



Conservation Reserve Program CLEAR30

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Speakers

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- Don't hear audio through your device?
Audience phone bridge is available
- Questions should be submitted through the chat box.
- All questions not answered today will be reviewed for responses later.

Today's Discussion

- Overview of CRP
- What is CLEAR30?
- Eligibility Requirements
- Unique Options
- Application Process
- Stakeholder Engagement with FSA



Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)



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Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers Program

CLEAR 30:

- Allows a 30-year contract
- Requires producers to have specific water quality benefitting practices enrolled under continuous CRP with the contract expiring September 30, 2021.
- Sign-up Period: June 15 – August 6

Practices

Primary Practices



FILTER STRIPS



GRASSED WATER WAYS



RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFERS



WETLAND RESTORATIONS

CRP CLEAR30 PILOT

Eligible Land

Land that meets all of the following criteria will have the opportunity to be offered for reenrollment into a CLEAR30 contract:

- expires on September 30, 2021.
- has a CRP CLEAR initiative practice established.
- practice is in compliance.





What's unique about CLEAR30?

- **Maintenance covered for the full 30-year contract, two options:**
 - Landowner can opt to continue to do the maintenance themselves and FSA pays them to do it.
 - Landowner can opt for FSA to contract a vendor to conduct the maintenance.
 - Annual Rental Payment
 - There is a 27.5% enhancement to the annual rental payment vs enrolling in a 10-15 contract under Continuous CRP.

CRP CLEAR30 PILOT

CLEAR30 Payments

- SIP and PIP are not authorized for CLEAR30.
- Cost-Share is not authorized for CLEAR30.
- SRR's for signup 55 CLEAR30 will be calculated:
 - Using FY21 Soil Rental Rates for the 3 predominant soils, or MPL, as applicable, including the following:
 - SPI adjustments;
 - The reduction to 90%
 - The 10% inflationary factor.

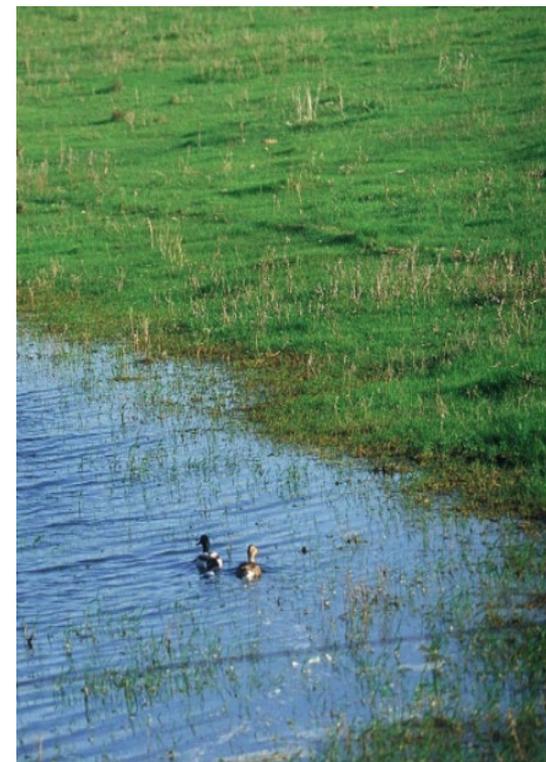


Photo courtesy of NRCS

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CRP CLEAR30 PILOT

CLEAR30 Payments (cont)

- SRR's for signup 55 CLEAR30 will be calculated to also include:
 - The **Climate-Smart Incentive**, applicable for the CLEAR practice
 - The **Water Quality Incentive** of 20%
 - A **CLEAR30 adjustment of 27.5%**.
- The maximum per acre payment rate for all CRP CLEAR30 signup 55 offers is \$300 per acre.
- Rental payments will be issued for CRP CLEAR30 contracts on an annual basis on the same schedule as other CRP contracts.



Photo courtesy of NRCS

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CRP CLEAR30 PILOT

Maintenance Activities and Payments

All of the following activities are considered CLEAR30 maintenance activities and are eligible for maintenance payments:

- practice establishment/re-establishment, activities needed to maintain the practice and included in the conservation plan,
- traditional “mid-contract management” activities,
- operation and maintenance activities as determined by NRCS monitoring site visits and planning.



CRP CLEAR30 PILOT

Maintenance Activities and Payments, *continued*

CLEAR30 offers additional assistance to participants to perform maintenance activities throughout the contract period. Participants will have 2 options for performing maintenance:

OPTION 1: Participant performs all needed maintenance activities; FSA issues maintenance payment to participant.

OPTION 2: FSA will enter into an agreement or contract with a third-party vendor who will perform the needed maintenance activities onsite; FSA issues maintenance payment to vendor.

Note: Producer will elect their maintenance option at the time of making the offer.



Photo courtesy of NRCS

CRP CLEAR30 PILOT

Maintenance Activities and Payments, *continued*

To assist CLEAR30 participants that elect **OPTION 2**, FSA will enter into a contract or agreement with partner organizations or third-party vendors who will facilitate completion of maintenance activities on enrolled land on a regular basis.

