

# Virginia's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program



**Purpose:** CREP protects environmentally sensitive areas and improves water quality by restoring degraded wetlands and establishing vegetative buffers along streams and other eligible water bodies.

**Sign up** at your local USDA Service Center, Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

**Where Applicable:** CREP contracts of 10 or 15 years are available in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and in certain watersheds in the Southern Rivers region. Eligible land includes agricultural land adjacent to streams, intermittent streams, seeps, springs and ponds. Trees or a shrub/grass mix may be used to plant buffers. Livestock must be excluded from the buffers.

#### **Payments to Landowners:**

Landowners will receive an **annual rental payment** of up to \$100 per acre in the Chesapeake Bay watershed or up to \$90 in the Southern Rivers watersheds.

**Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP):** \$10 per acre per year for 10 years; a one-time payment disbursed after the contract is approved. (FSA)

#### **Federal Cost-Sharing:**

Fifty percent of all eligible costs of installing all practices, including watering troughs, fencing, hardwood tree planting and more. Payment is made after practices are installed.

#### **Practice Incentive Payment (PIP):**

After all practices are completely installed, the participant receives a one-time payment of 40 percent of the cost of installation. In addition, the Commonwealth of Virginia will cost-share up to an additional 25 percent, not to exceed \$300 per acre, after all practices are completed.

#### **Landowners' Responsibilities:**

Landowners will retire enrolled land from production and maintain buffers for the length of the contract period.

#### **Agency Responsibilities:**

##### **USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service:**

Provides design and supervision of installation of conservation practices.

##### **Farm Service Agency:**

Administers program and measures buffers.

##### **Virginia Department of Forestry:**

Recommends tree species. May supervise and help with tree planting.

##### **Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation:**

At landowners' request, offers a voluntary perpetual conservation easement option; \$1,000 per acre.

##### **Soil & Water Conservation District:**

Approves tax credit eligibility.

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Land Use	Minimum Widths	Maximum Width	Contract Length	Practices	Annual Rental	Sign Up Incentive Payment*	Cost-share**	Practice Incentive Payment
<b>Cropland</b>								
Grass Buffer	20'	120'	10 or 15 years	CP21	Up to \$100/Acre/Year (Chesapeake Bay) Up to \$90/Acre/Year (Southern Rivers)	\$10/Acre/Year for Up to 10 Years	50%-Federal <i>plus</i> Up to 25% State	40% of Installation Cost
Forested Buffer	35'	180'	10 or 15 years	CP22	Up to \$100/Acre/Year (Chesapeake Bay) Up to \$90/Acre/Year (Southern Rivers)	\$10/Acre/Year for Up to 10 Years	50%-Federal <i>plus</i> Up to 25% State	40% of Installation Cost
<b>Pastureland</b>								
Forested Buffer	35'	180'	10 or 15 years	CP22	Up to \$100/Acre/Year (Chesapeake Bay) Up to \$90/Acre/Year (Southern Rivers)	\$10/Acre/Year for Up to 10 Years	50%-Federal <i>plus</i> Up to 25% State	40% of Installation Cost
Grass/Forbs/ Shrubs Buffer	50'	120'	10 or 15 years	CP29	Up to \$100/Acre/Year (Chesapeake Bay) Up to \$90/Acre/Year (Southern Rivers)	\$10/Acre/Year for Up to 10 Years	50%-Federal <i>plus</i> Up to 25% State	40% of Installation Cost

\*Sign up payment for up to ten years is paid up front.

\*\* Cost shares are available to install required practices including watering facilities, tree planting, fencing, and more.

**Conservation Easements Also Available - Contact NRCS, your local Soil and Water Conservation District, or the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.**

**To sign up for CREP, contact your local NRCS or Farm Service Agency office.**

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