

# Conservation Reserve Program

CP29

## MARGINAL PASTURELAND WILDLIFE BUFFERS

Wildlife Habitat | Soil and Water Quality | Flood Control



## 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 Wildlife Buffers?

For landowners and farmers with marginal pastureland adjacent to streams, wetlands, and other water body types, grass buffers can play a critical role in enhancing the environment. Establishing wildlife habitat buffers:

- Provides vital habitat for wildfowl, grassland birds, pollinators, and other wetland species
- Improves water quality by intercepting sediment and nutrients
- Stabilizes stream banks and reduces erosion
- Restores native plant communities

CP29 is offered in continuous sign-up. For more information on CRP sign-up types, visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).

## Financial Benefits

### CP29 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)

Additional incentives may be available in your state under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).



## Eligible Land

- Meets marginal pastureland eligibility requirements
- Immediately adjacent and parallel to a permanent waterbody, perennial or seasonal stream, sinkhole or karst area, semi-permanent or seasonally flooded area, or wetland area
- Suitable to be devoted to a wildlife habitat buffer
- Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions

## Practice Requirements

- Prepare the site for growth of selected species
- Establish and maintain naturally regenerated or seeded trees and shrubs
- Apply nutrients as needed to ensure growth
- Control noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests

## 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

## 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

- In prime habitat, a 4% increase in CRP vegetation is associated with a 22% increase in pheasant counts
- One acre of buffer adjacent to cropland can prevent 2.5 tons of soil, 6.4 pounds of nitrogen, and 1.1 pounds of phosphorus from entering waterways
- In 2020, CRP lowered greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 30 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>—the same benefit as taking nearly 6 million cars off the road

*FSA will ultimately determine participant and land eligibility.*

*For more information about FSA and its programs, visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov) or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).*

Photos provided by Iowa Dep.t of Agriculture-Div of Soil Conservation, NRCS Bob Nichols and Pheasants Forever Peter Berthelsen respectively