

*Stay with*

CREP

MARYLAND'S CONSERVATION  
RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Answers to  
frequently asked  
Questions  
about  
*Re-enrolling  
in CREP*

# Stay with CREP. Re-enroll today!



*If you are an existing CREP or CRP participant with a contract that is about to expire, there's good news. CREP offers*

*easy re-enrollment of existing practices at attractive land rental rates. In addition to the steady income that CREP provides, you may qualify for a state \$100 per acre sign-up bonus that is payable soon after the contract is signed.*

*In this brochure you can find answers to frequently asked questions about re-enrolling in CREP. Starting the re-enrollment process is easy. Simply call or stop by your local soil conservation district or Farm Service Agency listed on the back panel.*

*Stay with CREP—it's good for the Bay, good for your farm and good for your bottom line.*

## Q What is CREP?

**A** CREP is a completely voluntary program that pays landowners to take environmentally sensitive cropland out of production for 10 to 15 years and plant streamside buffers, protect highly erodible land or establish wetlands to protect the water quality and wildlife habitat of local streams. CREP provides reliable, attractive income for the length of your contract. A permanent easement option is also available in some areas.

## Q What conservation practices are eligible for CREP?

**A** Farmers can plant forested streamside buffers, grassed streamside buffers or conservation cover. They may also install grassland or forest practices to protect highly erodible land, promote certain wildlife species or establish wetlands to safeguard local streams.

## Q Can I re-enroll my existing CREP practices when my contract expires?

**A** Yes. Existing practices for expired CREP contracts must be re-enrolled before the contract expires. If the deadline is missed, the site may be enrolled as a new contract under current eligibility requirements, but only if the practice is needed and feasible. Contracts with the cover planted to trees must be re-enrolled before expiration because those contracts will not meet the "able to be cropped" requirement once the current contract expires. Re-enrolled contracts are eligible for Maryland's \$100 per acre sign-up bonus.



## Q Can I enroll my Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practices in CREP?

**A** The same parcel of land may not be enrolled in CREP and CRP at the same time; however, CRP participants with expiring contracts may enroll in a new CREP contract at attractive rates and qualify for \$200 per acre in federal and state sign-up bonuses if all eligibility requirements are met.

## Q How do I know if my CRP practices qualify for CREP?

**A** CRP practices that qualify for CREP must be next to a stream or waterway or located on highly erodible land that is within 1,000 feet of a stream. Cropland may be eligible if it was planted to an agricultural commodity, can meet cropping history requirements, and is still physically and legally capable of being planted. Marginal pastureland next to a stream may also be eligible for certain practices.

## Q If I re-enroll in CREP, can I change the current conservation practice?

**A** Yes. You may change the current conservation practice, but only if it results in a higher environmental benefit as determined by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) or the soil conservation district.



**Q** If I currently have riparian buffers that are wider than the 100 ft. maximum average width or ditch buffers wider than the 35 ft. maximum width, may I re-enroll the original widths?

**A** You may re-enroll the entire acreage previously under contract.

**Q** I have “stacked” buffers with different contract expiration dates. The contract for the first buffer strip is about to expire. Can I re-enroll all of the strips at once?

**A** No. Each strip must be re-enrolled separately. When you re-enroll additional strips, you can request a shorter contract length so that all re-enrolled contracts expire at the same time.

**Q** When the first contract on my “stacked” buffers expires, am I required to re-enroll?

**A** You may choose not to re-enroll the first stacked buffer when the contract expires, but you will be required to maintain the entire buffer until the other contract(s) expires. Otherwise, you would be out of compliance with CREP because the outer stacked buffer would not meet the practice requirements.

**Q** How do I re-enroll in CREP?

**A** Sign-up for Maryland CREP is ongoing until acreage goals are met. Contact the local soil conservation district or county Farm Service Agency to re-enroll in the program. For more information on Maryland’s CREP visit: [mda.maryland.gov](http://mda.maryland.gov). Click on Conservation, follow the link to Financial Assistance, and click on CREP.



## Maryland's 24 Soil Conservation Districts

Allegany	301-777-1747, ext. 3
Anne Arundel	410-571-6757
Baltimore Co.	410-527-5920, ext. 3
Calvert	410-535-1521, ext. 3
Caroline	410-479-1202, ext. 3
Carroll	410-848-8200, ext. 3
Catoctin	301-695-2803, ext. 3
Cecil	410-398-4411, ext. 3
Charles	301-934-9588, ext. 3
Dorchester	410-228-5640, ext. 3
Frederick	301-695-2803, ext. 3
Garrett	301-334-6950, ext. 3
Harford	410-838-6181, ext. 3
Howard	410-313-0680
Kent	410-778-5150, ext. 3
Montgomery	301-590-2855
Prince George's	301-574-5162, ext. 3
Queen Anne's	410-758-3136, ext. 3
St. Mary's	301-475-8402, ext. 3
Somerset	410-651-1575, ext. 3
Talbot	410-822-1577, ext. 3
Washington Co.	301-797-6821, ext. 3
Wicomico	410-546-4777, ext. 3
Worcester	410-632-5439, ext. 3

## Maryland FSA Offices

Allegany	301-777-1536
Anne Arundel	443-482-2760
Baltimore Co.	410-527-5920
Calvert	410-535-1521
Caroline	410-479-1202
Carroll	410-848-2780
Cecil	410-398-4411
Charles	301-934-9588
Dorchester	410-228-5640
Frederick	301-695-2803
Garrett	301-334-6950
Harford	410-838-6181
Howard	410-489-7987
Kent	410-778-5353
Montgomery	301-590-2855
Prince George's	301-574-5162
Queen Anne's	410-758-1671
St. Mary's	301-475-8402
Somerset	410-651-0370
Talbot	410-822-1577
Washington Co.	301-797-0500
Wicomico	410-546-4777
Worcester	410-632-5439



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