



Indiana Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program 2016 Annual Report



Submitted by the
Indiana State Department of Agriculture
Division of Soil Conservation
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1. Introduction

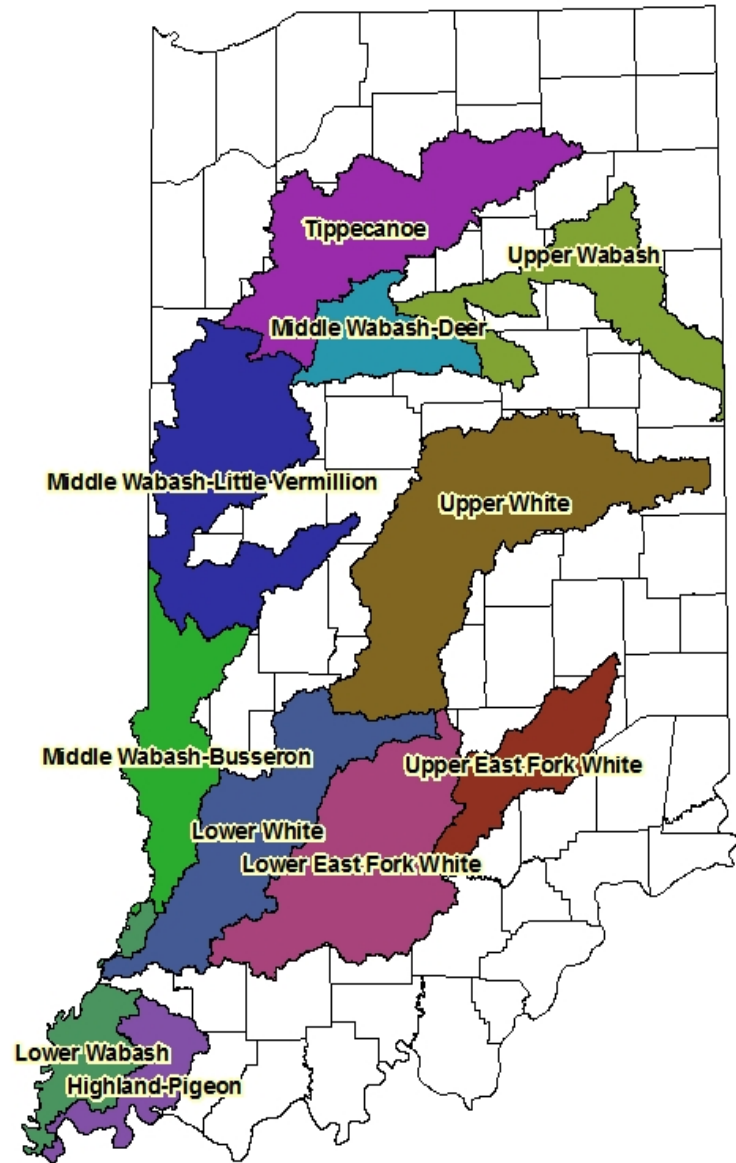
2016 marks the eleventh anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in Indiana. The program was first announced in 2005, covering three watersheds in Indiana and had an enrollment goal of 7,000 acres. The program expanded in 2010, to include eleven priority watersheds touching 65 counties (Figure 1) with an acreage enrollment goal of 26,250 acres.

CREP aims to improve water quality and address wildlife issues by reducing erosion, sedimentation and nutrients, and enhancing wildlife habitats within specified watersheds in the Wabash Watershed. It seeks to restore grass and riparian buffers and wetlands to improve water quality, as well as protect land from frequent flooding and excessive erosion by planting hardwood trees in floodplain areas along rivers and streams. CREP continues to address a major milestone of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), showcasing Indiana's progressive and meaningful implementation of conservation practices to protect Indiana's soil, water and related natural resources, and to help alleviate hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico¹.

Through CREP, program participants receive financial incentives from FSA and ISDA to voluntarily enroll in the program and implement conservation practices on environmentally sensitive land. The program operates under an Agreement between FSA and ISDA, Division of Soil Conservation (DSC), dated July 8th 2005 and amended thereafter in August of 2010 and May of 2016. ISDA administers the CREP program on behalf of the State and must submit to FSA information summarizing the status of enrollments and progress of CREP by January 1st of each year. This report fulfills this obligation.

¹ Drainage from Indiana eventually finds its way to the Gulf via the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. A fraction of nitrogen and phosphorus originating from Indiana end up in the Gulf and contributes to a low dissolved oxygen area (hypoxic zone), threatening aquatic habitats in the Gulf.

FIGURE 1. 11 CREP ELIGIBLE WATERSHEDS



Watersheds include: Highland-Pigeon, Lower Wabash, Lower East Fork White, Lower White, Middle Wabash-Busseron, Middle Wabash-Deer, Middle Wabash-Little Vermillion, Tippecanoe, Upper East Fork White, Upper Wabash and Upper White.

2. NEWLY REVISED CREP AGREEMENT

In the fall of 2015, ISDA and the FSA began working together on a revised Contract Agreement to reflect important changes to the CREP program in Indiana, and this newly revised Agreement was approved in May of 2016 and became effective immediately.

Changes to the Indiana CREP include:

- a) A rewording of the goal and objective related to the amount of sediment, phosphorus and nitrogen reduced: the goal was changed to reflect a reduction in the amount of tons for sediment and pounds for phosphorus and nitrogen instead of showing it in percentage of reduction.
- b) A reduction in the state incentive payment for re-enrolled wetland restorations to \$400 per acre. The state incentive payment for newly enrolled wetland restorations will remain at \$950 per acre. This change will allow more money to be available for newly installed wetlands. Wetland restorations are a popular conservation practice for landowners with wet, hydric soils and low-lying areas, and interest has increased since 2013 for enrolling wetlands.
- c) The removal of the one-time incentive payment to participants for enrolling permanent easements in the Tippecanoe River watershed and the Upper White River watershed. In the Tippecanoe River watershed, the change is due to the interagency agreement with TNC and IDNR expiring in April 2015 and no new agreement being extended. In the Upper White River Watershed, the change is due to ISDA no longer having specialized funding available from the Fish Kill dollars.
- d) The removal of the one-time incentive payment to participants for voluntarily enrolling a contract extension for an additional 10 years in the Tippecanoe River watershed. Since the beginning of the program, only one extension was enrolled in the Tippecanoe. There was very little interest in this incentive payment by landowners due to the fact of losing farm history eligibility.

OTHER IMPORTANT CHANGES

In September of 2015, the CREP Steering Committee made a decision to change the planning requirements for CREP filter strips (CP21). Filter strips enrolled in CREP now follow the same guidelines as filter strips enrolled in regular CRP. This provides the same wildlife benefit in both programs, and at the same time will increase the acres of enrollment in CREP. ISDA feels that this is a significant change to the Indiana CREP program because it will significantly impact the acreage enrollment percentage and the length of buffers installed on waterbodies, while continuing to positively impact water quality in rivers and streams. This is reflected by looking at the number of acres signed up as CP21 from 2011-2015 versus in 2016. From 2011 to 2015, only 99.76 acres of filter strips were signed up, however in 2016, 361.93 acres were signed up.

The CREP brochure, shown in Appendix A was revised to reflect changes in the program and is available to help with promotion and expansion. County specific pamphlets were also developed to include as inserts in the CREP brochures. An example of these county specific pamphlets is shown in Appendix B. There is also a state CREP Fact Sheet, shown in Appendix C, available for information, as well as a [CREP webpage](#) on the ISDA website.

3. Eligible Practices and Incentives

ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

The Indiana CREP offers a menu of conservation practices to address nonpoint source pollution runoff issues. Table 1 identifies the various conservation practices offered through CREP and are further discussed below. All these practices must be installed on former cropland, in other words the land must have a farming history as defined by FSA requirements. Only land that physically lies within the Highland-Pigeon, Lower Wabash, Lower East Fork White, Lower White, Middle Wabash-Busseron, Middle Wabash-Deer, Middle Wabash-Little Vermillion, Tippecanoe, Upper East Fork White, Upper Wabash, and Upper White watersheds may be enrolled in this CREP.

TABLE 1: CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND CODES ELIGIBLE WITHIN CREP

Conservation Practice	Practice Code
Permanent Native Grass	CP2
Hardwood Tree Planting	CP3A
Permanent Wildlife Habitat, Non-easement	CP4D
Riparian Buffer	CP22
Filter Strips	CP21
Wetland Restoration	CP23
Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain	CP23A
Bottomland Timber Establishment	CP31

Practices **CP2**, **CP3A**, **CP4D**, **CP22** and **CP21** must be installed on former cropland adjacent to an eligible stream, river or water body and meet additional requirements.

BUFFER REQUIREMENTS:

CP2 – minimum average width of 50 feet and a maximum width of 120 feet (up to 300 feet in alluvial soils)

CP21 – minimum average width of 35 feet and a maximum width of 120 feet (up to 300 feet in alluvial soils)

CP3A, **C4D** and **CP22** – minimum average width of 35 feet and a maximum width of 180 feet (up to 300 feet in alluvial soils)

CP23, **CP23A** and **CP31** are not required to be adjacent to a stream, river or waterbody; however, **CP 23** and **CP31** are required to be located in the 100-yr floodplain.

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

CREP provides financial incentives to landowners through both state and federal contributions. Through CREP, eligible Indiana participants who establish one of the

prescribed conservation practices receive cost-share and rental payments as outlined below. All Contracts within the CREP program are 14-15 year contracts.

FEDERAL INCENTIVES

- **Cost-share Assistance:** Cost-share for practice installation based on a flat rate determined by FSA, and for wetland restorations, 50% of engineering design estimate.
- **Annual Rental Payment:** An annual payment for the life of the contract. The payment consists of the sum of three components:
 - **Base Soil Rental Rate:** Determined by calculating the normal CRP weighted average soil rental rate for the three predominant soil types using the current posted applicable local soil rental rates for cropland.
 - **Incentive Payment** of 40% of the base rental rate without regard to other incentive payments for all practices offered and eligible for CREP.
 - **Annual Maintenance Payment** according to regular continuous CRP enrollments.
- **Signing Incentive Payment (SIP):** A one-time payment of \$100 per acre for new land enrolled in **CP21, CP22, CP23, CP23A** and **CP 31**. This payment may be made after the contract has been signed and is approved.
- **Practice Incentive Payment (PIP):** A one-time payment equal to 40% of the eligible reimbursable cost to establish **CP21, CP22, CP23, CP23A** and **CP31**.

STATE INCENTIVES

After practice installation, participants receive a one-time payment from Clean Water Indiana (CWI) equal to:

- \$100 per acre for land enrolled or re-enrolled in Native Grasses (**CP2**), Wildlife Habitat (**CP4D**) or Filter Strips (**CP21**).
- \$400 per acre for land enrolled or re-enrolled in Hardwood Tree Planting (**CP3A**), Riparian Buffer (**CP22**), or Bottomland Timber Establishment (**CP31**).
- \$950 per acre for land newly enrolled in Wetland Restorations (**CP23** or **CP23A**).
- \$400 per acre for land re-enrolled in Wetland Restorations (**CP23** or **CP23A**).

A chart showing the eligible practices and requirements, and the financial incentives is attached in Appendix D.

4. CREP Goals and Accomplishments

There are many partners involved with the promotion, administration, technical assistance and funding of CREP in order to meet and work toward the goals and objectives of the program. Our CREP partners include FSA, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), and the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB), all of which are a part of the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP). CREP is one of the top priorities of this partnership. The SSCB provides policy and funding direction to the ISDA, DSC on the administration of the Clean Water Indiana (CWI) program, which funds the state incentives for the CREP program. These partners as well as the staff within the ISDA, Division of Soil Conservation help to carry out the CREP program in Indiana.

In the written Agreement between FSA and ISDA the goals and objectives of the program are stated as:

- Protect a minimum of 3,000 linear miles of watercourses through the installation of conservation buffer practices
- Reduce the amount of sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen entering rivers and streams in the designated watersheds by 2,450 tons per year of sediment, 2,400 pounds per year of phosphorus, and 4,700 pounds per year of nitrogen.
- Increase the acres of wetlands in the watersheds for erosion control, sediment reduction, storm water retention, and nutrient uptake.
- Enroll 15% of the eligible watersheds' cropland subject to normal CRP acreage limits by county
- Seek enrollment of 26,250 acres of eligible cropland, including frequently flooded agricultural lands, and restorable wetlands.

LINEAR MILES OF PROTECTION ON WATERCOURSES

As of December 20, 2016 more than \$3.79 million in State funds have been awarded to CREP participants, representing more than 10,430 completed acres (Table 4). Approximately, 600 linear miles of watercourses are currently protected through the installation of these conservation buffer practices. This is 20% of the goal to protect 3,000 linear miles of watercourses in the targeted CREP watersheds. Table 2 lists the total length of buffers that have been installed since 2005 when CREP began in Indiana.

TABLE 2: CONSERVATION BUFFER LENGTHS

2005-2010	2010 - current	Total
2,627,367 feet	542,412 feet	3,169,779 feet
		600.34 linear miles

SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENT LOAD REDUCTIONS THROUGH CREP

The CREP program actively continues to work toward the goal of reducing the amount of sediments and nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen into the rivers and streams within the designated watersheds by applying buffers, planting trees and restoring wetlands. The DSC uses the Region 5 Sediment and Nutrient Load Reduction Model developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to estimate the sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus

load reductions from individual best management practices installed on the ground. To date, CREP leaders apply this model to each conservation practice installed through the CREP to estimate the positive effects of the practice on water quality. This data continues to be gathered and provides cumulative information on the efficiency of CREP.

Under the newly revised CREP Agreement with FSA, the goal to reduce sediment and nutrients was revised to include a yearly goal of tons of sediment reduced and pounds of phosphorus and nitrogen reduced. Table 3 below shows the sediment and nutrient load reductions for the CREP practices that were installed in 2016, as well as the overall benefits of the nutrient load reductions since the project’s inception. The yearly nutrient load reduction goals in the CREP Agreement were surpassed in 2016 by 262% for sediment, 342% for phosphorus, and 346% for nitrogen.

TABLE 3: ESTIMATED NUTRIENT LOAD REDUCTIONS IN CREP WATERSHEDS

Year	Sediment (Tons)	Phosphorus (lbs.)	Nitrogen (lbs.)
2016	6,418	8,218	16,289
Overall	23,723	24,474	47,798

*‘Overall’ refers to the total sediment and nutrient load reductions since the project’s inception.

WETLANDS

One of the CREP objectives is to increase the acres of wetlands in the watersheds for erosion control, sediment reduction, storm water retention, and nutrient uptake. In order to facilitate more enrollment of this conservation practice, wetland design requirements were changed in 2013. This revision allowed for a greater number of smaller sites to become eligible for



Benefits of wetlands include erosion control, sediment reduction, storm water retention and nutrient uptake.

wetland restoration in CREP, many of which are in heavily tiled drainage areas, a key distinction of CREP wetland restorations. It also has allowed for already established wetlands to be enrolled in CREP, creating continued improvements in water quality.

Since the changes to the wetland design requirements in 2013, the program has installed 856 acres of wetland restorations, with an enrollment of 1,757.8 acres. In 2016, 254 acres of wetland restorations were completed, as well as a large increase in the enrollment of wetlands. There are 809.7 acres that were enrolled in 2016 with approximately 771 acres planned for future installation.

ACREAGE ENROLLMENT

A main goal of the CREP program in Indiana is to enroll 26,250 acres of eligible cropland including frequently flooded agricultural lands, and restorable wetlands. Table 4 shows to date a summary of the total number of acres per practice that have been installed within the CREP watersheds, and the acres of enrollment into the program that have not yet been established. To date, there are 12,983.68 acres that have been enrolled, which is 49.46% of the acreage enrollment goal and a 10% increase in acreage enrollment than at this time last year.

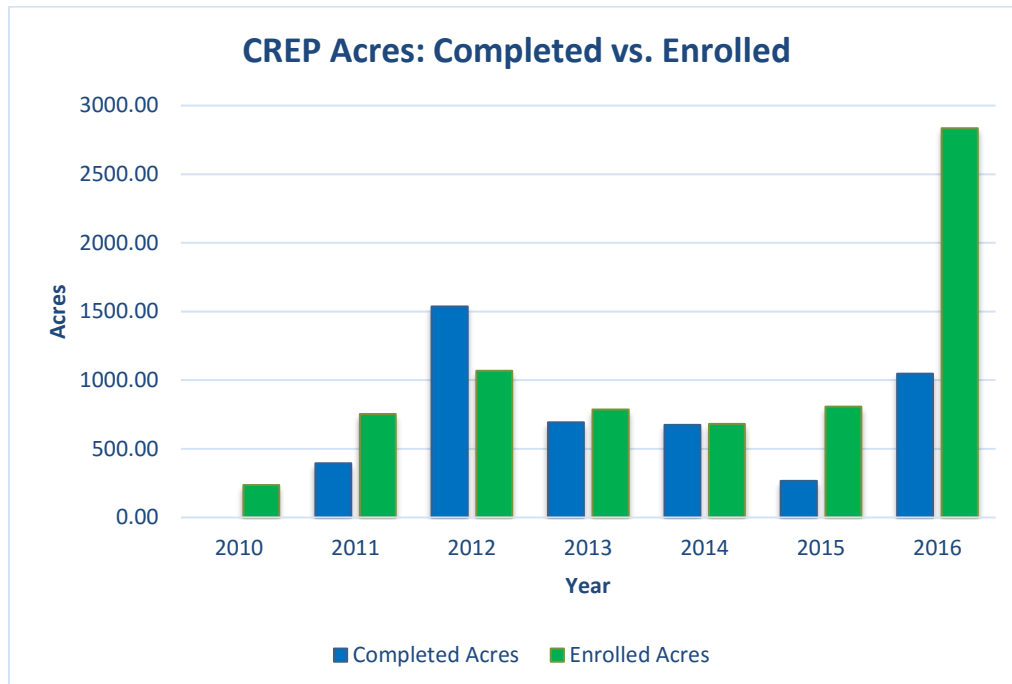
2016 saw a tremendous growth in enrollment in the Indiana CREP by interested landowners with 2,834.80 acres enrolled. This is 2,026 acres more than in 2015.

TABLE 4: TOTAL ACREAGE OF COMPLETION AND ENROLLMENT TO DATE

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP2	CP4D	CP21	CP3A	CP22	CP31	CP23	CP23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Total CREP Completion	182.23	14.0	3822.2	17.20	533.79	3,946.89	394.70	1,523.11	10,434.14
Total CREP Enrollment	209.89	14.0	3979.6	33.04	542.29	5,419.11	827.85	1,957.89	12,983.68

* CREP Completion refers to those projects where conservation practices have been installed.

FIGURE 2: COMPLETED ACRES VS. ENROLLED ACRES FROM 2010-2016



5. Completed Practices and Acres

In 2016, landowners installed or re-enrolled a variety of conservation practices offered through CREP. Table 5 provides a look at the practice acreage that was completed in 2016. These acres contribute to the total completed acres to date that are listed in Table 4.

TABLE 5: 2016 COMPLETED PRACTICES*

Completed Practices* (in acres)							
	CP2	CP21	CP22	CP31	CP23	CP23A	Total
2016	8.83	212.12	167.58	404.53	171.90	82.22	1,047.18

* Completed practices are those projects where conservation practices have been installed.

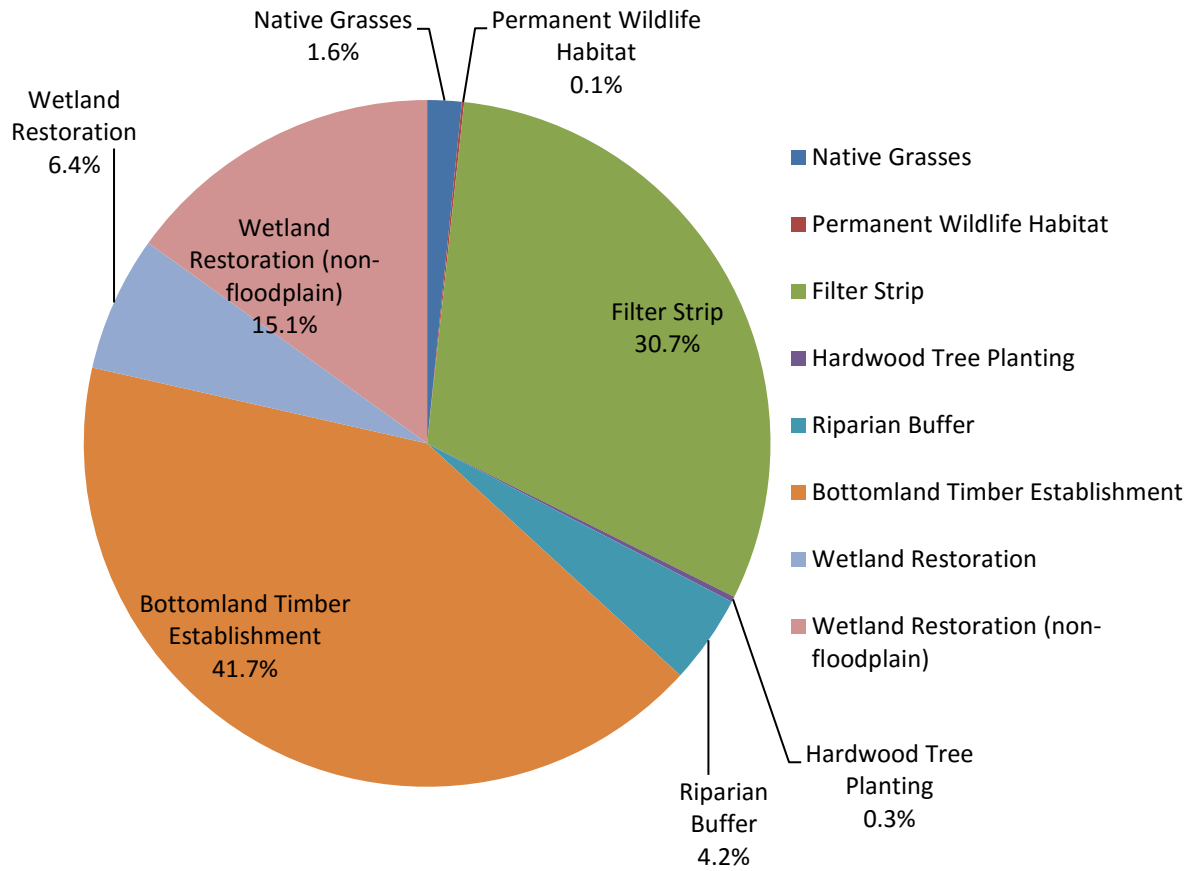
** There were no CP3A or CP4D practices installed in 2016.

