



# The Conservation Reserve Program: 41st Signup Results



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## **REPORT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## **INFORMATION**

Additional information about the Farm Service Agency's Conservation and Environmental Program Division can be accessed at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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Photos made available by Janet Connelly and Julie Polt.



**United States Department of Agriculture**

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

June 13, 2011

Dear Conservation Supporters:

This year, we celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and continue to build on the tremendous benefits of this program in cooperation with our Nation's farmers and ranchers. In March 1986, the first CRP contract was signed, igniting a movement that has helped reduce soil erosion by 8 billion tons, provided natural habitats for wildlife, restored more than 2 million acres of wetlands, and removed hundreds of millions of tons of carbon dioxide from the air.

Since 1986, CRP has restored grasses, trees, and wetlands on millions of acres. These lands provide water quality protection, enhance wildlife habitat, and maintain soil productivity. CRP not only benefits farmers and ranchers and their local communities but suburban and urban residents as well. CRP helps protect the water supplies and air quality of many major cities. CRP provides numerous recreation benefits to Americans in the form of wildlife hunting and viewing.

CRP continues to evolve from its beginning as an erosion control initiative, authorized in the 1985 Farm Bill, to an environmental program that addresses diverse local and national resource priorities. CRP continues to promote partnerships with local and State conservation authorities through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Currently, there are 45 CREP agreements in 33 States that will improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, aid in flood control, enhance wildlife habitat, and provide additional protection for watersheds.

The 2011 announcement of the 41<sup>st</sup> CRP Signup supports President Barack Obama's commitment to help our Nation's farmers and ranchers maintain a healthy environment and a sound agricultural economy. I hope the information contained in this report continues to assist in your efforts to conserve and protect America's greatest treasure, our natural resources.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vilsack", written in a cursive style.

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary

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# CRP Overview

## Background

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary conservation program available to agricultural producers to assist them to enhance environmentally-sensitive lands. Producers enrolled in the CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers such as introduced or native grasses or trees to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat.

In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance for 10 to 15 years.

## The 41st CRP Signup

On January 28, 2011, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that a CRP general sign-up would begin on March 14, 2011, and continue through April 15, 2011.

## Eligibility Criteria

For land to be eligible for general signup, it must be:

- cropland that has been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity 4 of the 6 years between 2002 through 2007; and
- physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity; or
- certain marginal pastureland.

Also, cropland must:

- have a weighted average Erosion Index of 8 or greater;
- be expiring CRP; or
- be located in a national or State Conservation Priority Area.

## Rental and Cost Share Payments

CRP rental rates are based on local dryland cash rental rates. Producers may offer land at these rates or may offer a lower rental rate to increase the likelihood that their offer will be acceptable.

CRP cost share assistance is available to eligible participants in an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the eligible costs of establishing the approved practice.

## General Signup

Because not all offers can be accepted, they are evaluated and ranked using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) based on the environmental benefits expected to accrue if the land is enrolled in the CRP.

Use of the EBI ensures that the most environmentally-sensitive lands relative to cost are selected and that all offers are considered fairly.

The six EBI factors are:

- N1, Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits;
- N2, Water Quality Benefits From Reduced Erosion, Runoff and Leaching;
- N3, On-Farm Benefits of Reduced Erosion;
- N4, Enduring Benefits;
- N5, Air Quality Benefits; and
- N6, Cost.

