



Farm Service
Agency

The Conservation Reserve Program: 45th Signup Results



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INFORMATION

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PHOTO CREDITS

Front Cover Photos: Upper left, *American black bear*, US Fish & Wildlife Service; Upper center, *Karner blue butterfly*, US Fish & Wildlife Service; *Northern bobwhite quail*, US Fish & Wildlife Service; Center left, *Native grass filter strip on Minnesota farm*, USDA; Center right, *Iowa native prairie in a CRP field*, USDA; Center bottom, *Wyoming CRP land*, USDA; Lower left, *Ring-neck pheasant*, US Fish & Wildlife Service; Lower right, *New England cottontail*, US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Photos made available by US Fish & Wildlife Service and USDA.



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

SEP - 6 2013

Dear Friend of Conservation:

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) continues to thrive 27 years after its authorization in the 1985 Farm Bill and to provide environmental and economic benefits through partnerships with our Nation's farmers and ranchers. CRP has evolved from primarily an erosion control initiative to a multifaceted program that continues to reduce soil erosion (now by a total of more than 8 billion tons) and also provides habitat for wildlife, restores wetlands (currently more than 2 million acres), and removes hundreds of millions of tons of carbon dioxide from the air each year.

Tens of millions of acres of grasses, trees, and wetlands have been restored by CRP while providing measureable environmental impacts on both a local and a national scale. These enrolled lands provide water quality protection, enhance wildlife habitat, and maintain soil productivity. CRP benefits not only farmers and ranchers and their local communities but also suburban and urban residents by protecting water supplies and improving the air quality of many major cities. In addition, the program provides numerous recreational benefits to Americans in the form of wildlife hunting and viewing.

CRP continues to promote partnerships with local and State conservation authorities through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Currently, 46 CREP agreements in 33 states are at work to help improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, aid in flood control, enhance wildlife habitat, and protect sensitive watersheds.

The 2013 announcement of the 45th CRP signup builds on a 27-year legacy of cooperative conservation and continues to help our Nation's farmers and ranchers contribute to a healthy environment and a sound agricultural economy. I hope this report will provide you with a greater appreciation of the ways in which farmers and ranchers are using conservation programs to conserve and protect America's greatest treasure—our precious natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Vilsack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" and last name "Vilsack" clearly legible.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

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CRP Overview

Background

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary conservation program available to agricultural producers to help assist them in enhancing environmentally sensitive lands. Producers enrolled in the CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers such as introduced or native grasses or trees to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat.

In return, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance for 10 to 15 years.

CRP has a 27 year legacy of successfully protecting the Nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States. In 2012, as a result of CRP, nitrogen and phosphorous losses from farm fields were reduced by 605 million pounds and 121 million pounds, respectively. CRP has restored more than 2 million acres of wetlands and associated buffers and reduces soil erosion by more than 300 million tons per year.

CRP also provides about \$2 billion annually to landowners—dollars that make their way into local economies, supporting small businesses and creating jobs. In addition, CRP sequesters more carbon dioxide than any other conservation program on private lands. By placing vulnerable cropland into conservation, CRP sequesters carbon in plants and soil, and reduces both fuel and fertilizer usage. Yearly, CRP results in carbon sequestration equal to taking almost 10 million cars off the road.

The 45th CRP Signup

On February 13, 2013, USDA Secretary, Tom Vilsack, announced that a CRP general signup would begin on May 20, 2013, and continue through June 14, 2013. Vilsack also announced the restart of sign-up for continuous CRP from May 13 through September 30, 2013.

Eligibility Criteria

For land to be eligible for general signup, it must be:

- Cropland that has been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity 4 of the 6 years between 2002 and 2007; and
- Physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

Note: Alfalfa or other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation, not to exceed 12 years, also may be eligible.

Also, cropland must meet one of the following criteria:

- Have a weighted average Erodibility Index of eight or greater;
- Be expiring CRP; or
- Be located in a national or State conservation priority area.



CEPD, USDA.

CRP Overview

Rental and Cost Share Payments

CRP rental rates are based on local dryland cash rental rates. Producers may offer land at these rates or may offer a lower rental rate to increase the likelihood that their offer will be acceptable.

CRP cost share assistance is available to eligible participants in an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the eligible costs of establishing the approved practice.

