

# Conservation Reserve Program

CP22

## RIPARIAN BUFFERS

Water Quality Enhancement | Wildlife Habitat Enhancement | Carbon Sequestration



## 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 Riparian Buffers?

Riparian buffers are strips of trees bordering perennial or season streams, wetland areas, and other waterbodies. They are a beneficial conservation solution for farmers and landowners interested in water quality and other ecological benefits. Establishing riparian buffers:

- Filters nutrients and sediment from runoff
- Cools water temperatures
- Stabilizes stream banks
- Creates habitat for wildlife
- Sequesters carbon

CP22 is offered in continuous sign-up. For more information on CRP sign-up types, visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).

## Financial Benefits

### CP22 participants receive:

- 10–15 years of annual rental payments
- 50% cost-share assistance for establishment costs
- A signing incentive payment (SIP) and a practice incentive payment (PIP)

Additional incentives may be available in your state under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).



## Eligible Land

- Planted or considered planted at least 4 out of 6 years between 2012 and 2017 or meets marginal pastureland eligibility requirements
- Suitable for planting trees
- Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions
- Located immediately adjacent and parallel to a permanent water body, perennial or seasonal stream, sinkhole or karst area, semi-permanent or seasonally flooded area, or wetlands area

## Practice Requirements

- Prepare the site for growth of selected species
- Establish and maintain naturally regenerated seeded or planted trees and shrubs suitable for the site
- Apply nutrients as needed to ensure growth
- Control noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests

*FSA will ultimately determine participant and land eligibility.*

*For more information about FSA and its programs, visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov) or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).*

## 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:

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

## Proven Conservation Benefits

- One acre of buffer adjacent to cropland can prevent 2.5 tons of soil, 6.4 pounds of nitrogen, and 1.1 pounds of phosphorus from entering waterways
- In 2020, CRP lowered greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 30 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>—the same benefit as taking nearly 6 million cars off the road

