

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Highly Erodible Lands Initiative (HELI)



Overview

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so 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 and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

CRP is authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 and was reauthorized by the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill). The 2018 Farm Bill was extended by the American Relief Act, 2025 (Pub. L 118-158) which extended authority for the CRP program until September 30, 2025. The program is also governed by regulations published in 7 CFR, part 1410. The program is implemented by FSA on behalf of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

Highly Erodible Lands Initiative

The Highly Erodible Lands Initiative (HELI) offers a practical solution to create wildlife habitat while protecting cropland highly susceptible to erosion. Highly erodible cropland with an Erosion Index of 20 or greater are fragile and vulnerable to erosion. Establishing grass or tree cover will help maintain the long-term health of the land while providing habitat for numerous mammal and bird species and serving as a resource for shelter, nesting, and food.

Producers may enroll eligible land in HELI through continuous CRP signup. More information about enrollment is available in the continuous CRP signup fact sheet.

Eligible Practices

Land must be eligible and suitable for any of the following conservation practices:

- CP1 - Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses
- CP2 - Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
- CP3 - Tree Planting
- CP3A - Hardwood Tree Planting
- CP4D - Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- CP25 - Rare and Declining Habitat

Financial Benefits

- 10–15 years of annual rental payments
- Cost share assistance up to 50 percent of the participant's eligible costs for installation of approved practices
- Signup Incentive Payment (SIP) equal to 32.5 percent of the first full year annual rental payment on new continuous CRP contract acreage.
- Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) up to 50 percent of the participant's eligible costs for installation of approved practices on eligible practices.

Additional CRP Signup Opportunities

If the land does not meet the EI criteria for HELI, producers may offer their land in general signup or other continuous signup options available such as CREP, FWP, and SAFE.

For More Information

For more information, visit <https://www.fsa.usda.gov>. To locate your local FSA office, visit: [visit: farmers.gov/service-locator](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/service-locator).

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