



# Wisconsin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

## LWCD UPDATE 2022

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

February 01, 2022



Dunn



Dane

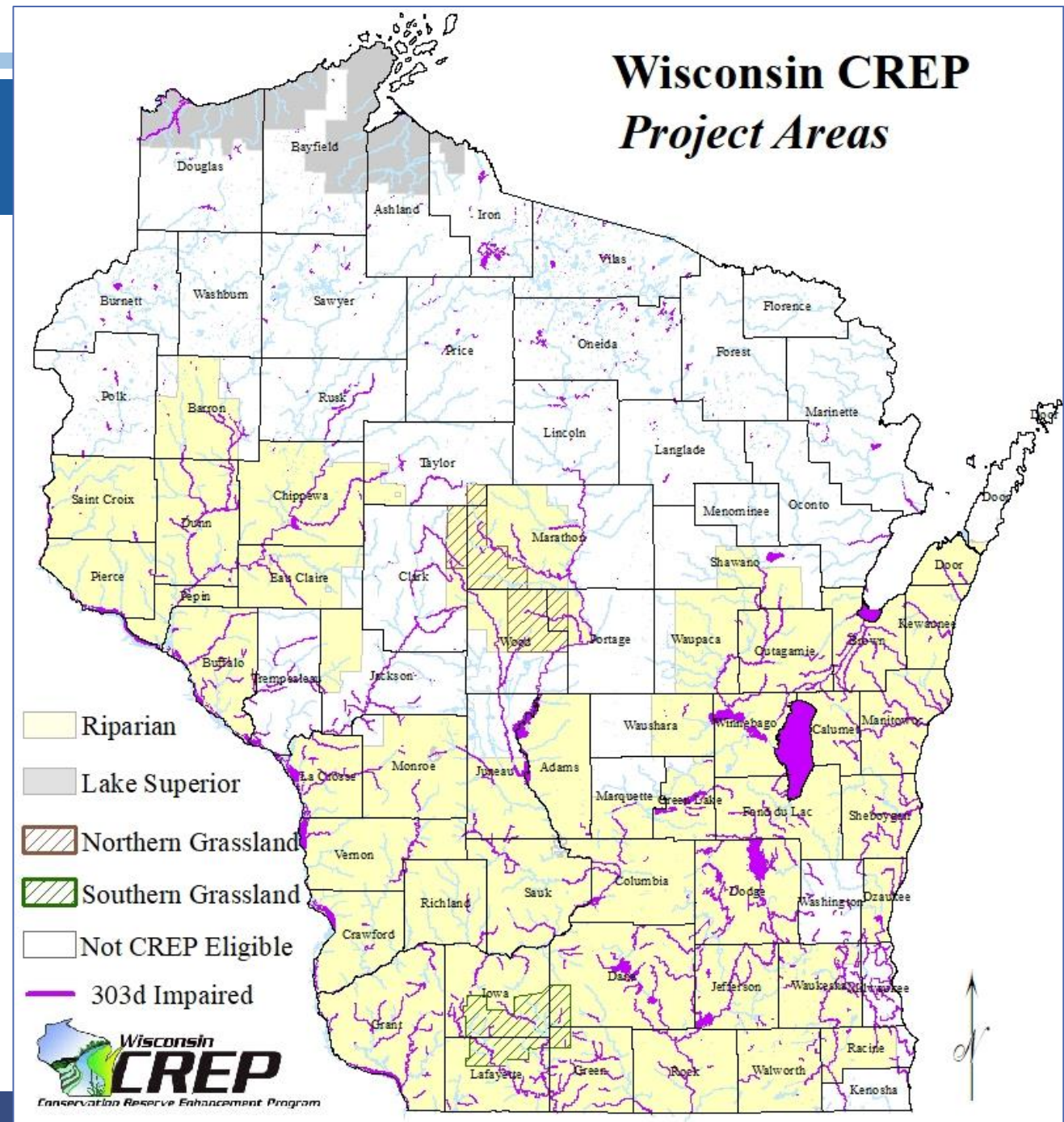


Private  
Land  
Owners



# PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- ❖ Farm Bill Authority
- ❖ Fed-State Agr 2001
  - ❖ 100,000 acre cap
  - ❖ 20% state match
  - ❖ 28 million state funds
  - ❖ Continuous Sign-Up
- ❖ State-Co Agreements
  - ❖ 54 Counties
- ❖ WI Project Areas



# IMPLEMENTATION

CREP Grant Contract  
ARM- LWR-280 (09/16)

Wis. Dept. of Agriculture, Trade  
and Consumer Protection  
Agricultural Resource Management Division  
Land and Water Resources Bureau  
PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911

## WISCONSIN CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM CONTRACT

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and

\_\_\_\_\_ County enter into the following contract concerning the Wisconsin conservation reserve enhancement program.

Contract Period	Contact Name, Title, Address & Phone Number
###/##/20##	[Name] - County Conservationist [Name] County Land Conservation Dept. Address City, WI ZIP ###-###-####
to <u>date defined in Section III.</u> <u>Term of Contract of this amendment</u>	
Spending Authority	
S###,###	

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection ("DATCP") and County ("County") enter into this contract to provide conservation reserve enhancement program ("CREP") grants to the County, through the county land conservation committee ("LCC"), up to the specified spending authority in this contract and subject to the conditions specified in this contract.

Funds obtained by the County under this contract are from the sale of tax-exempt general obligation State of Wisconsin bonds, issued under the provisions of s. 93.70, Wis. Stats., and the appropriation account under s.

