

CRP Reform Act of 2023

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Reform Act of 2023 will focus future CRP enrollment on marginal farmland, rather than prime farmland, and prioritize longer-term agreements and grasslands.

By focusing future CRP enrollment on marginal land, the CRP Reform Act will generate more durable wildlife and environmental benefits while simultaneously reducing competition for productive farmland between USDA and farmers, especially new and beginning farmers.

In particular, the CRP Reform Act will increase incentives to enroll marginal farmland through CRP's continuous enrollment and grasslands categories, eliminate barriers to re-enrollment, extend maximum contract lengths to 30 years, and make CLEAR 30 a permanent program. By securing more longer-term agreements, the bill will help preserve important habitat for wildlife and build soil carbon.

To make CRP more effective, this bill:

- Maintains a flat overall acreage cap in CRP of 24 million acres for FY24 to FY28.
- Reduces the rental rate for general sign-ups to 75%.
- Increases the rental rate for continuous enrollment to 110%.
- Increases the minimum acreage in Grasslands CRP from 2 million to 8 million acres.
- Increases the minimum acreage in continuous category from 8.6 million to 11 million acres.
- Makes CLEAR 30 and SHIPP programs permanent and removes geographic limits to increase the availability of long-term contracts to install buffer strips, filter strips and other good farming practices.
- Eliminates prohibitions on re-enrollment.
- Increases the maximum contract length to 30 years for land enrolled in continuous and grasslands categories after October 1, 2023.
- Provides additional incentives for enrolling marginal land into CRP continuous categories, including providing the first five years of annual payments up front and allowing for rental rates to be updated over time if the contract length is for 30 years.