



Farm Service Agency

GRASSLANDS

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) - FACT SHEET



Overview

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Grasslands Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers to help landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and eligible land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion. The grasslands CRP program is a working lands program. Working lands conservation programs help farmers to enhance the sustainability of their operations while keeping land in production.

Program Administration

FSA administers grasslands CRP while technical support functions are provided by: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Local soil and water conservation districts; and Non-federal technical assistance providers.

More Information

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For details, contact your local FSA service center:

<https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator>

Benefits and Payments

FSA provides CRP participants with annual rental payments and cost share assistance. In return for conserving the grazing lands according to an NRCS or Technical Service Provider (TSP) developed Conservation Plan. FSA bases rental rates on 75 percent of the cash rent data provided by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) plus a climate-smart practice incentive. Nationally, 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 20 ranking points. Producers may offer land at the maximum rental rate or offer a lower rental rate. The maximum CRP rental rate for each offer is calculated in advance of enrollment.

Cost share is available to participants if fencing or livestock watering facilities are needed to facilitate grazing distribution. Boundary fences are not eligible for cost share assistance. Grasslands CRP permits producers to graze, harvest hay, and seed production while receiving an annual rental payment for maintaining the existing permanent cover that is offered. Producers are required to maintain and complete any maintenance/enhancements needed on the grasslands CRP. This includes any seeding of grasses or legumes along with applying applicable fertilizer and chemical applications. All activities are subject to a Conservation Plan, with certain restriction for haying during the primary nesting season. Offered Land with more than 5% tree canopy is ineligible for the grasslands CRP Program.