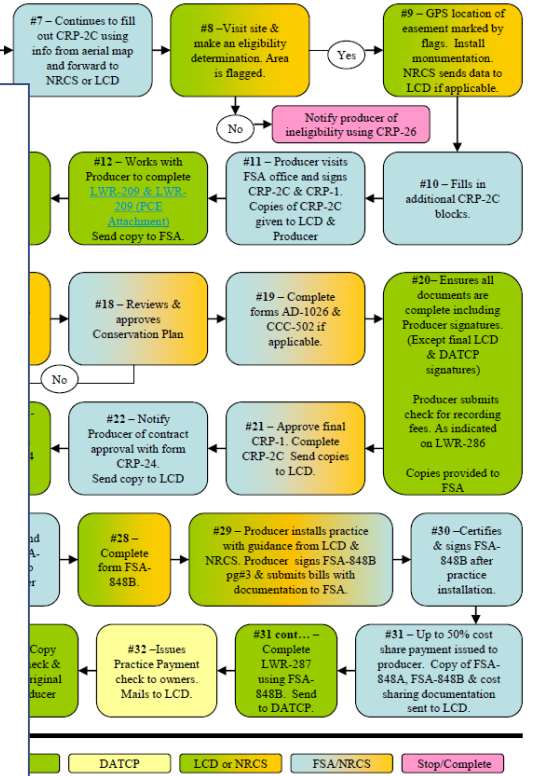
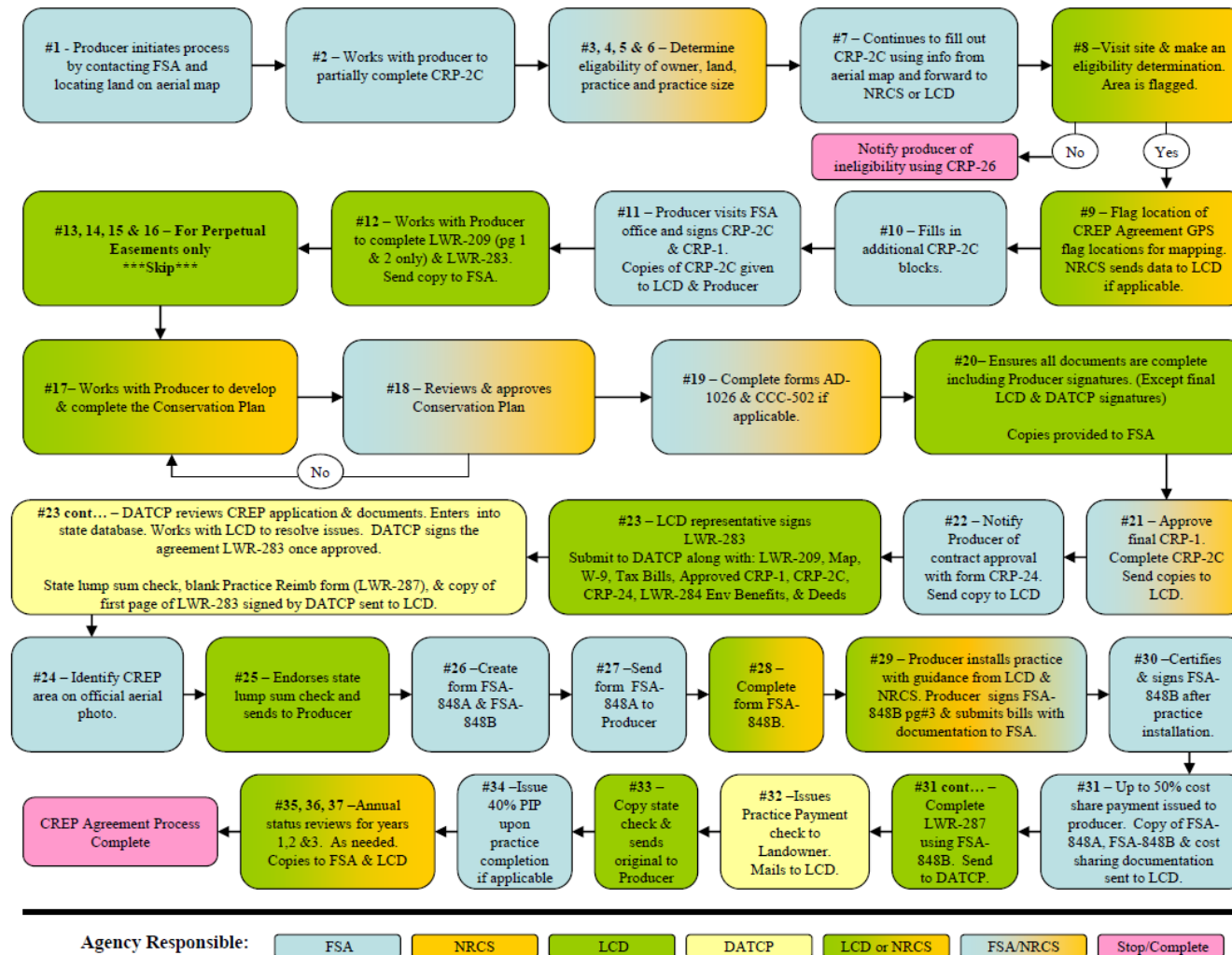
- ❖ Locally Led
- ❖ Organized Efforts
- ❖ Strategic, Coordinated Targeting
- ❖ Farmer buy-in
- ❖ Word of Mouth
- ❖ Local Partner Relationships
- ❖ New Tools



# CREP PARTNERSHIP

## CREP Easement Establishment Process

### CREP 15 Yr Agreement Establishment Process



# WHAT IS CREP?

- ❖ **Goal** is to reduce ag. runoff along streams/wetlands to protect water quality and provide habitat.
- ❖ **Offers** an opportunity to voluntarily stop farming land abutting streams/wetlands & place it into conservation practices.
- ❖ **In Return** landowners receive incentive, annual rental, and cost-share payments along with other assistance.
- ❖ **Flexible** design and practice options for landowners to choose from.
- ❖ **Contract** options are 15 year agreement or perpetual easement.

Lafayette



Brown

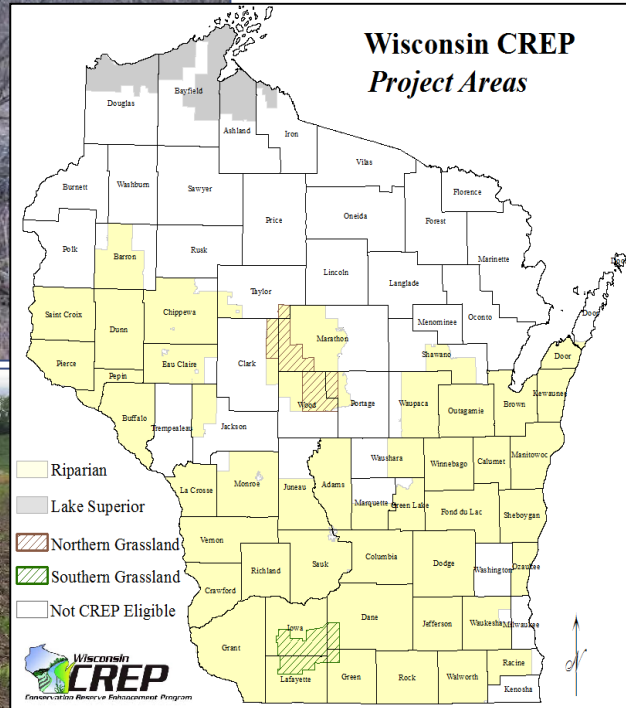


# WHAT LAND IS ELIGIBLE?

Crawford



Dane



## ❖ General Rules for Eligibility

- ❖ Within CREP Project Area
- ❖ Cropland 4 out of 6 yrs (2012 – 2017), or meet rotation requirements, or marginal pastureland
- ❖ Within 150 ft. of eligible water body.
- ❖ Min. 20 ft.

## ❖ Grassland Areas

- ❖ Both or Either:
  - Within 1000 ft of eligible water body.
  - Highly erodible land (HEL)

## ❖ Lake Superior

- ❖ Within 200 min. to 300 max. of eligible water body.

# ELIGIBLE WATER BODIES

## Includes:

- ❖ Perennial streams, creeks & ditches
- ❖ Seasonal streams, creeks & ditches
- ❖ Lakes & ponds
- ❖ Wetlands
- ❖ Sink holes