Table 6 provides a detailed listing of the practices and acres that have been completed and enrolled in each CREP watershed since the beginning of the program, and Figure 3 illustrates the overall percentage of these conservation practices. Two of the three original watersheds (Tippecanoe, and Upper White) still dominate the number of acres enrolled in CREP over the other nine watersheds.

TABLE 6: ENROLLED ACREAGE BY PRACTICE AND WATERSHED AS OF DECEMBER 20, 2016

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP2	CP4D	CP21	CP3A	CP22	CP31	CP23	CP23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Highland-Pigeon	2.5	0.0	215.0	10.8	19.5	209.10	0.0	0.0	456.90
Lower Wabash	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	454.69	0.0	0.0	454.69
Lower East Fork White	33.5	7.0	0.0	5.4	41.1	567.80	0.0	0.0	654.80
Lower White	10.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	58.86	465.48	0.0	0.0	535.04
Middle Wabash-Busseron	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	700.49	0.0	0.0	700.49
Middle Wabash-Deer	6.6	0.0	5.8	0.0	0.0	52.49	0.0	0.0	64.89
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	145.71	171.90	36.80	358.91
Tippecanoe	89.5	0.0	2,996.8	0.0	11.21	41.8	195.00	1,397.29	4,731.59
Upper East Fork White	0.0	0.0	38.54	0.0	24.7	74.16	0.0	0.0	137.40
Upper Wabash	12.53	7.0	93.59	0.0	0.0	162.96	27.80	43.32	347.20
Upper White	22.40	0.0	472.5	1.0	378.42	1,072.21	0.0	45.70	1,992.23
Total Completed	182.23	14.0	3,822.2	17.2	533.79	3,946.89	394.70	1,523.11	10,434.14
Total Enrolled	209.89	14.0	3,979.6	33.04	542.29	5,419.11	827.85	1,957.89	12,983.68

FIGURE 3: PERCENTAGE OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES ENROLLED IN CREP



6. Financial Contributions and State Match

The CREP Agreement states that Indiana shall contribute at least 20% of the overall annual in-kind services and direct program costs. This section will provide information on how Indiana is meeting this obligation.

INDIANA'S DIRECT PROGRAM COSTS FOR CREP

The ISDA, Division of Soil Conservation (DSC) maintains 10 CREP Leaders, who are located throughout the state, as shown in Figure 4 below, to provide technical assistance to landowners, create conservation plans and oversee daily CREP activities. These CREP Leaders work with landowners/participants to enroll them in the program which provides state financial incentives to establish one of the eligible and prescribed conservation practices. In 2016, the state paid out \$482,810.50 in direct payments to participants for installation of practices (Table 7).

In an effort to streamline the payment process, the CREP Program Manager works closely with 10 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to help administer funds to participants. Figure 4 outlines the 10 counties that are the Administrating SWCDs. The State paid more than \$48,000 in administrative fees to partnering SWCDs in 2016, which is considered to be a part of the overall 20% contribution (Table 7).

FIGURE 4: ISDA CREP LEADERS AND SWCD ADMINISTRATORS

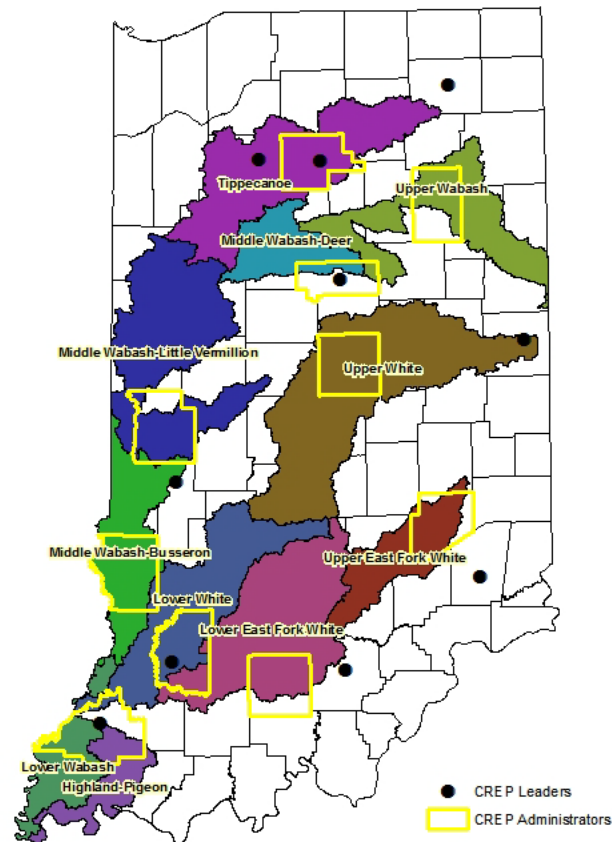


TABLE 7: SUMMARY OF STATE FUNDS FOR COMPLETED PRACTICES IN 2016

	CP2	CP21	CP22	CP31	CP23	CP23A	Practices Total	Admin fees	Total
paid in 2016	\$883.00	\$21,212.00	\$67,032.00	\$161,812.00	\$163,305.00	\$68,566.50	\$482,810.50	\$48,281.05	\$531,091.55

INDIANA’S IN-KIND SERVICES TO CREP

As mentioned above DSC maintains 10 CREP Leaders to provide technical assistance to landowners, create conservation plans and oversee daily CREP activities in their specified watersheds. Also, the CREP & Water Quality Initiatives Program Manager handles all aspects of the program and provides technical expertise and critical decision-making, and the DSC Director provides overall supervision and assistance in decision-making. Additionally, the Program Manager of Accountability and Technology provides CREP related duties as needed. DSC Resource Specialists, located throughout the state, also accommodate seasonal workload and marketing opportunities within CREP. The DSC’s staff time contributes to the overall in-kind services.

