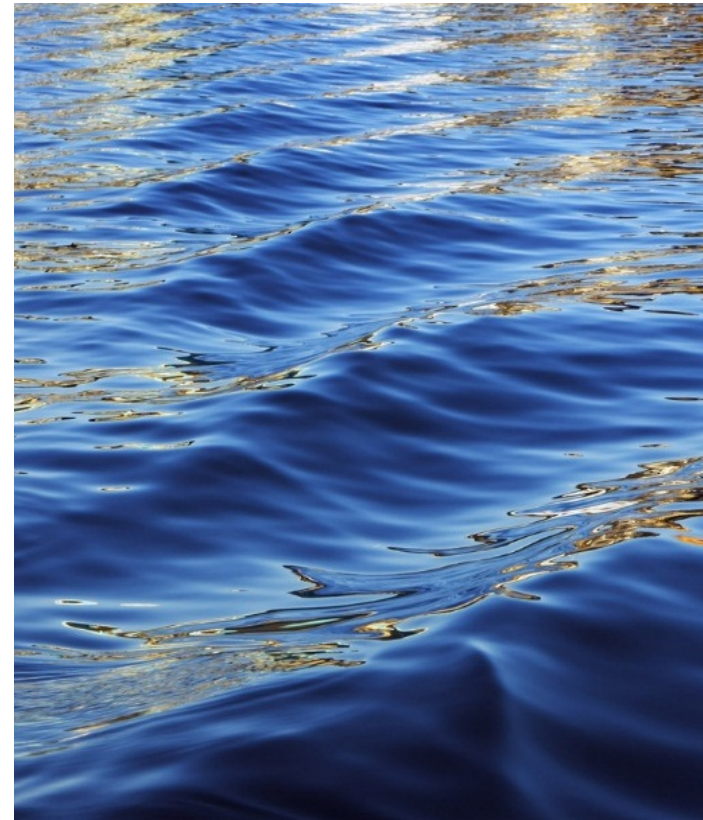




The Natural Resource Conservation Service

By Cindy Einspahr



Conservation Programs

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement (ACEP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Programs (RCPP)
- Other Conservation Programs through Special Mandatory Funding



CRP

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers safeguard environmentally sensitive land. CRP participants plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve water quality, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance.



Why Grass Waterways?

Grass waterways reduce the negative effects of water flow on cropland. The grass cover forming the waterway functions as a natural filter, slowing the water flow and trapping sediment and nutrients in run-off. Waterways can also enhance wildlife habitat by providing cover and security for birds, mammals and insects. Offered in **continuous sign-up**, CP-8A:

- Reduces soil erosion and prevents gullies
- Protects water quality by intercepting and trapping sediment and nutrients
- Creates habitat for pollinators and grassland and game bird species



Why Riparian Buffers?

For farmers and landowners interested in improving water quality and creating habitat for fish and wildlife, a riparian buffer - a strip of trees bordering perennial or seasonal streams, waterbodies and wetlands areas - is a beneficial solution. Offered in **continuous sign-up**, CP-22:

- Filters nutrients from runoff
- Traps sediment
- Cools water temperatures
- Stabilizes stream banks
- Sequesters Carbon



Why Wetland Restoration?

Preserving existing or creating new wetlands that have been converted for agricultural use is critical to long-term environmental health and land performance. Restoring wetland functions and values can yield tremendous benefits, including temporarily holding runoff to reduce downstream flooding, filtering sediment, nutrients and chemicals to protect water quality, and supporting hundreds of species of birds, plants, amphibians and other wildlife. Offered in **continuous sign-up**, CP-23A:

- Provides vital habitat for waterfowl, grassland birds, and other wetland species
- Filters sediment and nutrient runoff
- Reduces downstream flooding damages



Why Upland Habitat Buffers?

Over the past two decades, field edges and hedgerows have been removed to create more cropland. These vegetative borders served as vital living and protective space for quail, pheasants and grassland birds – whose populations are declining. CP-33 establishes native grasses and legumes in 30 - 120 foot buffers around crop fields, giving bobwhite quail and other upland birds critical nesting and brood rearing habitat. Offered in **continuous sign-up**, CP-33:

- Provides a food source and cover for fragile upland species
- Reduces soil erosion and traps sediment
- Improves water quality by intercepting sediment and nutrients



Why Wildlife Buffers?

For landowners and farmers with marginal pastureland adjacent to streams, wetlands, and other water body types, creating Wildlife Habitat Buffers reduces sediment, nutrient, and pesticide runoff. They also restore native plant communities that stabilize stream banks and reduce erosion. Made up of native grasses, wildflowers or shrubs, Wildlife Habitat Buffers provide shelter and food for wildlife, as well as vital nutrition for pollinators and other beneficial insects. Offered in **continuous sign-up**, CP-29:

- Improves water quality by intercepting and filtering sediment and nutrient runoff
- Provides vital habitat for wildfowl, grassland birds, pollinators and other wetland species
- Protects soil



Good News



Increased Mandatory Funding
2019-2023

There will be General Sign-Up
2019

Continuous CRP Funded
Grassland Contracts



Conservation Stewardship Program CSP

Our Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation. Whether you are looking to improve grazing conditions, increase crop yields, or develop wildlife habitat, we can custom design a CSP plan to help you meet those goals. We can help you schedule timely planting of cover crops, develop a grazing plan that will improve your forage base, implement no-till to reduce erosion or manage forested areas in a way that benefits wildlife habitat. If you are already taking steps to improve the condition of the land, chances are CSP can help you find new ways to meet your goals.


New CSP Grasslands Conservation Initiative CSP

This new initiative will assist producers in protecting grazing land uses; conserving and improving soil, water and wildlife resources; and achieving related conservation values by conserving eligible land through grassland conservation contracts.

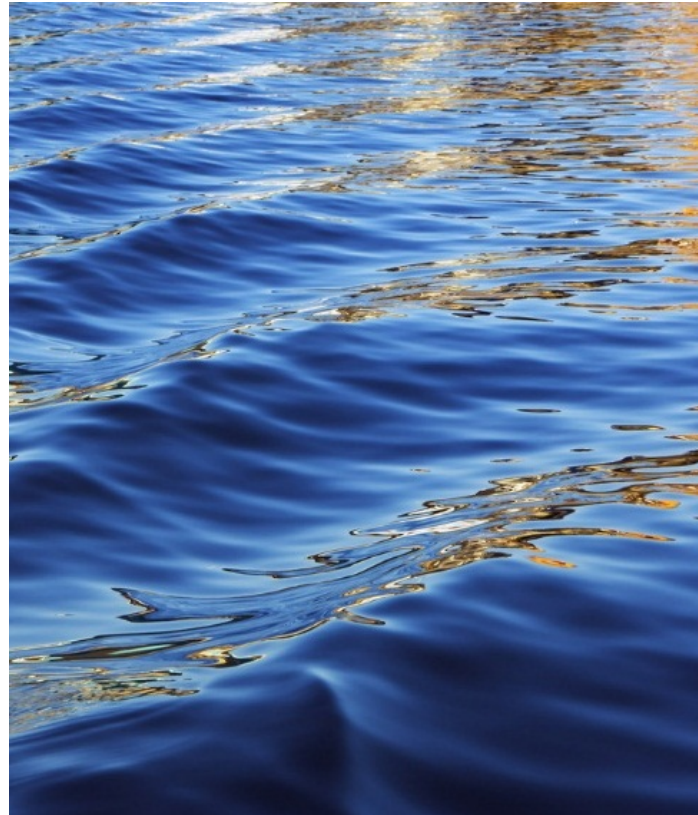


Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)





EQIP- Financial assistance
to install and maintain
conservation practices on
eligible agricultural and
Forest Land



EQIP and What kind of Restoration Practice

Management Type Plans

- Nutrient Management
- Forest Management
- Prescribed Burning Plan
- Pest Management Plan
- Irrigation Water Management
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Plan
- Prescribed Grazing Plan
- Stream Habitat Improvement Plan
- Salinity and Sodic Soil Management
- Restoring of Rare or Declining Natural Communities
- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Shallow water Development Plan

Practices

- Irrigation Canal and Lateral
- Conservation Cover
- Critical Area Planting
- Dam Diversions
- Ponds
- Windbreaks
- Fence
- Riparian Buffer
- Filter Strip
- Fish Pond Management
- Irrigation Systems
- Access Control
- Obstruction Removal
- Livestock pipeline and Tanks
- Stream Crossing And Protection
- Structure for Water Control
- Structure for Wildlife
- Constructed Wetland
- Wetland Restoration
- Wetland Enhancement

EQIP and Restoration



EQIP and Restoration

Stream Crossing And Protection



EQIP and Restoration

Obstruction Removal



Bank Stabilization



EQIP and Restoration

Water Control Structures



Buffers



Agricultural Conservation Easement Program



Helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, grasslands, and working farms and ranches through conservation easements.



Other Conservation



Colorado Watershed Flood Recovery

EWP) Program implemented 67 flood recovery projects from 2015-2018 to address hazards to life and property and restore functional river systems in watersheds impaired by the 2013 flood disaster.





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