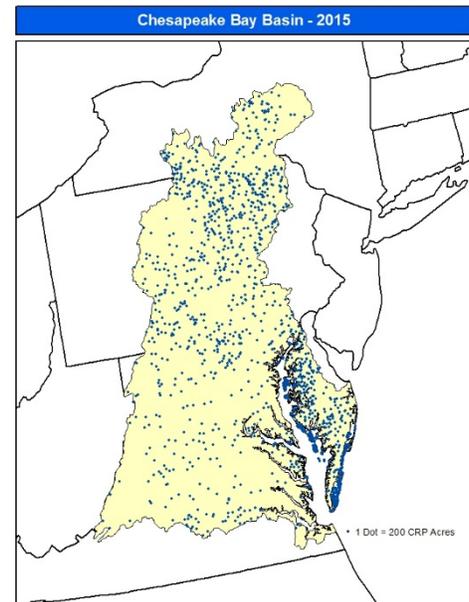


Environmental Benefits of the Conservation Reserve Program

2015

Chesapeake Bay Basin



| <u>Fiscal Year</u> | | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> | <u>2012</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> |
|--|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Land Enrolled* | 1,000 acres | 302 | 287 | 266 | 248 | 236 | 221 |
| In Wetlands | 1,000 acres | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| Buffers | 1,000 acres | 107 | 105 | 101 | 97 | 95 | 88 |
| <u>Reductions (intercepted by buffers or not leaving field)**</u> | | | | | | | |
| Sediment | million tons | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 10 |
| Nitrogen | million lbs | 27 | 27 | 26 | 25 | 23 | 22 |
| Phosphorus | million lbs | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Greenhouse Gas | Mil. metric tons | | | | | | |
| Reduction ** | CO2 equivalent/yr. | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 |

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

- 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 2015, by an estimated 22 million pounds of nitrogen and 6 million pounds of phosphorus, compared to land that is cropped. Sediment losses were reduced by an estimated 10 million tons.
- Upstream CRP lands reduce downstream flood damage. Peak flows are reduced by slowing, storing, and infiltrating storm water runoff.