

# Conservation Reserve Program

CP-9

## SHALLOW WATER AREAS FOR WILDLIFE

Wildlife Habitat | Soil and Water Quality | Flood Control



## Why Choose CRP? You Benefit. Land, Water and Wildlife Benefit.

Restoring shallow water areas provide habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with practices like this to achieve many farming and conservation goals. Whatever the conservation challenge – soil conservation, water quality protection or wildlife habitat enhancement – CRP is a proven land performance and management solution.

## Why Shallow Water Areas?

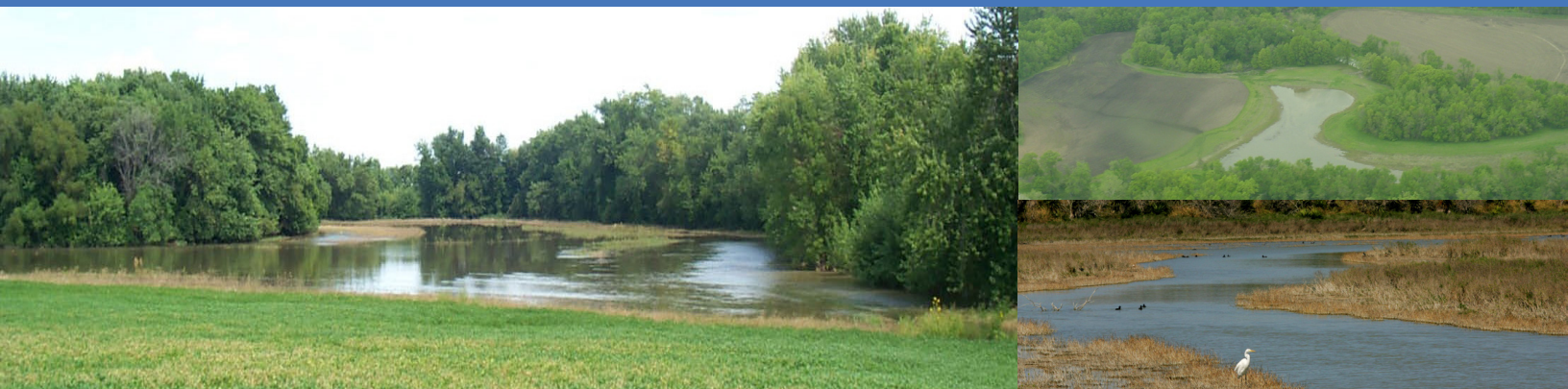
Shallow water areas built to an average depth of 6-18 inches function as a critical resource for birds and other wildlife throughout the year. Providing water, food, and cover, they support species ranging from ducks and wading birds to small mammals to pollinators and other beneficial insects. They also act as reservoirs that can reduce downstream flood damage, as well as capture and/or breakdown nutrients and chemicals harmful to lakes, rivers and oceans. Offered in **continuous sign-up**, CP-9:

- Provides vital habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife
- Improves water quality by intercepting sediment and nutrients
- Reduces downstream flooding damages

## Financial Benefits

### CP-9 participants are guaranteed:

- 10 years of annual rental payments
- Payments covering up to 90% of the eligible costs of establishing the wetland practice
  - 50% from a Cost-Share Payment and
  - 40% from a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)
- Mid-Contract Management Cost Share
- Additional incentives may be available in your state under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



## Eligible Land

- Planted or considered planted 4 out of 6 years between 2008 and 2013
- Capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity
- Cropland must be suitable for the restoration of a shallow water area that will provide a source of water for the majority of the year
- Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions

## Practice Requirements

- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled
- Practice area must include a buffer of perennial vegetation

## Owner/Operator Eligibility

Participants must:

- Have owned or operated the land for more than 12 months prior to program sign-up
- Be in control of the land for the length of the contract
- Meet USDA payment eligibility provisions

## Obligations

Participants will:

- Not harvest or graze the practice area except under certain approved conditions
- Work with USDA-approved conservationist to develop a conservation plan
- Perform periodic management activities according to the conservation plan
- Complete seeding of the practice within 12 months of the effective date of the contract

## Proven Conservation Benefits

- Between 2005 and 2011, CRP contributed to an estimated net increase of 1.5 million additional ducks per year
- CRP reduced nutrient losses in FY 2014 by an estimated 542 million pounds of nitrogen and 108 million pounds of phosphorus
- In 2014, CRP lowered greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 43 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> - the same benefits as taking nearly 8 million cars off the road for a year

*FSA will ultimately determine participant and land eligibility.*

### **For More Information:**

Contact your local USDA, Farm Service Agency:

<http://offices.usda.gov>