

May is Healthcare Appreciation Month in Ohio County

Farm Service Agency News



In recognition of the many vital roles within health care, Judge Executive David Johnston visited Ohio County Healthcare to officially proclaim the month of May as 'Healthcare Appreciation Month' in Ohio County. As we celebrate Hospital Week, Nurses Week, EMS Week, and more throughout May, we're proud to honor all the incredible individuals who work in this field and make a difference in the lives of those we serve. Pictured (left to right): Kim Huff, RN; Cara McDaniel, RN; Mercedes Napier, RN; Jonathan Embry, CRNA; David Johnston; Jessica Westerfield, RN; Kate Edge, CNA; and Makenzie Maddox, CNA. (Photo submitted)

USDA to Open General and Continuous Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment for 2025

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced several Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enrollment opportunities for agricultural producers and landowners. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting offers for both the General and Continuous CRP beginning today through June 6, 2025.

CRP, USDA's flagship conservation program, celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. For four decades, CRP has provided financial and technical support to agricultural producers and landowners who place unproductive or marginal cropland under contract for 10-15 years and who agree to voluntarily convert the land to beneficial vegetative cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and support wildlife habitat. The American Relief Act, 2025, extended provisions for CRP through Sept. 30, 2025.

"With 1.8 million acres available for all CRP enrollment this fiscal year, we are very aware that we are bumping up against the statutory 27-million-acre statutory cap," said FSA Administrator Bill Beam. "Now more than ever, it's important that the acres offered by landowners and those approved by USDA address our most critical natural resource concerns. With the limited number of acres that we have available, we're not necessarily looking for the most acres offered but instead prioritizing mindful conservation efforts to ensure we maximize the return on our investment from both a conservation and economic perspective."

General CRP (Signup 64)

Agricultural producers and landowners submit offers for General CRP through a competitive bid process. Offers are ranked and scored, by FSA, using nationally established environmental benefits criteria. USDA will announce accepted offers once ranking and scoring for all offers is completed. In addition to annual rental payments, approved General CRP participants may also be eligible for cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative cover.

Continuous CRP (Signup 63)

Unlike General CRP, Continuous CRP offers are not subject to a competitive bid process. To ensure enrolled acres do not exceed the current statutory cap of 27 million acres, FSA is accepting Continuous CRP offers on a first-come, first-served basis through June 6. However, should allotted CRP acreage remain available following the June 6 deadline, FSA will accept continuous CRP offers from interested landowners through July 31, 2025, and may be subsequently considered for acceptance, in batches, if it's determined that the offered acres support USDA's conservation priorities.

Continuous CRP participants voluntarily offer environmentally sensitive lands, typically smaller parcels than offered through General CRP including wetlands, riparian buffers, and varying wildlife habitats. In return, they receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative cover.

Continuous CRP enrollment options include:

- **State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Initiative:** Restores vital habitat in order to meet high-priority state wildlife conservation goals.
- **Highly Erodible Land Initiative:** Producers and landowners can enroll in CRP to establish long-term cover on highly erodible cropland that has a weighted erodibility index greater than or equal to 20.
- **Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative:** Prioritizes water quality practices on the land that, if enrolled, will help reduce sediment loadings, nutrient loadings, and harmful algal blooms. The vegetative covers also contribute to increased wildlife populations.
- **CLEAR30 (a component of the CLEAR Initiative):** Offers additional incentives for water quality practice adoption and can be accessed in 30-year contracts.
- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program:** Addresses high priority conservation objectives of states and Tribal governments on agricultural lands in specific geographic areas.

Grassland and Expiring CRP Acres

FSA will announce dates for Grassland CRP signup in the near future.

Additionally, landowners with acres enrolled in CRP set to expire Sept. 30, 2025, can offer acres for re-enrollment beginning today. A producer can offer to enroll new acres into CRP and also offer to re-enroll any acres expiring Sept. 30, 2025.

For more information on CRP participant and land eligibility, approved conservation practices and detailed program fact sheets, visit FSA's CRP webpage.

More Information

Interested producers should apply through the FSA at their local USDA Service Center.

