



News Release



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For Immediate Release

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FSA Offers Enrollment in Continuous CRP Practices

Bozeman, MT – The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has begun issuing letters to producers who have Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres expiring September 30, 2009. Producers of expiring contracts will have the opportunity to reenroll a portion of the acres into continuous CRP practices. The practices available during continuous signup generally provide high environmental benefits to large areas when compared to the acreage on which the practice is implemented.

Continuous signup practices are: riparian buffers; filter strips; grassed waterways; shelter belts; field windbreaks; shallow water areas for wildlife; establishment of permanent vegetative cover to reduce salinity; wetland restoration; cross wind trap strips; farmable wetlands; farmable wetland buffer, and living snow fences.

CRP is a voluntary program that offers annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term resource-conserving covers on eligible land. Continuous CRP allows land devoted to certain conservation practices to be enrolled in CRP at any time. Continuous CRP contracts are between 10-15 years. Offers for continuous sign-up are not subject to competitive bidding.

Crop bases acres may have been reduced at the time land was enrolled in CRP. Producers must contract the local FSA office to request reinstatement of those base acres, if applicable.

Producers with CRP contracts expiring September 30, 2009 also have the option to prepare the acreage for crop production during the final year of the contract. Producers that will be planting a fall-seeded crop are allowed start preparing the land after May 1st. Producers that will be planting a spring-seeded crop will be allowed to chemically spray the vegetative cover after August 1st, but will not be allowed to till the land until October 1st. If producers plan on preparing the CRP acreage for crop production, they must visit their local FSA office to sign the appropriate forms and receive approval.

Contact your local FSA office for further information on continuous signup practices and destroying the CRP vegetative cover prior to contract expiration or logon to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.