

CREP is a Partnership Program

LLINOIS

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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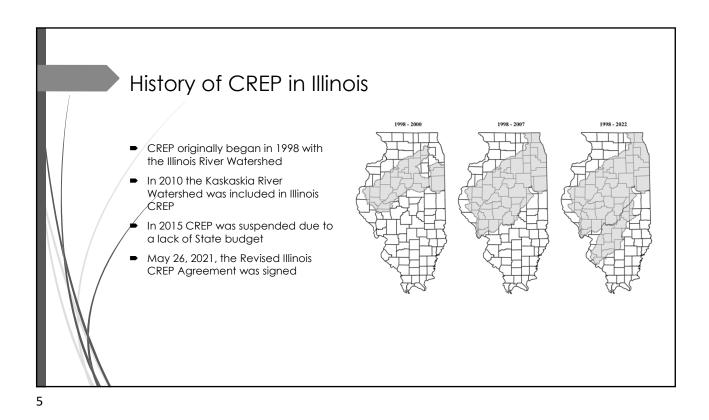
The Basics of CREP

- CREP is a subprogram of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Landowners enroll frequently flooded and environmentally sensitive cropland in a 15-year Federal CREP contract, with the Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- IDNR extends the terms of that Federal contract by enrolling the land into an Illinois CREP Grant of Conservation Right and Easement Agreement (Easement) for 15 years or in perpetuity beyond the expiration of the Federal contract
- In exchange for voluntarily removing land from production, landowners received compensation to implement conservation practices that contribute to the goals of CREP
- With over 90% of land in Illinois privately owned, programs like CREP are essential
 to effectively address important environmental issues

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CREP Goals

- Improve Water Quality
 - Decrease sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus loading by 10 percent, within stream reaches associated with land enrolled in CRP through this CREP, when compared to 1998 pre-enrollment averages.
- Improve Wildlife Habitat
 - Increase the population of avian "Species of Greatest Conservation Need," as defined in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, on land enrolled in CRP through this CREP by 50 percent, when compared to similar land managed for agricultural production.
- Improve Fish Habitat
 - Increase the average number of native fish species and environmentally sensitive aquatic insects (stoneflies, caddisflies, and mayflies) by 15 percent within stream reaches associated with land enrolled in CRP through this CREP when compared to similar streams surrounded by land managed for agricultural production.



CREP Eligibility

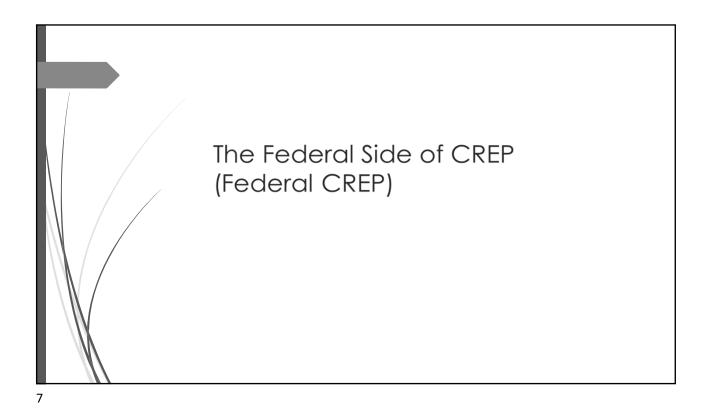
Illinois River watershed

Kaskaskia River watershed

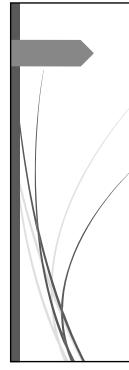
Land located within the 100-year floodplain

Land outside of the 100-year floodplain must be determined to be a farmed wetland, prior converted wetland, prior converted wetland or wetland farmed under natural conditions

Sign up will begin on June 15, 2022



FSA Responsibilities Make all producer eligibility and land eligibility determinations Administer all approved CRP-1's Pay up to 50 percent of the eligible cost share after approved conservation practice installation Make annual rental payments including incentive payments (SIP and PIP) for land enrolled through the Illinois CREP

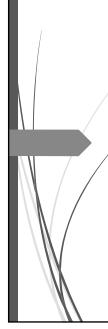


FSA Responsibilities (cont.)

- Coordinate with the State of Illinois to provide information and outreach to producers in the Illinois CREP project area
- Conduct compliance reviews
- Provide the State of Illinois CREP coordinator a copy of all approved CRP contracts for land enrolled in CRP through the Illinois CREP within 5 business days of contract approval.
- ► Provide the State of Illinois CREP coordinator a copy of all modified or terminated CRP contracts for land enrolled in CRP through the Illinois CREP within 5 business days of the date of such modification or termination.

