

For: State and County Offices

Announcing CRP Changes

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

USDA has evaluated CRP resulting in the expansion and renewal of CRP with higher payment rates, new incentives, and a bigger focus on the program’s role in climate change mitigation.

One or more of the provisions in this notice will impact all existing offers. Because of the changes in all SRR’s, all offers currently in the Conservation Online System (COLS) will be removed and the County Office must create a new offer. Further instructions will be provided after TERRA and COLS software is updated with the new SRR to process the new offers.

County Offices must discontinue the approval of continuous CRP contracts effective the date of this notice until instructions are provided in a later notice.

This notice does not apply to CRP Grasslands, CLEAR30, and Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP). Future notices will provide signup deadlines, CRP Grasslands, CLEAR30, and SHIPP policy.

B Purpose

This notice provides policy for:

- adjusted SRR
- moving State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) practices from general signup to continuous (non-CREP) signup
- Highly Erodible Land Incentive (HELI) practices now available in both continuous (non-CREP) CRP and general CRP when eligibility criteria are met

Disposal Date	Distribution
April 1, 2022	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices and NRCS State Offices

Notice CRP-929

1 Overview (Continued)

B Purpose (Continued)

- producers switching SAFE or HELI offers from general signup to continuous (non-CREP) signup
- new incentive and payment rates.

2 Adjustments to SRR's

A Adjustment to the Soil Productivity Index (SPI) Range

Currently, county rental rates are only adjusted downward for lower productivity soils (50-100 percent of the county rental rate). FSA will adjust all county rental rates to reflect a SPI range of 0.5-1.5 (50-150 percent of the county rental rate). The SPI is used along with the NRCS National Commodity Crop Productivity Index to normalize the county rental rate by soil within each county. As a consequence, virtually all SRR's will change either upward or downward. See Exhibit 1 for CRP payment and incentive comparison tables.

B Additional One-Time 10 Percent Inflationary Adjustment

FSA will increase the county rental rate by a one-time 10 percent "inflationary" adjustment for the life of the contract. This inflationary adjustment will be set at contract start and be factored into the SRR.

C SRR Calculation

The following table provides an example of calculated general CRP signup SRR's using the SPI.

State	County	NASS Rate	Map Unit Symbol	10 Percent Inflationary Incentive	Rate With Inflationary Incentive	General CRP Signup – 85 Percent <u>1/</u>	SPI	SPI Adjusted SRR <u>1/</u>
Any State	Any County	\$100	ADC1	\$10	\$110	\$94	1.50	\$141
Any State	Any County	\$100	ADC2	\$10	\$110	\$94	1.25	\$118
Any State	Any County	\$100	CR1	\$10	\$110	\$94	1.00	\$94
Any State	Any County	\$100	PVa	\$10	\$110	\$94	.75	\$71
Any State	Any County	\$100	PVb	\$10	\$110	\$94	.50	\$47

1/ Rounded to whole dollars.

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2 Adjustments to SRR's (Continued)

C SRR Calculation (Continued)

The following table provides an example of calculated continuous CRP signup SRR's using the SPI.

State	County	NASS Rate	Map Unit Symbol	10 Percent Inflationary Incentive	Rate With Inflationary Incentive	Continuous CRP Signup - 90 Percent	SPI	SPI Adjusted SRR <u>1/</u>
Any State	Any County	\$100	ADC1	\$10	\$110	\$99	1.50	\$149
Any State	Any County	\$100	ADC2	\$10	\$110	\$99	1.25	\$124
Any State	Any County	\$100	CR1	\$10	\$110	\$99	1.00	\$99
Any State	Any County	\$100	PVa	\$10	\$110	\$99	.75	\$75
Any State	Any County	\$100	PVb	\$10	\$110	\$99	.50	\$50

1/ Rounded to whole dollars.

