



Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) FAQ

What is Grassland CRP?

Grassland CRP is a working lands program, available for landowners and managers across the country. The program is administered through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), providing ranchers with annual rental payments in return for conserving grazing lands according to a management plan developed with the NRCS or technical service provider and the landowner. Land may remain in production, allowing haying and grazing to continue.

How long are the contracts and how much can you earn?

Producers may enter into a 10- or 15-year contract. Landowner payments are capped at \$50,000/year for the duration of the contract. Rental rates vary by county, but have a \$13 acre minimum. They will be announced during the upcoming sign-up.

Who is eligible and what land is eligible to enroll?

Individuals, partnerships, joint ventures, estates, corporations, organizations, trusts, LLCs, limited partnerships, tribal lands, and Indian tribal ventures are eligible. Eligible land includes rangeland and pastureland for which grazing is the predominant use: tree canopy cannot exceed 5%.

How does Grassland CRP differ from traditional CRP?

Grassland CRP is a working lands program, not a land retirement program. No cropland history is required for Grassland CRP, and haying, harvesting for seed, and grazing are allowed. Cost-share for fencing and/or water development may be available through the NRCS.

What is expected of the participant enrolled in the program?

Landowners must maintain cover and keep land free of noxious and invasive weeds. Cultivation and development of land are prohibited. If the land is sold the new owner must maintain the CRP contract. The landowner/operator must follow an approved management plan, developed in consort with the NRCS. Any owner or operation changes need to be reported to the FSA.

What type of oversight will be involved in a grazing management plan and what is the purpose?

The management plan ensures working land practices (haying and grazing) to be conducted in a way that supports environmental benefits including carbon sequestration,

wildlife habitat, and erosion. When a producer offers land for Grassland CRP, they should expect to have a technical service provider (TSP), typically NRCS, in the field at least once while the conservation plan is being drafted. The TSP is required to be in the field once during the last two years of the contract to ensure that the land is still in compliance. All plans will be written to NRCS standards and specifications. Depending on the type of conservation plan that is developed, it may have different requirements. For example, in some states producers who utilize grazing on these acres are required to conduct some annual monitoring on the acres to ensure that the cover is still intact. For this reason, it's important that interested participants visit with FSA and NRCS to determine what type of actions will be required on their operation.

How are Grassland CRP applications ranked?

Applications are ranked by a series of factors outlined [here: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/crp-grasslands-signup-ranking-factors/index](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/crp-grasslands-signup-ranking-factors/index)

Does grassland CRP prevent eligibility into other federal programs?

This depends heavily on the programs. Producers may be eligible for NRCS/FSA programs which include, but are not limited to LIP, LFP, NAP, EQIP, and ACEP-ALE. Producers interested in participating in multiple USDA programs should work with their local county offices.

What is unique/new in Wyoming for Grassland-CRP as the result of the Wyoming-USDA Big Game Pilot Partnership?

The USDA's FSA has added several national and state priority zones (see map). Applications receive priority rankings in the counties where big game migrations are known to be prevalent: Carbon, Hot Springs, Lincoln, Park, Sublette, Sweetwater, Fremont, and Teton counties, see map. (Landowners outside these counties can still apply to enroll in G-CRP.) Annual payments have also increased, ranging from \$13-\$30/acre, depending on the county. Finally, adjusted gross income waivers are considered on a case-by-case basis. The USDA also enables producers to combine Grassland-CRP with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to improve range health. Example conservation practices provided through EQIP include wildlife-friendly fence conversion, invasive weed treatments, aspen regeneration, brush management, range planting, and wet meadow restoration.

Important deadlines and where to find more information?

The deadline to apply for Grassland CRP is May 26th, 2023. Go [here](#) for the FSA directory.