	10,195	424,477	19,547	415,125
NEW YORK	77	56	1974.06	1,472	21,143	4,889	17,726
NORTH CAROLINA	248	239	4,674	4,406	45,908	14,243	36,072
NORTH DAKOTA	1814	1535	139912.44	126,152	1,272,475	205,899	1,192,728
OHIO	852	787	14,562	13,729	237,740	49,770	201,698
OKLAHOMA	1011	940	129627.47	122,247	637,380	221,315	538,312
OREGON	736	721	141,311	139,830	440,463	91,515	488,778
PENNSYLVANIA	5	5	61.6	62	111,777	15,996	95,842
PUERTO RICO					495		495
RHODE ISLAND					28		28
SOUTH CAROLINA	69	36	1,965	844	56,634	14,839	42,639
SOUTH DAKOTA	1446	1150	91102.58	71,341	1,124,834	189,083	1,007,092
TENNESSEE	598	583	17,651	17,485	125,613	29,381	113,716
TEXAS	4293	3496	657292.15	540,481	2,784,612	904,959	2,420,134
UTAH	255	224	62,746	53,852	161,492	102,335	113,010
VERMONT					2,288	101	2,187
VIRGINIA	113	99	2,268	2,105	33,447	5,180	30,372
WASHINGTON	1401	1368	283373.69	277,533	1,179,557	371,881	1,085,209
WEST VIRGINIA					7,759	760	7,000
WISCONSIN	2025	1919	37940.1	36,012	202,318	40,398	197,931
WYOMING	133	107	37,997	29,007	205,642	89,121	145,528

1/ Not including continuous and grasslands enrollment between April and September 2020.

The 54th CRP Signup Results

Table 2 - Description of Signup 54 Acceptable Acres						
STATE NAME	Expiring Sept. 2020 (Acres)	New Lands (Acres) 1/	Average Rental Payment (\$/Acre)	Total Rental Payment (\$/Year)	Average EBI Score	
					without cost	with cost
NATIONAL	2,768,544	650,238	\$54.75	\$187,190,399	178	279
ALABAMA	17,032	3,259	\$34.24	\$694,821	172	280
ALASKA	1,950	6,016	\$36.93	\$294,203	152	263
ARKANSAS	5,696	830	\$49.57	\$323,446	176	278
CALIFORNIA	503	10,370	\$30.14	\$327,706	194	304
COLORADO	388,444	47,011	\$22.53	\$9,811,579	143	260
DELAWARE	0	8	\$81.00	\$665	132	215
FLORIDA	105	20	\$76.77	\$9,569	162	247
GEORGIA	6,023	1,921	\$52.91	\$420,339	205	304
IDAHO	53,078	6,426	\$29.73	\$1,769,155	165	277
ILLINOIS	74,771	33,784	\$140.09	\$15,207,967	219	278
INDIANA	11,462	7,033	\$121.51	\$2,247,171	208	276
IOWA	203,597	63,585	\$165.38	\$44,185,485	248	291
KANSAS	365,995	70,125	\$35.13	\$15,322,116	174	284
KENTUCKY	14,513	12,064	\$126.19	\$3,353,727	256	318
LOUISIANA	7,425	882	\$53.98	\$448,369	187	287
MAINE	211	0	\$34.49	\$7,267	100	230
MARYLAND	265	92	\$106.47	\$38,069	159	236
MICHIGAN	5,461	3,721	\$98.42	\$903,656	189	271
MINNESOTA	84,610	20,712	\$104.60	\$11,017,038	196	274
MISSISSIPPI	56,058	5,433	\$51.16	\$3,146,152	195	305
MISSOURI	72,146	45,150	\$110.67	\$12,981,305	227	300
MONTANA	95,688	37,196	\$22.19	\$2,948,453	150	264
NEBRASKA	104,477	26,732	\$59.25	\$7,773,584	184	280
NEW JERSEY	51	98	\$54.57	\$8,106	185	282
NEW MEXICO	1,898	8,297	\$12.73	\$129,823	167	285
NEW YORK	1,007	465	\$56.07	\$82,539	140	249
NORTH CAROLINA	3,714	692	\$53.46	\$235,571	180	280
NORTH DAKOTA	83,322	42,830	\$38.82	\$4,896,994	164	272
OHIO	8,063	5,666	\$113.03	\$1,551,697	198	274
OKLAHOMA	104,156	18,091	\$20.08	\$2,454,335	169	287
OREGON	116,257	23,573	\$45.64	\$6,382,437	174	289
PENNSYLVANIA	62	0	\$101.03	\$6,223	255	339
SOUTH CAROLINA	653	191	\$27.93	\$23,587	133	247
SOUTH DAKOTA	48,649	22,692	\$70.90	\$5,058,019	160	252
TENNESSEE	13,805	3,679	\$67.61	\$1,182,221	206	302
TEXAS	468,351	72,130	\$26.59	\$14,373,978	157	273
UTAH	47,426	6,426	\$21.33	\$1,148,849	136	251
VIRGINIA	1,713	392	\$32.91	\$69,274	150	260
WASHINGTON	248,700	28,833	\$43.01	\$11,935,437	196	303
WISCONSIN	23,248	12,763	\$111.17	\$4,003,363	213	289
WYOMING	27,960	1,048	\$14.34	\$416,104	134	253

1/Includes land that may have been CRP in the past.