Maintenance payments are authorized for all CLEAR30 maintenance activities, including conservation cover re-establishment and management, **consistent with conservation plans**, NRCS or TSP monitoring, or other documentation made a part of the CRP-1-30, upon completion.



CRP CLEAR30 PILOT

Maintenance Activities and Payments, *continued*

Maintenance Option	Maintenance Payment Rate
Option 1 – Producer performs maintenance	75%
Option 2 – Vendor performs maintenance through contract/agreement.	100%



Photo courtesy of NRCS

CRP CLEAR30 PILOT

Monitoring Site Visits

- NRCS or TSP will complete monitoring site visits every 3 years for all CLEAR30 contracts.
- Modifications to the conservation plan will occur as needed after the site visits to schedule needed **maintenance** activities over the next 3 years.



Photo courtesy of NRCS

CLEAR30 Offer Process

Those interested in enrolling into CLEAR30 should:

- Call local office and tell them you're interested in enrolling.
- FSA can then generate the forms needed, and email them

Visit www.farmers.gov/coronavirus for updates on the latest status of office re-openings.

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CLEAR30 Stakeholder Organization Engagement with FSA

- Engage with FSA State Outreach Coordinators
- Co-host webinars
- Share information on social media platforms



The screenshot shows the USDA Farm Service Agency website. The header includes the USDA logo, the text 'United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency', and a search bar labeled 'Search FSA'. The navigation menu contains 'Home', 'Programs and Services', 'State Offices', 'Online Services', and 'Newsroom'. The main content area features a 'Related Topics' sidebar with links to 'Outreach & Education Home', 'About Us', 'Outreach Programs', 'Outreach Events', 'Outreach Webinars', 'Partner Organization Resources', 'State Outreach Coordinators', and 'Stakeholder Information'. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: 'Home /Programs and Services /Outreach and Education /State Outreach Coordinators'. Below this is a section titled 'State Outreach Coordinators' with the text: 'FSA has strengthened its outreach commitment by assigning Outreach Coordinators in all 51 state/territory offices and each of our 2,100 county offices nationwide.'

CLEAR30 Takeaways

- Available to water quality practices with expiring CRP contracts
- First CRP program to offer a 30-year contract
- First CRP program to offer Maintenance Payments
- Enhanced Annual Payment Rate

Sign-Up: June 15 – August 6, 2021

For additional resources on the CLEAR30 program, you can find fact sheets on FSA's online website at www.fsa.usda.gov/newsroom under Conservation





CLEAR 30
Frequently
Asked
Questions
(FAQs)





CLEAR 30 FAQs

Do expiring CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) contracts qualify for this?

The county offices will need to consult with their CREP agreement and their state office to make that determination, because there are a wide variety of provisions within the CREP agreements across the country, that may have some type of restriction, at the time of the end of their contract but if there are no provisions within the CREP agreement that prevent re enrollment, they might be eligible for CLEAR30.



CLEAR 30 FAQs

With expiring contracts, are we able to change the practice and still be able to do a CLEAR30 contract?

The participant will offer the same practice that was under their previous Continuous CRP contracts into CLEAR30.



CLEAR 30 FAQs

Is there flexibility in the expiration date for CRP contracts that would be eligible for clear 30?

No, only contracts that are expiring on September 30, 2021 are eligible to offer into CLEAR30 under the current signup.



CLEAR 30 FAQs

Will land owners be reimbursed for 100% of the maintenance costs?

If the if the landowner chooses to do the maintenance themselves. They will be paid at 75% of a rate that is set by our FSA State Committee.

Each state will have a payment schedule for common maintenance type activities, and then participants will be reimbursed and 75% of that rate, the rate they're setting is considered an average rate for conducting the activity.



CLEAR 30 FAQs

How does one get on FSA's vendor list to complete maintenance on the CLEAR30 practices?

FSA will be putting out a Request for Proposals for vendors to submit their interest in working with FSA to complete the maintenance for contracts enrolled in CLEAR30.

This Request for Proposals will be sent out through <https://www.gsa.gov/small-business/-compete-for-contracts>.



CLEAR 30 FAQs

What are the haying and grazing provision?

CLEAR30 will follow the same haying grazing provision that we follow for other CRP.

More information can be found within Handbook 2-CRP, Part 19



CLEAR 30 FAQs

Are there more compatible uses allowed on CLEAR30 acres?

The Farm Bill allowed for compatible uses including hunting and fishing, prescribed haying and grazing, and also managed timber harvest.



CLEAR 30 FAQs

**What happens if I need to sell my land?
Or what happens if I don't outlive the
life of the contract?**

For voluntary termination, which means the participant has done everything that they're supposed to do, but for some reason they need to terminate the contract. Then the only requirement will be to pay back the annual rental payments.

If there is a breach of contract. Then the participant would be responsible for paying back the annual rental payments and the maintenance payments.



CLEAR 30 FAQs

What if the maintenance falls into noncompliance?

If the participant chooses to have FSA secure vendor to conduct the maintenance activities, then FSA would work with the vendor to bring the maintenance into compliance, or FSA would secure a different vendor.



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