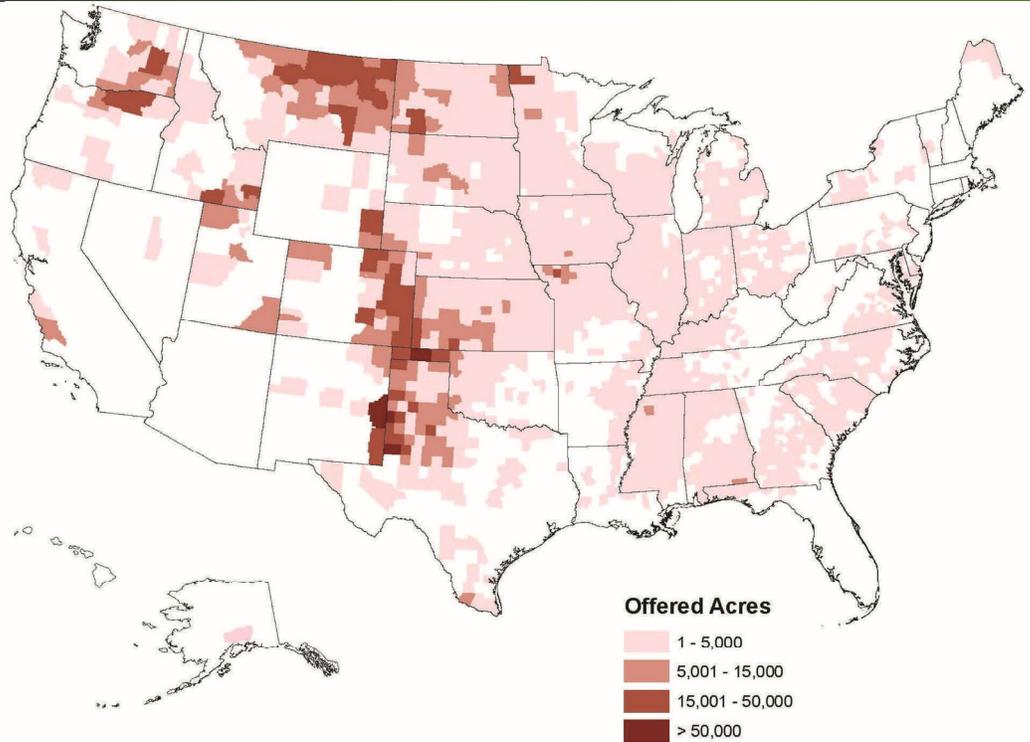
## New for Signup 41 EBI

- A new practice, CP42, Pollinator Habitat, was added;
- Existing stands of grasses and trees were added to subfactor N1a wildlife habitat cover types;
- Water developments no longer receive EBI points under subfactor N1b for wildlife enhancement; and
- Subfactor N1c, Wildlife Priority Zones was changed to provide 30 points only when subfactor N1a score is greater than or equal to 40.

