



# CREP

## MARYLAND'S CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM



### CREP Pays Landowners Attractive Land Rental Rates to Protect Streams and Other Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Maryland's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) has helped thousands of Maryland farmers and landowners—just like you—protect local waterways while earning steady, dependable land rental income.

CREP is a federal-state partnership program that pays top dollar to farmers who agree to take environmentally sensitive cropland and pastureland out of production for 10 to 15 years and install best management practices to protect local streams and create wildlife habitat.

Participating farmers receive free technical assistance and attractive financial incentives to plant streamside buffers, establish wetlands, protect highly erodible lands, or create wildlife habitat. This program is a good investment choice for landowners looking to supplement farm earnings with a steady income stream. Look inside to see what CREP can do for you.

**CREP Offers... A one-time SIGNING BONUS of up to \$1,000/acre for new forest buffers.**

#### PLUS...

- Attractive annual rental income and incentive payments.
- 0-to-15-year contracts plus a permanent easement option.
- Up to 100% cost-share for many conservation practices including forested streamside buffers, wetlands, livestock fencing, and more.
- Cleaner, healthier waterways.
- Erosion and flood control for your farm.
- Healthier conditions for livestock.
- Enhanced habitat for fish, game, and other wildlife.
- Easy re-enrollment of expiring contracts.



## Put the Best

## Environmental

## Incentive Program

## to Work for You.



# CREP

## ANNUAL RENTAL PAYMENT FORMULA

### Four Types of CREP Payments Available

Maryland CREP offers four types of incentive payments based on the practice that you want to install.

#### 1 Signing Bonus

Due to their tremendous water quality and climate benefits, **new forested streamside buffers qualify for a one-time BONUS PAYMENT of up to \$1,000/acre.** Other practices qualify for a range of bonus payments.

#### 2 Annual Rental Payment

This payment is determined by the site's soil rental rate plus a per acre incentive valued at between 80% and 200% of the soil rental rate, depending on the type of practice installed. (See example)

#### 3 Cost-Share Assistance

You will be reimbursed for up to 100% of the cost to install eligible best management practices on enrolled land. (See chart at right)

#### 4 Practice Incentive Payment

This one-time incentive payment is worth 40% of the eligible costs to establish qualifying BMPs.

**Example:** A landowner completes a wetland restoration on 10 acres of land with a local soil rental rate of \$100 per acre. The landowner's annual rental payment is:

$$\begin{aligned} & \$100 \text{ per acre} \times 10 \text{ acres} = \$1,000 \\ & + 200\% \text{ CREP incentive payment} \times \$1,000 = \underline{\$2,000} \\ & \text{Total Annual Payment to Landowner: } \underline{\$3,000} \end{aligned}$$



## ELIGIBLE COST-SHARE PRACTICES

Maryland's Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program and USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provide financial assistance to install a range of best management practices on CREP-enrolled land. For livestock producers, cost-share funding is also available to install fences, stream crossings, and watering troughs to exclude livestock from newly planted areas. Soil conservation districts, in cooperation with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), provide free technical guidance to install these practices.

Best Management Practice	Cost-Share Rate	Eligible for 40% Practice Incentive Payment
Herbaceous Buffer	Up to 100%	Yes
Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer		
Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer		
Retirement of Highly Erodible Land Adjacent to Waterways	Up to 100%	No
Riparian Forest Buffer	Up to 100%	Yes
Stream Fencing		
Wetlands Restoration		
Stream Crossing	Up to 87.5%	Yes
Watering Trough		
Habitat for Declining Species	Up to 50%	No
Permanent Wildlife Habitat		No
Shallow Water Area for Habitat		Yes



## Do I Qualify for CREP?

If you have marginal cropland or pastureland that is next to a stream, wetland, drainage ditch, or highly erodible land, you may be eligible to participate. This program is a good investment choice for landowners looking to supplement farm earnings with a steady income stream. By targeting only the most environmentally sensitive lands, CREP aims to keep your best crop and pastureland productive.

## How Will CREP Enhance My Farm?

**CREP provides financial and technical resources to help you:**

- Improve water quality in farm streams.
- Stabilize streambanks.
- Control flooding and erosion.
- Improve livestock health by installing measures to keep animals out of streams.

**Plus...**

- CREP buffers meet all Maryland setback requirements.
- CREP-approved livestock exclusion practices satisfy Maryland's nutrient management requirements.
- Trees and shrubs sequester additional carbon from the atmosphere to help combat climate change.

## Will I See Fish and Wildlife Benefits?

**Streamside Buffers, Wetlands, and Shallow Water Areas:**

- Improve stream health.
- Provide shade to cool the water for trout and other aquatic animals.
- Offer food and habitat for small game species like the bobwhite quail, rabbits, and turkey.
- Provide nesting areas and cover for birds and small mammals.
- Attract songbirds such as the common yellowthroat, grasshopper sparrow, and eastern meadowlark.
- Attract many types of waterfowl including the American black duck.



