

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 marginal pastureland	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	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. 50% USDA & 50% State. 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	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, from 50 to 75% 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 appraised land value for permanent easement. Rates for 30 yr. and 10 yr. are lower	Lump sum payment available. \$5,100 per acre cap for easement. Restoration cost determined by restoration plan components.	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.

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

6) One time payment applied to certain practices.

*****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>**