

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)?

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Presentation for 2008 NACD Legislative Conference



Overview of Presentation

- 2008 Farm Bill – CRP Changes
 - What enrollments continue?
 - What is the future of the program?
- 2008 Farm Bill – FSA Conservation
- Other FSA Programs

CRP Enrollment Authority

- Extended through Sept. 30, 2012
- 39.2 million acres through 2009 then 32.0 million acres for 2010 – 2012
- Authority to exclude acreage enrolled under continuous signup or the CREP provided county government concurs



Other Enrollment Factors

- Cropping history updated to four of six years between 2002 to 2007
- Alfalfa, multi-year grasses & legumes in a rotation practice with an annual agricultural commodity



Exceptions to General Prohibitions (Harvesting)

- Managed harvesting with a payment reduction
- Managed harvesting for biomass with a payment reduction
- Emergency Haying

Exceptions to General Prohibitions (Grazing)

- Routine grazing (includes frequency and duration within a year) and with a payment reduction
- Prescribed grazing for the control of invasive species with a payment reduction
- Emergency Grazing



Exceptions to General Prohibitions (Other)

Wind turbines with
vegetation and
wildlife
management and
with a payment
reduction



Other Provisions

- Cost-share is authorized for two to four years for tree thinning to improve resources on the land
- On acceptability of offers, local preference when all other factors are equal
- Annual survey of dryland and irrigated cash rental rates by NASS
- Direct attribution of annual payments which may not exceed \$50,000 per person per year

Transition Incentives

- To facilitate a transition to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher from a retired or retiring owner or operator to return some/all into production using sustainable grazing or crop production methods:
 - During the final year of the CRP contract
 - Conservation and land improvements may be made
 - Certification under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 may begin



Transition Incentives (cont.)

- After expiration of the CRP contract:
 - Retired/retiring owner or operator must sell or lease (long-term or lease with purchase option) to the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher
 - A conservation plan is required
 - May be able to enroll under Conservation Stewardship Program or Environmental Quality Incentives Program
 - CRP annual rental payments may be available for up to two years if the retired/retiring owner or operator and beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or ranchers are not family members

Farmable Wetland Program (FWP)

- Extended to September 30, 2012



Photo courtesy of MI USDA NRCS



FWP Land Eligibility Expanded

- Wetland with a cropping history of at least three of preceding 10 crop years
- Constructed wetland development for a row crop agriculture drainage system designed to provide nitrogen removal and other wetland functions
- Land devoted to commercial pond-raised aquaculture in any year during 2002 through 2007



FWP Land Eligibility Expanded (continued)

- Land that, after January 1, 1990, and before December 31, 2002, was cropped during at least three of 10 crop years and was subject to the natural overflow of a prairie wetland
- Buffer acreage to protect the land and to accommodate farming practices

FWP Enrollment Limitations

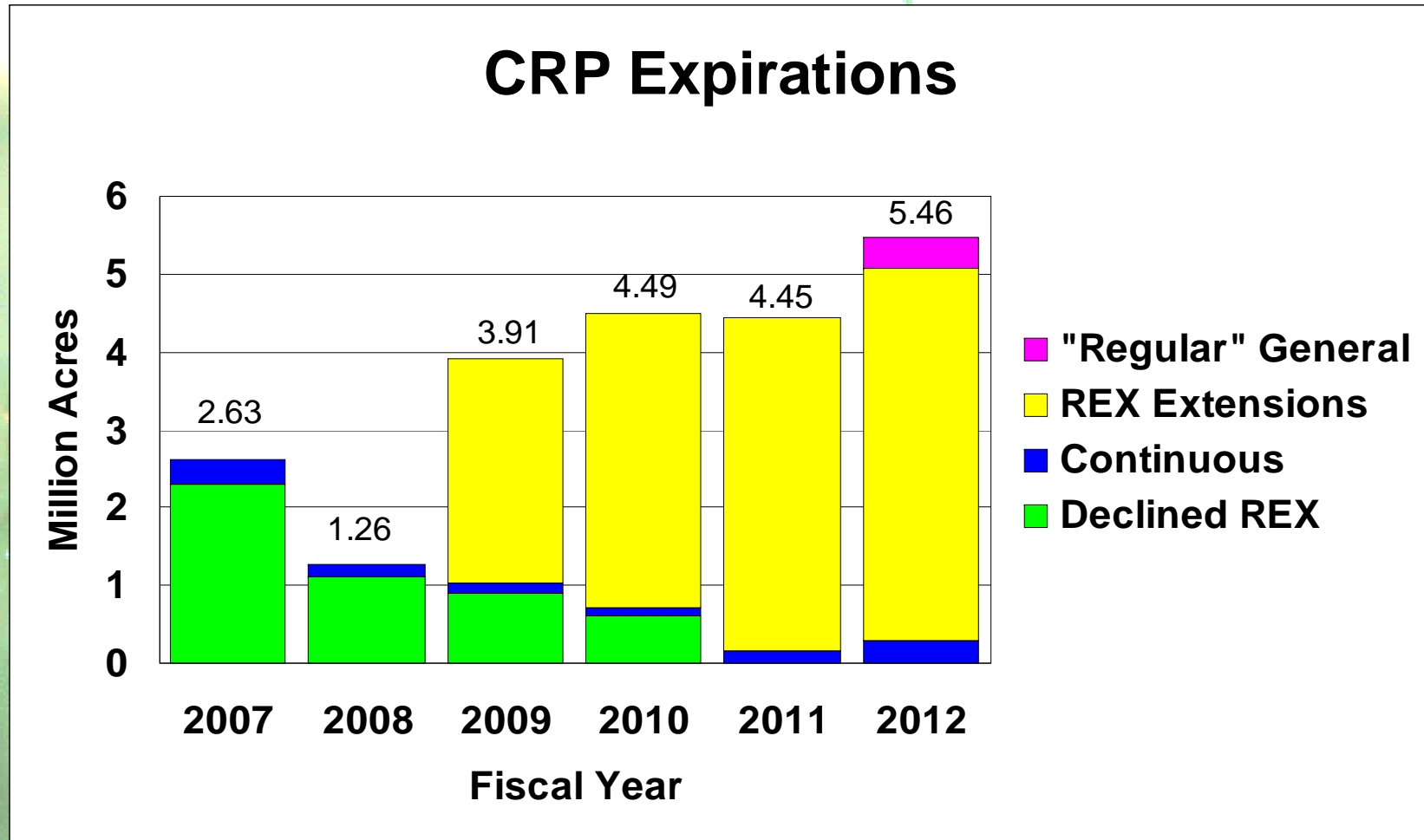
- No more than 1 million acres may be enrolled in FWP
- Initial per State allocations may not exceed 100,000 acres but may be increased to 200,000 acres
- 40 acres for wetlands and constructed wetlands
- 20 acres for intermittently flooded prairie wetland
- 40 acres per tract



FWP Authorized Incentives

- Signing incentive payment of \$100 per acre
- Practice incentive payment of 40 percent of the cost to establish the practice
- 120 percent rental rate

CRP Contract Expiration



So, What is CRP's Future?

- For many years, trend has been to
 - Smaller, targeted acres
 - Water quality and other practices
- Reduced enrollment authority – 32 mil ac
- *Early out?????*
- Growth in other conservation programs
- Seek public input on ideas, suggestions

Other FSA Conservation Programs

- Emergency Conservation Program
- Grassland Reserve Program (w/NRCS)
- Source Water Protection Program
- Biomass Crop Assistance Program
- Emergency Forest Restoration Program
- Public Access (“Open Fields”) Program

Other FSA Programs Available for Producers

- Farm Loan Programs
 - Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Loans
 - Direct Farm Loans
 - Emergency Farm Loans
 - Guaranteed Farm Loans
 - Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Loans
- Price Support Programs
 - Facility Loan Programs
 - Commodity Loans
 - Loan Deficiency Payments
 - Market Loss Assistance Payment Programs
 - Milk Income Loss Contract Extension (MILC-X)



Other FSA Programs Available for Producers (cont.)

- Disaster Assistance Programs
- Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program
- Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)
- Tobacco Transition Payment Program



Summary of Presentation

- **2008 Farm Bill – CRP Changes**
 - CRP enrollment continues but decreased acreage
 - Changes to Cropping History
 - Crop Rotation
 - Exceptions to Prohibitions
 - Transition Incentives
 - Changes to FWP
- **2008 Farm Bill – FSA Conservation**
 - New and exciting programs in Biomass, Emergency Forest Restoration and Public Access
- **Other FSA Programs**
 - Many existing and new FSA programs to assist farmers



THANK YOU

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