



Fact Sheet

October 2006

## Conservation Reserve Program Longleaf Pine Initiative

### Overview

In October 2006, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) unveiled a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Longleaf Pine Initiative designed to reforest up to 250,000 acres of longleaf pine forests in nine southern states.

Producers in the following states may be eligible to participate in the CRP Longleaf Pine Initiative: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. This fact sheet contains a complete list of eligible counties. Sign-up is continuous provided eligibility requirements are met.

Longleaf pine was once the dominant tree species on an estimated 60 million acres and in the mix of species on another 30 million acres along the coastal plain from east Texas, the mountains of Alabama, northwest Georgia and the Virginia piedmont. Longleaf pine stands declined over the past 100 years and today occupy fewer than four million acres of the historic range. Longleaf pine forests provide numerous environmental benefits including wildlife habitat.

CRP is a voluntary program that provides annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to restore long-term, resource-conserving covers on eligible land. FSA makes annual rental

payments based on the agriculture rental value of the land and provides cost-share assistance up to 50 percent of the participant's costs to establish CRP practices. Contracts are from 10 to 15 years. Authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985, CRP is administered by FSA on behalf of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

### Key Provisions

Key provisions of the continuous sign-up enhancements include:

- A one-time up front signing incentive payment (SIP) of \$100 per acre for CRP contracts for 10 or more years, which will be paid by CCC after eligibility criteria are met and the CRP contract is approved; and
- A one-time practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40 percent of the eligible installation costs for certain practices on Continuous CRP land. CCC will issue PIP payments after the CRP practice is installed, eligible costs are verified and other payment eligibility criteria are met.

### Requirements

The following requirements apply during the life of the contract:

- Plantings must be protected from grazing by domestic livestock;
- Chemicals used in performing the practice must not include fertilizers and be:

- Federally, state and locally registered; and
- Applied according to authorized registered uses, label directions, and other federal or state policies and requirements;
- The practice has periodic management activities performed according to the conservation plan; and
- The producer controls all noxious and invasive plants.

For example:

- The offered acreage meets the CRP cropping history requirement;
- The site falls within the Longleaf Pine National Conservation Priority Area (CPA) and meets proper soil and other site conditions, making it appropriate for longleaf pine planting where necessary and feasible; and
- The total acreage for all longleaf pine (CP36) acreage enrolled in a state does not exceed a state's allocation.

### Continuous CRP Sign-up

Continuous sign-up provides management flexibility to farmers and ranchers to implement certain high-priority conservation practices on eligible land.

Offers to CCC are accepted provided the acreage and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. The per-acre annual rental rate may not exceed CCC's maximum payment amount based

on the rental rate for the three predominant soils for where the land is located. While acceptance is not determined in a competitive offer process, producers may elect to receive an amount less than the maximum payment rate.

### **Sign-up**

Sign-up begins Dec. 1, 2006, at local FSA offices for the CRP Longleaf Pine Initiative and runs continuously until the 250,000-acre goal is met, or Dec. 31, 2007, whichever comes first.

### **Eligible Land and Practices**

To be eligible for this practice, land must be in the nine states, within the historic range of the longleaf pine and soils suitable for longleaf pine. In addition, land must first meet the basic CRP eligibility requirements. Acceptable land is cropland that was planted or considered planted (including field margins) to an agricultural commodity in four out of six years between 1996 and 2001 and which is also physically and legally capable of being planted for manner normal for an agricultural commodity.

### **Producer Eligibility Requirement**

If a tenant, the producer must participate with an eligible owner or operator.

### **Rental Rates**

Rental rates are based on three predominant soils for land offered for enrollment. FSA bases rental rates on the average value of dry-

land cash rent for the past three years and adjusts rates to reflect the relative productivity of soils within each county. The maximum CRP rental rate is calculated in advance of enrollment.

### **Cost-share Payments**

In addition to the payments described above, CCC will pay up to 50 percent of the eligible cost of establishing a permanent cover.

### **Contract Effective Date**

The effective date of the CRP contract is the first day of the month following the month of approval. In certain circumstances, producers may defer the effective date for up to six months.

### **Length of Contracts**

Contracts are for not less than 10, nor more than 15 years.

### **Cooperating Agencies**

CRP is administered by USDA's FSA with assistance from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); USDA Forest Service; and local soil and water conservation districts. Producers can research program details and offer acreage for enrollment at their local USDA office, which is listed in telephone books under "United States Government, U.S. Department of Agriculture."

