

# THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM LAND IN KANSAS:

## *THE LANDOWNER'S VIEW*

*Report of Progress 690*

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# THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM LAND IN KANSAS: THE LANDOWNER'S VIEW<sup>1</sup>

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## ABSTRACT

Nearly three million acres of Kansas cropland were idled in the first nine sign-ups of the Conservation Reserve Program's (CRP). Kansas CRP land enrollment is the largest of the Central Great Plains states (Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Wyoming). These five states contain almost one-fourth of the total national acres enrolled in CRP. Therefore, a study of Kansas CRP landowners is paramount to determining the future use of CRP lands when contracts expire. The fate of CRP lands could have tremendous impacts on the agricultural sector, wildlife habitat, recreation, and rural communities. A statewide random sample of 3,000 CRP contracts, approximately 10% of total Kansas contracts, was selected from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Services CRP database. By using the contract as the unit of analysis, a drawing was made from a population of known size and could be aligned with additional data bases (soil types, exact acreage, previous uses, productivity, etc.) concerning the particular tract of land. Over 70 percent of the survey respondents were both owners and operators of land under CRP contract. Their average age was 58.6 years. A majority (85.1 percent) was satisfied with the CRP program; 88.8 and 84.5 percent would continue in the CRP program for 5 or 10 years, respectively. The largest percentage of respondents removed their CRP lands from wheat (81.2) and sorghum (57.3) production. Most of these lands were in western Kansas. A majority of producers ranked soil erosion as an important influence on their initial enrollment. Wildlife habitat was a consideration in choosing farming practices (67.7 percent). However, 57.6 percent said increases in wildlife populations on CRP lands were undesirable. Hunting was the most frequent form of recreation allowed on CRP land (76.4). Little other recreation was allowed. More respondents planned to keep CRP land in forage production for livestock than to return it to crop production; over a third were undecided. Market prices for crops, forage, and livestock were the key factors in the decision about future use of CRP land.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank the following people and organizations for their contributions to this project: the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and the University of Missouri, Columbia, for financial support; Paul Ohlenbusch and Charles Lee for questionnaire review; Roger Lemmons and all county ASCS offices for providing CRP participants' addresses; Jong-I Perng for data retrieval; and Zerihun Alem, Chrysanne Edwards Grund, Celinda Chandler, and Greg Schumaker for data entry.

## INTRODUCTION

Before a new farm program is delivered in 1995, many agricultural conservation and environmental issues will be debated. One of the most critical issues will be the expiration of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts. Farmers, cattlemen, other agricultural groups, and conservation and environmental organizations are concerned about the impact of this released land on cattle and grain prices and on the environmental benefits accrued during the contract life. The issue of CRP land is of great importance to Kansas and other Central Great Plains states (Colorado, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Wyoming), because nearly one-fourth of the total national CRP acres is in this area. Kansas' total enrollment ranks among the top five in the nation.

### Conservation Reserve Program

Congress established the CRP in Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 as a voluntary, long-term, cropland retirement program to be administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA provides CRP participants with an annual per acre rent and half the cost of establishing a permanent cover (grass or trees) in exchange for retiring highly erodible or environmentally sensitive cropland for 10 years. The enrollment target was 40-45 million acres by the end of the 1990 crop year. The primary goal of the original CRP program was to reduce soil erosion on cropland. Secondary objectives included protecting the capability of long-run food and fiber production, curbing surplus production, supporting income, and improving environmental quality (water and wildlife habitat).

During each of the nine sign-up periods, producers proposed which fields to take out of production and annual rental payments (bids) and estimated the commodity crop base reduction. Crop base was reduced by the proportion of the farm's total cropland enrolled in CRP. After all bids were received, a maximum acceptable rental rate for multicounty regions (pools) was determined. In general, all bids not exceeding the maximum bid for each pool were accepted. The eligibility criteria were changed several times during the 1986-1990 period. Most of the changes affected the method of measuring the annual erosion and the minimum level of erosion necessary to enroll land.

The CRP program was extended under the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act (FACTA) of 1990 and revised again. The major revisions were to combine the CRP program with the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), a change in the bidding process, and additional incentives to promote tree planting on CRP lands in conservation priority areas. FACTA mandated an enrollment of 40-45 million acres by 1995, including the 33.9 million acres enrolled in the previous CRP program. Another three sign-ups have been conducted. The tenth and eleventh were held in 1991, and the twelfth was in 1992. No sign-ups were held in 1990.

The future of the CRP program under a new farm bill in 1995 is unknown. However, given the current government efforts to reduce the federal budget deficit, the extension of current CRP contracts and of the CRP program as it now exists seems unlikely. Options that are currently being discussed are extension of contracts on particularly sensitive soils, federal government purchase of permanent easements on selected lands, and the extension of the entire program under a reduced set of benefits to producers. Another option being considered by several states is the establishment of smaller CRP programs funded by various agencies at the state level.

## **Kansas and the CRP**

The future of the CRP program will be critical to agricultural producers and communities, as well as environmental groups, in Kansas. Over 2.8 million acres of Kansas cropland were idled in the first nine CRP sign-ups (1986-1990). This represents 9.9 percent of Kansas' tillable cropland. Over 60 percent of these acres are situated in western Kansas (west of a line north and south at Russell). Geographical dispersion of CRP variables in this study was based on state Crop Reporting Districts (CRD), shown in Figure 1. Figures 2 and 3 show the dispersion of CRP acreage and contracts within the state CRDs (1986-1990 sign-ups). The tenth, eleventh, and twelfth sign-ups added approximately another 83,000 acres. Kansas CRP enrollment is the largest of the Central Great Plains states.

The first of these 10-year contracts, a little over 100,000 acres, will expire in September, 1995. The bulk of Kansas' CRP acres will be released in 1996 and 1997. Approximately 1 million acres will become available for tillage in 1996; another 880,000 acres will follow in 1997. Nationally, 13.67 million acres will be released in late 1996 and early 1997. When these contracts expire, producers will face several options. If demand for U.S. wheat and feed grains is strong, most CRP land could return to crop production, with serious implications for soil erosion, water quality, and wildlife habitat. On the other hand, if the wheat and feed grain markets weaken, a smaller amount of CRP land would be expected to return to crop production immediately. Many other unpredictable forces will enter into the contract holder's decision: personal agendas, trade negotiations (such as GATT and NAFTA), former Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc purchase agreements, and changes in agricultural policy proposed by the current U.S. administration.

In order to address these issues, a survey of CRP contract holders in Kansas was conducted. A statewide random sample of 3,000 CRP contracts, approximately 10 percent of the total state contracts, was selected from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) database. The survey elicited potential producer action when CRP contracts expire, willingness to participate in an extended CRP program, wildlife benefits accruing from CRP acres, and general socioeconomic characteristics of Kansas CRP contract holders.

## METHODS AND SURVEY DESIGN

Dillman's (1978) Total Design Method was used to implement a mail survey. A questionnaire and cover letter were mailed to each contract holder in November, 1992. Approximately 1 week later, a postcard reminder was sent. Two weeks after the postcard was sent, another questionnaire was mailed to those who had not yet responded.

Of the 3,000 questionnaires sent out, 53 were undeliverable. Usable questionnaires were returned by 2,146 respondents, giving a 72.8 percent response rate (adjusted for undeliverable). The survey sample of contracts was tested against the state contract population for representativeness. The percent of surveyed contracts in each county was not significantly different than the actual population set using a Spearman Rank Correlation Coefficient (0.9220,  $p < 0.001$ ). The same statistical test indicated that the percent of survey contracts in each type of CRP treatment activity in each population was not significantly different than the true population (Spearman Rank Correlation Coefficient = 0.9503,  $p < 0.001$ ). In addition, two-tail F- and t-tests showed insignificant differences between the mean bids (F-test  $p < .961$ , t-test  $p < .894$ ) and the farm sizes (F-test  $p < .495$ , t-test  $p < .388$ ) of the sample and state populations. The distributions of CRP contracts and acres within the survey sample are shown by CRDs in Figures 4 and 5, respectively.

The data contained in the questionnaires were coded into a computer data base using dBASE III PLUS V1.1 (Ashton-Tate, 1986). Analyses of the data were done using SPSS/PC + V3.1 (SPSS, 1989). The information collected was grouped into five areas. First, demographic information was solicited. General data on age, education, and assets were gathered. Second, reasons for CRP enrollment or nonenrollment were surveyed. Third, potential future use of CRP land after contracts expire was examined. Fourth, views about CRP's influence on wildlife populations were sought. Finally, information about CRP and outdoor recreation was gathered. A copy of the complete questionnaire is the Appendix (pg. 48).

## RESULTS

The following section presents a summary of the general results. For some questions a breakdown of responses by location (CRD) is also provided. Note that responses may not appear in the same order as respective questions in the questionnaire. More detailed responses are presented in Diebel and Cable (1993).

### Who Are CRP Participants?

Kansas residents made up 94.4 percent of the respondents (the rest owned land in Kansas but lived out of state), and the sample CRP contracts were spread throughout the state (Table 1). Over 70 percent of the sample contract holders were both owner and operator (Table 2). The 1987 Census of Agriculture found 43.7 percent of operators were full owners in Kansas, and 59.3 percent at the national level (U.S. Department of

Commerce, 1989). A survey of CRP contract holders by the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) also found that many (73 percent) contract holders were both owner and operator (SWCS, 1992). The respondents managed a mean of 1,476.3 acres. Most (88.3 percent) respondents were male, and their mean age was 58.6 years. Both of these statistics are slightly higher than 1987 average state and national levels. Men accounted for 95.7 percent of all farmers in Kansas and 93.7 percent nationally; the average age was 52 for the state and nationwide (U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 1989). The average age of respondents in the SWCS survey (1992) for the Northern Plains contract holders was approximately 55 years.

One quarter of respondents had at least a bachelor's degree or more education (Table 3). The SWCS survey (1992) found that over half of the CRP contract holders nationwide had "less than a high school degree" or "attained a high school diploma." Less than 20 percent of the Northern Plains respondents had a college degree (SWCS, 1992).

Almost 70 percent of respondents had incomes over \$30,000 annually (Table 4). Almost one-quarter (22.8 percent) of the respondents made less than \$10,000 annually from agricultural sources, and 39.5 percent made less than \$10,000 annually from nonagricultural sources. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce (1989), 2.8 percent of all farms in Kansas had net agricultural sales of less than \$10,000. National off-farm income follows a similar distribution, with 27 percent of farmers getting less than \$10,000 annually from off-farm jobs (U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 1989).

Among the respondents 7.8 percent had farm land and buildings valued at more than \$1,000,000 (Table 5), but only 0.8 percent had machinery and equipment valued at more than \$1,000,000 (Table 6). The mean percent of farm assets owned debt free was 79.4. These figures are fairly high compared to state and national statistics for all farms (U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 1989). The sampled contract holders had low debt and highly valued land and buildings. Machinery values were low because of age and purchase of used equipment. Only 4.4 percent of farms at the state level had land and buildings valued over \$1,000,000, and 4.7 percent at the national level (U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 1989). The debt to asset ratio in 1987 was less than 10 percent for only 18.5 percent of farms in Kansas and 13.4 percent in the U.S. (U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 1990).

Most of the respondents (75.0 percent) were participating in the USDA commodity program for wheat (Table 7). Participation was also high (60.6 percent) in the sorghum program. Few respondents were growing other crops under federal commodity program provisions.

Significant differences occurred among CRDs for many characteristics of the CRP contract holder. The characteristic with the least variation geographically was the gender of respondents (Figure 6). However, large differences occurred in mean age among locations (Figure 7). The Eastcentral district had the highest mean age of 59.9 years, and the Westcentral respondents were the youngest, with a mean age of 57.7 years.

Incomes from all sources varied significantly among districts (Table 8). The Eastcentral district had 43.2 percent of respondents with less than \$10,000 income from agricultural sources, whereas the Southwest district had 27.7 percent with over \$75,000 annual income from agriculture. Nonagriculture incomes were low across all regions. The Westcentral had the highest percent of respondents (7.5 percent), with over \$75,000 or more of nonagricultural income. The largest proportion of total incomes over \$50,000 annually (59 percent) was in the Southwest district. Over 23 percent of the respondents in the Southeast district reported total annual incomes of less than \$20,000. Values of land and buildings for all districts tended to be in the \$200,000-\$1,000,000 range. In the Westcentral and Southwest districts, over 60 percent of respondents reported land and buildings valued at \$200,000 or more (Table 9). The highest percent of debt-free assets (84.5 percent) was reported in the Southeast district (Figure 8). The Northwest reported a significantly lower percent of debt-free assets (73.84 percent).

The highest response rate to enrollment in the USDA wheat commodity program was in the western districts (Table 10). Although participation was high in all districts for wheat and sorghum, the eastern CRDs had relatively high rates of nonparticipation in any USDA commodity program.

### **CRP Enrollment and Land Characteristics**

**Enrollment.** Respondents reported having a mean of 493.3 acres eligible for the CRP. They also reported enrolling a mean of 275.4 acres, with 51.6 percent of the respondents enrolling all the land that they have eligible. The mean number of CRP contracts for each respondent was 2.8. The mean size of the sampled contracts was 102.2 acres. Geographically, the mean size of contracts varied significantly (Figure 9). The smallest contracts were in the Southeast district where the mean size was 47.93 acres. The largest contract sizes were in the Westcentral and Southwest districts with mean sizes of 192.15 acres and 208.19 acres, respectively.

The most important reasons for enrolling land in CRP were “concern for soil erosion” and “most profitable use of land” (Table 11). The most important reasons for not enrolling some eligible land in CRP were “crop production was more profitable than receiving CRP payments” and “potential for increased crop prices” (Table 12). Most (85.1 percent) respondents reported being “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their decision to enroll land in the CRP. No significant variation occurred among regions in satisfaction with the CRP program. However, some of the reasons for enrolling in the CRP program did have response rates that varied significantly over the regions (Table 13). Those reasons included the perceived ability to reduce labor, concern for soil erosion, and profitability. Concern for soil erosion had the highest mean ranking in the Northwest district. Profitability expectations ranked highest in the Southcentral and Northwest.