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3 Policy for Moving SAFE From General CRP Signup to Continuous CRP Signup

A SAFE Policy Change

All general CRP signup SAFE practices that are in an approved SAFE project area will be moved from general CRP signup to continuous CRP signup.

B SAFE Practices

SAFE is limited to the following practices that are based on applicable CRP practices listed in the following table.

SAFE Practice	Practice Type	Applicable CRP Practices
CP38A	Buffers	CP8A, CP15A, CP15B, CP21, CP22, CP33, CP43
CP38B	Wetlands	CP9, CP23, CP23A, CP25, CP27, CP28, CP37
CP38C	Trees	CP3, CP3A, CP16A, CP17A, CP25, CP31
CP38D	Longleaf Pine	CP36
CP38E	Grass	CP1, CP2, CP4D, CP12, CP18B, CP18C, CP24, CP25, CP42

The applicable CRP practice being used with a SAFE practice may be referred to as the subpractice or supporting practice.

C Contract Effective Date

The effective date of CRP-1 is October 1, 2021.

D Incentives

Signup incentive payments (SIP's) and practice incentive payments (PIP's) are authorized for SAFE practices.

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4 Policy for Accepting HELI Offers Under Continuous Signup

A Accepting HELI Offers Under Continuous CRP

Currently, HELI practices are available in general CRP only. HELI practices will be available in both continuous CRP and general CRP when the eligibility criteria are met.

B HELI in Continuous CRP

HELI offers a continuous signup to establish long-term cover on highly erodible cropland that has a weighted EI greater than or equal to 20 that will reduce:

- erosion to below the soil loss tolerance level that will assist in maintaining the long-term productivity of the land
- off-site adverse impacts to water quality
- adverse impacts to hydrology by changing the land use, including reducing potential adverse flood impacts associated with severe storm events
- adverse impacts commonly associated with wind borne soil, including impacts to human health and property damage associated with severe dust storms.

C Eligible Land

Eligible cropland for HELI must:

- be cropland according to 2-CRP, paragraph 151
- have a weighted EI of 20 or greater for the offered acreage
- be needed and feasible to solve the resource concern, as determined by NRCS or TSP according to 2-CRP, subparagraph 181 A.

Notes: The producer may enroll a field(s) or a portion of a field provided the weighted average EI (wind or water) for all land offered is greater than or equal to 20 based on the 3 predominant soils (determined by TERRA).

Existing grass stands that are **not** currently enrolled in CRP are **not** eligible. Consistent with the statute and criteria for all other continuous signup practices, expiring CRP acreage is eligible for re-enrollment and, therefore, automatically meets the needed and feasible eligibility requirements.

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4 Policy for Accepting HELI Offers Under Continuous Signup (Continued)

D Eligible Practices

The following practices are eligible for HELI:

- CP1
- CP2
- CP3
- CP3A
- CP4D
- CP25.

Note: CP12 is not an eligible practice associated with any HELI practice. Covers on new offers or expiring CRP land must meet the minimum N1A EBI point value listed in 2-CRP, Exhibit 26 for the applicable practice. Expiring CP10 or CP11 may be offered as the appropriate practice provided the cover meets the N1A EBI point value.

Example: An applicant has land that has a weighted average EI of 22. The land is not currently enrolled in CRP. The land meets the cropping history requirements of 2-CRP, paragraph 151. The practice is determined needed and feasible by NRCS or TSP. The producer is offering to install a CP1. The cover must be a minimum of 2 to 3 species of an introduced grass.

E Incentives

SIP's, PIP's, and per acre rental rate incentives are authorized.

F Contract Effective Date

The effective date of CRP-1 is October 1, 2021.

G Continuous Signup Number

For acreage enrolled in CRP under HELI, County Offices shall use the current continuous signup number.

Note: Continuous signup numbers change the beginning of every FY.

