

Grassland CRP Signup 204

Welcome and Introductions

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Topics to be covered

- Common CRP Policies
- Differences from General CRP
- Land eligibility
- Additional Expectations
- Grassland CRP Practice CP88
- Signup Offer Process
- Ranking Process
- Conservation Planning Process
- Cost-share Policy
- Rental Rates

Common CRP Policies applicable

- Person Eligibility
- Payment Limitations
- AGI provisions
- Landlord Tenant Provisions
- Land ownership 12-month requirement
- Contact local county office for more information



Person Eligibility

Eligible participants can include:

- individual
- general partnership
- joint venture
- corporation organizations
- public school
- BIA/Indian rep by BIA
- trust – irrevocable
- estate
- individual operating a small business
- trust - revocable
- State and local government
- churches, charities, and non-profit
- limited liability company
- limited partnership
- limited liability partnership
- limited liability partnership
- Indian tribal venture

Land Ownership Requirement

Eligibility Criteria for Owners

An owner is eligible to offer land for enrollment in CRP if the owner meets 1 of the following requirements:

- owned the land for 12 months before the close of signup for general and grassland CRP offers
- acquired the land by will or succession as a result of death

Note: Some options for ownership waivers

Operator Eligibility

Eligibility Criteria for Operators

An operator is eligible to offer land for enrollment in CRP when the operator has operated the land for 12 months.

Must provide documentation that control of the land will continue uninterrupted for life of the contract prior to the end of signup to be eligible.

Payment Limitations

The maximum annual payment limitation that an eligible person or entity can receive under CRP is \$50,000 per FY based on the FY the payment is earned.

Payment Limitation for Grassland CRP
(includes any general and continuous CRP annual rental payments).

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Provisions

Certify that the average adjusted gross income of the individual or legal entity is less than \$900,000

Certification at approval is for the life of the contract

Landlord Tenant Provisions

Landlords must:

- provide tenants, who have an interest in the acreage being offered at the time of signup, an opportunity to participate in CRP
- Not reduce the number of tenants on the farm as a result of or in anticipation of enrollment in CRP

Tenant must provide a written document relinquishing their rights.

Differences from the General CRP

- Is a production-based program or Working Lands Program
- No cropping history requirements for grassland CRP
- Haying and/or grazing or harvesting for seed production is allowed subject to an approved Conservation Plan
- Cost share for fencing and livestock water development may be available, if there is a resource concern as determined by NRCS

Participant Expectations

- Must maintain cover and keep free of noxious and invasive species.
- Do not cultivate land under grassland CRP
- Do not develop land (housing or oil and gas production activity.)
- Selling property under Grassland CRP can result in repayment penalties if the new owner fails to succeed to the grassland CRP contract.

Participant Expectation (continued)

- Report the acreage annually to the local FSA office.
- Follow an approved Conservation Plan
- Report any ownership or operator changes to FSA.

Examples of Noncompliance

- Not maintaining the grass according to the approved Conservation Plan
- Not keeping the acreage under Grassland CRP contract free of noxious and invasive species
- Converting the ground to cropland or development

Consequences for Non-Compliance

- Termination - repayment of any Annual Rental Payments Received
- Repayment of any cost share
- Plus 25% liquidated damages

OR

- Standard Payment Reduction, which may apply if the COC determined good faith

Example for partial termination for removal of 5 acres from the contract.

Jim builds a house and barns on 5 acres under a grassland CRP contract. He is in the 5th year of his CRP contract. He did not receive any cost share payments.

In this example FSA would request a refund of all payments made on those 5 acres, plus liquidated damages.

5 acres removed x \$13 per acre per
year = \$65

\$65 per year at 5 years = \$325 total
annual rental payments received

Liquidated damages = number of acres
removed 5 x 25 percent x \$13 the annual
rental rate = \$16.25

