



# Conservation Reserve Program

Farm Service Agency's CRP Webinar Update  
Tuesday, February 15, 2022

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# Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Update

## FSA Representatives:

- ❖ **Scott Marlow, Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs**
- ❖ Paul Hanson, Acting Director, Conservation Division
- ❖ **T.J. Wilson, Deputy Director, Conservation Division**
- ❖ Beverly Preston, CRP Program Manager
- ❖ Virginia Green, Continuous CRP Program Manager
- ❖ Joy Alspach, Natural Resource Specialist
- ❖ Patty Roberts, National Program Specialist
- ❖ Outreach Specialist: Jennifer Perez-Cole



# Agenda

## **FY 2022 Program Changes**

**Overview of General Signup 58, Continuous Signup 57, Grasslands Signup 204**

**Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers (CLEAR30), and State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)**

**Other CRP Highlights**

# Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

## CRP – Conservation Reserve Program

CRP General  
Signup

CRP  
Continuous  
Signup

CRP Transition  
Incentive  
Program

CLEAR – Clean  
Lakes Estuaries  
and Rivers

**Sign-Up  
Ends  
March  
11**

SAFE – State  
Acres for  
Wildlife  
Enhancement

CREP –  
Conservation  
Reserve  
Enhancement  
Program



2018  
**FARM  
BILL**

# FY22 Signup

CRP General  
Signup 58  
Underway

**Jan. 31 to March 11, 2022**



Grasslands  
CRP Signup

**April 4 to May 13, 2022**

# General CRP Signup 58

**General CRP helps farmers, ranchers and landowners establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland.**

**General Signup Period:  
January 31 to March 11, 2022**

- **In exchange for a yearly rental payment, participants enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality.**
- **Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length.**

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# General CRP Signup 58

- **Environmental Benefit Index will be used to rank all offers for selection**
- **Maximum per-acre annual payment rate is \$240 per acre**
  - This rate includes:
    - The Climate-Smart Incentive
    - Productivity Factor
    - 10 percent inflationary factor

# Notification of Participants

- **All CRP participants with CRP Contracts expiring September 30, 2022 were notified in a recent letter from FSA**
- **Provided options to the participant including re-enrollment**

# FY2022 Soil Rental Rates Posted

- **County offices have posted the FY2022 Soil Rental Rates**
- **Paid based on the three predominant soils of the acres offered**
- **The average rates are posted to the public website at:**

**<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/reports-and-statistics/conservation-reserve-program-statistics/index>**

# Updated State Conservation Priority Areas's (CPA) and Zones

- **States were provided the opportunity to renew, revise or establish new State CPA's (provides eligibility criteria) and Wildlife, Water Quality and Air Quality Zones (additional EBI points) ahead of General CRP Signup 58**

# Grasslands CRP Signup

**2022 Signup: April 4 to May 13**

Grassland CRP helps farmers, ranchers and landowners protect grassland while enabling grazing activities to continue. Lands enrolled support grazing operations and promote plant and animal biodiversity. Lands are also protected from being developed.

- ***Grassland CRP is reauthorized by the 2018 Farm Bill.***
- ***FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance.***
- ***Contract duration is 10 or 15 years.***
- ***Grasslands Signup 203: more than 3.9 million acres offered; over 2.5 million acres accepted.***

# Recent CRP Changes

- **Incentives**
  - **10 percent inflationary adjustment to General and Continuous (including CREP) soil rental rates**
  - **20 percent water quality incentive non-CREP Continuous (CLEAR practices)**
  - **Climate-Smart Practice Incentive 3,5,10 percent**
  - **50 percent PIP in Continuous**
- **All SAFE moved to Continuous**
- **HELI in both General and Continuous**
- **Adjustment to Soil Productivity Index**  
**Range 0.5 - 1.5 (formerly capped at 1)**

# Climate Benefits of CRP

**Last year, FSA enacted a Climate-Smart Practice Incentive for CRP General and Continuous signups, to better target CRP on addressing climate change.**

- This incentive aims to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Climate-Smart Practice Incentive is annual, and the amount is based on the benefits of each practice type.