Most respondents reported that their land was planted to wheat before enrollment in CRP (Table 14). Previous crops on CRP land varied significantly by CRD (Table 15). Wheat was the dominant previous crop in all districts except for the Northeast and



Eastcentral, where the dominant previous crop was sorghum. The percent of respondents reporting wheat as the previous crop varied from 92.4 percent in the Southcentral district to 54.4 percent in the Eastcentral district. Most of the land in the sampled contracts was enrolled in CP-2, the native grass treatment (Table 16). The treatments, as classified by ASCS, follow.

- CP1: Permanent introduced grasses and legumes.
- CP2: Permanent native grasses.
- CP3: Tree planting.
- CP4: Permanent wildlife habitat.
- CP5: Field windbreaks.
- CP6: Diversions, Type 1.
- CP7: Erosion control structures
- CP8: Grass waterways
- CP9: Shallow water areas for wildlife.
- CP10: Vegetative-cover, grass already established.
- CP11: Vegetative-cover, trees already established.
- CP12: Wildlife food plots.
- CP13: Filter strips.
- CP14: Wetland trees.

**Management.** Most respondents reported that some type of improvement existed on their CRP acres (Table 17). Approximately half of the respondents had existing terraces on the CRP acres. Almost all CRP participants had done some type of active management on their CRP acres in the last 2-3 years, with mowing and weed control being the two most common management activities (Table 18).

### **The Future of CRP Land**

The picture of what will happen to CRP land after the contracts expire is somewhat cloudy. When asked to choose between various alternatives, slightly over one-third of the respondents revealed that they had made no plans or were uncertain about what they will do with their CRP land after the contract expires (Table 19). The response rate to most of these options varied significantly across the state (Table 20). Keeping CRP land in grass for livestock was a highly selected option for all districts except Westcentral and Southwest. In the Westcentral district, responses “return to annual crop production” and “keep in grass for livestock grazing” were selected equally (32 percent each). In the Southwest, respondents favored crop production (34.1 percent), to livestock grazing (26.2 percent).

Approximately the same percentages of respondents chose to leave some land in grass for livestock grazing and stated that they were uncertain of their plans. Yet, when asked directly if they planned to return some acres to livestock grazing, 57.7 percent responded positively. Little geographic variation occurred in the response to this question (Figure 10). Note that these questions refer to any or all acres on the contract number being surveyed. More than one possibility exists for each contract.

When asked to choose between alternatives, slightly under one-fourth of respondents selected to return some of their CRP acres to crop production under conservation compliance provisions (Table 19). However, when asked directly if they planned to return some acres to crop production under conservation compliance provisions, 42.8 percent responded positively. The direct question responses by CRD appear in Figure 11. The inconsistency between the direct and indirect questions may show that many producers have yet to decide clearly what they will do with the acres under CRP contract.

The SWCS survey (1992) asked a similar question about future plans. Approximately 34 percent of the Northern Plains respondents would keep some or all their CRP land in grass for livestock forage, and 30.4 percent would return acres to crop production under conservation compliance. Responses indicating maintenance of grass for livestock in Kansas were high compared to the national response of 20.2 percent (SWCS, 1992).

Among those respondents who said they would return some acres to production under conservation compliance provisions, almost half were uncertain what structures or practices would be required to meet those provisions on the CRP acres (Table 21). Of those who reported that they would return some acres to grazing, one-third reported that they were uncertain about what type of construction would be needed to make the CRP acres suitable for grazing (Table 22).

Despite the uncertainty about what they will do with their CRP land after the contracts expire, respondents were able to rate the importance of likely influences on their decision (Table 23). Market prices of crops/livestock were most important, followed by the availability of cost sharing for fencing and water development for livestock. Market prices for crops and livestock had the highest mean ranking in the Southwest (Table 24). That district also ranked government payments and expected costs of crop production high.

These state responses follow a national trend. The SWCS survey (1992) grouped market prices and government price supports together; they received a ranking of most important by 35.7 percent of those surveyed. Costs of production were ranked most important by 11.4 percent of the respondents.

When asked about the possibility of extending their current CRP contract for an additional 5 years, assuming crop prices and government price supports remain at 1991-92 levels, 88.8 percent of respondents would like to remain in the program. For those responding positively, the mean bid for the additional 5 years was \$53.12 per acre per year, which is slightly less than the current mean payment for all respondents (\$54.49). Of those willing to extend their contract, most (72.5 percent) bid the same or less than their current payment (Table 25). Slightly fewer respondents (84.5 percent) were willing to extend their contract for 10 years, assuming that crop prices and government price supports remain at 1991-92 levels, and the mean payments were slightly higher (\$53.69) than the amount bid for an additional 5 years.

Geographically, only slight variation occurred in the willingness of respondents to participate in both the 5- and 10-year options to extend CRP program enrollment (Figures 12 and 13). Bids did vary significantly across the state. The highest mean 5- and 10-year bids

were in the Northeast district (\$64.90 and \$65.79, respectively). These bids are above the current mean payment of \$62.87 in the Northeast. All three eastern districts had mean bids for both 5- and 10-year extensions that were higher than their current mean bids (Figure 14).

On a national level, the SWCS survey (1992) found that extending contracts for another 5 years would cost an additional \$9.79 per acre per year beyond the current rental rate. This would result in a bid much higher than those reported in this survey. According to SWCS (1992), a 10-year extension would cost an additional \$15.17 per acre per year. Nationally, the lowest bid rates were found in the Southern Plains and the highest in the Northeast.

When asked if they were willing to leave their CRP acres in permanent cover after the contract expires, without an annual rental payment, provided that the acres continued to be protected as commodity base acres and could be used for annual set-aside requirements, only 15.4 percent of respondents responded “yes”. Thirty-seven percent responded “uncertain”, and 47.6 percent responded “no”. Significant differences occurred in the response rates to this question among CRDs (Figure 15). The Southwest and Westcentral had the strongest negative responses (59.7 and 55.1, respectively). The strongest positive response (21.9 percent) was in the Northcentral district. Undecided responses were very high, with the highest of 44.0 percent being in the Northwest.

When asked about extending their CRP contracts for 5 years subject to conditions other than those currently allowed, the mean bids ranged from \$37.31 per acre per year to \$43.92 per acre per year depending on the condition (Table 26). However, the response rate to all conditions was low.

## **CRP and Wildlife**

Over two-thirds (67.7 percent) of respondents felt that wildlife is an important consideration in their choice of farming practices; however, only 24.0 percent were willing to change some of the current vegetative cover on their CRP acres to increase wildlife if 50 percent cost-sharing funds were available. The remaining respondents were split evenly between “no” and “uncertain” (both 38.0 percent). No significant difference occurred among districts of the state for either of these questions.

Almost two-thirds (64.7 percent) of the respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that enrollment in CRP has increased the diversity of wildlife on their farm. Regarding individual species, deer, pheasant, and quail were reported to have increased by over one-half of the respondents (Table 27). Increases in wildlife were considered undesirable by 42.4 percent of respondents, with increases in coyote (58.2 percent of those respondents finding wildlife increases undesirable) and deer (44.0 percent) mentioned most often as undesirable. Of those respondents indicating an increase in deer specifically, only 25.8 percent found the increase undesirable. However, of those that saw an increase in coyotes, 47.6 percent felt that increase was undesirable.

The Northcentral, Central, and Northeast were the only CRDs that had less than a 70 percent response rate for perceiving increases in deer population (Table 28). Pheasant increases were reported by over 80 percent of respondents in all districts but the Eastcentral and Southeast. The population of quail was reported as increasing by over 70 percent of respondents in all but the three western districts. Coyote population increases were reported most often (70.3 percent) by respondents in the Southwest region of the state. The responses to whether the general increases in wildlife were undesirable were significantly different across districts. Figure 16 shows the percentages of respondents finding the general increases undesirable and the percentages of respondents (who specifically listed increases in deer and coyotes) finding deer and coyote increases undesirable. Coyote increases were overwhelmingly undesirable in most regions.

The SWCS survey (1992) found half of the national respondents willing to plant a different vegetative cover on CRP acres to improve wildlife, if cost was shared. The Northeast area of the U.S. was the most accepting of this proposal (66.7 percent); the Northern plains was the least accepting (38.5 percent). However, this low positive response rate did not reflect outright rejection but the desire for more information (SWCS, 1992).

### **CRP and Recreation**

Almost two-thirds of the respondents allowed friends and neighbors recreational access to their CRP acres (Table 29). A mean of 13 friends and neighbors used the CRP acres each year. Over 40 percent of respondents allowed anyone who asks permission recreational access. Only 13.8 percent of respondents reported not allowing anyone recreational access to their CRP acres.

Hunting was allowed on CRP land by over three-quarters of the respondents (Table 30), and other types of recreation were allowed by 15.6 percent of respondents. The data indicate that, although only 13.8 percent of respondents reported not allowing anyone access to their CRP land for recreation, 23.5 percent reported not allowing any recreational activity on their land. Only the responses to “other recreation” varied significantly across districts. Figure 17 shows that the highest response to “other recreation” was in the Southeast (25.3 percent).

Few respondents charged a fee for recreational access (Table 30). Of those who allowed no one access and allowed no recreational activity, “liability concerns” was their most important reason (Table 31).

One-third (33.3 percent) of the respondents were interested in participating in a state-sponsored recreational access program. For those respondents who would consider participating, the most important feature of a program was the amount of the lease payment (Table 32). Respondents required a mean of \$33.62 per acre per year to participate. Other important attributes were the types of recreation allowed and “walk-in only/no vehicle access”.

For the two-thirds (66.7 percent) of respondents who would not consider participating in a recreational access program, the most important reason was “liability concerns”, followed by “trash/litter” and “vandalism” (Table 33).

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Extensive concern exists among Kansas landowners, policy-makers, and numerous agricultural and environmental groups about what will happen to the nearly 3 million acres of cropland currently enrolled in the CRP once their 10-year contracts expire. An additional 30.9 million acres are enrolled nationwide in this program. The entire CRP will eventually cost approximately \$20 billion (SWCS 1992). Tradeoffs of environmental quality, food production, and federal fiscal planning have made the future of these CRP lands a controversial topic for the 1995 farm bill agenda.

This study’s objective was to determine what Kansas landowners will do with acreage enrolled in CRP when their contracts expire and landowners’ attitudes toward extension of the current CRP and/or the use of alternative land conservation programs. The results depict a situation of high satisfaction with the current program but low expectations that an extension of the program will occur.

A majority of the landowners surveyed would like to extend their CRP contract for 5 or 10 years. The bid rates required by the landowners were at or below their current bid rates. This is an overwhelming endorsement of the program and could be caused by several factors. The most important factor influencing the landowner’s decision was economics. The market prices for crops, forage, and livestock were the key factors in this decision formula. The uncertainty surrounding these factors, complicated by federal deficits, trade negotiations, and instability in Eastern Europe, may contribute to the strong responses for staying in the CRP at very reasonable bid levels. These factors also are reflected in the landowners’ uncertainty when depicting their plans after contract expiration. Less than 25 percent would return land to crop production. A larger proportion (36.6 percent) was uncertain or had no plans at the time of the survey. Landowners also may be concerned about the expense of returning land to crop production under conservation compliance. A majority of producers ranked soil erosion as an important or very important influence on their initial enrollment. To bring this erodible land back into production under compliance could be costly because of structural, management, and other input expenses. Keeping land in forage production for livestock drew a large response (36.2 percent). This also may be due to the perception that crop production is too risky and expensive.

Options to preserve current CRP land conditions under state wildlife and recreation programs were not very popular. However, producers did recognize the benefits CRP has had on wildlife diversity, and most found the increases in populations and diversity desirable. Most producers allowed access to their CRP land for hunting; however, producers wanted to remain in control of both who has access and the types of activities. Liability was the greatest concern among those who did not allow recreation and those who would not participate in a state-sponsored program.

This survey did not address all the options to the current CRP program. However, it provides the most extensive look at Kansas CRP contract-holders to date. Much information has been gathered and further analysis may reveal even more complicated relationships between Kansas landowners, economics, and the future of CRP lands.

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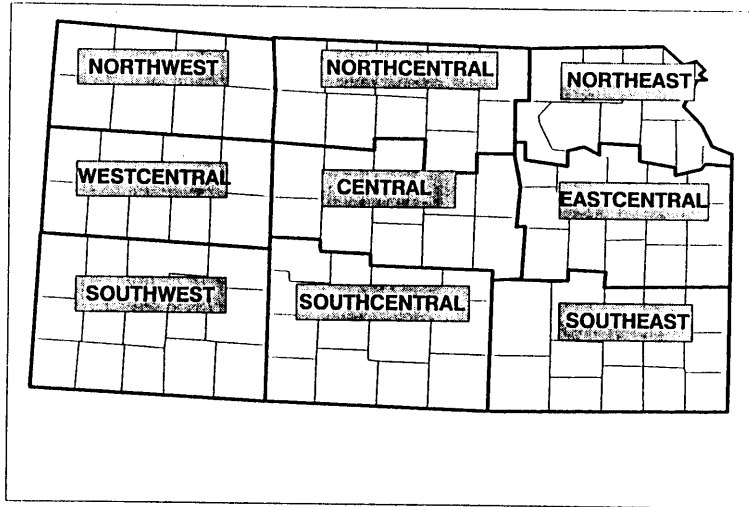


Figure 1. Kansas Crop Reporting Districts

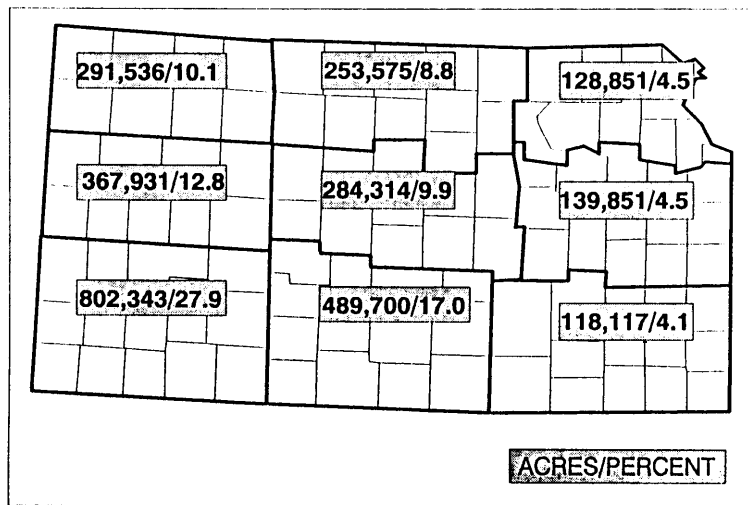


Figure 2. Location of Conservation Reserve Acreage in Kansas (1986-1990)