State partners, such as the SSCB and IDNR also contribute to the state’s overall 20% contribution through administration, program costs on easements, and staff time.

Table 8 shows a detailed summary of the direct program costs and the in-kind services provided by the state and its partners. According to the federal total given by the Indiana FSA, the state’s contribution for 2016 figures out to be 24.9%.

TABLE 8: INDIANA’S OVERALL ANNUAL DIRECT PROGRAM COSTS AND IN-KIND MATCH

Direct Program Costs from CWI	2015 Total
State Funds for Practice Costs to Participants	\$482,810.50
SWCD Administrative Fees	\$48,281.05
State In-Kind Match	
CREP Program Manager and 2 State office staff	\$62,355.15
10 CREP Leaders	\$113,265.23
Resource Specialist Time	\$1,897.50
SSCB	\$1,050
SWCD County Administrators Time	\$10,080
Steering Committee	\$440
DNR (plan development and easement processing time, and CREP promotion through HRI)	\$3,000
Development of Promotional Materials	\$523.89
Total	\$723,703.32
Federal Total	\$2,908,621.00
State In-Kind Match (%)	24.9%

7. The Future of CREP in Indiana

ISDA and DNR continue to promote the mutually beneficial, Interagency Agreement to promote DNR's Healthy Rivers Initiative (HRI) and CREP. This collaboration includes the hiring of a Conservation Program Specialist who focuses on promoting HRI and CREP and increasing acres enrolled in either program, in the Sugar Creek and Muscatatuck watersheds in the Middle Wabash and East Fork River watersheds.

This is an exciting time to be involved in conservation in Indiana. ISDA is proud to be playing a key role in expanding CREP, and expanding opportunities for landowners while improving the environment.

ISDA would like to thank the efforts of our many partners in conservation who supported CREP in Indiana during its inception and continue to support this program. We realize that without the support of the SSCB, FSA, CWI and all of our conservation partners, the success of this program would not be possible.



Natural Resources Conservation Service



INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF soil and water conservation DISTRICTS



Indiana's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



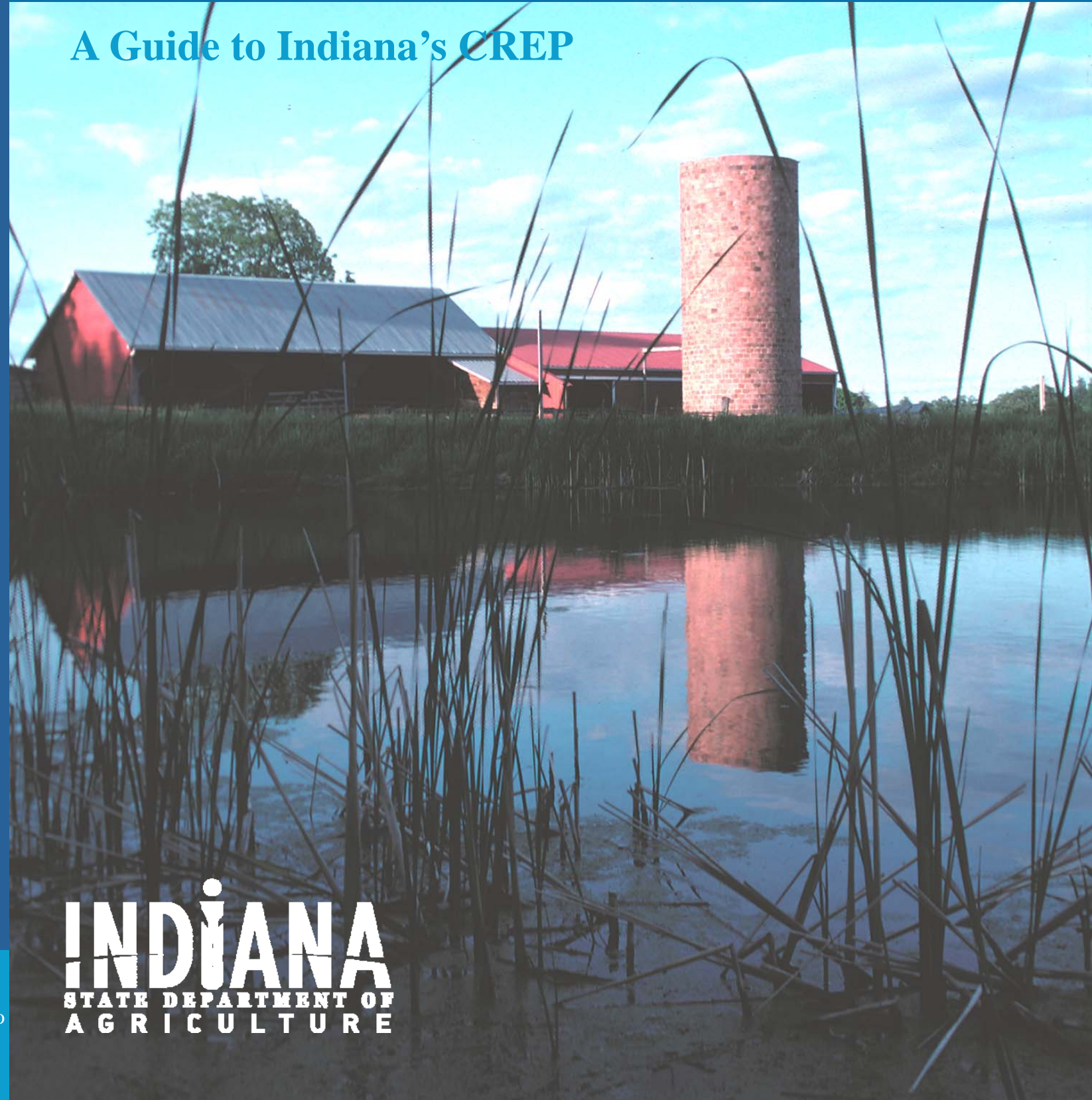
PURDUE EXTENSION

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

The Nature Conservancy

SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

A Guide to Indiana's CREP



Federal

- Cost Share: Based on a current FSA cost-share plan (flat rate or % cost) as determined by FSA for eligible reimbursable practice establishment costs.
- Practice Incentive Payment: A one-time payment equal to 40% of the eligible installation for CP-21, CP-22, CP23, CP23A and CP-31
- Signing Incentive Payment: A one-time payment of \$100/acre for newly enrolled CP-21, CP-22, CP23, CP23A and CP-31.
- Annual Rent Payment:
 - Payment for normal maximum CRP weighted average soil rental rate for the three predominant soil types using the current posted applicable local soil rental rates for cropland offers. Marginal pastureland rates are calculated using applicable local marginal pasture land rental rates in accordance with FSA national CRP directives.
 - Incentive payment of 40% of the base rental rate without regard to other incentive payments ("infeasible to farm" acres are not eligible for incentive payments).
 - A maintenance fee equal to the terms of FSA national CRP directives, if applicable.

State

- A one-time Clean Water Indiana Incentive payment of \$100/acre for CP-2, CP-4D and CP-21.
- A one-time Clean Water Indiana Incentive payment of \$400/acre for CP-3A, CP-22, and CP-31.
- A one time Clean Water Indiana Incentive payment of \$950/acre for newly enrolled CP-23 and CP-23A.
- A one time Clean Water Indiana Incentive payment of \$400/acre for re-enrolled CP-23 and CP-23A.