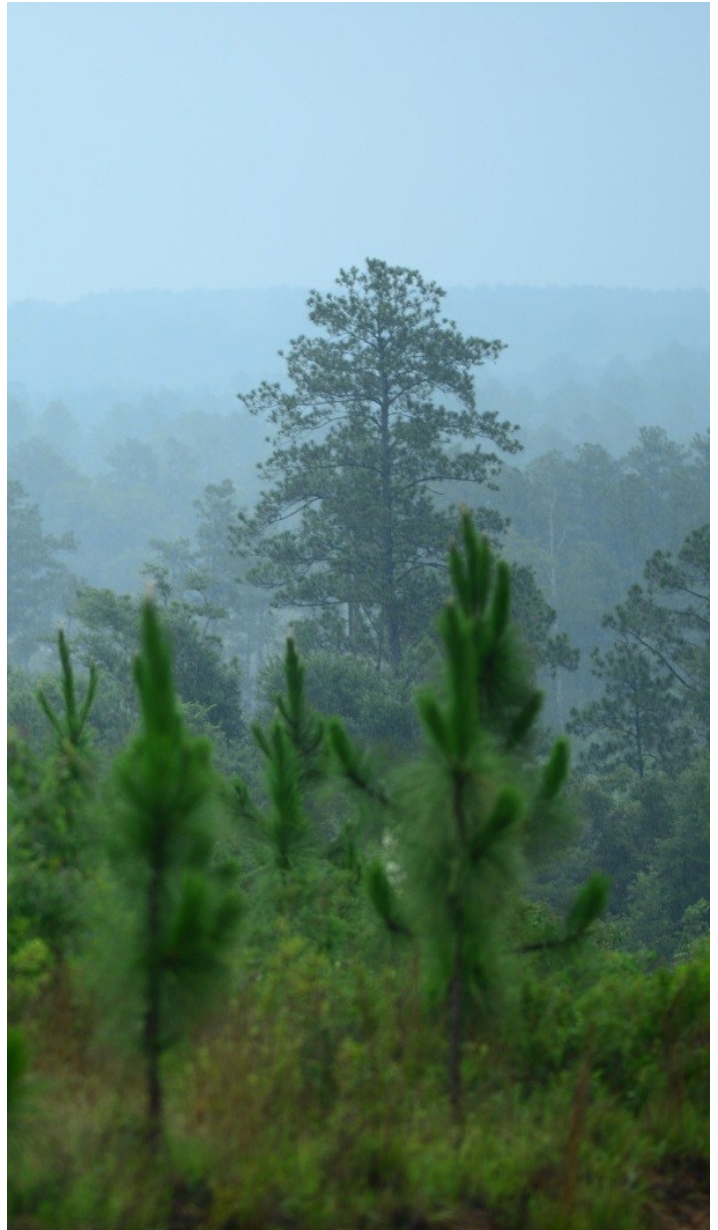
General Signup

Offers are evaluated and ranked using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) based on the environmental benefits expected to accrue if the land is enrolled in the CRP.

Use of the EBI ensures that the most environmentally sensitive lands relative to cost are selected and that all offers are considered fairly.

The six EBI factors are:

- N1, Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits;
- N2, Water Quality Benefits From Reduced Erosion, Runoff and Leaching;
- N3, On-Farm Benefits of Reduced Erosion;
- N4, Enduring Benefits;
- N5, Air Quality Benefits; and
- N6, Cost.