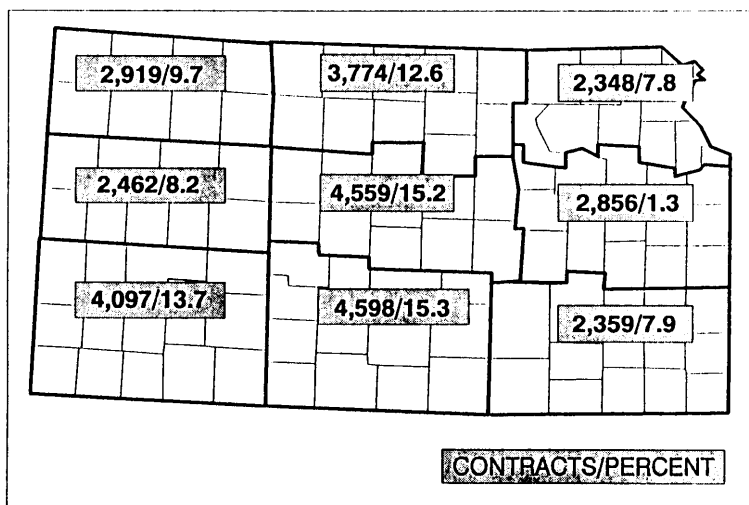


Figure 3. Location of Conservation Contracts in Kansas (1986-1990)

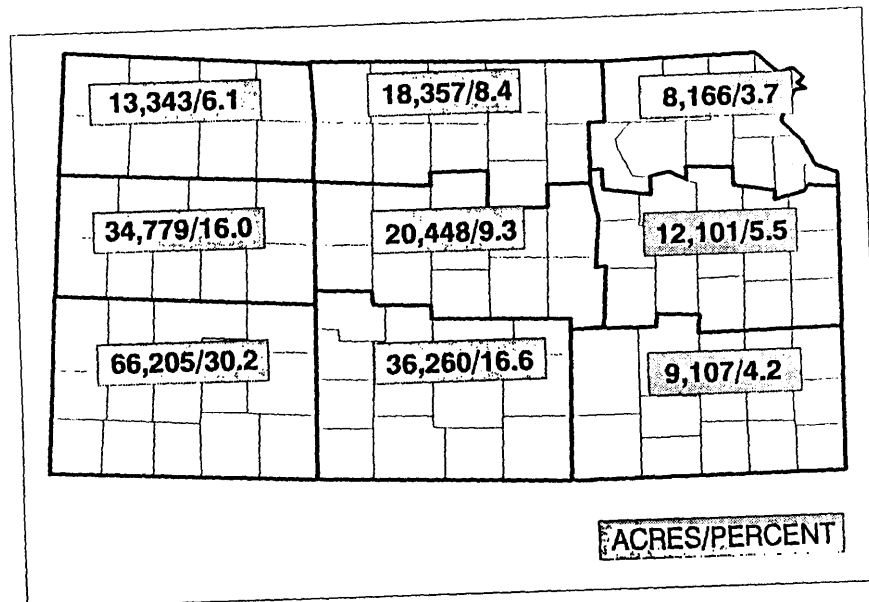


Figure 4. Location of Conservation Reserve Acres in Contracts Surveyed

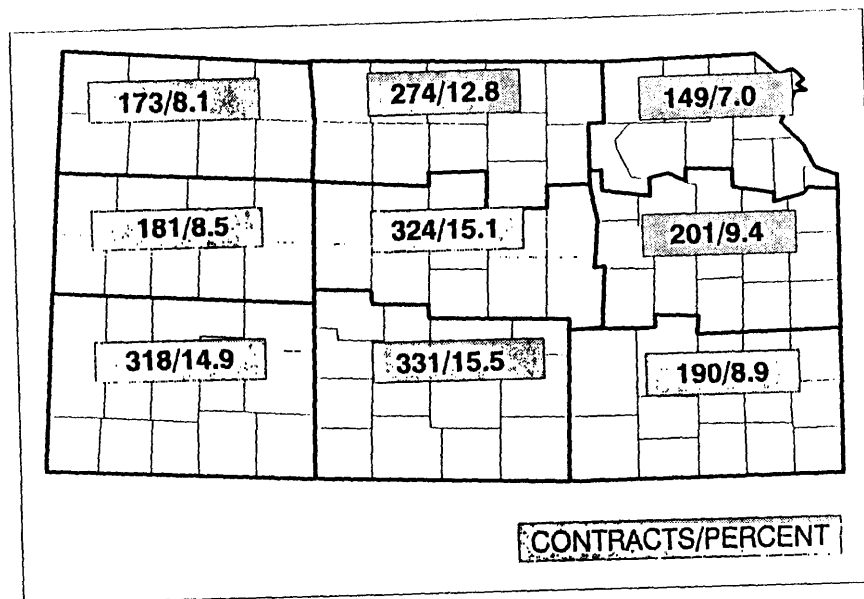


Figure 5. Location of Conservation Reserve Contracts Surveyed



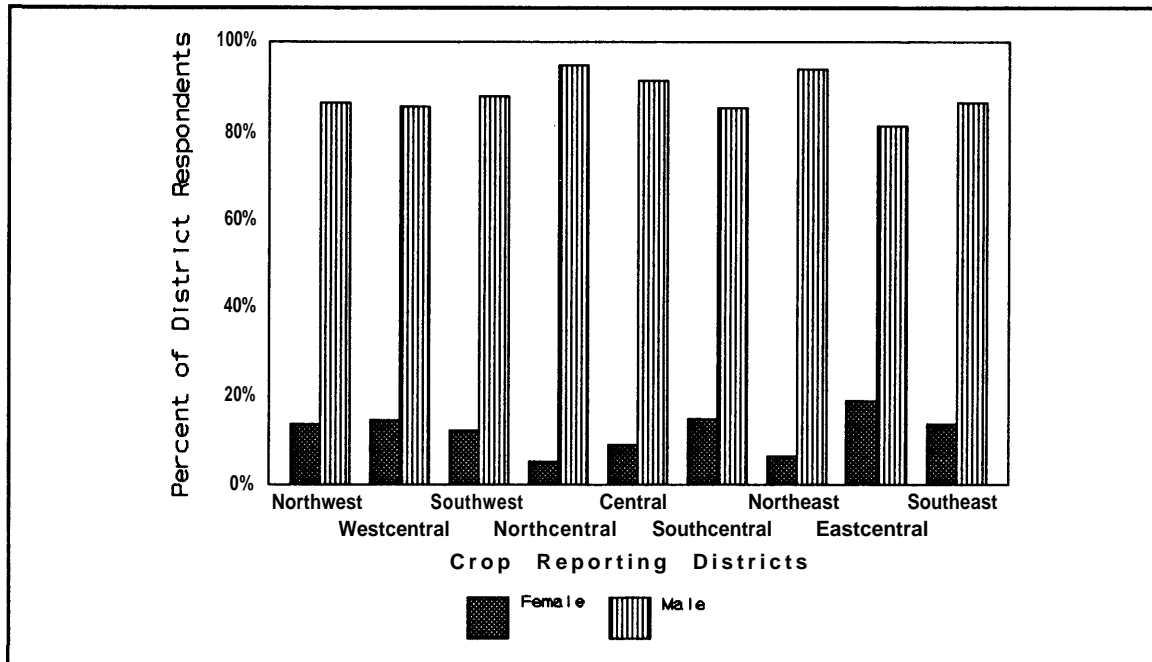


Figure 6. Gender of Respondents by Crop Reporting District

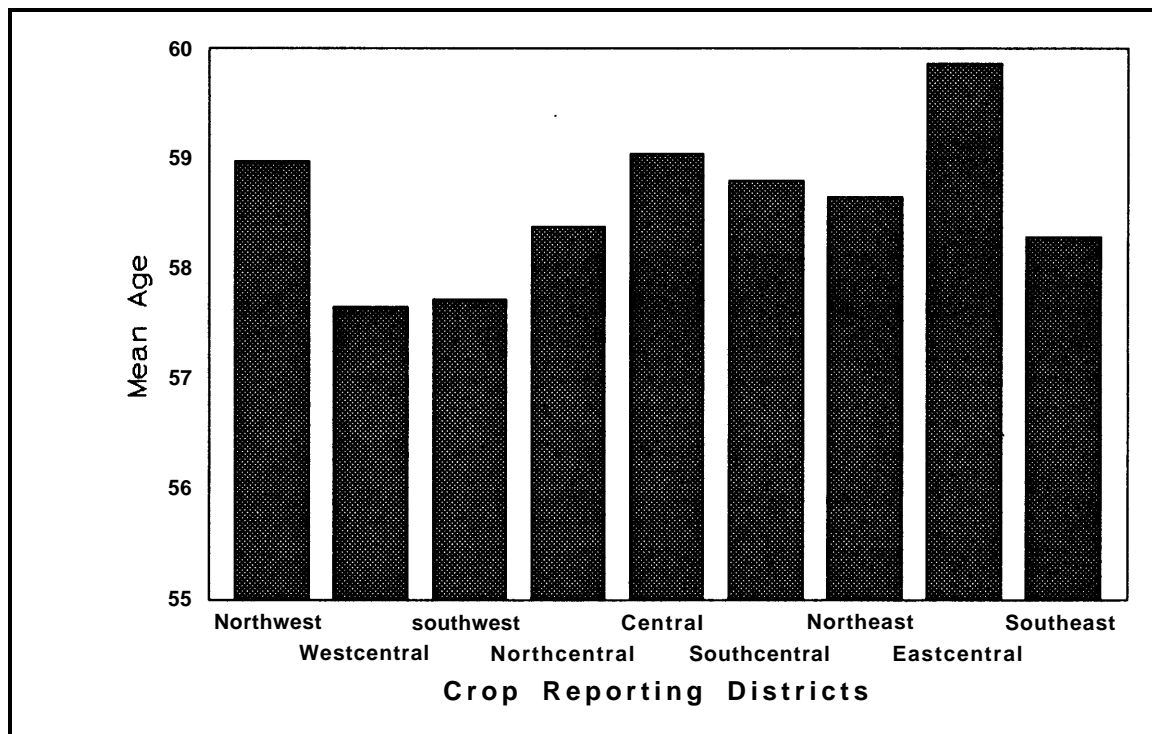


Figure 7. Mean Age of Respondents by Crop Reporting District

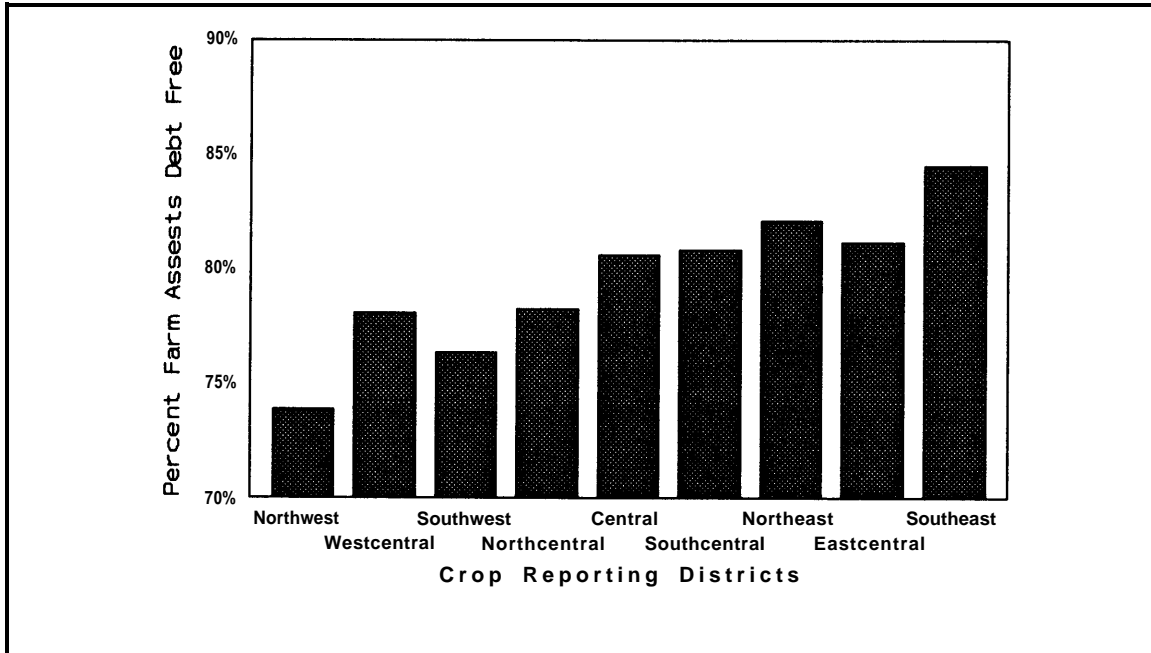


Figure 8. Mean Percent of Debt-Free Farm Assets of Respondents by Crop Reporting District