## Does not include:

- ❖ Gullies
- ❖ Where water runs only after a rainfall/snowmelt



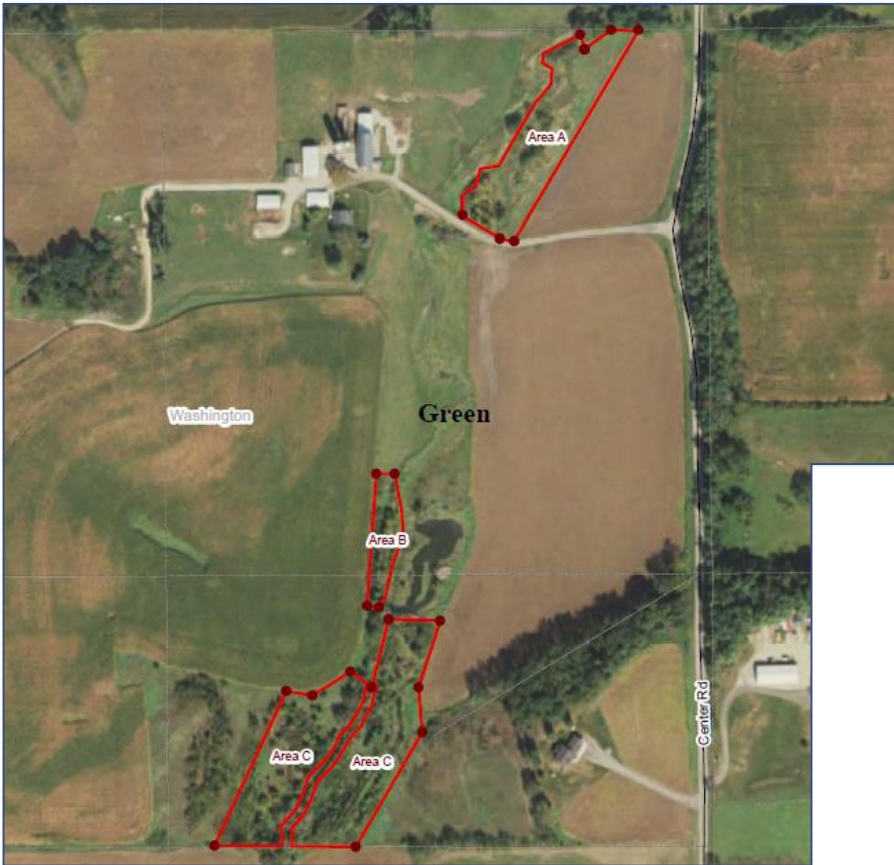


# CONSERVATION PRACTICES

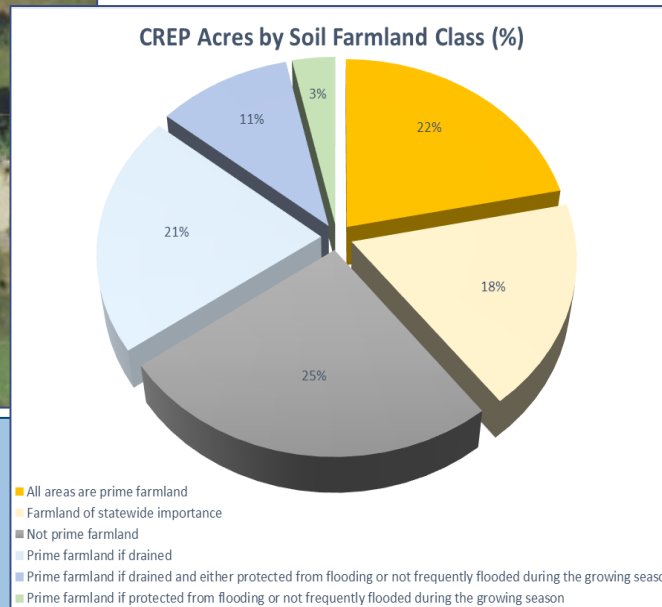
- ❖ CPI – Permanent Introduced Grasses & Legumes\*
- ❖ CP2 – Permanent Native Grasses\*
- ❖ CP8A – Grass Waterway
- ❖ CP21 – Filter Strip
- ❖ CP22 – Forest Riparian Buffer
- ❖ CP23 & 23A – Wetland Restoration
- ❖ CP25 – Tall Grass Prairie & Oak Savanna\*
- ❖ CP29 – Marg. Pasture Wildlife Habitat Buffer
- ❖ CP30 – Marg. Pasture Wetland Buffer



# FLEXIBILITY TO FIT THE FARM



- ❖ No minimum acreage
- ❖ Resolve resource concern +
- ❖ Mix practices
- ❖ Coincide with other programs
- ❖ 60% rule



- ❖ Marginal ag. land
- ❖ Lower soil productivity
- ❖ Frequent flooding

# CONTRACT OPTIONS

Federal: CRP-I, 15 years

+

State:

❖ 15 Year Agreement (LWR-283)

- ❖ 15 years
- ❖ Incentive =  $SRR \times 1.5 \times \text{Acres}$  (2.5 – Lk Superior)
- ❖ Option to convert to easement later
- ❖ Buyout an option
- ❖ Reenrollment

❖ Perpetual Easement (LWR-281 & 286)

- ❖ Perpetuity
- ❖ Incentive =  $SRR \times 12 \times \text{Acres}$  (24 x – Lk Superior)
- ❖ Not eligible for CRP-I re-enrollment

❖ Public Access Not Required



# FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

## Annual Payments

- ❖ Annually for up to 15 yrs, Based on soil type & if crop or pasture
- ❖ Range from \$40-\$240 per acre base SRR (avg. \$155 Statewide)
- ❖ Added 35-60% increase for CREP

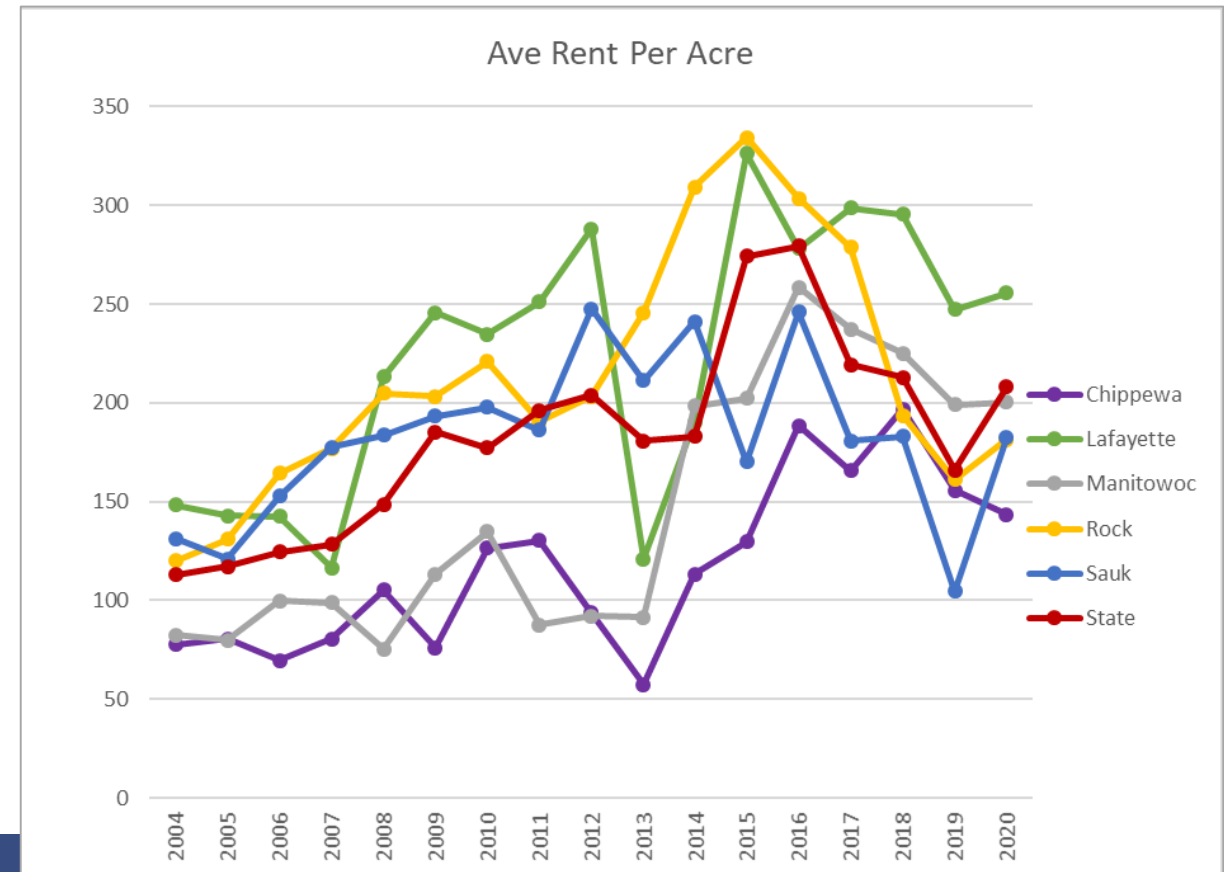
## Upfront Payments (one time)

