



Farm Service Agency Conservation Programs Updates TNSTC Meeting – August 8, 2023

Farm
Service
Agency

fsa.usda.gov

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**
- **CRP authority end on September 29, 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>



**Farm
Service
Agency**

fsa.usda.gov

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.



**Farm
Service
Agency**

fsa.usda.gov

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.**



**Farm
Service
Agency**

fsa.usda.gov

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.



**Farm
Service
Agency**

fsa.usda.gov

CRP Signup Enrollment Options

- **General CRP Signup 60**
 - **Current signup ended April 7, 2023.** There were over 2.0 million acres offered. The Secretary has determined that 1,065,409 of the 1,185,888 million acres will be accepted and enrolled beginning on October 1, 2023, for program year 2024. The national average annual rental rate per acre for enrolling this acreage is \$65 per acre. **Offers with an EBI score of 184 or greater were determined basically acceptable. Tennessee has an acceptance rate of 100% of total offers submitted in 25 Counties. Great job everyone!**
- **CRP Grasslands Signup 205**
 - **Current signup ended May 26, 2023.**
- **Forest Management Incentive**
 - **The authority for FMI ends with the expiration of the 2018 Farm Bill on September 29, 2023 or until funds are depleted.**
- **Continuous CRP Signup 59 (Regular, HELI, SAFE, CLEAR30)**
 - **New land offers and Re-enrollments signup for expiring contracts ended on July 31, 2023. TN had over 700 offers submitted in FY23.**
- **Transition Incentive Program**
 - **Signup is ongoing until September 15, 2023.**



**Farm
Service
Agency**

fsa.usda.gov

Continuous Signup 59 Deadlines

The following are the FY 2023 continuous CRP deadlines.

Date	Action
July 31, 2023	Deadline for producers to submit an offer for re-enrolled land or combination new and re-enrolled land for continuous CRP signup 59.
August 7, 2023	<p>Deadline for producers to request a conservation plan from NRCS. County Office deadline to enter the status in COLS as “Submit for Plan” for continuous CRP signup 59.</p> <p>Note: FSA must provide offers to NRCS within 5 workdays of receiving the submitted offer from the producer.</p>
September 8, 2023	Deadline for NRCS/TSP to complete the conservation plan, sign and obtain signatures of all signatories on CRP-1, and return the conservation plan to FSA.
September 29, 2023	<p>Deadline 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 29, 2023, for offers that include re-enrolled land for continuous CRP signup 59.</p>



General Signup 60 Deadlines

Key Completion Dates

Key dates in processing general CRP signup 60 offers are identified in the following table.

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 June 20, 2023.
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 June 20, 2023.
County Offices provide documents necessary to complete conservation plans, according to 2-CRP, subparagraph 341 D, to NRCS or TSP.	Within 5 business days 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 August 11, 2023.
CRP-1's must be approved by CED or COC and entered in COLS.	No later than COB September 29, 2023. There is no statutory authority to approve contracts after COB September 29, 2023.



im
vice
ency

Forest Management Incentive (FMI)

- Authorized until funds are exhausted
- 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.
- **Important: All CRP FMI obligations and revisions to existing FSA-848A's must be completed by September 29, 2023. No revisions to FSA-848A's will be made after this date.**



**Farm
Service
Agency**

fsa.usda.gov

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.



**Farm
Service
Agency**

fsa.usda.gov

CRP Grasslands Signup 205 Deadlines

Key Completion Dates

The following table provides guidance on actions and key completion dates.

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 July 26, 2023.
County Offices must begin notifying producers with acceptable and rejected offers.	Immediately upon completing actions required in paragraph 3, no later than noon ET on July 26, 2023.
County Offices provide documents necessary to complete conservation plans according to 2-CRP, subparagraph 341 D, to NRCS or TSP.	Within 5 business days of notification by producer that the producer wants to continue with the offer.
Interim conservation plans must be completed and approved by NRCS and returned to FSA.	No later than September 15, 2023.
CRP-1's and FSA-848's must be approved by CED or COC and entered in COLS.	No later than COB September 29, 2023. There is no statutory authority to approve contracts after COB September 29, 2023.
Final conservation plans must be completed and approved by NRCS and returned to FSA.	No later than December 15, 2023.
Final conservation plans must be approved and final FSA-848A's completed and approved.	No later than January 19, 2023.



