



CRP Update

- Agricultural Act of 2014 reduces CRP acres from 32 million to 24 million by 2018.
 - Current Enrollment – 23,361,759 acres
 - 2 Million Acres – Grasslands
 - Nebraska Enrollment
 - 2007 – 1,341,250 acres
 - Today – 759,166 acres
 - Reduced CRP – 582,084 acres
 - 2016 Expirations – 63,022 acres

2014 Farm Bill

- Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill)
- Enacted February 7, 2014
- Reauthorized the CRP through FY2018



2014 Farm Bill

Repealed Grasslands Reserve Program

Provided for Grasslands eligibility in
CRP

Updated Cropping History 2008-2013

Additional Infeasible to Farm Category



Nebraska CRP Future

2015/2016 General CRP Signup –
December 1, 2015 through February 26,
2016

New Rental Rates – June 1, 2015

30 Year Anniversary of CRP



CRP Announcement

- May 29, 2015
- General CRP Signup – December 1, 2015 through February 26, 2016

2014 Farm Bill

- FWP from 1 million to 750,000 acres
- Changes to Haying and Grazing provisions
 - **Frequency**
 - Routine Grazing – One out of two years
 - Managed Harvesting – At least every 5 years but no more often than every 3 years
 - **Payment Reduction**
 - **Nesting Season**



2014 Farm Bill

Conservation and Land Improvement

Facilitates protection of land after expiration

Tree Thinning Incentives

\$10 million

Early Land Termination

During FY2015 only

Completed January 30, 2015

2014 Farm Bill

\$33 Million for Transition Incentive Program (TIP)

Veteran Farmer or Rancher added to TIP Beginning Farmer/Rancher Definition

CRP Regulations

7 CFR Part 1410

Published on July 16, 2015

Interim Rule, with comment

Comment period ends Sept. 14,
2015

Revised to include:

New Farm Bill Provisions (grasslands, etc)

Changes for consistency with policy

(CPA's reduced from 33 to 25 percent)

Non Farm Bill Policy Changes

Increase in the C/S limitations.

Water development

Water facilities

Pipeline

Livestock crossing

Remove the \$50 per acre per year limit on cost share for management activities. Now \$100 per acre for contract life.

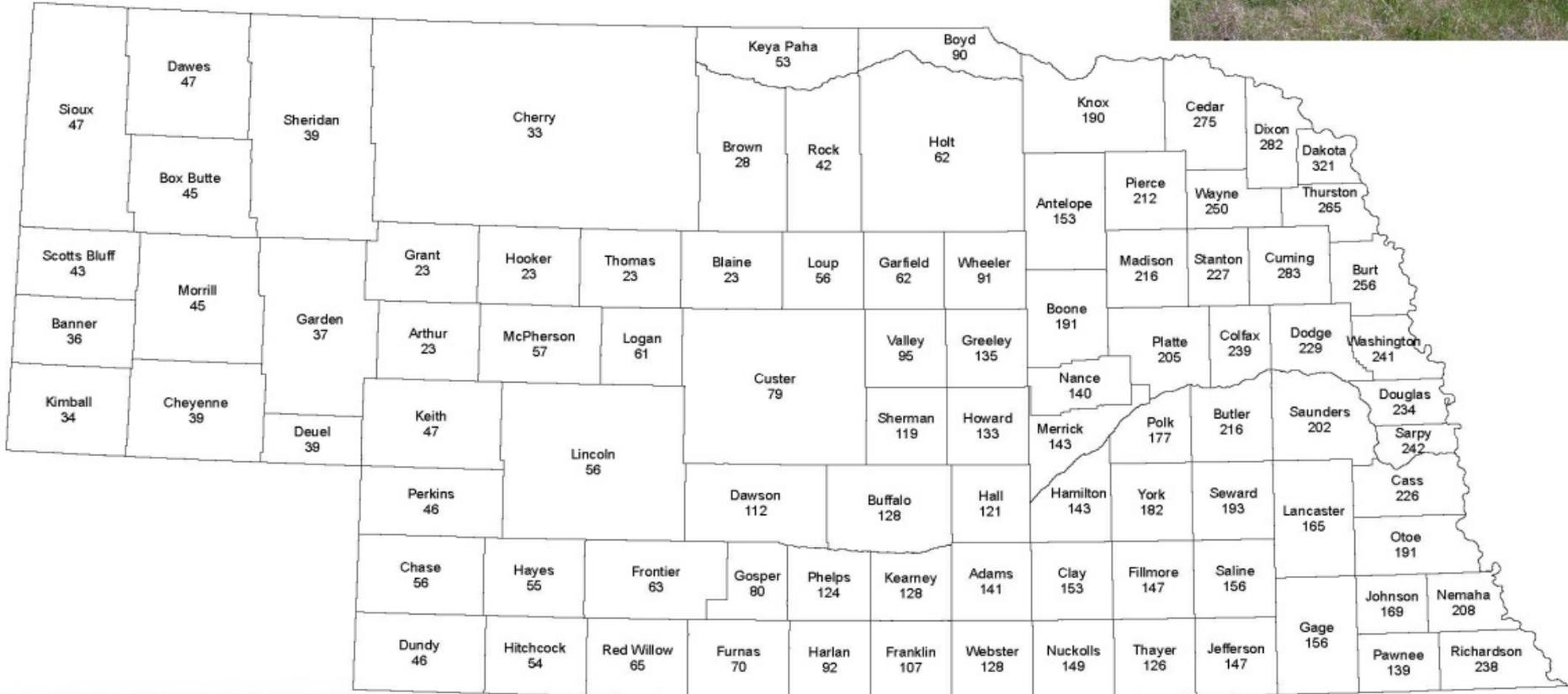
CRP General CRP Signup

December 1, 2015 through
February 26, 2016.

Same Environmental Benefit
Index (EBI).

CRP Average Soil Rental Rates

Nebraska FSA



United States Department of Agriculture - Farm Service Agency



CRP Grassland Provisions



CRP Grasslands – Notice CRP-792

Created by 2014 Farm Bill

Limit – up to 2 Million Acres

Replaces Rental Portion of GRP
(Easements – ACEP – NRCS)

Continuous Signup with Batching
periods

Differences from the General CRP

No cropping history requirements

Haying and/or grazing or harvesting
for seed production is allowed
subject to the CPO.

Exception CP42 portion of offer

Is a production based program.

Will pay for fencing and livestock
water development.

Changes from GRP

Only land with existing grass cover is eligible.

CRP will not pay for grassland planting/improvements.

CRP will not pay as much for livestock watering developments, pipelines, and water facilities.

Eligible Land

Eligible land means land on a tract or a portion of a tract that contains forbs or shrub land, including improved rangeland and pastureland for which grazing is the predominant use, **which can include land that:**

- is located in an area historically dominated by grasslands
- could provide habitat for animal and plant populations of significant ecological value if the land is retained in its current use or restored to a natural condition
- is expiring CRP without tree practices; **or**
- is expiring GRP.

Eligible land must have a grass cover.

Ineligible Land

- Forestland
- Woodland
 - Exception: if forested pasture has less than 5% tree canopy interspersed
- Land under a EQIP or CSP Lifespan
- Land under easement that protects the land from conversion.

Grassland Practices

CP87 Permanent Introduced
Grasses and Legumes

CP88 Permanent Native Grasses
and Legumes

CP42 Pollinator Habitat
associated with CP87 and/or
CP88

CRP Grasslands Practices CP87 & CP88

Grassland practices will allow for common grazing practices including maintenance and necessary cultural practices, on the land in a manner that is consistent with maintaining the viability of grassland, forb, and shrub species appropriate to that locality (Except CP42 acreage)

Grassland practices CP87 & CP88 (Continued)

Haying, mowing, or harvesting for seed production, subject to appropriate restrictions during the nesting season (Except CP42 acreage)

Maintaining existing vegetative cover of introduced grasses or legumes on eligible grassland

Suitable to be hayed or grazed

Grassland practices CP87 & CP88 (Continued)

- Fire pre-suppression, fire-related rehabilitation, and construction of fire breaks.

- Grazing-related activities, such as fencing and livestock watering (Except CP42 acreage)

Grassland practices CP87 & CP88 (Continued)

Cost-share eligibility

Promote common grazing activities.

Prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring.

Be included and required in conservation plan.

Maintained for life of CRP-1 (14 -15 years).

Prevent breaking of native sod.

CP42 – Pollinator Habitat

CP42 – Pollinator Habitat :

Is NOT a stand alone practice in most cases.

