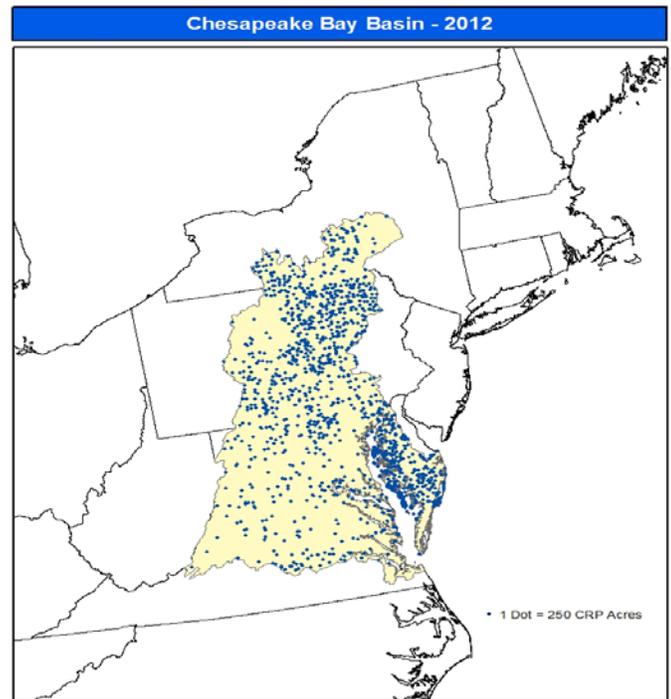


Environmental Benefits of the Conservation Reserve Program

2012

Chesapeake Bay Basin



<u>Fiscal Year</u>		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Land Enrolled*	1,000 acres	322	316	303	302	300	287
In Buffers	1,000 acres	100	105	103	107	105	105
In Wetlands	1,000 acres	5	5	6	6	6	6
Reductions (intercepted by buffers or not leaving field)**							
Sediment	million tons	11	11	11	11	11	11
Nitrogen	million lbs	27	27	27	27	27	26
Phosphorus	million lbs	7	7	7	7	7	7
Greenhouse Gas Reduction **	Mil. metric tons CO2 equivalent/yr	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6

*Cumulative acres. ** Annual estimate, see Estimation Methodology.

- CRP reduces the nitrogen, and phosphorus leaving a field in runoff and percolate. CRP reduces the nitrogen and phosphorus leaving a field in runoff and percolate. Nitrogen and phosphorus leaving CRP fields are 95 and 86 percent less, respectively, compared to land that is cropped.
- Grass filter strips and riparian buffers intercept sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, and other contaminants, before they enter waterways. Because buffers both reduce contaminants on the land they occupy and intercept contaminants from other lands they have disproportionate water quality benefits.
- Using models developed by the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI), CRP reduced nutrient losses in FY 2012, by an estimated 26 million pounds of nitrogen and 7 million pounds of phosphorus, compared to land that is cropped. Sediment losses were reduced by an estimated 11 million tons.
- Upstream CRP lands reduce downstream flood damage. Peak flows are reduced by slowing, storing, and infiltrating storm water runoff.