

You are cordially invited to the fifth CRP Benefits Webinar.

Lucia Barbato and Kevin Mulligan- Texas Tech University, Center for Geospatial Technology will be presenting “***CRP Effects on the Ogallala Aquifer***”. The Webinar will be held Tuesday April 23rd at 2:00 Eastern time. To participate go to the link below, enter as a guest and move to the room.

<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/gw/>

A phone call connection is provided for those of you who **do not have a microphone with their computer**. If you use this connection please turn off your computer microphone or you will produce feedback that disrupts the webinar. The call-in number is **888-858-2144** and access code is **9300114**

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers the 27.1 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, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Texas Tech University (TTU), 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 fourth webinar of 2013, ***CRP Effects on the Ogallala Aquifer***, which will be presented by Lucia Barbato, Associate Director, Center for Geospatial Technology at TTU. The Webinar will be held on April 23, 2013 at 2:00 PM (Eastern

Time). Lucia Barbato, Kevin Mulligan (TTU), Ken Rainwater (TTU) and Loren Smith (OSU) have been working with FSA and Ginny McGuire of the United States Geologic Survey to map and quantify the effects of CRP on the Ogallala Aquifer. The main goal of the research is to compare changes in the water level beneath CRP and non-CRP land to assess the impact of the program on groundwater resources. This work reflects USDA's and our partner's efforts to provide the best available science to inform decisions affecting policy and management.

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.