**“***The CREP Program has benefited us tremendously by not only reimbursing us for trees and planting, but also offsetting the costs of the water trough and fencing. This—in addition to improvements in water and air quality and conservation of wildlife habitat—has made it a win-win situation!”*

—Beckie Herrick  
Good Fellowship Farm  
Carroll County, Maryland

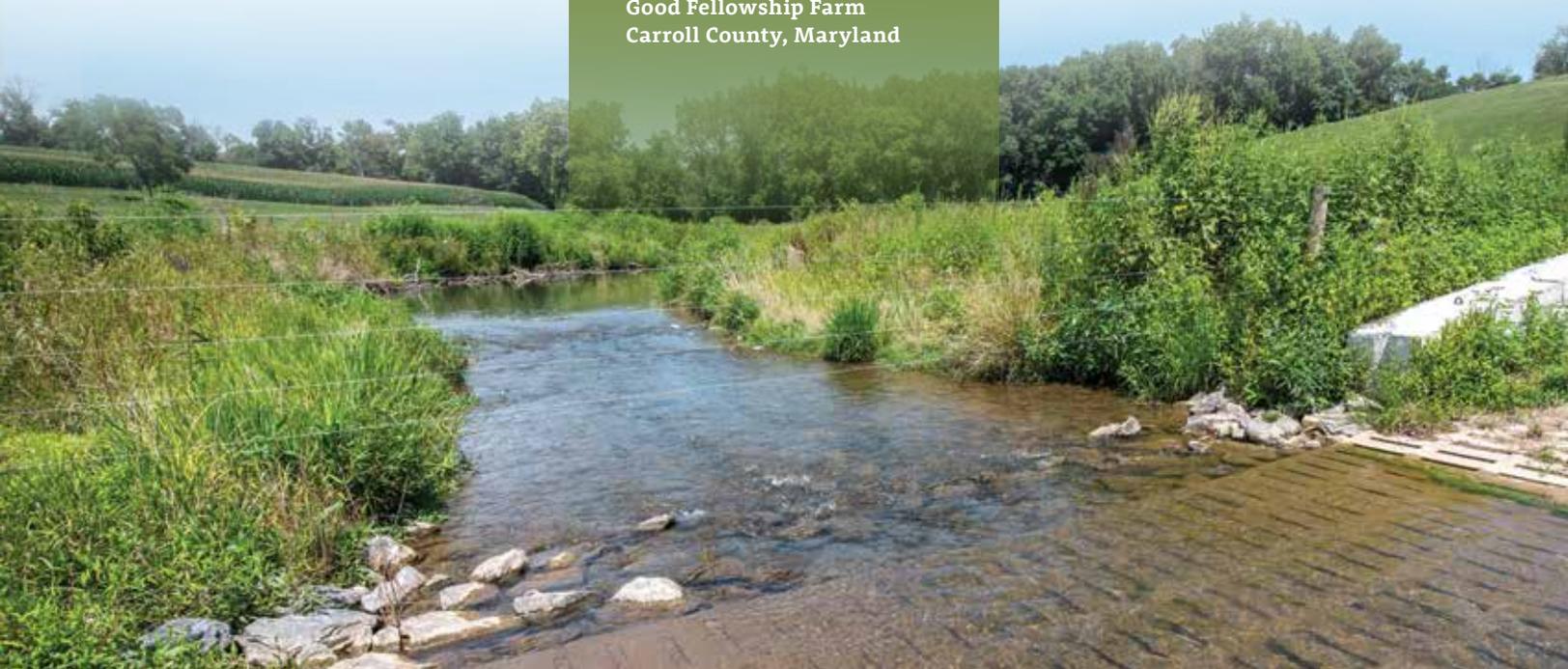


## Landowner Responsibilities

Landowners and farmers retain their property rights, but agree to control noxious weeds and maintain grass, shrubs, trees, or wetlands and BMPs installed for the life of the CREP contract. Rental contracts range from 10 to 15 years for this voluntary program.

## Permanent Easement Option

You may be able to sell a permanent easement on your land to the State of Maryland at the end of your contract. Payments would be based on the fair market value of foregone development and agricultural productivity.



## How to Enroll

Sign-up for Maryland CREP is ongoing. Local soil conservation districts are ready to answer your questions and help you with your application.

**For more information or to enroll, please contact your local soil conservation district or Farm Service Agency.**



## MARYLAND'S SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Allegany	301-777-1747, ext. 3	alleganyscd.com
Anne Arundel	410-571-6757	aascd.org
Baltimore County	410-527-5920, ext. 3	bcscd.org
Calvert	410-535-1521, ext. 3	calvertsoil.org
Caroline	410-479-1202, ext. 3	
Carroll	410-848-8200, ext. 3	carrollsoil.com
Catoctin	301-695-2803, ext. 3	catocinfrederickscd.com
Cecil	410-398-4411, ext. 3	cecilscd.com
Charles	301-638-3028	charlesscd.com
Dorchester	410-228-5640, ext. 3	
Frederick	301-695-2803, ext. 3	catocinfrederickscd.com
Garrett	301-501-5886	garrettscd.org
Harford	410-638-4828	harfordscd.org
Howard	410-313-0680	howardscd.org
Kent	410-778-5150, ext. 3	kentsoilandwaterconservationdistrict.org
Montgomery	301-590-2855	montgomeryscd.org
Prince George's	301-574-5162, ext. 3	pgscd.org
Queen Anne's	410-758-3136, ext. 3	
St. Mary's	301-475-8402, ext. 3	stmarysscd.com
Somerset	410-621-9310	
Talbot	410-822-1577, ext. 5	talbotscd.com
Washington County	301-797-6821, ext. 3	conservationplace.com
Wicomico	410-546-4777, ext. 3	wicomicoscd.org
Worcester	410-632-5439, ext. 3	



SCAN THE QR CODE with your mobile device to watch a short CREP video.



## Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Resource Conservation  
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
410-841-5863  
[mda.maryland.gov/conservation](http://mda.maryland.gov/conservation)



United States Department of Agriculture

