



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program – North Dakota Riparian Project

OVERVIEW

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the State of North Dakota are partners in implementing a voluntary Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to enroll up to 20,000 acres in a portion of Adams, Billings, Bowman, Burleigh, Dunn, Emmons, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, McKenzie, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sioux, Slope and Stark counties. The North Dakota Riparian Project CREP is intended to improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, reduce the amount of sediment, phosphorous and other pollutants entering waterbodies and create and improve habitat beneficial to pollinators and other wildlife.

BACKGROUND

CREP is part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP is a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits. CRP participants establish permanent, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as “covers”) to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. CRP is authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 and was reauthorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014.

With CREP, high-priority conservation goals are identified by the state, and then federal funds are supplemented with non-federal funds to achieve those goals.

Through the North Dakota Riparian Project CREP, federal and state resources are made available to program participants to voluntarily enroll in CRP for 10-year to 15-year contracts. Participants remove cropland from agricultural production and

convert the land to riparian buffers, filter strips and native grasses and forbs. This will improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, reduce the amount of sediment, phosphorous and other pollutants entering waterbodies and improve pollinator and other wildlife habitat.

GOALS

The goals of the North Dakota Riparian Project CREP are to:

- Reduce sediments, nutrients and agricultural chemicals entering watercourses;
- Increase the number of acres enrolled in the North Dakota Game and Fish Department’s Private Land Open to Sportsman program;
- Improve habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife; and
- Create and improve pollinator habitat.

ELIGIBLE CONSERVATION PRACTICES

The following specific CRP conservation practices are available:

- CP21, Filter Strips;
- CP22, Riparian Buffer;
- CP42, Pollinator Habitat; and
- CP42B, Pollinator Habitat for Honey Bees.

ENROLLMENT AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Enrollment for the North Dakota Riparian Project CREP is on a continuous basis. To be eligible, land must be located in the project area and be cropland. Land currently or previously enrolled in CRP is not eligible for enrollment in the North Dakota Riparian Project CREP. Cropland must meet cropping history criteria and be physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

FACT SHEET

CREP - North Dakota Riparian Project

February 2017

At least 50 percent of the total acres enrolled per contract must be devoted to practice CP21 or CP22. The remaining portion of the acres enrolled, not to exceed 50 percent of the total acres enrolled, may be devoted to practice CP42 and/or CP42B.

All land enrolled in a CRP contract under the North Dakota Riparian Project CREP must also be enrolled in the North Dakota Private Land Open to Sportsman program. A minimum of 40 acres of land must be enrolled in the North Dakota Private Land Open to Sportsman program for the length of the associated CRP contract. If the total acres enrolled in a CRP contract is less than 40 acres, the producer must enroll other land into the North Dakota Private Land Open to Sportsman program to meet the 40-acre minimum requirement.

PAYMENTS

Under the North Dakota Riparian Project CREP, eligible participants may receive the following payments:

- A cost-share payment of up to 50 percent of the eligible reimbursable cost to install the approved conservation practice.
- Cost-share payments for certain management activities during the life of the CRP contract, subject to certain limitations.
- A one-time signing incentive payment (SIP) of \$100 per acre for installing practices CP21 and CP22; \$150 per acre for installing practice CP42; or \$75 per acre for installing practice CP42B. Example: 10 acres enrolled to be devoted to practice CP21 result in a \$1,000 (10 acres x \$100) SIP. This payment is made soon after the contract has been signed and approved.
- An annual rental payment consisting of:
 - o A base soil rental rate, determined by the three predominant soils of the eligible land offered; and
 - o An incentive payment, as a percentage of the base soil rental rate, of:
 - 40 percent for practices CP21 and CP22;
 - 20 percent for practice CP42; and
 - 10 percent for practice CP42B.

In addition, the State of North Dakota provides the following payments:

- A one-time incentive payment of \$100 per acre enrolled under the North Dakota Riparian Project CREP;
- A cost-share payment of up to 50 percent of eligible reimbursable cost to install the approved conservation practice;
- Cost-share payments for certain management activities during the life of the CRP contract, subject to certain limitations; and
- An annual payment for land enrolled in the North Dakota Private Land Open to Sportsman program. The amount of payment for enrollment in the North Dakota Private Land Open to Sportsman program will vary depending upon the type of habitat being enrolled.

EXAMPLES

A Slope County producer elects to enroll 10 acres of land to be devoted to a filter strip (practice CP21) in a 15-year contract. The producer enrolls the 10 acres of filter strip and an additional 40 acres located immediately adjacent to the filter strip into the North Dakota Private Land Open to Sportsman program. The base soil rental rate for the 10 acres of land to be devoted to practice CP21 is \$34 per acre. The incentive payment is \$14 per acre ($\$34 \times .40$). The producer's annual CRP rental rate will be \$48 per acre ($\$34 + \14) for a total annual payment of \$480 ($\48×10 acres). The producer will receive \$7,200 in annual CRP rental payments over the 15-year term of the CRP contract. In addition, the producer will receive a one-time SIP of \$1,000 (10 acres x \$100). The producer will receive cost-share payments equal to 100 percent of the eligible reimbursable costs to install the filter strip (50 percent from USDA and 50 percent from the State of North Dakota). In addition, the State of North Dakota will pay the producer a one-time incentive payment equal to \$1,000 (10 acres x \$100). The State of North Dakota will also provide an annual payment to the producer for the 50 acres enrolled in the North Dakota Private Land Open to Sportsman program. The North Dakota Private Land Open to Sportsmen

program payment will vary depending upon the type of habitat being enrolled.

An Emmons County producer elects to enroll 10 acres of land to be devoted to a filter strip (practice CP21) and five acres to be devoted to pollinator habitat (practice CP42) in a 15-year contract. The producer enrolls the 15 acres plus an additional 40 acres located immediately adjacent to the filter strip into the North Dakota Private Land Open to Sportsman program. The base soil rental rate for the land is \$71 per acre. The incentive payment is \$23 per acre, which is a prorated amount based on the 40 percent incentive for the 10 acres of practice CP21 and 20 percent incentive for the five acres of practice CP42. The producer's annual rental rate will be \$94 per acre (\$71 + \$23) for a total annual payment of \$1,410 (\$94 x 15 acres). The producer will receive \$21,150 in annual rental payments over the 15-year term of the CRP contract. In addition, the producer will receive a one-time SIP of \$1,750 [(10 acres x \$100) + (5 acres x \$150)]. The producer will receive cost-share payments equal to 100 percent of the eligible reimbursable costs to install the filter strip and pollinator habitat (50 percent from USDA and 50 percent from the State of North Dakota). In addition, the State of North Dakota will pay the producer a one-time incentive payment equal to \$1,500 (15 acres x \$100). The State of North Dakota will also provide an annual payment to the producer for the 55 acres enrolled in the North Dakota Private Land Open to Sportsman program. The North Dakota Private Land Open to Sportsmen program payment will vary depending upon the type of habitat being enrolled.

Note: The preceding are examples only.

ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

CREP is another option under CRP that producers may select to enhance their land. Eligible producers may still enroll eligible land in CRP through general or continuous enrollment authority; however, the North Dakota Riparian Project CREP provides additional benefits not available through the general and/or continuous enrollment. Under the North Dakota Riparian Project CREP, producers receive higher incentive payments that increase the total amount of payments received.

HAYING AND GRAZING

Haying and grazing are not allowed during the CRP contract period unless authorized by USDA. Contact your local FSA office for more information about authorized haying and grazing activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions or requirements may apply. For more information on CREP, contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>. To learn more about FSA conservation programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation.

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