- ❖ FSA signing incentive for new buffer & filter strips
- ❖ DATCP incentive
  - ❖ 1.5 times X SRR X Acres for 15 year
  - ❖ 12 times X SRR X Acres for easement

## Practice Payments

- ❖ FSA - 50% cost-share + 40% practice incentive
- ❖ State - 20% cost-share

## Use Value Assessment



# CREP PARTICIPATION

## Contracts

- ❖ Agreements – 3,593
- ❖ Easements – 525
- ❖ Landowners – 5,860

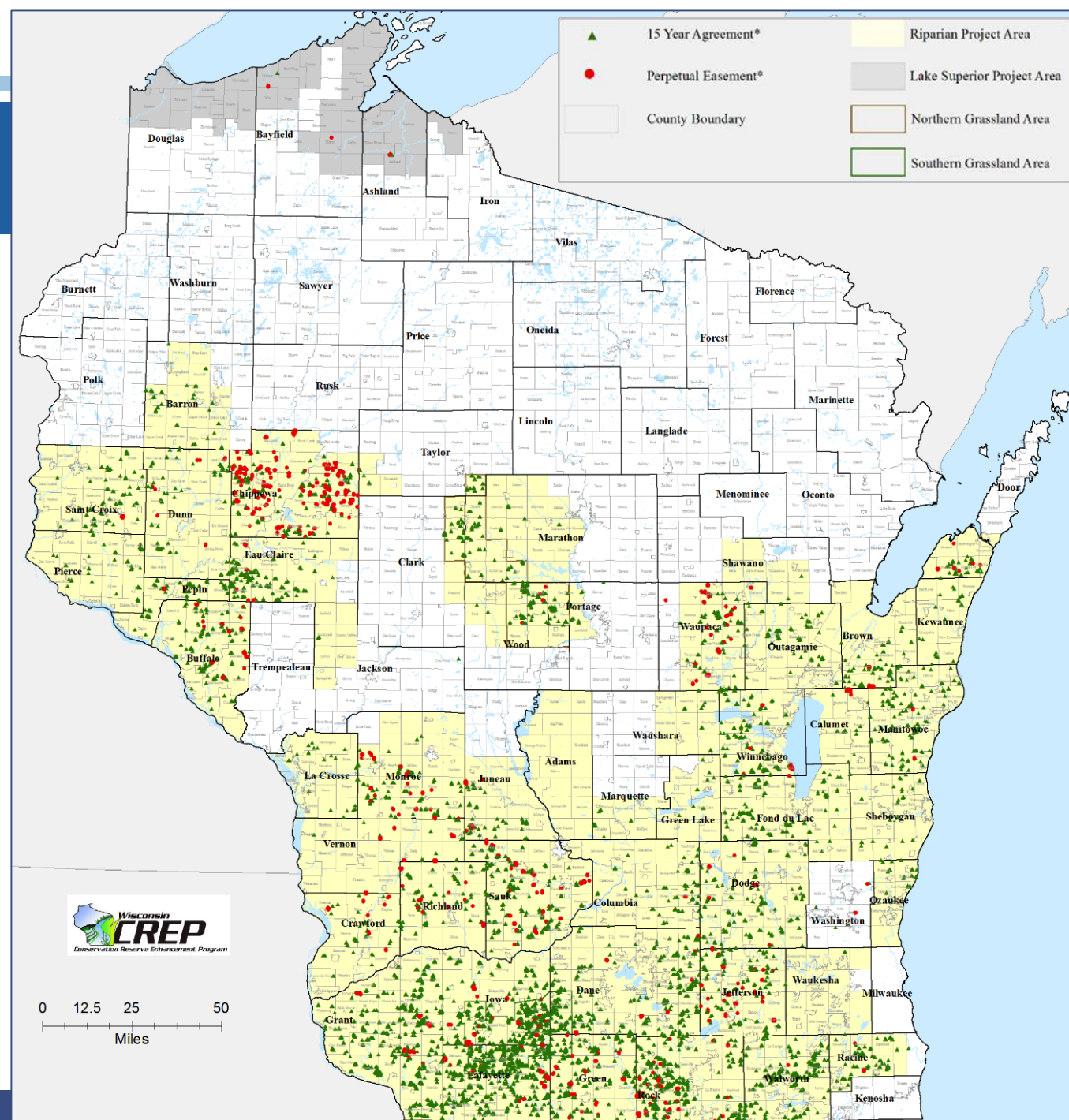
## Land Enrolled

- ❖ 41,436 + acres
- ❖ Avg. 10 acres/site

## Financial (millions)

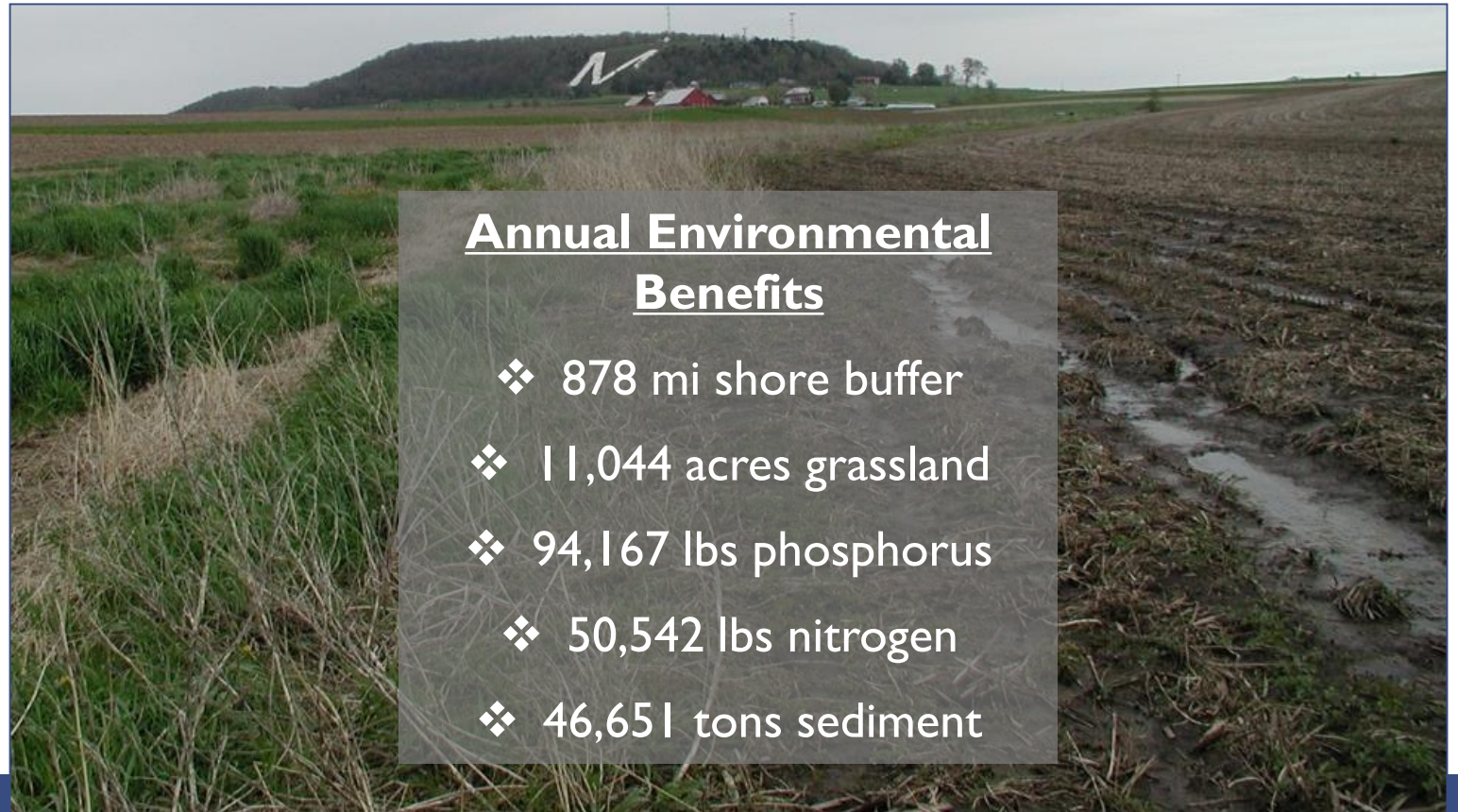
- ❖ State: \$21
- ❖ County: \$4.1
- ❖ Federal: \$200+