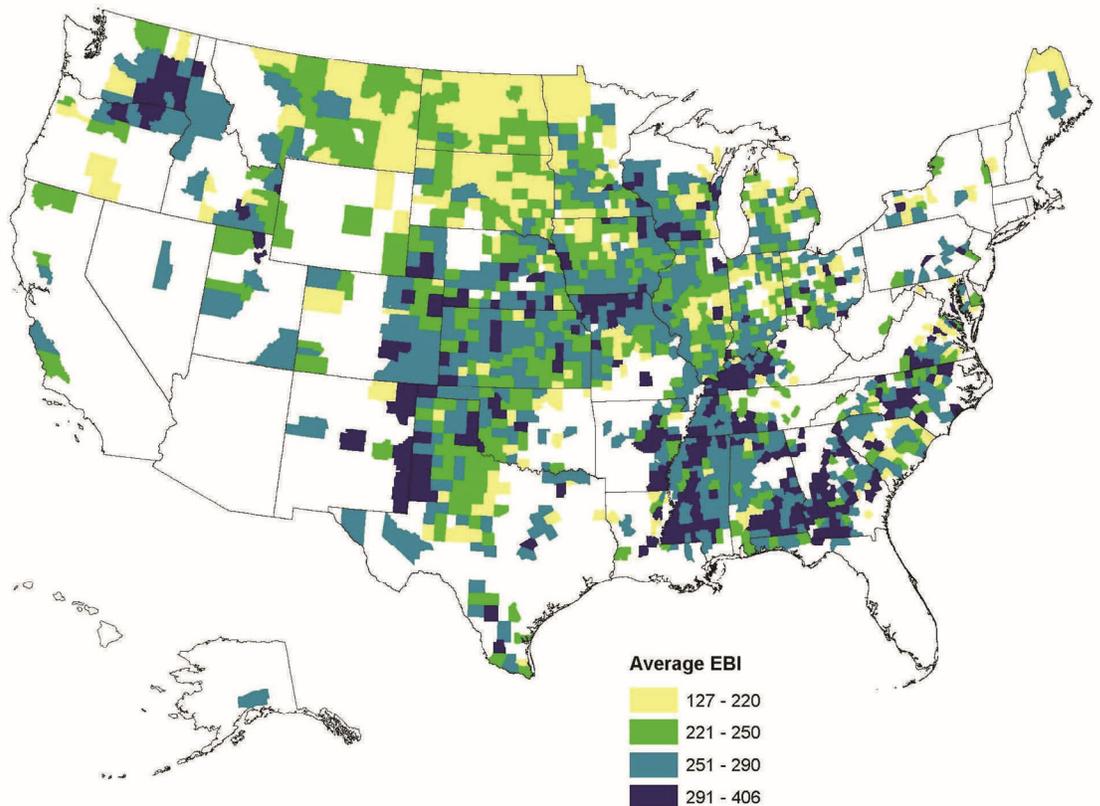
# The 4th CRP Signup Results

## Offered Acres

FSA received 38,715 offers to enroll about 3.75 million acres



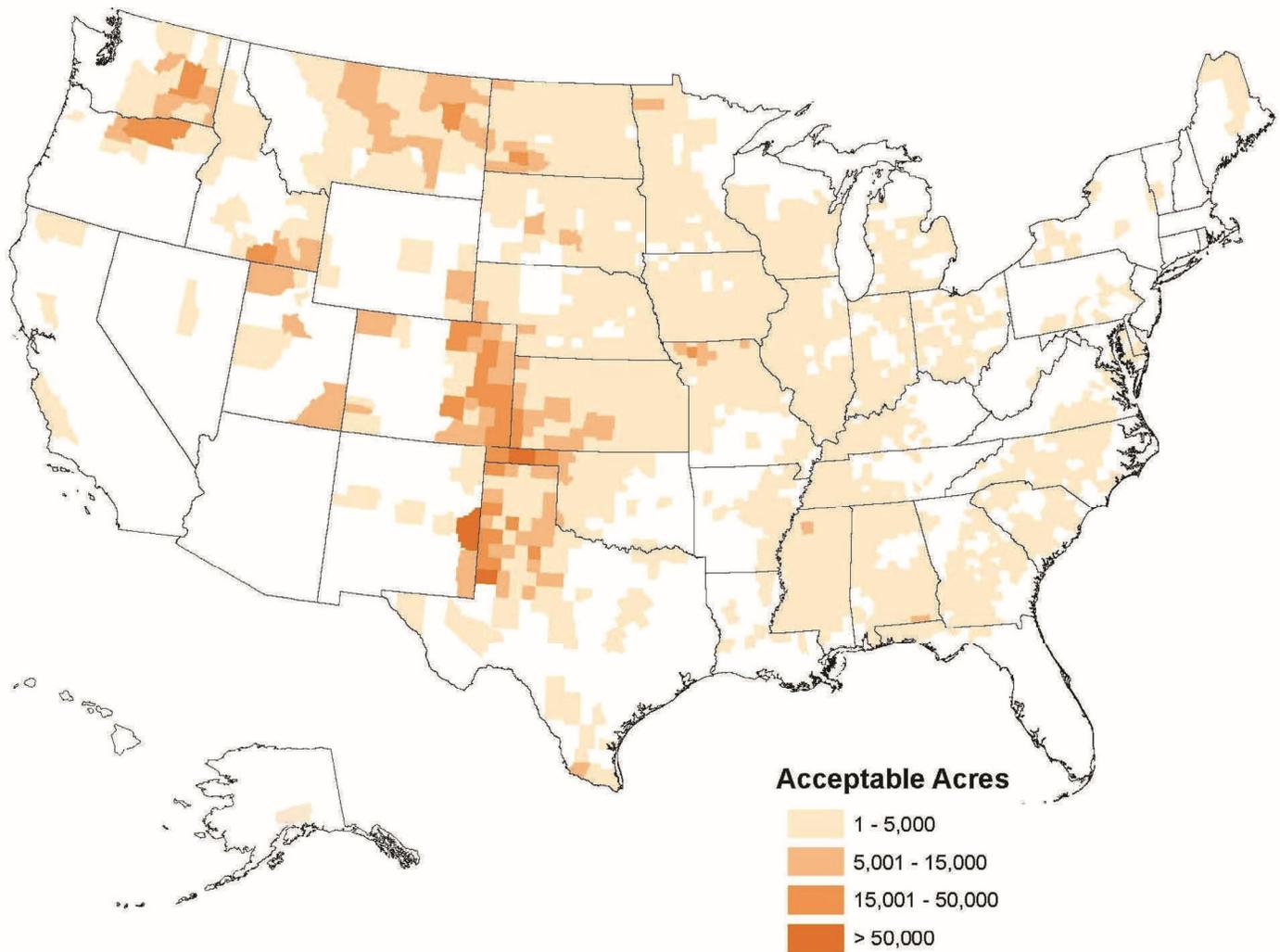
## Average EBI Score



# The 41st CRP Signup Results

## Acceptable Acres

About 2.83 million acres on 29,878 offers were acceptable.



