

USDA Farm Service Agency in Virginia



Program Compliance & Enforcement

June, 2011 - In Virginia, over 14-thousand farmers and landowners participate in farm programs authorized by what's commonly known as the Farm Bill. Last year the Farm Service Agency paid out nearly \$77 million to Virginia participants.

But with the benefits come obligations.

In exchange for annual rental payments over 10 or 15 years, producers enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or the Conservation Reserve Enhance Program (CREP) agree to take cropland out of production, plant conserving use crops designed to improve any number of natural conditions, maintain that cover for the life of agreed-to period of rental payments, and perform and adhere to other contractual obligations.

Virginia FSA conducts a comprehensive CRP / CREP inspection program. This year aerial imagery covering the entire state is being acquired. Using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, all of the nearly 13,500 Virginia fields in CRP will be checked to be sure the provisions of the conservation plan are in place.

Participation in other programs brings different responsibilities for the producer.

Formally, the national office selects a limited number of producers in each state for compliance review. Each program in which the selected producer participates is checked to be sure the participants obligations are fulfilled.

FSA personnel in local service centers are always alert for possible problems as they travel throughout their administrative territories.

