

May 28, 2009

## Grassland Reserve Program Funds Available for FY 2009

Lakewood, CO – The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA), recently announced the availability of funds for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) in Colorado for fiscal year 2009.

The GRP is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance grasslands on their property. **Applications will be accepted through Monday, June 15, 2009.**

*“The GRP program was reauthorized by the 2008 Farm Bill and emphasizes support for working grazing operations, enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity, and protection of grasslands under threat of conversion to cropping, urban development, and other activities,”* said Tim Carney, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, NRCS. *“A priority will include eligible Conservation Reserve Program contracts expiring this year.”*

The program has two enrollment options: (1) permanent easements and (2) rental contracts. Rental contracts can be for 10-year, 15-year, or 20-year terms. Enrollment of eligible expiring CRP lands into GRP will be limited to perpetual easements or 20-year rental contracts.

The GRP is jointly administered by FSA and NRCS.

To apply for this program and for additional information regarding it, landowners are encouraged to contact their local NRCS or FSA office that services their county. These are located in USDA Service Centers across the State and can be found online at [www.co.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov) by clicking on ‘Find a Service Center’ in the left hand column.

For more information about this program, contact Gary Finstad at 720-544-2860, or email him at [gary.finstad@co.usda.gov](mailto:gary.finstad@co.usda.gov).