

For: State and County Offices

**Announcing CRP Grassland Signup 200 Second and Third Ranking Periods
and Small Livestock Operation Initiative**

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Second and Third Ranking Periods

A Background

Participants in CRP Grasslands establish or maintain long-term, resource-conserving grasses, and other plant species to control soil erosion, improve water quality, and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. Unlike other types of CRP, the CRP Grasslands participants can still use the land for livestock production (e.g. grazing or producing hay), while following their conservation and grazing plans in order to maintain the cover. A goal of CRP Grasslands is to minimize conversion of grasslands to either row crops or other non-agricultural uses. Participants can receive annual payments of up to 75 percent of the grazing value of the land and up to 50 percent to fund cover or practices like cross-fencing to support rotational grazing or improving pasture cover to benefit pollinators or other wildlife.

Offers for CRP grassland are submitted continuously and are ranked after completion of an announced ranking period using Grassland ranking factors. FSA collects data for each of the ranking factors based on the relative benefits for the land offered according to 2-CRP and each eligible offer is ranked in comparison to all other offers with selections being made based on that ranking.

B Purpose

This notice provides:

- upcoming CRP Grasslands ranking period dates
- new ranking options for the third ranking period.

The second CRP Grasslands ranking period will end November 10, 2016.

The third ranking period, running from November 14 through December 16, 2016, will support a new initiative targeting small scale livestock operations. Additional information about the small livestock operation eligibility will be forthcoming.

All offers not accepted from prior ranking periods will be automatically ranked along with newly submitted offers unless the offer was withdrawn by the producer.

Disposal Date	Distribution
January 1, 2017	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices