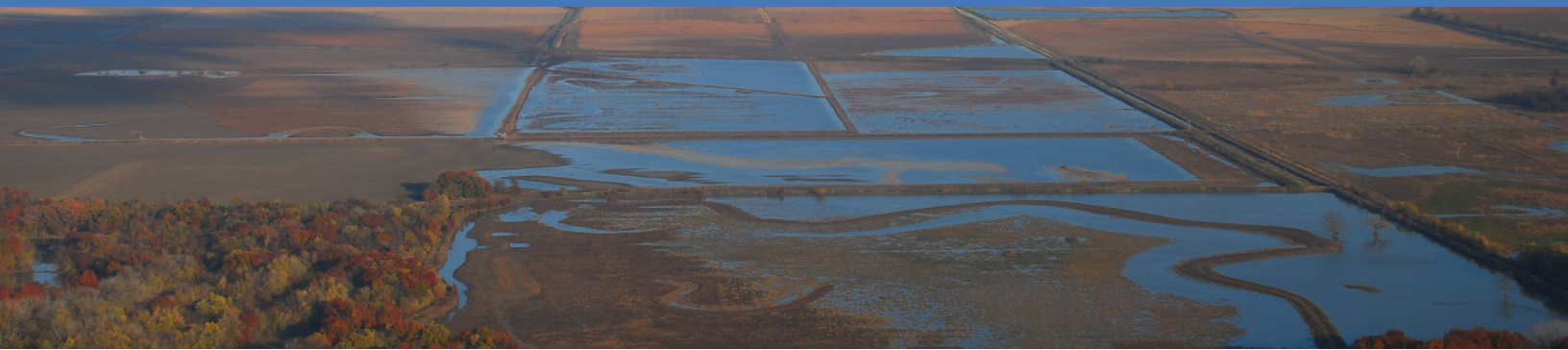


Conservation Reserve Program

CP-23

WETLAND RESTORATION ON FLOODPLAINS

Filter Runoff | Water Quality Enhancement | Wildlife Habitat



Why Choose CRP? You Benefit. Land, Water and Wildlife Benefit.

Wetland restoration on floodplains improves water quality and creates critical habitat for wetland species. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with practices like this to achieve many farming and conservation goals. Whatever the conservation challenge – soil conservation, water quality protection, or wildlife habitat enhancement – CRP is a proven land performance and management solution.

Why Wetland Restoration?

Restoring former or creating new wetlands that had been converted for agricultural use is critical to long-term environmental health and ecosystem performance. Restoring wetland functions and values can yield tremendous benefits, including temporarily holding runoff to reduce downstream flooding, filtering sediment, nutrients, and chemicals to protect water quality, and supporting hundreds of species of birds, plants, amphibians, and other wildlife. Offered in **continuous sign-up**, CP-23:

- Provides vital habitat for waterfowl, grassland birds, and other wetland species
- Filters sediment and nutrient runoff
- Reduces downstream flooding damages

Financial Benefits

CP-23 participants are guaranteed:

- 10-15 years of annual rental payments with an additional 20% Rental Rate Incentive
- Payments covering up to 90% of the eligible costs of establishing the wetland restoration practice
 - 50% from a Cost-Share Payment and
 - 40% from a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)
- Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) up to \$150/acre
- Mid-Contract Management Cost Share
- Additional incentives may be available in your state under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



Eligible Land

- Planted or considered planted 4 out of 6 years between 2008 and 2013
- Capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity
- Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions
- Located within the 100-year floodplain of a permanent river or stream

Practice Requirements

- An upland buffer of native trees or grasses must be installed protecting the wetland; the buffer cannot be more than 3 times the size of the wetland
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests should be controlled
- Practice will be maintained without additional cost-share payments

Owner/Operator Eligibility

Participants must:

- Have owned or operated the land for more than 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:

- Work with USDA-approved conservationist to develop a conservation plan
- Perform periodic management activities on the wetland and buffer according to the provided conservation plan
- Not harvest or graze the practice area
- Complete seeding and installation of the practice within 12 months of the effective date of the contract

Proven Conservation Benefits

- Between 2005 and 2011, CRP contributed to an estimated net increase of 1.5 million additional ducks per year
- Restored wetlands can remove 40-90% of the nitrates and more than 90% of herbicides in runoff
- In 2014, CRP lowered greenhouse gasses by the equivalent of 43 million metric tons of CO₂ – the same benefit as taking nearly 8 million cars off the road for a year

FSA will ultimately determine participant and land eligibility.

For More Information:

Contact your local USDA, Farm Service Agency:

<http://offices.usda.gov>