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Eligible CREP Counties



Adams	Fayette	Knox	McLean	Scott
Bond	Ford	Lake	Menard	Shelby
Brown	Fulton	LaSalle	Monroe	St. Clair
Bureau	Greene	Lee	Montgomery	Stark
Champaign	Grundy	Livingston	Morgan	Tazewell
Christian	Hancock	Logan	Moultrie	Vermilion
Clinton	Henderson	Macon	Peoria	Warren
Coles	Henry	Macoupin	Perry	Washington
Cook	Iroquois	Madison	Piatt	Will
DeKalb	Jefferson	Marion	Pike	Woodford
DeWitt	Jersey	Marshall	Putnam	
Douglas	Kane	Mason	Randolph	
DuPage	Kankakee	McDonough	Sangamon	
Effingham	Kendall	McHenry	Schuyler	

Eligible Federal CREP Conservation Practices Handbook 2-CRP, IL Amendment 2, subparagraph 66C

There are three ways land can qualify:

Flooded and/or Wetland Areas

- Within the 100-year floodplain of the Illinois River or Kaskaskia River
- Within the 100-year floodplain of a tributary of the Illinois River or Kaskaskia River

■ Highly Erodible Riparian Areas

- Erodibility Index (EI) of 8 or greater and
- Immediately adjacent to a riparian area within the 100-year floodplain of the Illinois River or Kaskaskia River

Wetland Areas

- cropland outside the 100-year floodplain of the Illinois River or Kaskaskia River watersheds and
- is a farmed wetland, prior converted wetland or wetland farmed under natural conditions

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Eligible Federal CREP Conservation Practices Handbook 2-CRP, IL Amendment 2, subparagraph 66C

Flooded and/or Wetland Riparian Areas

- CP3A Hardwood Tree Planting
- CP4D Wildlife Habitat
- CP9 Shallow Water Area
- CP21- Filter Strip
- CP22 Riparian Buffer
- CP23 Wetland Restoration
- CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat (Prairie Ecosystem or Tall Grass Prairie/Oak Savanna Ecosystem)
- CP12 Wildlife Food Plot (only in conjunction with CP3A, CP4D and CP25)

Eligible Federal CREP Conservation Practices Handbook 2-CRP, IL Amendment 2, subparagraph 66C

Highly Erodible Riparian Areas

- CP2 Native Grasses
- CP3A Hardwood Tree Planting
- CP4D Wildlife Habitat
- CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat (Prairie Ecosystem or Tall Grass Prairie/Oak Savanna Ecosystem)
- CP12 Wildlife Food Plot (only in conjunction with CP3A, CP4D and CP25)

Wetland Areas

 CP23 – Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain

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CRP Practices, Contract Periods, Incentives

Handbook 2-CRP, IL Amendment 2, subparagraph 66C

For more information on:

- SIP See subparagraph 197A
- PIP- See subparagraph 197B
- Rental Rate Incentive See subparagraph 196B
- Maintenance Incentive Rates-See subparagraph 196C

Practice Number and Name	Contract Period	32.5 Percen t SIP	10 Percent PIP	25 Percent Rental Rate Incentive	20 Percent Water Quality Rental Rate Incentive And Climate Smart Incentive Percent	Maximum Maintenance Incentive Rate
CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grass	14-15	N	N	Y	N/A	
CP3A, Hardwood Tree Planting	14-15	N	N	Y	N/A	
CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat	14-15	N	N	Y	N/A	
CP9, Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife	14-15	Y	Y	Y	N/A	
CP12, Wildlife Food Plot	14-15	N	N	Y	N/A	
CP21, Filter Strip	14-15	Y	Y	Y	N/A	\$0, \$5, \$10
CP22, Riparian Buffer	14-15	Y	Y	Y	N/A	\$2, \$5, \$10
CP23, Wetland Restoration	14-15	Y	Y	Y	N/A	
CP23A, Wetland Restoration, non- floodplain	14-15	Y	Y	Y	N/A	
CP25, Rare and Declining Habitat 1/	14-15	N	N	Y	N/A	

1/ CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat, for prairie ecosystem or tall grass prairie/oak savanna ecosystem

Eligibility
Criteria for
Owners

All landowners **must participate** in the **State of Illinois Easement program** on all land enrolled in CRP through the Illinois CREP

All other producer eligibility requirements are required in accordance with 2-CRP procedures.

- Eligible Person: 2-CRP paragraph 126
- Landlord Tenant Provisions: 2-CRP paragraph 130
- AGI Provisions: 2-CRP paragraph 131

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Eligibility Requirements for Cropland Handbook 2-CRP, IL Amendment 2, paragraph 181

- ► All land must be physically located within the State of Illinois
- ■The land must meet eligibility requirements according to national CRP directives.
- ► At least 5% of all land offered must be physically located within the Illinois CREP project area
 - ■New land must meet needed and feasible to solve a resource concern
 - ■Land currently enrolled in CRP and being offered for reenrollment must be compliant and meet CREP practice standards.
 - ■Re-enrolling land is not eligible for cost share or SIP payments
 - May be offered for re-enrollment no earlier than 6 months before the CRP-1 is set to expire.
- A minimum of 3 acres, per CRP-1, is required.
 - ► Exception: Less than 3 acres per CRP-1 may be enrolled if at least one person or legal entity on the CRP-1 certifies that they are socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning and veteran farmer or rancher on the CCC-860.

