

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program



FACT SHEET



Overview and Purpose

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a partnership program between the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA). It is a natural resource conservation program aimed at addressing water quality and wildlife issues by reducing sediment and nutrient runoff in watersheds and enhancing wildlife habitats for State and Federally listed threatened and endangered species and other wildlife.

CREP is designed to help alleviate some of the concerns of high nonpoint source sediment, nutrient, pesticide and herbicide losses from agricultural lands by restoring buffers and wetlands to improve water quality. The program works with landowners and farmers to set-aside environmentally sensitive agricultural land and frequently flooded croplands. Through CREP, program participants receive financial incentives from USDA and the State of Indiana to voluntarily enroll in the program for 14 to 15 years.



The Program, first announced in 2005, was originally slated to enroll 7,000 acres of eligible land within three watersheds touching 29 counties. In 2010, the program expanded into 11 total watersheds touching 65 counties, with a total acreage goal of 26,250 acres. In October of 2024, the program was expanded further and is now available in every county and watershed in the state with a targeted enrollment of 100,000 acres.

Goals

The overall goals of the Indiana CREP are to provide producers in the State an opportunity to voluntarily restore filter strips, riparian buffers and wetland areas through financial aid and technical assistance. These practices will assist in erosion control, sediment reduction, water retention, and nutrient uptake.



Specific goals include:

- protect a minimum of 4,000 linear miles of watercourses through the installation of buffer practices
- reduce amount of sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen entering rivers and streams in the designated watersheds by 4,900 tons/year of sediment, 4,800 lbs/year of phosphorus, and 9,400 lbs/year of nitrogen
- increase the acres of wetlands in the watersheds for erosion control, sediment reduction, stormwater retention, and nutrient uptake
- enroll 100,000 acres of eligible cropland including frequently flooded agricultural lands and restorable wetlands.

Sign –up and Eligibility Requirements

Enrollment is anytime throughout the year. Cropland must meet CRP land eligibility criteria to be eligible for enrollment. Interested producers should contact their local FSA for specific information regarding eligibility.

Conservation Practices

Specific conservation practices have been identified to meet the program goals. For enrollment, the following practices are offered:

- CP2 Permanent Native Grasses
- CP3A Hardwood Tree Planting
- CP4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat, Non-easement
- CP21 Filter Strips
- CP9 Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife
- CP22 Riparian Buffer
- CP23 Wetland Restoration
- CP23A Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain
- CP31 Bottomland Timber Establishment

Federal CREP Incentives

- Cost Share of Practice Implementation: Based on a current FSA cost-share plan of 50% of eligible cost (not-to-exceed) as determined by FSA for eligible reimbursable practice establishment costs.
- Signing Incentive Payment (SIP): A one-time payment according to FSA National CRP Directives for newly enrolled land for all eligible CREP practices.
- Practice Incentive Payment (PIP): A one-time payment equal to 50% of the eligible reimbursement cost for CP21, CP22, CP23, CP23A, CP31 and CP9.
- Annual Rental Payment:
 - Payment for normal maximum CRP weighted average soil rental rate for the three predominant soil types using the current posted applicable local soil rental rates for cropland offers. Marginal pastureland rates are calculated using applicable local marginal pastureland rental rates in accordance with FSA national CRP directives.
 - Incentive payment of 40% of the base rental rate without regard to other incentive payments.
 - A maintenance fee equal to the terms of FSA national CRP directives, if applicable.

State CREP Incentives

In addition, Indiana will offer the following payments:

- A one-time State of Indiana Incentive payment of \$100/acre for CP2, CP4D, and CP21.
- A one-time State of Indiana Incentive payment of \$400/acre for CP3A, CP22, and CP31.
- A one-time State of Indiana Incentive payment of \$950/acre for newly enrolled CP23, CP23A, and CP9.
- A one-time State of Indiana Incentive payment of \$400/acre for re-enrolled CP23, CP23A, and CP9.



How to Participate

Interested parties should contact their FSA office or an ISDA CREP Leader in their area. Additional information is also available on FSA's Web site at www.fsa.usda.gov and ISDA's website at <https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/conservation-reserve-enhancement-program/>.

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