Wisconsin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

LWCD UPDATE 2022

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

February 01, 2022
CONSERVATION EASEMENT BOUNDARY MARKER

THIS IS NOT PUBLIC LAND
DO NOT MOVE, ALTER OR DESTROY THIS SIGN IN ANY WAY

CONTACT: DNR DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PRIVATE LAND OWNERS

USDA NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS Logo

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
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

- Locally Led
- Organized Efforts
- Strategic, Coordinated Targeting
- Farmer buy-in
- Word of Mouth
- Local Partner Relationships
- New Tools
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.
WHAT LAND IS ELIGIBLE?

- **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

- CP1 – 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-1, 15 years

+ State:
  - 15 Year Agreement (LWR-283)
    - 15 years
    - Incentive = SRR x 1.5 x Acres (2.5 – Lk Superior)
    - Option to convert to easement later
    - Buyout an option
    - Reenrollment
  - Perpetual Easement (LWR-281 & 286)
    - Perpetuity
    - Incentive = SRR x 12 x Acres (24 x – Lk Superior)
    - Not eligible for CRP-1 re-enrollment

- **Public Access Not Required**
FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

Annual Payments
- Annually for up 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 (4th)
- Contracts (5th)
- Acres (10th)
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: 1378
- 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

- FFY Total Enrolled
- FFY New
- FFY Reenrolls
- FFY Expired

[Graph showing acreage enrollment by year and conservation practice number]
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 Payments/Contracts 2001 - Oct 1 2021

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

- CRP-1 (Expired): Status monitoring
- DATCP Initial Contact Letter
- Office Review & Site Visit: By LCD and/or DATCP
- Monitoring Form to DATCP
- Follow up with Landowner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monitoring Compliance Status</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tr>
<td>In Compliance</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>In Compliance – Maintenance Needed</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Violation</td>
<td>9</td>
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MAINTENANCE ISSUES & VIOLATIONS

Easement Violations

- Unresolved
- In Progress
- Resolved

Crop field with a graphic chart illustrating easement violations categorized by type. The chart shows a breakdown of violations and their resolution status.
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!

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