

# Conservation Reserve Program

## Restoring Wetlands

Improve Water Quality | Enhance Wildlife Habitat | Flood Control



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

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a proven land performance and management solution. Whatever the challenge—soil conservation, water quality protection, or wildlife habitat enhancement—CRP provides a range of opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and landowners.

Administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency, CRP provides financial and technical assistance to remove environmentally sensitive farmland from production and convert it to conservation cover for a 10- to 15-year contract period.

### Why Restore Wetlands?

85% of the original wetlands across the U.S. and Canada have been lost to agricultural expansion. These wetlands are critical to the survival of thousands of different aquatic and terrestrial species. By restoring wetlands on their marginal cropland, farmers and landowners can do their part to prevent species loss while also improving the productivity, profitability, and sustainability of their own farming operations.



Photos provided by Iowa Dept. of Agriculture-Div of Soil Conservation and Lynda Richardson, respectively



## Wetland Restoration Benefits

Restoring wetlands has many benefits both to the farmer and to the environment. For many fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife species, wetlands provide vital habitat factors including food, breeding cover, and protection from predators. They also provide travel corridors for migratory species passing through the area. Of the more than 150 bird species supported by wetland restoration, 60 are identified as being high priorities for conservation.

Allowing wildlife to flourish is beneficial not only to the ecosystem as a whole, but also to rural communities, as wetlands species have high economic value associated with commercial and recreational use.

For farmers and landowners facing crop damage from flooding, restoring wetlands substantially mitigates risks by increasing flood storage capacity during heavy rains and reducing flood levels downstream. Wetlands also improve water quality by intercepting nutrients, chemicals, and sediments before they reach other bodies of water.

## CRP Wetlands Practices

- Wetland Restoration, Floodplain (CP23)
- Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain (CP23A)
- Farmable Wetlands Program (CP27/28)
- Farmable Wetlands Program, Constructed Wetlands (CP39)



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

Photos provided by Iowa Dept of Agriculture-Div of Soil Conservation, NRCS Gary Kramer and USFWS George Gentry, respectively