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5 Policy for Climate-Smart Practice Incentive for General CRP and Continuous (Non-CREP) CRP

A Climate-Smart Practice Incentive

A new climate-smart practice incentive for CRP practices that increase carbon sequestration, reduce GHG emissions, and otherwise mitigate climate change. Practices include establishment of trees and permanent grasses, development of wildlife habitat, and wetland restoration.

The incentive amount will be based on the estimated benefits of each practice type. See Exhibit 2 for the list of practices and incentive amount. Contract lengths may change for practices that include trees.

6 Policy for Continuous (Non-CREP) Signup 55 Incentives

A Continuous, Non-CREP PIP

All signup 55 non-CREP continuous practices listed in Exhibit 3, except CP12, are eligible for a PIP. PIP is an incentive payment made to an eligible CRP participant who certifies completion of the installation of a major component or CRP practice. The new signup 55 PIP rate will apply to all offers that have not been approved when the software changes are deployed.

If the non-CREP continuous signup 55 CRP-1 is approved...	THEN the PIP rate is...
before software enhancements	20 percent of actual cost of establishment, except when limited to the original amount obligated (20 percent multiplied by the approved C/S amount multiplied by 2).
after software enhancements	50 percent of actual cost of establishment, except when limited to the original amount obligated (50 percent multiplied by the approved C/S amount multiplied by 2).

Note: PIP is applicable to land offered under infeasible-to-farm provisions.

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6 Policy for Continuous (Non-CREP) Signup 55 Incentives (Continued)

B Per Acre Annual Rental Rate Incentive for Water Quality

A per acre annual rental rate incentive of 20 percent will be added to the weighted average SRR for CLEAR (water quality) continuous (non-CREP) practices offered once software enhancements are deployed. Exhibit 4 provides the list of CLEAR (water quality) continuous (non-CREP) practices that will be eligible for the annual rental rate incentive.

If the non-CREP continuous signup 55 CRP-1 for CLEAR (water quality) practices is approved...	THEN the annual rental rate incentive per acre is...
before software enhancements	10 percent.
after software enhancements	20 percent.

C SIP – No Change

According to 2-CRP, subparagraph 197 A, all signup 55 non-CREP continuous offers for new land are eligible for SIP. SIP is a one-time incentive payment equal to 32.5 percent of the first full year (12 months) annual rental payment. SIP is applicable to new land offered under infeasible-to-farm provisions. SIP payments may be made in Conservation Payments based on the calculated amount on the Enrollment Information Report from COLS according to instructions in 4-CRP.

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6 Policy for Continuous (Non-CREP) Signup 55 Incentives (Continued)

D Maintenance Incentive Rates – No Change

According to 2-CRP, subparagraph 196 C, maintenance rates for the applicable practices are authorized for land offered under infeasible-to-farm provisions.

The following table provides the practices for which a per acre maintenance rate applies and the applicable per acre maintenance rate limit.

IF the practice is...	AND it includes...	THEN the maintenance rate is...
CP21, CP21B, CP21S, CP29, or CP30	no fencing or water facility development	\$0.
	permanent fencing with no water facility development or no permanent fencing with a water facility	\$5.
	permanent fencing and water facility development	\$10.
CP22, CP22B, or CP22S	no fencing or water facility development	\$2.
	permanent fencing with no water facility development or no permanent fencing with a water facility	\$5.
	permanent fencing and water facility development	\$10.

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7 Outreach

A Outreach Responsibilities

Acting SED's, STC's, State outreach coordinators, DD's, and COC's will ensure that applicable County Offices:

- notify producers of new CRP provisions and signup deadlines using all available sources
- share stakeholder toolkit with local and State stakeholder organizations
- conduct approved outreach activities educating the public of CRP provisions.

Outreach activities may include virtual webinars, CRP presentations with stakeholders, and telephone calls with State and local stakeholder organizations.

Program outreach materials are available on the FSA Outreach Intranet site at <https://inside.fsa.usda.gov/operations/office-of-outreach/program-toolkits/index>.

