

Program – Agency:

Debt for Nature Program (DNP) – Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Landowner Requirements:

Landowner owned or operated the land >12 months prior to contract and must have an FSA loan secured with real estate.

Lands Eligible:

In general, any private lands which are used to secure an FSA loan with current or restorable conservation, recreation, or wildlife resource values are likely to be eligible for enrollment in DNP. Specifically, there are 11 land types listed as eligible:

- 1) Wetlands
- 2) Highly erodible land
- 3) Land in 100-year floodplain
- 4) Areas with high water quality or scenic value
- 5) Eligible for National Registry of Historic Places
- 6) Aquifer recharge area of local to national importance
- 7) Buffer zone necessary to protect proposed conservation areas
- 8) Adjacent to or within Federal Conservation Priority Areas
- 9) Has aquatic life or Endangered Species
- 10) Wildlife habitat of local to national importance
- 11) Areas with soils not suitable for cultivation

Agreement Length:

10, 30, or 50 years

Benefits:

Borrowers current on their loan payments can enter into a 50 year agreement, where FSA offers the lower of 2 values:

- 1) 33% of outstanding loan principle
 - 2) the proportion of the loan principle secured by land to be covered by contract
- For 30 year agreements, FSA offers 60% of amount offered on 50 year agreements.
For 10 year agreement, FSA offers 20% of amount offered on 50 year agreements.

Borrowers delinquent on their loan payments can enter into a 50 year agreement, where FSA offers the lower of 2 values:

- 1) the difference between the outstanding loan principle for and the current value of the land to be covered by contract
 - 2) the fair market value of the land upon which the contract is placed
- For 30 year agreements, FSA offers 60% of amount offered on 50 year agreements.
For 10 year agreement, FSA offers 20% of amount offered on 50 year agreements.

Acceptable Practices:

Acceptable practices on DNP contract lands are described specifically in the management plan created for each contract. In general, the landowner may use the contract area in any ways that are compatible with protecting and enhancing the values for which the contract was established (i.e., conservation, recreation, or wildlife).

Prohibited Uses:

The following activities are prohibited on lands under a DNP contract: building, construction, development, vegetation or ground water alteration, livestock access (unless necessary to access drinking water), timber harvest (unless operations conservation-oriented), agricultural production, or placing garbage or contaminants on the area.