

A stylized, colorful illustration of a landscape. The foreground features rolling green hills with dark brown soil patches. On the left, there is a green tree, a purple flower, and an orange flower. A small red bird is flying in the sky. The background consists of layered blue and white wavy bands representing a sky or water. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

USDA Farm Service Agency

DISCLAIMER:

As it pertains to Continuous CRP Signup 52 – we are currently operating CRP under the regulations implementing the 2014 Farm Bill and the administration decisions that were made under those rules.

We cannot comment on new Farm Bill provisions until the regulation is published.

CRP Overview:

- *Voluntary program*
- *Remove environmentally sensitive land from production*
- *Control erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat*
- *Participants may be eligible for cost share and annual payments*
- *Contract length between 10 and 15 years.*

Administration of CRP

- *FSA administers CRP*
- *Technical assistance provided by:*
 - *Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)*
 - *IDNR - State Foresters*
 - *Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)*
 - *Other Technical Service Providers (Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, NGRREC)*

Basic Eligibility

PARTICIPANT:

- Individual, corporation, trust, estate, general partnership, church, etc.
- Producer who has owned/operated the land for at least 12 months before submitting the offer

LAND:

- Cropping history - 4 out of 6 years between 2012 and 2017
- Physically and legally capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity

Payments

- *Annual Rental Payments*
- *Cost-Share Assistance*
- *Incentive payments*
(not available for current signup 52)

Current Signup 52

- Offers accepted June 3, 2019 – August 23, 2019*
- CPO's must be completed by NRCS and returned to FSA by September 13, 2019*
- All acceptable CRP offers must be approved no later than September 30, 2019*

Current Signup 52 Available Practices

- CP8A - Waterway
- CP9 - Shallow water Area
- CP15A - Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover
- CP21 - Filter Strip
- CP21B - Denitrifying Bioreactor on Filter Strips
- CP21S - Saturated Filter Strip
- CP22 - Riparian Buffer
- CP22B - Denitrifying Bioreactor on Riparian Buffer
- CP22S - Saturated Riparian Buffer
- CP23 - Wetland Restoration on Floodplain
- CP23A - Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain
- CP27 Farmable Wetland Pilot Buffer
- CP28 - Farmable Wetland Pilot Buffer
- CP30 - Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer
- CP39 - FWP Constructed Wetland
- CP40 FWP - Aquaculture Wetland Restoration
- CP41 - FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland

CLEAR

Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR)

- *New CRP practices introduced in January 2017*
 - *CP21B - Denitrifying Bioreactor on new/existing Filter Strips*
 - *CP21S - Saturated Buffer on new/existing Filter Strips*
 - *CP22B - Denitrifying Bioreactor on new/existing Riparian Buffers*
 - *CP22S - Saturated Buffer on new/existing Riparian Buffers*

CLEAR

Modifying Existing Conservation Plans

- *NRCS must determine that the existing location/site is suitable*
- *Modified conservation plan and engineering designs are required*
- *Items and activities required for establishment of the bioreactor and saturated buffer may be eligible for cost share assistance.*



CRP
Enrollment
Process

Continuous Signup Activity

1. Producer expresses interest
2. County office determines eligibility and completes TERRA scenario
3. FSA provides NRCS/TSP information on the request to enroll
4. NRCS/TSP completes a field visit
 - Documentation of Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet



Continuous Signup Activity

5. FSA reviews the NRCS documents and findings

- Not suitable – notify the producer
- Suitable but only after changes are made – notify producer

6. FSA completes and prints

- CRP-2C (worksheet)
- CRP-1 (contract)

7. Producer is notified of acceptable offer

- Must sign and date the CRP-2C and CRP-1

↑ Completed by August 23, 2019 ↑

Continuous Signup Activity

8. FSA provides NRCS a copy of the signed CRP-2C and CRP-1

9. NRCS provides FSA with:

- Signed Conservation Plan (CPO)
- Any other supporting documentation
- NRCS-CPA-52 with NRCS portion completed

↑ Completed by September 13, 2019 ↑

Continuous Signup Activity

10. FSA

- *Completes the NRCS-CPA-52*
- *COC/CED signs the CPO*
- *Ensure all eligibility paperwork and AGI determinations have been made*
- *COC/CED approves the CRP-1*

↑ *Completed by September 30, 2019* ↑



How to avoid issues...

Communicate

Communicate

Communicate

Cost Share Policy

- *Approved permanent cover is required to be seeded within 12 months after the CRP-1 effective date.*
- *Additional time may be permitted*
 - *Tree practices*
 - *Site conditions – weather*
 - *Approved cover not available*
- *Producers must request extension of time*

Cost Share Policy

- *Handbook 2-CRP, Exhibit 11*
 - *Cost Share policy by practice*
 - *Authorized and not authorized practices*
- *Participants may receive cost-share*
 - *50% of the eligible cost not to exceed \$XX*
 - *50% of cost*
 - *Flat rate*

Cost Share Policy

- *Acceptable Evidence*
 - *Participants are responsible for providing acceptable evidence to FSA*
 - *Invoices*
 - *Canceled checks*
 - *Paid receipts*
 - *Analysis tags*
- *Eligible Contributors*
 - *Signatory to the CRP-1 contract*
 - *Established the conservation practice*



Questions

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