

Conservation Reserve Program

CP12

WILDLIFE FOOD PLOT

Food Resource | Wildlife Habitat | Soil and Water Quality



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

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with various enrollment opportunities to achieve many farming, ranching, and conservation goals. Whatever the challenge—soil conservation, water quality protection, or wildlife habitat enhancement—CRP is a proven land performance and management solution.

Why Wildlife Food Plots?

For many wildlife species that do not migrate during the winter months, planting a forage mix or small grains such as rye or buckwheat on cropland can be the key element to survival. Planting wildlife food plots:

- Provides a food source for wildlife
- Creates critical shelter during extreme weather
- Improves soil health
- Sequesters carbon
- Reduces erosion

Financial Benefits

- Participants receive 10–15 years of annual rental payments
- Additional incentives may be available in your state under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

CP12 is offered in general sign-up. It is often used in conjunction with general sign-up practices CP1, CP2, CP3, CP3A, CP4D, and CP25, and can be used alongside certain other continuous sign-up practices as well. For more information on CRP sign-up types, visit fsa.usda.gov.



Eligible Land

- Planted or considered planted at least 4 out of 6 years between 2012 and 2017
- Capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity
- Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions

Practice Requirements

- Prepare the site for growth of selected species
- Establish and maintain permanent vegetative cover
- Apply nutrients as needed to ensure growth
- Control noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests
- Plots may not exceed five acres and may be relocated each year

Owner/Operator Eligibility

Participants must:

- Have owned or operated the land for at least 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:

- Work with USDA-approved conservationist to develop a conservation plan
- Perform periodic management activities according to the conservation plan
- Complete practice establishment 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 2020 by an estimated 400 million pounds of nitrogen and 78 million pounds of phosphorus
- In 2020, CRP lowered greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 30 million metric tons of CO₂—the same benefit as taking nearly 6 million cars off the road

FSA will ultimately determine participant and land eligibility.

For more information about FSA and its programs, visit fsa.usda.gov or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.