

Written by USDA Communications Office
Tuesday, 11 October 2011 11:36

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I thought you might be interested to see these statements of support on USDA's Conservation Reserve Program, which announced today payments to help safeguard soil and water on 417,000 farms. See today's press release from USDA's Farm Service Agency at the end of this alert.

Thank you.

David Nomsen, Vice President of Governmental Affairs for Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever

"CRP delivers habitat to wildlife. Examples range from doubling and tripling local pheasant populations to adding two million ducks annually to fall migrations and preventing species from being listed as threatened and endangered. America needs a strong CRP, along with an entire suite of other voluntary incentive-based conservation programs, as the starting point to sustain continued agricultural production."

John Salazar, Colorado Agriculture Commissioner

"The Conservation Reserve Program has a significant environmental impact, not only across the country, but in Colorado as well. This program encourages sound conservation practices

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that will have lasting benefits for generations to come. Agricultural producers have long held the responsibility of protecting our natural resources and the CRP is a vital resource in that effort.”

Bill Northey, Iowa Agriculture Secretary

“The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a very important USDA program helping farmers better care for their land and protect water quality. Iowa landowners continue to add acres in the continuous enrollment CRP, which is especially valuable in targeting benefits to the most sensitive acres. Over 50,000 Iowa farms have at least some of their acres enrolled in CRP, with payments to Iowa landowners exceeding \$200 million.”

Release No. PENDING

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USDA Issues Conservation Reserve Program Rental Payments to Help Safeguard Soil and Water on 417,000 Farms

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6, 2011—The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will distribute Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) rental payments to participants across the country. USDA’s Farm Service Agency administers CRP, while technical support functions are provided

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by public and private sector partners. CRP is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers safeguard environmentally sensitive land and provide millions of acres of habitat for game and non-game wildlife species. Participants enroll in CRP contracts for 10 to 15 years. Currently, total CRP enrollment stands at 29.9 million acres.

“CRP protects millions of acres of American topsoil from erosion and is designed to safeguard the America’s natural resources,” said FSA Administrator Bruce Nelson. “By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, CRP protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams. Acreage enrolled in the CRP is planted to resource-conserving vegetative covers, making the program a major contributor to increased wildlife populations in many parts of the country.”

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) makes annual rental payments based on the agriculture rental value of the land, and it provides cost-share assistance for up to 50 percent of the participant’s costs in establishing approved conservation practices.

USDA also issues non-rental CRP payments throughout the year. These payments include a 50 percent expense reimbursement for establishing and managing cover as well as incentive payments for enrolling eligible high priority conservation practices.

Beginning today, producers holding 752,000 contracts on 417,000 farms will receive an average CRP rental payment of \$55.06 per acre. Producers will earn an average payment of \$4,115 per farm enrolled in the program. Included in the totals are 414,000 contracts (5.1 million acres) for continuous CRP enrollments and 338,000 contracts (24.8 million acres) enrolled under general CRP. In all, the payments total approximately \$1.7 billion.

A table, located below and at fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/apportstate091311.pdf, lists acreage enrollments by state, number of contracts, number of farms, acres enrolled as of the end of the 2011 fiscal year and CRP projected rental payments for fiscal year 2012.

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CRP ENROLLMENT AS OF SEPTEMBER 2011

AND OCTOBER 2011 RENTAL PAYMENTS

STATE

NUMBER OF CONTRACTS

NUMBER OF FARMS

ACRES ENROLLED

RENTAL PAYMENTS

ALABAMA

9,093

6,480

395,901

\$18,141,752

ALASKA

42

27

19,013

\$668,053

ARKANSAS

5,956

3,299

250,340

\$14,936,106

CALIFORNIA

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499

387

122,237

\$4,659,639

COLORADO

12,719

6,194

2,235,943

\$73,650,439

CONNECTICUT

15

13

140

\$9,162

DELAWARE

665

349

6,862

\$766,093

FLORIDA

1,324

1,070

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56,729

\$2,275,180

GEORGIA

9,095

6,465

319,923

\$15,014,654

HAWAII

9

9

167

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\$9,632

IDAHO

5,213

2,993

670,935

\$29,621,296

ILLINOIS

82,534

45,127

1,037,082

\$118,721,765

INDIANA

38,337

21,468

285,976

\$31,139,269

IOWA

106,772

53,601

1,666,077

\$212,962,880

KANSAS

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47,264

26,905

2,736,915

\$109,709,259

KENTUCKY

17,636

9,463

358,796

\$39,807,984

LOUISIANA

5,047

3,211

327,080

\$20,126,120

MAINE

678

470

17,936

\$928,192

MARYLAND

6,456

3,533

79,171

\$10,912,633

MASSACHUSETTS

4

4

15

\$2,566

MICHIGAN

15,236

8,723

229,102

\$20,186,751

MINNESOTA

63,119

33,153

1,636,074

\$110,093,906

MISSISSIPPI

19,879

12,498

852,099

\$40,940,444

MISSOURI

36,532

21,133

1,362,793

\$100,874,589

MONTANA

15,267

6,018

2,860,998

\$91,784,050

NEBRASKA

28,249

15,840

1,079,983

\$65,437,490

NEW HAMPSHIRE

5

5

58

\$3,222

NEW JERSEY

290

203

2,586

\$180,757

NEW MEXICO

2,006

1,292

455,015

\$15,239,837

NEW YORK

2,885

2,038

53,152

\$3,711,019

NORTH CAROLINA

8,088

5,279

117,787

\$8,076,182

NORTH DAKOTA

34,445

16,864

2,648,185

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\$95,840,798

OHIO

38,342

21,362

344,240

\$41,058,917

OKLAHOMA

7,501

5,081

862,412

\$28,890,320

OREGON

4,296

2,271

551,008

\$28,631,923

PENNSYLVANIA

12,127

7,620

220,386

\$22,658,340

PUERTO RICO

19

19

2,032

\$129,681

SOUTH CAROLINA

7,665

4,318

159,085

\$6,093,795

SOUTH DAKOTA

31,894

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14,884

1,161,293

\$65,161,870

TENNESSEE

7,356

4,883

204,698

\$13,718,350

TEXAS

22,121

16,240

3,457,323

\$124,337,837

UTAH

883

535

163,197

\$5,082,238

VERMONT

381

270

2,835

\$282,166

VIRGINIA

5,860

4,473

63,255

\$3,743,311

WASHINGTON

12,477

5,182

1,459,939

\$81,331,355

WEST VIRGINIA

463

377

5,945

\$437,397

WISCONSIN

24,647

15,103

398,918

\$31,852,908

WYOMING

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972

653

226,591

\$6,161,981

NOT REPORED 1/

1

1

28

\$2,284

TOTALS

752,364

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417,386

31,168,255

\$1,716,006,394

1/ Data from States with fewer than 4 contracts not reported.

For more information on CRP, producers should contact their local FSA office or visit FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov.