

February 7, 2022

Representative Rick Hansen
407 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Chair Hansen,

Thank you for your request for information on conservation programs available at the USDA Farm Service Agency. As you know, Minnesota farmers have long been leaders in conservation of our vulnerable lands.

On January 26, USDA announced Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signups for 2022. The CRP has been a cornerstone conservation program and has been a key tool to address climate change, water quality, and soil loss. The General CRP signup will run from January 31-March 11 and the Grassland CRP signup will run from April 4- May 13. Continuous CRP sign up for new land is ongoing with re-enrollments eligible to begin making offers starting April 1. Farmers and landowners interested in the program should contact their local FSA office for more information. Enclosed are materials with additional information.

As of December 2021, Minnesota has 1,000,575 total CRP acres enrolled through 53,990 contracts on 28,533 farms. Of those, 265,662 acres are under General contracts, 690,692 acres are in Continuous Non-CREP/FWL contracts, 34,313 acres are in CREP, and 10,020 acres are in Grassland CRP. There are 22.1 million acres of CRP enrolled nationwide, Minnesota ranking 9th for total acres enrolled. Minnesota ranks 3rd in Continuous CRP enrollment and 1st in enrollment for Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers (CLEAR) practices.

Thanks again for your interest, and please direct any questions about the program to me at whitney.place@usda.gov.

Sincerely,



State Executive Director, Minnesota FSA



Farm Service Agency

Conservation Reserve Program – Continuous Enrollment Period

FACT SHEET
June 2021

Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting offers for specific conservation practices under the Conservation Reserve Program Continuous 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 devoted to conservation benefits. 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 signup enrollment contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration.

The Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, authorized CRP. 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. To offer land for continuous enrollment, producers should contact their local FSA office.

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



Continuous Enrollment

Under continuous CRP signup, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices can be enrolled in CRP at any time. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap. Unlike CRP enrollments under general CRP signups or CRP Grasslands, offers for continuous enrollment are not subject to competitive bidding during specific periods.

If the offered acres are currently enrolled in CRP under a CRP contract that expires September 30, then the effective start date of the new CRP contract must be the following October 1.

If the offered acres are not currently enrolled in CRP, then the producer may choose to defer the effective start date of the new CRP contract for up to six months after the offer is approved.

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.



CRP – CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT PERIOD - JUNE 2021

Eligible Land

Land must be cropland that is planted or considered 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. Certain marginal pastureland that may be devoted to riparian buffers, wildlife habitat buffers, or wetland buffers is also eligible.

Eligible Practices

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

- Grass Waterway
- Shallow Water Area for Wildlife
- Contour Grass Strip
- Filter Strip
- Riparian Buffer
- Denitrifying Bioreactor on Filter Strip and Riparian Buffer
- Saturated Filter Strip and Riparian Buffer
- Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds
- Wetland & Buffer SAFE Practices
- Wetland Restoration on Floodplain and Non- floodplain
- Prairie Strips
- Windbreaks, Shelterbelts and Living Snow Fences
- Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer and Wildlife Habitat Buffers
- Long Leaf Pine Establishment
- Duck Nesting Habitat
- Pollinator Habitat
- Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands
- Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP) Constructed Wetland
- FWP Aquaculture Wetland Restoration
- FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland
- Farmable Wetlands and Farmable Wetland Buffer
- Wellhead Protection Area Practices
- State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)
- Highly Erodible Land Initiative (HELI)

Payments

Under CRP continuous signup, FSA provides eligible participants with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance.

A Signup Incentive Payment of 32.5 percent of the first full year annual rental payment is paid at contract approval on all newly enrolled Continuous CRP contract acreage. A Practice Incentive Payment of up to 50 percent is paid for installing the practice.