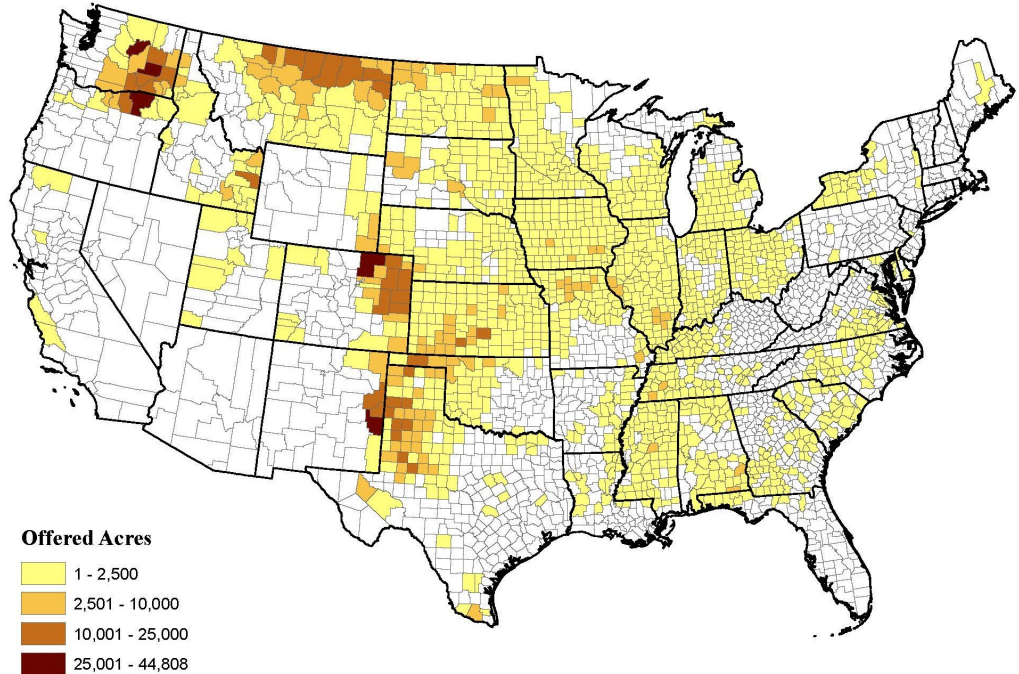


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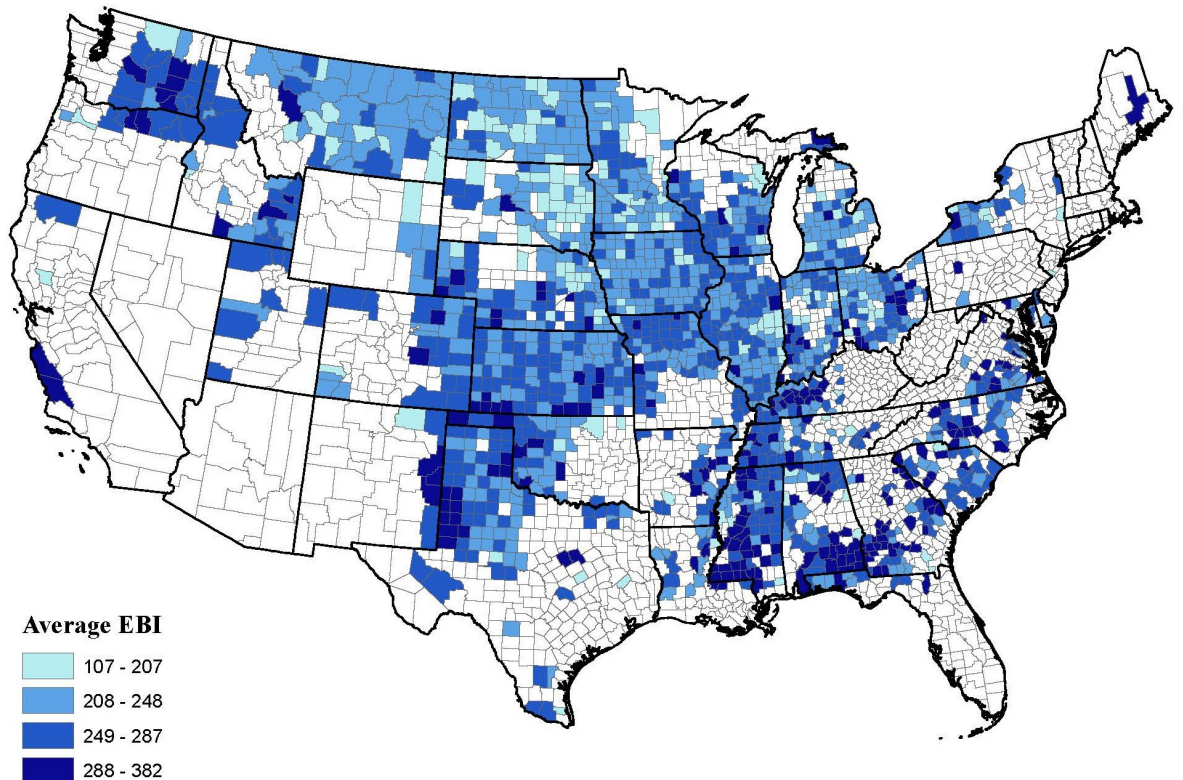
The 45th CRP Signup Results