**USDA also invested \$10 million last year in the CRP Monitoring, Assessment and Evaluation (MAE) program to measure and monitor the soil carbon and climate resilience impacts of conservation practices over the life of new CRP contracts. This will enable the agency to further refine the program and practices to provide producers tools for increased climate resilience.**

Additional USDA Opportunity Related to Climate:

<https://www.usda.gov/climate-solutions/climate-smart-commodities>

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# CRP Enrollment Overall as of December 31, 2021

**Total CRP Enrollment – 22.1 million acres**

**General signup – 10.2 million acres**

**Continuous signup – 8 million acres (includes  
CREP, FWP)**

**Grasslands – 3.9 million acres**

**About 4 million acres are scheduled to expire on  
September 30, 2022**

## Continuous CRP Signup 55

- **As of December 31, 2021, over 854,000 acres of offers were accepted through Continuous signup**

## Continuous CRP Signup 57

- **Signup began October 1, 2021 with the recent enhancements still included.**

# State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)

- **Partnership with wildlife community and FSA**
- **Targeted regions of a state or states**
- **Over 75 approved SAFE projects**
- **December 31, 2021 enrollment – over 2.4 Million acres**
- **FY2021 - enrolled approximately 282,172 acres**



# CLEAR Initiative

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CLEAN LAKES ESTUARIES and RIVERS

# CLEAR Initiative

The name is quite appropriate for what the initiative intends to accomplish which is water quality improvement across various types of water bodies that are potentially impacted by agriculture.

CRP Practices (on CLEAR Acres) include: riparian buffers, filter strips, wetland restoration, grass waterways, contour grass strips and prairie strips.

# CLEAR30 Pilot Program

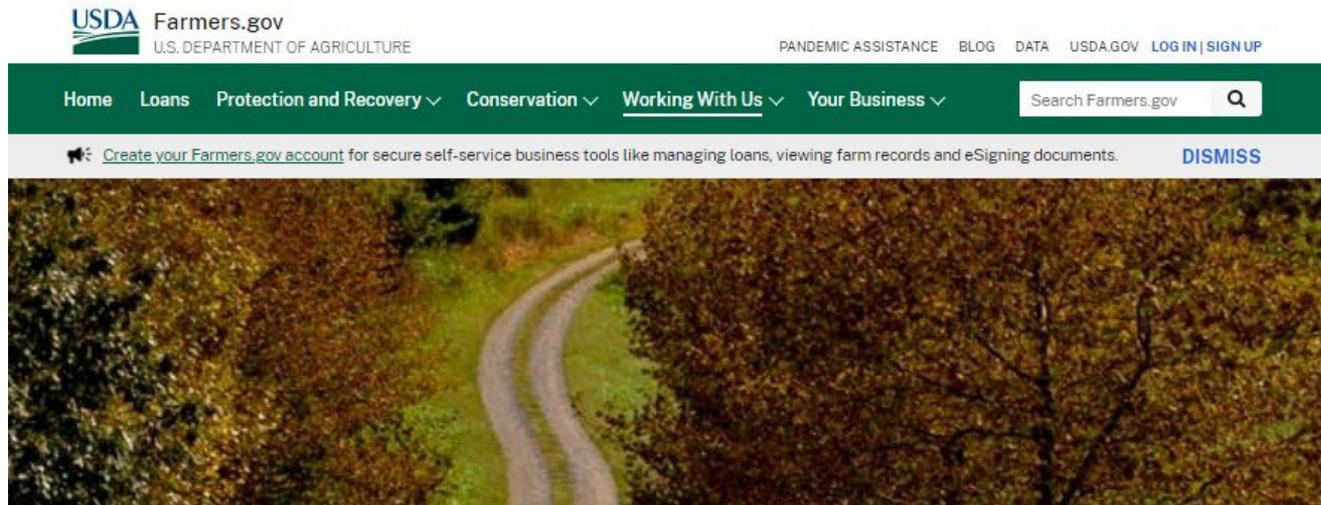
- **Expanded to be available Nationwide in FY2021 for every state with expiring CLEAR acres**
- **Expiring CRP water quality benefitting practices can be re-enrolled into 30-year contracts**
- **FSA provides payment for the maintenance of the CLEAR30 Practice**

# How to Enroll?

Landowners and producers interested in CRP should contact their local USDA Service Center to learn more or to apply for the program:

- **for General CRP before the March 11 deadline**
- **For Grassland CRP before the May 13 deadline.**
- **Continuous Signup – Ongoing Signup**

## Farmers.gov: USDA Service Center locator



Find Your Local Service Center

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**fsa.usda.gov**

# CRP Resources – [fsa.usda.gov/crp](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp)

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/index>

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

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## Conservation Reserve Program

### Section Topics

- Conservation Programs
- Home
- Conservation Reserve Program**
- Conservation Success Stories
- CRP 35-Year Anniversary
- CRP Continuous Enrollment Period
- CRP Sign-Up
- Grassland CRP Signup 203 Overview
- Grassland CRP Signup 203 Ranking Factors
- Emergency Haying and Grazing
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- CREP for Partners
- CREP for Producers
- Grassland CRP
- CRP Practices Library
- Emergency Conservation Program
- Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)
- Farmable Wetlands Program
- Grassland Reserve Program
- "Grassroots" Source Water Protection Program
- Monitoring, Assessment & Evaluation Reports

### About the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)



CRP is a land conservation program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are from 10 to 15 years in length. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.

Signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1985, CRP is one of the largest private-lands conservation programs in the United States. Thanks to voluntary participation by farmers and landowners, CRP has improved water quality, reduced soil erosion, and increased habitat for endangered and threatened species.

#### 2022 Signups

The General CRP signup runs from **Jan. 31, 2022 to March 11, 2022**, and the Grassland CRP signup runs from **April 4, 2022 to May 13, 2022**. The [Continuous CRP Signup](#) is ongoing. Producers interested in enrolling in CRP should contact the FSA office at their [local USDA Service Center](#). Read more in our [Jan. 26, 2022 news release](#).

#### 2021 Enrollment

Producers and landowners enrolled 5.3 million acres through CRP signups, including nearly 2.6 million in the Grassland signup, nearly 1.9 million acres for the General signup, and 902,000 acres for the Continuous signup (as of September 10, 2021). This year's signup surpassed USDA's 4 million-acre goal.

For Grassland CRP, producers and landowners submitted offers for nearly 4 million acres, the highest in the signup's history. Read more in our [September 10, 2021 news release](#).

Meanwhile, Continuous CRP was highly successful in large part because of a recommitment to incentives and partnerships, including the expansion of the Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rives Initiative 30-year (CLEAR30) from two regions to nationwide as well as moving State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) practices from the General to the Continuous signup. Read more in our [August 23, 2021 news release](#).

#### Improvements to CRP

In 2021, FSA introduced higher payment rates, new incentives, and a more targeted focus on CRP's role in climate change mitigation. To learn more about updates to CRP, read our ["What's New with CRP" fact sheet](#) or our [April 21, 2021 news release](#).

#### CRP and Climate Mitigation

Through the CRP Climate Change Mitigation Assessment Initiative, FSA will further

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# CRP Outcomes Webinar

## February 2022 Webinar: Increasing Flowering Plant Abundances for Pollinators on Conservation Reserve Program Lands

Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 3:00 - 4:00 PM ET

### Presenters:

**Matthew J. Rinella & Lauren M. Porensky, USDA Agricultural Research Service**

Pollinator insects are in decline, partly due to lack of flowering plants they rely on as food. In this study, we measured flowering plant cover as well as variables hypothesized to control this cover in 120 Conservation Reserve Program fields. Statistical analysis of these measurements identified several factors that control flowering plant abundances. Flowering plants were absent from all measurement locations in 28 fields. Applying certain herbicides <90 days prior to seeding reduced flowering plant cover and the probability flowering plants were present. Presence probability and cover also declined with increasing weed density and grass seed rate, and cover increased with flowering plant seed rate. Flowering plant species differed widely in their probability of being present. These findings suggest practical steps for managing fields and designing seed mixes to increase food supplies for pollinator insects. (Contributors: Matthew J. Rinella, Lauren M. Porensky, Susan S. Bellows, Jeanne M. Knox, and Emily P. Metier)

### CRP Outcomes Webinar Link to Register:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlSdOGprTorGDYBiWU7kaUb4Q7TbDPERCU>

### Website:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/economic-and-policy-analysis/natural-resources-analysis/webinars/index>

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# Questions?

## General CRP

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## Continuous CRP

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## Grassland CRP

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## Outreach

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