Total repayment = \$341.25

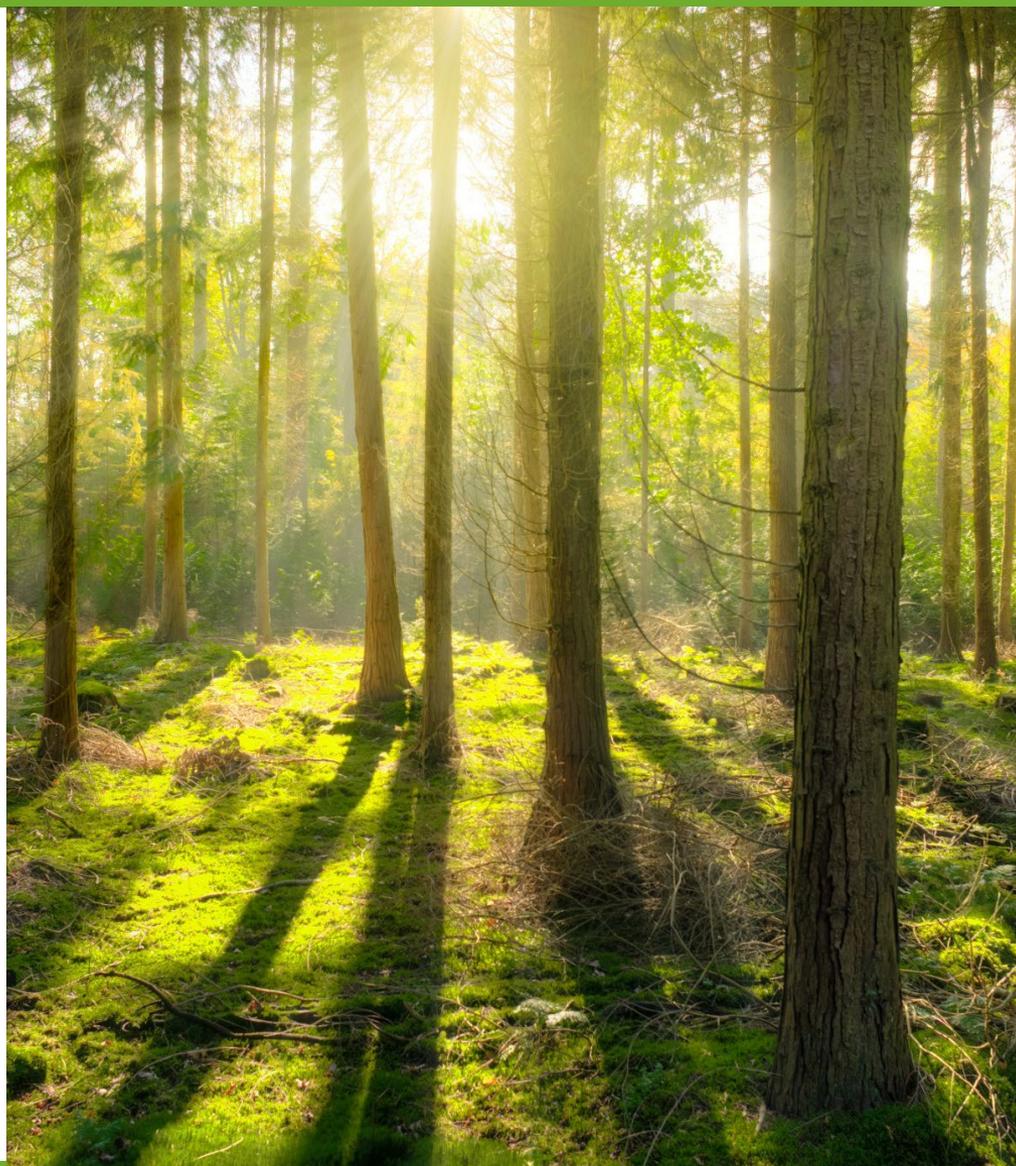
Eligible Land

Eligible land is rangeland and pastureland for which grazing is the predominant use.
(tree canopy cannot exceed 5%)



Ineligible Land

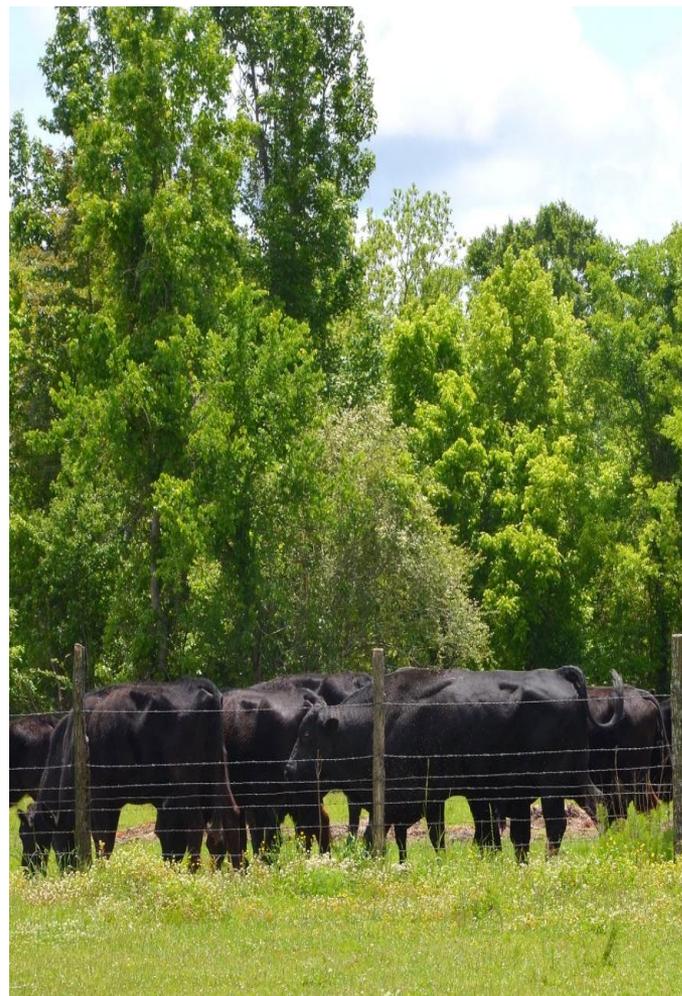
- Forestland
- Woodland
Exception: if forested pasture has less than 5% tree canopy interspersed
- Land under a EQIP or CSP Contract
- Land under easement that protects the land from conversion



Grassland CRP Practice CP88

Grassland practice CP88 will allow for:

- common grazing practices including maintenance and necessary cultural practices, on the land in a manner that is consistent with maintaining the viability of grassland, forb, and shrub species appropriate to that locality.



Grassland practices CP88 (Continued)

- Haying, mowing, or harvesting for seed production, subject to appropriate restrictions during the nesting season
- Maintaining existing vegetative cover of introduced grasses or legumes on eligible grassland
- Suitable to be hayed or grazed (some restrictions during the Primary Nesting Season may apply)



Grassland practices CP88 (Continued)

- Fire pre-suppression, fire-related rehabilitation, and construction of fire breaks.
- Grazing-related activities, such as fencing and livestock watering



Grassland practice CP88 (Continued)

Cost-share eligibility

- Promote common grazing activities
- Prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring (what does this mean)
- Be included and required in conservation plan
- Maintained for life of the contract (10 or 15 years)
- Prevent breaking of native sod

Contract Duration and Program Year

The Contract
Period is 10 or 15
years.

Effective date will
be the 10/01/2022
for Signup 204



Grassland CRP Offer Process

Grassland CRP Fact Sheet

[Fact Sheets \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/conservation/fact-sheets)

- [Conservation Reserve Program - Grasslands Working Lands](#)
- [Conservation Reserve Program – Grasslands Ranking Factors](#)

County Office shall explain program details, such as:

- The ranking process
- Land eligibility
- Payment rate
- National ranking and selection process
- Available cost share practices and C/S rates
- COC determinations

Grassland CRP Offer Process

- Participant denotes offered acres to FSA staff
- County Office will verify producer eligibility for the offered acres FSA shall determine land eligibility



Grassland CRP Offer Process

- Delineate acres to be offered
- Measurement services to determine acres to be offered, if applicable
- Upload and Rank Offer
- County Office will provide producer with copies of ranking sheet, contract, Conservation Reserve Program Worksheet

Grassland CRP Offer Process

Owner and/or operator sign completed contract, Conservation Reserve Program Worksheet, and Small Livestock Operation Certification (if applicable)

Certification form CRP-2G-1 for small scale livestock can be found at the USDA forms website at:
<https://intranet.fsa.usda.gov/dam/ffasforms/currentforms.asp>

Note: Only 1 signature is required to submit an eligible offer



Grassland CRP Offer Process

- Offer submitted for ranking
- Secretary determines ranking point cutoff
- County Office notifies participant of accepted and rejected offers
- Participants with accepted offers will work with NRCS or Technical Service Provider to obtain approved Conservation Plan
- Before approval, **All signatures required** on contract and Conservation Plan are required

Items a Producer can expect with the Conservation Planning Process

Conservation Plan-

Includes the requirements to implement and maintain a prescribed grazing (grazing) and/ (haying) or forage harvest management practice.