Offered Acres

FSA received 27,821 offers to enroll about 1.9 million acres



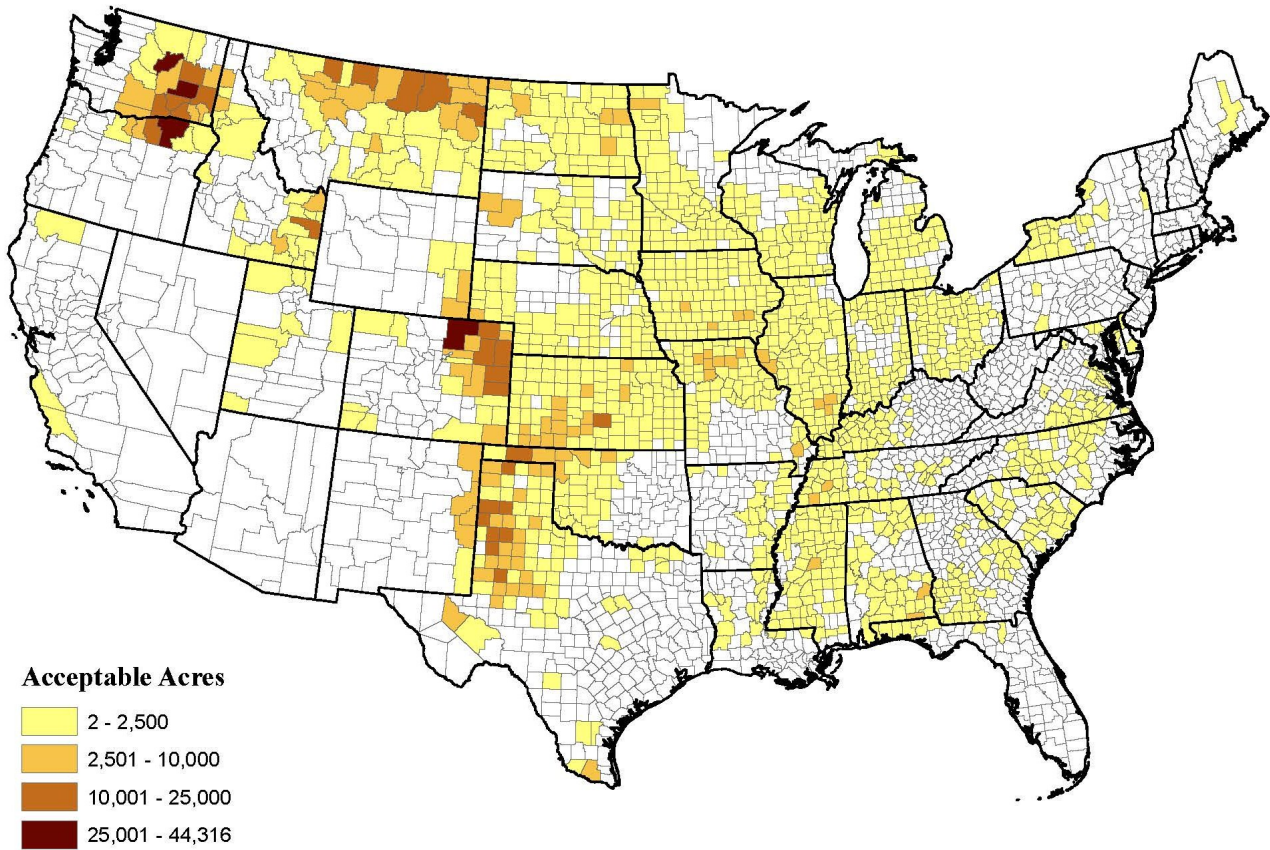
Average EBI Score



The 45th CRP Signup Results

Acceptable Acres

About 1.68 million acres on 24,213 offers were acceptable.



The 45th CRP Signup Results

Table 1 - Offers Received, Acceptable Offers, and CRP Acreage							
STATE	Offers Received	Acceptable Offers	Offered Acres	Acceptable Acres	Enrollment June 2013	Expiring 9/30/2013	Oct. 2013 Enrollment before Continuous 1/
US	27,821	24,213	1,906,945	1,684,030	26,928,725	3,301,942	25,310,813
ALABAMA	655	637	24,256	23,482	326,247	35,298	314,432
ALASKA	0	0	0	0	17992	50	17942
ARKANSAS	163	148	7748	7105	239361	15024	231441
CALIFORNIA	12	11	3,482	3,360	91,088	7,863	86,586
COLORADO	1125	1038	183,629	169,503	2,074,788	223,478	2,020,813
CONNECTICUT	0	0	0	0	69	10	58
DELAWARE	3	3	66	66	6326	317	6075
FLORIDA	116	92	3884	3285	46605	6135	43755
GEORGIA	318	295	11,899	11,004	310,531	15,605	305,930
HAWAII	0	0	0	0	498	0	498
IDAHO	418	394	53118	50187	615998	67092	599092
ILLINOIS	3,922	3,299	86,838	73,296	994,285	186,252	881,328
INDIANA	608	521	12,112	10,421	264,026	47,542	226,905
IOWA	2,145	1,824	55,051	47,418	1,529,457	183,857	1,393,018
KANSAS	2,207	2,017	156,706	146,152	2,364,589	213,345	2,297,395
KENTUCKY	385	351	11,356	10,662	301,783	34,715	277,730
LOUISIANA	111	101	6,479	5,955	313,533	23,632	295,857
MAINE	8	6	194	167	9,201	433	8,935
MARYLAND	18	16	253	248	75,284	9,911	65,622
MASSACHUSETTS	0	0	0	0	10	0	10
MICHIGAN	548	419	14329	10961	209033	43375	176619
MINNESOTA	1,271	985	32,967	25,609	1,387,909	128,869	1,284,649
MISSISSIPPI	819	765	39,724	37,838	779,168	64,620	752,386
MISSOURI	2,048	1,961	82,933	80,323	1,128,454	183,541	1,025,236
MONTANA	967	747	185,506	145,576	1,996,816	365,452	1,776,940
NEBRASKA	1,035	828	45,838	39,908	892,505	95,759	836,653
NEVADA	0	0	0	0	*	**	**
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0	0	0	0	13	0	13
NEW JERSEY	1	0	22	0	2218	177	2041
NEW MEXICO	277	91	61,042	19,476	416,146	9,822	425,800
NEW YORK	47	38	1,154	929	47,645	4,023	44,551
NORTH CAROLINA	194	167	4,028	3,622	106,278	7,745	102,154
NORTH DAKOTA	1,055	731	71,114	49,406	1,791,056	254,773	1,585,689
OHIO	556	468	12,455	10,009	317,697	54,620	273,087
OKLAHOMA	575	526	60,060	55,674	787,223	74,861	768,035
OREGON	348	337	59,831	59,519	544,583	56,437	547,664
PENNSYLVANIA	4	4	66	66	186,404	13,601	172,868
PUERTO RICO	0	0	0	0	1,049	0	1,049
RHODE ISLAND	0	0	0	0	*	**	**
SOUTH CAROLINA	107	96	3,057	2,797	122,139	14,549	110,387
SOUTH DAKOTA	261	146	19,493	14,837	975,105	105,141	884,801
TENNESSEE	771	749	24,910	24,555	176,831	50,954	150,433
TEXAS	2,226	2,091	333,192	312,389	3,261,730	361,727	3,212,393
UTAH	48	46	6,754	6,332	177,168	4,986	178,514
VERMONT	0	0	0	0	2,833	0	2,833
VIRGINIA	130	115	2,509	2,319	58,931	4,639	56,611
WASHINGTON	1,349	1,322	201,399	198,149	1,457,761	253,487	1,402,423
WEST VIRGINIA	0	0	0	0	6,310	179	6,131
WISCONSIN	903	777	14328	12049	318157	72601	257605
WYOMING	67	51	13,160	9,375	195,718	5,444	199,650