# The 41st CRP Signup Results

Table 1 - Offers Received, Acceptable Offers, and CRP Acreage							
STATE NAME	Offers Received	Acceptable Offers	Offered Acres	Acceptable Acres	Enrollment April 2011	Expiring 9/30/2011	Oct. 2011 Enrollment before Continuous 1/
<b>NATIONAL</b>	<b>38,715</b>	<b>29,878</b>	<b>3,754,855</b>	<b>2,826,389</b>	<b>31,182,592</b>	<b>4,413,130</b>	<b>29,595,851</b>
ALABAMA	1,080	996	54,494	48,477	397,834	80,918	365,392
ALASKA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
ARIZONA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
ARKANSAS	161	135	8,292	6,943	250,973	12,346	245,570
CALIFORNIA	36	21	12,525	7,671	124,568	18,040	114,199
COLORADO	1,848	1,546	368,468	315,162	2,247,839	346,355	2,216,647
CONNECTICUT	0	0	0	0	163	13	150
DELAWARE	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
FLORIDA	111	102	5,349	5,185	56,380	9,536	52,030
GEORGIA	506	479	17,627	16,951	319,812	23,501	313,261
HAWAII	0	0	0	0	167	0	167
IDAHO	661	540	109,526	87,401	667,026	117,982	636,445
ILLINOIS	1,992	1,483	46,035	35,483	1,036,193	68,482	1,003,194
INDIANA	464	322	10,031	6,811	286,192	22,176	270,828
IOWA	1,997	1,667	51,698	45,421	1,669,759	72,324	1,642,856
KANSAS	4,840	4,040	404,392	336,773	2,736,014	531,925	2,540,861
KENTUCKY	502	477	15,056	14,365	359,441	36,982	336,824
LOUISIANA	104	91	7,445	5,616	327,613	11,862	321,367
MAINE	137	37	3,935	1,236	17,963	5,588	13,611
MARYLAND	22	11	248	104	79,096	3,225	75,975
MASSACHUSETTS	0	0	0	0	15	5	10
MICHIGAN	301	200	6,397	4,124	229,061	11,027	222,158
MINNESOTA	1,641	864	83,264	33,180	1,639,495	127,595	1,545,079
MISSISSIPPI	1,552	1,425	78,870	73,200	850,198	101,026	822,372
MISSOURI	2,859	2,730	134,543	128,836	1,363,945	195,457	1,297,325
MONTANA	1,897	934	371,885	188,367	2,858,721	497,194	2,549,893
NEBRASKA	1,415	1,105	105,563	86,860	1,077,933	151,360	1,013,432
NEVADA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0	0	0	0	58	45	13
NEW JERSEY	0	0	0	0	2,599	326	2,273
NEW MEXICO	1,080	574	261,187	137,678	453,976	164,808	426,846
NEW YORK	43	32	999	781	53,182	2,494	51,470
NORTH CAROLINA	442	388	8,847	7,597	117,757	12,894	112,460
NORTH DAKOTA	2,390	1,082	228,601	113,964	2,649,084	385,656	2,377,393
OHIO	211	154	4,728	3,280	343,801	13,267	333,814
OKLAHOMA	1,425	1,230	187,541	164,444	861,101	192,256	833,289
OREGON	450	410	105,595	99,028	551,434	104,602	545,860
PENNSYLVANIA	24	21	747	423	220,812	21,206	200,029
PUERTO RICO	0	0	0	0	2,032	0	2,032
RHODE ISLAND	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
SOUTH CAROLINA	335	207	9,247	5,717	159,473	20,555	144,635
SOUTH DAKOTA	839	424	78,359	47,036	1,162,683	126,286	1,083,433
TENNESSEE	689	660	22,756	21,876	205,184	34,351	192,709
TEXAS	4,250	3,442	730,264	597,082	3,463,122	684,187	3,376,017
UTAH	211	164	40,075	30,107	167,874	17,368	180,614
VERMONT	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
VIRGINIA	160	131	3,346	2,854	63,492	5,064	61,282
WASHINGTON	851	767	104,840	93,032	1,450,336	88,779	1,454,589
WEST VIRGINIA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
WISCONSIN	1,012	867	22,133	19,342	399,635	44,279	374,698
WYOMING	168	114	49,587	33,710	223,952	49,378	208,284

1/ Not including continuous signup enrollment between May and September 2011.