Cover management plan -

Guide to help participants in maintaining cover and treat resource concern

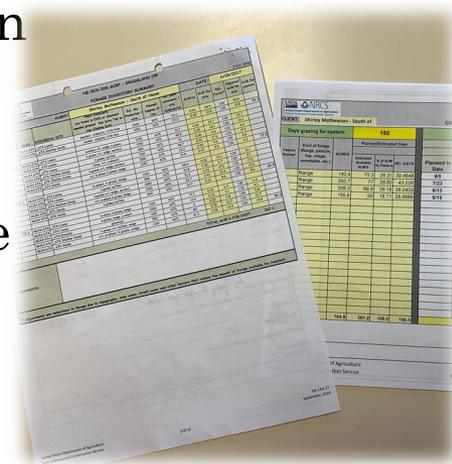
Additional Implementation Requirements -

as needed for engineering or vegetative practices

Conservation Planning for Grassland CRP

Grassland CRP participants must follow a conservation plan.

- The conservation plan will include conservation practices that protect health of the grassland plant community, soil, and water resources.
- Prescribed grazing will be the primary practice when participants are managing the contract acres for grazing.
- Forage harvest management or haying is allowed.
- Other practices, as applicable
- Specific details of the grazing, haying or wildlife plans will vary from state to state.



Conservation Planning for Grassland CRP (continued)

- Working lands program, but active haying and grazing is not required
- May be managed as wildlife habitat or idle land when the objective of the participant.
- Local Conservation Planner will develop the Conservation Plan based on site specific conditions and local standards and specifications.



Approved Offers

Meet with participant in the field:

- Verify the cover meets the offered points
- Complete inventories
 - Forage/resource inventory
 - Discuss livestock inventory with participant
 - Infrastructure inventory



If the cover isn't what was offered...

- NRCS will explain the issue with the participant
- Document the findings in writing
- Gather GPS points, if applicable
- Provide information to FSA:
 - Proof of notification to the participant
 - Shapefiles, if applicable
 - Maps and other information



Conservation plan development

- Develop the applicable management plan(s)
 - Prescribed grazing plan (528)
 - Forage harvest management plan (511)
 - Use exclusion plan (472)
 - Wildlife plan (645 or other)
- Complete environmental evaluation and identify any required permits
- Prepare maps
- Prepare construction specifications, if applicable
- Communicate that with the participant
 - Ensure it meets program requirements
 - Ensure it addresses identified resource concerns
 - Ensure it meets participant's goals and objectives
 - Applicable State requirements during the primary nesting season

Cost-share Policy - authorized

Permanent fence

Ponds/wells/spring

developments/ pipelines and
water facilities

Fuel break

Livestock trails and walkways

Prescribed burning

Based on a Resource Concern

Determined by NRCS or TSP



Cost-share policy (continued)

- Conservation planners will consider the most effective and cost-efficient alternatives when including cost shared practices in the grazing system.
- All cost shared practices must be included in the conservation plan.

Status Reviews

After initial planning phase NRCS may visit the property to do a status review:

This may occur:

- At completion of any cost share practice to certify practice meets NRCS standards and specifications
- before the last 2 years of expiration
- As a result, from a possible concern (examples: over grazing, development, cropping, oil field activity etc.)

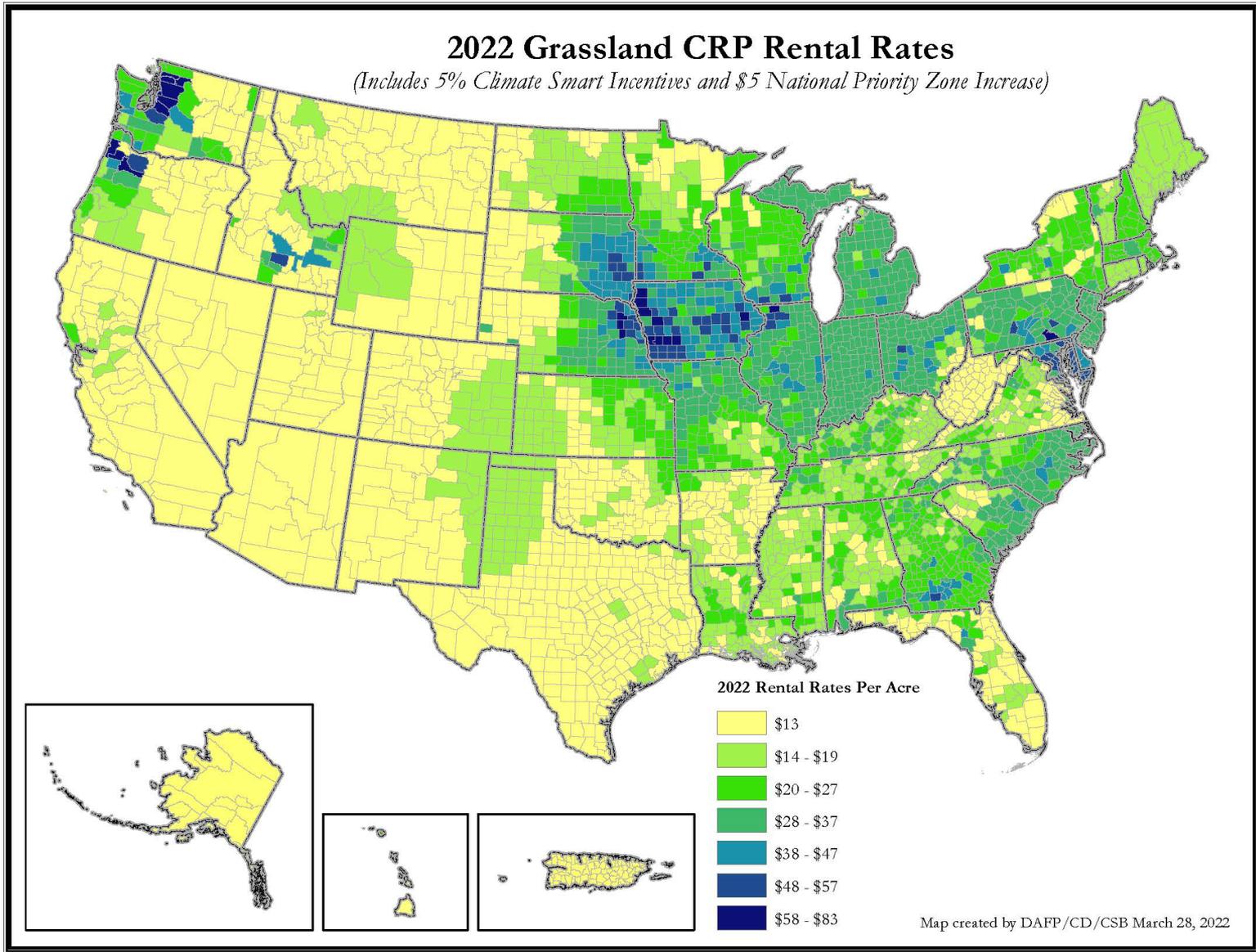
Assurance for producers making offers

Producers can back out of the offer up until the point they sign the NRCS or TSP Conservation Plan without any penalty.