CREP Signup Information Handbook 2-CRP, IL Amendment 2 paragraph 181

- Producers may submit offers to enroll or re-enroll eligible acreage within the Illinois River and Kaskaskia River Watersheds.
- Illinois CREP acreage limit of 232,000 acres.
- Illinois CREP is a continuous sign up
 - signup numbers change at the beginning of each fiscal year
- The contract period for Illinois CREP
 - Minimum of 14 years and will not exceed 15 years

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CREP Signup Information (cont.) Handbook 2-CRP, IL Amendment 2 paragraph 181

- All land must be entered into a Grant of Conservation Right and Easement Agreement (Easement) with the State of Illinois
 - Easements extend the environmental and conservation benefits obtained from enrollment in CRP. Participants have the following options:
 - Permanent Easement
 - Non-permanent Easement (15 years)
- Easements must be executed within 18 months of CRP-1 approval.
- A DAFP extension may be authorized if additional time is needed.
- If contract is terminated, refunds, plus interest and liquidated damages are required.

Ineligible Acreage Handbook 2-CRP, IL Amendment 2 subparagraph 151D

- All acreage identified as ineligible in 2-CRP subparagraph 151D
 - ▶ Land on which a Federal agency restricts the use in a mortgage or an easement
 - Land on which the use of the land is either restricted through deed or other restriction before enrollment in CRP, prohibiting the production of agricultural commodities or requires any resource conserving measures during any part of the proposed contract period.
 - Land currently enrolled in an Easement with the State of Illinois
 - Land devoted to hardwood trees that has been re-enrolled in CRP one or more times
 - Exception: Enrolled acres on practice CP3A, Hardwood Trees, on wetland soils that have been re-enrolled 1 or more times, may be offered for reenrollment as a CP23A- Wetland Restoration, provided the land and cover meets all other eligibility requirements

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Eligibility Requirements for Marginal Pastureland

Handbook 2-CRP, IL Amendment 2 paragraph 181C

- Marginal pastureland must meet all the same eligibility requirements as cropland in addition to all of the eligibility requirements for marginal pastureland provided in Handbook 2-CRP, subparagraph 181C.
- The only eligible practice for marginal pastureland under the IL CREP is CP22.
- Infeasible-to-farm provisions do not apply to marginal pastureland

100 Year Floodplain

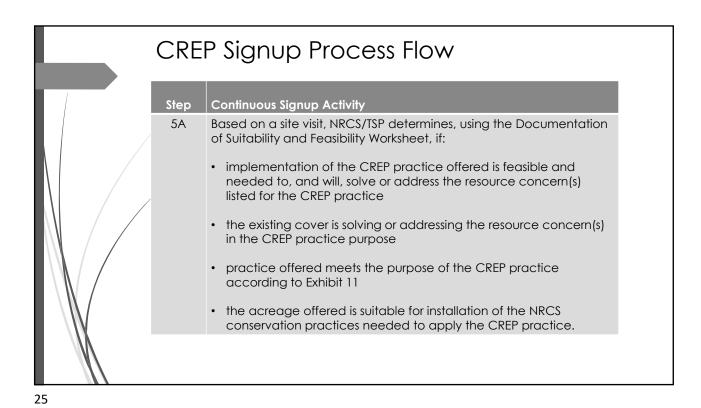
- ► How to add FEMA 100 Year Floodplain layer In TERRA
- 1. Click on the **green +** Add Layer Files will open
- 2. Select Other then Add and box to Add Other Layer will open
- 3. Expand the K:\IL\geodata folder, scroll down to hydrography
- 4. Highlight hydrography do not expand this folder, slight pause
- 5. FEMA layers will populate in the Files column
- 6. Select your county and click OK
- 7. Close Add Layer Files
- 8. FEMA layer will be in the Table of Contents
- 9. Double click the Gray box below the FEMA layer to display the symbol
- 10. Scroll down to select the 100 Year Flood Overlay and click OK
- 11. Floodplain will be visible

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CREP Easement Layer

- How to add CREP Easement Layer in TERRA
- 1. Click on the green + Add Layer Files will open
- 2. Select Other then Add and box to Add Other Layer will open
- 3. Expand the K:\IL\geodata folder, (+) conservation, (+) crp_scenarios
- 4. Highlight IL_crep_easement, Files will populate in the right column
- 5. Highlight IDNR_Easement_2021. Select OK
- 6. Close Add Layer Files
- 7. IDNR _Easement_2021 Layer will be in the Table of Contents
- 8. Double click the gray box below the Easement layer to display the symbol
- 9. Change to biohazard or bright color
- 10. Easements will be visible

CREP Signup Process Flow Step/Action Chart 2-CRP IL Amendment 2, subparagraph 171C			
Step	Continuous Signup Activity		
1	 Producer: expresses an interest in enrolling in CRP indicates the acreage they want to enroll on digital imagery and identifies the practice they want to enroll. completes CCC-860, if applicable (See subparagraph 211 A) 		
2	County office determines if all the following are met: producer eligibility requirements land eligibility requirements CRP county cropland limit has been exceeded		
3	 If all requirements in step 2: are met, create a TERRA Scenario, upload it into COLS and print CRP-2C. (Producer does NOT sign this CRP-2C) Not met; STOP and do not proceed. Notify producer of unacceptable offer using CRP-26 letter. 		



