

May 10, 2013

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## **‘CRP’ EBI workshops scheduled for Perryton and Hereford**

LUBBOCK, TEXAS, May. 10, 2013 –Two workshops designed to explore opportunities available to landowners for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Sign-up 45 have been scheduled in the Texas High Plains region.

The “CRP Environmental Benefits Index (EBI)” workshops will be hosted by Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, working in cooperation with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Perryton on May 15 at the Ochiltree County Expo Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and in Hereford on May 17 at the Hereford Community Center – Banquet Room at 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Landowners will learn the options for maximizing the EBI points for program acceptance, and the benefits of pollinators. Working through NRCS, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, Jordan Menge from Muleshoe, and Curtis Greene from Pampa, will be conducting the meetings along with NRCS Wildlife Biologist Manuel DeLeon from Lubbock.

“We want to encourage farmers, ranchers and other landowners to look closely at CRP as a viable option for long-term conservation benefits. Workshop participants should gain a better understanding about the options available for enrollment and re-enrollment to boost their points and increase their chances of being accepted,” said DeLeon.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) representatives will be at the meetings to answer questions. As the primary technical agency, NRCS’ role in CRP is to work with participants to establish permanent grass cover based on the participant’s decisions during the sign-up period, and to ultimately accomplish public benefits such as reducing soil erosion, improving water quality, establishing wildlife habitat and enhancing wetland resources.

Texas has the highest number of CRP acres in the nation and the demand for CRP has remained strong. Just last year, NRCS in the Texas High Plains developed over 4,000 conservation plans for CRP contracts. CRP Sign-up 45 begins May 20 through June 14.

Make plans to attend one of the meetings if you would like to learn more about Farm Bill programs, CRP and the application and ranking processes, as well as ways to improve existing CRP for wildlife.

Registration is free of charge and a lunch, sponsored by Playa Lakes Joint Venture, will be served following each meeting. Please RSVP for the meetings at Hereford - (806) 664-0608 or Perryton- (806) 664-0680.

For more information, contact your local USDA Service Center office today or visit the Texas NRCS web site at [www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov).

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