



Farm Service Agency

Conservation Reserve Program Forest Management Incentive

FACT SHEET
January 2021

Overview

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead devoted to conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance.

The 2018 Farm Bill provided for financial assistance to CRP participants with existing tree covers to engage in management activities that improve forest resource condition, promote forest management, and enhance wildlife habitat. Congress authorized up to \$12 million in Forest Management Incentive (FMI) funds for this purpose.

CRP FMI Signup

CRP FMI signup begins on January 19, 2021. Signup will continue as long as CRP authority and CRP FMI funds are available.

Who is Eligible?

CRP FMI is limited to those farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners currently participating in CRP who have established conservation covers comprised of trees.

Eligible Land

All land currently enrolled in CRP CP3, CP3A, CP4D, CP11, CP22, CP22B, CP22S, CP31, CP36, CP38A-22, CP38C-3, CP38C-3A, CP38C-11, CP38C-31, CP38D-36, and CP38E-4D conservation practices, are eligible for CRP FMI.

Eligible Technical Practices

- 314 Brush Management
- 315 Herbaceous Weed Control
- 327 Conservation Cover
- 338 Prescribed Burning
- 394 Firebreak
- 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat
- 647 Early Successional Habitat
- 660 Tree/Shrub Pruning
- 666 Forest Stand Improvement



USDA photo



CRP FMI Payments

CRP FMI is a payment to eligible CRP participants who have properly completed authorized forest management practice activities, to improve condition of resources, promote forest management, or enhance wildlife habitat.

CRP FMI payments are equal to the lesser of the CRP participant's actual cost to implement the practice or 75% of the NRCS National Payment Scenario rate for the applicable NRCS technical practice.

A CRP participant may be eligible for more than one CRP FMI payment if multiple approved forest management activities are performed according to the conservation plan.

CRP participants will be given two years from the date of notification of COC approval of the FSA-848A agreement to complete the CRP FMI practice activities. Approved forest management activities must be reported completed by no later than September 30, 2023, for the CRP participant to receive CRP FMI payment for such activity.

CRP FMI payment is conditional upon completion, and certification on the FSA-848B agreement, of approved forest management activities as provided in the conservation plan.

Total CRP FMI payments is limited to \$200,000 per person or entity.

More Information

CRP is authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 and was reauthorized by the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill). The program is also governed by regulations published in 7 CFR, part 1410. The program is implemented by FSA on behalf of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. This fact sheet is for informational purposes; other restrictions may apply. Consult your local

FSA office for details. For more information, contact your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: farmers.gov/service-locator.