

May 2013



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## GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM SIGN-UP DEADLINE JUNE 3

Belmont/Monroe Farm Service Agency (FSA) will be accepting GRP (Grassland Reserve Program) applications until **June 3, 2013** for applicants to submit offers for **GRP rental contracts**.

The purpose of GRP is to assist landowners and operators to protect grazing uses and related conservation values by conserving and restoring grassland resources on eligible private lands.

We will accept applications on a continuous basis; however, ranking dates are established to evaluate and select applications for current year funding. Any applications received after this date shall be retained until the next ranking period. Producers not accepted during previous GRP sign-ups must reapply to be considered for enrollment in 2013.

Preference will be given to:

- Working grazing operations with an approved grazing plan;
- Land that has been historically dominated by grassland and provides habitat for animal or plant populations of significant ecological value;
- Land which contains historical or archeological resources; and
- Land expiring from the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) on Sept. 30, 2013.

Either owners or operators may voluntarily apply for GRP rental contracts as long as the operator can provide proper documents to show control of rental acres during the entire contract period. Participants must meet adjusted gross income requirements, must be in conservation compliance and cannot exceed the \$50,000 payment limitation.

Rental contracts may be for duration of 10 years, 15 years or 20 years and rental payments will be \$10.00 per acre per year of the contract for Belmont County land and \$10.50 per acre for Monroe County land.

The land must remain in grassland for the entire term of the contract. The land may not be reseeded, houses or well pads cannot be built, etc. If there is any question that the land will remain in grassland for the term of the contract, it should not be enrolled in the program. Violators will be required to refund payments already received, plus interest and liquidated damages.

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**Belmont/Monroe County  
FSA Office**

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## **CRP Sign-Up Started May 20th**

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning **May 20 and ending on June 14**. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 319,000 acres are enrolled in CRP in Ohio. Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years).

To be eligible, the applicant must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the end of the CRP sign-up period (there are some exceptions). The land must be cropland that is planted to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2002 – 2007. Hay may only be considered a crop under certain circumstances (part of a rotation that can be documented). The land must be physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner. It must also have a weighted average erosion index of 8 or higher.

Maximum rental rates are established by predominant soil types of area being offered.

More information about the CRP general sign-up [can be found online](#) or contact the Belmont/Monroe county FSA office.

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## **DCP Sign-Up Continues**

Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the **Aug. 2, 2013**, deadline.

All payments under the DCP are subject to the availability of funds and compliance with all laws including those that may be passed after a DCP Contract is signed. This may include a reduction in the amount of Direct Payments due to any sequester order required by legislation. FSA will notify producers of any required percentage reduction of DCP payments.

The 2013 Direct Payments will be as follows: Corn 28 cents per bushel, Soybeans 44 cents and Wheat 52 cents. Producers should contact the Belmont/Monroe County Farm Service Agency as soon as possible to schedule an appointment for the 2013 DCP/ACRE sign-up.

**Please take note that acreage reports are required to participate in the DCP program and the deadline for acreage reports is July 15 for most crops.**

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## Acres & Crop Reporting Requirements

Producers are reminded of the ANNUAL acres reporting requirements that must be met prior to receiving program benefits. The acres reporting deadlines for 2013 are as follows:

- July 15th for any spring-seeded crops (corn & soybeans), fruits and vegetables, cabbage planted by May 31st, forage crops (hay and pasture);
- August 15th for CRP and cabbage planted between June 1st and July 20th; and
- December 15th for wheat and other fall seeded crops.

Prevented planted and failed cropland acres that will not be brought to harvest have slightly different timelines.

- Prevented planting acres must be reported within 15 calendar days of the Federal Crop Insurance Companies (FCIC) established ending planting dates. For corn, the FCIC ending planting date is June 5, and for soybeans the ending planting date is June 20.
- Failed acres must be reported to FSA before destroying and replanting to allow time for a field check. Failure to timely report prevented planting acres may result in loss of potential disaster assistance, as well as maintaining cropping history.
- For crop losses covered by the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP), producers must contact their local FSA office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

Missing any of these deadlines could cause FSA payments to be held and a late filing penalty fee to be charged. So, please contact the county FSA office if you have any questions or to set up an appointment to report your crop acres.

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