B Outreach Reporting

At the conclusion of all activities with stakeholder organizations and the general public, County Office outreach coordinators will ensure that only non-media related CRP outreach activities are entered into the Outreach Tracking Information System (OTIS) at <https://ems.fpac.usda.gov/OTIS/Outreach/home.aspx> according to the following:

- enter eligible planned outreach activity
- select "FSA Program: CRP".

Note: Results are required to be entered after the conclusion of the actual activity.

Employees should contact the State outreach coordinator with questions about eligible outreach entries for OTIS.

8 Action

A State Office Action

State Offices will:

- follow the provisions of this notice
- ensure that County Offices follow the provisions in this notice.

B County Office Action

County Offices must:

- follow the provisions of this notice
- submit questions to the State Office.

CRP Payment and Incentive Comparison Tables

1. Change in Payment and Incentive Rates

The following table provides the changes in CRP payments and incentive rates.

Type of Payment or Incentive	Current	New
Soil Productivity Index	0.5-1.0	0.5-1.5
SRR Inflationary Adjustment	0	10 percent
PIP - statutory	20 percent	50 percent
SRR Incentive - Water Quality)	10 percent	20 percent
SRR Incentive - Climate Smart Incentive (varies by practice)	0	3, 5, or 10 percent

Note: The Soil Productivity Index and SRR Inflationary Adjustment are the only changes that apply to all CREP offers.

2. Comparison of Payment and Incentives

The following table provides a comparison of payments and incentives between general CRP and continuous (non-CREP) CRP.

Type of Payment or Incentive	General CRP	Continuous (non-CREP) CRP
SRR Reduction - statutory	85 percent	90 percent
Max Payment Rate	\$240	\$300
Soil Productivity Index	0.5-1.5	0.5-1.5
SRR Inflationary Adjustment (10 percent)	Yes	Yes
SIP - statutory (32.5 percent)	No	Yes
PIP - statutory (50%)	No	Yes
Maintenance Incentive Rate (varies by practice)	No	Yes
SRR Incentive - Water Quality (20 percent)	No	Yes
SRR Incentive - Climate Smart Incentive (varies by practice)	Yes	Yes

Per Acre Annual Rental Rate Climate Smart Incentive for General CRP and Continuous (Non-CREP) CRP

The following table provides the Per Acre Rental Rate Climate Smart Incentive for general CRP and continuous (non-CREP) CRP.

Per Acre Rental Rate Incentive Percent	Practice Code	Description	Cover Type (Predominant)
5	CP1	Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes	Grass and Legume
3	CP2	Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses	Grass
10	CP3	Tree Planting	Woody Biomass
10	CP3A	Hardwood Tree Planting	Woody Biomass
3	CP4D	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Grass
10	CP5A	Field Windbreak Establishment	Woody Biomass
3	CP8A	Grassed Waterway	Grass
3	CP9	Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife	Grass
5	CP15A	Establishment of Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips)	Grass and Legume
5	CP15B	Establishment of Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips, on Terraces)	Grass and Legume
10	CP16A	Shelterbelt Establishment	Woody Biomass
10	CP17A	Living Snow Fences	Woody Biomass
3	CP18B	Establishment of Permanent Vegetation to Reduce Salinity	Grass
3	CP 18C	Establishment of Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover	Grass
3	CP21	Filter Strips	Grass
10	CP22	Riparian Buffer	Woody Biomass
3	CP23	Wetland Restoration	Wetland (aquatic or emergent)
3	CP23A	Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain	Wetland (aquatic or emergent)
5	CP24	Cross Wind Trap Strips	Grass and Legume
10	CP25	Rare and Declining Habitat	Woody Biomass
3	CP27	Farmable Wetland Pilot Wetland	Grass
3	CP28	Farmable Wetland Pilot Wetland Buffer	Grass
5	CP29	Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer	Grass and Legume
3	CP30	Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer	Grass
10	CP31	Bottomland Timber Establishment of Wetlands	Woody Biomass
5	CP33	Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds	Grass and Legume
10	CP36	Longleaf Pine - Establishment	Woody Biomass
3	CP 37	Duck Nesting Habitat	Grass and wetland
-	CP38A-E	State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)	Dependent on the specific CP within the project
3	CP39	Constructed Wetland	Wetland (aquatic or emergent)
3	CP40	FWP Aquaculture Wetland Restoration	Wetland (aquatic or emergent)
3	CP41	FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland	Grass
5	CP42	Pollinator	Grass and Legume
5	CP43	Prairie Strips	Grass and Legume

