



Conservation Reserve Program and the 2018 Farm Bill





If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them something more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it.

Lyndon B. Johnson

Conservation Reserve Program

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began in 1985 and is one of the largest private-lands conservation programs in the U.S.

The program is designed to help producers manage their operations while conserving natural resources.

By enrolling in CRP, producers are improving water and air quality, reducing soil erosion, and restoring habitat for wildlife.

Administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Technical Service provided by Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Conservation Reserve Program

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

Established soil rental rates (SRR) are used to determine the annual rental payment. The SRR is based on a relative soil productivity rate and the average dryland cash rent per NASS data.

Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length

General CRP

In Kansas, tend to be larger fields of native grass and forbs.

Now an annual competitive opportunity for producer to sign up. This year the signup runs from December 9, 2019 through February 28, 2020

Offers will be ranked based on the environmental benefits points.

Soil rental rates are subject to a 15% reduction per the 2018 Farm Bill

Offers approved through contract will begin October 1, 2020.

Continuous CRP

Targets highly environmentally sensitive land such as filter strips, grass waterways, windbreaks and wetland practices

Offers are non-competitive and accepted continuously throughout the year. Except, for 2020, offers of expiring acreage accepted until August 21, 2020.

Soil rental rates are subject to a 10% reduction per the 2018 Farm Bill.

Newly enrolled land can receive a signup incentive payment of 32.5% of the first full year year's annual rental payment after contract approval.

CRP Cost Share

Cost is available up to 50% of the reimbursable cost of installing the practice

2018 Farm Bill eliminated cost share for any required management activities

Is My Land Eligible?

You must have owned your land for at least one year. If not, ask the Farm Service Agency (FSA) if a waiver is an option.

Land in an expiring CRP contract can often be renewed.

Land must meet specific conservation needs.

It must have been planted to an agricultural commodity. Forage rotations may still be eligible.

What Are Your Responsibilities?

CRP plans have specific rules and deadlines that must be met in order for payment to be received

Participants will need to cover some of the initial cost of preparation

Most programs require some type of management activities during the contract period

All acreages must be maintained in a functional, healthy cover throughout the term of the contract

How do you sign up?

Visit your local FSA office

They can help determine your site-specific incentive rates, discuss your goals for CRP and identify which plans best suit your land.

Bring your land title

It will help FSA verify whether or not your land is eligible. Plus, they will need to make copies.

Determine CRP Rental Rate

The soil rental rate is calculated after completing the official CRP-1 and CRP- 2 forms.

Decide on a plan

The USDA and NRCS staff can help landowners decide on a conservation plan, what seed mixes to choose for given areas, and other decisions.

National CRP Statistics

CRP National Enrollment Cap under 2018 Farm Bill is 27 million acres.

Current national enrollment sits at just under 22 million acres.

These acres are enrolled on 587,284 contracts on 332,502 farms

Annual rental payments nationwide totaled \$1.8 billion in 2019.

National average payment rate per acre for CRP is \$81.80.

CRP In Kansas

Kansas has just under 1.9 million acres currently enrolled in CRP

These acres are enrolled on 33,633 contracts on 20,011 farms throughout the state

This totals nearly \$84 million in annual rental payments

The average payment rate per acre for CRP is \$44.14.

CRP Accomplishments

CRP Marks its 35th Anniversary in 2020 with notable accomplishments:

- Preventing more than 9 billion tons of soil from eroding, enough soil to fill 600 million dump trucks
- Sequestering an annual average of 49 million tons of greenhouse gases, equal to taking 9 million cars off the road
- Creating more than 3 million acres of restored wetlands while protecting more than 175,000 stream miles with riparian forest and grass buffers, enough to go around the world 7 times
- Benefiting bees and other pollinators and increased populations of ducks, pheasants, turkey, bobwhite quail, prairie chickens, grasshopper sparrows and many other birds

Contact Information

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Questions?