

SOUTH DAKOTA CREP

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

JAMES RIVER WATERSHED

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a federal-state natural resources conservation program. Through CREP, program participants receive financial incentives from USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to voluntarily enroll in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in contracts of 10 to 15 years. Participants remove cropland and marginal pastureland from agricultural production and convert the land to native grasses and other vegetation.

The South Dakota CREP is a partnership between USDA and the state of South Dakota. The program seeks to enroll 100,000 acres within the James River watershed. The primary goals of the project are to improve water quality, soil erosion, flood control, and to enhance wildlife habitat through the establishment of permanent vegetative cover that is open to public hunting and fishing access.

CONTACT

For more information on CREP, contact your local USDA Service Center, FSA office, or Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist.

To find your local FSA county office, visit offices.usda.gov.

GENERAL BENEFITS

The South Dakota CREP provides for the establishment of buffers, grass plantings, forbs and shrubs to improve and enhance water quality in the James River watershed by reducing soil runoff, increasing ground water absorption, and reducing stream sedimentation and nutrient loading into South Dakota's waterways. Additional benefits will accrue through habitat restoration for plant and animal species and wetland restoration.

GOALS

- » Establish 15,000 acres of permanent vegetative cover adjacent to rivers and streams.
- » Provide and maintain a reduction of sediment, phosphorous, and nitrogen runoff from agricultural land previously used for row crops, as follows:
 - » by 90 percent for sediment from 80,000 tons/year to 8,000 tons/year;
 - » by 75 percent for phosphorus from 134,000 lbs/year to 33,500 lbs/year; and
 - » by 85 percent for nitrogen from 450,000 lbs/

year to 67,500 lbs/year.

- » Produce an additional 285,000 pheasants annually.
- » Contribute an additional 60,000 ducks to the fall flight annually.
- » Create 85,000 acres of permanent vegetative cover by restoring wetlands and grasslands to store water and serve as breeding habitat for migratory and resident wetland- and grassland-dependent species including bobolink, upland sandpiper, chestnut collared longspur, western meadowlark, grasshopper sparrow and savannah sparrow, dickcissel, and sedge wren.
- » Open 1,000 blocks of private land to public hunting and fishing access.

LAND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Cropland must meet cropping history criteria and be physically and legally capable of being cropped in a normal manner. Marginal pastureland along streams, watercourses, and certain upland areas may also be eligible for enrollment. In addition:

- » A minimum total block size of at least 40 acres for any one offer and contract is required to participate. The 40-acre minimum block requirement may be waived on a case by case basis, and for those producers who are considered a Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher, a Beginning Farmer or Rancher, or a Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher. The block requirement may be met by offering non CREP acres under a public hunting and fishing access agreement with South Dakota Game Fish and Parks through their State Walk-in-Area program;
- » The acreage enrolled in CREP must also be enrolled in the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Walk-In Area Program for hunting and fishing access and;
- » At least 51 percent of all land under each offer and contract must be located within the James River watershed.

Other requirements may apply. Interested producers should contact their local FSA service center for specific information regarding their eligibility for CREP.





SIGN-UP AND CONTRACT DURATION

Local FSA service centers and the state of South Dakota restarted CREP sign-up on January 11, 2021. Sign-up will continue until enrollment goals are met and as long as there is statutory authority for such enrollments. Land enrolled in the program will remain under contract for a minimum of 10 years, but no more than 15 years for all practices except CP4D.

APPROVED CONSERVATION PRACTICES

- » CP2, Establishment of Native Grasses (cropland only)
- » CP4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat (cropland only)
- » CP21 Filter Strips (cropland only)
- » CP23 Wetland Restoration, 100 Year Floodplain (cropland only)
- » CP23A Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain (cropland only)
- » CP29 Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer (cropland and marginal pastureland)
- » CP30 Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer (cropland and marginal pastureland)
- » CP37 Duck Nesting Habitat Initiative (cropland only)

USDA PAYMENTS

South Dakota CREP participants will be eligible for the following types of USDA payments subject to contract terms and certain limitations:

- » **Annual Rental Payment:** The maximum annual rental rate is based on posted CRP rental rates and is calculated as follows:
 - » For enrolled CREP acres, CCC will determine the base rental payment per acre using the weighted average soil rental rates for the three predominant soils, plus;

- » A rental incentive payment of 20% per-acre enrolled in practices CP21, CP23, CP23A, CP29, CP30, and CP37.

- » **Signing Incentive Payment:** 32.5 percent of the first full year's rental payment for crop land enrolled in practices CP21, CP23, CP23A, CP29, CP30, and CP37. This payment is made after the contract has been signed and approved. Re-enrolled CRP is not eligible for this signing incentive payment.
- » **Practice Incentive Payment:** A one-time incentive payment equal to 20 percent of the eligible reimbursable cost for the establishment of practices CP21, CP23, CP23A, CP29, CP30, and CP37.
- » **Cost-share assistance:** 50 percent cost-share of eligible reimbursable costs to install approved conservation practices.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA PAYMENTS

The state of South Dakota will provide the following payments, subject to contract terms and certain limitations:

- » An annual rental payment equal to 31 percent of the weighted-average rental rate for acres enrolled in CREP issued by USDA and;
- » A payment of 20 percent as the cost share for all reimbursable costs to install approved conservation practices.

CRP ENROLLMENT

CREP enrollment is another option that farmers may select for enrollment under CRP. Applicants may still enroll eligible land in the general CRP or continuous sign-up CRP. However, CREP provides additional benefits and economic incentives not available through general and/or continuous sign-up, including payment, through the state public recreation access program.

HAYING AND GRAZING

Haying and grazing are permitted during the CRP contract period as determined by the contract management plan.