The 54th CRP Signup Results

Table 3 - Description of Signup 54 Acceptable Acres

STATE NAME	Average Erodibility Index (EI)	Highly Erodible (Acres)	National Priority Area (Acres)	State Priority Area (Acres)	Rare and Declining Habitat (Acres)	Permanent Wildlife Habitat (Acres)	State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (Acres)	Pollinator Habitat (Acres)
NATIONAL	17	2,904,043	439,474	1,449,106	329,830	389,784	487,573	35,513
ALABAMA	17	18,129	17,690	5,911		2,857	36	3
ALASKA	20	7,967	0	0				357
ARKANSAS	12	3,657	0	4,971		47	763	7
CALIFORNIA	24	10,283	0	7,730		10,096		
COLORADO	14	431,664	0	46,205	1,149	134,153	25,740	1,411
DELAWARE	1		8	0		8		
FLORIDA	9	89	125	0				
GEORGIA	8	3,758	7,443	461		70	2,117	
IDAHO	22	56,085	0	42,787	41	6,708	10,217	1,197
ILLINOIS	22	95,370	0	39,774	133	17,657	11,667	8,548
INDIANA	17	12,419	5,040	5,734	14	1,082	9,976	558
IOWA	24	239,325	56,099	54,272	42,838	17,568	143,812	5,036
KANSAS	12	349,883	0	228,369	205,967	94,083	23,901	1,502
KENTUCKY	37	25,030	0	19,975	811	9	16,185	312
LOUISIANA	9	5,250	1,181	5,535		475		
MAINE	12	211	0	0		21		
MARYLAND	5	69	354	76		189		9
MICHIGAN	7	1,483	9,103	9,129		1,736	1,666	780
MINNESOTA	9	41,009	91,007	7,690	18,284	26,010	28,445	1,601
MISSISSIPPI	30	55,007	18,497	26,339		806	715	2
MISSOURI	22	116,321	0	56,908	5,881	61	4,174	4,752
MONTANA	14	129,850	111,094	10,634	4,725	1,127	28,534	112
NEBRASKA	14	121,701	0	61,493	37,200	7,567	5,503	2,844
NEW JERSEY	9	38	0	116			142	7
NEW MEXICO	29	10,195	0	849				
NEW YORK	8	705	1,421	0		23	357	15
NORTH CAROLINA	13	3,076	2,033	2,081		123	303	24
NORTH DAKOTA	12	97,900	64,222	31,193	645	10,065	100,933	151
OHIO	11	6,957	7,313	1,957	637	2,488	2,908	2,212
OKLAHOMA	14	113,920	0	99,053	2,181	305		33
OREGON	23	136,531	0	105,484	5,874	3,519	807	262
PENNSYLVANIA	15	43	62	0				
SOUTH CAROLINA	5	187	709	0		18	148	
SOUTH DAKOTA	8	38,148	36,451	21,442	1,938	10,184	43,711	1,322
TENNESSEE	39	17,014	0	8,298		298	1,722	1,010
TEXAS	14	428,461	0	285,302		5,199	8,929	760
UTAH	9	23,947	0	53,336		861		3
VIRGINIA	12	1,661	1,358	627		28		44
WASHINGTON	22	241,561	0	172,367	154	33,245	7,747	96
WISCONSIN	30	30,134	8,264	11,478	1,359	1,097	6,417	542
WYOMING	15	29,007	0	21,530				

Note: Acceptable acres may be listed as multiple categories.