Grassland CRP Rental Rates

- Reflect the market rental value for land suitable for Grassland CRP
- Rates are based on 75% of the updated NASS pastureland rental rates.
- New in last signup includes a Climate-Smart Incentive Rate of 5% for practice CP88.
- Compensates participants to protect the land from conversion to cropland and development.

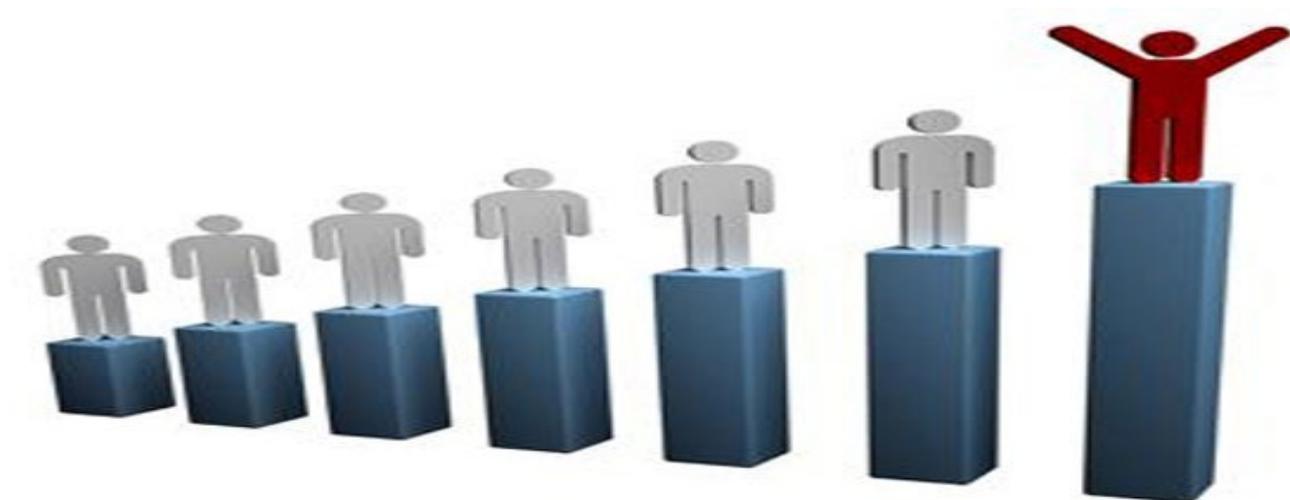
Grassland CRP Rental Rates



Grassland CRP Ranking Criteria

Grassland CRP uses a national ranking process

$F1 + F2 + F3 + F4 + F5 + F6 + F7 =$ National
Grassland Ranking Factors Score



Grassland Ranking Factors

- F1 Current and future use (30 points)
- F2 Beginning Farmer/Rancher, Veteran or Underserved Producer (20 points)
- F3 Maximizing grassland preservation (35 points)
- F4 Vegetative cover (30 points)
- F5 Environmental factors (45 points)
- F6 Small Scale Livestock Operation (20 points)
- F7 Cost (25 points)

F1 - Current and future use

$$F1a + F1b = F1 \text{ (0-30 Points)}$$

F1a – up to 20 points if more than 50% of offer is expiring CRP this will be prorated if less than 50% (0 to 20)

F1b - 10 points if more than 50% of offer is expiring CP2 or CP10's (0 or 10)

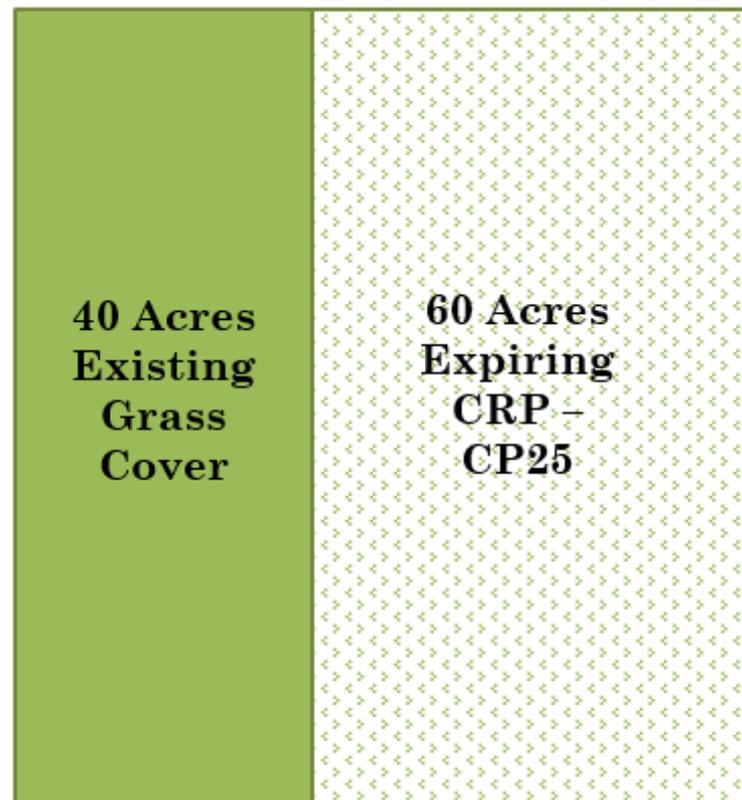
These factors (F1a + F1b) are additive

Expiring CRP– Greater than 50% of Offer– F1 Factor

Margo has an operation and is offering:

- 60 acres Expiring CRP that was CP25
- 40 acres existing grass

For an offer total of 100 acres.



