

# Conservation Reserve Program

CP-18B

## ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT VEGETATION TO REDUCE SALINITY

Soil Protection | Water Quality Enhancement | Wildlife Habitat



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

Establishing vegetative cover on cropland minimizes moisture evaporation and reduces the negative effects of high salinity in soil. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with practices like this to achieve many farming and conservation goals. Whatever the conservation challenge - soil conservation, water quality protection or wildlife habitat enhancement - CRP is a proven land performance and management solution.

## Why Salinity Reducing Vegetation?

Establishing a vegetative cover made up of salt tolerant grasses to lower shallow water tables below depths that can cause salt accumulation in the root zone contributes to improved overall soil health and can reduce the occurrence of saline seeps in susceptible areas. Offered in **continuous sign-up**, CP-18B:

- Reduces soil salinity
- Reduces soil erosion
- Improves water quality by reducing saline runoff and leaching
- Creates habitat for grassland and upland game birds

## Financial Benefits

### CP-18B participants are guaranteed:

- 10 years of annual rental payments
- Payments covering up to 90% of the eligible costs of establishing the practice
  - 50% from a Cost-Share Payment and
  - 40% from a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)
- Mid-Contract Management Cost Share



## Eligible Land

- Planted or considered planted 4 out of 6 years between 2008 and 2013
- Capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity
- Located in a saline seep and recharge area
- Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions

## Practice Requirements

- The practice will be maintained according to the approved conservation plan
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects and pests shall be controlled

## Owner/Operator Eligibility

Participants must:

- Have owned or operated the land for more than 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 circumstances
- Work with USDA-approved conservationist to develop a conservation plan
- Perform periodic management activities according to the conservation plan
- Complete seeding of the practice 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 2014 by an estimated 542 million pounds of nitrogen and 108 million pounds of phosphorus
- In 2014, CRP lowered greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 43 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> – the same benefits as taking nearly 8 million cars off the road for a year

*FSA will ultimately determine participant and land eligibility.*

### For More Information:

Contact your local USDA, Farm Service Agency:

<http://offices.usda.gov>