



# National Grain and Feed Association

www.ngfa.org

## Building a better Conservation Reserve Program

...Maintain productive farm acres while more efficiently protecting water and soil.

The National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) believes the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) should be targeted at the most environmentally sensitive portions of farms, and avoid enrolling whole farms or large tracts of productive farmland.

### The Concern:

The CRP's general sign-up process is not sufficiently targeted, and allows for enrollment of whole farms while also eliminating opportunity for beginning farmers and harming agricultural communities that depend on farming for their existence.

- According to the most recent USDA data, more than 25 percent of the 24 million acres enrolled in CRP is considered "prime" farmland.

*Consumers are increasingly holding U.S. agriculture to a higher level of environmental responsibility and sustainable production.*

For today's agriculture to produce sustainably for a growing global population, we need a revamped CRP that:

- Addresses critical resource concerns with targeted conservation methods.
- Keeps land in production that can be farmed sustainably using prudent conservation practices.
- Better enables farmers to enroll targeted portions of their farms to address agricultural sustainability concerns, such as reduced erosion and protecting groundwater and streams.

### NGFA's Asks to Congress for the 2017-18 Farm Bill:

#### Keep the program capped at 24 million acres

- The 2014 Farm Bill reduced CRP from 32 million acres to 24 million acres. The program is right-sized.

#### Utilize scarce funding for working lands conservation programs

- The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) are true working-land programs that elevate farmers' practices and can help meet consumer expectations for agricultural sustainability.

#### Prioritize the most environmentally sensitive acres

- CRP can and should be targeted at the most environmentally sensitive portions of farms, such as fragments of tracts prone to erosion, serving as drainage, frequently drowning out or located next to streams that typically are enrolled under CRP's continuous sign-up provision.

#### Address escalating CRP rental rates that make the government a competitor against beginning farmers in accessing cropland

**NGFA Contact:** Bobby Frederick, Director of Legislative Affairs,  
[bfrederick@ngfa.org](mailto:bfrederick@ngfa.org), (202) 289-0873

## NGFA Membership Profile

- Country elevators that provide storage, merchandising and farm supply services to farmer-customers.
- Feed mills that manufacture premixes and complete feeds for the livestock, poultry, aquaculture and pet food industries.
- Export elevators that merchandise and ship U.S. grains, oilseeds and processed commodities to foreign customers.
- Cash grain and feed merchandisers who buy and sell grains, oilseeds and grain products.
- Commodity futures brokers and commission merchants who provide hedging services to grain buyers and sellers through the use of futures markets.
- End users of grain and grain products, such as:
  - grain processors and millers who process raw grain into myriad products – such as flour, corn meal and syrup, and soybean oil and meal – for human and animal consumption, and industrial uses;
  - livestock and poultry integrators; and
  - biofuels producers, who manufacture fuel ethanol and soy diesel, as well as coproduct ingredients for animal feed.
- Allied industries, such as banks; railroads; barge lines; grain exchanges; biotechnology providers; engineering and design/construction firms; insurance companies; computer/software firms; and other companies that supply goods and services to the industry.