

# Michigan

## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



### Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the State of Michigan are partners in implementing a voluntary Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to enroll up to 80,000 acres of agricultural land in the Lake Macatawa, Saginaw Bay, River Raisin, and Western Lake Erie Basin. The purpose of the Michigan CREP is to improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitat for fish and wildlife, and enhance nesting cover for upland birds and mammals within the project area.

### Background

CREP is part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP is a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits. CRP participants establish permanent, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as “covers”) to control soil erosion, improve water quality, and develop wildlife habitat. In return, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance.

With CREP, high-priority conservation goals are identified by the state, and then federal funds are supplemented with non-federal funds to achieve those goals.

Through the Michigan CREP, federal and state resources are made available to program participants to voluntarily enroll in CRP for 14- to 15-year contracts. Participants remove cropland and marginal pastureland from agricultural production and convert the land to grasses, trees, or other approved vegetation.

This will improve water quality by reducing sediment, nutrients, nitrogen, and other pollutants from entering streams and rivers, and enhance wildlife habitat in the area.

### Goals

The goals of the Michigan CREP are to annually:

- Reduce sediment entering rivers and streams by 52,000 tons
- Reduce phosphorus entering rivers and streams by 52,000 lbs
- Reduce nitrogen entering rivers and streams by 105,000 lbs
- Sequester approximately 60,000 metric tons of carbon

### Eligible Conservation Practices

The following specific CRP conservation practices are available:

- CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes
- CP2, Establishment of Native Grasses
- CP5A, Field Windbreak Establishment
- CP21, Filter Strips
- CP22, Riparian Buffer
- CP23, Wetland Restoration
- CP23A, Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain
- CP26, Sediment Retention Control Structure

### For More Info

CREP is one option under CRP that farmers and ranchers may select to enhance their land. Eligible producers may also enroll land in CRP through the general, continuous, or grassland signups; however, CREP may provide additional benefits not available through those signup types such as higher incentive payments and longer contract lengths that increase the total amount of rental payments received.

For more information on this project, contact your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

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## Enrollment and Eligibility Requirements

Enrollment in CRP through the Michigan CREP is on a continual basis. To be eligible, land must be located within one of the identified eligible watersheds in Michigan. Land must either be cropland or marginal pastureland. Cropland must meet cropping history criteria according to current FSA National CRP Directives and be physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

## Payments

Under the Michigan CREP, eligible participants may receive the following payments:

- A one-time signing incentive payment (SIP) in accordance with FSA National CRP directives.
- A one-time practice incentive payment (PIP) in accordance with FSA National CRP Directives.

The PIP is equal to up to 10 percent of eligible reimbursable costs incurred for installation of approved practices and is considered a cost-share payment subject to limitations.

- An annual rental payment consisting of:
  - ◊ A base soil rental rate, determined by the soils of the land offered
  - ◊ An incentive payment equal to 40 percent, except for land enrolled or re-enrolled under infeasible-to-farm provisions
- A cost-share payment of up to 50 percent of the eligible cost to install the approved practice.

In addition, the State of Michigan will provide eligible participants a cost-share payment of up to 50 percent of the practice installation cost and offer payments to participants for the enrollment and maintenance and management of land enrolled in CRP through the Michigan CREP.

## Enrollment Options

CREP is another option under CRP that farmers and ranchers may select to enhance their land. Eligible producers may still enroll land in CRP through general or continuous signup; however, the Michigan CREP provides additional benefits not available through general and/or continuous signup. Under the Michigan CREP, producers receive higher incentive payments and longer contract lengths that increase the total amount of rental payments received.

## Haying and Grazing

Haying and grazing is not authorized on land enrolled in CRP through the Michigan CREP.

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions or requirements may apply.