

Conservation Reserve Program

CP-1

Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes

Erosion Control | Water Quality Enhancement | Wildlife Habitat



Why Choose CRP? You Benefit. Land, Water and Wildlife Benefit.

Restoring grasses and legumes sharply reduces erosion, provides habitat for wildlife, and benefits the environment. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with practices like this to achieve many farming and conservation goals. Whatever the conservation challenge - soil conservation, water quality protection or wildlife habitat enhancement - CRP is a proven land performance and management solution.

Why Introduced Grasses and Legumes?

Establishing vegetative cover on cropland reduces the negative impact of wind and water, effectively mitigating erosion. In addition, establishing grass cover provides critical habitat to gamebird and other wildlife species, thus increasing populations. Offered in **general sign-up** (and under certain conditions as a **continuous sign-up**), CP-1:

- Prevents soil loss from wind and water erosion
- Creates habitat for grassland and game bird species
- Improves water quality by intercepting sediment and nutrients
- Sequesters carbon

Financial Benefits

CP-1 participants are guaranteed:

- 10 years of annual rental payments
- 10% Rental Rate Incentive if enrolled under a wellhead protection area
- Payments covering up to 90% of the eligible costs of establishing the practice
 - 50% from a Cost-Share Payment and
 - 40% from a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) under certain continuous sign-up conditions
- Mid-Contract Management Cost Share
- Additional incentives may be available in your state under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



Eligible Land

- Planted or considered planted 4 out of 6 years between 2008 and 2013
- Capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity
- Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions

Practice Requirements

- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled
- Practice will be maintained without additional cost-share payments

Owner/Operator Eligibility

Participants must:

- Have owned or operated the land for more than 12 months prior to program sign-up
- Be in control of the land for the length of the contract
- Meet USDA payment eligibility provisions

Obligations

Participants will:

- Not harvest or graze the practice area except under certain approved conditions
- Work with USDA-approved conservationist to develop a conservation plan
- Perform periodic management activities according to the conservation plan
- Complete seeding of the practice within 12 months of the effective date of the contract

Proven Conservation Benefits

- In prime habitat, a 4% increase in CRP vegetation is associated with a 22% increase in pheasant counts
- CRP reduced nutrient losses in FY 2014 by an estimated 542 million pounds of nitrogen and 108 million pounds of phosphorus
- In 2014, CRP lowered greenhouse gasses by the equivalent of 43 million metric tons of CO₂ – the same benefits as taking nearly 8 million cars off the road for a year

FSA will ultimately determine participant and land eligibility.

For More Information:

Contact your local USDA, Farm Service Agency:

<http://offices.usda.gov>