

# CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM & THE TRANSITION INCENTIVES PROGRAM

**The Transition Incentives Program**, administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency, **assists with the transition of expiring Conservation Reserve Program** land from a retired or retiring owner or operator to a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher to return land to production for sustainable grazing or crop production. TIP provides two additional years of CRP payments for the retired farmers and ranchers.

During the last year of CRP-1 before its scheduled expiration, the farmer or rancher to whom the land is being transferred must develop a conservation plan that meets acceptable standards for sustainable grazing or crop production methods. The sustainable grazing and crop production methods must be designed as a part of an overall plan defined on an ecosystem level to be useful in creating integrated systems of plant and animal production practices that have a site-specific application that would:

- Meet human needs for food and fiber
- Enhance the environment and the natural resource base
- Use nonrenewable resources efficiently
- Sustain the economic viability of the farming operation.

These plans must be developed with the assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and approved by 9/30 of the expiring year.

The following is a list of resource concerns that must be addressed to meet basic planning criteria and a list of main practices according to land use that could be considered for adoption.

## CONVERTING CRP TO CROP PRODUCTION

Resource Concerns	Primary Recommended Practices
<b>Soil Erosion</b> (soil loss <T)	Residue management (no-till or mulch-till), cover-crop
<b>Soil Quality Degradation</b> (soil conditioning index >0)	No-till, mulch till, crop rotation, cover-crop
<b>Water Quality Degradation</b>	No-till, mulch till, nutrient and pest management
<b>Degraded Plant Condition</b>	Crop rotation, nutrient and pest management

## CONVERTING CRP TO LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Resource Concerns	Primary Recommended Practices
<b>Degraded plant condition</b>	Prescribed grazing
<b>Inadequate stock water</b>	Livestock water development (trough, pipeline, spring development, well, pumping plant, etc.)
<b>Soil erosion</b>	Prescribed grazing
<b>Degraded soil condition</b>	prescribed grazing
<b>Degraded water quality</b>	Livestock water development (if off-site), prescribed grazing

### Guidelines for Grazing (refer to NRCS Range Technical note 34):

- Manage stock numbers and duration of grazing period so no more than 50% of annual plant production is grazed
- Manage the timing of both grazing period and recovery period to ensure plant health and vigor.

For additional information about the CRP-TIP program, contact your local FSA office. Information regarding CRP-TIP is also available at the following link: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/crp\\_tip\\_2014\\_vet\\_fs.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/crp_tip_2014_vet_fs.pdf)

**For more information regarding conservation planning, contact your local NRCS field office.**