

Conservation Reserve Program

CP-4B

WILDLIFE HABITAT CORRIDORS

Wildlife Habitat | Soil and Water Quality | Carbon Sequestration



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

Wildlife corridors are a resource for cover, nesting habitat, and food to a range of bird and mammal 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 Wildlife Habitat Corridors?

Corridors create habitat from grass, wildflower, shrub or tree plantings in linear strips at least 66 feet wide. They provide shelter for a variety of wildlife, including upland game and songbirds and serve as a food and nesting resource. Corridors also protect soil from erosion and safeguard water quality.

Offered in **general sign-up** (unless in a wellhead protection area when it is eligible for **continuous sign-up**), CP-4B:

- Provides wildlife habitat by creating safe travel paths, food sources, and cover for many types of wildlife species
- Protects soils and improves water quality
- Promotes carbon sequestration

Financial Benefits

CP-4B participants are guaranteed:

- 10-15 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 practice
 - 50% from a Cost-Share Payment and
 - 40% from a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) if the practice is enrolled under wellhead protection criteria
- 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

- A wildlife conservation plan must be developed for this practice
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled
- The practice will 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 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 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 2014 by an estimated 542 million pounds of nitrogen and 108 million pounds of phosphorus
- In 2014, CRP lowered greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 43 million metric tons of CO₂ – the same benefits 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>

Photos provided by USFWS, NRCS Don Poggensee, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture-Div. of Soil Conservation, respectively