

Nebraska Platte Republican Resource Area

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the State of Nebraska are partners in implementing a voluntary Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to enroll up to 100,000 acres of agricultural land which encompasses seven Natural Resource Districts, portions of two river basins and all or portions of Banner, Buffalo, Chase, Cheyenne, Dawson, Deuel, Dundy, Franklin, Frontier, Furnas, Garden, Gosper, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Kearney, Keith, Kimball, Lincoln, McPherson, Morrill, Nuckolls, Phelps, Red Willow, Scotts Bluff, Sioux and Webster counties. The purpose of the Nebraska Platte-Republican Resources Area CREP is to reduce the amount of irrigated water consumptive use and agricultural chemicals and sediment entering waters of the State from agricultural lands and transportation corridors within the project areas.

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 Nebraska Platte-Republican Resources Area CREP, federal and state resources are made available to program participants to voluntarily enroll in CRP for 10 to 15-year contracts. Participants remove cropland from agricultural production and convert the land to native grasses, trees and other vegetation or restore wetlands. This will reduce irrigation water use, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, reduce the amount of sediment, phosphorous and other pollutants entering waterbodies and improve wildlife habitat in the area.

Goals

CREP is part of the USDA Conservation Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP

The goals of the Nebraska Platte Republican Resources Area CREP include:

- Reduce the application of water for cropland irrigation
- Increase surface and groundwater retention.
- Establish conservation buffers and restore wetlands.
- Reduce the application of triazine producers.
- Reduce leaching of nitrate compounds into area streams and ground water'
- Reduce the application of phosphate producers.

For More Info

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

Nebraska State Farm Service Agency

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Goals

- Reduce nitrogen and phosphorus levels from agricultural activities.
- Establish native grassland habitat for wildlife and increase the populations of pheasants and other ground nesting birds; and
- Reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and electricity for irrigation.

Eligible Conservation Practices

The following specific CRP conservation practices are available:

- CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
- CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- CP12, Wildlife Food Plot
- CP21, Filter Strip
- CP22, Riparian Buffer
- CP23, Wetland Restoration
- CP23A, Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain; and
- CP25, Rare and Declining Habitat



Enrollment and Eligibility Requirements

Enrollment in CRP through the Platte Republican Resources Area CREP is on a continuous basis. To be eligible, land must be located in the project area and be irrigated cropland or a non-irrigated center-pivot corner in Nebraska. Non-irrigated center-pivot corners are only eligible if enrolled with the associated irrigated center-pivot cropland. Cropland must meet cropping history criteria and be physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

Payments

Under the Nebraska Platte Republican Resources Area CREP, eligible participants may receive the following payments:

- A one-time practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40 percent of eligible reimbursable costs incurred for installation of CP1, CP2 and CP4D.
- An annual rental payment consisting of:
 - ◇ A base soil rental rate, determined by the soils of the land offered
 - ◇ A maintenance incentive payment for CP21, and CP22, practices in accordance with FSA National CRP Directives

- A cost-share payment of up to 50 percent of the eligible cost to install the approved practice.

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources will pay 50 percent of the eligible costs for establishing the conservation practices, when new land is offered, for practices CP2, CP4D, CP21, CP22, CP23, CP23A and CP25.

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 Nebraska Platte Republican Resources Area CREP provides additional benefits not available through general and/or continuous signup. Under the Nebraska Platte Republican Resources Area CREP, producers receive irrigated rental rates and higher incentive payments for higher total payments received.

Haying and Grazing

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions or requirements may apply. Consult your local FSA office for details. For more information, contact your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: farmers.gov/service-locator.