

# Conservation Reserve Program

CP-8A

## GRASS WATERWAY

Erosion Control | Water Quality Enhancement | Wildlife Habitat



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

Grass waterways are designed to move water across a field minimizing erosion and reducing the delivery of sediment to lakes, streams, and rivers. 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 Grass Waterways?

Grass waterways reduce the negative effects of water flow on cropland. The grass cover forming the waterway functions as a natural filter, slowing the water flow and trapping sediment and nutrients in run-off. Waterways can also enhance wildlife habitat by providing cover and security for birds, mammals and insects. Offered in **continuous sign-up**, CP-8A:

- Reduces soil erosion and prevents gulleys
- Protects water quality by intercepting and trapping sediment and nutrients
- Creates habitat for pollinators and grassland and game bird species

## Financial Benefits

### CP-8A participants are guaranteed:

- 10 years of annual rental payments with an additional 20% Rental Rate Incentive
- Payments covering up to 90% of the eligible costs of establishing the grass 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
- 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

- 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

*FSA will ultimately determine participant and land eligibility.*

## Obligations

Participants will:

- Not harvest or graze the practice area except under certain approved circumstances
- 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 CO<sub>2</sub> – the same benefits as taking nearly 8 million cars off the road for a year

### For More Information:

Contact your local USDA, Farm Service Agency:

<http://offices.usda.gov>