CREP Signup Process Flow

Step Continuous Signup Activity

5B Based on a site visit, NRCS/TSP determines, using either conservation assistance notes, status review form, or State NRCS Office developed form, if the:

• CRP or CREP practice is being maintained according to the conservation plan, including the engineering design and size requirements, if applicable

• approved cover is being maintained according to the conservation plan

• CRP or CREP practice is resolving or addressing the resource concern(s) and meets the purpose of the practice

• NRCS conservation practices are applied in a way that meets the purpose of the CRP or CREP practice

• CRP or CREP practice meets the current practice standards.

If any of the above are not being met, NRCS/TSP must provide to FSA the condition of the practice/approved cover not being met

CREP Signup Process Flow Step Continuous Signup Activity 6 NRCS or TSP: • returns unsigned CRP-2C and geospatial data/map to County Office • provides the County Office: • for new land (land not currently enrolled in CRP) offered, a signed and dated Documentation of Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet and other documentation supporting NRCS determination, if applicable • for land currently enrolled in CRP or CREP being offered for reenrollment, Illinois status review worksheet and other documentation supporting NRCS determination, if applicable.

CREP Signup Process Flow

Step Continuous Signup Activity

7 COC or CED reviews NRCS or TSP documents and findings. County Office files all documents received from NRCS or TSP in the CRP folder.

If NRCS or TSP determined the practice and acreage offered is:

• for new land (land not currently enrolled in CRP):

- not suitable, needed, and feasible; Stop and notify the producer the practice is not acceptable using CRP-26

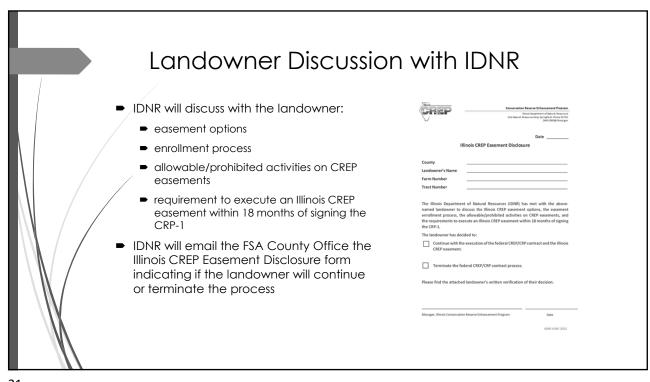
- suitable, needed, and feasible without any changes; go to step 8A

- suitable, needed, and feasible, but only if required changes are made; go to step 8

CREP Signup Process Flow Step | Continuous Signup Activity for land currently enrolled in CRP or CREP being offered for re-enrollment: (cntd) - not maintained according to the conservation plan; Stop, the land is not eligible for enrollment; handle noncompliance according to paragraph 603 - not resolving or addressing the resource concern(s) per the purpose of the practice; Stop, the land is not eligible for enrollment; handle noncompliance according to paragraph 603 - practice and cover is being maintained according to the conservation plan, including the engineering design and size requirements, if applicable; practice is resolving or addressing the resource concern(s); practice meets the purpose of the practice and the current practice standards; and the NRCS conservation practices are applied in a way that meets the purpose of the CRP or CREP practice; go to step 8A - practice and cover is being maintained according to the conservation plan, including the engineering design and size requirements, if applicable, but does not meet the current practice standards; go to step 8. When the producer modifies the practice or acreage offered after NRCS or TSP has made the determinations in this step, Stop and go back to step 3.

CREP Signup Process Flow				
	Step	Continuous Signup Activity		
	8	COC or CED notifies producer of required changes needed to make the practice acceptable. If producer:		
		 agrees to make all required changes, go back to step 3 and create new TERRA scenario, CRP-2C, and geospatial data/map, then proceed to step 8A 		
		 does not agree to make all required changes, Stop and notify producer offer is not acceptable using CRP-26. 		
	8A	County Office provides the following to IDNR by email (<u>DNR.CREP@Illinois.gov</u>):		
		unsigned CRP-1 and CRP-2C		
		TERRA Scenario		
		TERRA Shapefile		
		 Documentation of Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet or IL Status Review Worksheet if CREP practice being re-enrolled 		
\\\\		CCC-860, if applicable (See subparagraph 211 A)		

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CREP Signup Process Flow Step **Continuous Signup Activity** 8B IDNR meets with all landowners to: · discuss the easement requirement review easement options ensure all landowners understand that the easement must be executed within 18-months of CRP-1 approval unless additional time is authorized by 8C IDNR provides the County Office with the Illinois CREP Easement Disclosure form completed and signed by IDNR as well as a confirmation email or letter from the landowner. County Offices will ensure that the base limitation is not exceeded. 10 County Office completes and prints CRP-2C and CRP-1 and notifies the producer that CRP-2C and CRP-1 are ready for signature.

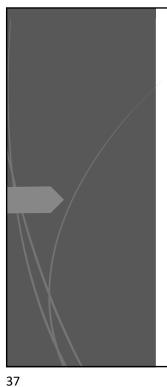
С	REP Signup Process Flow
Step	Continuous Signup Activity
11	County Office completes paid-for measurement service, if requested.
12	Producer signs and dates completed CRP-2C and CRP-1 and provides the signed documents to the County Office.
13	 County Office: notifies producer of acceptability of offer using CRP-23 provides producer a copy of signed CRP-1 and CRP-2C provides producer a copy of CRP-1 Appendix updates offer status in COLS to "Submit to Plan" provides NRCS a copy of the:
	 letter of acceptability sent to producer (CRP-23) signed CRP-1 signed CRP-2C new geospatial data/map created in step 8, if applicable TERRA Shapefile.

