

America's Conservation Program Turns Twenty



The Conservation Reserve Program has 20 years of impressive achievements. It prevents 450 million tons of soil from eroding each year. It has already restored 1.8 million acres of wetlands. Two million more ducks survive each year because of the natural shelter it provides. CRP is a testament to the value America's farmers and ranchers place on land stewardship. By preserving our nation's resources, CRP encompasses even more.

The rewards of farmland conservation extend well beyond farms and into our daily lives. We all depend on fresh air, clean water and an abundant, safe food supply. CRP and the related federal/state partnerships of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program help ensure protection of our basic and vital natural resources.

Through CRP's cooperative conservation, farmers and ranchers plant grasses and trees along crop fields and streams. These plantings keep soil in place to grow food for future generations. CRP stops soil and nutrients from washing into our waterways or contaminating our air.

It means we can breathe easier. Drinking water is safer for millions of people. Lakes are cleaner for swimming and fishing. And there are more fish to catch and more of other wildlife. Besides an increased number of ducks, land conservation means there are more pheasants, quail, wild turkeys, elk and pronghorn antelope. All species have better habitat, fresher water and more food.

Farmers and ranchers are doing all of this through voluntary CRP partnerships. In observing CRP's 20th anniversary, we honor these achievements and aim to help all Americans understand and appreciate CRP's far-reaching impact on our nation and our lives.

I encourage you to become acquainted with CRP by browsing this anniversary website. Read the [state-by-state success stories](#) and see how CRP participants across our vast country are using CRP to better their operations and our environment.

In its first 20 years, CRP's societal contributions have been substantial for all Americans. Think what we can achieve together during the next 20 years.

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