1/ Not including continuous signup enrollment between July and September 2013.

* Data withheld to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

The 45th CRP Signup Results

Table 2 - Description of Signup 45 Acceptable Acres

STATE NAME	Expiring Sept. 2013 (Acres)	New Lands (Acres) 1/	Average Rental Payment (\$/Acre)	Total Rental Payment (\$/Year)	Average EBI Score	
					without cost	with cost
NATIONAL	1,369,369	314,661	\$64.28	\$108,253,928	174	268
ALABAMA	22,400	1,082	\$54.50	\$1,279,767	205	303
ARKANSAS	6,330	775	\$69.64	\$494,750	193	286
CALIFORNIA	490	2,871	\$49.61	\$166,688	203	311
COLORADO	141,604	27,899	\$35.94	\$6,092,421	153	263
DELAWARE	39	27	\$84.00	\$5,569	163	265
FLORIDA	3,285	0	\$65.28	\$214,454	166	260
GEORGIA	9,967	1,037	\$71.85	\$790,643	218	305
IDAHO	40,693	9,494	\$55.53	\$2,786,883	167	270
ILLINOIS	67,018	6,278	\$158.40	\$11,610,150	209	255
INDIANA	9,497	924	\$141.83	\$1,478,012	206	259
IOWA	39,013	8,405	\$193.62	\$9,180,906	232	252
KANSAS	121,706	24,446	\$54.92	\$8,026,041	170	268
KENTUCKY	9,507	1,155	\$154.21	\$1,644,169	249	289
LOUISIANA	5,679	277	\$59.79	\$356,094	164	266
MAINE	156	11	\$28.61	\$4,767	175	293
MARYLAND	186	62	\$112.94	\$28,031	183	252
MICHIGAN	10,210	751	\$111.05	\$1,217,120	176	248
MINNESOTA	21,137	4,472	\$114.23	\$2,925,220	185	252
MISSISSIPPI	36,284	1,554	\$64.09	\$2,424,852	191	289
MISSOURI	70,946	9,377	\$123.59	\$9,927,283	203	259
MONTANA	101,563	44,013	\$32.00	\$4,658,171	132	243
NEBRASKA	26,973	12,936	\$94.20	\$3,759,273	204	276
NEW MEXICO	3,948	15,529	\$31.99	\$622,996	210	333
NEW YORK	836	93	\$53.15	\$49,368	158	254
NORTH CAROLINA	3,367	255	\$63.89	\$231,403	175	269
NORTH DAKOTA	32,867	16,539	\$52.66	\$2,601,856	143	242
OHIO	9,328	682	\$112.32	\$1,124,287	191	260
OKLAHOMA	49,458	6,216	\$35.79	\$1,992,576	165	278
OREGON	47,296	12,223	\$74.87	\$4,456,078	199	288
PENNSYLVANIA	66	0	\$27.39	\$1,802	167	276
SOUTH CAROLINA	2,749	48	\$34.84	\$97,465	157	273
SOUTH DAKOTA	12,620	2,217	\$56.66	\$840,626	152	258
TENNESSEE	23,260	1,295	\$106.03	\$2,603,674	206	276
TEXAS	238,082	74,307	\$33.28	\$10,394,884	158	270
UTAH	4,522	1,810	\$34.95	\$221,339	161	267
VIRGINIA	2,160	158	\$39.61	\$91,841	172	278
WASHINGTON	180,511	17,638	\$61.20	\$12,127,649	185	285
WISCONSIN	11,009	1,041	\$119.83	\$1,443,869	198	266
WYOMING	2,608	6,767	\$29.97	\$280,951	121	244

1/ Includes land that may have been in CRP in the past.

