



Farm Service Agency

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) GRASSLANDS SIGNUP

FACT SHEET
March 2020

Overview (Signup 2020)

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands is part of the Conservation Reserve Program, a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is protected and used for conservation benefits.

With CRP Grasslands, landowners and operators can protect grassland, including rangeland and pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity and grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion. Participants receive annual payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is either 10 or 15 years.

CRP Grasslands is authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) FSA administers the program on behalf of the USDA Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

Benefits

Protecting grasslands contributes positively to the economy of many regions, provides biodiversity of plant and animal populations and improves environmental quality.

How the Program Works

Participants retain the right to conduct common grazing practices, produce hay, mow or harvest for seed production (subject to certain restrictions during the nesting season of bird species that are in significant

decline or those that are protected under federal or state law), conduct fire rehabilitation and construct firebreaks and fences.

Ranking Land Offered for CRP Grasslands

Interested participants may submit an offer with the USDA FSA from March 16 to May 15, 2020. These offers will be reviewed to determine which offers can be approved using applicable CRP Grasslands Ranking Factors. FSA collects data for each of the ranking factors based on the relative benefits for the land offered. Each eligible offer is ranked in comparison to all other eligible offers and selections for acceptance are made from that ranking.

FSA uses the following ranking factors, including:

- Existence of expiring CRP;
- Existing Grassland;
- Existing Multi-species cover and predominance of native species;
- State Focus Area (land-based) determined in consultation with State Technical Committee;
- Applicant is an eligible Beginning, Veteran, or Socially Disadvantaged farmer or rancher;
- Existing Small Livestock Operation;
- Cost; and
- Other factors as determined by FSA



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Small Livestock Operations

Small livestock operations with 100 or fewer grazing dairy cows or equivalent can submit applications to enroll up to 200 acres per farm points.

Animal Kind/Class	Animal Unit Equivalent
Beef/Buffalo/Dry Dairy Cow	1.00
Beef/Dairy/Buffalo Bulls	1.50
Heifer	0.86
Sheep, Ewe	0.16
Ram (200 lbs.)	0.17
Kid, yearling	0.10

Eligible Producers

A producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to closing the CRP enrollment period, unless:

- The new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner’s death;
- The ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right of redemption in accordance with state law; or
- The circumstances of the acquisition present adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP.

Eligible Land

Land currently must be planted to a grass cover.

Rental Payments

In return for following an approved CRP conservation plan, FSA provides annual rental payments to participants based on 75 percent of the NASS estimated pastureland rental rate as determined by FSA for the life of the agreement.

Cost-Share Assistance

FSA provides cost-share assistance to participants who establish approved practices on eligible land in an amount that is not more than 50 percent of the participants’ costs in establishing approved practices.

More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. To find more information about CRP Grasslands, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp. For more details on FSA conservation programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation or contact your local FSA office. To locate the nearest FSA office or USDA service center, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.