Expiring CRP – Greater than 50 percent of Offer - F1 Factor

Margo offers 60 acres of expiring CRP where the cover was CP25 and 40 acres of existing grass

Expiring CRP points = 20 points (over 50% of offer is expiring CRP)	20pts
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CP25 Expiring Cover points = 10 points (over 50% of offer is CP25)	10pts
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Total Points	30 pts
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Expiring CRP – Less than 50 percent of Offer - F1 Factor

<p>Jim offers 30 acres of expiring CRP where the cover was CP1 and 70 acres of existing grass</p>			
<p>Expiring CRP points = 12 points (points are prorated because less than 50% of offer is expiring CRP)</p>	12 pts	<p>30 Acres Expiring CRP – CP1</p>	<p>70 Acres Existing Grass Cover</p>
<p>30 (offered expiring acres) / 50 (50 % of 100 acres) = .60 (prorated percent) x 20 total points for the subfactor = 12 pts</p>			

F2 - Beginning Farmer/Rancher, Underserved, Veteran Producer (0-20 Points)

- Beginning
Farmer/Rancher,
Underserved, Veteran
Producer

F2 - At least **50% of the
producers on offer** meet
and certify to 1 of the
following definitions for
Beginning, Veteran, or
Underserved on a **CCC-860**
(0 or 20)



F2 – Definition of Beginning Farmer/Rancher

- A beginning farmer or rancher means a person or legal entity for which both of the following are true for the farmer or rancher:
 - has not actively operated and managed a farm or ranch for more than 10 years
 - materially and substantially participates in the operation
- For a legal entity, to be considered a beginning farmer or rancher, all members must be related by marriage, all members must be beginning farmers or ranchers

F2 – Definition of Underserved (Socially Disadvantaged)

Socially Disadvantaged farmer or rancher a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities:

- American Indians or Alaskan Natives
- Asians or Asian Americans
- Blacks or African Americans
- Hispanics or Hispanic Americans
- Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders
- Women

F2 – CRP Definition of Veterans

Veteran Farmer or Rancher means a farmer or rancher who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released from the service under conditions other than dishonorable and who:

- has not actively operated and managed a farm or ranch for more than 10 years
- materially and substantially participates in the operation

Note: Same requirements as a beginning farmer or rancher.

F3 – Maximizing Grassland Preservation (0-35 points)

F3a - if eligible land is at the greatest risk from the threat of conversion to uses other than grassland (0, 2.5, 5, 7.5, or 10 points).

F3b - if over 50 percent of offer is in the national threat of conversion GIS layer (0 or 20 points).

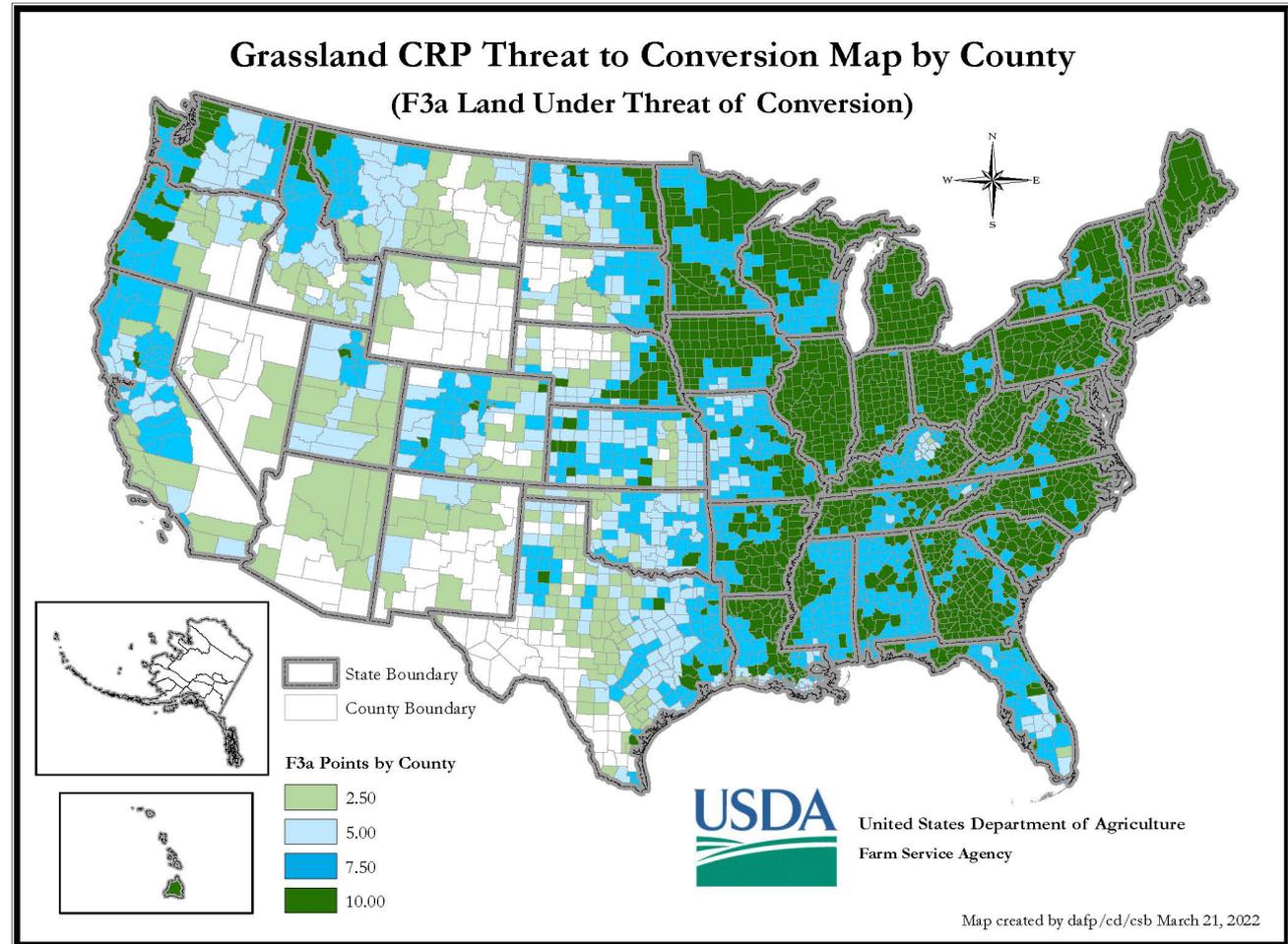
F3c - if the offer is for a 15-year contract (0 or 5 points).

F3a – Greatest Risk from Threat of Conversion (0 - 10 points)

Eligible land at the greatest risk for the threat of conversion to uses other than grassland. If over 50% of offer is physically located in a county subject to conversion of grasslands to development or annual production cropland as determined by DAFP.



F3 – Greatest Risk from Threat of Conversion (0-10 points)



F3b – National Threat of Conversion GIS layer (0 – 20 points)

For this factor, the system will assign up to 20 points if over 50 percent of the offered acreage is within the national threat of conversion GIS layer (0 or 20 points) under threat of conversion as determined by DAFP. This factor provides additional points for land with less than 3% slopes, which are more likely to be converted to cropland or development.



