



Nebraska CRP Facts

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

CRP is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract Duration is between 10 and 15 years.

As of February 2007, Nebraska has a total CRP acreage of 1,343,204. Nebraska has 18,404 contracts in general CRP totaling 1,201,947 acres and 8,801 contracts in Continuous CRP (non-CREP) totaling 69,711 acres.

CREP—Central Basins - Overview

USDA's Farm Service Agency and the State of Nebraska launched a \$209 million Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The Nebraska CREP will help improve water quality in the Nebraska Central Basin and enhance wildlife habitat in all or 37 counties in the state.

As of February 2007, the Nebraska Central Basins CREP included 2,016 contracts totaling 24,221 acres.

Benefits

The Nebraska CREP will help protect lakes and water courses and reduce sediment loading to streams by enrolling 100,000 acres in central and eastern Nebraska. The program will establish vegetative buffers around streams and rivers in the Nebraska Central Basin. These buffers will keep sediment, nutrients, and pollutants from entering water supplies. Trees, grass, and other appropriate vegetation planted through the program will reduce sediment and Atrazine. In addition,

Nebraska Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program CREP and Farmers Partners with the Land



native grasses and vegetation will provide vital habitat for a variety of wildlife.

Program Cost

The expected combined federal and state obligation is \$209 million over 15 years, with \$143 million coming from FSA and \$66 million from Nebraska. This does not include any costs that may be borne by producers.

Central Basin CREP Payments

Nebraska Central Basins CREP participants are eligible for four types of USDA payments:

- Signing Incentive Payment – a one-time payment of \$100 per acre for land enrolled in certain eligible practices.
- Practice Incentive Payment – payment equal to about 40 percent of the total cost for establishing certain eligible practices. This payment is in addition to the 50 percent cost-share assistance that USDA provides.

- Annual rental payment of about 120 percent of the dryland cash rental rate for the county in which the land is located for resource corners and wetland practices.
- Annual rental payment of 150 percent of the dryland cash rental rate for the county for which the land is located for filter strips and riparian buffers not to exceed \$150 per acre.
- Cost-share assistance for installing the conservation practices on eligible land.

Nebraska participants are also eligible for the following one-time state payments

- \$100 per “resource corner area” issued as an incentive payment, as defined in the Memorandum of Agreement.
- \$100 as an incentive payment provided all four “resource corner areas” of a field are enrolled.
- Cost-share payments of the eligible costs for establishing approved practices.

CREP - Platte-Republican - Overview

USDA's Farm Service Agency and the State of Nebraska launched a \$158 million Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) agreement for the Platte-Republican Resources area. The Platte-Republican CREP will reduce irrigation water use, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat through establishment of vegetative cover. Saving water will also replenish streams, rivers and reservoirs, and enhance wildlife.

As of February 2007, the Nebraska Platte-Republican CREP included 454 contracts totaling 43,458 acres.

Benefits

The Platte-Republican Resources Area CREP will significantly reduce the consumptive use of water for irrigation and the amount of agricultural chemicals and sediment entering waters of the state from agricultural lands and transportation corridors. The reduction of ground and surface water use and of non-point source contaminants, through establishment of permanent vegetative cover, will also enhance associated wildlife habitat, both terrestrial and aquatic.

Program Costs

The expected combined federal and state obligation is approximately \$158 million for optional 10- to 15-year contracts with \$122 million coming from FSA and \$36 million from Nebraska. This does not include any costs that may be borne by producers.

Approved Conservation Practices

The following conservation practices may be eligible for land enrolled into the Nebraska Platte-Republican CREP:

- CP2, CP4D, and CP25: up to 85,000 acres;

Nebraska Platte-Republican Resources Area Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program



- CP21 and CP22: Up to 10,000 acres;
- CP23 and CP23A: up to 5,000 acres.

Platte-Republican CREP Payments

Nebraska CREP participants may be eligible for the following payments from USDA:

- Annual rental payments based on irrigated rental rates for each eligible enrolled irrigated acre in which a State Water Use Contract has already been secured.
- Annual rental payments based on dryland cropland rental rates for each eligible enrolled dryland crop acre.
- Cost-share payments for 50 percent of the eligible reimbursable costs for establishment of approved conservation practices.
- A one-time Signing Incentive Payment of \$10 for each eligible acre enrolled for each full year of the contract for practices CP 21 and CP22. for example, 10-year CRP contract would receive \$100/acre payment.
- A one-time Practice Incentive Payment equal to 40 percent of the total eligible cost of practice

installation for practices CP21 and CP22.

- A one-time incentive payment equal to 25 percent of the cost of restoring the hydrology of the site for practices CP23 and CP23A

CREP and CRP

CREP is not the only option that farmers may select to enhance their land; applicants may still enroll in the general CRP or continuous CRP. However, CREP provides additional benefits not available through the general and/or continuous CRP.

State of Nebraska will also provide 50% cost/share for installation of the CRP practice.

For More Information

For more information on the Nebraska CREP, contact your local FSA office. Additional information is also available on FSA's Web site at: www.fsa.usda.gov.