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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.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Signup Starts August 2, 2010

Secretary Vilsack announced Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Signup 39 to be held **August 2 through 27, 2010**. 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, 2010. This year's crops may be harvested even if it is after the contract effective date.

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, 2010, covering about 4.5 million acres nationwide may make new contract offers. Kansas has 2,759,298 acres enrolled in CRP, of which 610,311 acres will expire on September 30, 2010.

General Signup Practices and Contract Length		
CP1	Establishment of Introduced Grasses and Legumes	10 Yr
CP2	Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses	10 Yr
CP3	Tree Planting	10 Yr
CP3A	Hardwood Tree Planting	10-15 Yr
CP4B	Permanent Wildlife Habitat Corridors	10-15 Yr
CP4D	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	10 Yr
CP10	Grass – Already Established	10 Yr
CP11	Trees – Already Established	10 Yr
CP12	Wildlife Food Plot	10-15 Yr
CP25	Rare and Declining Habitat	10-15 Yr

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, 2010; or
- Be located in a Conservation Priority Area (CPA).

Note: Previously expired CRP acreage may be eligible, check with the local office for field specific information.

AGI Provisions

If the average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) from non-farm income exceeds \$1 million, then the producer is ineligible for CRP benefits, unless 66.66 percent or more came from farming, ranching, or forestry operations.

Owners and Operators Eligibility

An **owner** must meet 1 of the following:

- Owned the land for 12 months before the close of signup.
- Acquired the land by will or succession.

An **operator** must meet ALL of the following:

- Operated the land for 12 months before the close of signup.
- Provides satisfactory evidence that control of the land will continue uninterrupted for the CRP-1 period.

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. However, the tenant can provide a written statement voluntarily relinquishing their rights to benefits.



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 Habitat Cover Benefits (0-100 points)

N1a – 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 August 27, 2010, 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.

CRP Payments

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 August 2-27, 2010, 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

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. Beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and CRP participants may enroll in TIP beginning one year before the expiration date of a CRP contract.

Beginning farmer or rancher means a person or entity who has not been a farm or ranch operator for more than 10 years; materially and substantially participates in the operation of the farm or ranch involved in CRP contract modification; and if an entity, is an entity in which 50 percent of the members or stockholders of the entity meet the first two criteria.

Socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher means a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. Gender is not included.