

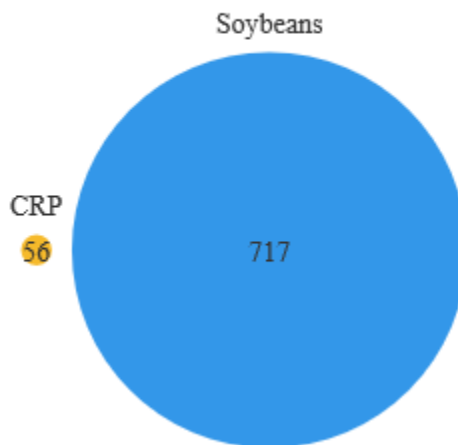


CRP in Kittson County, Minnesota

For the 4,400 people in Kittson County, Minnesota, wheat and soybean farming is the top economic driver of the community. Soybean farming alone contributed more than [\\$105 million](#) to the local economy in 2015. The majority of that economic activity – about \$58 million -- came from the inputs and services that contribute to soybean production, including seed, fertilizer, labor, fuel, repairs and land rent.

The 82,000 acres enrolled in the USDA’s Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contributed about [\\$4.5 million](#) to the county’s economy that year. The government paid \$56 for an acre in CRP in 2015, but an acre planted to soybeans had the potential to generate \$717 of economic activity (including expenses and revenue).

Comparison of Kittson County MN Direct Economic Activity for CRP vs. Soybeans (\$/Acre)



Even though CRP acres contribute far less to the local economy, in 2016, 17 percent of the county’s acres were idled in CRP. The economic benefits of CRP are far below the benefits of agricultural production to the county, and to make matters worse, not all of the dollars the government pays for CRP acres go to Kittson County. For example, in 2014 – the year with the most recently available data – four of the top 10 [highest paid owners](#) of Kittson County CRP acres were not local residents.

CRP’s intended purpose is to pay farmers to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production. When whole farms are enrolled in CRP as in Kittson County, the local economy suffers and productive farmland – which could be enhanced with targeted conservation practices – is wasted.

The NGFA advocates for conservation practices that improve the resources needed for an agricultural economy to thrive – principally, soil and water. However, USDA data shows that a majority of the CRP acres in Kittson County aren’t maintained with practices that directly improve soil and water quality.



In fact, fewer than [6,000 acres](#) of the county’s CRP land are being preserved with practices specific to water and soil quality improvement. The majority – more than 43,000 acres -- are idled primarily for wildlife habitat.

If CRP operated as a program that truly targeted the most environmentally sensitive land, Kittson County would be allowed to more fully reap the economic benefits of its productive farmland while also conserving natural resources.

View more information about the NGFA and CRP at <http://www.ngfa.org/farm-bill/>

***Information last updated January 25, 2017**

Kittson County MN Land Use in 2016 (In Acres)

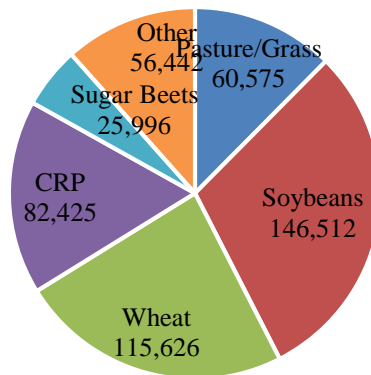


Table 1: Kittson County Minnesota: Population, CRP Acres, CRP Rents, and Cash Rents

Year	Population 1/	CRP Acres 2/	Avg. Gov't Paid CRP Rental Rate 2/	Avg. Farmer-Paid Cash Rental Rate 3/
1980	6,672	0	NA	NA
1990	5,767	78,775	\$42.40	NA
2000	5,285	95,902	\$37.58	NA
2010	4,552	107,004	\$39.58	\$62.00
2015	4,424	82,024	\$55.97	NA
2016		82,425	NA	\$82.50

1/ Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

2/ Source: USDA's Farm Service Agency.

3/ Source: USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. This is the average rate paid by farmers to rent non-irrigated cropland.



Table 2: Kittson County Minnesota CRP Practices in 2016

Primary Focus on Soil Erosion & Water Quality	Acres
CP5A Field Windbreak Nonease	93
CP16A Shelterbelt Est Nonease	60
CP17A Living Snow Fence Nonease	18
CP18C Est Permanent Salt Tolerant Veg Cover Non	2,254
CP21 Filter Strips	3,160
CP22 Riparian Buffer	67
CP28 FWP Buffer	263
CP30 MPL Wetland Buffer	28
Subtotal	5,943
Primary Focus on Wildlife and Water Quality	Acres
CP23 Wetland Restoration	3,356
CP23A Wetland Restoration Nonflood Plain	29,134
CP27 FWP Wetland	76
CP41 FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland	26
Subtotal	32,593
Primary Focus on Wildlife or Other	Acres
CP1 Introduced Grass and Legume Establishment	15,867
CP2 Native Grass, Forb and Legume Establishment	1,370
CP3 Tree Planting	214
CP3A Hardwood Tree Planting	205
CP4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat Nonease	7,247
CP10 Veg Cover, Grass Already Est	4,109
CP11 Veg Cover, Trees Already Est	44
CP12 Wildlife Food Plot	135
CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat	14,639
CP29 MPL Wildlife Habitat Buffer	6
CP32 Expired Hardwood Trees	26
CP42 Pollinator Habitat	28
Subtotal	43,889
Total	82,425

Source: USDA's Farm Service Agency.



Table 3: Kittson County Minnesota Top CRP Payment Recipients in 2014

Rank	Residence of CRP Payment Recipient	CRP Payment
1	Non-local	\$118,331
2	Non-local	\$114,630
3	Local	\$90,141
4	Local	\$76,621
5	Non-local	\$67,480
6	Local	\$66,533
7	Local	\$57,885
8	Non-local	\$56,413
9	Local	\$54,724
10	Local	\$54,197

Table 4: Kittson County Minnesota Direct Economic Activity for Soybeans in 2015

Item	Per Acre of Soybeans 1/	Soybean Acres in Kittson County 2/	Direct Economic Activity for Soybeans
Soybeans	\$318.94		
Total Value of Production	\$318.94	146,512	\$46,728,537
Seed	\$58.53		
Fertilizer	\$17.57		
Chemicals	\$16.33		
Custom operations	\$9.33		
Fuel, lube, and electricity	\$11.79		
Repairs	\$27.75		
Interest on operating inputs	\$0.12		
Hired labor	\$2.41		
Opportunity cost of unpaid labor	\$15.70		
Capital recovery of machinery and equipment	\$112.59		
Opportunity cost of land (rental rate)	\$101.92		
Taxes and insurance	\$9.73		
General farm overhead	\$14.62		
Total Cost	\$398.39	146,512	\$58,368,916
Total Value of Production and Cost	\$717.33	146,512	\$105,097,453

1/ Source: USDA's Economic Research Service.

2/ Source: USDA's Farm Service Agency.



Table 5: Kittson County Minnesota Direct Economic Activity for CRP in 2015

Item	Per Acre 1/	CRP Acres 1/	Direct Economic Activity
CRP Payments	\$55.97	82,024	\$4,590,883

Source: USDA's Farm Service Agency.