\*Data withheld to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

# The 41st CRP Signup Results

Table 2 - Description of Signup 41 Acceptable Acres						
STATE NAME	Expiring Sept. 2011 (Acres)	New Lands (Acres) 1/	Average Rental Payment (\$/Acre)	Total Rental Payment (\$/Year)	Average EBI Score	
					without cost	with cost
<b>NATIONAL</b>	<b>2,239,754</b>	<b>586,635</b>	<b>\$48.19</b>	<b>\$136,201,438</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>286</b>
ALABAMA	47,595	881	\$42.82	\$2,075,798	181	288
ALASKA	*	*	*	*	*	*
ARKANSAS	5,787	1,156	\$63.67	\$442,075	197	296
CALIFORNIA	5,828	1,843	\$49.93	\$383,023	172	274
COLORADO	240,411	74,752	\$34.06	\$10,732,932	159	274
DELAWARE	*	*	*	*	*	*
FLORIDA	5,095	90	\$44.33	\$229,837	147	256
GEORGIA	15,796	1,155	\$59.79	\$1,013,419	220	314
IDAHO	71,353	16,048	\$56.07	\$4,900,425	169	275
ILLINOIS	24,867	10,616	\$121.03	\$4,294,612	196	262
INDIANA	4,708	2,104	\$127.08	\$865,604	197	259
IOWA	19,106	26,315	\$164.16	\$7,456,115	242	276
KANSAS	301,494	35,279	\$40.56	\$13,660,697	168	273
KENTUCKY	9,564	4,801	\$109.65	\$1,575,124	243	309
LOUISIANA	5,069	547	\$52.50	\$294,839	169	274
MAINE	1,035	201	\$31.54	\$38,980	148	271
MARYLAND	23	81	\$82.36	\$8,582	179	264
MICHIGAN	3,010	1,114	\$80.61	\$332,409	172	260
MINNESOTA	24,370	8,810	\$76.96	\$2,553,452	169	257
MISSISSIPPI	69,775	3,426	\$54.47	\$3,986,873	194	301
MISSOURI	115,438	13,398	\$111.71	\$14,391,882	228	292
MONTANA	144,330	44,037	\$30.31	\$5,710,309	137	253
NEBRASKA	63,105	23,754	\$58.71	\$5,099,418	188	282
NEVADA	*	*	*	*	*	*
NEW MEXICO	61,468	76,210	\$38.98	\$5,367,077	225	348
NEW YORK	641	140	\$48.50	\$37,895	162	264
NORTH CAROLINA	6,075	1,522	\$50.46	\$383,340	177	281
NORTH DAKOTA	96,709	17,256	\$35.82	\$4,081,966	143	254
OHIO	2,411	869	\$93.33	\$306,165	187	267
OKLAHOMA	136,496	27,949	\$33.23	\$5,464,639	163	280
OREGON	87,144	11,885	\$57.27	\$5,671,069	185	295
PENNSYLVANIA	233	190	\$42.46	\$17,959	156	260
SOUTH CAROLINA	5,622	95	\$33.83	\$193,386	149	263
SOUTH DAKOTA	36,092	10,944	\$44.90	\$2,111,984	156	258
TENNESSEE	20,283	1,594	\$82.15	\$1,797,036	190	279
TEXAS	484,727	112,356	\$36.22	\$21,628,510	190	310
UTAH	11,723	18,384	\$39.72	\$1,195,913	158	269
VERMONT	*	*	*	*	*	*
VIRGINIA	2,579	275	\$41.24	\$117,728	169	279
WASHINGTON	67,518	25,515	\$53.73	\$4,998,272	193	300
WEST VIRGINIA	*	*	*	*	*	*
WISCONSIN	16,432	2,910	\$98.98	\$1,914,394	201	281
WYOMING	25,793	7,918	\$25.52	\$860,360	138	252

1/ Includes land that may have been in CRP in the past.

