

Environmental Benefits Index

FSA will rank offers in this general signup according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). This is data collected for each EBI factor based on the relative environmental benefits for the land offered. EBI rankings are unique for each piece of ground offered into CRP.

FSA assigns each offer a point score based on the offer's relative environmental benefits. Each offer competes with all offers nationwide. Offers are accepted based on the ranking results.

N1 – Wildlife Factor (0-100 points)

- N1a – Habitat Cover (0-50)
- N1b - Wildlife Enhancements, includes new establishment of pollinator-friendly habitat (0, 5 or 20)
- N1c - Wildlife Priority Zones (0 or 30)

N2 – Water Quality Benefits from Reduced Erosion Runoff, and Leaching (0-100 points)

- N2a – Water Quality Zones (0 or 30)
- N2b – Groundwater quality (0-25)
- N2c – Surface water quality (0-45)

N3 – Erosion Factor (0-100 points)

N4 – Enduring Benefits (0-50 points)

N5 – Air Quality Benefits from Reduced Wind Erosion (0-45 points)

- N5a – Wind Erosion Impacts (0-25)
- N5b – Wind Erosion Soils List (0 or 5)
- N5c – Air Quality Zones (0 or 5)
- N5d – Carbon Sequestration (3-10)

N6 – Cost

- N6a – Cost (point value determined after end of signup based on actual offer data)
- N6b – Offer Less Than Maximum Payment Rate (0-25)

After signup ends on April 15, 2011, FSA will determine the EBI threshold used to accept offers. The EBI cutoff will be determined after analyzing and ranking all eligible offers.

The demand to enroll land in CRP is expected to be greater than the amount that FSA can accept. Producers that maximize the EBI points will increase the likelihood of offer acceptance. These decisions could include which cover practice to apply to the acreage, offering the most environmentally sensitive land, enhancing covers that benefit wildlife, planting pollinator-friendly habitat, and accepting a lower payment rate than the maximum amount FSA is offering.

Producers are encouraged to consult with local USDA experts on steps to take to maximize EBI points.

CRP Informational Meetings

County	Date	Time	Location
Barber	3/8/2011	1:00 pm	The Peoples Bank, Sunflower Room, 121 S Main Street, Medicine Lodge
Barton	3/2/2011	1:00 pm	Kansas Wetlands Education Center:592 NE K-156 Highway, Great Bend
Cherokee	3/9/2011	9:00 am	USDA Service Center, 300 E. Country Rd., Columbus
Clark/ Comanche	3/14/2011	9:00 am	Minneola Coop, Minneola
Clark/ Comanche	3/15/2011	9:00 am	Ashland Public Library, Ashland
Clark/ Comanche	3/15/2011	2:00 pm	Don's Place, Protection
Cowley	3/1/2011	7:00 pm	Cowley County Extension Office, 311 East 9 th , Winfield
Decatur	3/10/2011	2:00 pm	USDA Office, 410 S Buffalo, Oberlin
Doniphan	3/10/2011	1:30 pm	Doniphan County USDA Service Center Conference Room, 510 E. Locust Street, Troy
Edwards	2/22/2011	11:00 am	Edwards County Fair building, Fairgrounds, Kinsley
Ellis	3/2/2011	1:00 pm	2715 Canterbury Drive, Hays
Finney	3/9/2011	9:00 am	K-State SW Research Extension Center 4500 E. Mary Street, Garden City
Ford	3/3/2011	7:00 pm	Ford County 4-H Building, Dodge City
Graham	3/2/2011	7:00 pm	Frontier Stage, 305 E Main, Hill City 5 blocks east of stoplight on Hwy 24
Gray	3/2/2011	9:00 am	909 East Avenue A, Cimarron
Gray	3/3/2011	1:30 pm	909 East Avenue A, Cimarron
Greeley	3/2/2011	9:30 am	Barrel Springs Hunt Club, Horace
Greenwood/ Elk	3/10/2011	7:00 pm	Elk County Extension Council, Meeting Room 130 S Penn, Howard
Greenwood/ Elk	3/9/2011	7:00 pm	Eureka Public Library, Meeting Room 606 N Main, Eureka
Harper	2/22/2011	12:00 pm	Kanza Bank meeting room, 102 E. Main St., Anthony
Kearny	2/24/2011	10:00 am	Kearny County Library Meeting Room, Lakin
Kiowa	3/1/2011	1:00 pm	Kiowa County Housing Authority, Prairie Point Community Room, 408 South Main, Greensburg
Kiowa	3/2/2011	1:00 pm	Kiowa County Housing Authority, Prairie Point Community Room, 408 South Main, Greensburg
Labette	3/15/2011	3:00 pm	Allamont USDA Service Center, 115 W 4th St, Allamont
Lane	3/2/2011	1:30 pm	Lane County Courthouse Community Room, 144 S Lane Street, Dighton
Meade	3/9/2011	1:00 pm	Meade County Fairgrounds, 4-H Building Meade
Morton	3/3/2011	1:00 pm	Morton County Civic Center, 400 Orchard St. Elkhart
Ness	3/9/2011	1:30 pm	Ness County Fairgrounds, Ness City
Norton	3/9/2011	1:30 pm	Prairie Land Electric, 1101 West Hwy 36, Norton
Pawnee	3/9/2011	7:00 pm	J. A. Haas Building, 400 E. 18th Street, Larned
Pawnee	3/9/2011	2:00 pm	J. A. Haas Building, 400 E 18th Street, Larned
Rawlins	3/3/2011	2:00 pm	Rawlins County Fair Grounds Meeting Room, Atwood
Reno	3/9/2011	1:00 pm	Reno County Extension Office Basement, 2 W 10th Street, South Hutchinson
Scott	3/3/2011	9:30 am	Scott County Library, 110 W 8th St, Scott City
Shawnee	3/9/2011	10:00 am	Shawnee County Farm Bureau Building Conference Room, 3801 SW Wanamaker Road, Topeka
Shawnee	3/9/2011	6:30 pm	Shawnee County Farm Bureau Building Conference Room, 3801 SW Wanamaker Road, Topeka
Stevens	2/23/2011	1:00 pm	4-H Building, Stevens County Fair Grounds, Hugoton
Trego	3/10/2011	2:00 pm	WaKeeney Library, 610 Russell Ave, WaKeeney

