

Conversion of CRP to Crop Production: Potential Research Topics (Heartland Region Roundtable)

Crop Rotation Research

Though there has been a considerable amount of research devoted to examining the feasibility and profitability of crop rotations on converted CRP land, research is still needed. In particular, research that is broad in scope in terms of the options explored would be beneficial to contract holders. This research could explore the feasibility and profitability of crop rotations, and haying and grazing enterprises. Specifically, this research needs to examine the dynamics of crop yields and profitability on converted land as well as the impact of various post-CRP land uses on soil and water quality.

CRP Bids

There is a continuing need for research that examines CRP bids. This information is important to those that may have the opportunity to renew their contracts and those that may have the opportunity to establish permanent vegetation on this land through other programs. Research examining CRP bids could involve the creation of enterprise budgets, optimization programs (e.g., genetic algorithms), or auctions.

Water Quality Indices

Environmental models such as EPIC and SWAT typically generate information for multiple water quality parameters. It is often helpful when presenting this information to stakeholders to aggregate these water quality parameters. How should these parameters be aggregated? Would it be possible to use carbon sequestration indices as a possible proxy for an aggregate measure?

Note

Comments or suggested changes to the above information should be sent to Michael Langemeier (mlange@agecon.ksu.edu) in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University.