

USDA Extends General Signup for Conservation Reserve Program

Biden Administration Considers Changes to Bolster Effectiveness of Program and Recommits to Making CRP a Cornerstone of Conservation Programming

WASHINGTON, February 5, 2021 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is extending the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Signup period, which had previously been announced as ending on Feb. 12, 2021. USDA will continue to accept offers as it takes this opportunity for the incoming Administration to evaluate ways to increase enrollment. Under the previous Administration, incentives and rental payment rates were reduced resulting in an enrollment shortfall of over 4 million acres. The program, administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides annual rental payments for 10 to 15 years for land devoted to conservation purposes, as well as other types of payments.

Before the General CRP sign-up period ends, producers will have the opportunity to adjust or resubmit their offers to take advantage of planned improvements to the program.

"The Conservation Reserve Program provides a tremendous opportunity to address climate change both by retiring marginal cropland and by restoring grasslands, wetlands, and forests," said Robert Bonnie, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary. "CRP has a 35-year track record of success beyond just climate benefits, by providing income to producers, improving water quality, reducing erosion, and supporting wildlife habitat and the hunting and fishing opportunities that go along with it. By extending this sign-up period, we'll have time to evaluate and implement changes to get this neglected program back on track."

As one of the largest private-lands conservation programs in the United States, CRP provides both economic and conservation benefits by taking land out of agricultural production. Program successes include:

- Sequestering in soils and plants over 12 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), or about the same amount that the entire state of Delaware emits annually.

- Preventing more than 2 billion tons of soil from being

blown away by wind erosion over the life of currently enrolled acres.

- Reducing phosphorous reaching streams by almost 85 million pounds, nitrogen by nearly 450 million pounds, and sediment by over 160 million tons in 2020 alone.

- Creating more than 2.3 million acres of restored wetlands while protecting more than 177,000 stream miles with riparian forest and grass buffers, enough to go around the world seven times.

- Establishing over a half million acres of dedicated pollinator habitat and nearly 15 million more acres of diverse plantings that provide forage for pollinators.

- Increasing populations of ducks and other game birds, prairie chickens, and such grassland songbirds as Baird's Sparrow. CRP in the Northern Great Plains supports an estimated 8.6% of the grassland bird population.

- Increasing habitat that supports economic opportunities, such as job creation, related to hunting and fishing activities.

This signup for CRP gives producers an opportunity

to enroll land for the first time or re-enroll land under existing contracts that will be expiring Sept. 30, 2021. All interested producers, including those on Indian reservations and with trust lands, are encouraged to contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including those that restrict in-person visits or require appointments. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors are also required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Our program delivery staff will continue to work with our producers by phone, email, and using online tools. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

Waiting for Someday

Insight
Greg Doering, Kansas Farm Bureau

I recently cleaned out my sock drawer, an overdue task that I hadn't reached the appropriate level of boredom to tackle in a number of years. It also served as a reminder that I'm absolutely terrible at estimating just how useful a range of items will be in the future.

The top drawer of the walnut chest where my socks reside also has a habit of collecting an assortment of other items — loose change, notes on scraps of paper, cable clamps, buttons, stray ammunition — that either fell from the flat surface above or were "temporarily" stored for later.

There's also a closet, basement, garage, shed and the center console of my truck holding valuable artifacts of various usefulness. I know I'm not alone in this affliction because the desire to stow away has a cherished history in my family. The paternal side at least.

If we had a family crest, "I'm going to use that someday," would be the motto imprinted on it. I should note it's entirely possible there is a crest stuffed in the bottom of a box somewhere just waiting to be rediscovered.

At the ranch, there were two very useful storage areas. The first was a set of cubbies inside that held maybe a ton of washers, nuts, bolts and other odds and ends. The lack of organization didn't make it efficient, but if you needed a connector, you'd find a suitable one eventually. Out back was the scrap pile of old oil pipe and steel plate that came in handy for all sorts of building and repair projects.

Upstairs was another story, however. The loft was stuffed with the "maybe someday" stuff stockpiled with leaner times in mind. Tires that had long since dry rotted, rusted rims, a crosscut saw with broken handles and other outdated tools.

I know those items were squirreled away with the best of intentions. On farms and ranches, it makes a good deal of sense to have a stockpile when the nearest hardware store is an hour roundtrip. The number of things that can go wrong is nearly limitless.

My hoarding habits are more about learned behavior than utility. Living in a 50-year-old home means I frequent the two nearby hardware stores enough to have memorized their layouts. It's usually faster to find a given item at the store than it is to search my basement, garage or shed.