Annual Rental Payments

- In return for establishing long-term, resource-conserving covers, FSA provides annual rental payments at 90 percent of the existing rate to eligible CRP continuous participants based on per acre cropland and marginal pasture land rental rates, plus a 10 percent “inflationary” adjustment, determined by FSA.
- The per-acre annual rental rate may not exceed the calculated rate or \$300/acre. Producers may elect to receive a rental rate amount less than the maximum payment rate.
- **Climate-Smart Practice Incentive:** FSA provides an incentive of 3, 5, or 10 percent for CRP practices that will increase carbon sequestration, reduce GHG emissions, and otherwise are climate smart practices. The incentive amount is based on the estimated benefits of each practice.
- **Water Quality Incentive:** FSA provides a 20 percent rental rate incentive for CRP water quality practices that will improve water quality by reducing sediment loading, nutrient loading and harmful algae blooms.

Cost-Share Assistance

Cost-share of up to 50 percent of the re- reimbursable cost of installing the practice is provided by FSA. Cost-share assistance is not available for any management activity.

More Information

For more information about FSA and its programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit:

[farmers.gov/ service-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-locator)



Conservation Reserve Program

General Signup 58 Enrollment Period Jan. 31, 2022
through March 11, 2022

FACT SHEET
January 2022

Overview

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will conduct a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general enrollment from Jan. 31, 2022, through March 11, 2022.

CRP is a federally-funded 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 develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Accepted contracts for this CRP enrollment period will become effective Oct. 1, 2022.

CRP is authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 and was reauthorized by the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill). FSA administers CRP, while other USDA agencies and partners provide technical support. Additional information on CRP is available in the FSA fact sheet, "**Conservation Reserve Program.**"

Submitting CRP Offers

Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP may be offered for enrollment during this CRP general enrollment period. In addition, CRP producers whose CRP contracts are expiring on Sept. 30, 2022.

To submit CRP offers, producers must contact their local FSA office. FSA will accept offers only during the enrollment period.

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for CRP enrollment, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the end of this CRP enrollment period, 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 circumstance of the acquisition presents adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP.

What Land is Eligible?

To be eligible for the CRP general enrollment period, land must be cropland (including field margins) that is planted, or considered planted, to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2012 to 2017, and be 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. Alfalfa or other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may also be eligible.





GENERAL SIGNUP 58 ENROLLMENT PERIOD - JANUARY 2022

Additional Cropland Requirements

In addition to the eligible land requirements for the CRP general enrollment period, cropland must meet one of the following criteria:

- Have a weighted average erosion index of eight or higher;
- Be expiring CRP acres or;
- Be located in a national or state CRP conservation priority area.

CRP Payments

FSA provides those applicants who are selected for CRP general enrollment with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance.

- **Rental Payments:** In return for establishing long-term, resource- conserving covers, FSA provides rental payments to participants. FSA bases rental rates on the relative productivity of the soils within each county and the average dryland cash rent subject to a statutory 85 percent proration. County office staff working with the producer will calculate the maximum CRP rental rate for each offer prior to enrollment. Producers may offer land below the rate to increase the likelihood that their offer will be accepted.
- **Cost-Share Assistance:** FSA provides cost-share assistance to participants who establish approved cover on eligible cropland. The cost-share assistance cannot exceed 50 percent of the participant's costs to establish approved practices.
- **Climate-Smart Practice Incentive:** FSA provides an incentive of 3, 5, or 10 percent for CRP practices that will increase carbon sequestration, reduce GHG emissions, and otherwise are climate smart practices. The incentive amount is based on the estimated benefits of each practice.

Ranking CRP Offers

FSA will rank offers for the CRP general enrollment period according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). FSA collects data (primarily based on location, soils information and selected conservation practice) and determines the environmental indices for the land offered.

FSA ranks each eligible offer in comparison to all other offers and selects from that ranking. After the enrollment period ends, the Secretary of Agriculture will decide where to make the EBI cutoff. Those who have met previous

EBI thresholds are not guaranteed a contract under this enrollment period. Producers may consult with local FSA and Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) staff on how to maximize EBI points and increase the likelihood that their offer will be accepted.