"It kind of rounds out our whole approach to farming as a way to both benefit the environment and produce quality food."

Rodney Rulon
Hamilton County

"For new or existing contracts, it is a nice added incentive; 20% bonus on the normal payment for filter strips."

George A. Tebbe
Tipton County



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For More Information
Contact your local FSA office or local Soil and Water Conservation District office. Additional information is also found on FSA's Website: www.fsa.usda.gov and ISDA's website: www.in.gov/isda

INDIANA

STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

What is CREP?

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a federal-state natural resources conservation program that addresses agricultural-related environmental concerns at the state and national level. CREP participants receive financial incentives to voluntarily enroll in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in contracts for 14 to 15 years. Participants remove cropland from agricultural production and convert the land to native grasses, wetlands, trees and other vegetation.

What is the Indiana CREP?

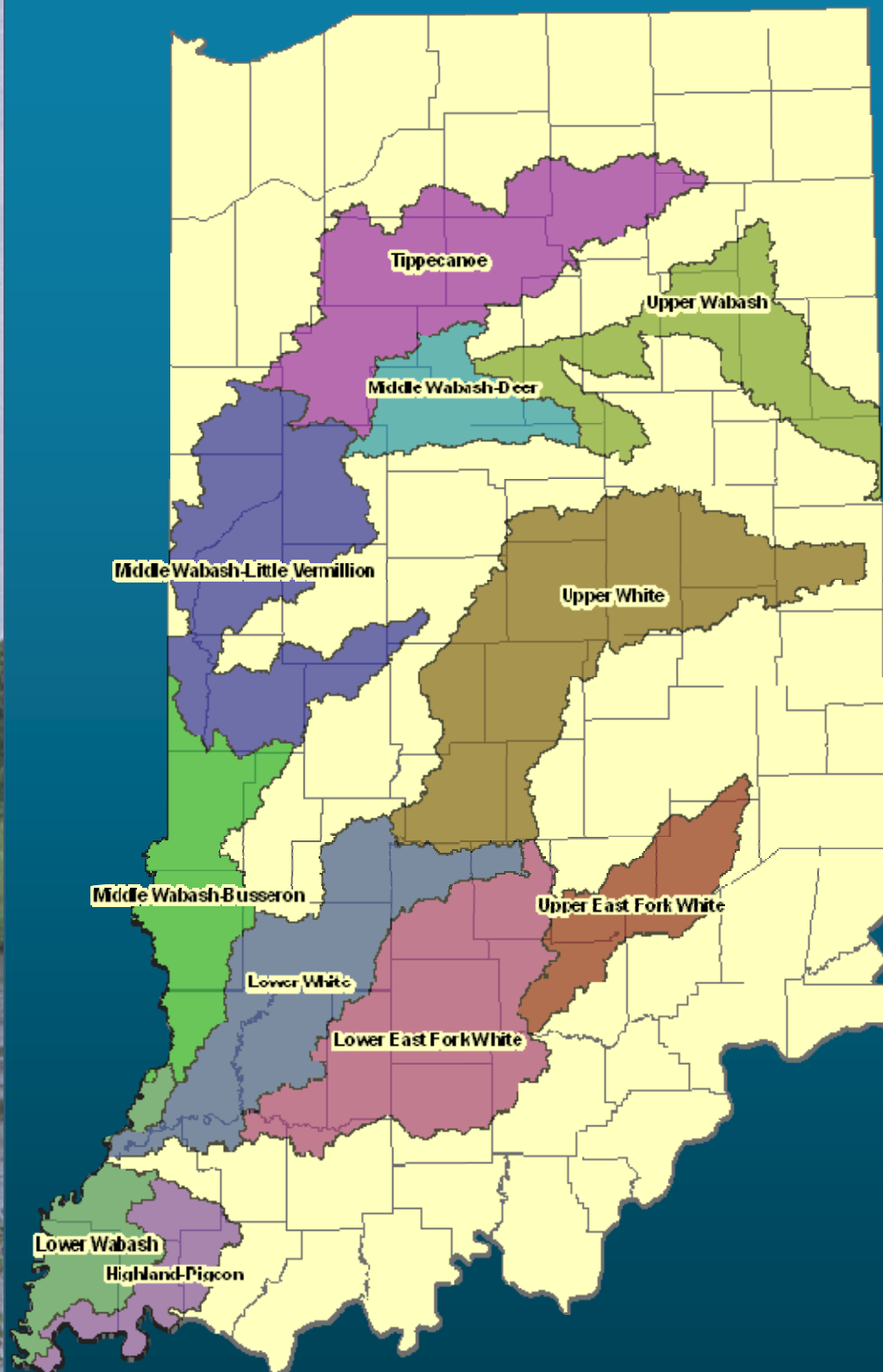
The Indiana CREP is a partnership between USDA and the State of Indiana. The program, first announced in 2005, was originally slated to enroll 7,000 acres of eligible land within three watersheds. The 2010 expansion now covers 11 watersheds and is slated to enroll 26,250 acres.

What are the Potential Benefits of the Indiana CREP?

CREP is designed to help alleviate some of the concerns of high nonpoint source sediment, nutrient, pesticide and herbicide losses from agricultural lands by restoring buffers and wetlands to improve water quality.

Photos courtesy of USDA-NRCS, IDEM, ISDA Staff, and ISDA Photo Contest Submissions

CREP Watersheds



All or a portion of the following counties are eligible for CREP

Adams, Allen, Bartholomew, Benton, Boone, Brown, Carroll, Cass, Clay, Daviess, Decatur, Delaware, Dubois, Fountain, Fulton, Gibson, Grant, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Henry, Howard, Huntington, Jackson, Jasper, Jay, Jennings, Johnson, Knox, Kosciusko, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Martin, Miami, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Noble, Orange, Owen, Parke, Pike, Posey, Pulaski, Putnam, Randolph, Rush, Shelby, Starke, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Vanderburgh, Vermillion, Vigo, Wabash, Warren, Warrick, Washington, Wells, White, and Whitley

Wetlands Restoration CP23, CP23A



- Restores the functions and values of wetlands
- Removes nutrients and sediments, allows for denitrification
- Attracts waterfowl species native to Indiana

Native Grasses CP2



- Buffer area filters out sediments and nutrients prior to entering waterway
- Attracts species native to Indiana
- May be used for managed and emergency haying and grazing as authorized

Wildlife Habitat CP4D



- Enhances wildlife for hunting or enjoyment
- Buffer area filters out sediments and nutrients prior to entering waterway
- Attracts species native to Indiana

- Removes nutrients, sediments, organic matter, and other pollutants
- Provides a buffer area around waterways
- Protects water quality while enhancing the ecosystem of the water body

Filter Strip CP21



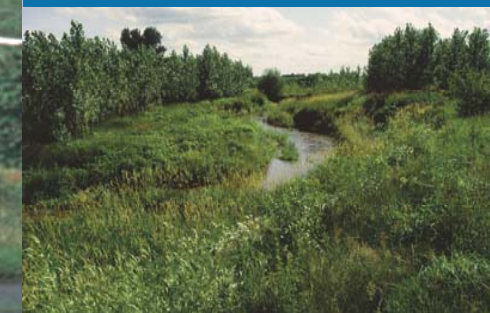
Hardwood Trees CP3A



- Roots help control surface erosion
- Reduce water, air, and land pollution
- Promotes carbon sequestration
- Provides buffer area along waterways