CREP Signup Process Flow Step **Continuous Signup Activity** 14 NRCS provides County Office with: • NRCS signed conservation plan and all supporting documentation • NRCS-CPA-52 with the NRCS portion completed. 15 County Office: · completes all necessary consultations, if needed • obtains copy of all permits or other permissions necessary to perform and maintain practices as provided by NRCS on NRCS-CPA-52, Section G completes FSA's portion of NRCS-CPA-52 ensures all required signatures on CRP-1 and conservation plan have been obtained • updates offer status in COLS to "submit to COC".

С	REP Signup Process Flow
Step	Continuous Signup Activity
16	If determined complete and acceptable, COC or CED signs conservation plan.
17	County Office ensures that AGI certification is filed and recorded in subsidiary file for the FY of the COC/CED approval date.
18	COC or CED approves CRP-1. (DD must review the first 5 offers before approval)
19	County Office records contract period on CRP-1.
20	County Office enters COC approval date and effective start date from CRP-1 into COLS
21	County Office:
	records CRP-1 number obtained from CCMS on CRP-1 and CRP-2C
	 record C/S requested in CSS and generate FSA-848A
	 notifies producer that CRP-1 is approved using CRP-24 and provides producer a copy of approved CRP-1, CRP-2C, and FSA-848A.

CREP Signup Process Flow Step **Continuous Signup Activity** Within 5 business days of COC or CED approval, the County Office will provide 22 a copy of the following documents to the applicable SWCD and IDNR DNR.CREP@Illinois.gov: completed CRP-2C approved CRP-1 CPO and all supporting documentation • IR sheet (Implementation Requirements) · any design sheets • CPA-52 23 IDNR or SWCD will properly record the Easement within 18 months of the CRP approval date unless an extension of time is granted by DAFP.

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Annual Payments and Incentives Handbook 2-CRP, IL Amendment 2 paragraph 196

- CREP acres enrolled will receive a per acre incentive payment in an amount equal to 25% of the weighted average SRR, or marginal pastureland rate.
 - COLS will **automatically add** the per-acre incentive payment to the per acre maximum payment rate.
- Maintenance Rates apply to applicable practices.
- A per acre Climate-Smart Incentive and Water Quality incentive payments are not applicable to Illinois CREP.

Signing Incentive

- SIP is authorized for IL CREP
 - The amount <u>provided in National procedure</u> applies to the IL CREP
- SIP is not authorized for:
 - Land being re-enrolled into IL CREP
 - Land previously enrolled in CRP
- SIP is considered an annual rental payment and is subject to the \$50,000 payment limit provisions.

Practice Incentive Payment Handbook 2-CRP, paragraph 1978

- PIP is authorized
 - One-time incentive payment
 - Made to eligible participants after completing the installation of approved practices under the Illinois CREP.
 - Approved practices: CP9, CP21, CP22, CP23 and CP23A
 - PIP is equal to 10% of total eligible cost of practice installation.
 - Specific to IL CREP and does not follow National Procedure
- PIP is considered a cost share payment.
- **For IL CREP Only**, PIP, cost share and the State of Illinois cost share payments combined **cannot exceed 110%** of the cost of the practice.

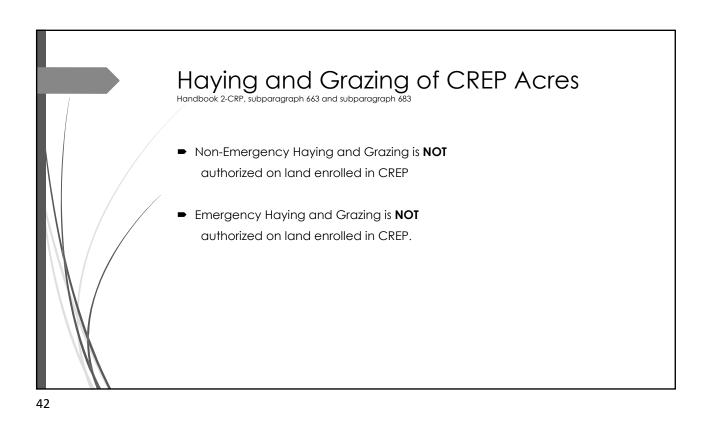
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Requirements Before Approval

Handbook 2-CRP, Amendment 2 paragraph 401

- Write CREP on the top of the CRP-1
- Ensure the Illinois CREP Easement Disclosure form
 - has been completed and signed by IDNR (participant will not sign this form)
 - Includes a confirmation email or letter from the landowner
 - COF's must maintain a copy in the CRP contract folder





Cost Share

Handbook 2-CRP, IL Amendment 2, paragraph 490

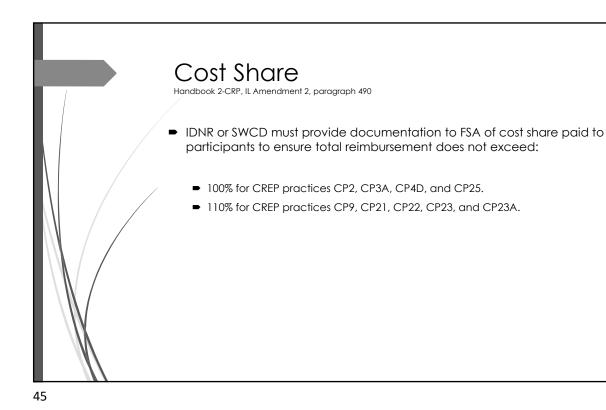
- Cost Share is not authorized for land re-enrolled through Illinois CREP
- Total cost share assistance for IL CREP, including PIP's, from all sources, including cost share from the State of Illinois, must not exceed 100 percent of the eligible reimbursable cost of establishing the practice.
 - <u>EXCEPTION:</u> Under IL CREP, PIP, cost share and the State of Illinois C/S payments combined **may exceed the 100%** cost share limit.
- This includes:
 - 50% cost share from CCC (FSA)
 - 50% cost share from the State of Illinois
 - 10% PIF
- Under no circumstances may the total cost share payment exceed 110% of the cost of the practice.

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Cost Share

Handbook 2-CRP, IL Amendment 2, paragraph 490

- After approved practice has been installed, Federal cost share and PIP payments have been paid to the participant, FSA will:
 - ► Provide IDNR and applicable SWCD with:
 - ► FSA-848A
 - ► FSA-848B which documents eligible cost share earned
 - Payment details including, but not limited to, participant name, payment type (C/S or PIP), payment amount, payment date for each payment.
 - All information will be emailed to DNR.CREP@Illinois.gov



CP22 - Additional Cost Share

Handbook 2-CRP, paragraph 490.5 and IL Exhibit 12

FSA must provide C/S payments to eligible participants for management of a CP22 enrolled or re-enrolled in CRP through the Illinois CREP.

FSA must provide C/S payments to eligible participants for management of a CP22 enrolled or re-enrolled in CRP through the Illinois CREP.

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CP22 - Additional Cost Share

Handbook 2-CRP, paragraph 490.5

- ► The CP22 riparian buffer management activity(s) must:
 - be included in the conservation plan
 - the conservation plan must indicate the year(s) in which the activity must be performed.
 - May be completed no more than two times during the CRP contract period.
- C/S payments for management of a riparian buffer will be:
 - up to 50% of the eligible cost of the approved activity the participant(s) elects to perform.
- The total cost share payments from all sources shall NOT exceed 100% of the cost of the practice.

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CP22 - Additional Cost Share

Handbook 2-CRP, paragraph 490.5

- After the additional CP22 cost share payment have been paid to the participant, FSA will:
 - Provide IDNR and applicable SWCD with:
 - ► FSA-848A
 - FSA-848B which documents eligible cost share earned
 - Payment details including, but not limited to, participant name, payment type (C/S or PIP), payment amount, payment date for each payment.
- All information must be emailed to DNR.CREP@Illinois.gov
- The State of Illinois will provide a 50 percent cost share match for the CP22 riparian buffer management C/S.
- IDNR or SWCD must provide FSA documentation to ensure total reimbursement does not exceed 100 percent.

Terminations

Handbook 2-CRP, paragraph 571

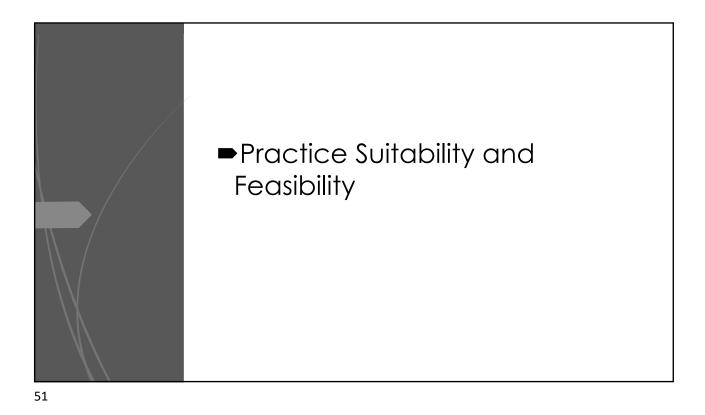
- COC must terminate a CRP-1 prior to the end of the CRP contract when the State of Illinois CREP Easement associated with the CRP-1 is:
 - Cancelled
 - Terminated
 - Voided
- The State of Illinois will notify the FSA county office that administers the CRP-1 of any of the listed actions.
 - Such notification will be in writing and within 5 business days of the Easement being cancelled, terminated, or otherwise voided.
- Refunds are required.

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Terminations

Handbook 2-CRP, paragraph 573

- If FSA must terminate a contract before the expiration date of the contract:
 - Follow procedure found in subparagraph 573A
 - Notify IDNR at **DNR.CREP@Illinois.gov**
 - Send notification in writing and within 5 days of the CRP-1 being cancelled or terminated.
- Once the CRP-1 contract expires or is terminated, all obligations under the State conservation easement remain in force and becomes the responsibility of the State for compliance and enforcement actions.