F3c – If Offer is a 15-year Contract

National Ranking Factor F3c assigns an additional 5 points for Longer Contract Length. A 15-year contract will receive 5 points, a 10 Year contract will receive 0 additional points. (0 or 5 points)



15

F4 - Vegetative cover (0-30 Points)

- 0 – 30 points determined by the grass cover that is already established
- Sum of the weighted average scores from the table on the next slide
- Round to the nearest hundredth using the normal rounding rules

F4 – Supports a Multi-Species Grass Stand

Practice CP88	Assigned Point Score
CP88 Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes ^{1/}	
Monoculture stand.	5
Existing stand of 2 or more species of an introduced grass species.	10
Existing stand (minimum of 4 species) of at least 3 introduced grasses and at least 1 forb or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area.	20
CP88 Permanent Native Grasses, Forbs, or Legumes ^{1/}	
Monoculture stand.	10
Existing stand (minimum of 3 species) or at least 2 native grass species.	20
Existing stand (minimum of 5 species) of at least 3 native grasses.	30

Example F4

Margo is offering:

- 50 acres of an existing grass cover consisting of 3 introduced grasses and 1 legume
- 50 acres expiring CRP with a permanent introduced grass cover of a monoculture
- 20 acres expiring CRP with a permanent introduced grass cover existing cover of 2 or more species

Example F4 Continued

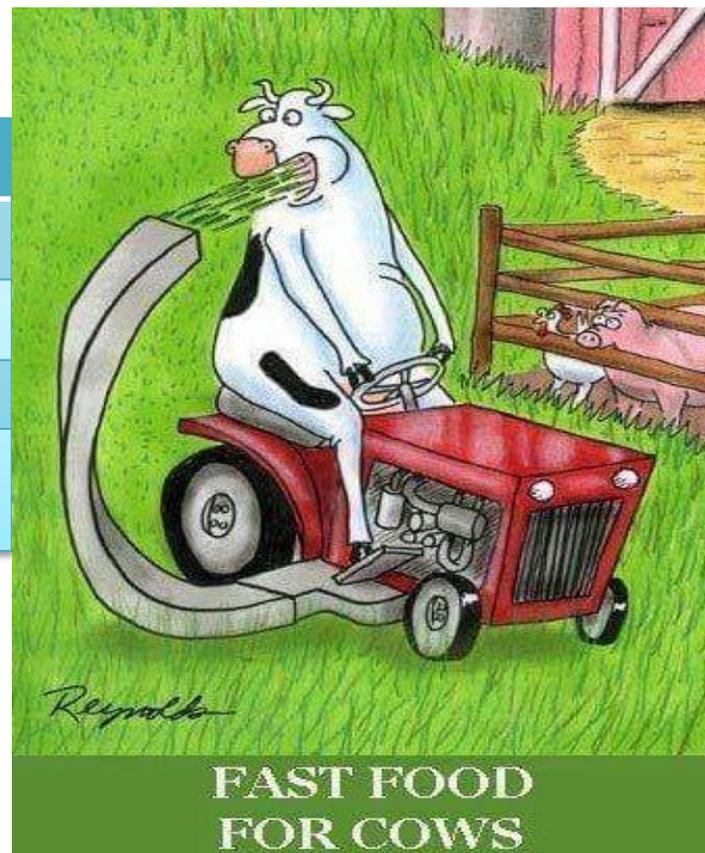
Practice	Acres	Points	Total
CP88	50	20	1000
CP88	50	5	250
CP88	20	10	200
Total	120 acres		1450 points

50 acres X 20 points = 1000 points

50 acres X 5 points = 250 points

20 acres X 10 points = 200 points

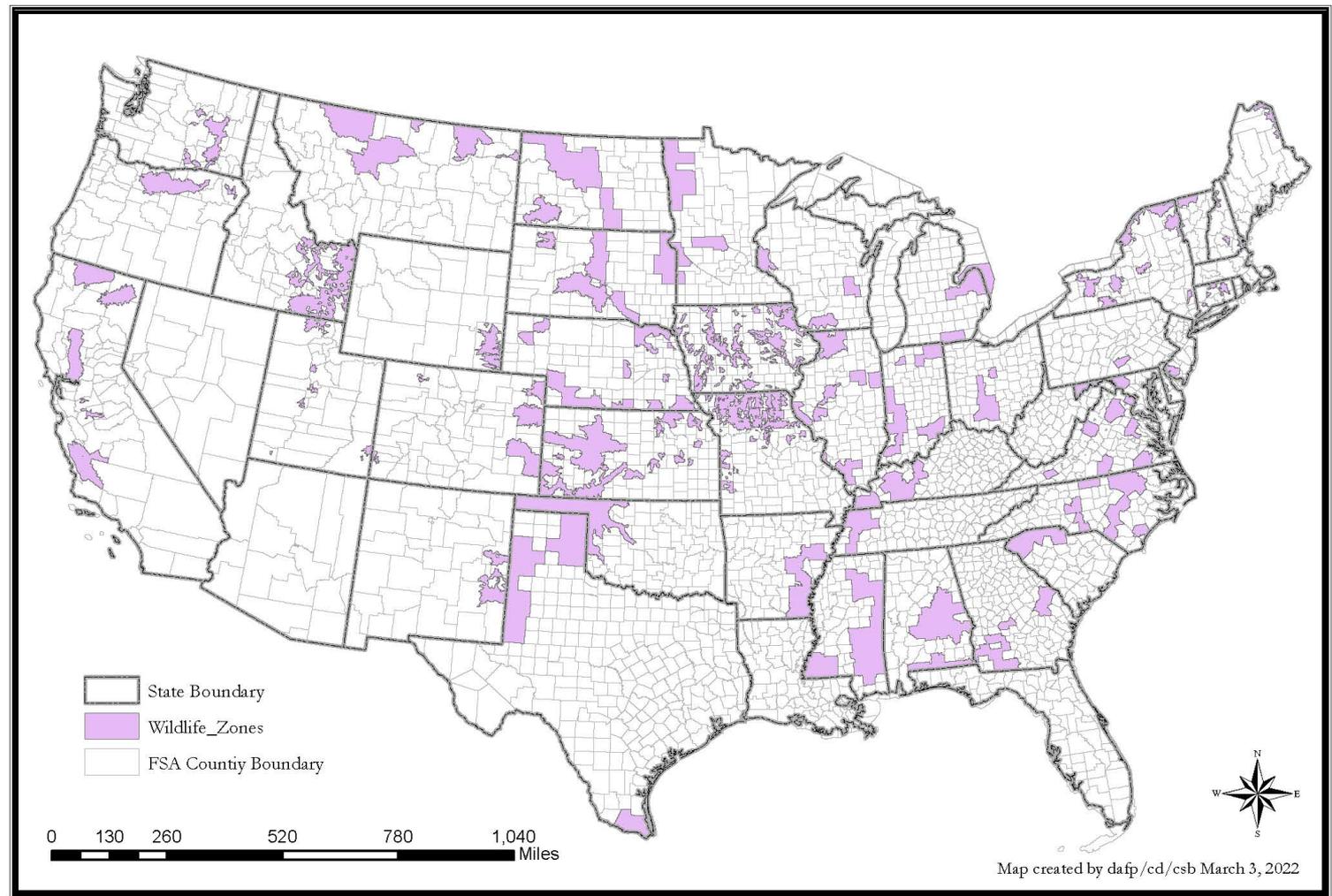
1000 + 250 + 200 = 1450 points / 120 acres =
12.08 - F4 points