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. Originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production, the program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits.

FSA helps America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners invest in, improve, protect and expand their agricultural operations through the delivery of agricultural programs for all Americans. FSA implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster recovery and marketing programs through a national network of state and county offices and locally elected county committees. For more information, visit fsa.usda.gov.

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Farm and Extension News

KENTUCKY ELECTRIC FENCING SCHOOL, JUNE 3

The Kentucky Electric Fencing School is scheduled for June 3 at the Grayson County Extension office, outside Leitchfield. The school starts at 9 a.m. and runs till 4 p.m. CT.

This school focuses on installation of new electric fencing and the troubleshooting of existing electric fencing. Participants will learn about electric fencing theory, grounding systems, installing new electric fencing, using fault finders to locate shorts, installing electrical offsets, constructing deer exclusion fences, and successfully using temporary electric fencing to control grazing.

To attend, you must pre-register by calling Caroline Roper at 270-704-2254 or online at: <https://forages.ca.uky.edu/events>.

This is an excellent program which can help you diagnosis electric fencing issues.

2025 CAIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Applications for the "2025 CAIP Program" are available from the Ohio County Extension Office or you can download the application from our webpage at, <https://ohio.ca.uky.edu/>. Applications may be picked up during

normal business hours, 8 a.m. till noon and 1 till 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

Applications must be returned to the Extension office between May 1 and by noon on May 30. No exceptions.

Information about the different projects areas eligible for cost-share are available on the KDA website at: <https://www.kyagr.com/agpolicy/2025-Program-Guidelines-and-Applications.html>. Scroll down to the guidelines for the "CAIP" program. When looking thru this website, make sure you are looking at the "2025 Guidelines" and not the 2024 guidelines. Both are still listed on the website.

If you do not have internet access, you may visit the Ohio Co. Extension office and we have a computer/internet you may use to check the guidelines.

As always, there have been changes to some of the project areas, so read the guidelines closely. Remember, all applicants must be a resident of Kentucky. When you turn in your application, you must also present a valid Kentucky drivers license or photo ID and one utility bill. These two Identifications validate your residency of Kentucky. The address on the photo ID and the utility bill must match the

address on the application.

So, please read the producer guidelines and project area guidelines closely. If you have questions, give me a call.

2025 WOODLAND OWNER SHORTCOURSE

The first "Woodland Owners Shortcourse (WOSC)" was held in 2004 and consisted of a series of four field days spread out across Kentucky. Since the first offering in 2004, the Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course has been modified over the years based largely on the feedback from stakeholders and attendees. Over the years, thousands of woodland owners have attended the WOSC and learned how they can make their woodland healthier and more productive.

This program aids Kentucky woodland owners in forest resource management, by offering online and in-person options. Live session recordings will be available, with participants able to choose between online-only or online plus a field session, each featuring a regional Woodland Owner Resource Extravaganza.

The online sessions, to be held June 10-26 from 6 till 7:30 p.m. CT, are intended to provide a virtual classroom based learning environment

while also preparing WOSC attendees to get the most out of the field sessions.

The online courses include:

June 10-Why & How to Manage Your Woodlands, Billy Thomas; Tree Identification, Laurie Thomas.

June 12-Woodlands Management in Kentucky, Clay Turner; Comprehensive Woodland Management, Mike Silliman.

June 17-Woodlands and Water Quality, Amanda Gumbert.

June 19-Wildlife Management in Ky., Jacob Stewart

June 24-Woodland Health, Ellen Crocker.

June 26-Woodland Owner Related Organizations & Programs, Jon Shultz.

You can get all the details at: <https://wosc.ca.uky.edu/2025-WOSC>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 3: Electric Fencing School: Installation & Troubleshooting, Grayson Co. Extension office, Leitchfield, 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. CT. Register at: online at <https://forages.ca.uky.edu/events>, or by calling Caroline Roper at 270-704-2254.

July 23: Ky. Farm Succession Seminar: Building the Bridge to Your Farms Future, Owensboro Convention Center, 8:30 a.m. till 4:30 p.m.



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