The 54th CRP Signup Results

Table 4 - Description of Signup 54 Acceptable Acres

STATE NAME	Introduced Grass	Native Grass	Total Grass	Hardwood Trees	Softwood Trees	Total Trees
NATIONAL	787,091	1,257,147	2,044,238	35,954	87,192	123,145
ALABAMA	1,708	850	2,558	1,088	13,689	14,777
ALASKA	1,479	6,131	7,610			
ARKANSAS	319	1,158	1,477	2,870	1,333	4,202
CALIFORNIA	768		768			
COLORADO	22,553	250,443	272,996			
DELAWARE						
FLORIDA	9		9	116		116
GEORGIA	45	61	105	2,713	2,926	5,639
IDAHO	39,481	601	40,081		1,259	1,259
ILLINOIS	39,823	22,702	62,525	5,721	572	6,293
INDIANA	2,222	1,885	4,106	2,551	87	2,638
IOWA	35,103	19,156	54,259	2,383	134	2,517
KANSAS	2,087	107,711	109,798	28	11	38
KENTUCKY	4,193	4,408	8,601	539	16	556
LOUISIANA		66	66	6,013	1,724	7,737
MAINE	161		161		29	29
MARYLAND	8	119	127	13	15	28
MICHIGAN	1,898	2,088	3,986	282	545	827
MINNESOTA	15,489	10,218	25,707	1,814	2,474	4,287
MISSISSIPPI	6,231	772	7,003	4,144	48,396	52,540
MISSOURI	61,271	39,966	101,237	385		385
MONTANA	67,732	30,592	98,325			
NEBRASKA	11,146	66,658	77,805	47		47
NEW JERSEY						
NEW MEXICO	950	9,245	10,195			
NEW YORK	801	231	1,032	11	31	42
NORTH CAROLINA	181	26	207	338	3,412	3,749
NORTH DAKOTA	13,157	1,022	14,178	8		8
OHIO	2,242	1,867	4,109	885	366	1,251
OKLAHOMA	34,064	85,531	119,595	84		84
OREGON	93,748	34,887	128,635		692	692
PENNSYLVANIA	19		19	43		43
SOUTH CAROLINA				13	666	679
SOUTH DAKOTA	5,897	7,809	13,706			
TENNESSEE	4,929	4,199	9,128	467	4,808	5,275
TEXAS	85,047	440,033	525,080			
UTAH	51,059	1,905	52,964			
VIRGINIA	355	307	663		1,370	1,370
WASHINGTON	140,409	94,792	235,201		960	960
WISCONSIN	12,303	8,918	21,221	3,400	1,679	5,079
WYOMING	28,205	791	28,996			

Note: Acceptable acres may be listed as multiple categories.

Continuous CRP

Continuous CRP Signup

Continuous signup provides an effective, on-going means to enroll certain practices such as filter strips, riparian buffers, grass waterways, shelterbelts, field windbreaks, wetlands restoration, and high-valued wildlife habitat. Unlike general signup, there is no bidding and ranking; the land is enrolled automatically if it meets all eligibility criteria.

As of March, 7.8 million acres are enrolled through Continuous CRP signup conservation practices.

Through SAFE and Continuous CRP signup, agricultural producers may establish buffers and wetlands, and other practices on their land which restores vital habitat in order to meet high-priority state wildlife conservation goals. They also protect soil and water health by working as a barrier to sediment and nutrient run-off before they reach waterways. Species targeted by SAFE may include those designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened or endangered. SAFE may also provide habitat for other wildlife, including waterfowl that have significant social and economic value.

The Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP) has enrolled 390,786 acres. The FWP is designed to restore farmable wetland and associated buffers by improving the land's hydrology and vegetation through enrollment in CRP. Eligible land types authorized include certain cropped wetlands, former commercial aquaculture, flooded land located in the prairie pothole region, and constructed wetlands that receive flows from row crop drainage systems.

The Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative of CRP prioritizes water quality practices on the land that, if enrolled, will help

reduce sediment loadings, nutrient loadings, and harmful algal blooms. Total CLEAR Initiative practice enrollment as of March 2020 is 3,441,812 acres.

- Grass Waterways, Non-easement. 116,879 acres
- Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips. 53,730 acres
- Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips on Terraces). 2,678 acres
- Filter Strips. 693,207 acres
- Denitrifying Bioreactor on Filter Strips. 34 acres
- Saturated Filter Strips. 26 acres
- Riparian Buffer. 586,018 acres
- Denitrifying Bioreactor on Riparian Buffers. 88 acres
- Saturated Riparian Buffer. 16 acres
- Wetland Restoration on Floodplain. 604,770 acres
- Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain. 674,560 acres
- Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer. 84,691 acres
- Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer. 32,440 acres
- Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands. 152,714 acres
- Duck Nesting Habitat. 439,402 acres
- Prairie Strips. 559 acres

