

Conservation Reserve Program

CP40

FARMABLE WETLANDS PROGRAM, AQUACULTURE WETLANDS

Improve Water Quality | Enhance Wildlife Habitat | Sequester Carbon



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

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with various enrollment opportunities to achieve many farming, ranching, and conservation goals. Whatever the challenge—soil conservation, water quality protection, or wildlife habitat enhancement—CRP is a proven land performance and management solution.

Why Aquaculture Wetlands?

Through the Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP) aquaculture wetlands program, land previously devoted to commercial pond-raised aquaculture is restored to its natural wetlands state. Re-establishing these wetlands:

- Improves water quality by removing nitrogen from agricultural drainage runoff
- Reduces sediment loading in streams
- Creates habitat for waterfowl, grassland birds, and other wildlife
- Sequesters carbon

CP40 is offered in continuous sign-up. For more information on CRP sign-up types, visit fsa.usda.gov.

Financial Benefits

CP40 participants receive:

- 10–15 years of annual rental payments
- 50% cost-share assistance for establishment costs
- A signing incentive payment (SIP) and a practice incentive payment (PIP)



Eligible Land

- Devoted to commercial pond-raised aquaculture at least one year between 2002 and 2007
- Capable of being restored to wetland
- Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions

Practice Requirements

- Prepare a site with permanent water limited to 20% of the total practice site acreage
- Control noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests
- Ensure that design provides nitrogen removal and other wetland functions

Owner/Operator Eligibility

Participants must:

- Have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to program sign-up
- Be in control of the land for the length of the contract
- Meet USDA payment eligibility provisions

FSA will ultimately determine participant and land eligibility.

Obligations

Participants will:

- Not harvest or graze the practice area except under certain approved conditions
- Work with USDA-approved conservationist to develop a conservation plan
- Perform periodic management activities according to the conservation plan
- Complete practice establishment within 12 months of the effective date of the contract

Proven Conservation Benefits

- Constructed wetlands in Iowa remove an average of over 5 tons of nitrate per year
- CRP contributes to a net increase of an estimated one million ducks per year
- In 2020, CRP lowered greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 30 million metric tons of CO₂—the same benefit as taking nearly 6 million cars off the road

For more information about FSA and its programs, visit fsa.usda.gov or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.