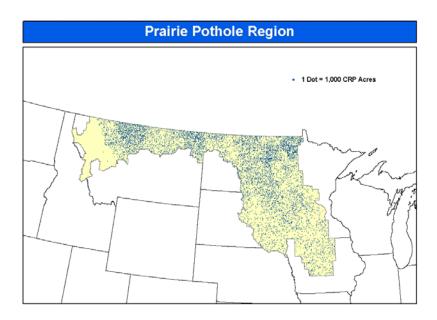![USDA FSA logo]

CRP BENEFITS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

July 2011

The Environmental Benefits of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
Prairie Pothole Region - 2010

Prairie Pothole Region

1 Dot = 1,000 CRP Acres

- The CRP was identified as a 'Reason for Hope' for grassland birds in the 'State of the Birds' report (FWS, 2009).
- CRP increased Prairie Pothole duck populations by an average of 2 million ducks per year between 1992 and 2004 (FWS).
- CRP reduces nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment leaving fields. In 2010, grass and tree plantings reduced nitrate loss by 31 million pounds.
- CRP restores Prairie Pothole floodwater storage function – USGS estimated that CRP wetland catchments could store approximately 458,000 acre-feet of water annually.

- CRP buffers intercept sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus from farmed fields in the Prairie Pothole Region. In 2010, 321 thousand acres of CRP grass filters and riparian buffers intercepted 20 million tons of sediment in the Prairie Pothole Region, 70 million pounds of nitrogen, and 10 million pounds of phosphorus.

For more information see http://www. fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home &subject=ecpa&topic=nra

Fiscal Year		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Land enrolled	Million Acres	8.4	8.5	7.7	7.4	7.2
In Buffers	Million Acres	1,645	1,661	1,567	1,558	1,581
In Wetlands	Million Acres	309	314	316	321	321
Reductions (not leaving field or intercepted by buffers)						
Sediment	Million Tons	22	23	23	23	23
Nitrogen	Million lbs.	113	116	113	113	113
Phosphorus	Million lbs.	11	12	12	11	11
Carbon Sequestered	Million Metric Tons	10	10	9	9	9