

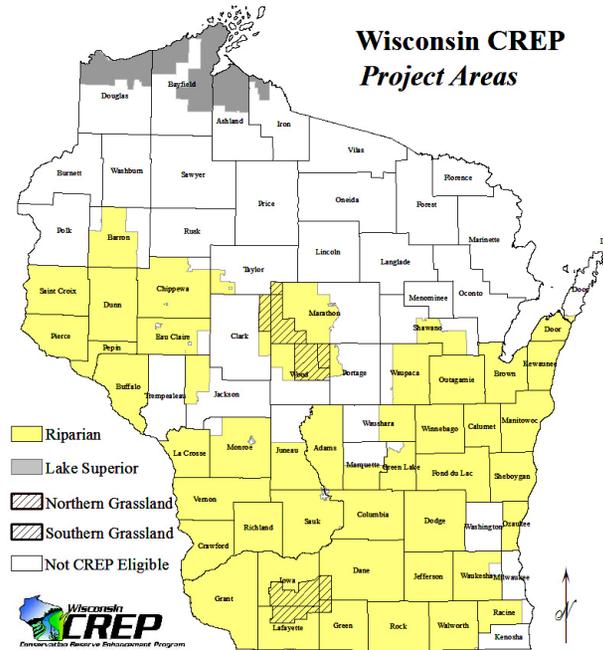
Eligibility

Your land may be eligible if it:

- Lies within a CREP project area (see map or talk to your county land conservation office).
- Has been in commodity crops at least four years from 2012 to 2017, meets crop rotation requirements with grass or legumes, or qualifies as marginal pastureland.
- Is within 150 feet of a stream or other body of water for riparian project area practices, or 1000 feet for grassland project area practices.
- Is considered highly erodible for practices in the southern grassland area.

Enrollment

Contact your county USDA Farm Service Agency, NRCS office, or your county land conservation office for a CREP application. A site visit will be completed to discuss with you the specific lands you want to enroll and what practices you would like to install.



Eligible CREP Practices

Riparian project area

- Filter strips (CP21)
- Riparian buffers (CP22)
- Grassed waterways, up to 1000 feet (CP8a)
- Wetland restoration (CP23)
- Marginal pastureland wildlife habitat buffers (CP29)

Grassland project areas only

- Permanent introduced grasses (CP1)
- Permanent native grasses (CP2)
- Tall grass prairie & oak savanna restoration (CP25)

Partners



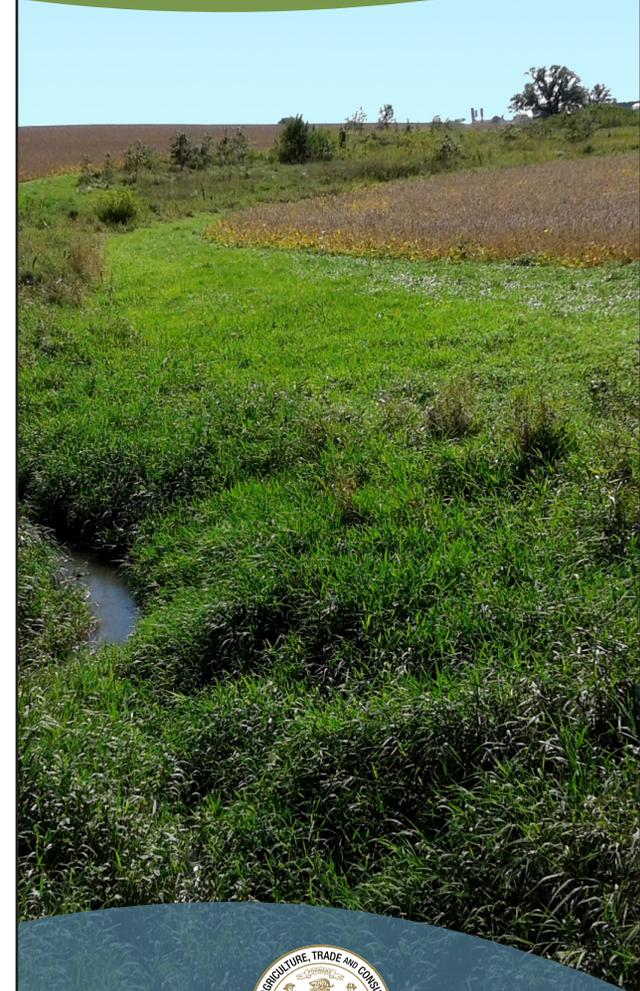
For More Information

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/CREP.aspx

608-224-4632

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CREP: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,
Trade and Consumer Protection

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, or CREP, is a resource for landowners who till or graze land along water to help reduce runoff and meet their conservation goals. It is a joint effort between the landowner and state, county and federal agencies that compliments working agriculture while protecting Wisconsin's valuable soil and water.

CREP is a voluntary program that pays landowners to install filter strips along waterways or return frequently flooded fields to wetlands. There is no minimum acreage for CREP enrollment, so landowners can enroll only as much land as necessary to meet conservation goals while keeping the rest in production. Enrolling land in CREP may help mitigate continual financial losses, such as crop damage and seed or nutrient loss, on frequently flooded land. Additionally, landowners maintain agricultural property tax assessment on land enrolled in the program, and public access is not required.

Enrollment is by 15-year agreement or perpetual easement.



Agreement Options

15-Year Agreements

These are contracts to install and maintain specific conservation practices on existing cropland or pastureland. In exchange, you get upfront incentive payments, annual rental payments, and cost-sharing. If you sell the land, the agreement transfers to the new owner.

Perpetual Conservation Easements

Perpetual easements restrict land use permanently in exchange for a higher upfront payment. An underlying contract with the USDA provides annual payments for the first 15 years. You must maintain vegetation in a conservation plan and cannot build any structures on enrolled land. After 15 years, the plan may be amended to allow land management practices such as timber harvest, limited pasture or haying. Additionally, after 15 years the state offers 50% cost sharing of approved management activities.



Benefits to Landowners

Annual payments

The USDA provides annual rental payments to landowners for 15 years, for both 15-year agreements and perpetual easements. The base annual rental rate ranges from \$50-\$250 per acre, depending on the county, soil type and previous land use. Rates increase by 35-60%, depending on the conservation practice installed.

Upfront payments

Landowners receive two upfront incentive payments. The USDA pays a one-time, per acre incentive for filter strips, riparian buffers and grassed waterways. The state also pays a one-time, per acre incentive of 1½ times the base annual rental rate for 15-year agreements, and 12 times the rate for perpetual easements.

Practice payments

The USDA pays 50% of the cost of installing conservation practices, plus an additional 40% for certain practices. On top of that, the state pays 20% of costs.