What is CREP?

New York,s Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) provides incentives to support farmers in their efforts to protect water quality from agriculture related sources of pollution within 12 major watersheds and public well-head areas throughout the state.

How Does CREP Work?

CREP encourages farmers to place environmentally sensitive land near streams, lakes, waterbodies and public well-head areas into an approved vegetative cover for a period of 10 to 15 years. Specific management practices may also be installed to further reduce nutrient and sediment runoff into these waters.

In return, farmers are paid annual rental payments and reimbursed for establishing recognized conservation practices. Farmers may also receive an annual tax credit.

NRCS 1999 Jim McCabe

CREP Benefits to the Farm Operation & the Environment

- Provides economic incentives for less productive land areas
- Allows greater flexibility with manure application issues
- Upholds good farming practices
- Protects public drinking water supplies
- Improves wildlife and aquatic habitat

Joseph C. Hammond

NRCS Lynn Betts

Economic Incentives

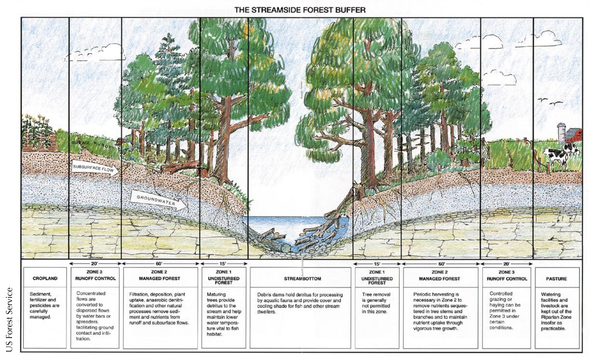
- Annual Rental Payments
  145% of a pre-determined rental-rate
- Signing Incentive Payment
  A one-time payment of $100-$150 per acre
- Cost-Share Assistance
  Up to 50% for the installation of eligible conservation practices
- Practice Incentive Payment
  An additional 40% one-time payment for certain practices
- Annual Maintenance Payment
  $5-$10 per acre
- Producers may also receive an annual tax credit

CREP Practices Include:

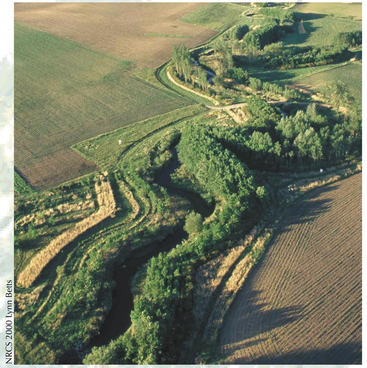
- Establishment of grasses
- Tree Planting
- Creating Wildlife Habitat
- Grass Waterways
- Filter Strips
- Restoring Wetlands
- Contour Grass Strips
- Riparian Buffers
- Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat and Wetland Buffers
- Improvement of Existing Vegetative Cover

Life at the Water's Edge

Farm the Best, Buffer the Rest



US Forest Service



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Who is Eligible?

- Land must be located in one of the eligible watersheds or public well-head areas.
- Cropland must meet cropping history criteria and be capable of being cropped today.
- Marginal pastureland can be enrolled provided it is suitable for use as a riparian buffer.

NEW YORK STATE
CREP
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Information & Assistance

For more information contact your local:

- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)

www.nys-soilandwater.org