

# Conservation Reserve Program

CP21

## FILTER STRIP

Water Quality Enhancement | Wildlife Habitat | Soil Protection



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

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with various enrollment opportunities to achieve many farming, ranching, and conservation goals. Whatever the challenge—soil conservation, water quality protection, or wildlife habitat enhancement—CRP is a proven land performance and management solution.

## Why Filter Strips?

Grass filter strips can be planted adjacent to perennial and seasonal streams, wetlands, lakes, and ponds. As natural filters, they are useful conservation tools for protecting water and soil. Establishing filter strips:

- Improves water quality by intercepting sediment and nutrients
- Mitigates erosion by reducing the negative impacts of wind and water
- Provides habitat and corridors for wildlife
- Sequesters carbon

CP21 is offered in continuous sign-up. For more information on CRP sign-up types, visit [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov).

## Financial Benefits

### CP21 participants receive

- 10–15 years of annual rental payments
- 50% cost-share assistance for establishment costs
- A signing incentive payment (SIP) and a practice incentive payment (PIP)

Additional incentives may be available in your state under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).



## Eligible Land

- Planted or considered planted at least 4 out of 6 years between 2012 and 2017
- Capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity
- Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions
- Immediately adjacent and parallel to a seasonal or perennial stream, a wetland, or another permanent water body

## Practice Requirements

Participants must:

- Prepare the site for growth of selected species
- Establish and maintain permanent vegetative cover
- Apply nutrients as needed to ensure growth
- Control noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests

## Owner/Operator Eligibility

Participants must:

- Have owned or operated the land for at least 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 practice establishment within 12 months of the effective date of the contract

## Proven Conservation Benefits

- One acre of buffer adjacent to cropland can prevent 2.5 tons of soil, 6.4 pounds of nitrogen, and 1.1 pounds of phosphorus from entering waterways
- CRP reduced nutrient losses in FY 2020 by an estimated 400 million pounds of nitrogen and 78 million pounds of phosphorus
- In 2020, CRP lowered greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 30 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>—the same benefit as taking nearly 6 million cars off the road

*FSA will ultimately determine participant and land eligibility.*

*For more information about FSA and its programs, visit [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov) or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-locator).*