



Farm Service Agency Conservation Programs Updates TNSTC Meeting – May 10, 2022

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CRP Signup Enrollment Options

- **General CRP Signup 58**
 - **Signup ended March 11, 2022**
- **CRP Grasslands Signup 204**
 - **Signup will end this week May 13, 2022**
- **Forest Management Incentive**
 - At this time FSA has not set an end date for signup however the authority for FMI ends with the expiration of the 2018 Farm Bill on September 30, 2023 or until funds are depleted.
- **Continuous CRP Signup 57 (Regular, HELI, SAFE, CLEAR30)**
 - New land offers Signup is open and ongoing.
 - **Re-enrollments signup for expiring contracts has ended.**
- **Transition Incentive Program**
 - Signup is ongoing.



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Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- **CRP is a voluntary, land conservation program**
- **Goal is to re-establish valuable land cover to:**
 - Protect the nations soil, water, and wildlife resources
 - Improves and preserves water quality
 - Enhances fish and wildlife habitat
 - Address conservation initiatives for local, State, Regional, and National objectives
- **3 Options: General CRP, Continuous CRP, Grassland CRP**
- **10-15 year contracts**
- **Annual Rental Payments**
- **Extended CRP authority to 2023**
- FY2022 Soil Rental Rates can be founds at the following website.
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/reports-and-statistics/conservation-reserve-program-statistics/index>



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General CRP

- Annual signup with deadline.
- Subject to competitive bidding (EBI score).
- In addition to the eligible land requirements for the CRP general enrollment period, cropland must meet one of the following criteria:
 - Have a weighted average erosion index of eight or higher;
 - Be expiring CRP acres or;
 - Be located in a national or state CRP conservation priority area.
- **TN General Signup 58 included 29 counties with submitted offers.**
 - **Over 250 offers with 7 practices, Approx. 4100 acres accepted. Tennessee had a 99% acceptance rate.**

Continuous CRP Signup

- Ongoing signup except re-enrollment offers
- Includes Regular, HELI, SAFE, and CLEAR30.
- NOT subject to competitive bidding
- Land devoted to certain conservation practices such as grass waterways, filter strips, and riparian buffers
- If the offered acres are not currently enrolled in CRP, then the producer may choose to defer the effective start date of the new CRP contract for up to six months after the offer is approved.



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General Signup 58 Deadlines

Action	Completion Date
County Offices must review offers on the ranking reports and conduct eligibility and data reviews according to subparagraph 3 B and 2-CRP, paragraph 341, to detect any erroneous and omitted records.	Immediately upon receipt of this notice and not later than May 10, 2022.
County Offices must begin notifying producers with acceptable and rejected offers.	Immediately upon completing actions required in subparagraph 8 A. No later than noon on May 10, 2022.
County Offices provide documents necessary to complete conservation plans, according to 2-CRP, subparagraph 341 D, to NRCS or TSP.	Within 5 workdays of notification by producer that the producer wants to continue with the offer.
Conservation plans must be completed and approved by NRCS and returned to FSA.	No later than July 29, 2022.
CRP-1's must be approved by CED or COC and entered in COLS.	No later than September 30, 2022.



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CRP Grasslands

- Working lands program that emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity and grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion.
- The minimum rental rate is \$15 per acre. Grasslands CRP Offers located in the Grasslands CRP National Priority Zone will receive an additional 15 ranking points.
- Beginning, Socially Disadvantaged, or Veteran farmers or rancher participants will receive an additional 10 ranking points.
- Subject to competitive bidding

CRP Transition Incentive Program(TIP)

- TIP provides land owners and operators with an incentive to return land to production on an expiring CRP Contract in a way that preserves established conservation practices.
- TIP enrollment is on a continuous basis, and may occur up to two years before a contract is set to expire.
- To qualify for TIP, the land owner or operator must either sell this land, or lease it to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher.



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CRP Grasslands Signup 204 Deadlines

Date	Action
May 13, 2022	Deadline for producers to submit signed offers.
Upon receipt of the acceptance notice	Counties will notify participants of accepted or rejected offers as soon as possible.
Upon offer acceptance	FSA will provide NRCS with documents necessary to complete the conservation plan according to 2-CRP subparagraph 269 D, and then select "Submit for plan" in COLS
September 9	Deadline for NRCS/TSP to complete the conservation plan, sign, and obtain signatures for all signatories on the CRP-1 contract and return the conservation plan to FSA.
September 30	Deadline for COC or CED to approve the CRP contract and load CRP contract approval in COLS. Note: There is no authority to approve CRP-1 after September 30, 2022.

Note: After the May 13, 2022 deadline, the offers will be National ranked. Upon receipt of the accepted and rejected offers list, County Offices will notify producers with offer status.