Practice Suitability and Feasibility NRCS, an NRCS partner or TSP will determine: acreage offered is suitable for the practice offered practice offered is needed and feasible to solve the resource concern practice offered meets the purpose of the practice according to Exhibit 11. existing cover is/or is not functioning as the practice offered Version 2.1 May 2019 S&F worksheets can Conservation Reserve Program be found on the Suitability and Feasibility Determination Easement team SharePoint site. **Worksheet Instructions** Easement Team Suitability and Feasibility (S&F) is the technical eligibility determination performed by NRCS, Technical Service Provider or partner conservation planners for Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and the State Acres For Wildlife (SAFE). CRP policy requires a technical determination of all the following: <u>SharePoint</u>

Eligible Federal CREP Conservation Practices

Flooded and/or Wetland Riparian Areas

- CP3A Hardwood Tree Planting
- CP4D Wildlife Habitat
- CP9 Shallow Water Area
- CP21- Filter Strip
- CP22 Riparian Buffer
- CP23 Wetland Restoration
- CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat (Prairie Ecosystem or Tall Grass Prairie/Oak Sayanna Ecosystem)
- CP12 Wildlife Food Plot (only in conjunction with CP3A, CP4D and CP25)

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Eligible Federal CREP Conservation Practices

Highly Erodible Riparian Areas

- CP2 Native Grasses
- CP3A Hardwood Tree Planting
- CP4D Wildlife Habitat
- CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat (Prairie Ecosystem or Tall Grass Prairie/Oak Savanna Ecosystem)
- CP12 Wildlife Food Plot (only in conjunction with CP3A, CP4D and CP25)

Wetland Areas

 CP23 – Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain



- ► Mixed stand (min. 5 species) of either grasses, trees, shrubs, forbs, or legumes planted in mixes, blocks, or strips.
- Implementation Requirements (IR) sheets and appropriate species, specific, fact sheets are necessary to comprise a full wildlife plan.
 - A more detailed species focused wildlife plan can be substituted for the Implementation Requirement sheets and habitat specific Job sheets, if written by a wildlife specialist and meets NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 420.

	U.S. Department of Agriculture					
	Conservation Reserve Program CP4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat Documentation of Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet (Version 2.1 May 2019)					
N	Name of Client:	Client Phone Number: ()				

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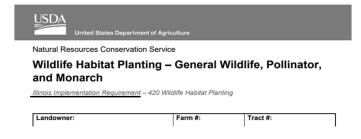
S&F worksheets can be found on the Easement team SharePoint site. Easement Team

<u>Easement Team</u> <u>SharePoint</u>

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CP4d Permanent Wildlife Habitat Planning Requirements

- CP4d should not be used for a wildlife wetland management practice. In wildlife wetland areas the CP23 or CP9 practice should be used.
- CP4d should not be used in areas where CP22 or CP21 is eligible and needed for water quality purposes.



Section 4 of the FOTG, with the Cons. Practice Standards (CPS) Illinois FOTG

CP9 Shallow Water Areas Planning Requirements

- Use NRCS Standard for Shallow Water Management for Wildlife (646).
- Buffer 20 120 feet wide.
- Use filter strip standard (393) 1f buffer is needed for water quality purposes.
- Use conservation cover standard (327) if buffer is not needed for water quality purposes.
 - Seedings must meet the 50-point mix for CP2 or CP4d

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CP9 Shallow Water Areas Planning Requirements

- 10 acres maximum per contract.
- 1 CP-9 per tract.
- Average depth 6 to 18 inches.
- Surface water> 6 months of the year
- Wildlife food plots are not allowed in conjunction with a CP9. Certain plants can be planned for the CP9 that provides food for wildlife per NRCS Standard 646.
 - (Do not use CP-12)

CP12 Wildlife Food Plot Planning Requirements

- Allowed only in conjunction with CP3A, CP4D, CP23, CP25
 - Cannot exceed 5 acres in size and cannot be immediately adjacent to each other.
 - Not more than 10% of the field unless enrolled with a CP23(A) where the limit is 10% of the acres enrolled.
- Food plots may be at 1 location throughout the life of CRP-1 or may be relocated each year
- If relocated, the previous food plot must be seeded to an approved permanent vegetative cover (at the producer's expense)
- CP12's must be the same length of the practice used in conjunction with CP12
- Adding a food plot to an existing CRP-1 does not extend the length of CRP-1.

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CP23 Wetland Restoration Planning Requirements

Practice purpose

- Restore the functions and values of wetland ecosystems that have been devoted to agricultural use.
- Apply this practice to
 - eligible wetlands and associated buffer acreage
 - suitably located and adapted to the restoration of wetland functions and values.
 - A minimum of 51 percent of the soils are hydric

CP23 Wetland Restoration Planning Requirements

Cost Share is allowed for:

- Minimum hydrology to be restored
- Wetland Restoration Plan must be developed
- Establishment of Native Plant Community (historic conditions)
 - ► Follow the 657 standard
 - Utilize "County Probably Natural Vegetation List" or Historic "Public Land Survey notes".
- Restoration of wetland hydrology is only required to the extent specified by the producer.