**Farm
Service
Agency**

fsa.usda.gov



Emergency Conservation Program Emergency Forest Restoration Program

Farm
Service
Agency

fsa.usda.gov

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



**Farm
Service
Agency**

fsa.usda.gov

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



**Farm
Service
Agency**

fsa.usda.gov

2023 ECP Disasters

2023 Tennessee ECP and EFRP Request Status Report 1-ECP(Rev. 7)					
STATE	COUNTY	Disaster Type	Date of Disaster	Sign-up Period Dates	Amount of Funds Estimated on the Request
TN	Lawrence	ECP-2023 Tornado	February 24, 2023	April 11, 2023-May 10, 2023	\$30,000
TN	Lawrence	ECP-2023 Severe Storms	March 3, 2023	April 11, 2023-May 10, 2023	\$30,000
TN	Wayne	ECP-2023 Tornado	February 24, 2023	April 11, 2023-May 10, 2023	\$20,000
TN	Wayne	ECP-2023 Severe Storms	March 3, 2023	April 11, 2023-May 10, 2023	\$20,000
TN	Lincoln	ECP-2023 Tornado	March 24-25, 2024	April 20, 2023-May 20, 2023	\$20,000
TN	Wayne	ECP-2023 Tornado	March 31, 2023	April 17, 2023-May 31, 2023	\$2,000,000
TN	Wayne	EFRP-2023 Tornado	March 31, 2023	April 17, 2023-May 31, 2023	\$1,000,000
TN	Rutherford	ECP-2023 Tornado	April 1, 2023	April 24, 2023-May 24, 2023	\$150,000
TN	Lincoln	ECP-2023 Tornado	April 1, 2023	April 20, 2023-May 20, 2023	\$75,000
TN	Lincoln	EFRP-2023 Tornado	April 1, 2023	April 20, 2023-May 20, 2023	\$25,000
TN	Franklin	ECP-2023 Tornado	March 31, 2023	April 20, 2023-May 20, 2023	\$20,000
TN	McNairy	ECP-2023 Tornado	March 31, 2023	May 1, 2023-June 30, 2023	\$500,000
TN	McNairy	EFRP-2023 Tornado	March 31, 2023	May 1, 2023-June 30, 2023	\$500,000
TN	Tipton	ECP-2023 Tornado	March 31, 2023	April 17, 2023-June 16, 2023	\$500,000
TN	Cannon	ECP-2023 Tornado	April 1, 2023	May 1, 2023-May 31, 2023	\$250,000
TN	Lewis	EFRP-2023 Tornado	March 31, 2023	April 24, 2023-May 24, 2023	\$100,000
TN	Lewis	ECP-2023 Tornado	April 1, 2023	April 24, 2023-May 24, 2023	\$100,000
TN	Perry	EFRP-2023 Tornado	March 31, 2023	April 24, 2023-May 24, 2023	\$100,000
TN	Perry	ECP-2023 Tornado	April 1, 2023	April 24, 2023-May 24, 2023	\$100,000
TN	White	ECP-2023 Tornado	April 1, 2023	May 1, 2023-May 26, 2023	\$150,000
TN	Marshall	ECP-2023 Tornado	April 1, 2023	May 10, 2023-June 30, 2023	\$100,000
TN	Hardeman	EFRP-2023 Tornado	March 31, 2023	May 2, 2023-July 2, 2023	\$200,000
TN	Hardin	EFRP-2023 Tornado	March 31, 2023	May 1, 2023-May 30, 2023	\$500,000
TN	Rutherford	EFRP-2023 Tornado	April 1, 2023	May 15, 2023-June 15, 2023	\$150,000
TN	Macon	ECP-2023 Tornado	April 1, 2023	May 15, 2023-June 15, 2023	\$150,000
TN	Cumberland	ECP-2023 Tornado	June 11, 2023	June 11, 2023-July 17, 2023	\$40,000



**Farm
Service
Agency**

fsa.usda.gov

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
 - brandi.broughton@usda.gov



**Farm
Service
Agency**

fsa.usda.gov