Continuous CRP

Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled at anytime under CRP Continuous signup. Offers are not subject to competitive bidding like the general signup.



Kansas State-Wide Farm Service Agency

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CRP Transition Incentives Program (TIP)

The CRP Transition Incentives Program (TIP) provides for the transition of expiring CRP land from a retired or retiring owner or operator to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher to return land to production for sustainable grazing or crop production. TIP provides annual rental payments for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member. Enrollment in TIP is on a continuous basis up to the date of contract expiration.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Signup Starts March 14, 2011

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Signup 41 will be held March 14 through April 15, 2011. Farm Service Agency (FSA) will accept offers only during the signup period.

CRP is the nation's largest private land conservation program. CRP is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and enhance wildlife habitat.

USDA will maintain CRP enrollment up to 32 million acres nationwide. Contracts under this signup will become effective October 1, 2011. Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this signup, provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring September 30, 2011, may submit offers. Kansas has 2,726,425 acres enrolled in CRP, of which 532,067 acres will expire on September 30, 2011.

Eligibility

Land Eligibility

Eligible cropland must be both of the following:

- Planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during 4 of the 6 crop years from 2002-2007.
- Physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

Land that meets the basic land eligibility listed above may be eligible for enrollment in the general signup if it meets 1 or more of the following:

- Have a weighted average erosion index of eight or higher;
- Be enrolled in a CRP contract that expires September 30, 2011; or
- Be located in a Conservation Priority Area (CPA).

Owners and Operators Eligibility

A producer must have owned or operated the land for 12 months before the close of signup, unless:

- Acquired the land by will or succession.
- The ownership change occurred due to foreclosure.
- The acquisition presents adequate assurance that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP.

Landlord – Tenant Provisions

Landlords must provide tenants, with an interest in the acreage being offered, an opportunity to participate in CRP. Tenants participating in CRP must remain on the farm through the life of the contract.

Rental Payments

An annual rental payment is based on the relative productivity of the soils within each county and the average dryland cash rent or cash-rent equivalent. FSA will calculate the maximum acceptable CRP rental rate for each offer based upon the soil types on the land offered.

Cost-Share Assistance

Cost-share assistance to establish approved cover on eligible land, not to exceed 50 percent of the participant's costs to establish approved practices.

Those interested in offering land into CRP during the general signup period March 14 - April 15, 2011, shall contact the Farm Service Agency at the local USDA Service Center to make an appointment. The phone number for your local USDA office is in the phone directory under U.S. Government. Obtain CRP fact sheets at www.fsa.usda.gov

Important Dates To Remember

February 21 – President's Day - USDA Offices Closed
Within 30 Days of Loss – Livestock programs are available to assist with livestock losses or additional feed costs due to recent winter storms.
March 14-April 15 – CRP General Signup
March 15 – Final date to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on coarse grains, vegetable and melon crops, amaranth, chestnuts, cotton, pecans, pumpkins, safflower, sesame, squash, and walnuts.
March 31 – Final date to request a 2010 small grain or honey commodity loan or Loan Deficiency Payment.
April 8 – Final date to apply for Asparagus Loss Assistance Payments.
June 1 – Final date for 2011 DCP and ACRE signup.
July 29 – Final date to apply for 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE).
On-Going – Farm Storage Facility Loans
On-Going – Continuous CRP
On-Going – Conservation Loans
On-Going – Direct and Guaranteed Operating and Farm Ownership Loans