

CREP: Planting for the Future



Billy Shortall stands on his CREP land in Talbot County overlooking the Choptank River.

Land managed: 1700 Acres
 CREP area: 170 Acres
 Wildlife area: 80 Acres

Billy Shortall, is making a difference.....

Stretching over a half mile along the beautiful Choptank River, Billy Shortall's home farm is a prime spot for large deer, turkeys and thousands of waterfowl. In the middle of his farm sits a beautiful white house surrounded by over 200 acres of cropland and woods.

Billy has been an active advocate for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and has seen benefits from utilizing the program. Billy stated "the major

benefits from CREP are keeping his soil in place which has dramatically reduced runoff." Financially, he explained that the acres in CREP were not his most productive, therefore it has been a win-win situation for the Chesapeake Bay, for Billy and for wildlife.

Billy is one example of many farmers across Maryland that are helping to protect our waterways.

What are Maryland Farmers currently doing?

Number of Acres in CREP in Maryland: 67,773.90
 Number of CREP Contracts: 5,260

**As of October, 2009*

| | Buffer Practices | Highly Erodible Land | Wetland practices | Habitat for Declining Species |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Maryland goal | 77,000 Acres | 16,000 Acres | 5,000 Acres | 2,000 Acres |
| Current acreage totals | 54,723 Acres | 12,738 Acres | 3,371.8 Acres | 43 Acres |



Maryland State Farm Service Agency

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Maryland Farmers play a large role in Bay Restoration

The goal for full implementation is 100,000 acres, CREP will help Maryland to achieve its water quality goals by:

- Reducing an estimated 11.5 million pounds of nitrogen and 1.1 million pounds of phosphorus from entering Maryland waterways each year.
- Reducing the amount of sediment entering the Bay and its tributaries by approximately 200,000 tons annually.
- Establishing and enhancing 77,000 acres of riparian buffers, 5,000 acres of wetland habitat and 2,000 acres of habitat for declining, threatened or endangered species, including the Bald Eagle and Eastern Bog Turtle.
- Stabilizing and protecting up to 16,000 acres of highly erodible land.



CREP Buffer: Talbot County

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program: Is designed specifically to preserve wetlands, lands adjacent to streams, and lands surrounding the Chesapeake Bay, for the next Maryland generation.

Cost Benefits

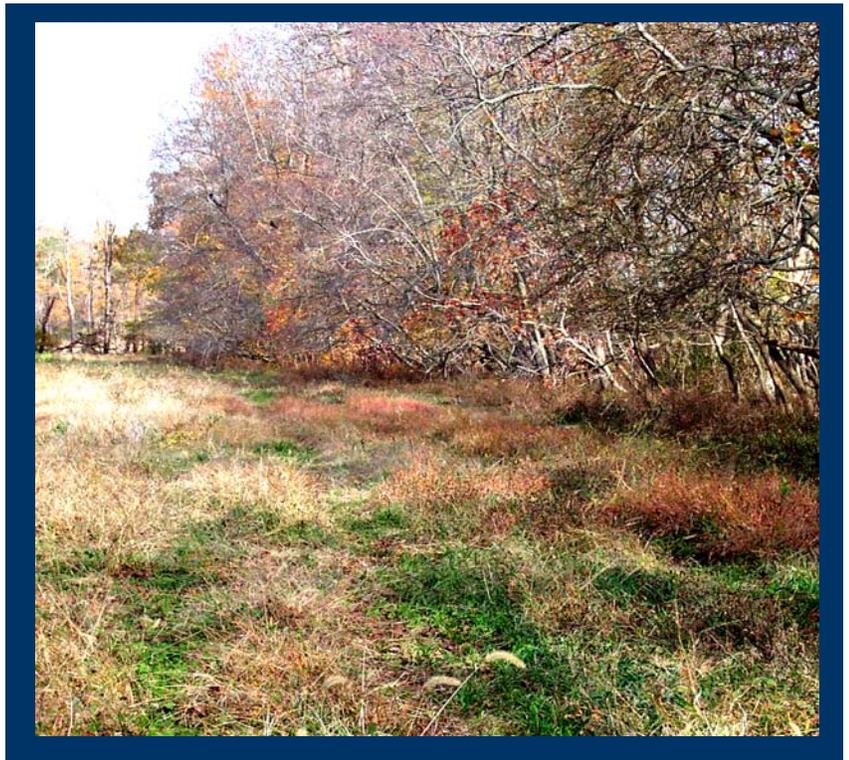
FSA provides an annual land rental payment, plus cost-share on some established practices up to 50 percent of the eligible costs to plant grasses, shrubs, and/or trees on highly erodible cropland and marginal pasture land. These plantings come in the form of vegetated buffers along streams, restoration of wetlands, providing shallow water areas for wildlife, and restoring habitat for rare and declining species.

Through FSA and the partners, the following payments also can be received for CREP:

- Signing Incentive Payments
- Practice Incentive Payments
- Additional incentives and one-time payments for selected practices.

Partners

- Farm Service Agency
- Natural Resources and Conservation Service
- U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
- Maryland Department of Agriculture
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources



CREP Practice

How to Enroll

Sign-up for Maryland CREP is ongoing and continues until acreage goals are met. For more information, contact your local county **Farm Service Agency office**.