

Conservation Reserve Program

CP-21

FILTER STRIP

Water Quality Enhancement | Wildlife Habitat | Soil Protection



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

Filter strips are designed to protect water quality by serving as a natural filter to intercept pollutants and prevent erosion. 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 Filter Strips?

Grass filter strips can be planted adjacent to perennial and seasonal streams, wetlands, lakes, and ponds. They filter runoff by trapping sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants before they reach surrounding water bodies and aquifers. Filter strips also protect soil from erosion by stabilizing cropland that might otherwise have been susceptible to damaging water and wind.

Offered in **continuous sign-up**, CP-21:

- Intercepts and filters nutrients from runoff
- Reduces erosion and traps sediment
- Provides habitat and corridors for wildlife
- Sequesters carbon

Financial Benefits

CP-21 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 buffer practice
 - 50% from a Cost-Share Payment and
 - 40% from a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)
- Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) up to \$100/acre
- Maintenance Rate Incentive
- 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 the 6 years between 2008 and 2013
- Capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity
- Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions
- Immediately adjacent to and parallel to one of the following:
 - Seasonal or perennial streams
 - Wetlands
 - Other permanent waterbodies

Practice Requirements

The buffer will:

- Not be less than 20' and not more 120' in width
- Be suitable to be devoted to a filter strip
- Be capable of substantially reducing pollutants going into the nearby waterbody

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 provided conservation plan
- Complete seeding of the practice within 12 months of the effective date of the contract

Proven Conservation Benefits

- An acre of buffer adjacent to cropland holds back 2.5 tons of soil, 6.4 pounds of nitrogen, and 1.1 pounds of phosphorus in runoff
- In 2014, CRP lowered greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 43 million metric tons of CO₂ - the same benefit as taking nearly 8 million cars off the road for a year
- CRP reduced nutrient losses in FY 2014 by an estimated 542 million pounds of nitrogen and 108 million pounds of phosphorus

FSA will ultimately determine participant and land eligibility.

For More Information:

Contact your local USDA, Farm Service Agency:

<http://offices.usda.gov>