

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative



Overview

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched but instead devoted to conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, 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, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

The Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, authorized CRP. The program is also governed by regulations published in 7 CFR, part 1410. The program is implemented by FSA on behalf of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. The President signed the American Relief Act, 2025 (Pub. L. 118-158) which extended authority for the CRP program until September 30, 2025.

Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative

The Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) initiative prioritizes water quality practices on the land that, if enrolled, will help reduce sediment loadings, nutrient loadings, and harmful algal blooms. The vegetative covers also contribute to increased wildlife populations.

Producers may enroll eligible land in CLEAR initiative practices through continuous CRP signup. More information about enrollment is available in the continuous CRP signup fact sheet.

Eligible Practices

Land must be eligible and suitable for any of the following conservation practices:

- CP8A - Grass Waterways
- CP15A - Contour Grass Strips
- CP15B - Contour Grass Strips on Terraces
- CP21 - Filter Strips
- CP21B - Denitrifying Bioreactor on Filter Strips
- CP21S - Saturated Filter Strips
- CP22 - Riparian Buffer
- CP22B - Denitrifying Bioreactor on Riparian Buffer
- CP22S - Saturated Riparian Buffer
- CP23 - Wetland Restoration
- CP23A - Wetland Restoration, Non-Flood Plain
- CP29 - Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer
- CP30 - Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer
- CP31 - Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands
- CP37 - Duck Nesting Habitat
- CP43 - Prairie Strips



Financial Benefits

- 10-15 years of annual rental payments
- 20 percent water quality rental rate incentive
- Cost share assistance up to 50 percent of the participant's eligible costs for installation of approved practices
- Practices enrolled through continuous CRP signup will also receive:
 - ♦ Signup Incentive Payment (SIP) equal to 32.5 percent of the first full year annual rental payment on new continuous CRP contract acreage.
 - ♦ Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) up to 50 percent of the participant's eligible costs for installation of approved practices.

More Information

Visit FSA's CRP webpage <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/conservation-reserve-program>.

To locate your local FSA office, visit: farmers.gov/service-locator.

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions or requirements may apply. Consult your local FSA office for details.