What is the Conservation Reserve Program?
Why this webinar?

Have you heard of CRP?

Who is eligible?

What does the program do?

Audience is in listen-only mode.
Please submit questions and comments in the chat box feature.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Introduction of Speakers

Cynthia Cuellar
National Outreach Specialist

Beverly Preston
Program Manager

Dr. Jean Eells
Women Caring for the Land
through
Women Food and Ag Network (WFAN)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Women Caring for the Land

https://wfan.org/women-caring-for-the-land
Overview of CRP

Conservation Reserve Program

• Land conservation program
• Goal of the program is to re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.
• Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Benefits of CRP

Enroll partial or entire fields/farms at a time.

There are three areas in which we see CRP as beneficial.

• Money – steady income, less productive land becomes valuable.
• Wildlife – improves habitats, attracts wildlife species, and increases pollinator habitat
• Resources – Reduce soil erosion, increase soil health, and protects air and water quality
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

CRP – Conservation Reserve Program

- CRP General Signup
- CRP Continuous Signup
- TIP – Transition Incentives Program
- SAFE – State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement
- CLEAR – Clean Lakes Estuaries and Rivers

Sign-Up Ends Feb. 28th

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
What is General CRP sign-up?

- Competitive offer process
- During a selected period of time
- Annual sign-up
- Producer offer is ranked against other offers nationally using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI - will discuss later)
- Only offers ranked high enough using EBI will be accepted for enrollment.
Interested in General CRP?

Land Eligibility for General CRP:

- **Erodibility** – have a weighted average Erodibility Index (EI) of 8 or greater.
  - FSA office determines this.

- **Expiring CRP** – be currently enrolled in CRP in the last year of the contract set to expire on 9/30/2020 of the current FY.

- **Conservation Priority Area’s (CPA’s)** – be located within an approved National or State CPA.
  - FSA office can tell you if your land is in CPA.
Cropping History

Eligible cropland, must include cropland that includes both of the following:

Planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during 4 of the 6 crop years from 2012 through 2017

Physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity as determined by the COC.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Working with Land Owners

• What could be indicators of possible eligibility?
  • My land is in a watershed.
  • My land is on a slope.
  • There’s a whole field that create dusty winds.
Land Eligibility

To get an idea if your land might qualify:

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Met the Land Eligibility, what next?

Producer Eligibility for General CRP

• Owned the land for 12 months before:
  • the close of signup for general CRP sign-up (February 28, 2020).
  • Ask about waivers.

• Meet other eligibility qualifications such as AGI and payment limitations.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Environmental Benefits Index (EBI)

- Wildlife habitat benefits resulting from covers on act acres (N1); **10 to 100 points**
- Water quality benefits from reduced erosion, runoff and leaching (N2); **0 to 100 points**
- On-farm benefits from reduced erosion (N3); **0 to 100 points**
- Benefits that will likely endure beyond the contract period (N4); **0 to 50 points**
- Air quality benefits from reduced wind erosion (N5) **3 to 45 points** and;
- Cost (N6) **varies.**


USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Producer Choices that Affect EBI

- Rental Rate Adjustments
- Cover and Species Mix
- Enhancements provided
How long will it take to sign-up?

- The sooner the better.
- It depends on timeline.
- When making your appointment with FSA, tell them your history.
- It may take time to determine CRP Plan.
Getting the Records Correct

Come to your Local FSA Office with:

**Proof of ownership**
- Copy of recorded deed or lease
- Land purchase contract or Rental Agreement
- Share crop contract
- FSA employee check of assessors records
- Certification of an heir (needs to be accompanied by will)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
How will you know if you’re approved?

All producers that submitted an offer will get a letter.

They will be notified if their offer was accepted/rejected.
Once approved, what next?

• Contact NRCS to develop conservation plans.

• Meet Deadlines – each program has it’s own requirements.

• Reimbursements – cost share options and bills management.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Be aware, start planning.

General CRP deadline is February 28th.

Schedule their appointment with local FSA staff ASAP.

It’s best to begin working with FSA as soon as possible to build out a plan and submit your CRP offer.
Additional Resources

Women Food and Ag Network
https://wfan.org/
Choosing Your CRP Journey brochure:
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ae9eb0a697a9837968fb75c/t/5c76e82b9b747a745cee9690/1551296927302/full-CRP-brochure.pdf

Farm Service Agency CRP Fact Sheets

Find your local USDA Service Center
https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Many thanks to our speakers!

Questions?