- ❖ # of Farms (4<sup>th</sup>)
- ❖ Contracts (5<sup>th</sup>)
- ❖ Acres (10<sup>th</sup>)



# ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- ❖ Reduce nutrient runoff & sediment trapping
- ❖ Streambank protection
- ❖ Erosion control
- ❖ Improve water quality



## Annual Environmental Benefits

- ❖ 878 mi shore buffer
- ❖ 11,044 acres grassland
- ❖ 94,167 lbs phosphorus
- ❖ 50,542 lbs nitrogen
- ❖ 46,651 tons sediment

# ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- ❖ Lots of Land Still Eligible
  - ❖ 300,000 estimated
  - ❖ 1/6 enrolled currently
- ❖ Readily Eligible Land
  - ❖ Active Producers
  - ❖ Adjacent Landowners
  - ❖ Circumstances change
    - ❖ Renters / Retiring

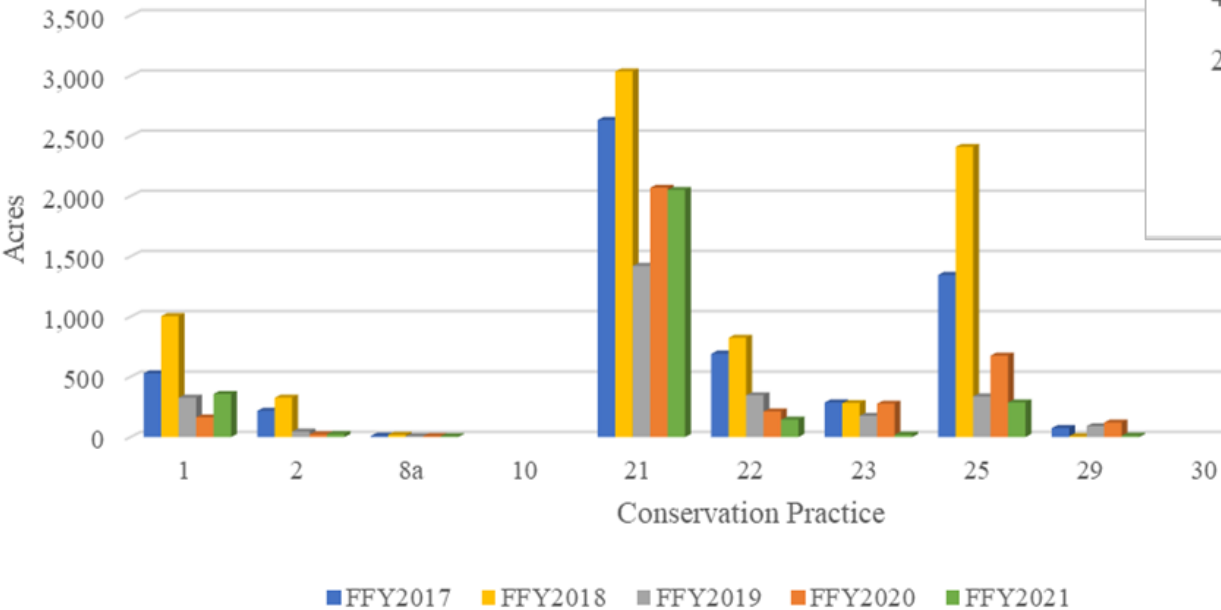


# ENROLLMENT FFY 2021

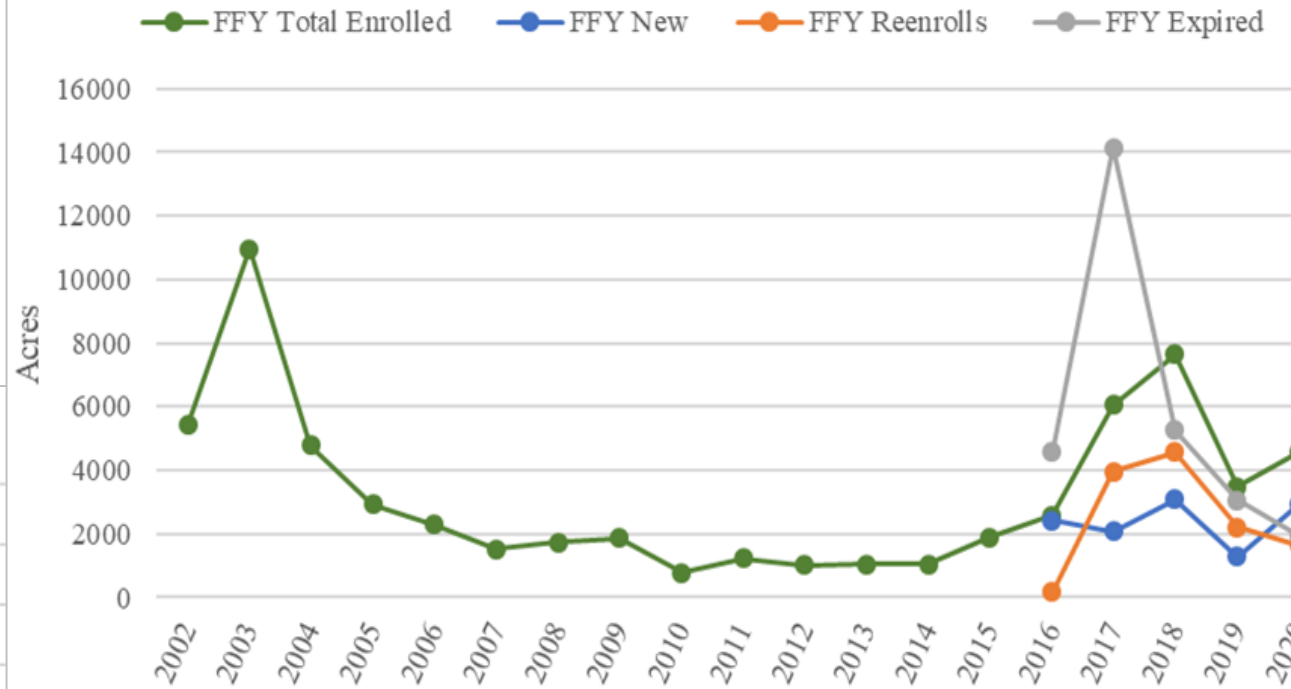
## Enrollment Acres

- ❖ Acres Expired: 1,378
- ❖ Acres Reenrolled: 806
- ❖ Acres New: 2,074
- ❖ Acres Total FFY: 2,880

Conservation Practice Enrollment Past Five Years

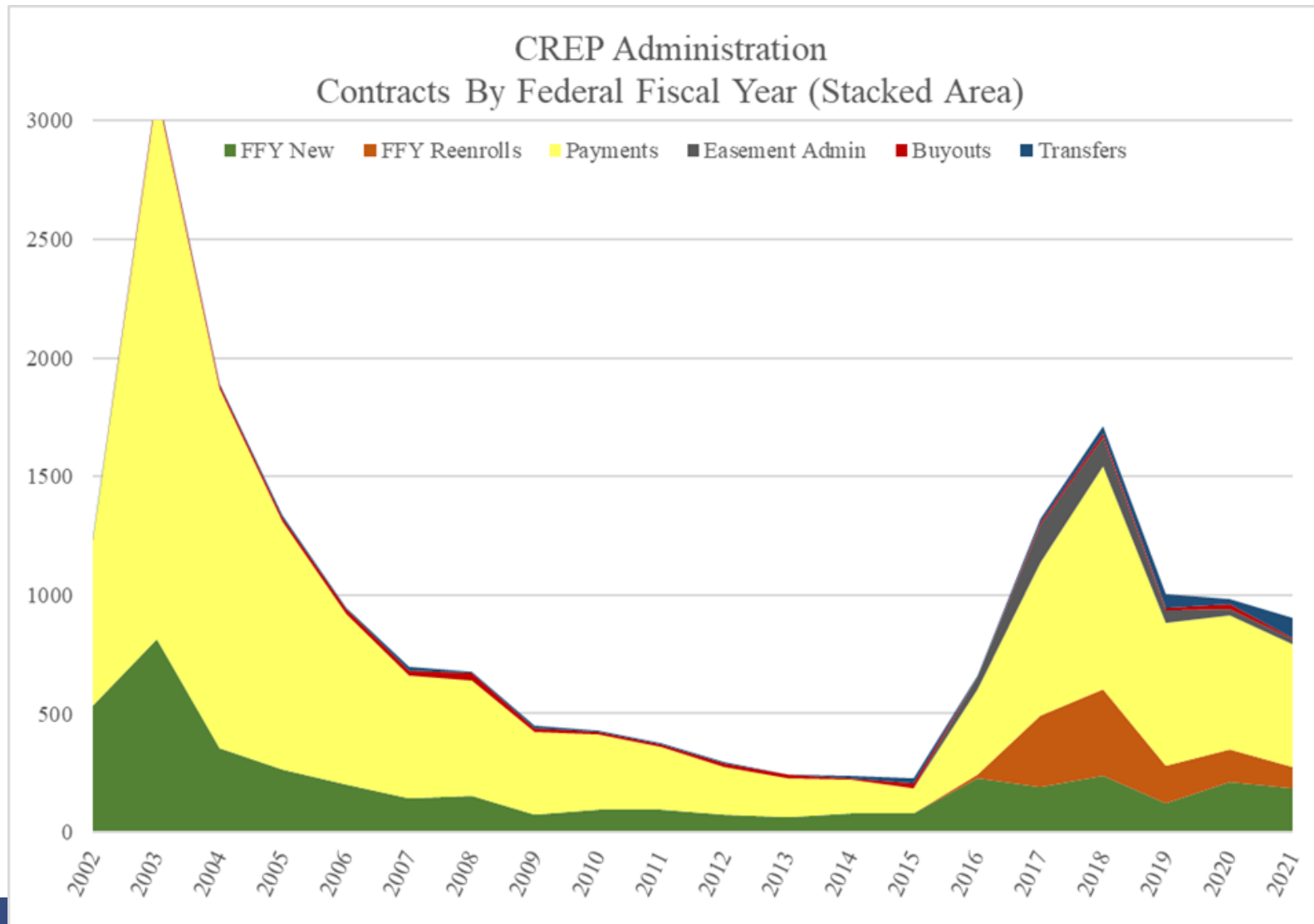


CREP Enrollment  
Acres by Federal Fiscal Year





# CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION



❖ Total Active Contracts: 3,593

## 2021 Contract Administration

❖ Contracts: 274

❖ Reenrolls: 86 /New: 188

❖ Payments: 517

❖ Buyouts: 9

❖ Transfers: 84

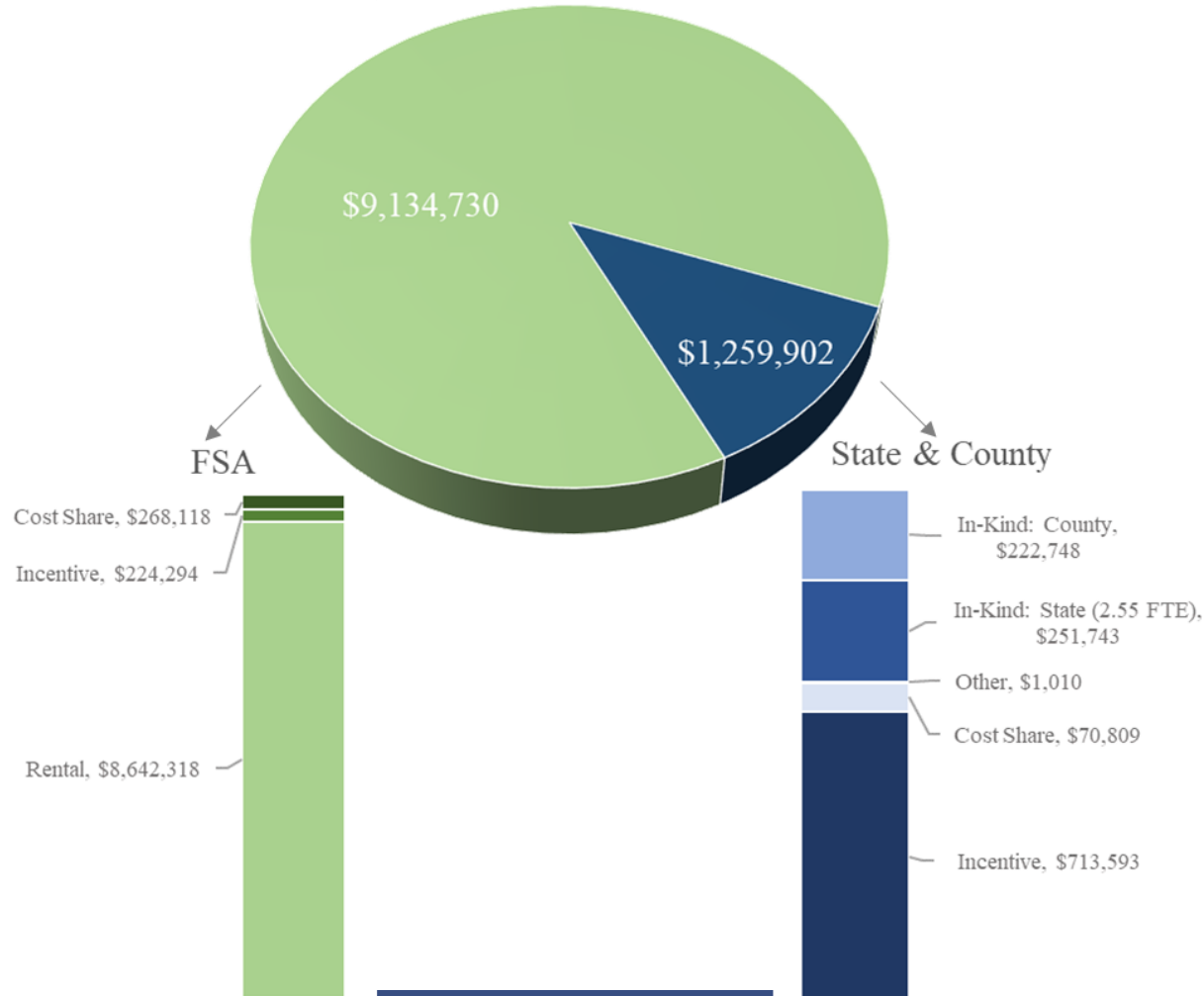
❖ Easement admin/updates



# PAYMENTS TO LANDOWNERS & FUNDING

CREP Spending - FFY 2021

■ State & County ■ FSA



State Payments/Contracts 2001 - Oct 1 2021

Payment Type	Total (Contracts)
Easement Incentive	\$6,750,890 (537)
15-yr Agr Incentive	\$12,286,074 (5,555)
Total Incentive	\$19,036,964 (6,092)
Total Cost Share	\$2,516,211
Total Materials	\$80,037
Buyouts Received	-\$688,061
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,945,151 (6,092)</b>



# EASEMENT – MONITORING

- ❖ CRP-I (Expired) :