### **For More Information**

More information about FSA and its programs can be found on the FSA Web site at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

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## **Conservation Reserve Program Longleaf Pine Initiative** **Eligible Counties**

Autauga	Alabama
Baldwin	Alabama
Barbour	Alabama
Bibb	Alabama
Blount	Alabama
Bullock	Alabama
Butler	Alabama
Calhoun	Alabama
Chambers	Alabama
Cherokee	Alabama
Chilton	Alabama
Choctaw	Alabama
Clarke	Alabama
Clay	Alabama
Cleburne	Alabama
Coffee	Alabama
Conecuh	Alabama
Coosa	Alabama
Covington	Alabama
Crenshaw	Alabama
Cullman	Alabama
Dale	Alabama
Dallas	Alabama
Elmore	Alabama
Escambia	Alabama
Etowah	Alabama
Fayette	Alabama
Geneva	Alabama
Henry	Alabama
Houston	Alabama
Jefferson	Alabama
Lee	Alabama
Lowndes	Alabama
Macon	Alabama
Marengo	Alabama
Mobile	Alabama
Monroe	Alabama
Montgomery	Alabama
Perry	Alabama
Pike	Alabama
Randolph	Alabama

Russell	Alabama
St. Clair	Alabama
Shelby	Alabama
Sumter	Alabama
Talladega	Alabama
Tallapoosa	Alabama
Tuscaloosa	Alabama
Walker	Alabama
Washington	Alabama
Wilcox	Alabama
Winston	Alabama
Alachua	Florida
Baker	Florida
Bay	Florida
Bradford	Florida
Brevard	Florida
Calhoun	Florida
Citrus	Florida
Clay	Florida
Columbia	Florida
De Soto	Florida
Dixie	Florida
Duval	Florida
Escambia	Florida
Flagler	Florida
Franklin	Florida
Gadsden	Florida
Gilchrist	Florida
Glades	Florida
Gulf	Florida
Hamilton	Florida
Hardee	Florida
Hernando	Florida
Highlands	Florida
Hillsborough	Florida
Holmes	Florida
Indian River	Florida
Jackson	Florida
Jefferson	Florida
Lafayette	Florida
Lake	Florida
Leon	Florida
Levy	Florida
Liberty	Florida
Madison	Florida
Manatee	Florida
Marion	Florida
Nassau	Florida
Okaloosa	Florida
Okeechobee	Florida
Orange	Florida
Osceola	Florida
Pasco	Florida

Pinellas	Florida
Polk	Florida
Putnam	Florida
St. Johns	Florida
St. Lucie	Florida
Santa Rosa	Florida
Sarasota	Florida
Seminole	Florida
Sumter	Florida
Suwannee	Florida
Taylor	Florida
Union	Florida
Volusia	Florida
Wakulla	Florida
Walton	Florida
Washington	Florida
Appling	Georgia
Atkinson	Georgia
Bacon	Georgia
Baker	Georgia
Baldwin	Georgia
Bartow	Georgia
Ben Hill	Georgia
Berrien	Georgia
Bibb	Georgia
Bleckley	Georgia
Brantley	Georgia
Brooks	Georgia
Bryan	Georgia
Bulloch	Georgia
Burke	Georgia
Calhoun	Georgia
Camden	Georgia
Candler	Georgia
Carroll	Georgia
Charlton	Georgia
Chatham	Georgia
Chattahoochee	Georgia
Chattooga	Georgia
Clay	Georgia
Clinch	Georgia
Cobb	Georgia
Coffee	Georgia
Colquitt	Georgia
Columbia	Georgia
Cook	Georgia
Coweta	Georgia
Crawford	Georgia
Crisp	Georgia
Decatur	Georgia
Dodge	Georgia
Dooly	Georgia
Dougherty	Georgia

Douglas	Georgia
Early	Georgia
Echols	Georgia
Effingham	Georgia
Emanuel	Georgia
Evans	Georgia
Fayette	Georgia
Floyd	Georgia
Fulton	Georgia
Glascocock	Georgia
Glynn	Georgia
Grady	Georgia
Hancock	Georgia
Haralson	Georgia
Harris	Georgia
Heard	Georgia
Houston	Georgia
Irwin	Georgia
Jeff Davis	Georgia
Jefferson	Georgia
Jenkins	Georgia
Johnson	Georgia
Jones	Georgia
Lanier	Georgia
Laurens	Georgia
Lee	Georgia
Liberty	Georgia
Lincoln	Georgia
Long	Georgia
Lowndes	Georgia
Macon	Georgia
Marion	Georgia
McDuffie	Georgia
McIntosh	Georgia
Meriwether	Georgia
Miller	Georgia
Mitchell	Georgia
Monroe	Georgia
Montgomery	Georgia
Muscogee	Georgia
Paulding	Georgia
Peach	Georgia
Pierce	Georgia
Pike	Georgia
Polk	Georgia
Pulaski	Georgia
Putnam	Georgia
Quitman	Georgia
Randolph	Georgia
Richmond	Georgia
Schley	Georgia
Screven	Georgia
Seminole	Georgia

