



Farm Service Agency Conservation Programs Updates TNSTC Meeting – May 9, 2023

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CRP Signup Enrollment Options

- **General CRP Signup 60**
 - **Signup ended April 7, 2023. Waiting on Accepted/Rejected Notice.**
- **CRP Grasslands Signup 205**
 - **Signup will end this week May 26, 2023**
- **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 59 (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**
- FY2023 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.

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 60 Deadlines

Date	Action
April 7, 2023	Deadline to submit an offer for general CRP signup 60.
August 11, 2023	Deadline for NRCS/TSP to complete the conservation plan for general CRP signup 60 offers, obtain signatures on the conservation plan for all signatories on CRP contract, sign and return the conservation plan to FSA.
September 30, 2023	<p>Deadline for County Offices to obtain all signatures on the CRP contract and for COC or CED to approve CRP-1's and load CRP-1 approvals in COLS.</p> <p>Note: There is no authority to approve CRP-1 after September 30, 2023.</p>



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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.

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 \$13 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.



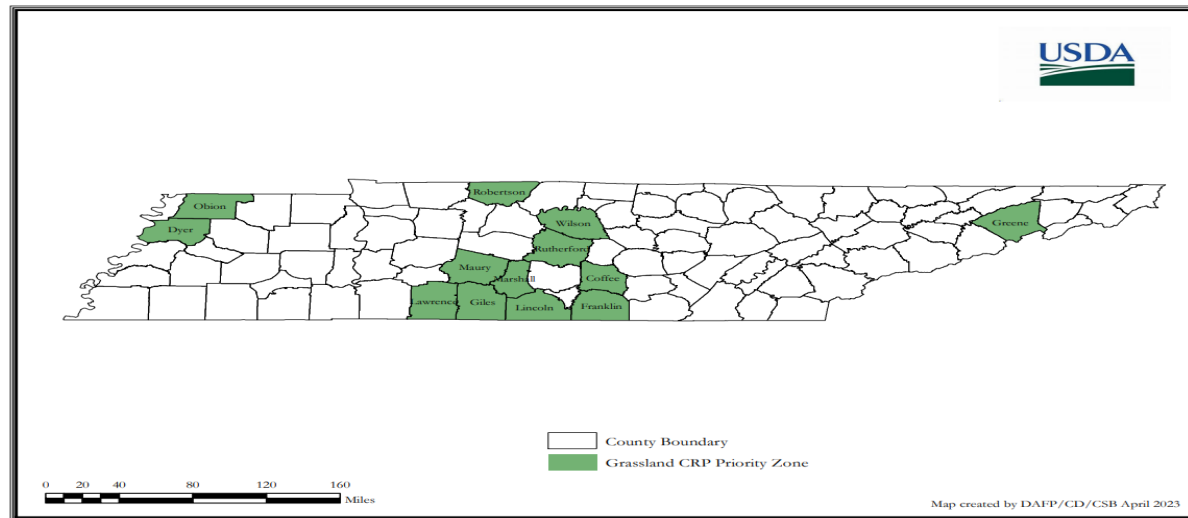
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CRP Grasslands Signup 205 Updates

- SU 205 Tennessee Rental Rates range from \$13-\$35 per acres.
- Land enrolled in an active EQIP contract is eligible for enrollment in grassland CRP.
- Assign 15 points if over 50 percent of the offered acreage is within an approved State wildlife priority zone.

Tennessee Grassland CRP Priority Zone



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Incentive Payments

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

- **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.
- **Water and Air Quality Incentives** 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. 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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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

EC1 – Removing Debris From Farmland

EC2 – Grading, Shaping, Releveling, or Similar Measures

EC3 – Replacing or Repairing Permanent Fences

EC4 – Restoring Conservation Structures and Other Installations

EC5 – Emergency Wind Erosion Control Measures

EC6 – Drought Emergency Measures

EC7 – Other Emergency Conservation Measures*

EC8 – Field Windbreaks and Farmstead Shelterbelts

*Requires DAFP approval to implement



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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

EF1: Hardwood Forest Restoration, EF2: Softwood Forest Restoration

EF3: Mixed Forest Restoration, EF4: Longleaf Pine Restoration

EF9: Other Emergency Forest Restoration*

The following activities may be covered under the EFRP practices:

- Debris removal
- Site prep
- Planting
- Fence
- Conservation Structures



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Current Disaster Signups

2023 Tennessee ECP and EFRP Request Status Report 1-ECP(Rev.7)				
STATE	COUNTY	Disaster Type	Sign-up Period Dates	Amount of Funds Estimated on the Request
TN	Lawrence	ECP-2023 Tornado	April 11, 2023-May 10, 2023	\$30,000
TN	Lawrence	ECP-2023 Severe Storms	April 11, 2023-May 10, 2023	\$30,000
TN	Wayne	ECP-2023 Tornado	April 11, 2023-May 10, 2023	\$20,000
TN	Wayne	ECP-2023 Severe Storms	April 11, 2023-May 10, 2023	\$20,000
TN	Lincoln	ECP-2023 Tornado	April 20, 2023-May 20, 2023	\$20,000
TN	Wayne	ECP-2023 Tornado	April 17, 2023-May 31, 2023	\$2,000,000
TN	Wayne	EFRP-2023 Tornado	April 17, 2023-May 31, 2023	\$1,000,000
TN	Rutherford	ECP-2023 Tornado	April 24, 2023-May 24, 2023	\$150,000
TN	Lincoln	ECP-2023 Tornado	April 20, 2023-May 20, 2023	\$75,000
TN	Lincoln	EFRP-2023 Tornado	April 20, 2023-May 20, 2023	\$25,000
TN	Franklin	ECP-2023 Tornado	April 20, 2023-May 20, 2023	\$20,000
TN	McNairy	ECP-2023 Tornado	May 1, 2023-June 30, 2023	\$500,000
TN	McNairy	EFRP-2023 Tornado	May 1, 2023-June 30, 2023	\$500,000
TN	Tipton	ECP-2023 Tornado	April 17, 2023-June 16, 2023	\$500,000
TN	Cannon	ECP-2023 Tornado	May 1, 2023-May 31, 2023	\$250,000
TN	Lewis	EFRP-2023 Tornado	April 24, 2023-May 24, 2023	\$100,000
TN	Lewis	ECP-2023 Tornado	April 24, 2023-May 24, 2023	\$100,000
TN	Perry	EFRP-2023 Tornado	April 24, 2023-May 24, 2023	\$100,000
TN	Perry	ECP-2023 Tornado	April 24, 2023-May 24, 2023	\$100,000
TN	White	ECP-2023 Tornado	May 1, 2023-May 26, 2023	\$150,000
TN	Marshall	ECP-2023 Tornado	TBA	\$100,000
TN	Hardeman	EFRP-2023 Tornado	TBA	\$200,000
TN	Hardin	EFRP-2023 Tornado	May 1, 2023-May 30, 2023	\$500,000
TN	Rutherford	EFRP-2023 Tornado	May 15, 2023-June 15, 2023	\$150,000



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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 Moore, Agricultural Program Specialist
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