



## **Conservation Reserve Program – Transition Incentives Program**

### **What is it?**

CRP-TIP was created in the 2008 Farm Bill to help beginning, socially disadvantaged, or veteran farmers access valuable farmland while conserving natural resources. Retiring farmers or landowners who are enrolled in CRP with a contract set to expire are eligible for two extra years of CRP rental payments if they rent or sell their land to a beginning, socially disadvantaged, or veteran farmer – with certain conditions.

### **How does a land owner with an expiring CRP contract qualify?**

- The land owner must have a CRP contract that is set to expire.
- The land owner must sell or lease the expiring CRP land to a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who is not related to the land owner.
  - If the land is leased, the lease must be an irrevocable lease of at least five (5) years.
  - The beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer must return some or all of the land to production using sustainable grazing or crop production methods.
  - The beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer must be allowed to develop a conservation plan and begin the organic certification process or install conservation practices and initiate land improvements during the last year of the contract.
- As a practical matter, this means an agreement must be in place well before the CRP contract expires.

### **What must a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher do to qualify?**

- Develop a conservation plan for the land.
- Begin conservation practices, land improvements, or organic transition within the last year of the expiring CRP contract.
- The beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer is eligible immediately to enroll partial field conservation practices in CRP following the expiration of the land owner's CRP contract, provided that the beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer has control of the property and meets all other qualifying conditions of CRP.

## The legalese

- The ability to qualify for extra CRP payments is subject to funding availability.
- The land owner with the expiring CRP contract and the beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer must agree to be jointly and severally responsible for complying with both the provisions of the Transition Incentives Program agreement, and must also agree to be jointly and severally responsible for any payment adjustments that may result from violations of the terms or conditions of the Transition Incentives Program.

## How do I get started?

- Contact your local FSA office to find out if you qualify. Follow this link to find your county FSA office: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=mn&agency=fsa>.
- If you are a land owner looking for a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer to rent or sell in order to take advantage of the CRP-TIP program, you can list your property here: <http://1.usa.gov/1QGZ2A1>. Beginning, veteran, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers can also check the same web page to look for land owners who have land to rent or sell.
- The Minnesota Department of Agriculture hosts a Farm Link page for beginning and transitioning farmers and ranchers. <http://www2.mda.state.mn.us/webapp/props4sale/>.
- Many organizations have farmer members who are looking for land to rent or buy, including immigrant and beginning farmers, and farmers looking for land for all types of operations – livestock, produce, commodities, conventional, sustainable, and organic. Some of them are listed here: <http://bit.ly/1TnW8Vm>.

## Questions about CRP-TIP?

- Contact USDA Farm Service Agency – Sarah Steinhilber, 651-602-7724, [sarah.steinhilber@mn.usda.gov](mailto:sarah.steinhilber@mn.usda.gov).

## Other Questions?

- Call FLAG at 651-223-5400.

*Farmers' Legal Action Group (FLAG) is a nonprofit law center dedicated to providing legal services and support to family farmers and their communities in order to help keep family farmers on the land. To find out more, go to: [www.flaginc.org](http://www.flaginc.org). Funding for this Fact Sheet was provided by a USDA NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant.*