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USDA Accepts 2 Million Acres in Conservation Reserve Program General Signup

This year more than 4600 acres of General CRP were accepted in Indiana!

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA is accepting more than 2 million acres in offers from agricultural producers and landowners through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General signup, which included more than 4600 acres in Indiana. This is the first of the program's multiple signups occurring in 2022. With about 3.4 million acres expiring this year, Vilsack encourages producers and landowners to consider the Grassland and Continuous signups, both of which are currently open.

Producers submitted re-enrollment offers for just over half of expiring acres, similar to the rate in 2021. Offers for new land under General CRP were considerably lower compared to last year's numbers, with fewer than 400,000 acres being offered this year versus over 700,000 acres offered last year.

It is important to note that submitting and accepting a CRP offer is the start of the process, and producers still need to develop a conservation plan before enrolling their land on October 1, 2022. Each year, during the window between offer acceptance and land enrollment, some producers change their mind and ultimately decide not to enroll some accepted acres without penalty.

The three other types of CRP — Grassland, Continuous, and CREP — are still available for either working-lands or targeted, often smaller sub-field, offers. Producers have submitted offers on nearly 260,000 acres through the Continuous and CREP signup so far this year. The Grassland signup — which last year had its highest participation ever — closes May 13, 2022.

General CRP Signup

The General CRP Signup 58 ran from January 31 to March 11, 2022.

Through CRP, producers and landowners establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve soil health and water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat on agricultural land. In addition to the other well-documented benefits, lands

enrolled in CRP are playing a key role in climate change mitigation efforts across the country.

In 2021, FSA introduced improvements to the program, which included a new Climate-Smart Practice Incentive to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This incentive provides a 3%, 5% or 10% incentive payment based on the predominant vegetation type for the practices enrolled – from grasses to trees to wetland restoration.

More Information

While the General Signup is closed, producers and landowners can still apply for the Continuous and Grassland signups by contacting their local [USDA Service Center](#).

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. It was originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production. The program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits. Learn more at fsa.usda.gov/crp.

Indiana Black Loam Conference



The Indiana Black Loam Conference is run by Legacy Taste of the Garden partnering with Natural Resources Conservation Services, United States Department of Ag, Indiana State Department of Ag, Purdue University, Farm Credit, Indiana Small

Business Development Center, Indiana Department of Health, Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation.

The inaugural Indiana Black LOAM Conference is being held in Indianapolis on May 13th. (reception/networking) and 14th (conference), 2022 at Madame Walker Legacy Center. The conference will provide resources tailored for Indiana growers and producers who identify as BIPOC (black, indigenous, and people of color). The conference is FREE for all attendees.

The Black LOAM Conference Indianapolis features presentations on programs and funding, Business plans, different growing techniques, soil health, financing, panel discussions, round table discussions with industry leaders and hands-on learning experiences. All programming is designed to provide BIPOC producers and growers with resources across the state and in their local communities. From urban gardeners to commercial growers, the convention will have something for all levels of farmers.

Indiana FSA State Executive Director, Julia Wickard, will present an FSA program overview.

Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief, Terry Cosby, will be the keynote speaker.

To register for the conference, visit bit.ly/black-loam-indy

Indiana Farm Service Agency

5981 Lakeside Blvd
Indianapolis IN 46278

Phone: 317-290-3315
Fax: 855-374-4066

Julia Wickard
State Executive Director
julia.wickard@usda.gov

Kala Nicholson-Cline
Farm Loan Program Chief
kala.nicholson-cline@usda.gov

Joshua Oren
Administrative Officer
joshua.oren@usda.gov

Susan Houston
Price Support/Disaster Program Chief
susan.houston@usda.gov

Stephanie Alexander
**Acting Conservation/Compliance
Program Chief**
stephanie.alexander@usda.gov

Stephanie Alexander
**Production Adjustment Program
Chief**
stephanie.alexander@usda.gov

Julia Wickard
Acting State Committee
julia.wickard@usda.gov

Indiana Farm Service Agency
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