  - ❖ Status monitoring
- ❖ DATCP Initial Contact Letter
- ❖ Office Review & Site Visit:
  - ❖ By LCD and/or DATCP
  - ❖ Monitoring Form to DATCP
- ❖ Follow up with Landowner



**Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program  
Easement Compliance & Benchmarking Form**

County: Dane  
 Agreement #: 107 CP: 21 CRP Expiration Date: 2018  
 Landowner: Name: Richard & Barbara V. Beckner  
 Address: 1840 Gasser Rd., Johnsonville  
 Phone: 608-931-3644

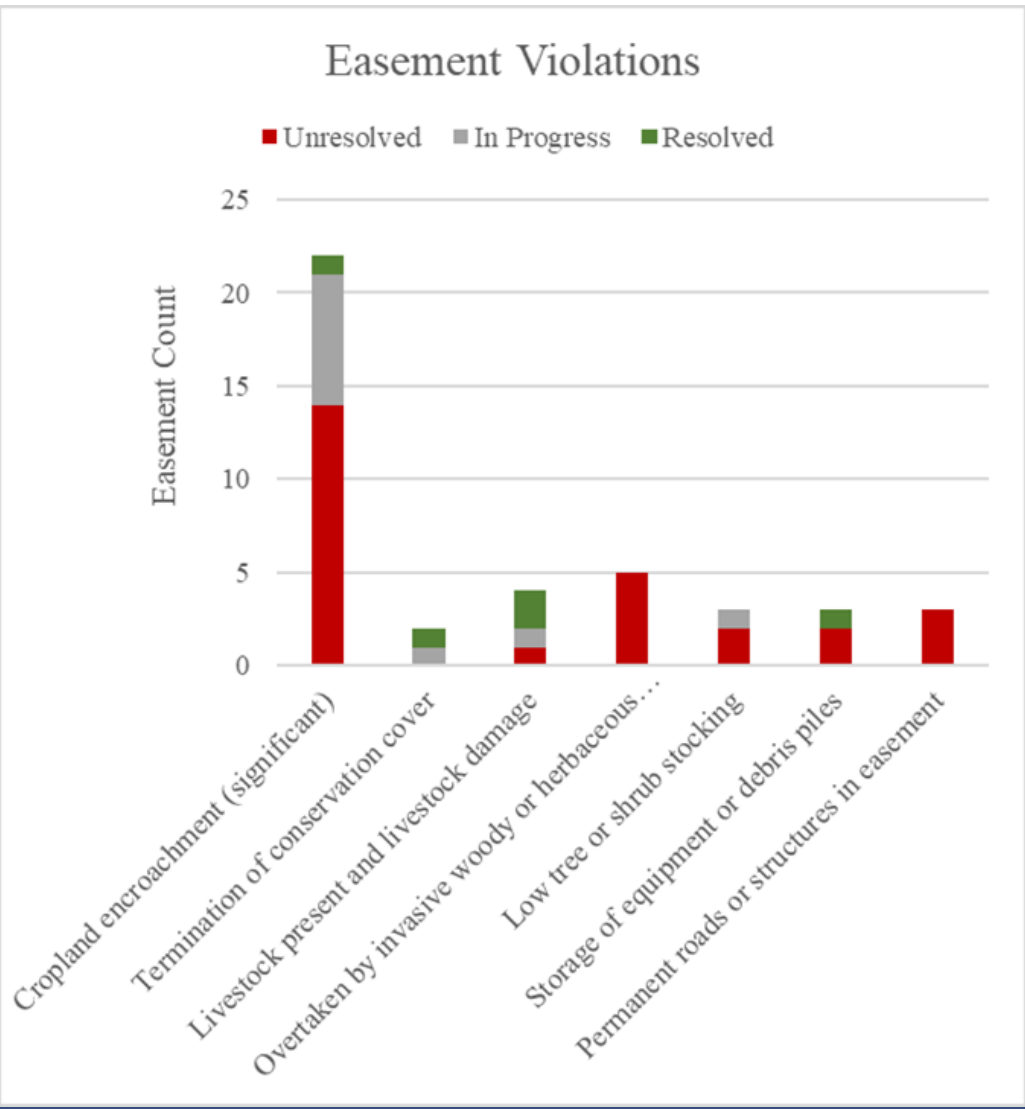
**Phase 1: In Office Review**  
 Include aerial photo as cover page delineating easement boundary and monuments. Perform an in office review to check that land cover appears to be in compliance with easement boundaries.  
 Date of in office desktop review: 4/14/19 Date aerial photo taken: 2017

Potential Compliance Issues		
Easement Area	Boundary/Monument	Potential Issue
D	G-F	Possible encroachment



