

## **You are cordially invited to the initial CRP Benefits Webinar.**

The Webinar will be held Tuesday October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 Eastern time. Dr. Chip Euliss – U.S. Geologic Survey will be presenting “***Integrated Landscape Monitoring—Bringing the Best Available Science to Decision Makers***”.

USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers the 27.0 million acre Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a program that improves water quality, enhances wildlife populations, sequesters carbon, reduces erosion, and provides other environmental benefits. The CRP does this by working with producers and landowners to identify and protect fragile croplands by placing them into conserving covers. FSA’s Economic and Policy Analysis Staff (EPAS) has established a Monitoring, Assessment, and Evaluation project to quantify and document the multiple benefits generated when lands are placed into the CRP, and to identify successful innovative practices.

EPAS, DOI’s U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and our partners are collaborating to present a series of webinars. The series will highlight the monitoring and assessment activities of FSA and how partnerships within and outside USDA are working together to fill critical gaps and develop tools to better inform policy and management decisions. You are cordially invited to the first webinar, Integrated Landscape Monitoring—Bringing the Best Available Science to Decision Makers, which will be presented by USGS Scientist, Dr. Chip Euliss, on October 23, 2012 at 1:30 PM (Eastern Time). The Integrated Landscape Monitoring (ILM) Initiative, a USGS Science Thrust that began in 2006 has facilitated the development of tools useful for providing the best available science for the ILM models quantifying change in ecosystem services and making it available in tabular and visual format. This approach, to develop more science based decision making, was recommended

in the 2011 President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology Executive Report.

The monthly webinars are designed to present the results of the projects that identify and quantify the environmental services generated by CRP. The webinars will provide conservationists, decision makers, scientists, and policy analysts with the opportunity to review preliminary results and talk with the scientists conducting the monitoring and assessments. EPAS's goal is to engage in an open dialogue on how to measure benefits from the CRP and to better administer the program.