

USDA Farm Service Agency

What is the Conservation Reserve Program?



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Why this webinar?

Have you heard of CRP?

Who is eligible?

What does the program do?

Audience is in listen-only mode.

Please submit questions and comments in the chat box feature.

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Introduction of Speakers

Cynthia Cuellar
National Outreach Specialist

Beverly Preston
Program Manager

Dr. Jean Eells
Women Caring for the Land
through
Women Food and Ag Network (WFAN)



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Women Caring for the Land

<https://wfan.org/women-caring-for-the-land>



WOMEN
CARING FOR THE
LAND



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Overview of CRP

Conservation Reserve Program

- Land conservation program
- 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.
- Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length.



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Benefits of CRP

Enroll partial or entire fields/farms at a time.

There are three areas in which we see CRP as beneficial.

- Money – steady income, less productive land becomes valuable.
- Wildlife – improves habitats, attracts wildlife species, and increases pollinator habitat
- Resources – Reduce soil erosion, increase soil health, and protects air and water quality



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Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

CRP – Conservation Reserve Program

CRP
General
Signup

CRP
Continuous
Signup

TIP –
Transition
Incentives
Program

SAFE – State
Acres for
Wildlife
Enhancement

CLEAR –
Clean
Lakes
Estuaries
and
Rivers

**Sign-Up
Ends
Feb. 28th**

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What is General CRP sign-up?

- Competitive offer process
- During a selected period of time
- Annual sign-up
- Producer offer is ranked against other offers nationally using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI - will discuss later)
- Only offers ranked high enough using EBI will be accepted for enrollment.



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Interested in General CRP?

Land Eligibility for General CRP:

- Erodibility – have a weighted average Erodibility Index (EI) of 8 or greater.
 - FSA office determines this.
- Expiring CRP – be currently enrolled in CRP in the last year of the contract set to expire on 9/30/2020 of the current FY.
- Conservation Priority Area's (CPA's) – be located within an approved National or State CPA.
 - FSA office can tell you if your land is in CPA.



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Cropping History

Eligible cropland, must include cropland that includes both of the following:

Planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during 4 of the 6 crop years from 2012 through 2017

Physically and legally capable of being planted in a **normal manner** to an agricultural commodity as determined by the COC.



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Working with Land Owners

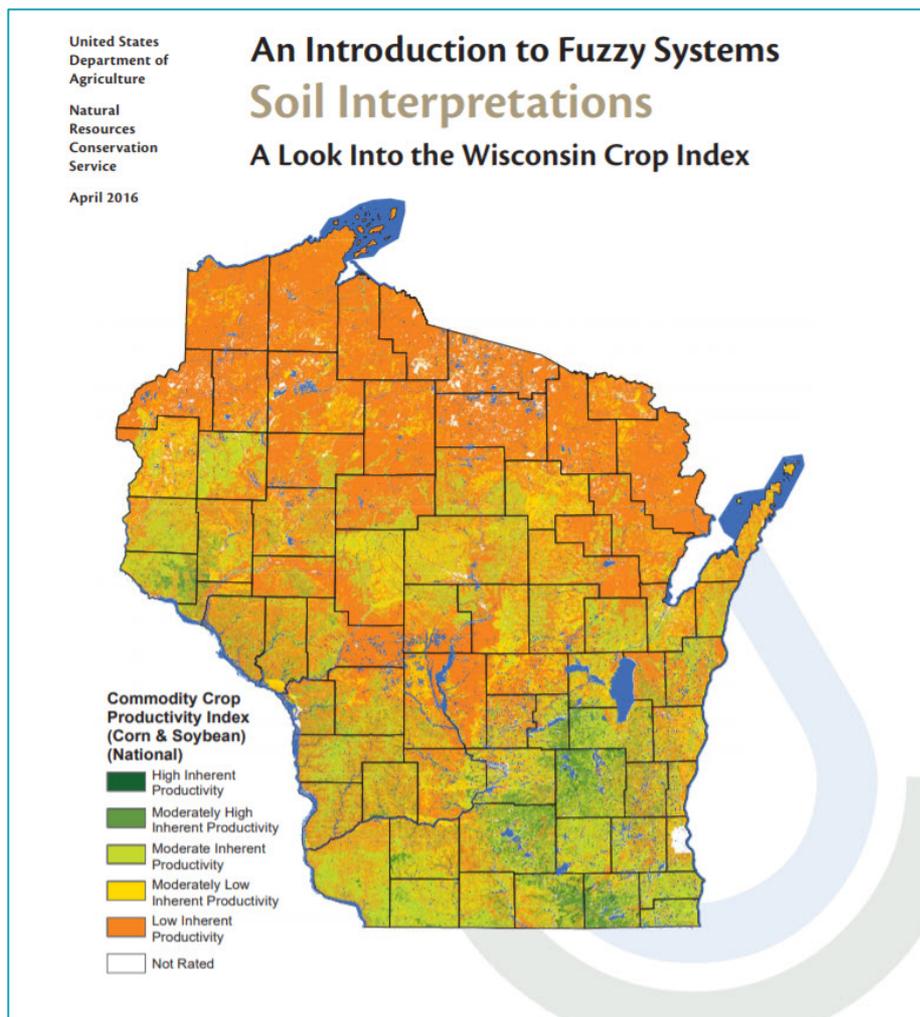
- What could be indicators of possible eligibility?
 - My land is in a watershed.
 - My land is on a slope.
 - There's a whole field that create dusty winds.