More information on EBI for the CRP enrollment period is available by reading the FSA fact sheet, "**Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment, Environmental Benefits Index.**"

CRP Continuous Enrollment

In addition to the CRP general enrollment period, producers at any time can participate in CRP continuous enrollment period, in which producers can enroll the most environmentally sensitive land. More information on CRP continuous enrollment is available in the FSA fact sheet, "**Conservation Reserve Program Continuous Sign-Up**".

More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes; other conditions 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.



Conservation Reserve Program

58th General Enrollment Period
Environmental Benefits Index (EBI)

FACT SHEET
January 2022

Overview

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is conducting a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general enrollment from Jan. 31, 2022 through March 11, 2022.

CRP is a federally-funded 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 develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Accepted contracts for the CRP enrollment period will begin Oct. 1, 2022.

CRP is authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 and was reauthorized by the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill). FSA administers CRP, while other USDA agencies and partners provide technical support. More detailed information on CRP is available in the FSA fact sheet, "**Conservation Reserve Program 58th General Enrollment Period**, Jan. 31, 2022, through March 11, 2022."

Ranking CRP Offers

FSA will rank offers submitted by landowners for the 58th CRP general enrollment period according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). FSA collects data for each EBI factor based on the relative environmental benefits for the land offered. EBI rankings are unique for each tract of land offered for CRP

FSA assigns each offer a score based on the offer's relative environmental factors. Each offer competes with all other offers. FSA determines the acceptability of the offer based on the ranking results

For the 58th CRP general enrollment period, FSA will use the following EBI factors to assess the environmental benefits for the land offered, as follows:

- Wildlife habitat benefits resulting from covers on contract acres (N1);
- Water quality benefits from reduced erosion, runoff and leaching (N2);
- On-farm benefits from reduced erosion (N3);
- Benefits that will likely endure beyond the contract period (N4);
- Air quality benefits from reduced wind erosion (N5) and;
- Cost (N6).



USDA



N1 - Wildlife Factor: (10 to 100 Points)

Factor N1 is an evaluation of the expected wildlife benefits of the offer and is comprised of three subfactors (N1a-c). The formula for $N1 = N1a + N1b + N1c$.

- **N1a - Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits
(10 to 50 points)**

This subfactor is an evaluation of the wildlife habitat cover offered. FSA assigns points for cover practice planting mixtures based on the potential value to wildlife within each state. FSA awards higher scores for cover types that are more beneficial to wildlife. Local USDA Service Centers have a list of approved planting mixes and the assigned point scores for each cover mix. Point scores are based on the weighted average score for cover mixes the producer selects. Native mixes of diverse species generally receive the highest point scores. Eligible cover practices under the N1a criteria are in Table 1.

(Producers should note that wildlife habitat cover selection is the most critical factor impacting wildlife benefits. Optimum cover types significantly increase the point score for this factor).

- **N1b - Wildlife Enhancement (0, 5 or 20 points)**

This subfactor provides up to 20 points for actions producers take to enhance the wildlife benefits for the offered acres. Enhancement to the acres is necessary in order to receive the points. For example, to receive 20 points producers may offer to establish a minimum of 10 percent of the acres offered to pollinator habitat N1b criteria are provided in Table 2.

- **N1c - Wildlife Priority Zones (0 or 30 points)**

FSA consulted with farm, commodity, wildlife and environmental groups to develop high-priority wildlife areas that would benefit from being enrolled in CRP. For land located within this defined geographic area, points are awarded for planting cover mixes to benefit wildlife species. This subfactor provides 30 points if at least 51 percent of the offered acres is located within the wildlife priority zone and the weighted average N1a score is greater than or equal to 40 points

N2 - Water Quality Benefits from Reduced Erosion, Runoff, and Leaching (0 to 100 Points)

One of CRP's main goals is to reduce the amount of sediment, nutrients and pollutants that enter our nation's waterways. Factor N2 is an evaluation of the potential impacts that CRP may have on both surface and groundwater quality. N2 is comprised of three subfactors (N2a-c). The formula for $N2 = N2a + N2b + N2c$.

