

CRP Program

1. Introduction to Program: Purpose, Goals and Objectives:

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides technical and financial assistance to eligible farmers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides assistance to farmers in complying with Federal and State laws, and encourages environmental enhancement. The program is funded through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). The Farm Service Agency, with NRCS providing technical land eligibility determinations and conservation planning administers CRP.

The Conservation Reserve Program reduces soil erosion, protects the Nation's ability to produce food and fiber, reduces sedimentation in streams and lakes, improves water quality, establishes wildlife habitat, and enhances forest and wetland resources. CRP encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as grass waterways, native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, filterstrips and riparian buffers. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the contract. Cost sharing is provided to establish the vegetative cover practices.

The CRP Program can be accessed at the following web site:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crp.htm> Additional information on CRP can be found in the Conservation Reserve Program Manual, 2-CRP (Rev.3).

2. Fact sheets:

The following documents are attached:

Conservation Reserve Program Fact Sheet

Conservation Reserve Program Continuous Sign-up

3. Application process: Step-by-step with timeframes for actions

The following provides a general account of the steps necessary for a landowner to complete the CRP Application process.

1. Producer initiates CRP-2 (CRP Application) with FSA indicating location of land being offered on an aerial map and practice being offered.
2. FSA determines eligible Acreage Eligibility, Practice Eligibility and Practice Eligibility.
3. CRP-2 is forwarded to NRCS with an aerial photo attached.

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4. The NRCS Designated Conservationist completes a site visit to determine the following:
 - The acreage is suitable for the offered practice, this includes determining what type of water source is being protected in the case of practice CP21 and CP22
 - The practice is needed and feasible to solve the resource concern
 - The purpose of the practice is being met
 - The minimum required width to meet the FOTG (Field Office Technical Guide) standards
 - The eligible area is flagged in the field
5. The NRCS Designated Conservationist completes blocks 19 through 30C and 40 B. Blocks 19 through 23, 28 and 29 shall be completed with N/A.
6. The NRCS Designated Conservationist returns the CRP-2 to FSA.
7. If the CRP Practice is a Grass-Waterway, the NRCS Designated Conservationist will provide FSA a cost-estimate on the Grass-Waterway.
8. The NRCS Designated Conservationist completes the needs information on the AD-862.
9. The NRCS Designated Conservationist develops the Conservation Plan and the Conservation Plan of Operations (Contract Support Document). The Conservation Plan of Operations must be signed by all signatories to the CRP-1, the NRCS Designated Conservationist and the Conservation District.

Note: There may be other signatories to the CRP-1 other than the producer NRCS is working with on a particular CRP contract that NRCS may not be aware of. FSA will be responsible for obtaining any additional signatures that may be needed.

10. The producer installs the practice and bills are submitted to FSA.
11. The NRCS Designated Conservationist signs the AD-862 certifying the practice meets NRCS Standards and Specifications.
12. Cost-share payment is issued by FSA.
13. The NRCS Designated Conservationist completes the first year status review.
14. The NRCS Designated Conservationist completes the second year status review if the first year status review was not final.
15. The NRCS Designated Conservationist completes the third year status review if the second year status review was not final.

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4. Forms Required:

All of the following forms are attached:

CRP-2, Conservation Reserve Program Worksheet

AD-862, Provided by FSA

Sample Conservation Plan developed in Customer Service Toolkit

Sample Contract Support Document developed in Customer Service Toolkit

5. Indiana contact information:

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