

Kansas Upper Arkansas River

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the State of Kansas are partners in implementing a voluntary Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to enroll up to 40,000 acres of agricultural land within the Upper Arkansas River Basin and Rattlesnake Creek Sub-basin in the State of Kansas. The Upper Arkansas River CREP is intended to reduce water pollution from agricultural chemicals and sediment in the waters of Kansas in the High Plains aquifer, the Arkansas River, and its tributaries and associated alluvial aquifers.

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 Upper Arkansas River CREP, federal and state resources are made available to program participants to voluntarily enroll in CRP for 14- to 15-year contracts.

Participants remove cropland from agricultural production and convert the land to grasses, trees, or other approved vegetation. 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 Upper Arkansas River CREP include:

- To reduce the consumption of groundwater for irrigation by 65,000 acre-feet;
- To reduce the amount of soil lost to erosion by 150,000 tons per year; and
- To reduce annual electricity use by 16 million kilowatt hours

Eligible Conservation Practices

The following specific CRP conservation practices are available:

- CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
- CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- CP9, Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife
- CP21, Filter Strips
- CP23, Wetland Restoration
- CP23A, Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain
- CP43, Prairie Strips

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.

**Kansas State Office
Farm Service Agency**
3600 Anderson Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66503
Phone: (785) 539-3531
Fax: (855) 782-9609



Enrollment and Eligibility Requirements

Enrollment in CRP through the Upper Arkansas River CREP is on a continuous basis. To be eligible, cropland must be located within Kansas and at least 51% of the cropland per contract must be located within the project area. Irrigated cropland must meet cropping history criteria and have been irrigated at least one-half acre-foot per acre for three of the five years preceding its enrollment offer. It must be physically and legally able to be irrigated in a normal manner. Non-irrigated cropland must be a center-pivot corner immediately adjacent to the irrigated cropland being enrolled.

Payments

Under the Upper Arkansas River CREP, eligible participants may receive the following payments:

- A one-time signing incentive payment (SIP) in accordance with FSA National CRP directives. This payment is made soon after the contract has been approved.

- A one-time practice incentive payment (PIP) in accordance with FSA National CRP Directives. The PIP is equal to up to 5 percent of eligible reimbursable costs incurred for installation of approved practices and is considered a cost-share payment subject to limitations.
- An annual rental payment consisting of:
 - ◇ The weighted average of the non-irrigated soil rental rate and the irrigated cropland rental rate, as determined by CCC
 - ◇ A maintenance incentive payment, if applicable, in accordance with FSA National CRP Directives
- A cost-share payment of up to 50 percent of the eligible cost to install the approved practice.

In addition, the State of Kansas provides a one-time upfront payment equal to 13.5 percent of the per-acre annual rental payment times 15.

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 Upper Arkansas River CREP provides additional benefits not available through general and/or continuous signup. Under the Upper Arkansas River 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. Consult your local FSA office for details.