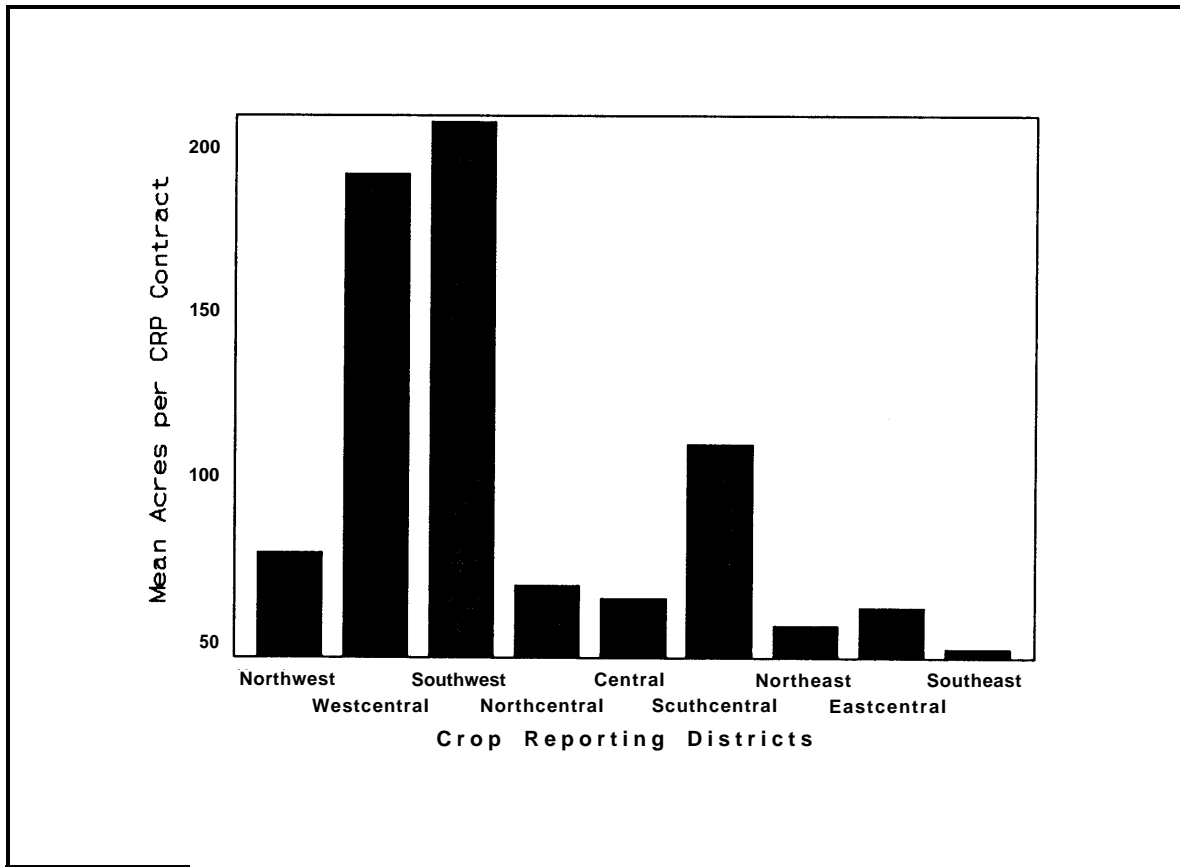


Figure 9. Mean Number of Acres per Contract by Crop Reporting District

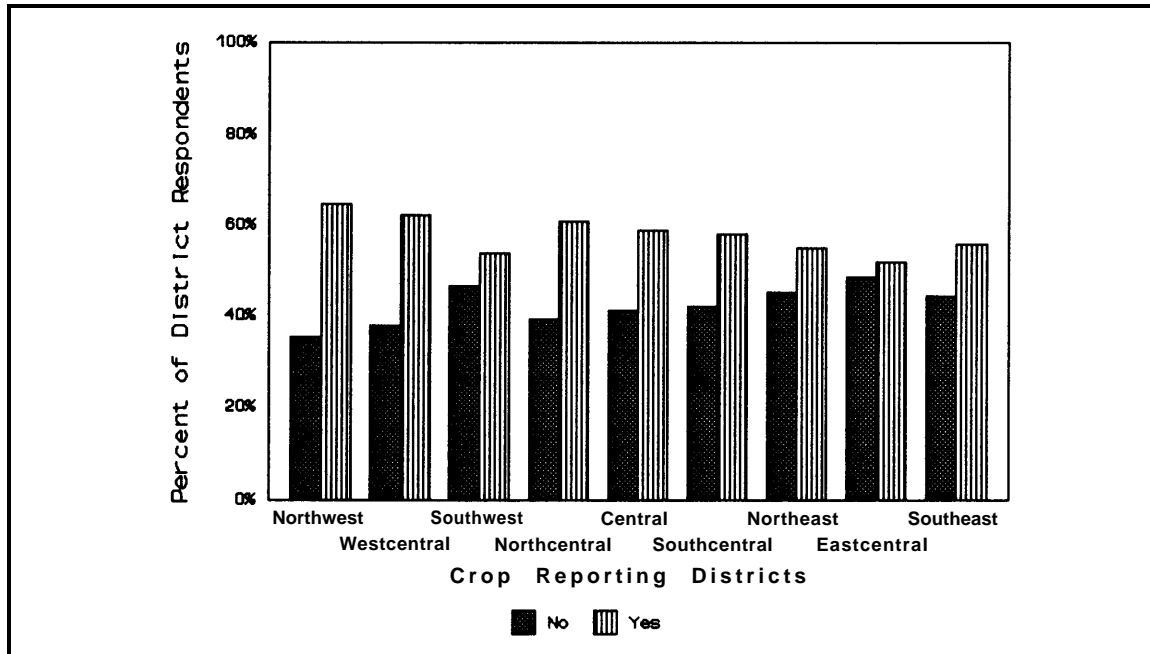


Figure 10. Percent of Respondents Planning to Keep Some CRP Acres in Grass for Livestock Grazing by Crop Reporting District

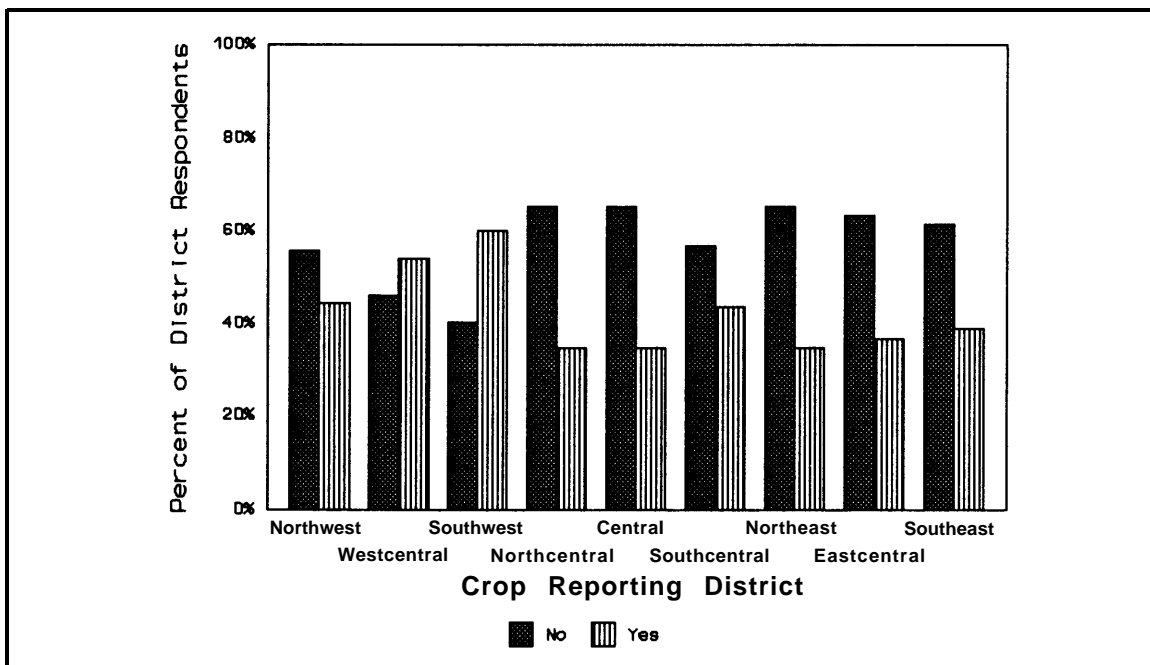


Figure 11. Percent of Respondents Planning to Return Some CRP Acres to Crop Production under Conservation Compliance by Crop Reporting District

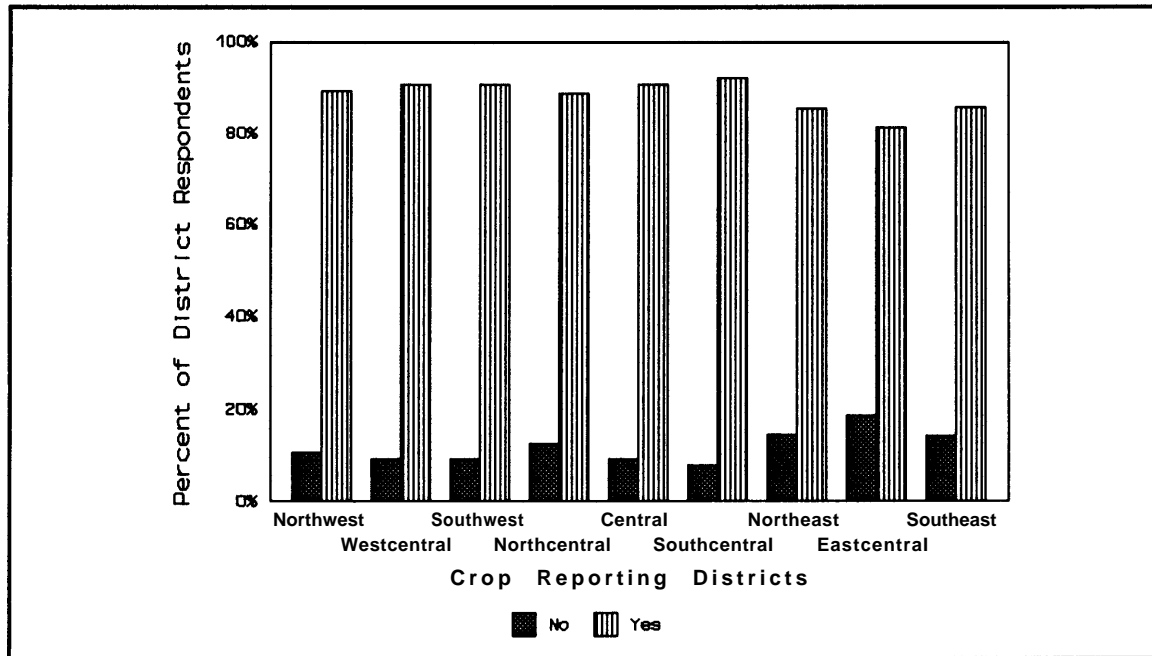


Figure 12. Percent of Respondents Willing to Extend CRP Enrollment for 5 Years by Crop Reporting District

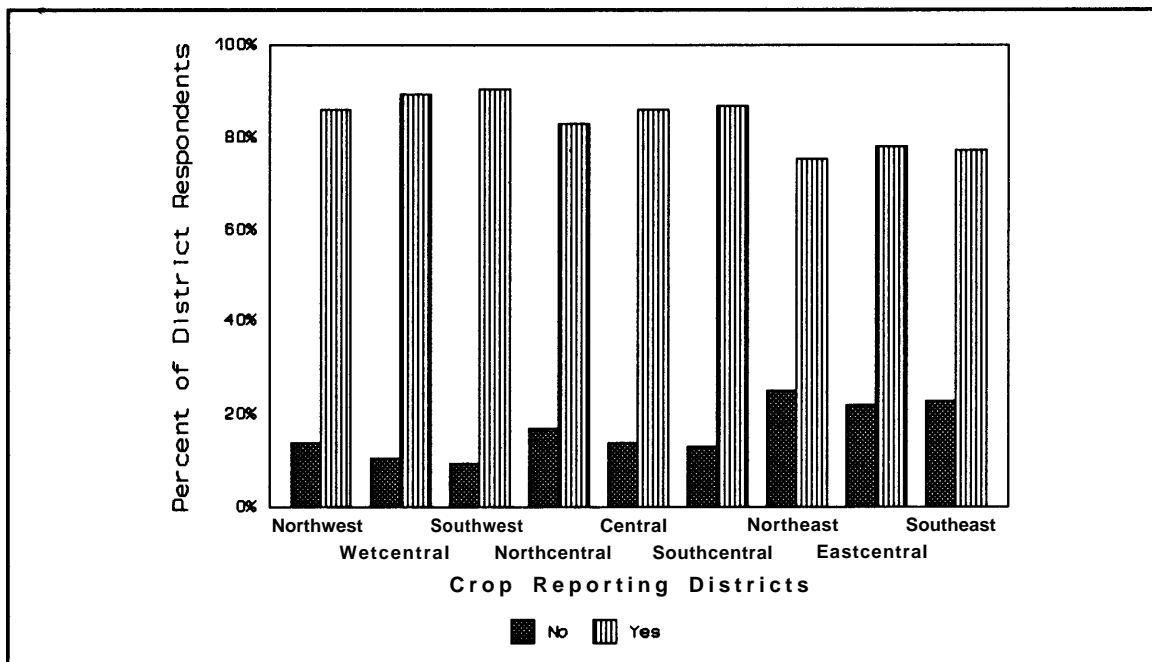


Figure 13. Percent of Respondents Willing to Extend CRP Enrollment for 10 Years by Crop Reporting District

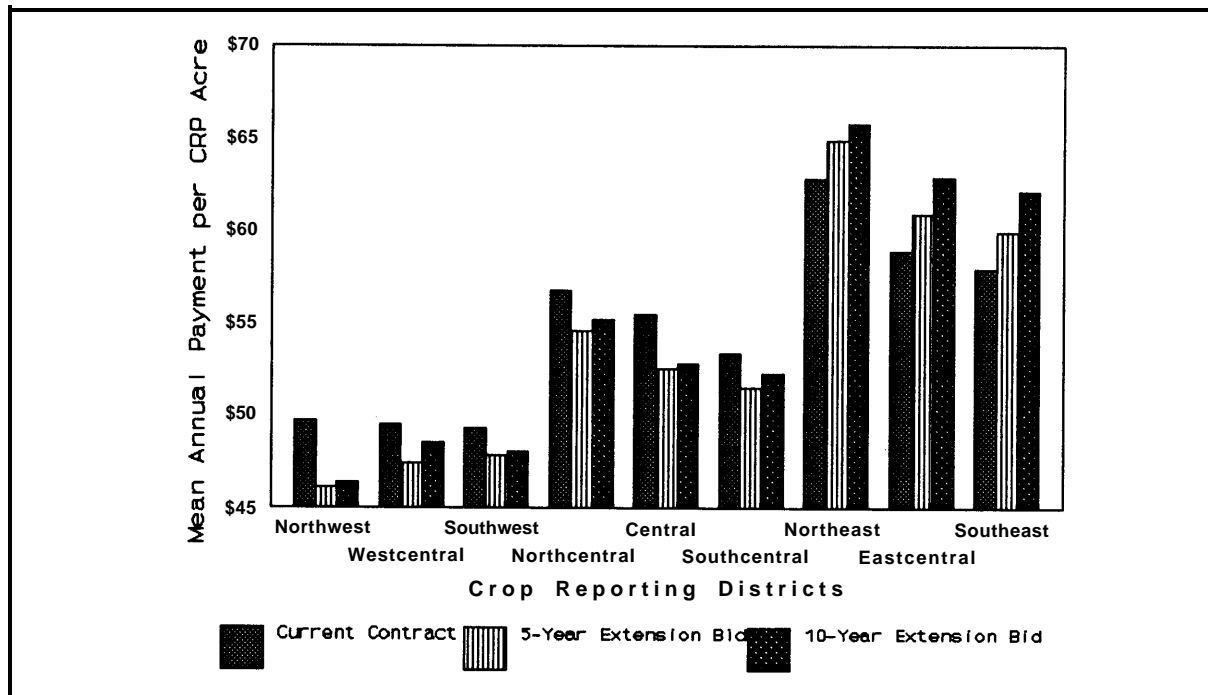


Figure 14. Mean Current CRP Payments and Mean Bids Required to Extend Enrollment for 5 and 10 Years by Crop Reporting District

