

Making Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) More Pollinator Friendly



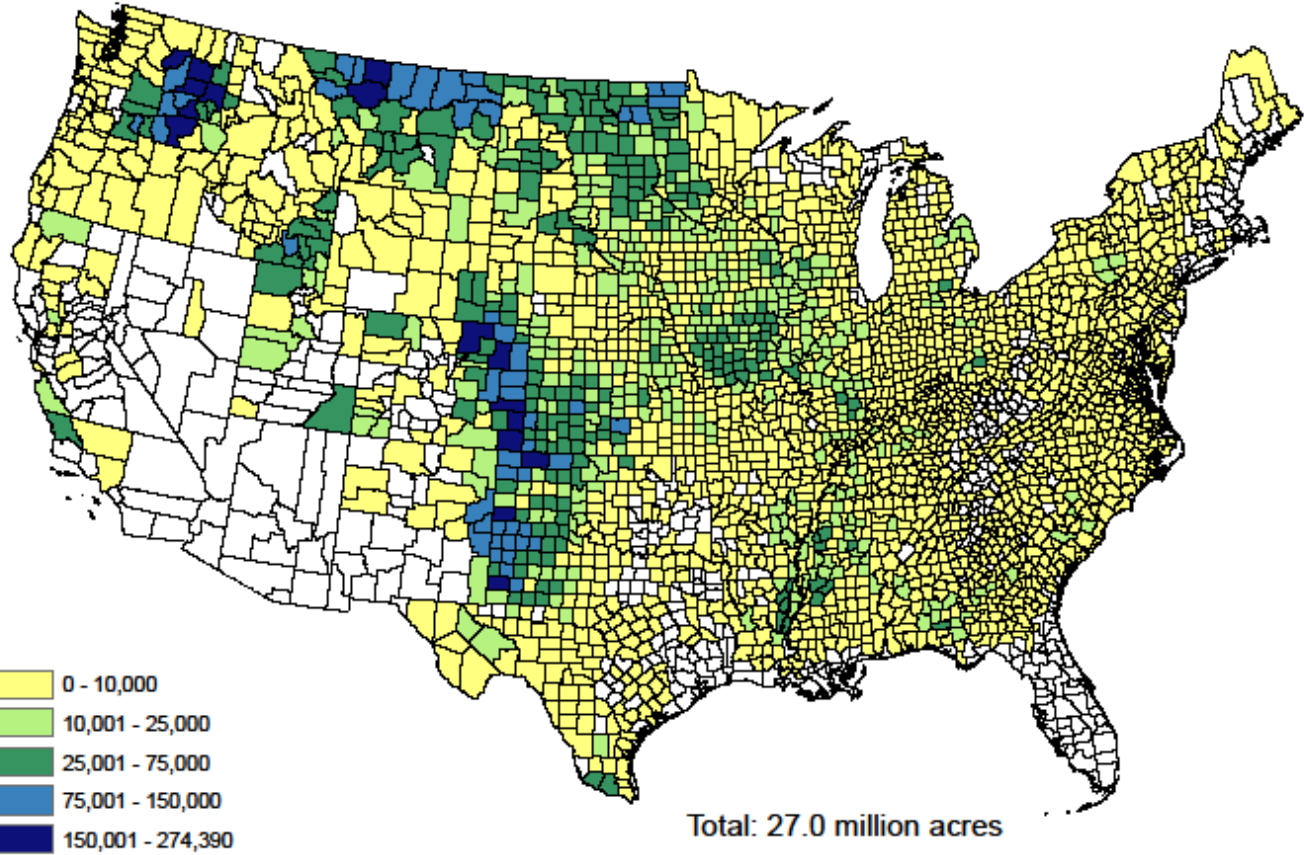
International Conference on
Pollinator Biology, Health and Policy

What is the CRP?

- Voluntary Program
- Goals to Protect Soil Productivity, Improve Water Quality, Enhance Wildlife Habitat
- 26.9 Million Acres
 - Former croplands that are vulnerable to degradation and environmentally important
 - Now in conserving covers – grass, trees, wetlands, and buffers



CRP Enrollment - April 2013



Prepared by FSA/EPAS/NRA

What is the CRP?

- Participating Landowners Receive:
 - Annual payments
 - Up to 50% Cost Share
 - In some cases additional incentives
 - Technical Assistance for Conservation Planning



What is the CRP?

- In Return Landowners:
 - Enter into 10 or 15 Year Contracts
 - Retire land from crop production
 - Establish and Maintain Conservation Cover
 - Perform Mid-Contract Management of Cover



What is the CRP?

- 21.4 Million Acres General CRP
- 5.5 Million Acres Continuous CRP
- 21.4 Million Acres of Grass
- 1.6 Million Acres of Trees
- 2.1 Million Acres Wetlands
- 1.8 Million Acres of Buffers
- 53,524 Acres in CP-42 Pollinator Habitat



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1. FSA and NRCS Issued Joint Announcement Clarifying that Bee Hives are Permitted on CRP Lands



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2. Established FSA Pollinators Website

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?
area=home&subject=ecpa&topic=nra-pl](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=ecpa&topic=nra-pl)



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3. FSA is Working with our Partners Including – NRCS, USGS, ARS, NIFA, Xeres, and Pollinator Partnership to Develop Seed Mixes that Provide better Pollinator Forage Habitat and are more Cost Effective



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4. Working to Develop Management Systems to Maintain High Quality Pollinator Forage Habitat over Time



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5. FSA is Working with our Partners to Monitor, Assess, and Evaluate the Benefit from General and Continuous CRP for Honey Bees and Native Pollinators



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6. FSA is Conducting a Review of CRP Policies to Identify ways Policies Can be Modified to Enhance Pollinator Habitat



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7. FSA is Developing a Teaching Tool to help State and County Staff Encourage Pollinator Friendly Covers and Assist Landowners to Establish these Covers



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8. FSA is Investigating Ways to Permit CRP Participants Advertise Availability of Suitable Cover and Beekeepers to Identify Suitable CRP Sites



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QUESTIONS???



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