\*Data withheld to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

# The 41st CRP Signup Results

**Table 3 - Description of Signup 41 Acceptable Acres**

STATE NAME	Average Erodibility Index (EI)	Highly Erodible (Acres)	National Priority Area (Acres)	State Priority Area (Acres)	Rare and Declining Habitat (Acres)	Permanent Wildlife Habitat (Acres)	Pollinator Habitat Offers	Pollinator Habitat (Acres)
<b>NATIONAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2,547,279</b>	<b>269,491</b>	<b>1,861,508</b>	<b>136,247</b>	<b>221,129</b>	<b>1,886</b>	<b>22,079</b>
ALABAMA	24	44,336	37,545	11,503	0	830	2	12
ALASKA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
ARKANSAS	17	5,132	0	4,438	0	661	5	31
CALIFORNIA	33	6,351	0	7,520	0	0	0	0
COLORADO	15	301,689	0	195,719	391	43,642	270	4,150
DELAWARE	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
FLORIDA	11	4,568	5,169	0	0	667	0	0
GEORGIA	15	14,583	14,764	2,073	0	151	1	1
IDAHO	25	79,969	0	71,914	0	16,374	77	2,454
ILLINOIS	21	31,996	15	11,008	29	3,132	104	361
INDIANA	20	5,437	624	1,948	73	529	69	691
IOWA	26	43,484	2,303	21,180	16,557	1,186	105	354
KANSAS	11	280,889	0	212,977	64,402	72,657	108	671
KENTUCKY	42	13,418	0	13,240	6,226	75	11	95
LOUISIANA	11	4,374	2,398	903	0	43	3	12
MAINE	18	1,236	0	202	0	0	0	0
MARYLAND	4	3	104	29	0	6	5	23
MICHIGAN	5	815	4,124	63	8	965	8	24
MINNESOTA	8	12,846	28,998	3,568	8,258	2,676	40	320
MISSISSIPPI	35	61,178	26,930	33,609	0	409	0	0
MISSOURI	25	128,061	0	101,206	502	273	219	1,007
MONTANA	14	173,487	84,041	70,427	4,571	140	125	2,538
NEBRASKA	14	83,211	0	56,792	13,264	7,577	215	2,180
NEVADA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
NEW MEXICO	26	137,679	0	136,443	0	140	21	595
NEW YORK	14	711	762	7	0	0	1	1
NORTH CAROLINA	18	6,407	2,640	2,615	0	137	2	2
NORTH DAKOTA	13	95,413	39,474	47,008	846	55,527	86	842
OHIO	15	2,645	416	1,371	87	248	65	332
OKLAHOMA	13	156,251	0	147,541	226	325	10	111
OREGON	18	97,350	0	89,430	19,259	2,186	10	284
PENNSYLVANIA	19	394	347	0	0	1	0	0
SOUTH CAROLINA	7	1,688	5,215	169	0	94	0	0
SOUTH DAKOTA	11	38,156	10,068	26,669	1,168	5,863	72	410
TENNESSEE	32	21,444	0	7,954	0	388	15	55
TEXAS	21	537,336	0	456,645	0	1,524	179	3,629
UTAH	10	16,969	0	30,108	0	0	23	543
VERMONT	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
VIRGINIA	17	2,754	1,979	687	0	7	0	0
WASHINGTON	21	83,461	0	53,270	0	2,239	20	305
WEST VIRGINIA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
WISCONSIN	29	17,735	1,495	9,291	382	402	12	27
WYOMING	17	33,635	0	31,984	0	34	1	4

Note: Acceptable acres may be listed in multiple categories.

\*Data withheld to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

# The 41st CRP Signup Results

**Table 4 - Description of Signup 41 Acceptable Acres 1/**

STATE NAME	Introduced Grass	Native Grass	Total Grass	Hardwood Trees	Softwood Trees	Total Trees
<b>NATIONAL</b>	<b>880,752</b>	<b>1,393,595</b>	<b>2,274,347</b>	<b>22,699</b>	<b>144,955</b>	<b>167,654</b>
ALABAMA	5,884	4,928	10,811	1,253	35,324	36,577
ALASKA	*	*	*	*	*	*
ARKANSAS	557	897	1,454	1,132	3,646	4,778
CALIFORNIA	7,671	0	7,671	0	0	0
COLORADO	27,658	239,166	266,825	144	10	154
DELAWARE	*	*	*	*	*	*
FLORIDA	49	0	49	28	4,438	4,466
GEORGIA	463	66	529	293	15,978	16,271
IDAHO	59,896	7,794	67,689	0	884	884
ILLINOIS	24,583	4,923	29,506	2,067	29	2,096
INDIANA	3,444	1,239	4,683	764	27	791
IOWA	17,435	8,949	26,384	627	12	639
KANSAS	5,944	192,369	198,313	81	0	81
KENTUCKY	6,872	718	7,590	242	74	315
LOUISIANA	107	53	159	2,233	3,169	5,402
MAINE	1,158	0	1,158	0	78	78
MARYLAND	23	49	72	3	0	3
MICHIGAN	1,421	943	2,364	169	507	675
MINNESOTA	15,368	4,407	19,775	880	1,047	1,927
MISSISSIPPI	6,887	1,177	8,064	7,886	56,427	64,313
MISSOURI	106,434	19,008	125,442	805	169	974
MONTANA	123,991	57,066	181,057	4	0	4
NEBRASKA	13,272	50,377	63,649	138	26	163
NEVADA	*	*	*	*	*	*
NEW MEXICO	18,287	118,656	136,944	0	0	0
NEW YORK	681	50	731	10	37	47
NORTH CAROLINA	1,278	46	1,325	90	6,042	6,132
NORTH DAKOTA	53,936	2,216	56,153	133	21	154
OHIO	1,107	1,009	2,116	274	199	473
OKLAHOMA	51,890	111,479	163,368	37	0	37
OREGON	58,959	17,961	76,920	0	344	344
PENNSYLVANIA	323	95	417	0	5	5
SOUTH CAROLINA	122	0	122	45	5,453	5,499
SOUTH DAKOTA	20,257	19,010	39,267	0	0	0
TENNESSEE	11,830	1,477	13,307	1,977	6,106	8,083
TEXAS	117,325	473,722	591,047	0	572	572
UTAH	27,786	1,779	29,565	0	0	0
VERMONT	*	*	*	*	*	*
VIRGINIA	799	42	841	16	1,991	2,006
WASHINGTON	41,666	48,415	90,081	0	340	340
WEST VIRGINIA	*	*	*	*	*	*
WISCONSIN	12,107	2,891	14,998	1,371	2,003	3,373
WYOMING	33,053	620	33,673	0	0	0

