

## **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Deadlines**

The USDA Farm Service Agency is currently taking applications for the Grasslands provision of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through August 20, 2021.

CRP Grasslands is a working grasslands provision of CRP that allows landowners to offer hay and/or pasture acres that will remain in forage production for a 10 or 15 year contract period (subject to certain restrictions during the nesting season of March 1 through July 15).

While there are benefits for acreage being used for hay and pasture, the program can also apply to fields simply being maintained in grass cover.

Acceptable offers will receive an annual rental payment for the acreage enrolled and be eligible for cost share assistance of 50% on fence, water systems, and certain management practices.

Small livestock operations receive added points in the ranking factors to encourage participation in the program. This applies to small livestock operations having less than 140 animal units and offering less than 200 acres for enrollment.

Applications to enroll new acres under the Continuous sign up options can be made through September 30, 2021.

The current rules continue to prioritize water quality practices such as filter strips, riparian buffers, sod waterways, wetlands, quail habitat strips, and pollinator habitat. These practices offer various incentives (higher rental rates, signup payments, and additional cost share payment) as well as assistance with fence and water systems if buffering a stream on livestock farms.

Acres are currently available for enrollment in the Scioto River Watershed Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) provisions. This option offers up to double the rental rates for enrolling eligible acre in the Scioto River watershed which covers most of our coverage area.

In addition to the normal 50% cost share for completed these practices, the Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) has been increased to 50% for most of the practices.

To discuss these programs in more detail, call the Jackson-Vinton-Scioto-Pike FSA Office at 740-286-5208 extension 2 or 740-259-3075 extension 2.