



June 17, 2015

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Dear CRP Participant:

Farm Service
Agency

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that one or more of your Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract(s) expires on September 30, 2015. Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that CRP participants with contracts scheduled to expire on September 30, 2015, will be offered the following options for your expiring contract(s):

Office of the
Administrator

1400 Independence
Ave, SW
Stop 0501
Washington, DC
20250-0501

- 1. 1-Year Extension.** If you have an expiring general CRP contract that is 14 years or less, you may submit a request to extend the expiration for an additional year under the same terms and conditions as your expiring contract(s), including the rental rate per acre. General sign-up contracts which are already 15 years in length are not eligible for an extension, but may be eligible for a combination of the other options described below. The sign-up for the 1-year extension is June 22, 2015, through August 28, 2015. Also, please note that a general signup is scheduled for December 1, 2015, through February 26, 2016, for contracts that will begin October 1, 2016.
- 2. Continuous Enrollment.** If you have an expiring CRP contract, all or a portion of your acreage may be eligible to be enrolled in a new 10- to 15-year continuous CRP contract. Even if you plan to return a portion of your land to production, important conservation benefits may still be achieved by re-enrolling sensitive acres such as buffers or pollinator habitat. If you are interested in re-enrolling your acreage or entering other land into a new continuous contract, please submit an offer at your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office no later than September 4, 2015.
- 3. Transition Incentive Program (TIP):** If you have an expiring contract and are not planning to farm the land yourself, TIP may provide you two additional annual rental payments on the condition you sell or rent your land to a beginning farmer or rancher or a member of an underserved group. New landowners or renters are required to use sustainable grazing or farming methods as they return the land to production. TIP offers a way to create new farming opportunities while continuing conservation efforts. If you are interested in TIP, contact your local FSA office no later than September 4, 2015.
- 4. Contract Expiration.** If you do nothing, your CRP contract will expire. You will receive your final payment in October of 2015. You may plant, graze or hay the acreage after September 30, 2015. Since CRP land typically does not have a recent history of pesticide or herbicide application, the land may be valuable for organic production without a transition period. Prior to contract expiration, you should visit with your local FSA office and review the current crop acreage base re-instatement provisions. Before planting, check with FSA or Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to see if your land may be subject to conservation and wetland compliance provisions.
- 5. Conservation Easements or Working Lands Programs.** CRP land may transition into conservation easements to provide longer term benefits. NRCS's Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) or state or private easement programs may be an option. If you are planning to convert your CRP land to agriculture use, the forthcoming CRP grasslands initiative, NRCS' working lands Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), or the Environmental Quality Incentives Program may be available to address your resource needs. In many cases a combination of approaches can be taken on the same parcel. For example, riparian areas or other sensitive parts of a parcel may be enrolled in continuous CRP and the remaining land that is returned to farming can participate in CSP and even receive additional ranking points.

Please contact your local USDA Service Center, or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp> to explore your options.

Sincerely,

Val Dolcini
Administrator