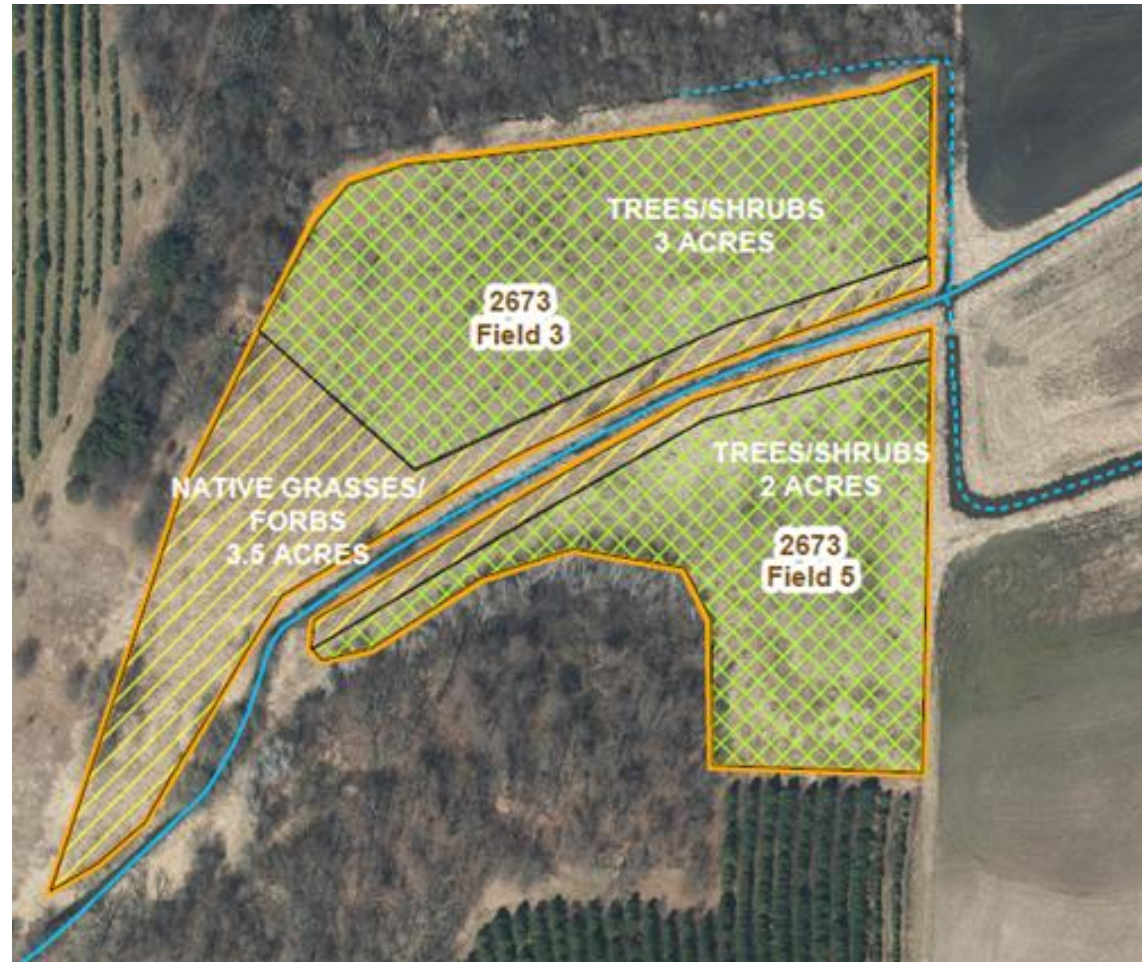
Monitoring Compliance Status	Count
In Compliance	22
In Compliance – Maintenance Needed	14
Violation	9

# MAINTENANCE ISSUES & VIOLATIONS



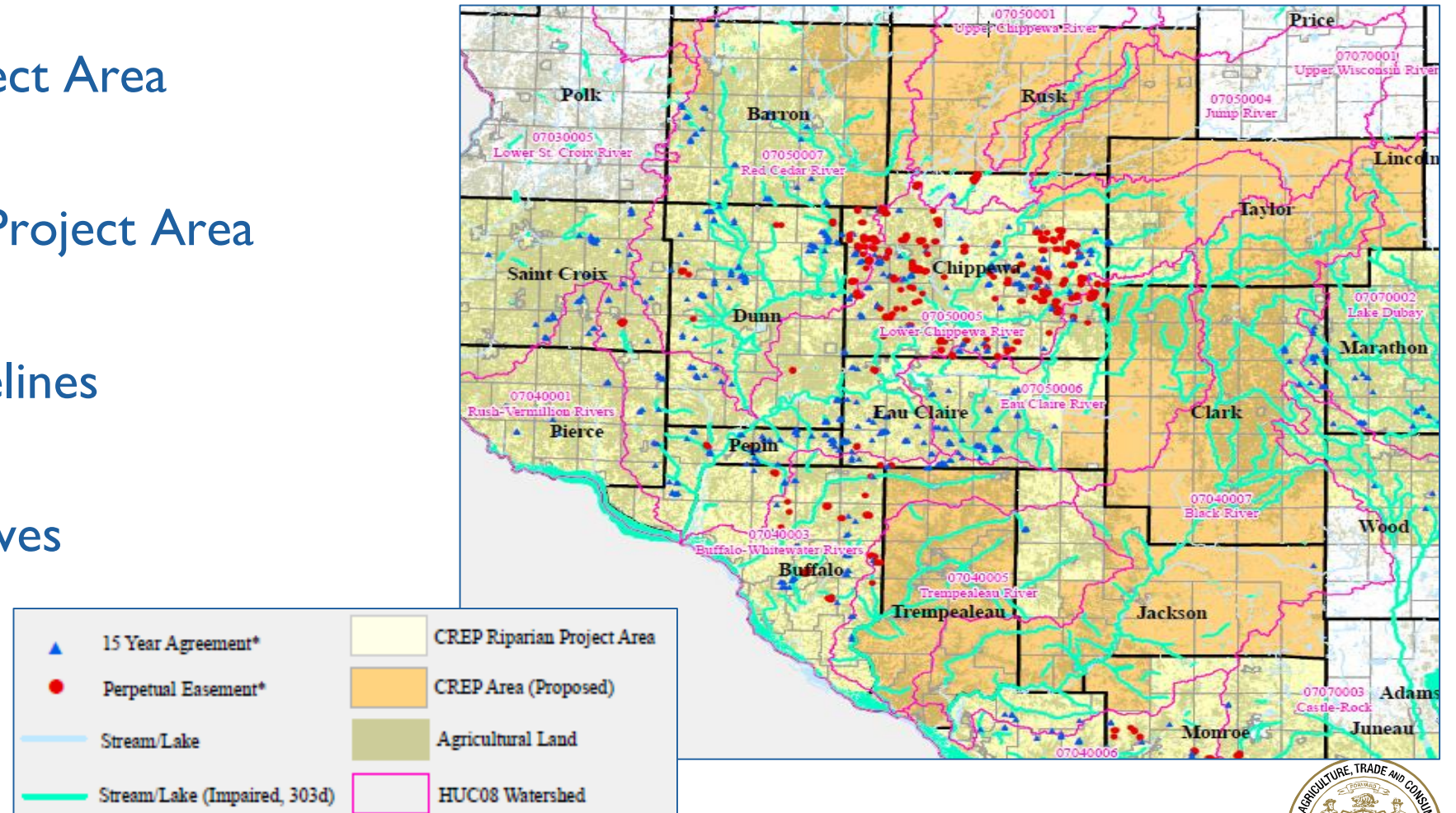
# EASEMENT AMENDMENTS

- ❖ Response to violations
- ❖ Change Conservation Practice
- ❖ Compatible Agricultural Use



# CREP PROGRAM AMENDMENT

- ❖ Expand Riparian Project Area
- ❖ Expand S. Grassland Project Area
- ❖ Adjust Practice Guidelines
- ❖ Increase State Incentives



# Thank You!



**Brian Loeffelholz**

*Program Manager / 15 year agr /  
Easements / Violations /  
Amendments*

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