

# Conservation Reserve Program

CP-3

## TREE PLANTING

Erosion Control | Water Quality Enhancement | Carbon Sequestration



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

Softwood tree plantings benefit soil and water quality, while also providing farmers and landowners with an investment income from timber. 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 Tree Plantings?

Landowners and farmers that incorporate a stand of trees on their land can increase its value while improving the overall environment. Introducing softwoods including longleaf pine create healthier wildlife habitats, reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and capture carbon. Some trees also work to provide economic value – from timber or wood fiber – after the practice contract expires. Offered in **general sign-up** (unless in a wellhead protection area when it is eligible for **continuous sign-up**), CP-3:

- Reduces erosion protecting soil productivity
- Improves water quality
- Promotes carbon sequestration
- Produces timber providing investment income

## Financial Benefits

### CP-3 participants are guaranteed:

- 10 years of annual rental payments
- 10% Rental Rate Incentive if enrolled in a wellhead protection area
- Payments covering up to 90% of the eligible costs of establishing the tree planting practice
  - 50% from a Cost-Share Payment and
  - 40% from a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) if the practice is enrolled under wellhead protection criteria
- Mid-Contract Management Cost Share
- Additional incentives may be available in your state under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



## Eligible Land

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

## Practice Requirements

- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled
- Practice will be maintained without additional cost-share payments
- Cost share is approved to plant native grass and/or shrubs within the 10 to 20 percent openings

## 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
- 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

- Establishing pine forests is one of the most effective forest management practices for sequestering carbon
- 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>