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Land Eligibility

To get an
idea if your
land might
qualify:



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Met the Land Eligibility, what next?

Producer Eligibility for General CRP

- Owned the land for 12 months before:
 - the close of signup for general CRP sign-up (February 28, 2020).
 - Ask about waivers.
- Meet other eligibility qualifications such as AGI and payment limitations.



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Environmental Benefits Index (EBI)

- Wildlife habitat benefits resulting from covers on act acres (N1); **10 to 100 points**
- Water quality benefits from reduced erosion, runoff and leaching (N2); **0 to 100 points**
- On-farm benefits from reduced erosion (N3); **0 to 100 points**
- Benefits that will likely endure beyond the contract period (N4); **0 to 50 points**
- Air quality benefits from reduced wind erosion (N5) **3 to 45 points** and;
- Cost (N6) **varies**.

Fact Sheet Online: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2019/crp_environmental_benefits_ind_ex-fact_sheet.pdf

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Producer Choices that Affect EBI

- Rental Rate Adjustments
- Cover and Species Mix
- Enhancements provided



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How long will it take to sign-up?

- The sooner the better.
- It depends on timeline.
- When making your appointment with FSA, tell them your history.
- It may take time to determine CRP Plan.



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Getting the Records Correct

Come to your Local FSA Office with:

Proof of ownership

- Copy of recorded deed or lease
- Land purchase contract or Rental Agreement
- Share crop contract
- FSA employee check of assessors records
- Certification of an heir (needs to be accompanied by will)

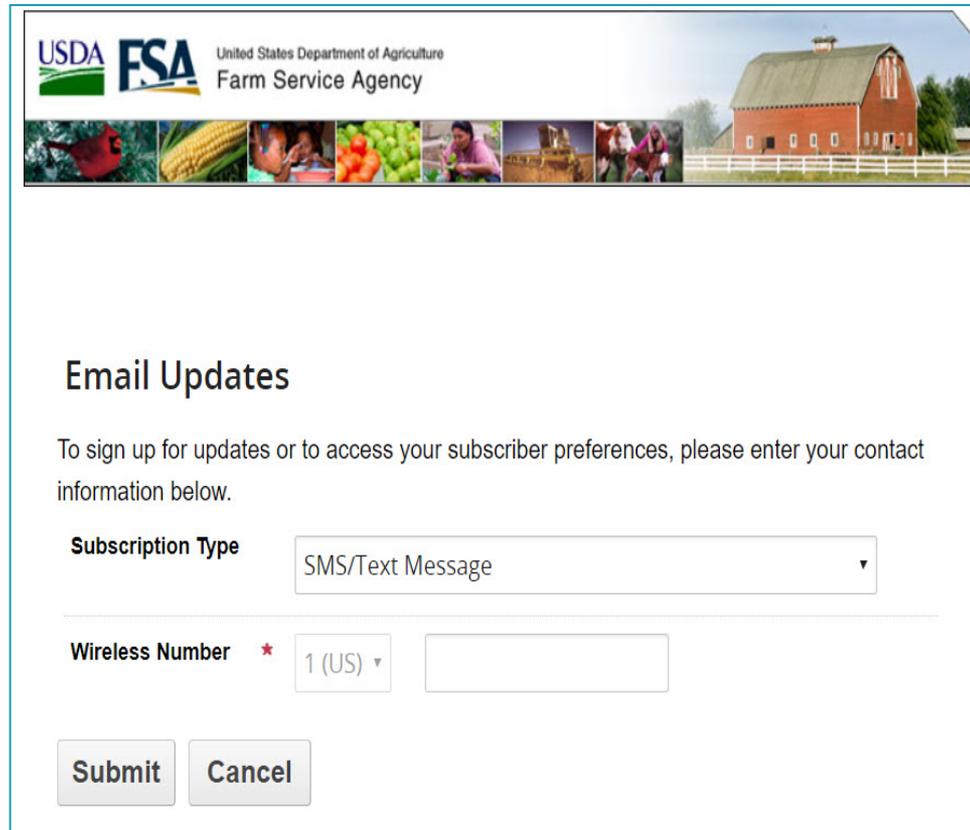


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How will you know if you're approved?

All producers that submitted an offer will get a letter.

They will be notified if their offer was accepted/rejected.



The screenshot shows the USDA FSA Farm Service Agency website. At the top, there is a banner with the USDA and FSA logos, the text "United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency", and a collage of agricultural images including a red barn, corn, and people working. Below the banner is a section titled "Email Updates". The text reads: "To sign up for updates or to access your subscriber preferences, please enter your contact information below." There is a "Subscription Type" dropdown menu set to "SMS/Text Message". Below that is a "Wireless Number" field with a dropdown menu set to "1 (US)" and an empty input box. At the bottom are "Submit" and "Cancel" buttons.



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Once approved, what next?

- Contact NRCS to develop conservation plans.
- Meet Deadlines – each program has it's own requirements.
- Reimbursements – cost share options and bills management.



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Be aware, start planning.

General CRP deadline is February 28th.

Schedule their appointment with local FSA staff ASAP.

It's best to begin working with FSA as soon as possible to build out a plan and submit your CRP offer.



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Additional Resources

Women Food and Ag Network

<https://wfan.org/>

Choosing Your CRP Journey brochure:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ae9eb0a697a9837968fb75c/t/5c76e82b9b747a745cee9690/1551296927302/full-CRP-brochure.pdf>

Farm Service Agency CRP Fact Sheets

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

Find your local USDA Service Center

<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

Many thanks to our speakers!

Questions?

