



Farm  
Production  
and  
Conservation

June 1, 2018

Farm  
Service  
Agency

Dear CRP Participant:

1400 Independence  
Ave, SW  
Washington, DC  
20250  
Mail Stop 0513

Thank you for being part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Our records show that one or more of your CRP contract(s) expires on September 30, 2018. CRP continues to experience record demand while having a lower acreage cap. No CRP General Signup will be offered this year. Continuous signup will restart beginning June 4, 2018. You may consider the following options for your expiring general or continuous signup CRP contract(s):

Both  
CRP  
contracts  
now  
expire  
in  
2019

- X 1. **1-Year Extension:** If you have an expiring general or continuous CRP contract (excluding CREP), that is 14 years or less, you may submit a request to extend the expiration for an additional year under the same terms and conditions as your expiring contract(s), including the per acre rental rate. Contracts 15 years in length are not eligible for an extension, but may be eligible for a combination of the other options described below. The sign-up period for the 1-year extension is **June 4, 2018, through August 17, 2018.**
- 2. **Continuous Enrollment/Re-enrollment or CRP Grasslands:** All or a portion of your acreage may be eligible for enrollment in a continuous CRP contract or CRP Grasslands Program. If you plan to return a portion of your land to production, important conservation benefits may still be achieved by re-enrolling sensitive acres such as buffers or wetlands. Offers for the next CRP Grasslands ranking period must be submitted no later than **August 17, 2018.** Offers for continuous enrollment will be considered on a first come-first serve basis, so submit your offer as soon as you can, but no later than **August 17, 2018.** Only selected practices are available under continuous enrollment. If enrollment demand is high, some offers may not be accepted because of the 24 million acre cap. The effective start date of the new contract would be October 1, 2018.
- 3. **Transition Incentives Program (TIP):** If you are not planning to farm the land from the expiring contract yourself, TIP may provide you two additional annual rental payments on the condition you sell or rent your land to a beginning farmer or rancher or a member of a socially disadvantaged group. New landowners or renters are required to use sustainable grazing or farming methods as they return the land to production. TIP offers a way to create new farming opportunities while continuing conservation efforts. TIP is not applicable to contracts under a CREP. If you are interested in TIP, contact your local FSA office no later than **August 17, 2018.**
- 4. **Contract Expiration.** If you do nothing, your CRP contract will expire. You will receive your final payment in October of 2018. You may plant, graze, or hay the acreage after September 30, 2018. Since CRP land typically does not have a recent history of pesticide or herbicide application, the land may be valuable for organic production. Prior to contract expiration, you should visit your local FSA office and review the current crop acreage base re-instatement provisions. Before planting, check with FSA or Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to see if your land may be subject to conservation and wetland compliance provisions.
- 5. **Conservation Easements or Working Lands Programs.** CRP land may transition into conservation easements to provide longer term benefits. NRCS's Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) or state or private easement programs may be an option. If you are planning to convert your CRP land to agriculture use, USDA's working lands programs, including FSA's CRP Grasslands, NRCS's Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) or the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) may be available to address your resource needs. In many cases, a combination of approaches can be taken on the same parcel. For example, riparian areas or other sensitive parts of a parcel may be enrolled in continuous CRP and the remaining land that is returned to farming can participate in CSP and even receive additional ranking points.

Please contact your local USDA Service Center, or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp> to explore your options.

Sincerely,

  
Richard Fordyce  
Administrator