



Minnesota Grassland Reserve Program 2010 Fact Sheet



United States Department of Agriculture

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Overview

The revised Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program that assists grazing operators to maintain and protect grazing lands, including rangeland and pastureland, while conserving related environmental values on grasslands. The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grasslands under the threat of conversion.

GRP is authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, as amended by the 2008 Farm Bill legislation. 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).

Sign-up Dates

Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis; however, on May 12, 2010, the first scoring and ranking will occur for this year's applications. The amount of funding available in Minnesota is approximately \$680,000. Once this year's funds have been exhausted, all eligible applicants will remain on file until additional funding becomes available.

Benefits

Conserving and protecting grasslands while promoting properly managed grazing contributes positively to the economy of many regions, provides biodiversity of plant and animal populations, and improves environmental quality.

How GRP Works

Applications may be filed for a rental agreement with either NRCS or FSA county office personnel at any time. All enrolled acres are actively managed through a conservation plan which ensures that proper grazing management, wildlife, and biodiversity values are protected. Participants voluntarily limit future use of the land while retaining the right to

conduct all common grazing practices. Other activities such as hay production, or harvesting grasslands for seed production can be conducted subject to certain restrictions during the nesting season of bird species that are in significant decline or those that are protected under Federal or State law. Where recommended participants can maintain and construct firebreaks.

Eligibility

Eligible landowners can submit an application for an agreement with a 10-year, 15-year, or 20-year life span. Landowners and others who have general control of the acreage may submit an application for a rental agreement.

The Adjusted Gross Income provision of the 2008 Farm Bill impacts eligibility for the GRP. Individuals or entities that have an average adjusted gross income exceeding \$1 million for the three tax years immediately preceding the year the contract is approved are not eligible to receive program benefits or payments. However, an exemption is provided in cases where 66 percent of the adjusted gross income is derived from farming, ranching, or forestry operations.

Eligible land includes grassland or land that contains forbs or shrubs (including improved rangeland and pastureland); and grassland or land that is located in an area that historically has been dominated by grassland, forbs, and shrubs and has 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. Incidental lands may be included to allow for the efficient administration of an agreement or easement.

The revised eligibility criteria now allows offers for lands currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) with a contract expiration date of September 30, 2010. All offers for expiring CRP lands are limited to enrolling in GRP as a 20-year agreement.

Ranking Criteria

Applications will be scored and ranked with emphasis on:

- support for grazing operations;
- biodiversity of plants and animals; and
- grasslands at risk of conversion.

The program offers several enrollment options

Rental Agreement. Participants have the option of choosing a 10-year, 15-year, or 20-year agreement. Payments will be disbursed on the agreement anniversary date each year.

2010 GRP County Rental Rates

County	GRP Rental Rate \$ Per Acre	County	GRP Rental Rate \$ Per Acre
Aitkin	7.00	Martin	16.50
Anoka	10.00	Meeker	16.50
Becker	10.00	Mille Lacs	8.50

Beltrami	7.00	Morrison	8.50
Benton	9.50	Mower	16.50
Big Stone	16.50	Murray	16.50
Blue Earth	16.50	Nicollet	16.50
Brown	16.50	Nobles	16.50
Carlton	5.50	Norman	10.50
Carver	16.50	Olmsted	16.50
Cass	7.00	East Otter Tail	11.00
Chippewa	16.50	West Otter Tail	11.00
Chisago	9.50	Pennington	8.50
Clay	11.50	Pine	7.00
Clearwater	7.50	Pipestone	16.50
Cook	5.50	East Polk	9.00
Cottonwood	16.50	West Polk	9.50
Crow Wing	7.00	Pope	14.00
Dakota	16.50	Ramsey	14.00
Dodge	16.50	Red Lake	8.50
Douglas	11.00	Redwood	16.50
Faribault	16.50	Renville	16.50
Fillmore	16.50	Rice	16.50
Freeborn	16.50	Rock	16.50
Goodhue	16.50	Roseau	7.50
Grant	13.00	North St. Louis	5.50
Hennepin	14.00	South St. Louis	5.50
Houston	16.50	Scott	16.50
Hubbard	8.00	Sherburne	9.50
Isanti	9.50	Sibley	16.50
Itasca	5.50	Stearns	14.00
Jackson	16.50	Steele	16.50
Kanabec	8.50	Stevens	15.50
Kandiyohi	16.50	Swift	16.50
Kittson	8.50	Todd	9.50
Koochiching	5.50	Traverse	15.00
Lac Qui Parle	16.50	Wabasha	16.50
Lake	5.50	Wadena	8.50
Lake of the Woods	7.00	Waseca	16.50
Le Sueur	16.50	Washington	14.00
Lincoln	16.50	Watonwan	16.50
Lyon	16.50	Wilkin	13.50
McLeod	16.50	Winona	16.50
Mahnomen	9.50	Wright	14.00
Marshall	8.50	Yellow Medicine	16.50

For More Information

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/2008/> and <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/GRP/>.

Note: This is not intended to be a definitive interpretation of farm legislation. Rather, it is preliminary and may change as USDA develops implementing policies and procedures. Please check back for updates.

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