- Creates a shady area around a waterway, allowing for cooler water temperatures to improve aquatic habitat
- Removes nutrients, sediments, organic matter and other pollutants

Riparian Buffers CP22



Bottomland Timber CP31



- Restores the functions and values of a forested wetland
- Roots help control surface erosion
- Promotes carbon sequestration

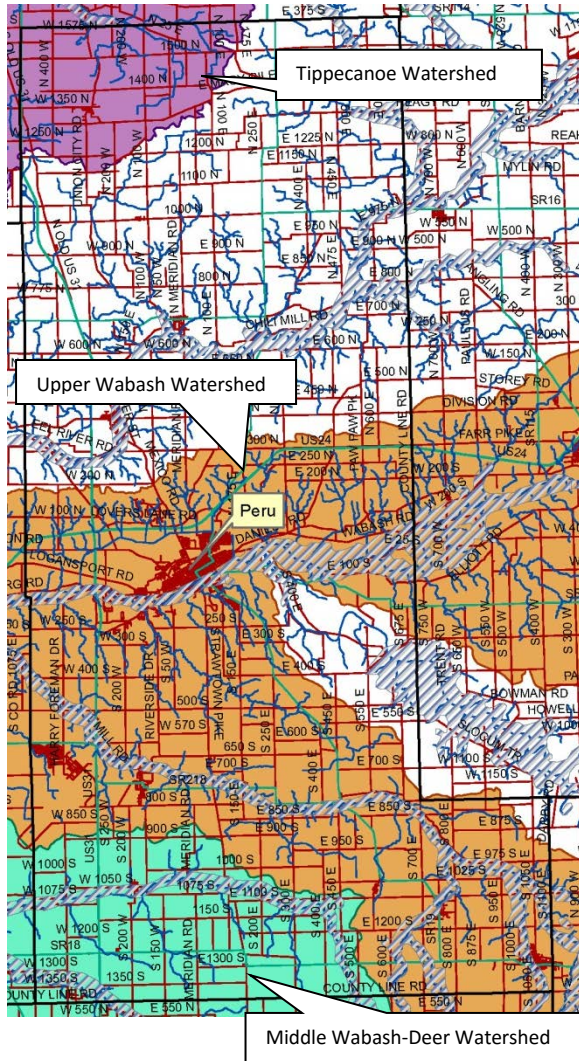
What CREP Means for You:

- Landowner maintains ownership rights to enrolled land.
- Enrolling in CREP does not allow the general public access to your property.
- Landowners may use the land for recreational activities such as hunting and fishing, and may charge guests for these activities providing the activity does not interfere with the Conservation Plan of Operation.
- Once the Federal contract expires, trees can be harvested under the state contract if a Forest Stewardship Plan/Reforestation Plan has been written.



CREP in Miami County

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program - Upper Wabash, Tippecanoe & Middle Wabash-Deer Watersheds



Who Qualifies?

Owners of agricultural land along any stream, creek, or floodplain in the Upper Wabash, Tippecanoe or Middle Wabash-Deer Watershed.

What Conservation Practices are Eligible?

- Filter Strips
- Riparian Buffers
- Native Grass Plantings
- Habitat Buffers
- Wildlife Habitat
- Hardwood Tree Plantings
- Bottomland Timber*
- Wetland Restorations*

*Practices Eligible in the 100-yr flood plain.

CREP Program builds on FSA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) cost-share and annual soil rental rate payments and owners are given **EXTRA** incentives from the Indiana State Department of Agriculture for implementing conservation practices.

CREP Program Contacts

Heath Hurst, Resource Specialist & Upper Wabash CREP Leader, Indiana State Department of Agriculture
Cell:(317) 800-1700 hhurst@isda.in.gov

Ed Sprunger, acting Miami County District Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Office: (765) 473-6753 ext. 3 ed.sprunger@in.usda.gov

Katrina Miller, Miami County CED, Farm Service Agency
Office: (765) 473-6753 ext. 2 katrina.miller@in.usda.gov

Why are *CREP* conservation practices a good **ECONOMIC** decision?



It helps farmers and landowners get some economic return through annual soil rental rate payments on agricultural land more prone to flooding, drowned out crops, highly erodible soils, and stream bank erosion. It helps to protect our surface water resources which support many American livelihoods. It will help to protect against future regulation from federal environmental agencies.

Why are *CREP* conservation practices a good **RECREATIONAL** decision?

Practices attract native Indiana wildlife by providing habitat along streams, creeks and ditches. Increased wildlife populations are good for hunting or enjoyment.

Why are *CREP* conservation practices a good **environmental STEWARDSHIP** decision?

It helps to protect the aquatic ecosystem for aquatic life in our streams, creeks, and ditches by reducing sediment and nutrient loading from surface water runoff. It helps to mitigate the hypoxic dead zone that develops in the Gulf of Mexico caused by nutrient and sediment loading coming from the Mississippi River Basin. It helps to provide habitat for native Indiana wildlife.

Cost-Share Payments*	Rate	Example
<i>State Incentive</i>	\$100/ac.	1.9 ac. x \$100/ac. = \$190
<i>FSA Flat Rate Cost-Share*</i>	\$100/ac.	1.9 ac. x \$100/ac. = \$190
<i>FSA Sign-up Incentive⁺</i>	\$100/ac.	1.9 ac. x \$100/ac. = \$190
<i>FSA Practice Incentive⁺</i>	40% el C	0.4 x 2 x (\$190) = \$152
Total Cost-Share		\$722

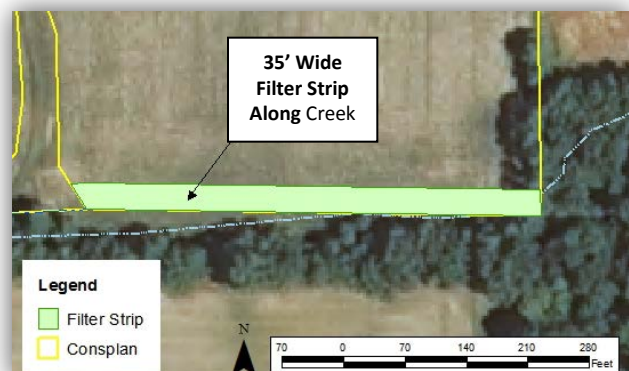
CREP FILTER STRIP CASE EXAMPLE:
Farmer Yancy installs a 35' wide filter strip along a creek that is adjacent to his farm field. The filter strip he wants to install has a total acreage of 1.9 ac.

Annual Soil Rental Rate Payment	Rate
FSA Base Soil Rental Rate**	\$210
FSA 40% CREP Incentive**	\$84
\$294 rental rate per year	
with 1.9 ac. = ~\$560 per year	

*Cost-share payments vary for different CREP practices.

**Based on a common Indiana Soil Rental Rate Weighted Average, actual rental rates will vary depending on soil types.

+Incentive is ONLY eligible for new CRP/CREP enrollments.