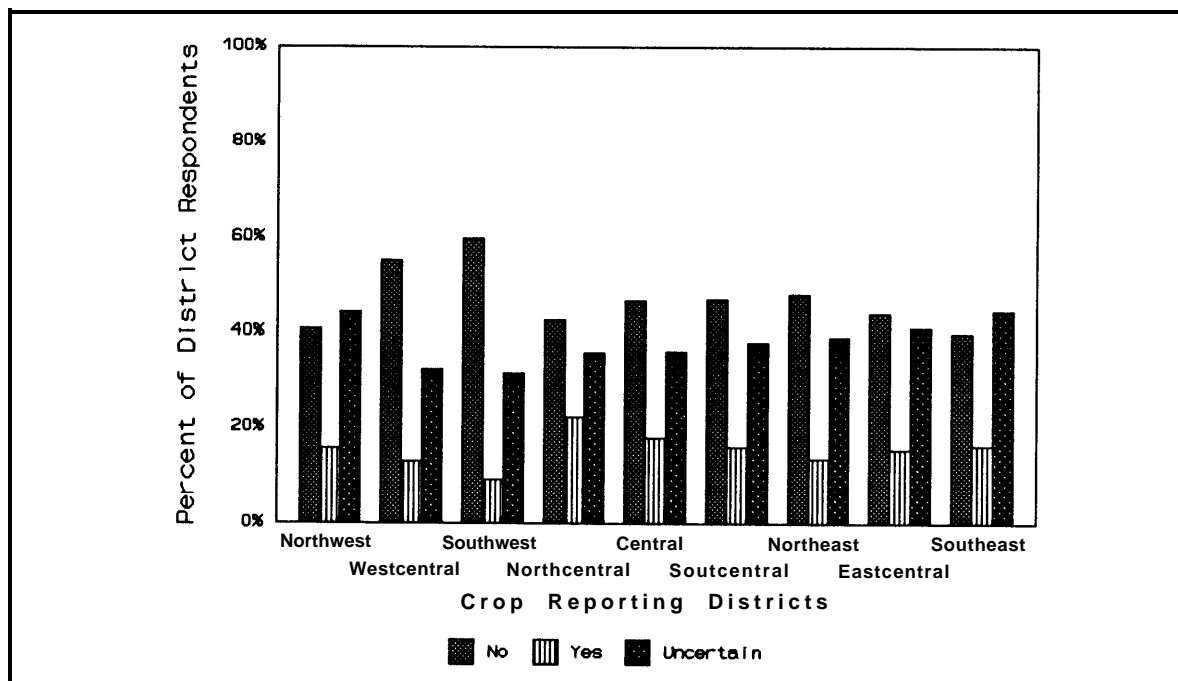


Figure 10. Percent of Respondents Willing to Continue in CRP Program Without Payments, if Base is Preserved by Crop Reporting Districts

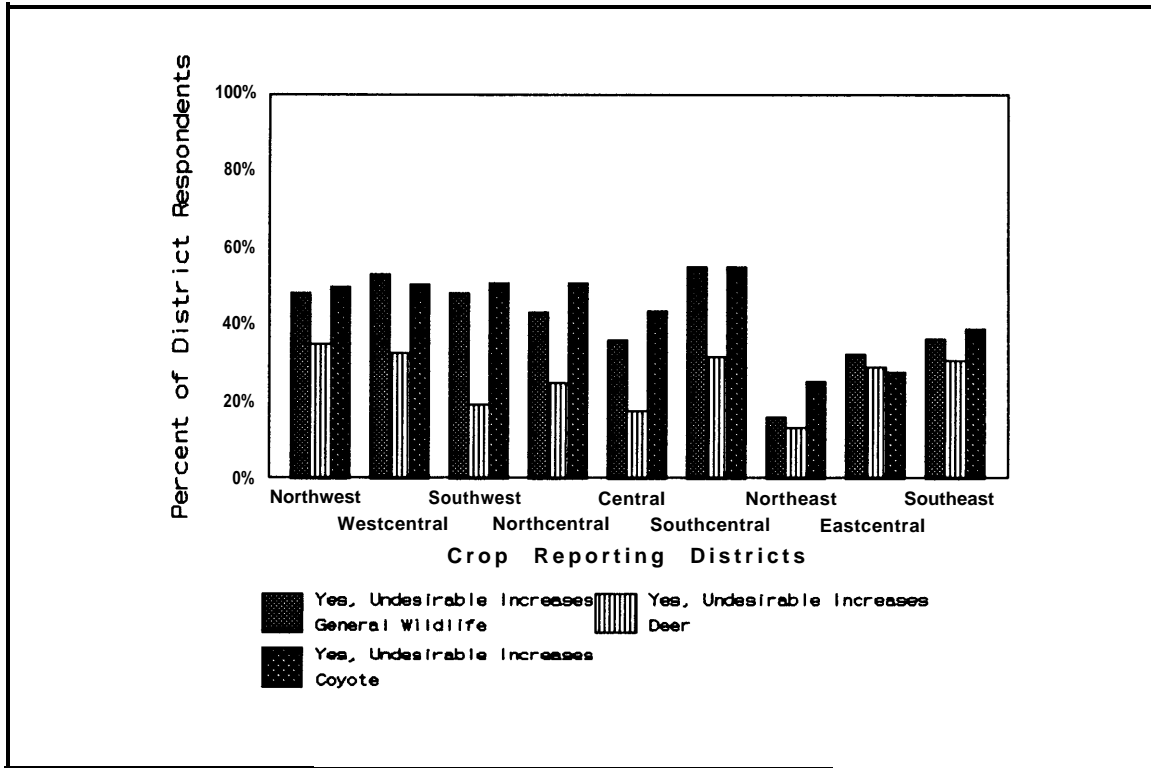


Figure 16. Percent of Respondents who Perceived Increases in General Wildlife, Deer, and Coyote as Undesirable by Crop Reporting District (deer and coyote reported only for those respondents indicating increases in those populations).

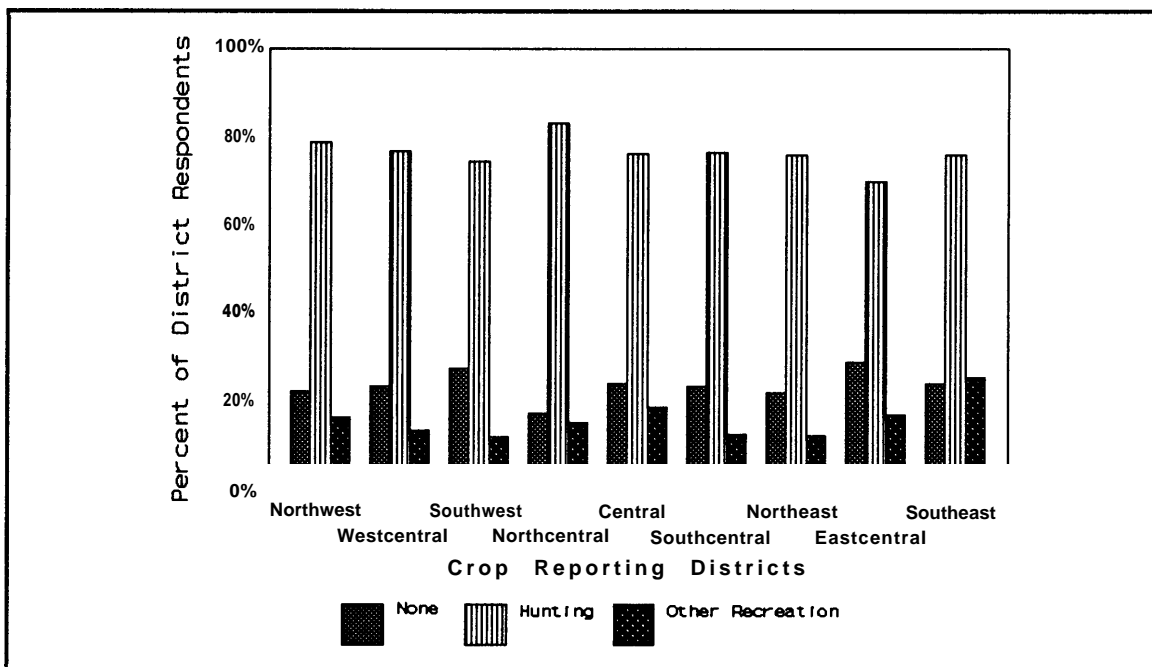


Figure 17. Percent of Respondents Allowing Recreational Activities on Their CRP Land by Crop Reporting District

Table 1. County of ASCS Office Where Sampled Contract is Administered

<u>County</u>	<u>Percent of respondents*</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Percent of respondents*</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Percent of respondents*</u>
Allen	0.4	Greeley	1.3	Osborne	1.1
Anderson	0.3	Greenwood	0.2	Ottawa	0.4
Atchison	0.3	Hamilton	2.1	Pawnee	1.7
Barber	1.0	Harper	0.7	Phillips	1.4
Barton	1.4	Harvey	0.3	Pottawatomie	1.0
Bourbon	1.0	Haskell	0.5	Pratt	1.2
Brown	0.5	Hodgeman	1.1	Rawlins	0.9
Butler	0.7	Jackson	1.0	Reno	3.4
Chase	0.1	Jefferson	1.2	Republic	0.6
Chautauqua	0.5	Jewell	1.1	Rice	0.7
Cherokee	0.5	Johnson	0.1	Riley	0.3
Cheyenne	1.4	Kearny	1.2	Rooks	1.9
Clark	1.1	Kingman	2.1	Rush	2.0
Clay	1.7	Kiowa	1.7	Russell	2.3
Cloud	0.7	Labette	0.7	Saline	0.9
Coffey	0.6	Lane	0.6	Scott	0.4
Comanche	0.9	Leavenworth	0.4	Sedgwick	0.3
Cowley	0.5	Lincoln	1.2	Seward	0.8
Crawford	1.2	Linn	1.1	Shawnee	0.5
Decatur	0.7	Logan	0.6	Sheridan	0.6
Dickinson	2.1	Lyon	1.8	Sherman	0.6
Doniphan	0.1	McPherson	1.2	Smith	1.0
Douglas	0.4	Marion	1.1	Stafford	0.4
Edwards	1.2	Marshall	0.7	Stanton	1.1
Elk	0.4	Meade	0.8	Stevens	1.3
Ellis	1.4	Miami	1.2	Sumner	0.6
Ellsworth	1.0	Mitchell	1.2	Thomas	0.3
Finney	1.0	Montgomery	0.4	Trego	1.5
Ford	1.2	Morris	0.7	Wabaunsee	0.7
Franklin	0.3	Morton	1.6	Wallace	1.3
Geary	0.1	Nemaha	1.4	Washington	1.6
Gove	0.8	Neosho	1.4	Wichita	0.6
Graham	2.0	Ness	1.4	Wilson	0.7
Grant	0.6	Norton	1.5	Woodson	0.3
Gray	0.4	Osage	1.4		

\*Total respondents = 2,141

Table 2. Relationship of Respondents to Land under CRP Contract

<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Percent of respondents*</u>
Owner and operator	70.8
Renter and operator	18.1
Absentee landowner	11.1

\*Total respondents = 2,109

Table 3. Highest Level of Education Obtained by Respondent

<u>Education level</u>	<u>Percent of respondents*</u>
Some elementary school	5.2
Some high school	6.1
High school diploma	31.9
Some college or post-high school	24.0
Vocational or technical school	7.8
Bachelor's degree	17.4
Graduate degree	7.7

\*Total respondents = 2,025



Table 4. Total Annual Income of Respondents

<u>Annual income</u>	From all sources percent of respondents <sup>1</sup>	From agricultural sources percent of respondents <sup>2</sup>	From non-agricultural sources percent of respondents <sup>3</sup>
Less than \$10,000	2.8	22.8	39.5
\$10,000-\$19,999	9.5	17.0	20.1
\$20,000-\$24,999	9.2	10.4	9.4
\$25,000-\$29,999	8.6	7.7	8.4
\$30,000-\$49,999	25.1	15.3	12.0
\$50,000-\$74,999	16.9	8.9	5.3
\$75,000 or more	27.8	17.8	5.3

<sup>1</sup>Total respondents = 1,844

<sup>2</sup>Total respondents = 1,902

<sup>3</sup>Total respondents = 1,854

Table 5. Value of Farm's Land and Buildings

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent of respondents*</u>
Less than \$40,000	5.7
\$40,000-\$69,999	10.9
\$70,000-\$99,999	9.6
\$100,000-\$149,999	12.1
\$150,000-\$199,999	10.9
\$200,000-\$499,999	27.3
\$500,000-\$999,999	15.7
\$1,000,000 or more	7.8

\*Total respondents = 1,861

Table 6. Value of Farm's Machinery and Equipment

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent of respondents*</u>
Less than \$10,000	28.6
\$10,000-\$29,999	16.5
\$30,000-\$49,999	12.0
\$50,000-\$99,999	16.5
\$100,000-\$199,999	14.0
\$200,000-\$499,999	8.9
\$500,000-\$999,999	2.9
\$1,000,000 or more	0.8

\*Total respondents = 1,835

Table 7. Participation in USDA Commodity Programs

<u>Crop program</u>	<u>Percent of respondents*</u>	<u>Crop program</u>	<u>Percent of respondents*</u>
Wheat	75.0	Soybeans	12.2
Sorghum	60.6	Oats	12.1
Corn	19.1	Barley	9.5
		None	23.2

\*Total respondents = 2,078

Table 8. Total Annual Income of Respondents by Crop Reporting District

	North- <u>west</u>	West- <u>central</u>	South- <u>west</u>	<u>Percent of Respondents</u>			North- <u>east</u>	East- <u>central</u>	South <u>east</u>
				North- <u>central</u>	Central	central			
<b>Agricultural income</b>									
Less than \$10,000	14.2	9.7	13.1	14.8	23.2	22.3	35.9	43.2	39.7
\$10,000-\$19,999	17.4	11.0	8.7	17.3	20.4	18.2	23.7	25.9	14.9
\$20,000-\$24,999	11.0	13.6	11.1	13.2	12.1	9.8	7.6	5.1	7.5
\$25,000-\$29,999	7.1	9.7	6.9	10.7	6.8	9.8	5.3	5.1	6.3
\$30,000-\$49,999	14.8	22.1	21.5	16.0	14.3	13.2	9.9	12.5	10.3
\$50,000-\$74,999	11.0	9.7	11.1	9.5	8.2	8.8	6.9	6.8	7.5
\$75,000 or more	24.5	24.0	27.7	18.5	15.0	17.9	10.7	2.3	13.8
<b>Nonagricultural income</b>									
Less than \$10,000	46.3	42.9	42.0	48.1	36.3	38.6	31.3	31.4	34.7
\$10,000-\$19,999	26.5	19.0	22.8	16.7	20.5	18.8	23.4	18.0	17.6
\$20,000-\$24,999	7.5	8.2	9.3	10.9	10.6	10.9	5.5	12.8	5.9
\$25,000-\$29,999	8.8	9.5	5.0	5.4	9.9	10.9	9.4	10.5	7.6
\$30,000-\$49,999	7.5	8.2	8.2	13.0	12.5	10.2	15.6	13.4	22.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	1.4	4.8	5.7	2.5	4.8	5.8	8.6	7.6	7.6
\$75,000 or more	2.0	7.5	7.1	3.3	5.5	4.8	6.3	6.4	4.1
<b>All sources income</b>									
Less than \$10,000	3.4	2.7	.7	3.0	1.5	1.7	3.9	5.8	6.0
\$10,000-\$19,999	10.9	2.7	6.7	7.6	11.8	6.3	12.5	14.0	17.5
\$20,000-\$24,999	4.8	9.4	6.7	9.7	10.0	10.8	14.1	13.4	4.8
\$25,000-\$29,999	7.5	4.0	8.8	8.1	10.0	13.2	7.8	8.7	4.2
\$30,000-\$49,999	28.6	31.5	18.0	25.8	26.2	24.3	22.7	28.5	24.7
\$50,000-\$74,999	13.6	14.1	19.1	21.2	17.7	15.6	15.6	15.1	16.9
\$75,000 or more	31.3	35.6	39.9	24.6	22.9	28.1	23.4	14.5	25.9

Table 9. Values of Farm's Land and Buildings Crop Reporting District

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent of respondents</u>								
	<u>North- west</u>	<u>West- central</u>	<u>South- west</u>	<u>North- central</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South- central</u>	<u>North- east</u>	<u>East- central</u>	<u>South east</u>
Less than \$40,000	5.4	3.4	6.0	5.8	5.1	6.0	8.5	7.4	4.1
\$40,000-\$69,999	10.9	8.7	7.7	10.4	12.3	8.1	10.0	15.4	17.2
\$70,000-\$99,999	6.1	6.7	7.4	10.8	10.9	8.1	9.2	14.3	13.0
\$100,000-\$149,999	9.5	8.7	7.7	10.8	12.3	13.7	16.2	19.4	13.0
\$150,000-\$199,999	8.8	8.1	10.9	10.4	12.0	11.9	14.6	10.3	10.1
\$200,000-\$499,999	27.2	30.2	27.7	32.8	30.8	26.0	23.1	24.0	19.5
\$500,000-\$999,999	22.4	20.8	19.3	14.1	10.9	17.9	14.6	5.1	17.8
\$1,000,000 or more	9.5	13.4	13.3	5.0	5.8	8.4	3.8	4.0	5.3

Table 10. Participation in USDA Commodity Programs Crop Reporting District

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Percent of respondents</u>								
	<u>North-west</u>	<u>West-central</u>	<u>South-west</u>	<u>North-central</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South-central</u>	<u>North-east</u>	<u>East-central</u>	<u>south east</u>
Wheat	94.1	89.9	74.1	85.3	86.5	78.6	45.8	42.9	58.7
Sorghum	73.4	71.9	58.6	75.8	70.2	53.3	41.7	41.8	48.9
Corn	32.5	15.2	28.5	12.8	11.9	14.2	29.2	19.6	16.3
Soybeans			1.0	6.8	2.5	2.1	37.7	47.2	50.0
Oats	21.9	10.1	6.8	21.1	18.6	8.4	6.3	6.9	6.0
Barley	17.8	30.3	16.5	6.4	7.1	5.3		2.1	
None	5.9	10.1	23.9	12.8	13.5	20.4	50.7	51.9	37.0

Table 11. Importance of Reasons for Enrolling Acres in CRP

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Percent of respondents</u>					<u>Mean</u>
	Not Important		Very Important			
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	
Concern for soil erosion	5.4	5.2	18.0	23.3	48.1	4.0
Most profitable use of land	5.6	5.1	18.9	22.2	48.2	4.0
Low risk associated with payments	11.1	6.8	22.8	25.9	33.1	3.6
Provide wildlife habitat	16.8	12.4	24.9	19.9	25.9	3.3
Easiest way to meet conservation compliance	18.3	12.3	25.3	18.5	25.6	3.2
Able to reduce labor/increase time for other activities	34.0	12.8	20.8	16.3	16.1	2.7
Able to retire/semi-retire	54.1	8.1	13.8	9.0	15.0	2.2
Made tree planting affordable	76.1	9.8	7.2	3.4	3.5	1.5

Table 12. Importance of Reasons for Not Enrolling Eligible Acres in CRP\*

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Percent of respondents</u>					<u>Mean</u>
	Not Important <u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	Very Improtant <u>5</u>	
Crop production was more profitable than receiving CRP payments	18.1	8.4	21.9	20.7	30.9	3.4
Potential for increased crop prices	21.9	10.7	25.1	22.6	19.6	3.1
Better able to utilize my labor and/or equipment	28.1	9.4	21.1	23.3	18.1	2.9
Needed crops for livestock feed	41.7	9.6	12.0	12.7	24.1	2.7
Needed to keep family member or tenant in farming	48.3	12.8	12.1	9.8	17.0	2.3
Profits from haying/grazing higher than CRP payments	44.7	19.1	15.6	9.6	11.0	2.2

\*Includes only responses for those who did not enroll all eligible acres



Table 13. Importance of Reasons for Enrolling Acres in CRP by Crop Reporting Districts

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Mean value*</u>								
	<u>North-west</u>	<u>West-central</u>	<u>South-west</u>	<u>North-central</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South-central</u>	<u>North-east</u>	<u>East-central</u>	<u>South-east</u>
Concern for soil erosion	4.37	3.99	3.81	4.12	4.02	3.96	4.11	4.04	4.10
Most profitable use of land	4.16	4.11	4.14	3.95	4.08	4.21	3.73	3.72	3.86
Low risk associated with payments	3.65	3.61	3.81	3.56	3.43	3.67	3.48	3.61	3.54
Provide wildlife habitat	3.38	2.99	3.19	3.26	3.10	3.21	3.47	3.31	3.15
Easiest way to meet conservation compliance	3.55	3.14	3.09	3.23	3.20	3.05	3.21	3.11	3.34
Able to reduce labor/increase time for other activities	2.32	2.41	2.92	2.81	2.47	2.66	2.69	2.76	2.77
Able to retire/semi-retire	2.06	2.03	2.34	2.18	1.85	2.31	2.19	2.31	2.28
Made tree planting affordable	1.57	1.59	1.48	1.37	1.53	1.47	1.40	1.43	1.55

\*Mean values based on scale: 1 = Not Important to 5 = Very Important

Table 14. Crop Planted on CRP Acres during Growing Season Prior to Enrollment

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Percent of respondents*</u>	<u>Crop</u>	<u>Percent of respondents*</u>
Wheat	81.2	Corn	5.1
Sorghum	57.3	Oats	4.7
Soybeans	13.1	Barley	2.2
Alfalfa	6.9	Grass	1.9

\*Total respondents = 2,096

Table 15. Crop Planted on CRP Acres during Growing Season Prior to Enrollment by Crop Reporting Districts

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Percent of respondents</u>								
	<u>North-west</u>	<u>West-central</u>	<u>South-west</u>	<u>North-central</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South-central</u>	<u>North-east</u>	<u>East-central</u>	<u>South-east</u>
Wheat	86.1	91.5	87.2	83.1	87.3	92.4	61.6	54.4	66.7
Sorghum	42.2	48.0	58.1	69.2	55.7	50.3	75.35	72.5	46.8
Soybeans			1.0	6.8	2.5	2.1	37.7	47.2	50.0
Alfalfa	4.8	2.3	2.2	9.0	9.2	8.8	13.0	6.2	6.5
Corn	3.6	5.1	4.5	1.9	1.6	.9	18.5	14.0	5.4
Oats	2.4	1.7	2.6	4.9	5.1	2.1	12.3	9.3	6.5
Barley	2.4	5.6	6.7	2.6	1.3	.3			
Grass	1.2	1.7	1.3	1.1	.9	2.4	2.1	1.0	6.5
None	1.2		.3		.3	.3		2.1	2.2

Table 16. CRP Treatments of Sampled Contracts

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Percent of respondents*</u>	Treatment	Percent of respondents*
CP-1	14.1	CP-8	0.4
CP-2	84.7	CP-9	0.0
CP-3	0.3	CP-10	1.8
CP-4	1.1	CP-11	0.0
CP-5	0.2	CP-12	0.05
CP-6	0.3	CP-13	0.2
CP-7	0.0	CP-14	0.1

\*Total respondents = 2,141

Table 17. Improvements Currently on CRP Acres

<u>Improvement</u>	<u>Percent of respondents*</u>
Terraces	50.7
Waterways	32.7
Fences	31.7
Livestock watering sources	15.5
Livestock handling facilities	5.0
None	27.7

\*Total respondents = 2,125

Table 18. Management Practice Done on CRP Acres in the Past 2-3 Years

<u>Management Practice</u>	<u>Percent of respondents*</u>
Mowing	81.2
Weed Control	78.4
Prescribed burning	24.2
No active management	3.9

\*Total respondents = 2,128

Table 19. Plans for CRP Acres after the Contract Expires

<u>Plans</u>	<u>Percent of respondents*</u>	<u>Mean (acres)</u>
No plans/uncertain	36.6	47.4
Keep in grass for livestock grazing	36.2	29.3
Return to annual crop production under conservation compliance provisions	23.6	44.0
Keep in grass for erosion control	22.9	16.0
Keep in grass for hay production	17.6	8.3
Keep in grass and/or trees for wildlife habitat	10.2	7.4
Return to annual crop production without conservation compliance provisions	4.9	6.4
Sell the land	2.6	4.1
Keep in trees for erosion control	1.8	0.5
Keep in trees for timber production	0.5	0.1

\*Total respondents = 2,034

Table 20. Plans for CRP Acres after Contract Expires by Crop Reporting District

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Percent of respondents</u>								
	<u>North- west</u>	<u>West- central</u>	<u>South- west</u>	<u>North- central</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South- central</u>	<u>North- east</u>	<u>East- central</u>	<u>South- east</u>
No plans/uncertain	33.5	34.3	41.0	26.9	40.1	42.0	33.6	41.6	30.8
Keep in grass for livestock grazing	41.6	32.0	26.2	48.1	36.8	37.2	32.9	32.6	39.6
Return to annual crop production under cons. compliance provisions	24.2	32.0	34.1	24.2	18.2	23.7	12.1	17.4	20.3
Keep in grass for erosion control	32.3	19.8	16.7	23.8	22.5	22.1	23.6	25.3	26.4
Keep in grass for hay production	10.6	8.1	2.3	24.6	22.1	13.5	32.1	24.7	29.7
Keep in grass and/or trees for wildlife habitat	9.9	9.9	7.9	7.3	9.8	13.1	15.7	11.1	9.3
Return to annual crop production without conservation compliance provisions	3.1	2.9	5.2	3.8	4.2	2.6	10.0	5.8	9.9
Sell the land	.6	1.7	1.3	3.1	4.2	2.2	3.6	4.7	2.2
Keep in trees for erosion control	1.2	.6	.7	1.2	2.0	3.8	4.3	1.1	1.1
Keep in trees for timber production	.6			.8	.3	1.0	.7		1.1

Table 21. Practices and/or Structures Required before CRP Acres Can Be Returned to Crop Production under Conservation Compliance Provisions\*

<u>Construction or practice</u>	<u>Percent of respondents**</u>	<u>Mean (acres)</u>
Uncertain	49.0	71.6
No conservation practices/ construction required	22.5	29.2
Conservation tillage or residue management	22.1	43.9
Terraces	19.6	23.1
Waterways	7.5	4.0
No-till	2.7	3.8
Crop rotations that include grass or legume pasture	2.7	2.4
Contours without terraces	2.5	3.4
Ridge-till	1.1	1.5

\*Total respondents = 883

\*\*Includes only those respondents who plan to return some acres to crop production under conservation compliance provisions



Table 22. Construction Required before CRP Acres Can Be Returned to Grazing\*

	<u>Percent of respondents**</u>	<u>Mean (acres)</u>
Fencing	56.8	51.6
Uncertain	33.7	41.5
Livestock water development	21.9	20.8
No small construction required	14.0	8.6
Livestock handling facilities	12.1	10.9

\*Includes only those respondents who plan to return some acres to grazing

\*\*Total respondents = 1,179

Table 23. Importance of Likely Influences on the Decision of What to Do when CRP Contracts Expire

<u>Influences</u>	<u>Percent of respondents</u>					<u>Mean*</u>
	Not Important 1	2	3	4	Very Important 5	
Market prices for crops/livestock that could be produced on the CRP contract acres after the contract expires	13.2	5.8	16.0	19.6	45.5	3.8
Availability of cost-sharing for fencing and livestock water development that may be required before CRP acres can be returned to livestock grazing	24.7	9.4	15.9	15.8	34.3	3.3
Expected costs of planting, growing, and harvesting crops that could be grown on the CRP acres after the contract expires	23.6	9.9	19.2	19.3	28.0	3.2
Government price supports for crops that could be grown on the CRP acres after the contract expires	24.3	10.6	18.5	16.6	30.0	3.2
Availability of cost-sharing for soil conservation practices that may be required before CRP acres can be returned to annual crop production	29.0	10.4	16.4	16.2	28.0	3.0
Cost of soil conservation practices that may be required before CRP acres can be returned to production	28.5	11.6	16.5	15.3	28.2	3.0
Expected price the land will sell for after the CRP contract expires	36.0	11.3	16.1	12.6	24.0	2.8
Availability of cost-sharing for establishing or improving wildlife habitat	41.0	14.8	17.6	10.3	16.4	2.5

\*Mean values based on the scale 1 = Not Important to 5 = Very Important

Table 24. Importance of Likely Influences on the Decision of What to Do when CRP Contracts Expire by Crop Reporting District

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Mean value*</u>								
	<u>North-west</u>	<u>West-central</u>	<u>South-west</u>	<u>North-central</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South-central</u>	<u>North-east</u>	<u>East-central</u>	<u>South-east</u>
Market prices for crops/livestock	3.76	3.88	4.02	3.70	3.54	3.96	3.84	3.43	3.82
Availability of cost-sharing for fencing and livestock water development	3.56	3.15	3.07	3.44	3.36	3.46	3.08	2.87	2.97
Expected costs of planting, growing, and harvesting crops	3.17	3.28	3.65	2.92	2.96	3.35	3.03	2.82	3.15
Government price supports	3.11	3.50	3.68	3.00	3.04	3.34	2.92	2.63	2.83
Availability of cost-sharing for soil conservation practices	3.35	2.96	3.38	2.96	2.87	3.02	2.85	2.72	3.02
Cost of soil conservation practices	3.37	2.91	3.32	2.92	2.98	3.01	2.87	2.74	2.95
Expected price the land	2.97	2.77	2.91	2.72	2.79	2.82	2.60	2.51	2.39
Availability of cost-sharing for wildlife habitat	2.65	2.35	2.50	2.39	2.42	2.55	2.32	2.44	2.42

\*Mean values based on the scale 1 = Not Important to 5 = Very Important

Table 25. Current CRP Payments of Respondents (\$/acre/year)

<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>S.E.</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Range</u>	
					<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
2141	54.49	0.12	55.00	55.00	25.00	70.00

Of respondents that would extend their CRP contract for 5 years,  
percentage bidding:

(n=1714)

---

	<u>Percent of respondents</u>
Bids equal to current rate	42.1
Bids less than current rate	30.4
Bids greater than current rate	27.5

---

Of respondents that would extend their CRP contract for 10 years,  
percentage bidding:

(n= 1626)

---

	<u>Percent of respondents</u>
Bids equal to current rate	37.9
Bids less than current rate	31.5
Bids greater than current rate	30.6

Note: Based on ASCS information and survey responses.

Table 26. Annual Rental Payment (\$/acre/year) Required to Extend CRP Contract for an Additional 5 Years Subject to Specified Conditions

<u>Condition</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>
Able to harvest grass seed from CRP land	43.92	1168
Able to graze CRP land only after mid-July when most wildlife species have finished nesting	40.40	1317
Able to hay CRP land only until mid-July, and then had to quit haying until spring to allow adequate wildlife cover to develop late in the growing season	40.29	1255
Able to graze CRP land only until mid-July and then had to remove livestock until spring to allow adequate wildlife cover to develop late in the growing season	40.27	1300
Able to hay CRP land only after mid-July when most wildlife species have finished nesting	40.11	1291
Able to hay CRP land at a level less than that at which similar grassland is hayed	37.88	1283
Able to graze CRP land at a level less than that at which similar grassland is grazed	37.31	1410

Table 27. Respondents Believing that an Increase in Wildlife Species Has Taken Place on Their Farm Because of Enrollment in CRP

<u>Wildlife species</u>	<u>Percent of respondents*</u>	<u>Wildlife species</u>	<u>Percent respondents*</u>
Deer	68.0	Dove	25.3
Pheasant	67.8	Turkey	25.1
Quail	60.8	Prairie chicken	17.0
Coyote	49.0	Songbirds	16.8
Rabbit	40.5	Squirrel	7.2
		Wildlife in general	37.8

\*Total respondents = 2,092

Table 28. Respondents Believing that an Increase in Wildlife Species Has Taken Place on Their Farm because of Enrollment in CRP by Crop Reporting District

Wildlife Species	<u>Percent of respondents</u>								
	<u>North-west</u>	<u>West-central</u>	<u>South-west</u>	<u>North-central</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South-central</u>	<u>North-east</u>	<u>East-central</u>	<u>South-east</u>
deer	71.8	80.2	72.3	67.7	69.7	76.3	62.5	72.5	73.5
pheasant	82.7	80.8	80.0	87.3	83.8	83.9	80.9	29.8	9.0
quail	34.0	16.8	51.7	80.9	72.7	82.0	79.4	73.6	70.5
coyote	54.5	54.5	70.3	51.8	56.2	60.6	29.4	26.4	35.5
rabbit	37.2	44.3	43.3	42.2	42.4	45.1	50.0	38.2	42.8
dove	16.7	22.8	26.7	32.3	31.3	32.5	23.5	20.2	24.1
turkey	27.6	12.0	7.7	37.1	29.3	30.9	28.7	32.6	38.6
prairie chicken	19.2	6.6	15.0	37.8	18.9	7.3	17.6	23.6	17.5
songbirds	12.2	15.6	12.3	18.3	16.5	20.8	22.1	23.6	21.7
squirrel	1.9	4.2	.7	8.0	5.1	8.2	17.6	14.6	16.3
wildlife in general	32.1	40.1	33.0	41.4	41.1	41.6	46.3	47.8	39.8

Table 29. Respondents Allowing Recreational Access to Specified Group and Average Number of People in Specified Group who Use CRP Acres during an Average Year

<u>Group</u>	<u>Percent of respondents*</u>	<u>Mean number of people</u>
Friends/neighbors	63.2	13.0
Immediate family	57.5	5.5
Anyone who asks permission	40.8	21.4
Extended family	30.9	7.9
Lessees	10.3	8.8
Anyone	4.3	47.4
No one	13.8	

\*Total respondents = 2,043



Table 30. Recreation Activity Allowed on CRP Land

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Percent of respondents<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Fee charged for activity (\$)</u>	<u>Percent of "Yes" respondents</u>
Hunting	76.4	0	96.4
		>0	3.6
Other recreation	15.6	0	98.6
		>0	1.4
None	23.5		

\*Total respondents = 2,001

Table 31. Reasons for Not Allowing Recreational Access to CRP Land

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Percent of respondents</u>					<u>Mean</u>
	Not Important <u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	Very Important <u>5</u>	
Liability concerns	5.7	0.0	9.7	12.5	72.2	4.5
Trespassing	6.9	2.3	12.1	16.8	61.8	4.2
Vandalism	8.3	4.1	10.7	14.8	62.1	4.2
Litter/Trash	8.6	4.3	9.9	19.1	58.0	4.1
Retain privacy	13.6	7.4	16.7	12.3	50.0	3.8
Noise	45.5	13.6	13.6	9.7	17.5	2.4

Table 32. Attributes of a State-Sponsored Recreational Access Program

<u>Attribute</u>	<u>Percent of respondents</u>					<u>Mean</u>
	Not Important		Very Important			
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	
Amount of lease payment	1.1	0.9	6.8	14.2	77.0	4.6
Types of recreation allowed	2.9	1.3	9.2	22.7	63.9	4.4
Walk-in only/No vehicle access	3.9	4.0	13.4	18.1	60.6	4.3
Limits on numbers of users	7.1	3.6	15.0	22.7	51.6	4.1
Control over times for access	7.3	6.1	11.1	22.6	52.9	4.1
Technical assistance for habitat improvement	4.7	5.6	20.3	24.9	44.4	4.0
Patrolling of your property	8.2	6.2	20.8	23.8	41.1	3.8
Parking availability	23.8	14.5	24.3	13.8	23.6	3.0

Table 33. Reasons for Not Considering Participation in a State-Sponsored Recreational Access Program

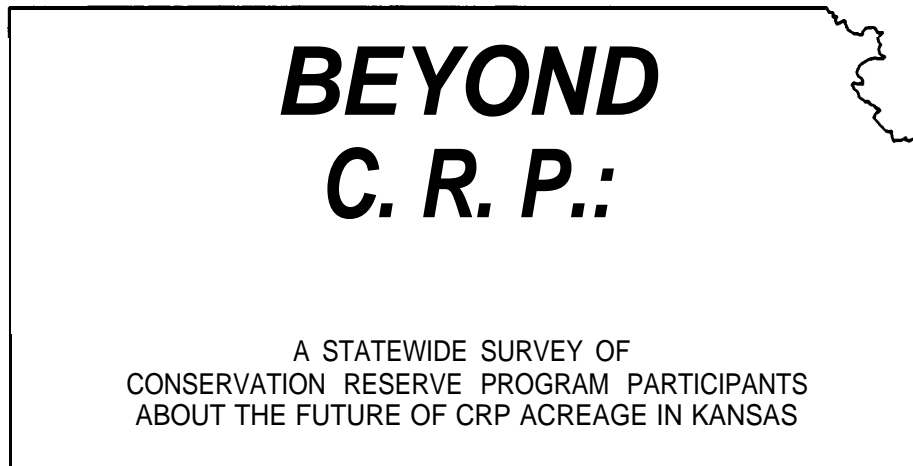
<u>Reason</u>	<u>Percent of respondents</u>					<u>Mean</u>
	Not Important		Very Important			
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	
Liability concerns	3.2	1.2	6.0	11.8	77.8	4.6
Trash/Litter	4.8	2.8	9.6	16.5	66.4	4.4
Vandalism	5.8	2.7	9.2	17.1	65.2	4.3
Poor use of public funds	9.7	5.9	15.2	12.1	57.2	4.0
Concern for privacy	13.2	6.6	14.9	13.1	52.1	3.8
Noise	31.4	17.8	19.6	6.5	24.7	2.7

## APPENDIX - QUESTIONNAIRE

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) was established in 1985. This program pays landowners or farm operators a contracted dollar amount to stop cropping highly erodible lands for a 10-year period. Landowners are required to establish a permanent vegetative cover on the acres enrolled. CRP contracts from the first sign-up will begin expiring in 1995.

Your input is needed so that state and federal policy makers have a better idea of how CRP acres may be managed after the contracts expire. Your input will also help determine what incentives may be necessary to get land managers to extend their CRP contracts.

Please answer all of the questions. If you wish to comment on any questions or qualify your answers, please feel free to use the space in the margins. Your comments will be read and taken into account.



**Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this questionnaire!**



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**IMPORTANT!**

**The following questions ask about acres under a specific CRP contract with ASCS. The contract number is listed on the mailing label and in the cover letter accompanying this questionnaire. Please answer the following questions in relation to the acres covered by that particular contract.**

1. When this CRP contract ends, who will decide how the land under contract will be used? (Check one.)
  - I WILL DECIDE --- GO TO QUESTION 3.
  - ANOTHER PERSON WILL DECIDE --GO TO QUESTION 2
  - UNCERTAIN --- GO TO QUESTION 3.
2. Could we please have the name and address of the person who you anticipate will decide how this land now under CRP contract will be used after the contract expires?
 

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please place this questionnaire in the return envelope and send it back to us. Thank you for your time and information.

**SECTION A. Your CRP Contract**

3. Please rate the importance of each of the following in your decision to enroll **these particular acres** in CRP? (Circle one number for each item.)
 

	NOT				VERY
	IMPORTANT	-----			IMPORTANT
	1	2	3	4	5
a. Able to retire/semi-retire.	1	2	3	4	5
b. Able to reduce labor/increase time for other activities.	1	2	3	4	5
c. Concern for soil erosion.	1	2	3	4	5
d. Most profitable use of land.	1	2	3	4	5
e. Easiest way to meet conservation compliance.	1	2	3	4	5
f. Low risk associated with payments.	1	2	3	4	5
g. Provide wildlife habitat.	1	2	3	4	5
h. Made tree planting affordable.	1	2	3	4	5
i. Other: please specify _____	1	2	3	4	5

4. What improvements are currently on this CRP land? (Check all that apply to this contract.)
 

<input type="checkbox"/> WATERWAYS	<input type="checkbox"/> LIVESTOCK WATER SOURCES
<input type="checkbox"/> TERRACES	<input type="checkbox"/> LIVESTOCK HANDLING FACILITIES
<input type="checkbox"/> FENCES	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: please specify _____
5. Which of the following management practices have you applied to these CRP acres in the past 2-3 years? (Check all that apply to this contract.)
  - NO ACTIVE MANAGEMENT
  - PRESCRIBED BURNING
  - MOWING
  - WEED CONTROL
  - OTHER: please specify \_\_\_\_\_
6. Please indicate what you plan to do with the CRP acres in this contract when it expires. (Fill in the number of acres for each response that applies to this particular contract.)
 

a. No plans/uncertain.	_____ ACRES
b. Return to annual crop production under conservation compliance provisions.	_____ ACRES
c. Return to annual crop production without conservation compliance provisions.	_____ ACRES
d. Keep in grass for erosion control.	_____ ACRES
e. Keep in grass for hay production.	_____ ACRES
f. Keep in grass for livestock grazing.	_____ ACRES
g. Keep in trees for erosion control.	_____ ACRES
h. Keep in trees for timber production.	_____ ACRES
i. Keep in grass and/or trees for wildlife habitat.	_____ ACRES
j. Sell the land.	_____ ACRES
k. Other: please specify _____	_____ ACRES

49

50

7. Do you plan to return some acres to **crop production** under conservation compliance provisions? (Check one.)

- YES  
 NO --- GO TO QUESTION 8.

→ please estimate the number of acres requiring the construction or implementation of the following: (Fill in the number of acres for each response that applies to this particular contract.)

- a. Uncertain \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES
- b. No conservation practices/structures required \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES
- c. Waterways \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES
- d. Terraces \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES
- e. Contour without terraces \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES
- f. Conservation tillage or residue management \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES
- g. No-till \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES
- h. Ridge-till \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES
- i. Crop rotations that include grass or legume pasture \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES
- j. Other: please specify \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES

8. Do you plan to return some acres to **grazing**? (Check one.)

- YES  
 NO --- GO TO QUESTION 9.

→ please estimate the number of acres requiring the construction of the following: (Fill in the number of acres for each response that applies to this particular contract.)

- a. Uncertain \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES
- b. No construction required \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES
- c. Fencing \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES
- d. Livestock water development \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES
- e. Livestock handling facilities \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES
- f. Other: please specify \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES

9. Many considerations will likely influence what you do with your CRP acres once the 10-year contract expires. Please rate each of the following factors according to its importance to you. (Circle one number per item.)

	NOT IMPORTANT	1	2	3	4	5	VERY IMPORTANT
a. Market prices for crops/livestock that could be produced on the CRP acres after the contract expires.	1	2	3	4	5		
b. Government price supports for crops that could be grown on the CRP acres after the contract expires.	1	2	3	4	5		
c. Cost of soil conservation practices that may be required before CRP acres can be returned to production.	1	2	3	4	5		
d. Availability of cost-sharing for soil conservation practices that may be required before CRP acres can be returned to annual crop production.	1	2	3	4	5		
e. Availability of cost-sharing for fencing and livestock water development that may be required before CRP acres can be returned to livestock grazing.	1	2	3	4	5		
f. Availability of cost-sharing for establishing or improving wildlife habitat.	1	2	3	4	5		
g. Expected costs of planting, growing, and harvesting crops that could be grown on the CRP acres after the contract expires.	1	2	3	4	5		
h. Expected price the land will sell for after the CRP contract expires.	1	2	3	4	5		
i. Other: please specify _____ _____	1	2	3	4	5		

10. **IF** crop prices and government commodity payments remain at 1991-92 levels, would you extend your CRP contract for **5 additional years?** (Check one.)

- YES  
 NO --- GO TO QUESTION 11.

→ What annual rental payment per acre would you require to extend your current CRP contract for **an additional 5 years?** (Fill in the number.)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ /ACRE/YEAR

11. **IF** crop prices and government commodity payments remain at 1991-92 levels, would you extend your CRP contract for **10 additional years?** (Check one.)

- YES  
 NO ---GO TO QUESTION 12

→ What annual rental payment per acre would you require to extend your current CRP contract for **an additional 10 years?** (Fill in the number.)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ /ACRE/YEAR

12. What crop was planted on the CRP land during the growing season prior to it being enrolled in CRP? (Check all that apply.)

- |                                  |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NONE    | <input type="checkbox"/> BARLEY  | <input type="checkbox"/> SOYBEANS                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WHEAT   | <input type="checkbox"/> OATS    | <input type="checkbox"/> GRASS                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CORN    | <input type="checkbox"/> COTTON  | <input type="checkbox"/> ALFALFA                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SORGHUM | <input type="checkbox"/> TOBACCO | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: please specify _ |

13. In which of the following USDA commodity programs do you currently participate? (Check all that apply.)

- |                                  |                                   |  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NONE    | <input type="checkbox"/> SOYBEANS | <input type="checkbox"/> COTTON                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WHEAT   | <input type="checkbox"/> BARLEY   | <input type="checkbox"/> TOBACCO                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CORN    | <input type="checkbox"/> OATS     | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: please specify _ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SORGHUM |                                   | _____  |

14. The commodity base acres (wheat, feed grain, etc.) on land you enrolled in the CRP are protected for the 10-year period covered by the contract. Would you be willing to keep your CRP acres in permanent vegetative cover after the contract expires, **without an annual rental payment**, if those acres continued to be protected as commodity base acres and could be used for annual set-aside requirements? (Check one.)

- YES  
 NO  
 UNCERTAIN

15. What annual rental payment would you require to extend your current CRP contract for **an additional 5 years**,

- IF** you could **graze** your CRP land at a level less than that at which you graze similar grassland? \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /ACRE/YEAR
- IF** you could **hay** your CRP land at a level less than that at which you hay similar grassland? \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /ACRE/YEAR
- IF** you could **graze** your CRP land only after mid-July when most wildlife species have finished nesting? \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /ACRE/YEAR
- IF** you could **hay** your CRP land only after mid-July when most wildlife species have finished nesting? \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /ACRE/YEAR
- IF** you could **graze** your CRP land only until mid-July, and then had to remove the livestock until spring to allow adequate wildlife cover to develop late in the growing season? \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /ACRE/YEAR
- IF** you could **hay** your CRP land only until mid-July, and then had to quit haying until spring to allow adequate wildlife cover to develop late in the growing season? \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /ACRE/YEAR
- IF** you could harvest grass seed from your CRP land? \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /ACRE/YEAR

**IMPORTANT!**

The following questions relate to your participation in CRP in general, not to the specific CRP contract listed on the mailing label and in the letter.

**SECTION B. CRP in General**

16. a. How many acres of land for which you are the decision maker were *eligible* for CRP? (Fill in number.)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES
- b. How many total acres did you enroll *in all your CRP contracts*? (Fill in number.)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES
- c. How many of the total acres in all your CRP contracts are highly erodible? (Fill in number.)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES
- d. How many CRP contracts do you have on all lands that you manage? (Fill in number.)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ CRP CONTRACTS

17. Please rate the importance of each of the following reasons in your decision not to enroll some eligible land in CRP. (Circle one number for each item.)

	NOT				VERY
	IMPORTANT	-----	-----	-----	IMPORTANT
	1	2	3	4	5
a. Needed crops for livestock feed.	1	2	3	4	5
b. Better able to utilize my labor and/or equipment.	1	2	3	4	5
c. Needed to keep family member or tenant in farming.	1	2	3	4	5
d. Crop production was more profitable than receiving CRP payments.	1	2	3	4	5
e. Profits from haying/grazing higher than CRP payments.	1	2	3	4	5
f. Potential for increased crop prices.	1	2	3	4	5
g. Other: please specify _____	1	2	3	4	5

18. How satisfied are you with your past decision to enroll land in the CRP? (Circle one number.)

VERY DISSATISFIED	DISSATISFIED	NEUTRAL	SATISFIED	VERY SATISFIED
1	2	3	4	5

**SECTION C. CRP, Wildlife, and Recreation**

19. Is helping wildlife an important consideration in your choice of farming practices? (Check one.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ YES  
 \_\_\_\_\_ NO

20. a. Which of the following wildlife species have increased on your farm due to enrollment in CRP? (Check all that apply.)

- |                 |                       |                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| _____ DEER      | _____ PRAIRIE CHICKEN | _____ COYOTE                      |
| _____ PHEASANT  | _____ TURKEY          | _____ WILDLIFE IN GENERAL         |
| _____ QUAIL     | _____ RABBIT          | _____ OTHER: please specify _____ |
| _____ DOVE      | _____ SQUIRREL        |                                   |
| _____ SONGBIRDS |                       |                                   |

b. Have any of the increases checked above been *undesirable*?

- \_\_\_\_\_ YES: list species \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ NO

c. What is your opinion regarding the following statement: Enrollment in CRP has increased the number of different kinds of wildlife on my farm. (Circle one number.)

STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
1	2	3	4	5

21. After your CRP contracts expire, would you be willing to change some of the vegetative cover now on your CRP acres to increase wildlife if 50% cost-sharing funds were available? (Check one.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ YES  
 \_\_\_\_\_ NO  
 \_\_\_\_\_ UNCERTAIN

22. For each of the following groups of people, please indicate whether you **allow** recreational access to your CRP acres and estimate how many people from each group use your CRP acres during an average year.

Check if you allow access to	Estimate number of people per year:
<input type="checkbox"/> FRIENDS/NEIGHBORS	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> IMMEDIATE FAMILY	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> EXTENDED FAMILY	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> LESSEES	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> ANYONE WHO ASKS PERMISSION	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> ANYONE	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> NO ONE	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: please specify _____	_____

23. Which of the following activities do you **allow** on your CRP acres? Check all that apply. If you allow an activity and lease or charge for it, please fill in the amount that you charge. If you do not charge for the activity write "0" for the price.

NONE

HUNTING    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ PER ACRE PERSON FOR YEAR DAY  
(price) (circle one) (circle one)

OTHER RECREATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_ PER ACRE PERSON FOR YEAR DAY  
(price) (circle one) (circle one)

24. **IF** you **do not allow** recreational access to anyone, please rate the importance of the following reasons in your decision not to allow access to your CRP land? (Circle one number for each item.)

	NOT IMPORTANT	1	2	3	4	5	VERY IMPORTANT
a. Trespassing		1	2	3	4	5	
b. Noise		1	2	3	4	5	
c. Litter/Trash		1	2	3	4	5	
d. Vandalism		1	2	3	4	5	
e. Liability concerns		1	2	3	4	5	
f. Retain privacy		1	2	3	4	5	
g. Other: please specify _____		1	2	3	4	5	

25. Recreational access programs pay landowners a contracted amount to allow members of the general public to recreate on their land. If the state provided money for a program to allow recreational access to your CRP acres would you consider participating? (Check one.)

YES --- GO TO QUESTION 26.

NO

**IF** you **would not** consider participating in a state-sponsored recreational access program to your CRP acres, please rate the importance of the following reasons in your decision not to participate: (Circle one number for each item.)

	NOT IMPORTANT	1	2	3	4	5	VERY IMPORTANT
a. Vandalism		1	2	3	4	5	
b. Trash/litter		1	2	3	4	5	
c. Liability concerns		1	2	3	4	5	
d. Noise		1	2	3	4	5	
e. Concern for privacy		1	2	3	4	5	
f. Poor use of public funds		1	2	3	4	5	
g. Other: please specify _____		1	2	3	4	5	

**GO TO QUESTION 27.**

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26. a. **IF** you **would** consider participating in a state sponsored recreational access program to your CRP acres, please rate the importance of the following attributes of a program in your decision whether or not to participate: (Circle one number for each item.)

	NOT IMPORTANT	1	2	3	4	5	VERY IMPORTANT
1. Amount of lease payment		1	2	3	4	5	
2. Types of recreation allowed		1	2	3	4	5	
3. Walk-in only/No vehicle access		1	2	3	4	5	
4. Parking availability		1	2	3	4	5	
5. Limits on the number of users		1	2	3	4	5	
6. Control over times for access		1	2	3	4	5	
7. Patrolling of your property		1	2	3	4	5	
8. Technical assistance for habitat improvement		1	2	3	4	5	
9. Other: please specify _____		1	2	3	4	5	
_____		1	2	3	4	5	

b. What annual payment per acre would you require to participate in a state sponsored recreational access program on your CRP acres?  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ /ACRE/YEAR

**SECTION D. General Characteristics**

The following questions will help us learn more about CRP participants in Kansas. **All of your answers are strictly confidential and cannot be associated with you personally.**

27. Are you a Kansas resident? (Check one.)  
 YES  
 NO

28. Which of the following best describes your legal relationship to the CRP acres covered by the contract specified in the letter accompanying your questionnaire? (Check one.)

- OWNER AND OPERATOR
- RENTER AND OPERATOR
- OWNER BUT NON-OPERATOR (ABSENTEE LANDOWNER)
- OTHER: PLEASE SPECIFY \_\_\_\_\_

29. What is the total number of acres that you manage? (Fill in number.)  
\_\_\_\_\_ ACRES

30. What is your gender? (Check one.)  
 FEMALE  
 MALE

31. What is your age? (Fill in number.)  
\_\_\_\_\_ YEARS

32. **IF** you are 65 years old or older,

- a. How many more years do you plan to continue farming? (Fill in number.)  
\_\_\_\_\_ YEARS
- b. Which of the following best describes what will happen to your land when you retire? (Check one.)  
 I WILL SELL THE LAND  
 I WILL LEASE OUT THE LAND, BUT WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS ABOUT THE LAND  
 I WILL LEASE OUT THE LAND, AND NOT MAKE ANY MANAGEMENT DECISIONS ABOUT THE LAND  
 A RELATIVE WILL MANAGE/INHERIT THE LAND  
 OTHER: PLEASE SPECIFY \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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33. What is the highest level of education you have obtained? (Check one.)
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SOME ELEMENTARY SCHOOL           | <input type="checkbox"/> VOCATIONAL OR TECHNICAL SCHOOL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SOME HIGH SCHOOL                 | <input type="checkbox"/> BACHELORS DEGREE               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA              | <input type="checkbox"/> GRADUATE DEGREE                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SOME COLLEGE OR POST HIGH SCHOOL |   |

34. Which of the following best describes your total annual income **from agricultural sources?** (Check one.)
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LESS THAN \$10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30,000-\$49,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000-\$19,999  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000-\$74,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000-\$24,999  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75,000 or more  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000-\$29,999  |  |

35. Which of the following best describes your total annual income **from non-agricultural sources?** (Check one.)
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LESS THAN \$10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30,000-\$49,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000-\$19,999  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000-\$74,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000-\$24,999  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75,000 or more  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000-\$29,999  |  |

36. Which of the following best describes your total annual income **from all sources?** (Check one.)
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LESS THAN \$10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30,000-\$49,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000-\$19,999  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000-\$74,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000-\$24,999  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75,000 or more  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000-\$29,999  |  |

37. Which of the following best describes the value of your farm's land and buildings? (Check one.)
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LESS THAN \$40,000  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150,000-\$199,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40,000-\$69,999   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200,000-\$499,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$70,000-\$99,999   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000-\$999,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000-\$149,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000 or more |

38. Which of the following best describes the value of your farm's machinery and equipment? (Check one.)
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LESS THAN \$10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000-\$199,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000-\$29,999  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200,000-\$499,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30,000-\$49,999  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000-\$999,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000-\$99,999  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000 or more |

39. What percent of your farm assets are owned, debt free?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ PERCENT

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Is there is anything else you would like to tell us about the CRP or this survey? If so, please use this space for that purpose.

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Your contribution to this effort is greatly appreciated. If you would like a summary of the results, please print your name, address, and "Results Requested" on the back of the return envelope (NOT on the questionnaire so that we can assure your anonymity). We will see that you get it.

**THANK YOU!**



**Agricultural Experiment Station, Kansas State University, Manhattan 66506-4008**

Report of Progress 690 *Reprint*

November 1993

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