



Food, Conservation & Energy Act of 2008



Helping People Help the Land



2008 Farm Bill Presentation

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2008 Farm Bill in the Federal Register

- Request for Proposals (RFPs) for:
 - AWEPP
 - CIG
- Request for Comments is open for:
 - EQIP
 - WHIP
 - WRP
 - GRP
 - FRPP
 - HFRP



Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)

- Request for Proposals (RFP) published 1/14/2009
- Partnership agreements to conserve ground and surface water or improve water quality, or both, in the region through EQIP contracts with landowners
- Eligible partners include
 - Tribes
 - State and local government
 - Agricultural or silvicultural associations
- \$58.4 million available nationally.
- **March 2, 2009 deadline for proposals**

Authorized National Funding (million \$)				
Program	2009	2010	2011	2012
AWEP (in addition to EQIP)	73	73	74	60



Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

- Request for Proposals (RFP)
- Competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or non-governmental organizations, tribes, or individuals
- Seeks projects to stimulate development/adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies
- National CIG: **March 2, 2009 deadline for proposals**
- Oregon CIG: TBA

Authorized National Funding (million \$)				
Program	2009	2010	2011	2012
CIG – Air (Funding included in EQIP)	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5



Public Comments - Rulemaking

- The Public Comment period follows the publication of rules in the Federal Register.
 - The comment process is described in each Federal Register entry.
 - Comments are made part of the administrative record and are made publically available.
- Comments must be submitted in writing through:
 - Mail, Fax, Email, or
 - www.regulations.gov



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Interim Final Rule published 1/15/09
- Increases budget authority above current law by \$3.5 billion
- Reaffirms conservation work on nonindustrial private forest lands
- Expanded to include energy conservation benefits associated with conservation practices
- **Comment period closes March 16, 2009**

EQIP Authorized Funding (billion \$), National

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1.20	1.34	1.45	1.58	1.75



EQIP Key Points

For organic producers:

Specific section on assistance with conservation practices utilized for organic production and transition

Payments for practices with organic production benefits limited to not more than \$20,000 per year; \$80,000 in 6 years



EQIP Key Points

For limited resource, socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers or ranchers:

- ✓ Up to 90 percent cost share or at least 25 percent above the otherwise applicable rate
- ✓ Advance payments to cover up to 30% of the cost of materials to install conservation improvements



Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

- Interim Final Rule published 1/16/09
- \$50k annual payment limits (no payment limit previously)
- Eligibility limited to private agricultural land, nonindustrial private forestland (NIPF), and tribal lands
- Added emphasis on nonindustrial private forestland
- Increases the percentage of funding of long-term agreements from 15 to 25 percent
- **Comment period closes March 17, 2009**

WHIP Authorized Funding (million \$), National

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
85	85	85	85	85



Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

- Interim Final Rule published 1/15/09
- Enrollment Changes
 - Governments not eligible
 - Ownership change within 7 years—not eligible
- Easement Valuation Changes
 - Before and after appraisal not required
 - Market survey in lieu of individual appraisals allowed
- Payment Limits
 - Restoration Cost-share Agreements - \$50,000
 - Easements—no limit
- **Comment period closes March 16, 2009**

WRP Authorized Acres, National
Capped at 3,041,200 acres (766,200 new acres)



Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP)

- Interim Final Rule published 1/21/09
- Reauthorizes GRP through 2012
- Limits rental agreement options to 10-, 15-, and 20-years
- Allows entities to write, own, and enforce easements with a 50 percent match through a cooperative agreement
- Payment Limits
 - Restoration Cost-share Agreements - \$50,000
 - Rentals and Easements—no limit
- Removes dollar cap
 - Easements – 60% of total funding
 - Rental Agreements – 40% of total funding
- **Comment period closes March 23, 2009**

GRP Authorized Acres, National
1.220 million NEW acres (2009-2017)



Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

- Interim Final Rule published 1/16/09
- Purpose changed to protection of agricultural land, including forest land in agricultural landscape
- Easement Valuation Changes
 - Entity choice, within confines of industry-approved method of appraisal subject to approval by the Secretary
- Other Program Changes
 - Establishes certification opportunity for eligible entities
 - Changes the minimum entity contribution to 25 percent of the easement acquisition price rather than 25 percent of the appraised fair market value
- **Comment period closes March 17, 2009**

FRPP Authorized Funding (million \$), National

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
97	121	150	175	200



Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP)

- Proposed Rule published 1/14/09
- Assists landowners to restore and protect forest land resources and protects at risk species
- **Comment period closes February 13, 2009**

HRPP Authorized Funding (million \$), National

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
2.0	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7



Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP)

- **Interim Final Rule not yet published**
- National delivery with ranking
- Acres will be allocated based on eligible acres in a state
- Emphasis on new enhancements
- Applicants must account for stewardship activities covering their entire agricultural operation
- 5-year contracts (not 5 or 10 year contracts)
- No more tiers (I, II, and III)
- Payment limits of \$200k for a 5-year period
 - Average \$18/acre nationally (inclusive of FA and TA)

CStP Authorized Acres (million acres), National

2009	2010	2011	2012
12.769	12.769	12.769	12.769



Websites for Posting of Rules

- All rules and notices on the NRCS Farm Bill website:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2008/index.html>
- All regulations and electronic comments are posted on:
<http://www.regulations.gov/search/index.jsp>
- Standard Publications under the Federal Register:
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>