1/ Not including practices: permanent wildlife habitat, wildlife food plots, rare and declining habitat, and pollinator habitat.

\*Data withheld to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

# Continuous CRP

## Continuous CRP Signup

Continuous signup provides an effective, ongoing means to enroll certain practices such as filter strips, riparian buffers, grass waterways, shelterbelts, field windbreaks, wetlands restoration, and high-value wildlife habitat.

As of April 30, 2011, there were cumulatively 5.0 million acres enrolled for all continuous sign up conservation practices. Of this total, nearly 1.4 million acres (30 percent) are enrolled in the following eight targeted continuous signup initiatives:

- The Upland Bird Habitat initiative helps producers plant ground covers, shrubs, and grasses, to provide appropriate habitat conditions for common upland birds such as northern bobwhite quail. Studies show that these conservation practices have increased the upland bird species populations. Up to 350,000 acres can be enrolled in this initiative. As of April 30, 2011, there were 233,000 acres enrolled.
- The Duck Habitat initiative helped increase duck populations by an estimated 60,000 birds annually and will restore 150,000 wetland acres. As of April 30, 2011, there were 136,000 acres enrolled.



CEPD, USDA.

- The Bottomland Hardwood initiative works to improve air quality and water quality as well as increase wildlife habitat along wetland areas. As of April 30, 2011, there were 61,000 acres enrolled.

- Since 2005, the Non-floodplain Wetland Restoration initiative has provided an opportunity to enroll up to 250,000 acres of wetlands and playa lakes located outside of the 100-year floodplain. As of April 30, 2011, there were 114,000 acres enrolled.
- Since 2004, the Floodplain Wetlands Restoration initiative provided an opportunity to enroll up to 500,000 acres of wetlands located in the 100-year floodplain. As of April 30, 2011, 197,000 acres were enrolled.
- State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) provides States and regions the opportunity to conserve 850,000 acres for high priority wildlife such as sage grouse, lesser prairie chicken, and ring-necked pheasant. As of April 30, 2011, there were 91 projects in 35 States, and 463,000 acres were enrolled.
- The Longleaf Pine initiative's goal is to repopulate the natural longleaf pine forests ranges by enrolling up to 250,000 acres throughout nine southern States. Re-establishing some of the original range of 60 million acres will improve water quality, provide critical habitat for wildlife, and help sequester greenhouse gases. As of April 30, 2011, 103,000 acres were enrolled.
- The Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP) is allowed to restore up to 1,000,000 acres of farmable wetland and associated buffers by improving the land's hydrology and vegetation through CRP. Eligible lands types authorized include certain cropped wetlands, former commercial aquaculture, flooded land located in the prairie pothole region, and constructed wetlands to receive flows from row crop drainage systems. As of April 30, 2011, there were 274,000 acres enrolled.

