

April 22, 2020 State Technical Committee Narrative from State Kadas on CRP

Steve Kadas, NRCS State Resource Conservationist, gave an overview of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). In it he stated, CRP is a land conservation program that addressed both cropland and grasslands. In New Mexico the two most popular components part of CRP are “General CRP” and CRP Grasslands”. General CRP addresses highly erodible or marginal croplands. It addresses multiple resources concerns such soil erosion, wildlife habitat, water quality and other issues. This is done by returning the land to a permanent grass cover. In other states, trees may be the appropriate permanent cover. This land cannot be used for agricultural production such a grazing. Grasslands CRP, however, is a working land conservation program for land currently in a permanent grass cover such as rangeland. Lands in this program may be use for grazing while following a conservation management plan. CRP agreements last 10-15 years and participants received an annual payment based on the acreage enrolled.

Farm Services Agency (FSA) is responsible for managing the program by setting sign-ups, taking applications, developing contracts and making payments. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is responsible for the technical side of the Program. This includes a developing conservation plans, practice standards, oversight of practice implementation and status reviews.