

Conservation Reserve Program

CP-27 & CP-28

FARMABLE WETLANDS PROGRAM

Improve Profitability | Enhance Wildlife Habitat | Improve Water Quality



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

The Farmable Wetland Program (FWP) is intended to help farmers retire chronically wet cropland, to restore previously these farmed wetlands, and to increase profitability while improving water quality and creating wildlife habitat. 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 FWP?

Landowners and farmers can protect soil from erosion and improve water quality by restoring wetlands and establishing vegetative buffers on typically less-productive cropland. Restoring wetland functions also enhance vital habitat for wildlife, especially ducks and other waterfowl, upland game birds and songbirds. Offered in **continuous sign-up**, CP-27 and CP-28:

- Improves profitability by retiring lower yielding wet cropland
- Provides vital habitat for waterfowl, grassland birds, and other wetland species
- Filters nutrients from runoff
- Reduces downstream flooding damages

Financial Benefits

CP-27 & CP-28 participants are guaranteed:

- 10-15 years of annual rental payments with an additional 20% Rental Rate Incentive
- Payments covering up to 90% of the eligible costs of establishing the wetland restoration practice
 - 50% from a Cost-Share Payment and
 - 40% from a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)
- Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) up to \$100/acre
- Mid-Contract Management Cost Share



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

- CP-27 must be enrolled with the associated buffer practice CP-28
- The maximum size of any one offered wetland cannot exceed 40 acres
- The maximum size of the associated buffer cannot exceed 4 times the size of the wetland
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled
- Practices 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

- Between 2005 and 2011, CRP contributed to an estimated net increase of 1.5 million additional ducks per year
- 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>