



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

USDA
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Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Signup Deadline Approaching

(EAST LANSING, MI), August 18, 2010 -- Christine White, State Executive Director for Michigan's Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers and landowners that the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup deadline is rapidly approaching. Producers can offer land for CRP general signup through August 27, 2010. Accepted contracts could start as soon as October 1, 2010.

"Certain practices are available on a continuous basis, however, it has been 5 years since the last competitive general CRP signup took place," said White. "CRP helps protect groundwater by reducing water runoff, sedimentation, and is a major contributor to increasing wildlife habitat."

To be eligible for CRP, the producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the close of the CRP signup, August 27, 2010. Land must be cropland which has been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2002- 2007, and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Alfalfa and other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may be eligible for this year.

In return for planting long-term resource conserving covers, FSA provides CRP participants annual rental payments, maintenance payments, cost-share and technical assistance.

Don't miss this opportunity! Contact your local USDA Service Center for more information or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.

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