

Indiana

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the State of Indiana are partners in implementing a voluntary Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to enroll up to 100,000 acres of agricultural land statewide and located within the following designated watersheds: Auglaize, Blue-Sinking, Chicago, Driftwood, Eel River (Wabash), Eel River (White), Flatrock-Haw, Highlan-Pigeon, Iroquois, Kankakee, Little Calumet-Galien, Lower East Fork White, Lower Great Miami, Lower Ohio-Little Pigeon, Lower Wabash, Lower White, Maumee, Middle Ohio- Laughery, Middle Wabash-Busseron, Middle Wabash-Deer, Middle Wabash-Little Vermillion, Mississinewa, Muscatauk, Patoka, Salamonie, Silver-Little Kentucky, St. Joseph (MI), St. Joseph (OH), St. Marys, Sugar Creek, Tippecanoe, Upper East Fork White, Upper Great Miami, Upper Wabash, Upper White River, Vermillion, Whitewater, and Wildcat Creek. The purpose of the Indiana CREP is to improve water quality by reducing sediment and nutrient runoff and enhance wildlife habitats.

Background

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.

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 Indiana CREP, federal and state resources are made available to program participants to voluntarily enroll in CRP for 14- to 15-year contracts. Participants remove sensitive and frequently flooded croplands from agricultural production and convert the land to grasses, trees, or other approved vegetation, such as filter strips, riparian buffers, and wetland areas to assist in erosion control, sediment reduction, water retention, and nutrient uptake. This will improve water quality by reducing sediment, nutrients, nitrogen and other pollutants from entering streams and rivers, and enhance wildlife habitat in the area.

Goals

The goals of the Indiana CREP include:

- protect a minimum of 4,000 linear miles of watercourses through the installation of buffer practices,
- reduce the amount of sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen entering rivers and streams in the designated watersheds by 4,900 tons/year of sediment, 4,800 lbs./year of phosphorus, and 9,400 lbs./year of nitrogen, and
- increase the acres of wetlands in the watersheds for erosion control, sediment reduction, stormwater retention, and nutrient uptake

For More Info

CREP is one option under CRP that farmers and ranchers may select to enhance their land. Eligible producers may also enroll land in CRP through the general, continuous, or grassland signups; however, CREP may provide additional benefits not available through those signup types such as higher incentive payments and longer contract lengths that increase the total amount of rental payments received.

For more information on this project, contact your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: farmers.gov/service-locator.

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Eligible Conservation Practices

The following specific CRP conservation practices are available under the Indiana CREP available:

- CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
- CP3A, Hardwood Tree Planting
- CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- CP9, Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife
- CP21, Filter Strips
- CP22, Riparian Buffer
- CP23, Wetland Restoration
- CP23A, Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain
- CP31, Bottomland Timber
- Establishment on Wetlands

Enrollment and Eligibility Requirements

Enrollment in CRP through the Indiana CREP is on a continuous basis. To be eligible, land must be located in Indiana. Land must be cropland that meets CRP land eligibility criteria to be eligible for enrollment and must be located adjacent to a body of water or located in the floodplain an agricultural commodity.

Payments

Under the Indiana CREP, eligible participants may receive the following payments:

- A one-time Signup Incentive Payment (SIP) in accordance with FSA National CRP directives.
- A one-time Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) in accordance with FSA National CRP Directives. The PIP is equal to up to 50 percent of the eligible reimbursable costs incurred for the installation of the approved practices.
- An annual rental payment consisting of:
 - ◊ A base soil rental rate, determined by the soils of the land offered
 - ◊ An incentive payment equal to 40 percent of the base rental rate without regard to other incentive payments, except for land enrolled or re-enrolled under infeasible-to-farm provisions
 - ◊ A maintenance incentive payment for practices in accordance with FSA National CRP Directives, if applicable
- A cost-share payment of up to 50 percent of the eligible cost to install the approved practice.

In addition, Indiana will offer the following payments after the practice is established:

- A one-time Clean Water Indiana incentive payment of \$100/acre for CP2, CP4D, and CP21.

- A one-time Clean Water Indiana incentive payment of \$400/acre for CP3A, CP22, and CP31.
- A one-time Clean Water Indiana incentive payment of \$950/acre for newly enrolled CP9, CP23 and CP23A.
- A one-time Clean Water Indiana incentive payment of \$400/acre for re-enrolled CP9, CP23 and CP23A.

Enrollment Options

CREP is another option under CRP that farmers and ranchers may select to enhance their land. Eligible producers may still enroll land in CRP through general or continuous signup; however, the Indiana CREP provides additional benefits not available through general and/or continuous signup. Under the Indiana CREP, producers receive higher incentive payments and longer contract lengths that increase the total amount of rental payments received.

Haying and Grazing

Contact your local FSA office for more information about authorized haying and grazing activities.

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions or requirements may apply.