

Conservation Reserve Program

CP-2

ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT NATIVE GRASSES

Wind & Water Erosion Control | Water Quality Enhancement | Habitat



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

Native grasses are an effective means to control erosion, improve water quality, and create habitat for grassland and game bird species. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with practices like this to achieve many farming and conservation goals. Whatever the conservation challenge – soil conservation, water quality protection, or wildlife habitat enhancement – CRP is a proven land performance and management solution.

Why Native Grasses?

With an ever-increasing need to protect fragile ground and increase wildlife habitat, establishing native grasses - grasses indigenous to an area - is an effective conservation strategy. With close to 7 million acres of CP-2 in place, the practice supports many species of plants and wildlife. Offered in **general sign-up** (and under certain conditions as a **continuous sign-up**), CP-2:

- Establishes new or maintains existing cover
- Prevents soil loss from wind and water erosion
- Creates habitat for grassland and game bird species
- Improves water quality by intercepting sediment and nutrients
- Captures carbon

Financial Benefits

CP-2 participants are guaranteed:

- 10 years of annual rental payments
- 10% Rental Rate Incentive if enrolled in a wellhead protection area
- Payments covering up to 90% of the eligible costs of establishing the native grass practice
 - 50% from a Cost-Share Payment and
 - 40% from a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) under certain continuous sign-up conditions
- Mid-Contract Management Cost Share
- Additional incentives may be available in your state under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



Eligible Land

- Planted or considered planted 4 out of 6 years between 2008 and 2013
- Capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity
- Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions

Practice Requirements

- Land must not be harvested or grazed during the life of the contract except when managed or emergency haying or grazing is authorized
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects and pests should be controlled
- Practice shall be maintained without additional cost-share payments

Owner/Operator Eligibility

Participants must:

- Have owned or operated the land for more than 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
- Work with USDA-approved conservationist to develop a conservation plan
- Perform periodic management activities according to the conservation plan
- Complete seeding of the practice 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
- CRP reduced nutrient losses in FY 2013 by an estimated 565 million pounds of nitrogen and 113 million pounds of phosphorus
- In 2014, CRP lowered greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 43 million metric tons – the same benefit as taking nearly 8 million cars off the road for a year

FSA will ultimately determine participant and land eligibility.

For More Information:

Contact your local USDA, Farm Service Agency:

<http://offices.usda.gov>

Landscape photo courtesy BLM/Montana. Pheasant photo courtesy of Pheasants Forever, Peter Brethelsen