# Other CRP Initiatives

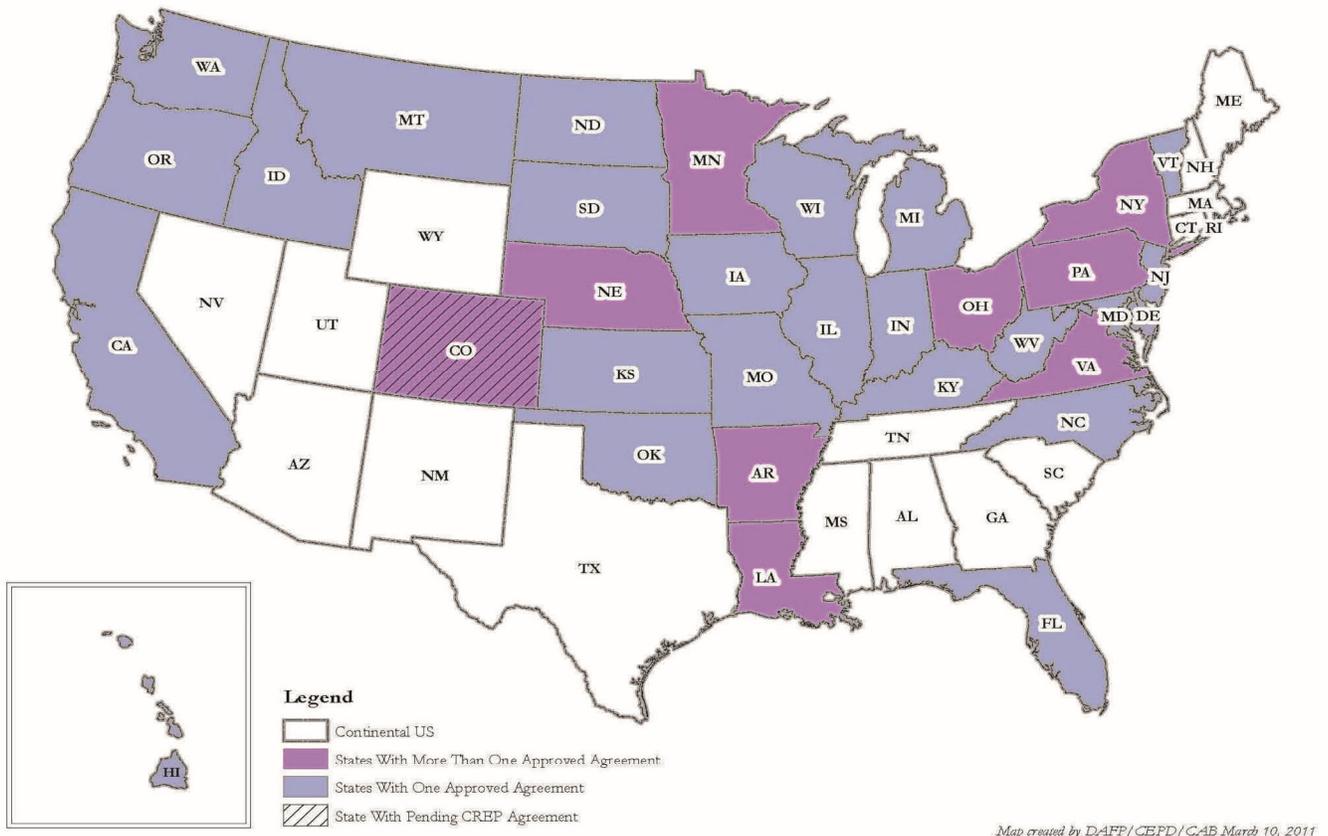
## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a continuous CRP signup program. It is voluntary and helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat and safeguard ground and surface water. The program is a partnership among producers, tribal, State, and Federal Governments, and, in some cases, private groups.

CREP includes targeted conservation practices such as filter strips and riparian buffers. These conservation practices help protect streams, lakes, and rivers from sedimentation and agricultural runoff.

As of April 30, 2011, there were 1.2 million acres enrolled in 45 CREP projects in 33 States.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program States



About the Farm Service Agency's Conservation and Environmental Programs Division (CEPD):

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency's Conservation and Environmental Programs Division serves the nation's agricultural producers, providing assistance and opportunities for producers to voluntarily invest in safeguarding environmentally sensitive lands.

The Division implements multiple diverse programs that help accomplish these goals, including the following programs:

- Biomass Crop Assistance Program
- Conservation Reserve Program
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- Emergency Forest Restoration Program
- Emergency Conservation Program
- Farmable Wetlands Program
- Grassland Reserve Program
- Source Water Protection Program
- Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program

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