

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Indiana



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the State of Indiana are partners in implementing a voluntary Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to enroll up to 26,250 acres of agricultural land in 11 designated watersheds in the Wabash and White River systems, including the Tippecanoe, Upper White River, Highland/Pigeon, Upper Wabash, Middle Wabash-Deer, Middle Wabash-Little Vermillion, Middle Wabash-Busseron, Lower Wabash, Lower White, Lower East Fork White and the Upper East Fork White watersheds. The purpose of the Indiana CREP is to improve water quality by reducing sediment and nutrient runoff and enhance wildlife habitats.

Background

CREP is part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP is a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits. CRP participants establish permanent, 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, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance.

With CREP, high-priority conservation goals are identified by the state, and then federal funds are supplemented with non-federal funds to achieve those goals.

Through the Indiana CREP, federal and state resources are made available to

program participants to voluntarily enroll in CRP for 14 to 15-year contracts. Participants remove sensitive and frequently flooded croplands from agricultural production and convert the land to grasses, trees, or other approved vegetation, such as filter strips, riparian buffers, and wetland areas to assist in erosion control, sediment reduction, water retention, and nutrient uptake. This will improve water quality by reducing sediment, nutrients, nitrogen and other pollutants from entering streams and rivers, and enhance wildlife habitat in the area.

Goals

The goals of the Indiana CREP include:

- ♦ protect a minimum of 3,000 linear miles of watercourses through the installation of buffer practices,
- ♦ reduce the amount of sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen entering rivers and streams in the designated watersheds by 2,450 tons/year of sediment, 2,400 lbs./year of phosphorus, and 4,700 lbs./year of nitrogen, and
- ♦ increase the acres of wetlands in the watersheds for erosion control, sediment reduction, stormwater retention, and nutrient uptake.



More Information

Consult your local FSA office for details. For more information, contact your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office:
farmers.gov/service-locator.

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Eligible Conservation Practices

The following specific CRP conservation practices are available under the Indiana CREP:

- ◆ CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
- ◆ CP3A, Hardwood Tree Planting
- ◆ CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- ◆ CP21, Filter Strips
- ◆ CP22, Riparian Buffer
- ◆ CP23, Wetland Restoration
- ◆ CP23A, Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain
- ◆ CP31, Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands

Enrollment and Eligibility Requirements

Enrollment in CRP through the Indiana CREP is on a continuous basis. To be eligible, land must be located in Indiana. Land must be cropland that meets CRP land eligibility criteria to be eligible for enrollment and must be located adjacent to a body of water or located in the floodplain.

Payments

Under the Indiana CREP, eligible participants may receive the following payments:

- ◆ A one-time signing incentive payment (SIP) is paid in accordance with FSA National CRP Directives for land as follows:
 - \$100 per acre for CP21, CP22, & CP31
 - \$150 per acre for CP23 & CP23A
- ◆ A one-time practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40% of the total eligible cost of practice installation for CP21, CP22, CP23, CP23A, and CP31.
- ◆ An annual rental payment consisting of:
 - A base soil rental rate, determined by the soils of the land offered
 - An incentive payment equal to 40% of the base rental rate without regard to other incentive payments, except for land enrolled or re-enrolled under infeasible-to-farm provisions
 - A maintenance incentive payment for practices in accordance with FSA National CRP Directives, if applicable.
- ◆ A cost-share payment of up to 50 percent of the eligible cost to install the approved practice.

In addition, Indiana will offer the following payments after the practice is established:

- ◆ A one-time Clean Water Indiana incentive payment of \$100/acre for CP2, CP4D, and CP21.
- ◆ A one-time Clean Water Indiana incentive payment of \$400/acre for CP3A, CP22, and CP31.
- ◆ A one-time Clean Water Indiana incentive payment of \$950/acre for newly enrolled CP23 and CP23A.
- ◆ A one-time Clean Water Indiana incentive payment of \$400/acre for re-enrolled CP23 and CP23A.

Enrollment Options

CREP is another option under CRP that farmers and ranchers may select to enhance their land. Eligible producers may still enroll land in CRP through general or continuous signup; however, the Indiana CREP provides additional benefits not available through general and/or continuous signup. Under the Indiana CREP, producers receive higher incentive payments and longer contract lengths that increase the total amount of rental payments received.

Haying and Grazing

Contact your local FSA office for more information about authorized haying and grazing activities.