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

FACT SHEET



Overview

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the State of Indiana have expanded the existing Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The Program, first announced in 2005, was originally slated to enroll 7,000 acres of eligible land within three watersheds touching 29 counties. The program is now expanded into 11 total watersheds touching 65 counties, with a total acreage goal of 26,250 acres.

CREP is a federal-state natural resource conservation program. Its purpose is to address water quality and wildlife issues by reducing sediment and nutrient runoff and enhancing wildlife habitats. Through CREP, program participants receive financial incentives from USDA and the State of Indiana to voluntarily enroll in the program for 14 to 15 years.

Benefits

CREP is designed to help alleviate some of the concerns of high nonpoint source sediment, nutrient, pesticide and herbicide losses from agricultural lands by restoring buffers and wetlands to improve water quality.

Goals

The overall goals of the Indiana CREP are to provide producers in the State an opportunity to voluntarily restore filter strips, riparian buffers and wetland areas through financial aid and technical assistance. These practices will assist in erosion control, sediment reduction, water retention, and nutrient uptake.

Specific goals include:

- protect a minimum of 3,000 linear miles of watercourses through the installation of buffer practices
- reduce amount of sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen entering rivers and streams in the designated watersheds by 2,450 tons/year of sediment, 2,400 lbs/year of phosphorus, and 4,700 lbs/year of nitrogen
- increase the acres of wetlands in the watersheds for erosion control, sediment reduction, stormwater retention, and nutrient uptake
- enroll 15 percent of eligible watersheds' cropland subject to normal CRP acreage limits by county; and
- enroll 26,250 acres of eligible cropland including frequently flooded agricultural lands and restorable wetlands.

Eligible Watershed Areas in Indiana:

Highland-Pigeon

Lower Wabash

Lower East Fork White

Lower White

Middle Wabash-Busseron

Middle Wabash-Deer

Middle Wabash-Vermillion

Tippecanoe River

Upper East Fork White

Upper Wabash

Upper White

The CREP is open to all or a portion of the following counties:

Adams, Allen, Bartholomew, Benton, Boone, Brown, Carroll, Cass, Clay, Daviess, Decatur, Delaware, Dubois, Fountain, Fulton, Gibson, Grant, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Henry, Howard, Huntington, Jackson, Jasper, Jay, Jennings, Johnson, Knox, Kosciusko, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Martin, Miami, Monroe, Morgan, Montgomery, Noble, Orange, Owen, Parke, Pike, Posey, Pulaski, Putnam, Randolph, Rush, Shelby, Starke, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Vanderburgh, Vermillion, Vigo, Wabash, Warren, Warrick, Washington, Wells, White, and Whitley.

Interested producers should contact their local FSA or Soil and Water Conservation Office for specific information regarding eligibility.

Conservation Practices

Specific conservation practices have been identified to meet the program goals. For enrollment, the following practices are offered:

- CP-2 Permanent Native Grasses
- CP-3A Hardwood Tree Planting
- CP-4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat, Non-easement
- CP-21 Filter Strips
- CP-22 Riparian Buffer
- CP-23 Wetland Restoration
- CP-23A Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain
- CP-31 Bottomland Timber Establishment

Sign –up and Eligibility Requirements

Enrollment is anytime throughout the year. Cropland must meet CRP land eligibility criteria to be eligible for enrollment.

CREP Incentives

- Cost Share: Based on a current FSA cost-share plan (flat rate or % cost) as determined by FSA for eligible reimbursable practice establishment costs.
- Practice Incentive Payment: A one-time payment equal to 40% of the eligible installation costs for CP-21, CP-22, CP23, CP23A and CP-31.
- Signing Incentive Payment: A one-time payment of \$100/acre for newly enrolled CP-21, CP-22, CP23, CP23A and CP-31.
- Annual Rental Payment:
 - Payment for normal maximum CRP weighted average soil rental rate for the three predominant soil types using the current posted applicable local soil rental rates for cropland offers. Marginal pastureland rates are calculated using applicable local marginal pasture land rental rates in accordance with FSA national CRP directives.
 - Incentive payment of 40% of the base rental rate without regard to other incentive payments (“infeasible to farm” acres are not eligible for incentive payments).
 - A maintenance fee equal to the terms of FSA national CRP directives, if applicable.

In addition, Indiana will offer the following payments:

- A one-time Clean Water Indiana Incentive payment of \$100/acre for CP-2, CP-4D, and CP-21.
- A one-time Clean Water Indiana Incentive payment of \$400/acre for CP-3A, CP-22, and CP-31.
- A one-time Clean Water Indiana Incentive payment of \$950/acre for newly enrolled CP-23 and CP-23A.
- A one-time Clean Water Indiana Incentive payment of \$400/acre for re-enrolled CP-23 and CP-23A.

Enrollment in CRP

Producers enrolled in the Indiana CREP may also enroll in general and continuous CRP. CREP is another option the producers may select to enhance their land. CREP provides additional benefits not available through the general and/or continuous sign-up.

How to Participate

Interested parties should contact their FSA office or their local Soil and Water Conservation District office. Additional information is also available on FSA’s Web site at www.fsa.usda.gov and ISDA’s website at www.in.gov/isda/2377.htm.

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Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

State and Federal Incentives

Practice Code	Practice	State Incentive / acre*	Adjacent to Body of Water	Widths	Width In Alluvial Soils	(through FSA)				Contract Length
						Cost-share of practice installation	SIP (one-time payment)	PIP (% of eligible cost)	Soil Rental Rate Incentive	
CP-2	Native Grasses***	\$100.00	Yes	50' min. to 120' max.	up to 300'	Flat rate determined by FSA	/	/	40%	15 yrs
CP-4D	Permanent Wildlife Habitat***	\$100.00	Yes	35' min. to 180' max.	up to 300'	Flat rate determined by FSA	/	/	40%	15 yrs
CP-21	Filter Strip**	\$100.00	Yes	35' min. to 120' max.	up to 300'	Flat rate determined by FSA	Yes (\$100/acre)	Yes (40%)	40%	15 yrs
CP-3A	Hardwood Tree Planting***	\$400.00	Yes	35' min. to 180' max.	up to 300'	Flat rate determined by FSA	/	/	40%	15 yrs
CP-22	Riparian Buffer**	\$400.00	Yes	35' min. to 180' max.	up to 300'	Flat rate determined by FSA	Yes (\$100/acre)	Yes (40%)	40%	15 yrs
CP-31	Bottomland Timber Establishment**	\$400.00	/	Floodplain only	/	Flat rate determined by FSA	Yes (\$100/acre)	Yes (40%)	40%	15 yrs
CP-23	Wetland Restoration**	\$950.00 \$400.00 re-enrolled wetlands	/	/	/	50% of design estimate	Yes (\$100/acre)	Yes (40%)	40%	15 yrs
CP-23A	Wetland Restoration - Non Floodplain**	\$950.00 \$400.00 re-enrolled wetlands	/	/	/	50% of design estimate	Yes (\$100/acre)	Yes (40%)	40%	15 yrs

* State incentive payment is made after practice is installed.

** Available through Continuous CRP also

*** Available under General CRP also

Note: CP-23 and CP-23A must be approved by the state FSA first, due to acreage limitations.

Note: Re-enrollments are not eligible for SIP payment

Note: Mid-Contract Management (MCM) is required on all practices. Refer to MCM guidelines for planning of MCM activities.