

USDA Announces Results for 45th Conservation Reserve Program General Sign-Up

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Offers Received for 1.9 Million Acres

AMES, IOWA, July 22, 2013 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has received 1.9 million acres of offers for enrollment in the 45th annual Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up.

"For 27 years, lands in CRP have helped to conserve our nation's resources and played a part in mitigating climate change," Secretary Vilsack said. "The CRP is a voluntary program that allows eligible landowners to receive annual rental payments and cost-share for planting and maintaining grasses and trees on their land. The program also sequesters carbon dioxide, improves water quality, and provides wildlife habitat."

In addition to today's announcement, over the last four years, USDA has set aside significant acreage under CRP. The program has been a success story for many landowners, providing them with a steady stream of income and helping to protect the environment.

CRP is a voluntary program that allows eligible landowners to receive annual rental payments and cost-share for planting and maintaining grasses and trees on their land. The program also sequesters carbon dioxide, improves water quality, and provides wildlife habitat.

Under CRP, farmers and ranchers plant grasses and trees in fields and along streams or rivers. The program also sequesters carbon dioxide, improves water quality, and provides wildlife habitat.

In addition, CRP sequesters more carbon dioxide than any other conservation program in the country, and it provides a steady stream of income for landowners.

USDA selected offers for enrollment based on an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) comprised of five factors: soil erosion control, wildlife habitat, water quality, riparian habitat, and wetland habitat.

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