Continuous (Non-CREP) CRP Signup 55 Eligible Practices

The following table provides eligible practices under continuous (non-CREP) CRP signup 55.

Practice	Title
CP1 <u>1/</u>	Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes
CP2 <u>1/</u>	Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
CP3 <u>1/</u>	Tree Planting
CP3A <u>1/</u>	Hardwood Tree Planting
CP4D <u>1/</u>	Permanent Wildlife Habitat
CP5A	Field Windbreak Establishment
CP8A	Grass Waterways, Non-easement
CP9	Shallow Water Area for Wildlife
CP12 <u>2/</u>	Wildlife Food Plot
CP15A	Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips)
CP15B	Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips), on Terraces
CP16A	Shelterbelt Establishment
CP17A	Living Snow Fences
CP18B	Establishment of Permanent Vegetation to Reduce Salinity
CP18C	Establishment of Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover
CP21	Filter Strips
CP21B	Denitrifying Bioreactor on Filter Strips
CP21S	Saturated Filter Strips
CP22	Riparian Buffer
CP22B	Denitrifying Bioreactor on Riparian Buffers
CP22S	Saturated Riparian Buffer
CP23	Wetland Restoration on Floodplain
CP23A	Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain
CP24	Cross Wind Trap Strips
CP25 <u>3/</u>	Rare and Declining Habitat
CP27	Farmable Wetlands Pilot Wetland
CP28	Farmable Wetland Pilot Buffer
CP29	Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer
CP30	Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer
CP31	Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands
CP33	Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds
CP36	Longleaf Pine – Establishment
CP37	Duck Nesting Habitat
CP38A	SAFE Buffers
CP38B	SAFE Wetlands
CP38C	SAFE Trees
CP38D	SAFE Long Leaf Pine
CP38E	SAFE Grasses
CP39	FWP Constructed Wetland
CP40	FWP Aquaculture Wetland Restoration
CP41	FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland
CP42	Pollinator Habitat
CP43	Prairie Strip

1/ Wellhead Protection Area Provisions and HELI only.

2/ Practice is not eligible for C/S or PIP.

3/ HELI only.

CLEAR (Water Quality) Practices Under Continuous (Non-CREP) CRP Signup 55

The following table provides eligible CLEAR (water quality) practices under continuous (non-CREP) CRP signup 55.

Practice	Title
CP8A	Grass Waterways
CP15A	Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips)
CP15B	Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips), on Terraces
CP21	Filter Strips
CP21B	Denitrifying Bioreactor on Filter Strips
CP21S	Saturated Filter Strips
CP22	Riparian Buffer
CP22B	Denitrifying Bioreactor on Riparian Buffers
CP22S	Saturated Riparian Buffer
CP23	Wetland Restoration on Floodplain
CP23A	Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain
CP27	Farmable Wetlands Pilot Wetland
CP28	Farmable Wetland Pilot Buffer
CP29	Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer
CP30	Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer
CP31	Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands
CP37	Duck Nesting Habitat
CP38A	SAFE Buffers
CP38B	SAFE Wetlands
CP39	FWP Constructed Wetland
CP40	FWP Aquaculture Wetland Restoration
CP41	FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland
CP43	Prairie Strip