- **N2a - Location (0 or 30 points)**

This subfactor is an evaluation of the benefits of improving ground or surface water quality impaired by crop production. States have identified water quality zones for protection. At least 51 percent of the acres offered must be within an approved water quality zone to receive 30 points. Local USDA Service Centers have detailed maps of the approved water quality zones.

- **N2b - Groundwater quality (0 to 25 points)**

This subfactor is an evaluation of the predominant soils, the potential leaching of pesticides and nutrients into groundwater, and the impact to people who rely on groundwater as a primary source of drinking water. Point scores are based on the weighted average leach index for soils offered for enrollment and the population that utilizes groundwater for drinking.

- **N2c - Surface water quality (0 to 45 points)**

This subfactor is an evaluation of the amount of sediment (and associated nutrients) that may be delivered into streams or other water courses. This factor is determined by potential water erosion in the watershed in which the offer is located.

N3 - Erosion Factor (0 to 100 Points)

CRP helps maintain the long-term productivity of the land for future generations. Factor N3 is an evaluation of the potential for the land to erode as the result of either wind or water erosion. This factor is measured using an Erodibility Index (EI). FSA awards points for the weighted average of



CRP-58th GENERAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD EBI – JANUARY 2022

the higher value of either the wind or water EI, based on the results from Table 3.

N4 - Enduring Benefits Factor (0 to 50 Points)

Factor N4 is an evaluation of the likelihood for certain practices to remain in place beyond the CRP contract period. N4 values are determined by calculating the weighted average score for all practices in Table 4.

N5 - Air Quality Benefits from Reduced Wind Erosion (3 to 45 Points)

Factor N5 is an evaluation of the air quality improvements by reducing airborne dust and particulate caused by wind erosion from cropland. In addition, this factor has points for the value of CRP land that provides carbon sequestration. This factor is comprised of four subfactors (N5a-c. The formula for $N5 = N5a + N5b + N5c$.

- **N5a - Wind Erosion Impacts (0 to 25 points)**

FSA will determine the potential for the site to have wind erosion damage. FSA will award points based on potential wind erosion and the amount of population that may be impacted by the erosion. The potential wind erodibility is based on a climatic factor (wind speed, wind direction and duration of wind events) and soil erodibility.

- **N5b - Air Quality Zones (0 or 10 points)**

FSA awards a maximum of 10 points if at least 51 percent of the acres offered is located in an air quality zone that contributes to nonattainment of air quality standards and the calculated weighted wind EI is equal to or greater than three.

- **N5c - Carbon Sequestration (3 to 10 points)**

The subfactor is an evaluation of the benefits of sequestering greenhouse gases by practice over the expected life of the practice. FSA awards points based on a weighted average of carbon sequestration benefits for all practices using the value in Table 5.

N6 - Cost

Factor N6 is designed to optimize the environmental benefits per dollar for CRP rental payments. Factor N6 is comprised of two subfactors (N6a and N6b). The formula for $N6 = N6a + N6b$.

- **N6a - Cost (point value determined after end of enrollment based on actual offer data)**

Offers with lower per acre rental rates may receive more N6a points and have increased chances of being accepted.

- **N6b - Offer Less Than Maximum Payment Rate (0 to 25 points)**

Offers equal to the maximum payment rate will receive 0 points. Offers below the maximum payment rate will receive points according to the value in Table 6.

EBI Threshold for Acceptance

After the 58th CRP general enrollment period ends March 11, 2022, FSA will analyze and rank all eligible offers. The Secretary of Agriculture will then determine the EBI threshold used to accept offers. Because CRP is a highly competitive program, producers who would have met EBI during previous enrollment periods are not guaranteed an offer acceptance under the 58th CRP general enrollment period.

Making CRP Offers More Competitive

Maximum CRP enrollment authority is 27 million acres by 2023. As such, the demand to enroll land in CRP is expected to be high.