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Incentive Payments

Under Continuous Signup new land offers only, producers are eligible for a

- **Signup Incentive Payment(SIP)** of 32.5 percent of the first full year annual rental payment which is paid at contract approval on all newly enrolled Continuous CRP contract acreage.
- **Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)** of up to 50 percent is paid for installing the practice. FSA provides a 20 percent rental rate incentive for CRP water quality practices that will improve water quality by reducing sediment loading, nutrient loading and harmful algae blooms.

For General and Continuous Signup practices, FSA provides an incentive of 3, 5, or 10 percent for CRP practices that will increase carbon sequestration, reduce GHG emissions, and otherwise are climate smart practices. The incentive amount is based on the estimated benefits of each practice.

Note: Incentives may not be applicable to all practices.



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Cost Share Assistance

- FSA provides cost-share assistance to participants who establish approved cover on eligible cropland. The cost-share assistance cannot exceed 50 percent of the participant's costs to establish approved practices.
- **Cost Share + Cost share from other funding sources + Payment Incentive Payment (PIP) cannot exceed 100% of total installation cost.**



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CRP Forest Management Incentive (FMI)

- Authorized until September 30, 2023
- CRP FMI is available to eligible CRP participants to improve the condition of resources, promote forest management, or enhance wildlife habitat.
- CRP FMI eligibility is limited forest cover established under the certain practices. (CP3, CP3A, CP4D, CP11, CP22, CP22B, CP22S, CP31, CP36, CP38A-22, CP38C-3, CP38-3A, CP38C-31, CP38D-36, CP38E-4D)
- Not Eligible: CRP Contracts in years 9 & 10 of a 10 - year contract and years 14 & 15 of a 15-year contract
- NRCS Technical Practice codes and NRCS National Payment Scenarios will be used.
- **FMI payments will be based on the lesser of the actual cost or 85% of the NRCS National Payment Scenarios.**
- CRP FMI payments ARE NOT authorized in addition to cost-share payments for practices eligible for both payments.



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STAC Conservation Subcommittee Updates

1. Notice CRP-966 Announcing Request for New or Modified State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Proposals

- SAFE allows for partnership between State level FSA and a sponsoring entity to use CRP to establish habitat for target wildlife species. SAFE provides participants an opportunity to install conservation practices that restore vital habitat for target species.
- announcement of opportunity to submit new proposals or modify existing SAFE projects
- authorization of NRCS conservation practices for additional SAFE Grasses (CP38E) Practices:
 - Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (647)
 - Wildlife Habitat Planting (420)
- authorization for annual plant covers when proposals include Early Successional Habitat Management for CRP Practice CP38E-4D
- authorization to provide C/S and practice incentive payment (PIP) at the time of re-enrollment when transitioning cover to a more diverse mix to meet SAFE cover requirements

TN currently has a SAFE project involving Practice CP88 Grass for designated counties. The Conservation Subcommittee will be meeting soon to review the current proposal and submit recommendations to the State Committee for SAFE.

CP38E	Grass	CP1, CP2, CP4D, CP12 1 /, CP18B, CP18C, CP24, CP25, CP42
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Deadline to submit proposals is June 23, 2022.



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Emergency Conservation Program Emergency Forest Restoration Program

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Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

- Provides emergency funding to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters
- Eligible land includes commercial farming, ranching, nursery, livestock, waterways, terraces
- Cost-share payments up to 75% of cost or 90% for limited resource farmers and socially disadvantaged producers
- Participants may rehabilitate farmlands by:
 - Debris removal
 - Restoring fences
 - Restoring conservation structures
 - Grading, shaping or leveling land



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Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)

- EFRP is a cost share program that provides emergency funding and technical assistance to owners of Non-Industrial Private Forestland (NIPF) to carry out emergency measures to restore forest health and forest resources on NIPF damaged by natural disasters
- *Nonindustrial private forest land* means rural commercial forest lands with existing tree cover, or which are suitable for growing trees, that are owned by a private non-industrial forest landowner as defined in this section.
- All of the following must be true for Land Eligibility:
 - Land must be physically located in the county affected by the natural disaster
 - Land must have or had existing tree cover before disaster event
 - Damage that ,if not treated, would impair or endanger natural resources or affect future use of NIPF



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Current Disaster Signups

Disaster ID 1798- 2022 Tornado ECP

- December 6, 2021
- 1 County (**Overton**)
- Signup has not been announced yet.
- \$80,000 in estimated damage

Disaster ID 1805- 2022 Tornado EFRP

- December 10-11, 2021
- 6 Counties Eligible
 - **Cheatham, Dickson, Henry, Houston, Humphreys, and Stewart** signup ended May 4, 2022.
- \$800,000 in estimated damage
- Late-file application requests may be acceptable. Contact the County Offices regarding eligibility.



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Contact Us

- For more information about CRP and/or ECP, please contact your local FSA county office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation
- To locate your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>
- FSA State Office Contact
 - Brandi Broughton, Agricultural Program Specialist
 - brandi.broughton@usda.gov



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