

2007 Conservation Programs at a Glance

| Program Name | Program Purpose | Contract Length | Eligibility (Applicant) | Eligibility (Land) | Sign-up Period | Evaluation of Applications | Cost Share Rate | Funding Limit | Special Notes |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|---------------|
| CRP Continuous | To protect soil, water, wildlife and to improve water quality | 10 to 15 years | Individuals and/or groups who own eligible land for at least one year | Cropland (cropped 4 out of 6 years from 1996 to 2001) or pasture grazed 2yrs between 1996 & 2001 | Continuous, throughout the year | Noncompetitive Based on eligibility | 50% of predetermined average cost, plus additional practice installation incentive and sign-up bonus. | \$50,000 per person per fiscal year | 1, 2, 4, 6 |
| CRP General | To apply high priority conservation practices that benefit large areas | 10 to 15 years | Individuals and/or groups who have owned land for at least 1 year | Cropland (cropped 4 out of 6 years from 1996 to 2001) re-enrollments & extensions | Announced by Secretary of Agriculture | Competitive, environmental benefits/costs | 50% of predetermined average cost | \$50,000 per person per fiscal year | 1, 2, 4 |
| CREP Enhancement | To improve water quality and wildlife habitat in selected watersheds in North Carolina | 10 to 15 years, 30 years, or permanent easements by the State | Individuals and/or groups who own eligible land in Neuse, Tar-Pam, Chowan, or Jordan Lake watersheds, owned land for at least 1 year | Cropland (cropped 4 out of 6 years from 1996 to 2001) or marginal pasture grazed 2 years between 1996 and 2001. | Continuous, throughout the year | Priority based on environmental benefits | Up to 100% of predetermined average cost. Easement payments available. | \$50,000 per person per fiscal year | 1, 2, 5 |
| CSP | To reward producers who undertake and maintain high levels of conservation stewardship | 5 to 10 years | All who meet the quality criteria | Cropland, grazing lands and small incidental forest areas | Announced by Secretary of Agriculture for selected watersheds | Based on meeting program quality criteria | Calculated based on combination of: annual base payment, existing practice payment, one-time new practice payment, and enhancement component | Tier I - \$20,000 Tier II - \$35,000 Tier III - \$45,000 | |
| EQIP | To address significant natural resource concerns on agricultural land | 1 year after last practice is installed | Livestock or agricultural producers and landowners | All agricultural land uses | Continuous, with periodic designated ranking periods | Competitive, based on resource concerns, cost, & environmental benefits | Varies, but not more than 50% of average installation cost. Up to 90% for limited resource and beginning farmers | \$450,000 total per individual or entity from fiscal year 2002 to 2007 | 2 |
| GRP | To restore and conserve grassland for agriculture and wildlife | Permanent 30 Year 20 Year 15 Year 10 Year | Private landowners with at least 10 acres of grassland | Permanent grassland used for grazing, hay or wildlife land | Continuous with periodic designated ranking periods | Competitive, environmental benefits and risk of conversion | 100% land value for permanent easement; 30% for 30 year easement; or rental payments | Lump sum payment available. Value determined by appraisal | 4 |
| WHIP | Improving habitat for at-risk species at landscape scale. | 5-10 years | Individuals, clubs, companies, partnerships, NGO's, tribes, state and local governments | All land where important wildlife habitat can be provided. | Continuous with periodic designated ranking periods | Competitive, based on resource concerns, cost, & environmental benefits | 75% of predetermined average cost | \$100,000 per contract. | 1, 2 |
| WRP | Restore and protect wetlands and riparian areas for wildlife and improve water quality | Permanent 30 year 10 year | Individuals and/or groups who have owned land for at least 1 year | Prior converted wetland (PC), farmed wetland (FW), riparian areas | Continuous | Competitive | Up to 100% of restoration cost + 100% of land value for permanent easement. Rates for 30 yr. and 10 yr. are lower | Lump sum payment available. Value determined by appraisal and costs. \$5,100 per acre cap. | 2 |
| NC Ag Cost Share Program | Reduce agriculture nonpoint pollution and improve the water quality in NC | Typically 3 year contracts, some annual contracts | Landowner or tenant of an agricultural operation existing for more than 3 years | Cropland or pastureland | Continuous, throughout the year | Based on county priorities | 75% of predetermined average cost. Up to 90% for Limited Resource & Beginning Farmers & participants in Enhanced Voluntary Ag. Districts. | \$75,000 per individual per year. Some practices and SWCD's have specific caps. | 3 |

1) Contract length depends on practices selected, and option of applicant.

2) Maximum limits for each of the different programs are independent of each other. Federal programs can not be used to fund practices on the same acreage.

3) Federal funds can be used to supplement state cost-share, but total can not exceed 75% of actual cost of practice(s) implemented

4) Annual rental payments based on soils rental rates.

*****All Programs Require a Conservation Plan. See Your Local NRCS and SWCD Office for Specifics Regarding Plan Requirements and/or Eligible Practices, or visit**

<http://www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov/programs>

5) Annual rental payment based on soils rental rates plus incentive bonus for easements.

6) One time payment applied to certain practices.

7) Administered by the NC Forest Service