

# Conservation Reserve Program

**What is the Conservation Reserve Program CRP?** The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with different signup types, practices, and initiatives to achieve many farming and conservation goals. It is a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead devoted to conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long term, resource-conserving plant species such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil erosion, improve water quality/soil health and develop wildlife habitat. In return FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.



**What is General CRP?** Eligible agricultural producers compete Nationwide to have their land accepted into this signup type. Signup periods are announced and during these announced signup periods is the only time agricultural participants can place an offer into General CRP. Practices eligible are typically whole field enrollments. During signup producers will submit offers for the amounts they are willing to accept to enroll acreage in the program. After the conclusion of signup offers are ranked at the National Office. Offers selected will be those providing the greatest environmental benefits considering the cost of enrolling the acreage in the program. Land must be cropland that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the six years from 2012 to 2017 and is physically and legally capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity in a normal manner. The 2018 Farm Bill requires CRP General signups to be conducted on an annual basis.



**What is Continuous CRP?** Continuous CRP signup provides producers with management flexibility when planning conservation enhancements to their farming operations. Eligible agricultural producers at any time can participate in Continuous CRP and enroll the most environmentally sensitive acreage. Practices eligible are typically partial field enrollments. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements and the enrollment limits do not exceed the statutory cap. Enrollment is not subject to competitive bidding during specific periods. Land must be eligible and suitable for any of the eligible CCRP conservation practices. Certain marginal pastureland that may be devoted to riparian buffers, wildlife habitat buffers, or wetland buffers is also eligible.



**What is CRP SAFE?** The State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Initiative restores vital habitat in order to meet high-priority state wildlife conservation goals. These practices are designed to enhance important wildlife populations by creating critical habitat and food sources. Covers require a much more diverse cover than under other CRP signup types. Practices are available through CRP continuous and general signups. Eligible acres must be physically located in one of the designated Michigan SAFE priority areas. Michigan has two SAFE Initiatives: Michigan Pollinator Plantings and the Michigan Pheasant and Monarch Recovery.



**What is the Farmable Wetlands Program (FPW)?** Restores the functions and values of wetlands that have been devoted to agricultural use, while removing sediment, nutrients, and pollutants from impacting the wetland and providing wildlife habitat. It allows for enrollment of the following: certain cropped wetlands and associated buffers; land devoted to constructed wetlands and associated buffers; and land devoted to certain commercial pond raised aquaculture. Cropping history requirements are practice specific and range from no cropping history to 3 out of 10 the most recent crop years.



**What is CRP CLEAR30?** The Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative of CRP prioritizes water quality practices on the land that, when enrolled, help reduce sediment loadings, nutrient loadings, and harmful algal blooms. CRP CLEAR30 offers 30-year contracts that will positively affect the environment by decreasing erosion, improving water quality, increasing wildlife habitat and providing longer term conservation. Expiring water quality practices are eligible to be offered.



**What is Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)?** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the State of Michigan are partners in implementing a voluntary Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to enroll up to 80,000 acres of agricultural land within the identified project area (Lake Macatawa, Saginaw Bay, and Western Lake Erie Basin Watersheds). Michigan CREP conservation benefits are targeted to improve water quality by reducing sediment, nutrients, nitrogen and other pollutants from entering streams and rivers, and enhance wildlife habitat in the area. With CREP, high-priority conservation goals are identified by the state, and then federal funds are supplemented with non-federal funds to achieve those goals.



**What is the CRP Grasslands?** CRP Grasslands helps landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland, while maintaining the area as grasslands. The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion.



**What is CRP TIP?** CRP Transition Incentives Program (TIP), assists with the transition of expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land from an owner or operator to a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher to return land to production for sustainable grazing or crop production.