Stewart	Georgia
Sumter	Georgia
Talbot	Georgia
Tattnall	Georgia
Taylor	Georgia
Telfair	Georgia
Terrell	Georgia
Thomas	Georgia
Tift	Georgia
Toombs	Georgia
Treutlen	Georgia
Troup	Georgia
Turner	Georgia
Twiggs	Georgia
Upson	Georgia
Ware	Georgia
Warren	Georgia
Washington	Georgia
Wayne	Georgia
Webster	Georgia
Wheeler	Georgia
Wilcox	Georgia
Wilkinson	Georgia
Worth	Georgia
Acadia	Louisiana
Allen	Louisiana
Avoyelles	Louisiana
Beauregard	Louisiana
Bienville	Louisiana
Calcasieu	Louisiana
Caldwell	Louisiana
Catahoula	Louisiana
East Baton Rouge	Louisiana
East Feliciana	Louisiana
Evangeline	Louisiana
Grant	Louisiana
Jackson	Louisiana
Jefferson Davis	Louisiana
La Salle	Louisiana
Livingston	Louisiana
Natchitoches	Louisiana
Rapides	Louisiana
Sabine	Louisiana
St. Helena	Louisiana
St. Tammany	Louisiana
Tangipahoa	Louisiana
Vernon	Louisiana
Washington	Louisiana
West Feliciana	Louisiana
Winn	Louisiana
Adams	Mississippi
Amite	Mississippi
Attala	Mississippi

Claiborne	Mississippi
Clarke	Mississippi
Copiah	Mississippi
Covington	Mississippi
Forrest	Mississippi
Franklin	Mississippi
George	Mississippi
Greene	Mississippi
Hancock	Mississippi
Harrison	Mississippi
Hinds	Mississippi
Jackson	Mississippi
Jasper	Mississippi
Jefferson	Mississippi
Jefferson Davis	Mississippi
Jones	Mississippi
Kemper	Mississippi
Lamar	Mississippi
Lauderdale	Mississippi
Lawrence	Mississippi
Leake	Mississippi
Lincoln	Mississippi
Madison	Mississippi
Marion	Mississippi
Newton	Mississippi
Pearl River	Mississippi
Perry	Mississippi
Pike	Mississippi
Rankin	Mississippi
Scott	Mississippi
Simpson	Mississippi
Smith	Mississippi
Stone	Mississippi
Walthall	Mississippi
Wayne	Mississippi
Wilkinson	Mississippi
Anson	North Carolina
Beaufort	North Carolina
Bertie	North Carolina
Bladen	North Carolina
Brunswick	North Carolina
Camden	North Carolina
Carteret	North Carolina
Chowan	North Carolina
Columbus	North Carolina
Craven	North Carolina
Cumberland	North Carolina
Duplin	North Carolina
Edgecombe	North Carolina
Gates	North Carolina
Greene	North Carolina
Halifax	North Carolina
Harnett	North Carolina



Hertford	North Carolina
Hoke	North Carolina
Johnston	North Carolina
Jones	North Carolina
Lee	North Carolina
Lenoir	North Carolina
Martin	North Carolina
Montgomery	North Carolina
Moore	North Carolina
Nash	North Carolina
New Hanover	North Carolina
Northampton	North Carolina
Onslow	North Carolina
Pamlico	North Carolina
Pasquotank	North Carolina
Pender	North Carolina
Perquimans	North Carolina
Pitt	North Carolina
Richmond	North Carolina
Robeson	North Carolina
Sampson	North Carolina
Scotland	North Carolina
Washington	North Carolina
Wayne	North Carolina
Wilson	North Carolina
Aiken	South Carolina
Allendale	South Carolina
Bamberg	South Carolina
Barnwell	South Carolina
Beaufort	South Carolina
Berkeley	South Carolina
Calhoun	South Carolina
Charleston	South Carolina
Chesterfield	South Carolina
Clarendon	South Carolina
Colleton	South Carolina
Darlington	South Carolina
Dillon	South Carolina
Dorchester	South Carolina
Edgefield	South Carolina
Florence	South Carolina
Georgetown	South Carolina
Greenwood	South Carolina
Hampton	South Carolina
Horry	South Carolina
Jasper	South Carolina
Kershaw	South Carolina
Lancaster	South Carolina
Lee	South Carolina
Lexington	South Carolina
McCormick	South Carolina
Marion	South Carolina
Marlboro	South Carolina

Orangeburg	South Carolina
Richland	South Carolina
Saluda	South Carolina
Sumter	South Carolina
Williamsburg	South Carolina
Angelina	Texas
Hardin	Texas
Jasper	Texas
Jefferson	Texas
Liberty	Texas
Nacogdoches	Texas
Newton	Texas
Orange	Texas
Polk	Texas
Sabine	Texas
San Augustine	Texas
Shelby	Texas
Trinity	Texas
Tyler	Texas
Brunswick	Virginia
Chesapeake	Virginia
Greensville	Virginia
Isle of Wight	Virginia
Southampton	Virginia
Suffolk	Virginia