



NEWS RELEASE

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GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM SIGNUP

SAINT PAUL, MN June 29, 2005 Signup for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) continues until July 22, 2005. GRP is a voluntary program that promotes grazing operations; preserves threatened and endangered species and protects grassland from conversion.

Landowners who can provide clear title are eligible to submit an application for either a permanent or 30-year easement option. Landowners and others who have general control of the acreage may submit an application for a rental agreement. Applications may be filed for an easement or rental agreement with either the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office personnel at any time.

Eligible land includes grassland or land that contains forbs or shrubs (including improved rangeland and pastureland); and grassland with potential to provide habitat for animal or plant populations of significant ecological value if the land is retained in its current use or restored to a natural condition.

GRP is authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) administer the program. Funding for the GRP comes from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

If you need more information about GRP, please contact your local USDA Service Center, listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture. Information also is available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002/>

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