

Conservation Reserve Program

CP30

MARGINAL PASTURELAND WETLAND BUFFER

Wetland Protection | Water Quality Enhancement | Soil Health Improvement



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 Wetland Buffers?

For farmers with marginal pastureland adjacent to bodies of water, restoring and retaining vegetative buffers can play a critical role in protecting wetland functions. Made up of native grasses, wildflowers, or shrubs, wetland buffers are a sustainable solution to many ecological problems. Establishing wetland buffers:

- Improves water quality by intercepting sediment and nutrient runoff
- Stabilizes stream banks and reduces erosion
- Restores native plant communities
- Creates habitat for wildlife
- Provides nutrition for pollinators and other beneficial insects

Financial Benefits

CP30 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).

CP30 is offered in continuous sign-up. For more information on CRP sign-up types, visit fsa.usda.gov.



Eligible Land

- Meets marginal pastureland eligibility
- Immediately adjacent and parallel to a permanent waterbody, perennial or seasonal stream, sinkhole or karst area, semi-permanent or seasonally flooded area, or wetlands area
- Suitable to be devoted to a wetland buffer
- Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions

Practice Requirements

- Prepare buffer site between 20 and 120 feet wide
- Establish and maintain permanent naturally regenerated or seeded trees and shrubs suitable for the site
- 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 CO₂—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 or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.