

Contents

Summary	iii
Introduction	1
Background on the CRP	1
CRP Participation	1
Potential Enrollment	2
Actual Enrollment	2
Enrollment Projections	2
Gross Economic Effects of the CRP	5
Baseline Assumptions	6
Agricultural Gains	8
Export Losses	12
Consumer Food Costs	13
Natural Resource Benefits	13
Erosion Control Benefits	13
Water-Quality Benefits	15
Wildlife Habitat Improvements	16
Ground Water Savings	18
USDA Costs	18
CRP Program Costs	19
CCC Commodity Program Savings	20
Program Evaluation	22
Evaluation Framework	22
National Income	22
Government Spending	22
Regional and Sectoral Economic Effects	24
Changing the Emphasis of the CRP	25
Forestry Emphasis in the CRP	25
Environmental Emphasis in the CRP	26
Expansion to 65 Million Acres	26
References	27
Appendix: Background and Operation of the CRP	29
Previous Land Retirement Programs	29
CRP Legislative History	29
CRP Rules	29
CRP Relationship to Other Programs	31
Factors Affecting CRP Enrollment	31