



CRP ADD-ON LEASES 2024 FACT SHEET



WHAT ARE CRP ADD-ON LEASES?

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a federal government program administered by the Farm Service Agency and designed to assist agricultural producers in conserving and improving soil, water, wildlife, and other natural resources by converting highly erodible cropland to vegetative cover.

CRP Add-on Leases offer additional payments to agricultural producers through enrollment in the FWP's Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program (UGBEP). Montana has lost a significant amount of CRP in recent years, and more is scheduled to expire in the near future. Working together, we can help ensure game birds and other wildlife have productive nesting cover, conserve and improve soil health, and protect water quality.

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Agricultural producers receive an annual lease payment of \$10 per CRP acre for each year remaining in their USDA contract.
- Producers may enroll up to 640 CRP acres per contiguous parcel of private land or State Trust lease. More than one application may be submitted if land parcels or State Trust leases are at least ¼-mile apart.
- CRP is eligible for managed or emergency harvesting or routine grazing activities once in 5 years and when pre-approved by the USDA.
- All enrolled acres are open to free walk-in public access for game bird hunting with no further permission needed.

- Additional acres may be offered to help manage walk-in hunting.
- FWP contracts begin **September 1** and end **January 1** of the year the USDA contract expires.

PAYMENT EXAMPLE

(640 CRP acres) X (\$10 per acre) equals an annual payment of \$6,400.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

- Additional incentives may be available for mid-contract management activities, such as light disking. Preapproval by NRCS is required.
- Applicants reseeding in 2024 may qualify for additional bonus payments.
- **FWP Cooperators currently enrolled in active CRP leases, including Open Fields, may enroll additional CRP acres to meet the 640-acre CRP enrollment maximum.**

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A minimum of 2 years remaining on your USDA contracts;
- Continuous CRP practices such as SAFE CRP may be eligible for enrollment if the total access area is 100 acres or more;
- Agree to manage the CRP for wildlife;
- Agree to allow free walk-in game bird hunting access during the contract term; and
- Due to different management jurisdictions, lands within Indian Reservations do not qualify.

CONTACT US! For more information, contact your regional FWP staff.

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*Applications may be downloaded here: fwp.mt.gov/ugbep - click CRP Add-on Leases
Enrollment will be based on eligibility, priority, and available funding.*

FWP encourages interested producers to apply for the CRP Add-on Lease option even though the 2024 USDA enrollment status may not be known by the FWP deadline of April 19.