

# CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM



## SUMMARY

USDA's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) provides land rental payments and cost reimbursements for protecting streams, ponds and wetlands against erosion and improving wildlife habitat.

- Federally established by the Food Security Act of 1985, in PA established by agreement in 2000.
- Administered by USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Annual program funding (2021): \$1.8 Billion in US
- Total funding since inception: \$91.5 Million in PA
- Funding Source: Federal Farm Bill & PA DEP

## ELIGIBILITY

### Who is Eligible?

Landowners with non-forested stream banks, eroding hill sides, or other areas that contribute sediment to waterways. Land must be cropland that meets cropping history criteria or marginal pastureland that is suitable for an eligible riparian buffer.

### Eligible Costs

Annual rental payments and maintenance rate payments are calculated on specific site conditions and conservation practices installed. Need to contact local FSA office. Soil type, conservation practices, site slope and other factors determine the annual rental rates and other payments you may receive.

Planning and design provided.



Last Update: October 2021

## FEATURES

Removes environmentally sensitive land from production and establishes permanent vegetative conservation cover.

Includes one-time incentive payments for enrollment and installation of certain practices, plus payments for installation costs shared by USDA (50%) and PA DEP (50%). Contract period is 10-15 years.

Also provides a yearly rental payment for land being used for approved conservation practices.

## HELPFUL TIPS

Projects must be maintained for the life of the contract to ensure payment. Inspections occur and recommendations are provided. Failure to maintain the contract can result in contract termination and require the refund of payment and assessed penalties.

Even very small and seasonal streams qualify.

Technical support offered for implementation of projects; assistance available from NRCS and partnering Technical Service Providers.

## HOW TO APPLY

Contact your local FSA office:

*Lancaster/Lebanon County:* Victoria Gesford at 717-397-6235 or [Victoria.gesford@usda.gov](mailto:Victoria.gesford@usda.gov).

*York County:* Michele Grove at 717-755-2966 or [michele.grove@usda.gov](mailto:michele.grove@usda.gov)

Rolling enrollment. See [PA CREP](#) website for steps in process.