

Additional Information

Contact any of the following for more information regarding the CRP Program:

United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency

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Alliance of Indiana Rural Water

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Indiana Department of Environmental Management: Drinking Water Branch

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Your County USDA FSA Office

Other Resources

www.fieldtofaucet.org

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CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

CONTINUOUS SIGNUP FOR CROPLAND WITHIN WELLLHEAD PROTECTION AREAS

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers safeguard environmentally sensitive land, such as Wellhead Protection Areas.



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What is CRP?

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers that would help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource conserving vegetative covers that are intended to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat.

Modified Eligibility Criteria





FSA recently modified eligibility criteria for continuous signup CRP to include lands located within state approved wellhead protection areas (WHPAs). These hydrologically delineated WHPAs include land where farming practices or other changes to the land are most likely to affect water quality in a public well.

Benefits

CRP land in WHPAs helps protect public drinking water supplies and public health. Protection of this area for municipal wells is critical to safe and clean drinking water supplies. Land enrolled in CRP is planted to resource conserving vegetative covers that provide a natural buffer around wells and help protect groundwater resources from potential contamination.

How It Works

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP signup, participants and acreage must meet certain eligibility requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA automatically accepts acreage into the CRP program. The eligibility requirements include, but are not limited to the following:

-  **Acreage must be considered cropland by FSA and be physically and legally capable of being cropped.**
-  **Acreage must be cropland that is planted to an agricultural commodity four out of six crop-years from 1996 to 2001. Some hay land may also qualify.**
-  **Acreage must be located within State approved Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA).**
-  **Producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to offering the land for enrollment.**



Cost Share Incentives

There are no special signup periods to enroll in the Wellhead Protection CRP continuous signup program. Producers may signup with their County FSA office at any time during the year. Eligible landowners may enter into a 10 to 15 year contract. In return, FSA provides CRP participants with annual rental payments, including certain incentive payments, and cost-share assistance.

Rental Payments: FSA bases rental rates on the relative productivity of the soils within each county and the average dryland cash rent.

Cost-share Assistance: FSA provides cost-share assistance to participants who establish approved cover on eligible cropland. The cost-share assistance can be an amount not more than 50% of the participants' costs in establishing the approved practice.

Other Incentives: FSA offers additional financial incentives of 10% annual rental payment for land enrolled in WHPAs.

Practice Incentive Payments: An additional 40% of the cost of practice installation is paid as an added incentive on some continuous signup practices.

Maintenance payments: CRP annual rental payments include an additional amount up to \$2 per acre per year as an incentive to perform certain maintenance obligations.

Maintenance / Management

A producer who enrolls into the Continuous CRP must agree to maintain and manage the practice according to an approved conservation plan for the duration of the CRP contract length. Maintenance includes managing for noxious weeds, pests, or other species. Management includes implementing a disturbance activity to promote dormant species succession. In addition, the participant agrees to not disturb the acreage during the primary nesting season of April 1 - August 1.