The 45th CRP Signup Results

Table 3 - Description of Signup 45 Acceptable Acres

STATE NAME	Average Erodibility Index (EI)	Highly Erodible (Acres)	National Priority Area (Acres)	State Priority Area (Acres)	Rare and Declining Habitat (Acres)	Permanent Wildlife Habitat (Acres)	Pollinator Habitat Offers	Pollinator Habitat (Acres)
NATIONAL	16	1,418,108	278,716	841,883	68,702	175,194	1,080	10,010
ALABAMA	19	22,300	19,988	5,405	0	85	0	0
ARKANSAS	18	5,531	0	5,160	0	329	0	0
CALIFORNIA	15	1,799	0	3,360	0	589	0	0
COLORADO	15	165,691	0	40,158	0	34,226	129	2,429
DELAWARE	5	0	66	0	0	27	0	0
FLORIDA	12	2,480	3,285	0	0	0	0	0
GEORGIA	13	9,119	10,297	428	0	316	0	0
IDAHO	31	48,065	0	21,351	0	6,484	26	611
ILLINOIS	22	67,552	0	30,024	33	9,092	164	476
INDIANA	20	8,087	3,427	2,818	0	987	34	78
IOWA	25	46,069	6,705	14,209	9,724	3,753	73	356
KANSAS	12	107,150	0	82,286	29,229	38,296	37	256
KENTUCKY	37	10,378	0	9,916	3,355	9	8	33
LOUISIANA	13	4,307	2,248	2,098	0	0	0	0
MAINE	24	167	0	83	0	0	0	0
MARYLAND	9	70	248	0	0	47	0	0
MICHIGAN	6	2,882	10,961	0	0	821	11	115
MINNESOTA	9	9,031	19,956	5,224	7,069	4,689	31	125
MISSISSIPPI	26	29,784	15,155	17,312	0	150	0	0
MISSOURI	25	78,779	0	55,283	2,623	741	114	559
MONTANA	12	139,210	119,452	12,231	3,992	1,216	33	790
NEBRASKA	14	37,737	0	25,389	9,183	1,574	68	469
NEW MEXICO	26	19,476	0	19,476	0	0	0	0
NEW YORK	13	768	907	0	0	28	1	1
NORTH CAROLINA	20	3,329	1,898	1,226	0	195	0	0
NORTH DAKOTA	9	27,437	46,524	3,086	720	34,981	18	158
OHIO	15	5,624	5,443	1,897	23	2,712	81	362
OKLAHOMA	12	49,116	0	40,752	452	229	6	29
OREGON	22	58,909	0	53,355	1,981	270	1	5
PENNSYLVANIA	22	66	66	0	0	0	0	0
SOUTH CAROLINA	12	1,302	2,415	41	0	14	0	0
SOUTH DAKOTA	13	11,464	4,177	3,747	61	3,172	16	67
TENNESSEE	33	24,440	0	11,859	0	275	5	12
TEXAS	12	243,708	0	222,156	0	1,114	143	1,884
UTAH	11	3,607	0	6,332	0	1,444	0	0
VIRGINIA	18	2,133	1,467	736	0	59	7	42
WASHINGTON	18	151,934	0	128,019	0	25,575	63	1,133
WISCONSIN	22	9,234	4,030	7,091	258	470	11	21
WYOMING	12	9,375	0	9,375	0	1,224	0	0

Note: Acceptable acres may be listed in multiple categories.