To make offers more competitive, producers should consider the following:

- The single most important producer decision involves determining which cover practice to apply to the acres offered. Planting or establishing the highest scoring cover mixture is the best way to improve the chances of offer acceptance.



CRP-58th GENERAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD EBI – JANUARY 2022

- Offering the most environmentally sensitive land increases the likelihood of the offer being accepted. Where possible, subdividing fields to include only the most sensitive acres can substantially increase the point score for erosion and improve the water quality score and/or air quality score. Producers should consider enhancing covers for the benefit of wildlife or establishing pollinator habitat. In addition, producers may plant and manage hardwood or softwood trees that increase wildlife habitat values or restore certain rare and declining habitats. These potentially increase the EBI score in subfactors N1a and N4
- Producers should consider accepting a lower payment rate than the maximum amount FSA is willing to offer.

FSA also encourages producers to consult with local USDA experts on steps to take to maximize EBI points and increase the likelihood that an offer will be accepted.

More Information

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.



CRP-58th GENERAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD EBI – JANUARY 2022

Table 1 – Cover Practices (CP) for the N1a Criteria		Point Score
CP1 Permanent introduced grasses and legumes		
Existing monoculture (1 species) stand of an introduced grass.		0
Existing stand of 2 to 3 species or planting new stand of 2 to 3 species of an introduced grass species		10
Existing stand or planting mixture (minimum of 4 species) of at least 3 introduced grasses and at least 1 forb or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area		40
CP2 Permanent native grasses and legumes		
Existing monoculture (1 species) stand of a native grass.		0
Existing stand (minimum 2 to 3 species) or planting new mixed stand (minimum of 3 species) of at least 2 native grass species and at least 1 forb, or legume species beneficial to wildlife.		20
Existing stand or planting mixed stand (minimum of 5 species) of at least 3 native grasses and at least 1 shrub, forb, or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area.		50
CP3 Tree planting (general) 2/		
Southern Pines (Softwoods) - Solid stand of pines/softwoods (existing according to State-developed standards or planted at more than 550 trees per acre).		10
Northern Conifers (Softwoods) - Solid stand of conifers/softwoods (existing according to State-developed standards or planted at more than 850 trees per acre).		
Western Pines (Softwoods) - Solid stand of pines/softwoods (existing according to State-developed standards or planted at more than 650 trees per acre).		
Southern Pines (Softwoods) - Pines/softwoods existing or planted at a rate of 500 to 550 per acre depending upon the site index (State-developed standards) with 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover.		50
Northern Conifers (Softwoods) - Conifers/softwoods existing or planted at a rate of 750 to 850 trees per acre depending upon the site index (State-developed standards) with 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover.		
Western Pines (Softwoods) - Western Pines (softwoods) - Pines/softwoods existing planted at a rate of 550 to 650 per acre depending upon the site index (State-developed standards) with 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover.		
Opening for Southern and Western Pines are not to be less than a minimum of 2 acres or a maximum of 5 acres in size for fields of 20 acres and larger. For smaller fields will be based upon percentage. Opening in Northern conifers will be one-half to 2 acres in size. Opening may include buffers on the interior of the field. Field edges (borders) may be used if they are irregular in shape and average 30 feet in width. Natural regeneration of native herbaceous or shrubby vegetation with required maintenance may be permitted within open areas if it is consistent with NRCS technical standards and concurred with by State FWS or U.S. FWS Officials. Open areas of native grasses and/or shrub planting best suited for wildlife in the area shall be considered CP3 for EBI scoring and contract purposes.		50
CP3A Hardwood tree planting 2/		
Existing or planting solid stand of nonmast producing hardwood species		10
Existing or planting solid stand of a single hard mast-producing species		20
Existing or planting mixed stand of hardwood species best suited for wildlife in the area		30
Existing or planting mixed Stand (3 or more species) of hardwood species best suited for wildlife in the area		50
Existing or planting longleaf Pine or Atlantic White Cedar - Planted at rates appropriate for the site index.		50