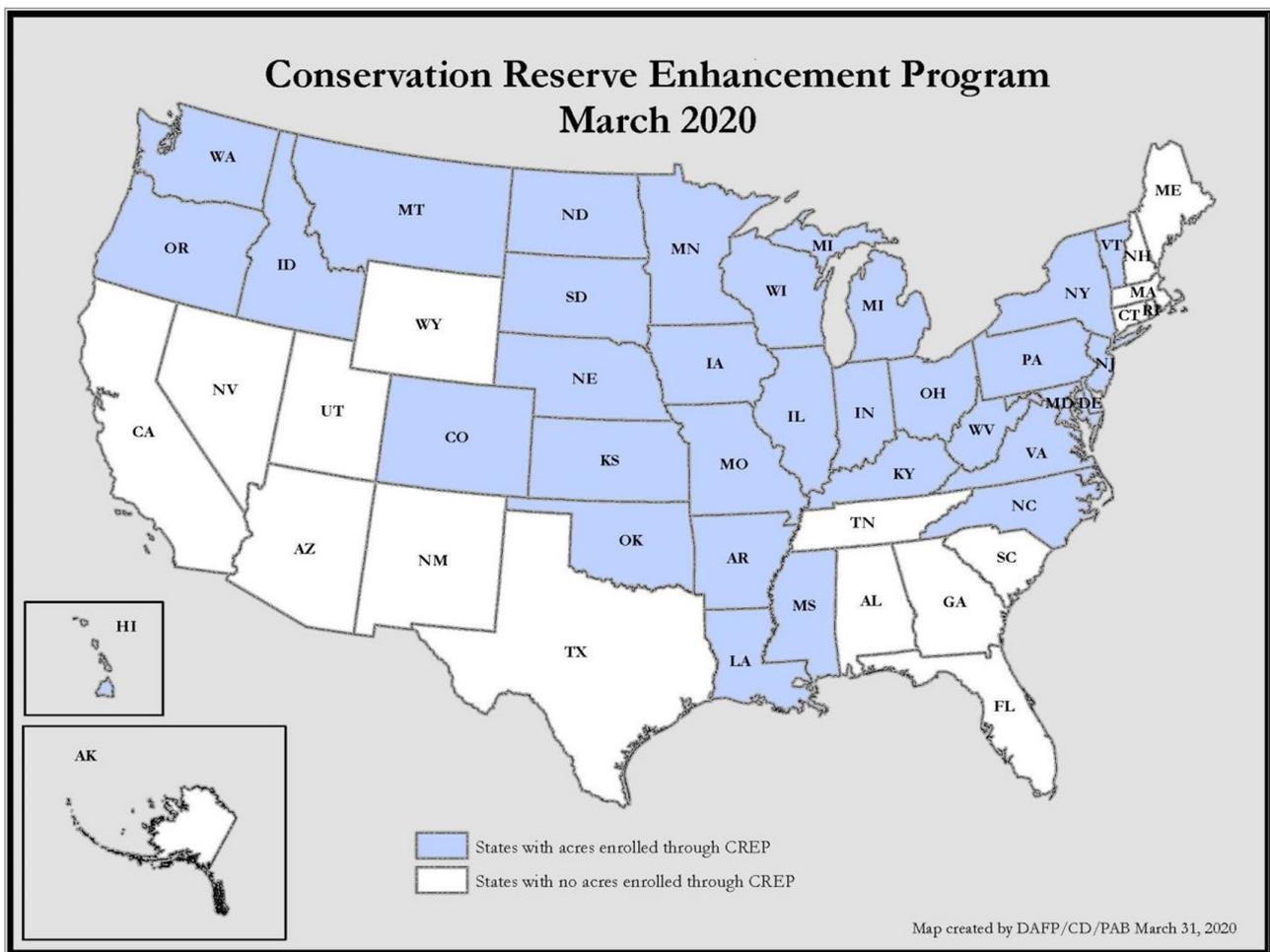
Other CRP Initiatives

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a part of the CRP. Under CREP, USDA partners with a State, Indian Tribe, or Nongovernmental organization to address specific targeted conservation concerns of State or national significance. Federal funds are supplemented with non-federal funds to address those concerns. It is voluntary and helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and protect water quality.

CREP includes targeted conservation practices such as filter strips, riparian buffers, and grassed waterways. These conservation practices help protect streams, lakes, and rivers from sedimentation and agricultural runoff.

As of March, there were approximately 927,000 acres enrolled in CRP through CREP.



About the Farm Service Agency's Conservation Division (CD):

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency's Conservation Division serves the Nation's agricultural producers, providing assistance and opportunities for producers to voluntarily invest in safeguarding environmentally sensitive lands.

CD implements multiple diverse programs that help accomplish these goals, including the following programs:

- Biomass Crop Assistance Program
- Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers Initiative
- Conservation Reserve Program
- Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- Emergency Forest Restoration Program
- Emergency Conservation Program
- Farmable Wetlands Program
- Source Water Protection Program

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