



Washington Association of Wheat Growers

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2016 Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment Results

BACKGROUND:

WAWG supports CRP when it is part of the economic and environmental portfolio of a working farm. Rule changes brought forth under the 2014 Farm Bill reduced total CRP acre cap from 32 million to 24 million by FY2018. See WAWG white paper dated August 2015 for a complete summary of the impacts of CRP changes for Washington wheat growers.

2016 ENROLLMENT RESULTS:

Historically, CRP enrollment had an acceptance rate of well over 90% in Washington state. The general sign-up for 2016 resulted in 113,232 acres accepted, approximately a 50% acceptance rate. See below for Washington county results. Granted, this is higher than the 23% national acceptance rate, however WAWG is concerned the dwindling enrollment will have a negative impact on CRP's effectiveness as a key land stewardship tool to protect land, water and wildlife.

Results for Washington State's 2016 General Sign up are as follows:

County	Offers Received	Acres Offered	Offers Accepted	Acres Accepted	% offers accepted	% acres accepted
Adams	256	33,153.60	181	22,134.73	70.7%	66.8%
Asotin	9	2,243.90	0	0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Benton	131	22,236.70	30	2,619.49	22.9%	11.8%
Columbia	56	8,661.60	29	7,422.01	51.8%	85.7%
Douglas	1/					
Franklin	89	15,642.50	64	9,849.75	71.9%	63.0%
Garfield	52	5,187.30	16	1,310.28	30.8%	25.3%
Grant	156	23,317.10	89	11,997.97	57.1%	51.5%
Kittitas	1/					
Klickitat	43	6,387.40	10	1,483.88	23.3%	23.2%
Lincoln	432	50,160.10	274	32,954.89	63.4%	65.7%
Spokane	55	2,791.10	0	0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Stevens	1/					
Walla Wal	43	10,890.00	16	4,654.55	37.2%	42.7%
Whitman	208	39,556.60	61	15,541.76	29.3%	39.3%
Yakima	30	6,325.10	12	3,050.43	40.0%	48.2%
Total:	1569	227,074.80	785	113,232.34	50.0%	49.9%

1/: Freedom of Information Act prohibits the release of data in counties with 5 or fewer offers.
Acres offered include acres that likely expired in 2015 and didn't qualify for the one year extension.

The Conservation Priority Area (CPA) presumably played a large factor in the review process. As discussed in our white paper, WAWG supports the CPA, but we also support the establishment of a CRP Priority area for grouse outside the current air quality CPA. See CPA map.

Historically, the Environmental Benefit Index cutoff ranged from 240-260, but was 209 in the most recent general sign up. The cutoff for the 2016 sign-up was 292. See EBI document.



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Results of CRP Sign-up 45 were as follows (data as of July 2013):

STATE	Offered Acres	Offers Received	Acceptable Offers (EBI >=209) 1/					
			Number	Acres	Percent	Expiring Acres	Rent	EBI
WASHINGTON	201,400	1,349	1,322	198,149	98%	180,511	\$61	285
U.S.	1,906,945	27,821	24,213	1,684,030	88%	1,369,369	\$64	268

EXPIRING ACRES:

Washington State acres set to expire in the CRP program are as follows:

<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
101,931	10,494	163,807	46,147	199,019

GROWER OPTIONS:

If land was not accepted back in the CRP program, FSA has provided a variety of options (but not limited to):

- If contract expired in 2016, base is restored for participation in ARC/PLC.
 - A one-time program election becomes effective for 2017 & 2018 crop years (remaining life of the current farm bill).
 - Land may remain in grass under ARC-CO & PLC options.
- If contract expired in 2016, enroll in CRP-TIP program
 - Two additional years of payments if a beginning farmer produces crop or grazes
- Environmental priority program for smaller acreages
 - CP-33 field borders 30-120 feet around whole fields
 - State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) – guaranteed enrollment plus incentive payments and cost cover share.
 - Ferruginous hawk SAFE – designated nesting areas in Adams, Benton and Franklin counties
 - Shrub-steppe SAFE – sage grouse habitat block in Adams, Lincoln, Grant or Okanogan counties
 - CP-ISA – contour buffers
 - Highly Erodible Land Initiative (HELI)
 - Less than 10,000 acres state wide, requires an environmental index greater than 20 to qualify
 - Potential sign-up later this summer
- Lease grazing rights to cattle producers
- Return to cropping

NEXT STEPS / QUESTIONS:

- Maintain support of CRP as negotiations begin for the 2018 Farm Bill.
- Maintain support of the establishment of a CRP priority area for grouse outside the current air quality CPA.
- Should WAWG follow suit after South Dakota and ask Congress to reassess the selection process for general CRP sign-ups and to allocate sufficient continuous CRP acres when needed and requested?