There's a different satisfaction that comes from completing a project with that one item you saved long ago for the right occasion. It's proof you were right. For me, though, that's become an infrequent occurrence.

I don't know precisely when something in storage loses its intended purpose and becomes junk, but I know it happens without warning. The rational part of me understands I should save far less stuff and significantly reduce the time I spend cleaning up clutter in the future.

After discarding a significant amount of junk from my sock drawer, including several actual pairs of socks, I still slid two aging cellphones into my dresser drawer. Everything of value on them has been transferred to my current phone, but each one would work if I really needed a replacement.

Will I ever use them again? Not likely. But they're there if I want to use them someday.

LEGAL NOTICES

(First published in the Greeley County Republican on February 10, 2021) 3t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GREELEY COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of)
) Case No. 2019 PR 12
RICHARD L. WENDELBURG, Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on February 1, 2021, a Petition was filed in this Court by Linda K. Wendelburg, duly appointed, qualified and acting Executor of the estate of Richard L. Wendelburg, Deceased, requesting that Petitioner's acts be approved; account be settled and approved; heirs be determined; and the Will be construed and the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; the Court find the allowances requested for the attorneys' fees and expenses are reasonable and should be allowed; the costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; upon the filing of Receipts the Petitioner be finally discharged as the Executor of the Estate of Richard L. Wendelburg, deceased, and the Petitioner be released from further liability.

You are hereby required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before March 8, 2021, at 9:30 o'clock a.m. of said day in the District Court, in Tribune, Greeley County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

LINDA K. WENDELBURG
Petitioner

Submitted by:

/s/ Charles F Moser
Charles F. Moser - Ks.S.Ct# 14867
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Attorney for Petitioner

LEGAL NOTICES

(First published in the Greeley County Republican on February 3, 2021) 3t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GREELEY COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of)
) Case No. 2019 PR 17
John Floyd, Deceased)

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on January 29, 2021, a Petition was filed in this Court by Kara Jo Howell and Sara Albers, heirs, devisees and legatees, and the Co-Executors named in the Last Will and Testament of John Floyd, Deceased, dated February 29, 2012, requesting that Petitioners' acts be approved; account be settled and approved; heirs be determined; and the Will and First Codicil thereto be construed and the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; the Court find the allowances requested for the attorneys' fees and expenses are reasonable and should be allowed; the costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; upon the filing of Receipts the Petitioners be finally discharged as the Co-Executors of the Estate of John Floyd, deceased, and the Petitioners be released from further liability.

You are hereby required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before March 3, 2021, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. of said day in the District Court, in Tribune, Greeley County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

KARA JO HOWELL
SARA ALBERS
Petitioners

Submitted by:

/s/ Charles F Moser
Charles F. Moser - Ks.S.Ct# 14867
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LEGAL NOTICES

(First published in the Greeley County Republican on January 27, 2021) 3t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GREELEY COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of)
) Case No. 2019 PR 000003
Delbert L. Callen, Deceased)

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that a petition has been filed in this Court by Andrew Myers, duly appointed, qualified and acting Administrator of the Estate of Delbert L. Callen, deceased, requesting that Petitioner's acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the Valid Settlement Agreement be construed and the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; the Court find the allowances requested for Administrator's fees and attorney's fees and expenses are reasonable and should be allowed; the costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; upon the filing of receipts the Petitioner be finally discharged as the Administrator of the Estate of Delbert L. Callen, deceased, and the Petitioner be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses to the petition on or before February 18, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. in the District Court, in Tribune, Greeley County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

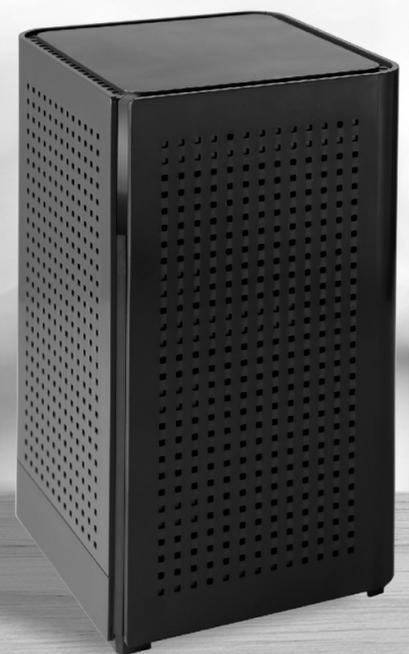
ANDREW MYERS
Petitioner

/s/ Charles F Moser
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