CRP-58th GENERAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD EBI – JANUARY 2022

Table 1 – Cover Practices (CP) for the N1a Criteria—continued		Point Score
CP4D Permanent wildlife habitat		
Existing or planting mixed stand (minimum of 4 species) of grasses, trees, shrubs, forbs, or legumes planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited for various wildlife species in the area. A wildlife conservation plan must be developed with the participant.		40
Existing or planting mixed stand (minimum of 5 species) of either of predominately native species including grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs, or trees planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited to providing wildlife habitat. Only native grasses are authorized. Introduced grasses are not authorized and shall not be included in cover mixes for 50 point N1a scores for CP4D. A wildlife conservation plan must be developed with the participant.		50
CP12 Wildlife food plot <u>3</u>/		
Wildlife food plots are small non C/S plantings in a larger area. Wildlife food plots will never be the predominant cover.		NA
CP25 Rare and declining habitat restoration <u>4</u>/		
Existing stand or seeding or planting will be best suited for wildlife in the area. Plant species selections will be based upon Ecological Site Description data.		50
CP42 Pollinator habitat		
Existing stand or planting (minimum of .5 acres) of a diverse mix of multiple species suited for pollinators		50

1/ Cover that is existing or will be established must accomplish the purpose of the practice.

2/ State Conservationist may revise FOTG on planting rate to be consistent with CRP.

3/ CP12 acreage is not included in the weighted average point score. For example, a 50-acre offer with a 45-acre CP25 planting and a 5-acre food plot calculates the weighted average using only the 45 acres of CP25 planting.

45 acres x 50 points (CP25 point score) = 2250 points

2250 points divided by 45 acres = 50 points

4/ Technical practice standards for the selected habitat type must meet applicable standards and be approved by DAFP at least 30 calendar days before the beginning of signup.



CRP-58th GENERAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD EBI – JANUARY 2022

Table 2 – Practices for the N1b Criteria						Points
Establishment of pollinator habitat CP42 that remains in the location of CRP-1. The habitat size, shape, and composition must meet the following requirements.						20
Size						
CRP Acreage Offered	Habitat Size Requirement					
Less than 10 acres	At least 1 acre of pollinator habitat. Habitat areas must be at least .5 acre.					
10 acres or greater	At least 10 percent of acreage offered in pollinator habitat. Habitat areas must be at least .5 acre.					
Annual or permanent food plot (CP12) that remains in the same location for the contract length or rotated food plot for which the location changes during CRP-1 length. CP12 food plots must be consistent with NRCS FOTG up to 10 percent of a field, not to exceed 5 acres per field.						5
Example: A producer would like to enroll 200 acres. Field 1 is 120 acres, Field 2 is 45 acres, and Field 3 is 35 acres.						
Field	Size	NRCS FOTG Limit	10 Percent Limit	5 Acres	Limited CP12 Acres	
1	120	12	12 acres	5	5.0	
2	45	4.5	4.5 acres	5	4.5	
3	35	3.5	3.5 acres	5	3.5	
					13.0	
Note: CP12 the NRCS FOTG standard, is limited by the lessor of either 10 percent of the field size or 5 acres/field for the food plot. The 5 acres of food plot may be either one 5 acre food plot or 2 or more food plots where the cumulative total would be ≤5 acres.						

Note: Expiring CRP land with trees loses its cropland status after the expiration of the contract.

