

# Conservation Reserve Program

CP-22

## RIPARIAN BUFFER

Water Quality Enhancement | Wildlife Habitat Enhancement | Carbon Sequestration



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

Riparian tree buffers improve water quality and provide vital habitat for wildlife. 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 Riparian Buffers?

For farmers and landowners interested in improving water quality and creating habitat for fish and wildlife, a riparian buffer - a strip of trees bordering perennial or seasonal streams, waterbodies and wetlands areas - is a beneficial solution. Offered in **continuous sign-up**, CP-22:

- Filters nutrients from runoff
- Traps sediment
- Cools water temperatures
- Stabilizes stream banks
- Sequesters Carbon

## Financial Benefits

### CP-22 participants are guaranteed:

- 10-15 years of annual rental payments with an additional 20% Rental Rate Incentive
- Payments covering up to 90% of the eligible costs of establishing the practice
  - 50% from a Cost-Share Payment and
  - 40% from a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)
- Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) up to \$100/acre
- Maintenance Rate Incentive
- Mid-Contract Management Cost Share
- Additional incentives may be available in your state under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



## Eligible Land

- Suitable for planting trees
- Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions
- Planted or considered planted 4 out of 6 years between 2008 and 2013 or meets marginal pastureland eligibility requirements
- Located immediately adjacent to and parallel to one of the following:
  - Permanent water body
  - Perennial or seasonal stream
  - Sinkhole or karst area
  - Semi-permanent or seasonally flooded area
  - Wetlands

## Practice Requirements

- Not be less than 35' and not more 100' (or 30% of the floodplain unless under certain circumstances)
- Begin at the top of the stream bank
- Consist of naturally regenerated seeded or planted trees and shrubs suitable for the site

### For More Information:

Contact your local USDA, Farm Service Agency:

<http://offices.usda.gov>

## 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/planting of the practice within 12 months of the effective date of the contract

## Proven Conservation Benefits

- An acre of buffer adjacent to cropland holds back 2.5 tons of soil, 6.4 pounds of nitrogen, and 1.1 pounds of phosphorus in runoff
- 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.*