FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NEWS RELEASE**

Contact: XYZ

 Phone

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

**with MN CREP**

**April XX, 2018**

As of April 1, 2018, landowners with Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts expiring September 30, 2018 have a six month window 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. It 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 people figure out what works for them.”

MN CREP is a voluntary state-federal program designed to improve water quality and habitat conservation. 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 protection.

Landowners who are accepted in MN CREP will enroll in the USDA’s Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for 14-15 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 surface and ground water, prevent erosion and provide critical habitat for countless grassland dependent species.

“This is an opportunity landowners with expiring CRP acres should consider” [TITLE] continued. “CRP contracts will expire on over 200,000 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 stop by XXXX SWCD at XXXXXXXX or call us at XXXXXXX. Our staff can answer questions about MN CREP and provide more detailed information about payment rates.

Visit (SWCD website) or [www.bwsr.state.mn/crep](http://www.bwsr.state.mn/crep) for more information about MN CREP.

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