Enrolling in the Conservation Reserve Program
What it means to you and your land
What is the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?

CRP Can Work for You!
What is the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?

- USDA program authorized in 1985
- Administered Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Protects highly erodible land and environmentally sensitive land from erosion
- Program participants plant long-term, resource-conserving covers
What is CRP?

• In return, FSA provides annual rental payments and cost-share assistance. Iowa’s average rental rate is $177
• 23 million acres currently enrolled nationally
  • 3.3 million set to expire in September
• 1.5 million acres enrolled in Iowa
  • 99,639 acres set to expire September 30, 2016
• Next General CRP signup is
  • December 1, 2015 thru February 26, 2016
  • CRP contracts expiring in Sept 2016 are eligible to re-enroll with this signup.
Why CRP?

General Benefits
• Provides steady Income
• Improves wildlife habitat
• Reduces soil erosion
• Protects water quality
• Increases soil health
• Improves air quality
• Attracts wildlife species
Why CRP?

Agricultural Benefits

• Improve average yields
  • When taking less productive land out
• Address problem areas within fields
  • You are not required to enroll entire fields.
• Reduce conservation compliance risks
Am I eligible for CRP?

• **New land**
  • Must have owned the land for 1 year or more
    ❖ Haven’t owned the land for one year? Ask FSA if a waiver is an option for you.
  • Must have been planted to an agricultural commodity
    4 out of the 6 years between 2008 and 2013 crop years
    ❖ If your land included forage rotations, talk to FSA to see if you are still eligible.
  • Located in Iowa or national CRP priority area

• **Expiring CRP**
How do I apply?

• **Visit your local FSA office**
  • Learn your site-specific rental rates
  • Discuss goals for land/operation
  • Share your objectives
  • Verify eligibility
  • Complete offer
    • Determine your rental rate
    • Sign and date the necessary forms (CRP-1 and CRP-2)
    • During the sign up process, did FSA request another form? If so, provide the forms by the date they specified.

• **Applications or bids will compete nationally based on Environmental Benefits Index (EBI)**
What is the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI)?

• A point system
• FSA uses these factors to assign points based on the land and cover being offered
• Landowners have choices on the bolded items:
  • **Wildlife cover**
  • Water quality benefits
  • **Reduced erosion**
  • Benefits enduring beyond the contract period
  • Air quality
  • **Cost (accepting a lower rental rate)**
What works for you?

- Different covers have different points, costs, limitations and benefits
Landowner responsibilities

- Establish cover, cost-share available
- If your offer is accepted, mid-contract management is required to maintain healthy vegetative cover
- Management options vary based on the cover chosen
- Based on seeding, landowners can choose among these management options
  - Burning
  - Spraying
  - Disking
  - Interseeding
  - Managed haying/grazing, in conjunction with other authorized options.
CRP can work for your operation
Stop by and see us