***Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)***

CRP is a Land Conservation program administered by FSA in exchange for yearly rental payment to the landowners. Farmers who are enrolled agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agriculture products and plant species that will improve the environments health and quality. These contracts can be from 10 – 15 years with a long term goal to reestablish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and reduce the loss of wildlife habitat.

CRP was signed into law by Ronald Reagan in 1985, as one of the largest Land Conservation Programs in the United States. Over the years thanks to the VOLUNTARY participation by farmers and land owners, CRP has improved water quality, reduced soil erosion and increased habitat for endangered species. CRP has 22 million acres enrolled and under the 2018 Farm Bill the acreage cap was increased to 27 million. Although the deadline for 2020 enrollment was February 28th farmers and landowners can get their plans in place and apply for the 2021 enrollment.

This year marking the 35th year anniversary CPR has:

* Prevented over 9 million tons of soil eroding
* Reducing nitrogen and phosphorus runoff
* Sequestering annual average of 49 million tons of greenhouse gases
* Created over 3 million acres of restored wetlands while protecting 175,000 stream miles with riparian forest and grass buffers.
* Benefiting bees and other pollinators and increased population of ducks, pheasants, turkey, bobwhite quail, prairie chickens, and many other birds.

*Conservation Corner,*



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