NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: XYZ

Phone

# **As CRP contracts near expiration, landowners can find opportunities**

# **with MN CREP**

**June XX, 2019**

LOCATION, Minn. — Landowners with Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts expiring September 30, 2019 have until August 23, 2019 to enroll their CRP acres into the Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP).

“Landowners in XX County with expiring CRP acres should be looking at MN CREP as an option” said XXXXX, Title. “The program can meet different land management goals, whether it’s increasing wildlife habitat, creating a legacy for future generations, or dealing with the economics of less productive land. We can help landowners figure out what works for them.”

MN CREP is a voluntary state-federal program designed to improve water quality and conserve habitat. It will protect and restore up to 60,000 acres of marginal cropland across 54 southern and western Minnesota counties using buffer strips, wetland restoration and drinking water wellhead area protection.

Landowners whose MN CREP Applications are improved will enroll in the USDA’s Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for 15 years. At the same time, the land will be put into a permanent conservation easement through the state’s Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easement program. Private ownership continues and the land is permanently restored and enhanced for water quality and habitat benefits.

Native plantings on those acres will filter water, prevent erosion and provide critical habitat for grassland dependent species.

“This is an opportunity that landowners with expiring CRP acres should consider.” [TITLE] continued. “CRP contracts will expire on over 96,000 acres in Minnesota this year. MN CREP is an excellent option for landowners who want to continue to protect environmentally sensitive land or retire marginal cropland.”

To learn more about the program, visit the XXXX SWCD at XXXXXXXX or call us at XXXXXXX. Our staff can answer questions about MN CREP and provide detailed information about payment rates.

Visit (SWCD website) or [BWSR MN CREP for Landowners website](https://bwsr.state.mn.us/mn-crep-landowners) for more information about MN CREP.

###