



# NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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## Conservation Reserve Program General Signup Underway

(EAST LANSING, MI), August 6, 2010 -- Christine White, State Executive Director for Michigan's Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers and landowners that the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup began on Monday, August 2, 2010. Certain practices are available on a continuous basis, however, it has been 5 years since the last competitive general CRP signup took place. Producers can offer land for CRP general signup through August 27, 2010.

“The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is the USDA's largest private-lands voluntary conservation program,” said White. “CRP helps agricultural producers convert environmentally sensitive agricultural land to achieve conservation benefits.”

To be eligible for CRP, the producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the close of the CRP signup, August 27, 2010. Land must be cropland which has been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2002- 2007, and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Alfalfa and other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may be eligible for this year.

Benefits to CRP include:

- improved and increased wildlife habitat
- improved water quality
- increased soil quality
- reduce soil erosion
- increase air quality

In return for planting long-term resource conserving covers, FSA provides CRP participants annual rental payments, maintenance payments, cost-share and technical assistance.

Don't miss this opportunity! Contact your local USDA Service Center for more information or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/crp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp).

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