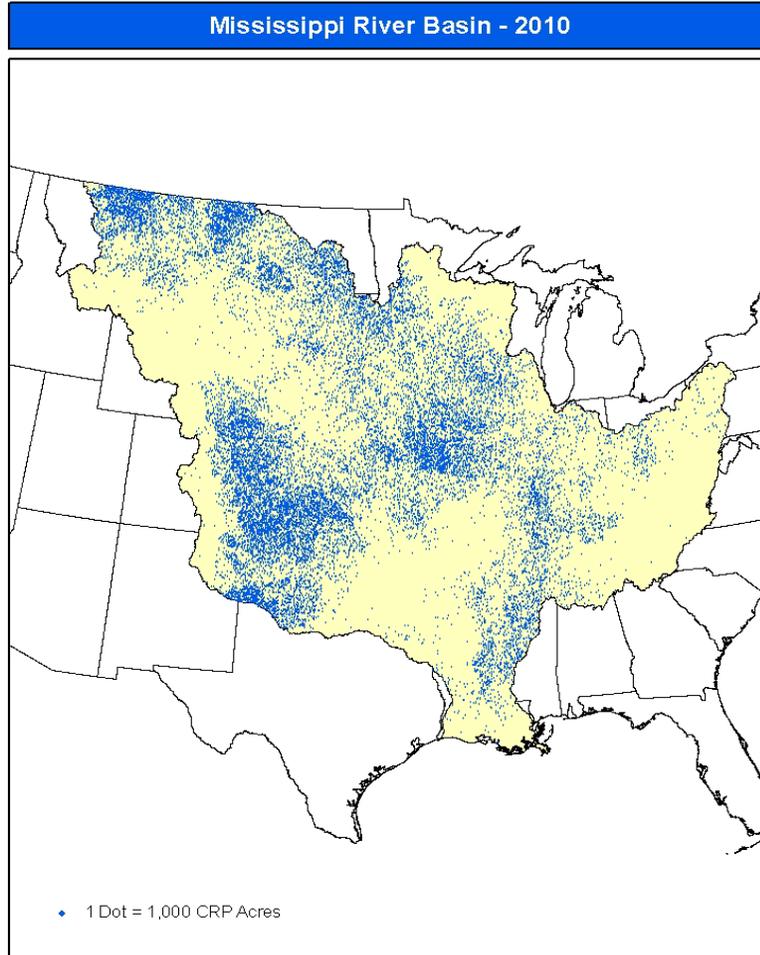


# CRP BENEFITS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

July 2011

## The Environmental Benefits of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Mississippi River Basin - 2010



- CRP stopped or intercepted 159 million tons of sediment in the Mississippi River Basin, 431 million pounds of nitrogen, 89 million pounds of phosphorus, and other contaminants, before they entered waterways.
- CRP reduced nitrate loss by 60 million pounds. Nitrate is a form of nitrogen that is biologically available to algae, and excess nitrate contributes to the formation of the Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone.
- Wetlands restored and constructed by CRP improve water quality by converting nitrate / nitrogen into benign atmospheric nitrogen. In 2010, Iowa's 65 constructed wetland projects on 1,808 acres reduced nitrate runoff by nearly 650,000 pounds.
- In prime ring-neck-pheasant habitat, a 4 percent increase in CRP herbaceous vegetation was associated with a 22 percent increase in pheasant counts.

For more information see <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=ecpa&topic=nra>.

	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
<b>Land enrolled</b>						
	Million Acres	24.4	25.0	23.4	22.7	21.0
In Buffers	Million Acres	1.27	1.31	1.39	1.32	1.40
In Wetlands	Million Acres	1.22	1.27	1.21	1.22	1.29
Highly Erodible Land	Million Acres	18.4	18.6	17.3	16.7	14.9
<b>Reductions (not leaving field or intercepted by buffers)</b>						
Sediment	Million Tons	170	175	175	164	159
Nitrogen	Million lbs.	442	454	430	431	431
Phosphorus	Million lbs.	90	93	89	89	89
<b>Carbon Sequestered</b>	Million Metric Tons	32	30	30	29	28

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.