# FY 2022 Conservation Reserve Program

	Requirement	General	Continuous	FWP	Grasslands	CLEAR30	CREP	TIP
Focus	Conservation Goal	Compete Nationwide to have environmentally sensitive land devoted to long-term conservation benefits. Practices eligible are typically whole field enrollments, planted to approved grasses or trees.	Environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time. Certain marginal pastureland may be devoted to riparian buffers, wildlife habitat buffers, or wetland buffers. Includes all SAFE practices	Designed to restore the functions and values of wetlands that have been devoted to agricultural use, while removing sediment, nutrients, and pollutants from impacting the wetland and providing wildlife habitat.	Compete Nationwide to protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland under the greatest threat of conversion, while maintaining the areas as grasslands.	Available for expiring water quality practices and provide longer-term water quality conservation benefits.	Targets conservation efforts in critical watersheds. Provides focused practices that address water quality and wildlife habitat in Lak Macatawa, Saginaw Bay, and Western Lake Erie Basin Watersheds.	Transitions expiring CRP land from and owner or operator to a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher to return land to production for sustainable grazing or crop production.
Dates	Signup Dates	January 31, through March 11, 2022	October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022 (new acres) Re-enroll existing CCRP April 1 through August 19, 2022	Continuous until national or statutory limit is reach	April 4, through May 13, 2002	April 1, 2022, through August 19, 2022	April 4, 2022, through September 30, 2022 (new acres) Re-enroll existing CCRP April 1 through August 19, 2022	Continuous, no later than August 15 <sup>th</sup> of the FY that the CRP contract is scheduled to expire
	Contract Start Dates	October 1, 2022	New acres immediately (month following approval) or defer up to 6 months. <sup>2/</sup>	New acres immediately (month following approval) or defer up to 6 months. <sup>2/</sup>	October 1, 2022	October 1, 2022	New acres immediately (month following approval) or defer up to 6 months. <sup>2/</sup>	October 1, 2022
Eligibility	Eligible Cropping History	Must have been cropped or considered cropped 4 out of 6 years between 2012-2017	Must have been cropped or considered cropped 4 out of 6 years between 2012-2017	FWP cropping history is dependent upon the practice being enrolled. Ranges from none to 3 out of 10 years	No cropping history required	Eligible expiring CLEAR practice that remains in compliance	Must have been cropped or considered cropped 4 out of 6 years between 2012-2017	Expiring CRP that remains in compliance
	Eligible Land	Existing CRP expiring September. 30, 2022 and land meeting eligibility criteria prior to closes of signup.	Meets eligibility requirements of desired continuous practice	Certain cropped wetlands, constructed wetlands, commercial pond-raised aquaculture, and marginal pastureland	Grassland, pastureland, and rangeland with cover existing cover in place.	CRP CLEAR initiative practices expiring September 30, 2022	Meets eligibility requirements of desired continuous practice	Land expiring from CRP on September 30, 2022
	Eligible Practice Types	Select CRP Practices are eligible	Limited to water quality, soil erosion conservation practices, and SAFE	Wetland restoration with associated buffers	Limits development and cropping uses while retaining the right to hay and graze	Re-enrollment for current expiring conservation practice	Limited to water quality and soil erosion conservation practices; identified for CREP.	All expiring practices in compliance at the time contract expiration
Duration and Financial Considerations	Contract Length	10- 15 years <sup>1/</sup>	10- 15 years <sup>1/</sup>	10-15 years <sup>1/</sup>	10- 15 years <sup>1/</sup>	30 years	14-15 years	2 years
	SRR	85% 3 predominant soils + 10% SRR Inflationary Adjustment \$240/Ac Max.	90% 3 predominant soils + 10% SRR Inflationary Adjustment, + 20% Water Quality Incentive for CLEAR practices \$300/Ac Max.	90% 3 predominant soils + 10% SRR Inflationary Adjustment, + 20% Water Quality Incentive for CLEAR practices \$300/Ac Max.	75% of NASS 2021 cash rent estimate	90% 3 predominant soils, + 10% SRR Inflationary Adjustment, + 27.5% rental rate adjustment, + 20% Water Quality Incentive \$300/Ac Max.	90% 3 predominant soils + 10% SRR Inflationary Adjustment, + 40% SRR Incentive for CREP practices \$300/Ac Max.	equal to SRR at the time of contract expiration
	Incentives	Climate Smart Incentive	Newly enrolled acreage earns 32.5% SIP; 50% PIP for practice installation; Climate Smart Incentive	Newly enrolled acreage earns 32.5% SIP; 50% PIP for practice installation; Climate Smart Incentive	None	Climate-Smart Incentive	Newly enrolled acreage earns 32.5% SIP; 10% PIP for practice installation; Climate-Smart Incentive; (varies by practice) <sup>5/</sup>	2 additional years of the contract annual rental payment
	Cost -Share	50%	50%	50%	50%	N/A <sup>3/</sup>	50% <sup>5/</sup>	50%

<sup>1/</sup> contract length available is determined by practice and the participants desired length.

<sup>2/</sup> Expiring CRP acres being re-enrolled must have a contract start date of October 1, 2022

<sup>3/</sup> Certain general CRP practices are eligible for enrollment under continuous CRP when at least 51% of the acres offer is within a Wellhead Protection Area or the acres have a weighted Erodibility Index (EI) of 20 or greater.

<sup>4/</sup> Participants have 2 options for performing maintenance. **Option 1:** participant performs all needed maintenance activities and FSA issues a payment based on 75% not to exceed costs. **Option 2:** FSA will hire a third-party vendor who will perform the needed maintenance activities; FSA issues maintenance payment to vendor.

<sup>5/</sup> State of Michigan will provide 50% cost-share, Signing Incentives, Maintenance and Management Incentives, and Western Lake Erie Basin Incentives as applicable.

SIP = Signing Incentive Payment  
 PIP = Practice Incentive Payment  
 SRR=Soil Rental Rate

Climate-Smart Incentives are based on the estimated benefits for each practice type.

- Grasses and Legumes = 5%
- Grass = 3%
- Woody Biomass = 10%
- Wetland (aquatic or emergent) =3%

March 30, 2022

For more information, contact your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: [farmers.gov/ service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).