The 45th CRP Signup Results

Table 4 - Description of Signup 45 Acceptable Acres 1/

STATE NAME	Introduced Grass	Native Grass	Total Grass	Hardwood Trees	Softwood Trees	Total Trees
NATIONAL	507,231	799,611	1,306,842	33,168	85,694	118,861
ALABAMA	1,689	10	1,699	3,525	18,019	21,544
ARKANSAS	1,391	1,238	2,630	1,521	2,579	4,100
CALIFORNIA	2,771	0	2,771	0	0	0
COLORADO	10,248	122,586	132,834	0	0	0
DELAWARE	15	23	38	0	0	0
FLORIDA	4	82	86	9	3,189	3,197
GEORGIA	16	15	31	1,194	9,406	10,600
IDAHO	37,453	3,662	41,116	0	1,972	1,972
ILLINOIS	46,157	9,480	55,638	6,981	186	7,167
INDIANA	4,502	2,108	6,610	2,615	63	2,677
IOWA	17,584	13,722	31,307	1,803	76	1,879
KANSAS	1,245	76,808	78,053	61	0	61
KENTUCKY	3,845	2,999	6,845	288	57	345
LOUISIANA	159	53	212	1,298	4,404	5,702
MAINE	167	0	167	0	0	0
MARYLAND	41	135	176	14	6	20
MICHIGAN	6,160	2,567	8,727	375	788	1,163
MINNESOTA	6,217	4,088	10,305	2,139	984	3,123
MISSISSIPPI	3,295	176	3,471	4,100	29,929	34,029
MISSOURI	59,255	14,488	73,743	2,287	8	2,295
MONTANA	99,636	39,873	139,509	0	0	0
NEBRASKA	1,739	26,843	28,583	30	10	40
NEW MEXICO	3,941	15,535	19,476	0	0	0
NEW YORK	693	100	793	14	66	80
NORTH CAROLINA	153	0	153	22	3,252	3,275
NORTH DAKOTA	11,027	2,307	13,334	51	18	69
OHIO	3,334	1,739	5,072	1,314	453	1,767
OKLAHOMA	9,587	45,130	54,717	70	0	70
OREGON	35,012	22,100	57,112	41	93	134
PENNSYLVANIA	33	0	33	0	33	33
SOUTH CAROLINA	0	0	0	87	2,695	2,782
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,485	9,893	11,378	0	0	0
TENNESSEE	8,672	11,073	19,746	373	4,057	4,430
TEXAS	25,883	283,123	309,006	0	0	0
UTAH	4,834	54	4,889	0	0	0
VIRGINIA	675	134	809	6	1,396	1,402
WASHINGTON	86,426	84,634	171,060	0	270	270
WISCONSIN	4,095	2,474	6,568	2,952	1,686	4,637
WYOMING	7,791	358	8,149	0	0	0

1/ Not including practices: permanent wildlife habitat, wildlife food plots, rare and declining habitat, and pollinator habitat

Note: Acceptable acres may be listed as multiple categories.

Continuous CRP

Continuous CRP Signup

Continuous signup provides an effective, ongoing means to enroll certain practices such as filter strips, riparian buffers, grass waterways, shelterbelts, field windbreaks, wetlands restoration, and high-value wildlife habitat.

As of June 30, 2013, there were cumulatively 3.88 million acres enrolled for all continuous sign up conservation practices. Overall, nearly 4.4 million acres are now allocated in the following nine targeted continuous signup initiatives:

- The Upland Bird Habitat initiative helps producers plant ground covers, shrubs, and grass, to provide appropriate habitat conditions for common upland birds such as northern bobwhite quail. Studies show that these conservation practices have increased the upland bird species populations. Up to 500,000 acres can be enrolled in this initiative. As of June 30, 2013, there were 241,678 acres enrolled.
- The Duck Habitat initiative helps increase duck populations by an estimated 60,000 birds annually and may restore up to 300,000 wetland acres at any one time. As of June 30, 2013, there were 204,259 acres enrolled.
- The Bottomland Hardwood initiative works to improve air quality and water quality on up to 250,000 acres as well as increase wildlife habitat along wetland areas. As of June 30, 2013, there were 84,573 acres enrolled.
- Since 2005, the Non-Floodplain Wetland Restoration initiative has provided an opportunity to enroll up to 350,000 acres of wetlands and playa lakes located outside of the 100-year floodplain. As of June 30, 2013, there were 224,804 acres enrolled.
- Available since 2004, the Floodplain Wetlands Restoration initiative has provided an opportunity to enroll up to 600,000 acres of wetlands located in the 100-year floodplain. As of June 30, 2013, a total of 230,722 acres were enrolled.
- State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) provides States and regions the opportunity to conserve 1,250,000 acres for high-priority wildlife such as sage grouse, lesser prairie chicken, and ring-necked pheasant. As of June 30, 2013, there were 98 projects in 37 States, and 726,142 acres were enrolled.
- The Longleaf Pine initiative's goal is to repopulate the natural longleaf pine forest ranges by enrolling up to 250,000 acres throughout nine Southern States. Re-establishing some of the original range of 60 million acres will improve water quality, provide critical habitat for wildlife, and help sequester greenhouse gases. As of June 30, 2013, there were 117,066 acres enrolled.
- Enrollment under the Highly Erodible Land Initiative (HELI) began in late 2012 to protect up to 750,000 acres of the Nation's most highly erodible croplands. Eligibility is limited to land with an Erodibility Index of 20 or more. As of June 30, 2013, there were 56,817 acres enrolled.
- The Continuous Pollinator Practice initiative is used in addition to the pollinator practice under General Signup to permit producers to develop pollinator habitat for many pollinator species by enrolling up to 100,000 acres.

The Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP) is allowed to restore up to 1 million acres of farmable wetland and associated buffers by improving the land's hydrology and vegetation through CRP. Eligible land types authorized include certain cropped wetlands, former commercial aquaculture, flooded land located in the prairie pothole region, and constructed wetlands to receive flows from row crop drainage systems. As of June 30, 2013, there were 339,122 acres enrolled.