F5 - Environmental Factors (0 to 45 points)

- F5a - Over 50% of offer is in the current State CRP general signup Wildlife Zones (0 or 15 points)
- F5b - Over 50% of the offer is in the State Grassland CRP zone (0 or 15 points)
- F5c – Over 50% of the offer is in the Grassland CRP National Grassland Priority Zone (0 or 15 points)

State CRP Wildlife Zones *(F5a State Wildlife Priority Zones)*



F5b – State Priority Grassland Zone – 5 Points

States submit geographic areas (whole
counties)

- Whole county

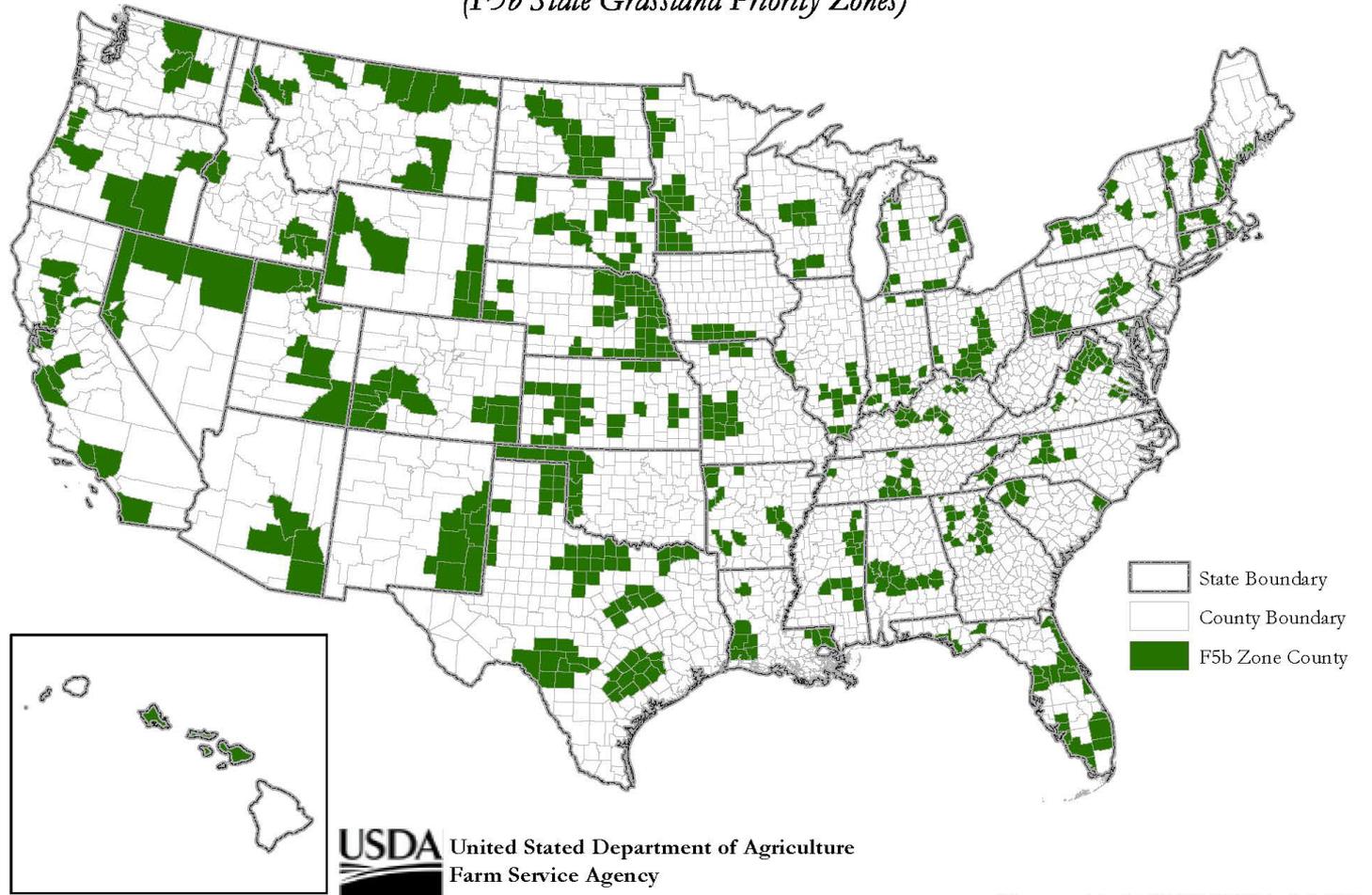
- Species of Concern

- Specific habitat restoration

CEPD Approval

Greater than 50% of offer in Area

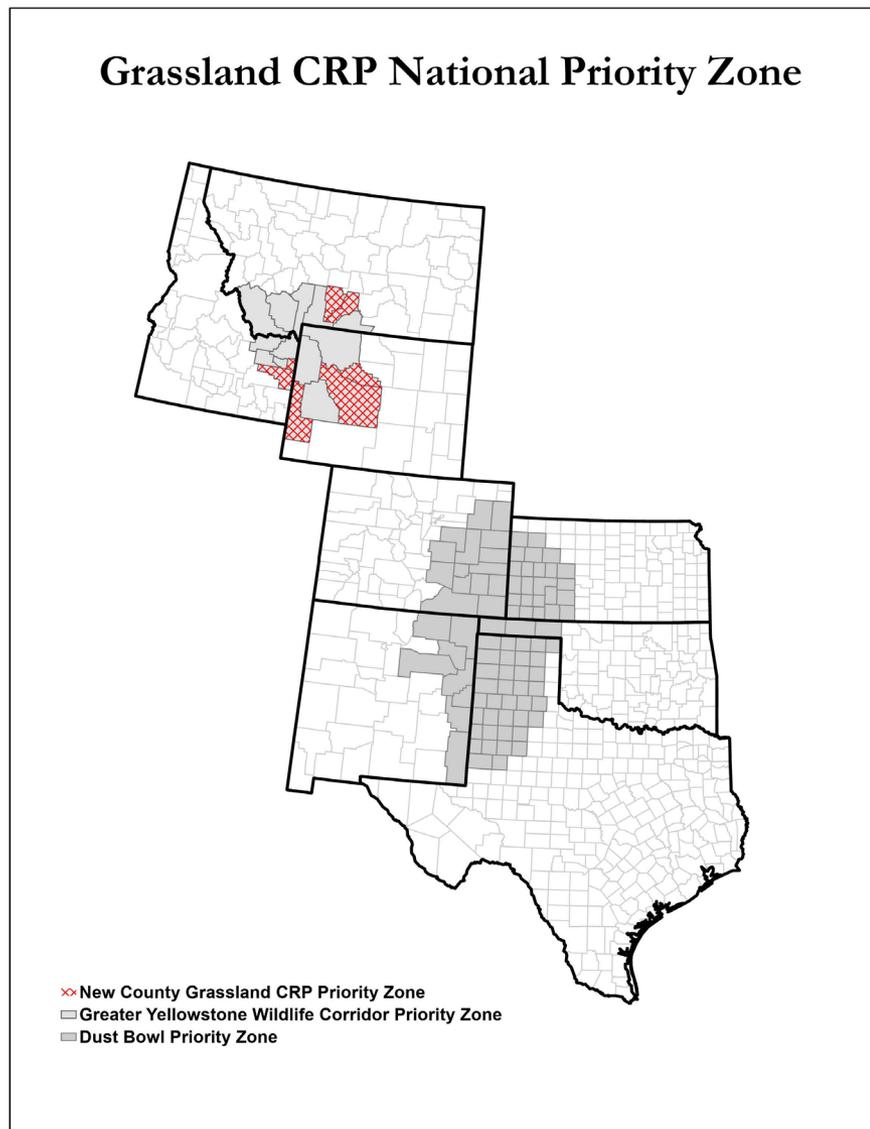
2022 State Grassland CRP Zone Counties (F5b State Grassland Priority Zones)



Map created by DAFP/CD/CSB March 9, 2022

F5c – Grassland CRP National Priority Zones

Seven additional
Grassland CRP
National Priority
Zones in Signup 204



F6- Small-Scale Livestock Operation

F6 – If the producer certifies that they are eligible for the small-scale livestock option on CRP2G-1 (0 or 10 Points)

- Less than 140 animal units
- Less than 200 acres

CRP 2G-1

This form is available electronically.

CRP-2G-1 (12-02-19)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Farm Service Agency		1. STATE Oklahoma		
CRP GRASSLAND SMALL LIVESTOCK OPERATION CERTIFICATION				2. COUNTY Payne		
				3. TRACT NUMBER 1000		
4. Producer Name and Address (Including Zip Code) Joe Jones 123 West 3rd Street Stillwater, OK 74075			5. Producer Telephone Number (Including Area Code) (403) 222-4565			
TYPES OF LIVESTOCK:						
6. Animal Kind/Class		7. Animal Unit Equivalent	8. Number of Animals		9. Total Animal Unit Equivalents	
A. Beef/Bufalo/Dry Dairy Cow		1.00	x	20	=	20
B. Dairy Cow		1.40	x		=	
C. Beef/Bufalo Bulls		1.50	x	1	=	1.5
D. Calf		0.30	x		=	
E. Heifer		0.86	x		=	
F. Yearling Cattle		0.65	x		=	
G. Sheep, Ewe		0.16	x		=	
H. Lamb, Weaned to Yearling		0.14	x		=	
I. Ram (200 lbs.)		0.17	x		=	
J. Goat, Mature		0.15	x		=	
K. Kid, Yearling		0.10	x		=	
L. Llama		0.23	x		=	
M. Other: _____			x		=	
N. Other: _____			x		=	
O. TOTAL					21.5	
10. PRODUCER'S CERTIFICATION						
<i>I certify:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> my livestock operation has 140 grazing animal units or less that I will not offer more than 200 acres for CRP Grassland on my farm. 						
<i>By signing this form, the Applicant acknowledges and understands that any false representation or claims are subject to civil and criminal penalties including, but not limited to those under 18 U.S.C. 1001.</i>						
A. PRODUCER SIGNATURE (BY) 		B. TITLE RELATIONSHIP OF THE INDIVIDUAL SIGNING IN A REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY		C. DATE (MM-DD-YYYY) 07/10/2021		
NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a – as amended) The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714 et seq.), the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.), the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.), and the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334) and 7 CFR Part 1410. The information will be used to determine producer ability to participate in and receive benefits under the Conservation Reserve Program. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for USDA/FSA-2, Farm Records File (Automated). Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination that the producer is unable to participate in and receive benefits under the Conservation Reserve Program.						
Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) Statement: The information collection is exempted from PRA as specified in 16 U.S.C. 3846(b)(1).						
The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE						

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F7 – Cost Factors (0 to 25 points)

F7 = Not to exceed 25 points where:

F7 if the offer is less than maximum payment rate (0 to 25 points)

F7— Cost Factors (0 to 25 points)

F7 points will be awarded for **whole percent** below the maximum payment rate, based on the following.

Percentage values are **reduced** to a whole number.

Percent Below Maximum Payment Rate	F7 Point
1	2
2	4
3	6
4	8
5	10
6	12
7	14
8	16
9	18
10	20
11	21
12	22
13	23
14	24
>15	25

F7 Example

The maximum payment rate for an offer is \$15 per acre. The producer offers a per acre rental rate of \$13.25. The offer is 11.67 percent below the maximum payment rate. The participant in this example will receive 21 points for F7

COST REDUCTION



Program Information, Maps, and Ranking Factors Location

Grassland CRP Threat of Conversion Map, Grassland CRP National Priority Zone Map, and State Priority Zone Maps are located as links on the CRP Web Page under each factor as shown below

[CRP Grasslands Signup 204 Ranking Factors \(usda.gov\)](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/crp-grasslands-signup-ranking-factors/index)

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/crp-grasslands-signup-ranking-factors/index>

How to get involved?

- Attend and be active in the local NRCS State Technical Committee
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Questions for Concerns should be directed to the Conservation Division or Deputy Administrator

Questions???

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Patty Roberts

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Webinar Recording and Slides will be available FSA Outreach's Webinar page:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/outreach-and-education/webinars/index>