

CRP Evolving

Written by Wauneta Breeze
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Dan Steinkruger, State Director for USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that the 2012 general signup resulted in 104,298 acres enrolled into the 10-year CRP starting on October 1, 2012.

Steinkruger stated "we are excited to enroll or re-enroll over 100,000 acres into this critical conservation and environmental program in Nebraska; however, the CRP program is downsizing in Nebraska and nationally."

Nebraska has a little over 201,000 acres coming out of CRP on October 1, 2012.

With the recent signup there will be a net loss of 100,000 acres of CRP across the state. These acres are being returned to crop production or for grazing.

This reduction will leave about 900,000 acres in CRP in Nebraska, down from peak enrollment of over 1.34 million acres in 2007.

"For more than 25 years, CRP has protected natural resources in Nebraska while providing economic and environmental benefits to rural communities through the state," said Steinkruger.

"The newly accepted CRP offers will continue the CRP legacy by improving water and air quality, increasing wildlife habitat and preventing soil erosion."

Nationwide, USDA accepted enrollment of 3.9 million acres bringing the total program enrollment to 29.6 million acres.

Landowners enrolled in CRP receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Accepted contracts will become effective October 1, 2012.

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“The change in CRP acreage in Nebraska and nationally is driven by the economics of higher commodity and livestock prices,” noted Steinkruger.

For more information about the Conservation Reserve Program, please contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.