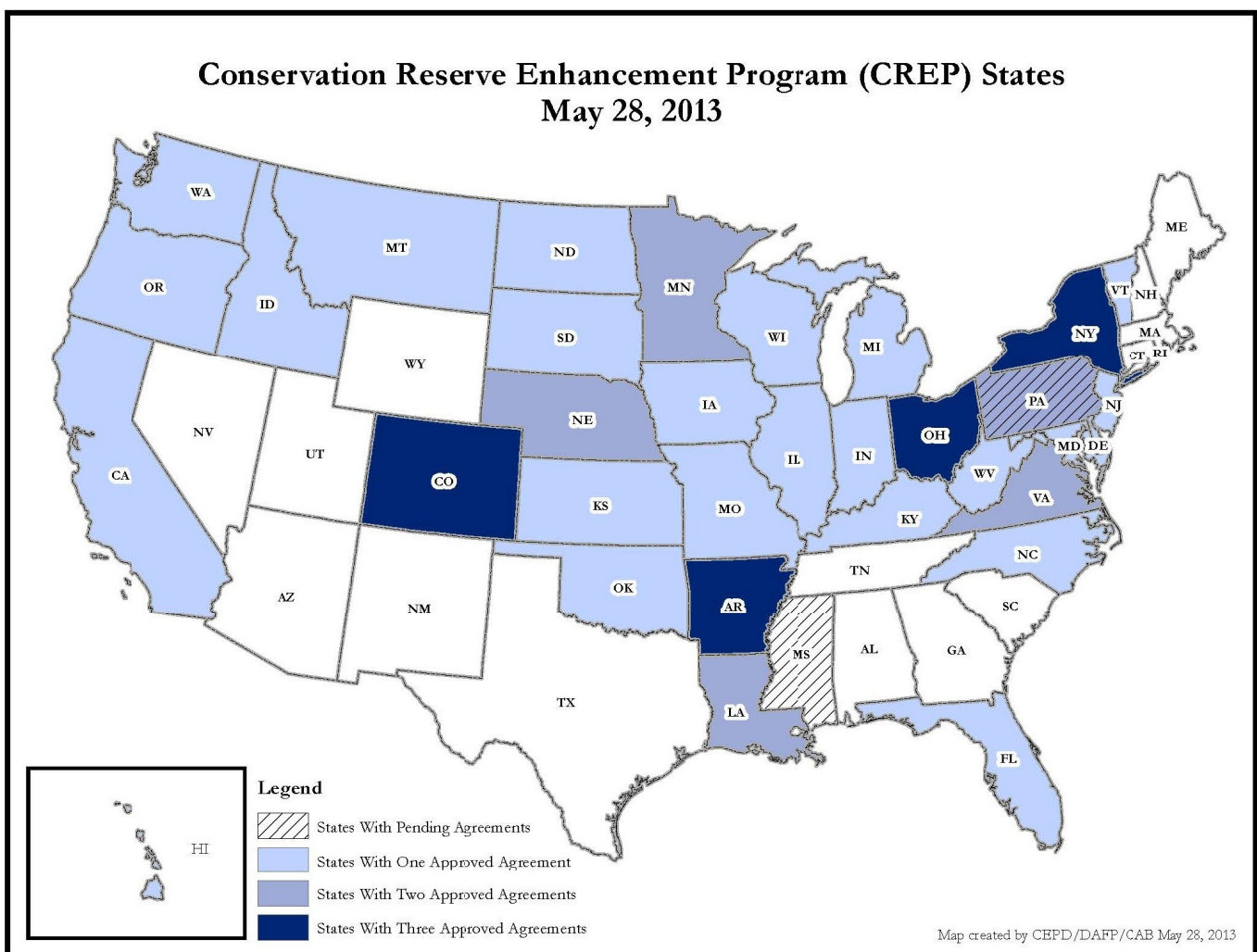
Other CRP Initiatives

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a continuous CRP signup program. It is voluntary and helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. The program is a partnership among producers; tribal, State, and Federal governments; and, in some cases, private groups.

CREP includes targeted conservation practices such as filter strips and riparian buffers. These conservation practices help protect streams, lakes, and rivers from sedimentation and agricultural runoff.

As of June 30, 2013, there were 1.27 million acres enrolled in 46 CREP projects in 33 States.



About the Farm Service Agency's Conservation and Environmental Programs Division (CEPD):

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency's Conservation and Environmental Programs Division serves the Nation's agricultural producers, providing assistance and opportunities for producers to voluntarily invest in safeguarding environmentally sensitive lands.

CEPD implements multiple diverse programs that help accomplish these goals, including the following programs:

- Biomass Crop Assistance Program
- Conservation Reserve Program
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- Emergency Forest Restoration Program
- Emergency Conservation Program
- Farmable Wetlands Program
- Grassland Reserve Program
- Source Water Protection Program
- Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program

CEPD also coordinates FSA's activities under the Secretary's People's Garden Initiative.

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