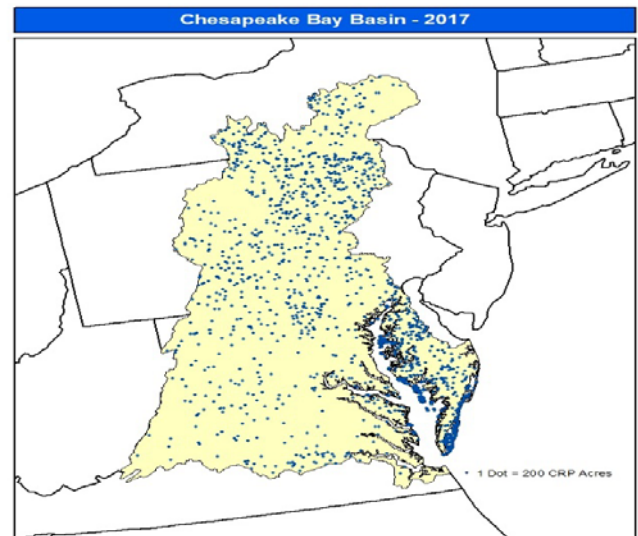


Environmental Benefits of the Conservation Reserve Program

2017

Chesapeake Bay Basin



		<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Land Enrolled*	1,000 acres		287	266	248	236	221	209
In Wetlands	1,000 acres		6	6	6	6	5	5
In Buffers	1,000 acres		105	101	97	95	88	80
Reductions (intercepted by buffers or not leaving field)**								
Sediment	million tons		11	11	10	10	9	9
Nitrogen	million lbs		27	25	24	23	21	20
Phosphorus	million lbs		7	6	6	6	5	5
Greenhouse Gas	Mil. metric tons							
Reduction **	CO2 equivalent/yr.		0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5

*Cumulative acres. ** Annual estimate - See Estimation Methodology at link below.

- Using models developed by the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI), CRP reduced nutrient losses in 2017, by an estimated 20 million pounds of nitrogen and 5 million pounds of phosphorus, compared to land that is cropped. Sediment losses were reduced by an estimated 9 million tons.
- CRP reduces the amount of nutrients and chemicals leaving a field in runoff and percolate. On average, CRP covers reduce nitrogen and phosphorus leaving CRP fields by 95 and 86 percent, respectively, compared to land that is cropped.
- Grass filter strips and riparian buffers intercept sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, and other contaminants, before they enter waterways. Because buffers both reduce contaminants on the land they occupy and intercept contaminants from other lands they have disproportionate water quality benefits.
- Upstream CRP lands reduce downstream flood damage. Peak flows are reduced by slowing, storing, and infiltrating storm water runoff.
- CRP greatly reduces erosion and protects soil productivity by targeting fragile cropland and placing these lands into protective conservation covers.
- Carbon sequestered by CRP enhances soil health and long-term productivity.

FSA is using CRP enrollment data, the USDA soils and natural resource inventories, and agreements with Federal, State, and other partners to refine these performance measures and to estimate the benefits from CRP. For more information, documentation, and estimation methodology see <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=ecpa&topic=nra>.