Lunch and Learn: CRP CLEAR30

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

Virginia (Ginny) Green
USDA’s Farm Service Agency
CRP Program Manager

Cynthia Cuellar
USDA’s Farm Service Agency
National Outreach Specialist

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Housekeeping

Audio is streaming through your computer.

This session is being recorded.

Utilize the chat box feature to submit comments/questions.
Agenda

- Overview of CRP
- What is CLEAR30?
- Eligibility Requirements
- Unique Options
- Application Process
- FSA Outreach
- Stakeholder Engagement with FSA

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
CRP CLEAR30

• **What:** A new pilot under CRP where existing CRP water quality practices can be re-enrolled into 30 year contracts

• **Pilot Location:** 12 States

• **Sign-up Dates:** July 6-August 21

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
CLEAR30
Eligibility

- Only Existing Practices, Expiring September 30, 2020

- Certain Water Quality Practices include: Grass Waterways; Contour Grass Strips; Contour Grass Strips on Terraces; Filter Strips; Denitrifying Bioreactor on Filter Strip; Saturated Filter Strips; Riparian Buffer; Denitrifying Bioreactor on Riparian Buffers; Saturated Riparian Buffer; Wetland Restoration; Wetland Restoration, Non flood plain; Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer; Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer; Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands; Duck Nesting Habitat.
What’s unique about CLEAR30?

Maintenance covered for the full 30-year contract, two options:

1. Landowner can opt to continue to do the maintenance themselves and FSA pays them to do it.

2. Landowner can opt for FSA to contract a vendor to conduct the maintenance.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
What’s unique about CLEAR30?
Continued…

Annual Rental Payment

• There is a 27.5% enhancement to the annual rental payment vs enrolling in a 10-15 contract under Continuous CRP.
Those interested in enrolling into CLEAR30 should:

- Call local office and tell them you’re interested in enrolling.
- FSA can then generate the forms needed, and email them
  - OneSpan can then be used for electronic signatures
  - Find our more about OneSpan at: https://www.farmers.gov/mydocs

Visit www.farmers.gov/coronavirus for updates on the latest status of office re-openings.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
FSA Outreach for CLEAR30

Postcard were sent to eligible producers.

Each State Outreach Coordinator has news release materials.

GovDelivery Messages: sign up at www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Stakeholder Engagement with FSA

- Engage with FSA State Outreach Coordinators: listed online at fsa.usda.gov/outreach
- Co-hosting webinars
- Share information on social media platforms
Stakeholders Highlights of CLEAR30

- Pilot available to certain water quality practices with expiring CRP contracts.
- First CRP program to offer a 30-year contract.
- First CRP program to offer Maintenance Payments.
- Enhanced Annual Payment Rate.

Sign-Up: July 6 – August 21, 2020

For additional resources on the CLEAR30 program, you can find fact sheets on FSA’s online website at www.fsa.usda.gov/newsroom under Conservation.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Additional Resources

- Farmers.gov
- Newfarmers.usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Thanks for joining us!

Questions?

Looking to collaborate in various states? Email the National FSA Outreach team:

fsaoutreach@usda.gov
Common Questions

Do expiring CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) contract qualified for this?

The county offices will need to consult with their CREP agreement and their state office to make that determination, because there are a wide variety of provisions within the CREP agreements across the country, that may have some type of restriction, at the time of the end of their contract but if there are no provisions within the CREP agreement that prevent re enrollment, they might be eligible for CLEAR30.
Common Questions

With expiring contracts, are we able to change the practice and still be able to do a CLEAR30 contract?

The participant will offer the same practice that was under their previous Continuous CRP contracts into CLEAR30.
Common Questions

Is there flexibility in the expiration date for CRP contracts that would be eligible for clear 30?

A special provision in the 2018 Farm Bill that allowed for some contracts that expired in 2017, 2018, and 2019 that did not have an opportunity to offer back into CRP at the time of expiration.

However, there are limitations due to the variations between the year and practices.

It’s best for a producer to begin talking about their options with their local FSA office to see if they are eligible.
Common Questions

Will land owners be reimbursed for 100% of the maintenance costs?

If the landowner chooses to do the maintenance themselves, they will be paid at 75% of a rate that is set by our FSA State Committee.

Each state will have a payment schedule for common maintenance type activities, and then participants will be reimbursed and 75% of that rate, the rate they're setting is considered an average rate for conducting the activity.
Common Questions

How does one get on FSA’s vendor list to complete maintenance on the CLEAR30 practices?

FSA will be putting out a Request for Proposals for vendors to submit their interest in working with FSA to complete the maintenance for contracts enrolled in CLEAR30.

This Request for Proposals will be sent out through https://www.gsa.gov/small-business/-compete-for-contracts.
Is CLEAR30 available in the entire state or just certain regions?

CLEAR30 is eligible in all counties of the 12 Pilot States, which includes:
1. Minnesota
2. Wisconsin
3. Michigan
4. Illinois
5. Indiana
6. Ohio
7. New York
8. Pennsylvania
9. West Virginia
10. Virginia
11. Delaware
12. Maryland

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Common Questions

What are they haying and grazing provision?

CLEAR30 will follow the same paying grazing provision that we follow for other CRP.

More information can be found within FSA Notice CRP-893 CRP Non-Emergency Haying and Grazing Procedure:
Common Questions

Are there more compatible uses allowed on CLEAR30 acres?

The Farm Bill allowed for compatible uses including hunting and fishing, prescribed haying and grazing, and also managed timber harvest.
Common Questions

What happens if I need to sell my land? Or what happens if I don't outlive the life of the contract?

For voluntary termination, which means the participant has done everything that they're supposed to do, but for some reason they need to terminate the contract. Then the only requirement will be to pay back the annual rental payments.

If there is a breach of contract. Then the participant would be responsible for paying back the annual rental payments and the maintenance payments.
Common Questions

What if the maintenance falls into noncompliance?

If the participant chooses to have FSA secure vendor to conduct the maintenance activities, then FSA would work with the vendor to bring the maintenance into compliance, or FSA would secure a different vendor.