

Farm Service Agency Conservation Reserve Program

CLEAN LAKES, ESTUARIES AND RIVERS (CLEAR) INITIATIVE
Prairie Strip Practice (CP-43)

FACT SHEET
December 2019

What Is the Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative?

The Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative of CRP prioritizes water quality practices on the land that, if enrolled, will help reduce sediment loadings, nutrient loadings, and harmful algal blooms. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with different signup types, practices and initiatives like this to achieve many farming and conservation goals.

CLEAR Practices:

- CP-8A – Grass Waterways
- CP-15A – Contour Grass Strips
- CP-15B – Contour Grass Strips on Terraces
- CP-21 – Filter Strips
- CP21B – Denitrifying Bioreactor on Filter Strip
- CP21S – Saturated Filter Strips
- CP22 – Riparian Buffer
- CP22B – Denitrifying Bioreactor on Riparian Buffers
- CP22S – Saturated Riparian Buffer
- CP23 – Wetland Restoration
- CP23A – Wetland Restoration, Non flood plain
- CP29 – Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer
- CP30 – Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer
- CP31 – Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands
- CP37 – Duck Nesting Habitat
- CP43 – Prairie Strip

CLEAR Initiative Impacts

- Decreased Erosion
- Improved Water Quality
- Increase Wildlife Habitat

Financial Benefits

- 10-15 years of annual rental payments
- Payments of up to 50% Cost-Share for practice establishment.
- Practices enrolled through CRP Continuous Signup will also receive:
 - A 5% Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)
 - Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) equal to 32.5% of first full year's annual rental payment.

A New Practice Called Prairie Strips

CP-43 Prairie Strips is a new practice under the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative.



Photo credit to: Lynn Betts



The prairie strips practice establishes diverse perennial vegetation, oriented linearly within row crops fields. Prairie strips may not exceed 25% of the cropland area per field and range from 30-120 feet in width. Machinery traffic is allowed on locations that replace turn rows on the perimeter of the field. Prairie strips reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat.

How are Prairie Strips Different?

Allows a conservation planner to work with a client to establish perennial vegetation in locations to reduce erosion and intercept water flow, while making it farmable.

A combination of NRCS practice standards

- 327 Conservation Cover
- 332 Contour Grass Strip
- 386 Field Border
- 393 Filter Strip

Where can Prairie Strips be placed?

In row crop production systems:

- Around the field
- Through the field
- In terrace channels
- Next to waterways
- Pivot corners

More Information

For more information, contact your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://www.farmers.gov/service-locator).