Table 3 – Erodibility Index Points 1/					
EI	Points	EI	Points	EI	Points
4	1	10	22	16	79
5	2	11	29	17	92
6	4	12	37	18	97
7	7	13	46	19	98
8	11	14	56	20	99
9	16	15	67	21+	100
1/ EI of less than 4 = 0 points					

Table 4 – Practices for the N4 Criteria	Points
New hardwood tree (CP3A), longleaf pines, or Atlantic White Cedar plantings or CP25 where the plant community is existing or will be established to primarily trees	50
Existing or enhanced stand of hardwood Trees, Longleaf pine, and/or Atlantic White Cedar (CP3A)	40
New pine/softwood tree (CP3)	30
CP25 where the plant community is existing or will be established to a primarily grass and/or shrub complex or CP42.	25
Existing pine/softwood tree (original contract signed as CP3)	20
All other conservation practices not listed (CP1, CP2, CP4D)	0



CRP-58th GENERAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD EBI – JANUARY 2022

Table 5 – N5d Carbon Sequestration

Practice	Points
CP3, CP3A, CP25 (primarily trees)	10
CP25 (primary grass complex), CP42	5
CP4D	4
CP1, CP2	3
CP12	0

Table 6 – N6b Offer Less than Maximum Payment Rate

Percent Below Maximum Payment Rate	N6b Points
1	2
2	4
3	6
4	8
5	10
6	12
7	14
8	16
9	18
10	20
11	21
12	22
13	23
14	24
>=15	25



MASWCD

PRESIDENT
PAUL KRABbenhOFT
Moorhead, MN
(701) 799-0369
paul.krabbenhof@maswcd.org

VICE PRESIDENT &
WC AREA 2 DIRECTOR
CHARLES RAU
Rice, MN
(320) 493-9503
chuck.rau@maswcd.org

SECRETARY/TREASURER &
SW AREA 5 DIRECTOR
CLARK LINGBEEK
Comfrey, MN
(507) 920-9884
clark.lingbeek@maswcd.org

NW AREA 1 DIRECTOR
RANDY SCHELLACK
Glyndon, MN
(701) 238-8121
randy.schellack@maswcd.org

NE AREA 3 DIRECTOR
KURT BECKSTROM
Milaca, MN
(612) 390-2459
kurt.beckstrom@maswcd.org

METRO AREA 4 DIRECTOR
DOUG SCHOENECKER
New Prague, MN
(952) 758-3435
doug.schoenecker@maswcd.org

SW AREA 5 DIRECTOR
CLARK LINGBEEK
Comfrey, MN
(507) 920-9884
clark.lingbeek@maswcd.org

SC AREA 6 DIRECTOR
MARK SCHNOBRICH
Hutchinson, MN
(320) 587-3760
mark.schnobrich@maswcd.org

SE AREA 7 DIRECTOR
RANDY SMITH
Adams, MN
(507) 438-4570
randy.smith@maswcd.org

NC AREA 8 DIRECTOR
KEN LAPORTE
Pillager, MN
(218) 746-3927
ken.laporte@maswcd.org

IMMEDIATE PAST
PRESIDENT
ROLAND CLEVELAND
North Branch, MN
(612) 978-3989
roland.cleveland@maswcd.org

STAFF
Executive Director
LEANN BUCK

Assistant Director
SHEILA VANNEY

Office Manager
STEFANIE MARTINEZ

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

255 Kellogg Boulevard East, Suite 101, St. Paul, MN 55101 | 651-690-9028 | www.maswcd.org

February 7, 2022

The Honorable Rep. Rick Hansen
Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee

Re: HF 2719 (Hansen) Conservation reserve program state incentive funding provided, and money appropriated.

Chair Hansen and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, thank you for the opportunity to provide input on HF 2719 (Hansen) Conservation reserve program state incentive funding provided, and money appropriated.

As the organization representing the state's 440 elected SWCD board members and their over 400 professional employees, MASWCD supports state incentive funding for those enrolling or re-enrolling in the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

In our more than 80-year history, SWCDs have long-established working relationships with our partners at USDA. Approximately 70 of our 88 SWCDs are co-located with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency office at the field office level.

The federal Conservation Reserve Program is an important tool for getting conservation practices on the ground, and SWCDs often work in partnership with our federal partners to reach out to landowners, to assist them with enrolling in the program, and to provide technical assistance with writing the conservation plans that accompany those enrollments.

SWCDs appreciate state efforts to help the program make better financial sense for those considering the program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheila Vanney
Assistant Director
Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts