

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Continuous Enrollment



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting offers for specific conservation practices under the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Signup.

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) CRP is a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched but protected through strategically planned conservation practices devoted to conservation benefits and wildlife. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers"), to control soil erosion, improve the water quality and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance. Continuous CRP signup enrollment contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration.

The Conservation Reserve Program was originally authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 and reauthorized under the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill). The Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026 (Pub. L. 119-37), extended CRP authority through Sept. 30, 2026.

Benefits

CRP protects millions of acres of American topsoil from erosion and is designed to safeguard the nation's natural resources. By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, CRP protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds and streams. The vegetative covers also make CRP a major contributor to increased wildlife populations in many parts of the country.

Administration

FSA administers CRP while technical support functions are provided by:

- USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS);
- State forestry agencies;
- Local soil and water conservation districts; and
- Other non-federal providers of technical assistance.

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Continuous Enrollment

To submit an offer for continuous CRP signup, producers should contact their local FSA office beginning Feb. 12, 2026. FSA will review and prioritize acceptance of practices that address the most critical natural resource concerns in announced batching periods; the first continuous batching period ends on March 20, 2026. If acreage remains available following the March 20, 2026 deadline, FSA will announce acceptance of continuous, CRP offers in a subsequent batching period which will conclude on or before July 31, 2026. Continuous CRP contracts will be effective Oct. 1, 2026.

Producers with acres enrolled in Continuous CRP contracts scheduled to expire Sept. 30, 2026, can offer acres for re-enrollment beginning Feb. 12, 2026. FSA will consider offers to re-enroll expiring acres in announced batching periods on a first-come, first-serve basis. To find your local FSA office visit <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

Who is Eligible?

A producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to submitting the offer, unless:

- The new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner's death;
- The ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right of redemption in accordance with state law; or
- The circumstances of the acquisition present adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP.

Eligible Land

Land must be cropland that is planted or considered to be planted to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2012 to 2017 and is physically and legally capable of being planted (no planting restrictions due to an easement or other legally binding instrument) in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.



Eligible Practices

Land must be eligible and suitable for any of the following conservation practices:

- CP5A - Field Windbreak
- CP8A - Grassed Waterway
- CP9 - Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife
- CP15A - Contour Grass Strip
- CP15B - Contour Grass Strip on Terraces
- CP16A - Shelterbelt
- CP17A - Living Snow Fences
- CP21 - Filter Strip
- CP21B - Denitrifying Bioreactor on Filter Strips
- CP21S - Saturated Filter Strips
- CP22 - Riparian Buffer
- CP22 - Denitrifying Bioreactor on Riparian Buffer
- CP22S - Saturated Riparian Buffer
- CP23 - Wetland Restoration on Floodplain
- CP23A - Wetland Restoration non-floodplain
- CP24 - Cross Wind Trap Strips
- CP27 - Farmable Wetlands
- CP28 - Farmable Wetlands Buffer
- CP29 - Marginal Pastureland Habitat Buffer
- CP30 - Wetland Buffer
- CP31 - Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands
- CP33 - Habitat Buffer for Upland Birds
- CP36 - Longleaf Pine Establishment
- CP37 - Duck Nesting Habitat
- CP39 - Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP) Constructed Wetland
- CP40 - FWP Aquaculture Wetland Restoration
- CP41 - FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland
- CP42 - Pollinator Habitat
- CP43 - Prairie Strips
- Wellhead Protection Area Practices
- State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)
- Highly Erodible Land Initiative (HELI).

Payments

Under Continuous CRP signup, FSA provides eligible participants with:

- Annual rental payments
- Cost-share assistance
- Signup Incentive Payment (SIP) equal to 32.5 percent of the first annual rental payment is paid upon contract approval for all newly enrolled Continuous CRP acreage.
- Practice Incentive Payment (PIP), based on the participant's eligible costs to install approved practices, as follows:
 - 50 percent for new acres enrolled
 - 25 percent for re-enrolled acres

Annual Rental Payments

Rental rates:

- Are based on the relative productivity of soils and county cropland rent rates or marginal pastureland rates factored to a statutory 90 percent limitation.
- May not exceed the maximum per acre rental rate of \$300/acre.
- May include a Water Quality Incentive of 20 percent for water quality practices that will improve water quality by reducing sediment loading, nutrient loading and harmful algae blooms.

Cost-Share Assistance

FSA provides cost share assistance to participants who establish approved practices on land enrolled in CRP. Cost share assistance cannot exceed 50 percent of the participant's eligible costs and is not available for any management activity.

More Information

Visit FSA's CRP webpage <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/>.

To locate your local FSA office, visit: [farmers.gov/ service-locator](https://www.farmers.gov/service-locator).

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions or requirements may apply. Consult your local FSA office for details.

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