Will be combined with CP87 or CP88.

Refer to 2-CRP Exhibit 11 - CP42 practice specifications.

Mid-contract management will be required for CP42 portion of contract acreage.

CP42 – Pollinator Habitat

This practice will be used by producers that agree to plant/maintain approved covers to receive F6 points.

Will not allow haying, grazing, or seed harvest

Must be fenced if CP-87 or CP88 practice is grazed in same field
– fence is cost-shareable

Contract Duration and Program Year

The CRP-1 Period is 14 to 15 years
Effective date will be the start of the
month after COC approval or
deferred up to 6 months.

Program Year - Fiscal Year in which
first payment is earned.

Signup Number 200

Cost-share Policy - authorized

Seed bed prep/Seed/herbicide/
insecticide/minerals and
pesticides –CP42 only.

Permanent fence (internal and
boundary).

Ponds/wells/spring developments/
pipelines and water facilities.

Cost-share Policy - NOT Authorized

Corrals

Feedlots

Ornamental fences

Holding pens

Cattle guards

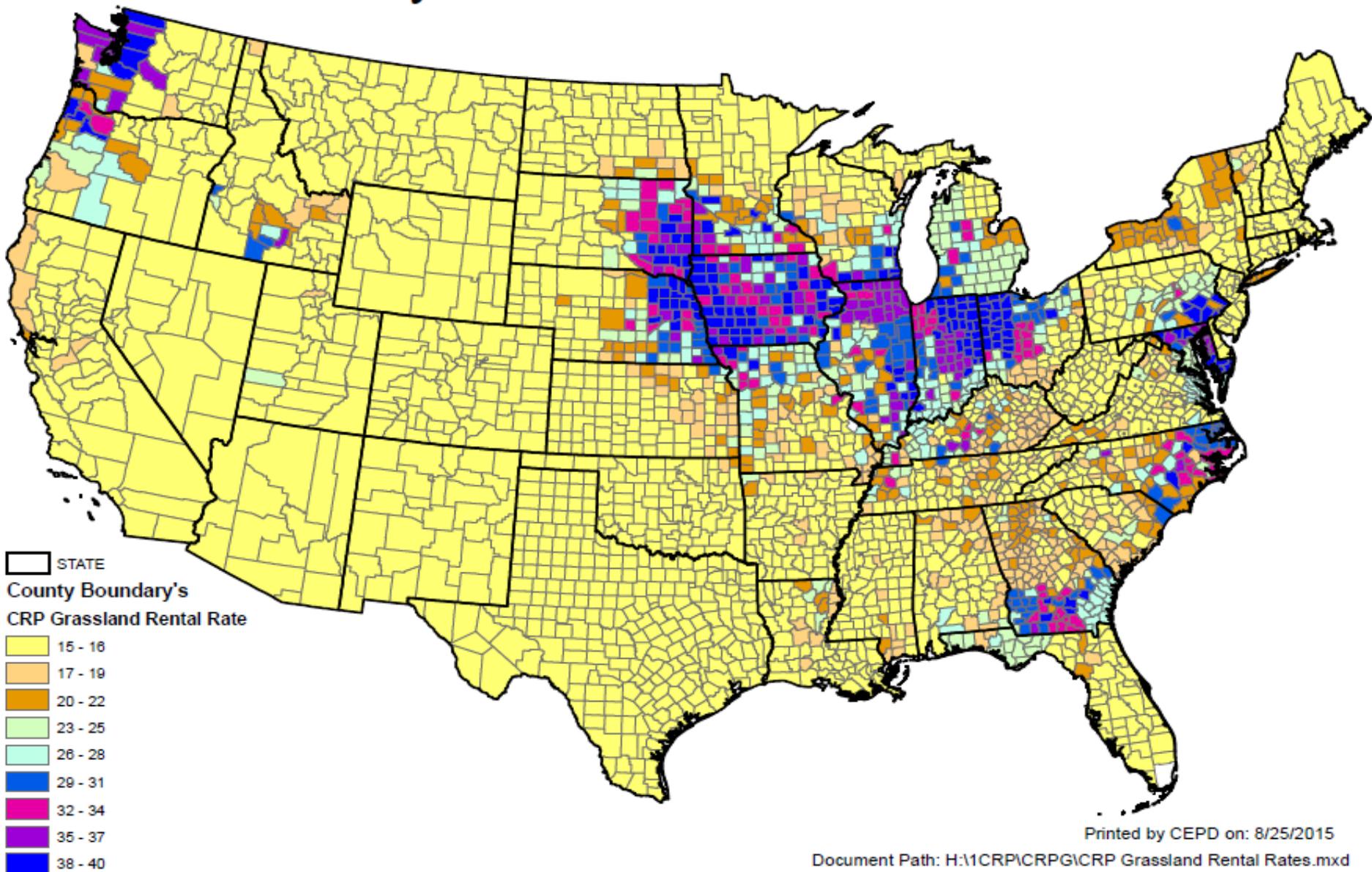
CRP Grasslands Rental Rates

Reflect the market rental value for land suitable for CRP grasslands.

Rates are 75% of NASS 2014 pasture cash rent estimate and bounded by a minimum of \$15.00 and maximum of \$40.00.

Soil Map Unit Symbol **CRPGRR**

County CRP Grassland Rental Rates



CRP Grasslands

Continuous Signup began on
September 1, 2015.

First Ranking Cutoff was
November 20, 2015.

Competitive Bid Process –
Ranking Factors.



State Technical Committee Consultation

Handbook 2-CRP Amendment 22
implemented Farm Bill and Discretionary
Decisions.

Some Decisions require State Technical
Committee Recommendations.



STC's, upon State Technical Committee recommendation and NRCS consultation, shall establish a per acre maintenance rate:

If the practice is...	AND it includes...	THEN the maintenance rate shall not exceed...	Current Maintenance rate
CP21, CP29, or CP30	No fencing or water facility development	\$0	\$0
	Permanent fencing with no water facility development or no permanent fencing with a water facility	\$5	\$4
	Permanent Fencing and water facility development	\$10	\$5



STC's, upon State Technical Committee recommendation and NRCS consultation, shall establish a per acre maintenance rate:

If the practice is...	AND it includes...	THEN the maintenance rate shall not exceed...	Current Maintenance rate
CP22	No fencing or water facility development	\$2	\$2
	Permanent fencing with no water facility development or no permanent fencing with a water facility	\$5	\$4
	Permanent Fencing and water facility development	\$10	\$5



CRP Hay/Graze

Eligible Acreage

Acreage eligible for managed harvesting/routine grazing includes acreage devoted to practices CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP10, CP18B, CP18C, and CP38 if included in the approved SAFE proposal. Acreage shall become eligible 12 months after the cover is fully established.

Note: DAFP may authorized certain additional practices if emergency conditions are determined to warrant such release.

CRP Managed Harvesting

- Managed harvesting, including harvest for biomass, is authorized no more frequently than 1 out of every 3 years, and no less frequently than 1 out of every 5 years, after the cover is fully established.
- Currently, Nebraska uses 1 out of every 5 years due to NWF Settlement

CRP Managed Harvesting

STC **must** consult with the State Technical Committee:

- to determine birds that are economically significant, in significant decline, or conserved according to Federal or State law
- to determine appropriate beginning and ending dates for the primary nesting season--*
- for establishing the frequency of managed harvesting period.



CRP Managed Harvesting

Note: In certain circumstances, States may restrict the amount of acreage that may be harvested as recommended by the State Technical Committee. For example, after consulting with the State Technical Committee, a State establishes that 50 percent of the acreage must be left unharvested for wildlife. States shall report any additional restrictions to CEPD.



CRP Routine (Managed) Grazing

STC shall consult with the State Technical Committee to determine routine grazing frequency and duration. States must set frequency and duration for routine grazing for new contracts.

Routine grazing is authorized no more frequently than 1 out of every 2 years (every other year).

Currently, Nebraska uses 1 out of every 3 years.

CRP Routine (Managed) Grazing

STC **must** consult with the State Technical Committee to:

- determine birds that are economically significant, in significant decline, or conserved according to Federal or State law
- determine appropriate beginning and ending dates for the primary nesting season
- establish the duration and frequency of routine grazing periods.

State Technical Committee Recommendations?

- Maintenance Rates for CP21, CP22, CP29 and CP30?
- Managed Harvesting intervals?
- Routine (Managed) Grazing Intervals?
- Hay restrictions?



30 Year Anniversary of CRP

- December 23, 1985 with signing of Food Security Act of 1985
- Birthday Party??