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CP23 Wetland Restoration Planning Requirements

- Examples of practices to restore hydrology
 - tile line breaks and plugs
 - levee breaks
 - ditch plugs
 - blocking sloughs and drainageways
 - blocking swells with small dikes and water control structures.
 - Small levees to seasonally pond water in low areas in a region that typically had areas or ponded water, or that had flooding and now are protected by levees.

CP23 Wetland Restoration Planning Requirements Cost Share is not allowed for: Practices that would restore the site to a wetland type different than that which existed pre-settlement. ■ Practices that would inundate the site much deeper and longer than ever had been typical for that area. Examples of practices that are not cost sharable:

- - Any structure that would inundate a significant part of the site much deeper and longer than had ever been typical for that area.
 - Ring Dike around 75% of the tract, to create a marsh on a floodplain that was at one time forested and is not leveed or ditched.

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CP23 Wetland Restoration Planning Requirements

- Site vegetation
 - Must use NRCS Seeding Calculator for 643 to develop native seeding mixes,
 - ► For tree plantings utilize the CPS 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Buffers around the CP23 must be the minimum acres needed to protect the CP23.
 - may be less than the 3 to 1 ratio
 - must not exceed the 3 to 1 ratio.

CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat Planning Requirements

- Practice purpose:
 - For the establishment of native prairie and/or savanna plant communities appropriate for the site
- Must follow criteria in the NRCS Conservation Standard 643
- Must use NRCS Seeding Calculator for 643 to develop seeding mixes

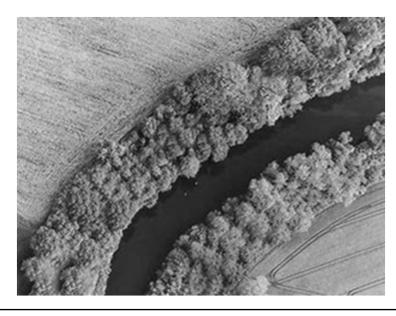
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CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat / Planning Requirements

- Prairie Ecosystem, the cropland must be devoted to a cover comprised of a mixed stand of at least:
 - 5 native grasses and 10 native forbs
- Oak Savana Ecosystem, the cropland must be devoted to a mixed stand of cover comprised of at least:
 - 3 native grasses or sedges,
 - 10 native forbs, and
 - 2 native oak tree species.

CP22 – Riparian Forest Buffer

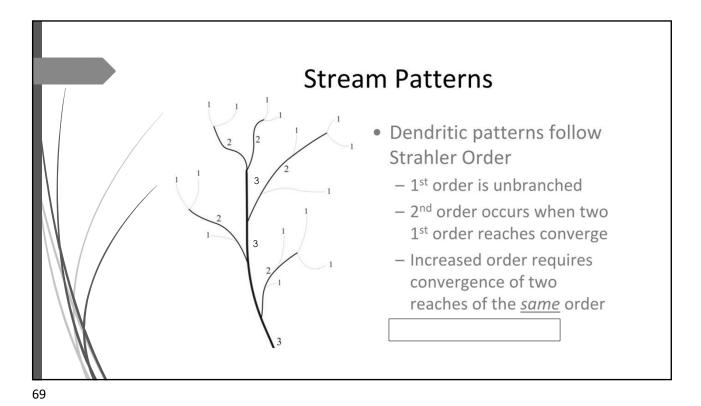
A riparian forest buffer is an area of trees and shrubs located adjacent to streams, lakes, ponds. and wetlands.



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CP22 – Riparian Forest Buffer Planning Requirements

- Investigate the natural potential or historical extent of the riparian zone
- Identify extent of 100-year floodplain
 - The 100-year floodplain can be determined from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps or other documented materials. Additional assistance may be obtained from the Illinois Water Survey in determining the 100-year floodplain.
- Determine the stream order
 - Stream order can be determined using a USGS 7.5-minute quad map
 - Identify by smallest to largest

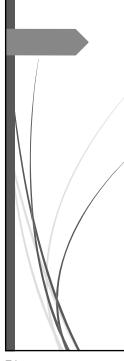


CP22 – Riparian Forest Buffer Planning Requirements

Minimum Widths in the NRCS FOTG (CPS 391- rev. 2021)

50 feet for 1st and 2nd order streams, generally less defined floodplain

100 feet for 3rd order streams and larger



Eligibility for CP22 within the 100-year flood plain

- Typically, a 3rd order stream and greater
- Must be located immediately adjacent to:
 - perennial stream
 - seasonal stream
 - sinkholes, karst areas
 - Wetlands with water areas capable of reducing damages by sedimentation and associated pollutants that meet 1 of the following:
 - permanently flooded intermittently exposed semi-permanently flooded seasonally flooded
 - Permanent water bodies: lakes and Ponds
 - Provides water cover throughout the year in all years
 - seasonal flow of surface water from the water body off the farm

(2-CRP par. 181)

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Eligibility for CP22 on Erodible land



- Where the cropland slopes strongly to the stream bank, with very little floodplain:
 - Enroll just the minimum width of CP22 (50' on 1st & 2nd order streams; 100' on 3rd order streams)
- Rationale: Flood water will generally be contained within the minimum buffer design, therefore 180' width is not needed

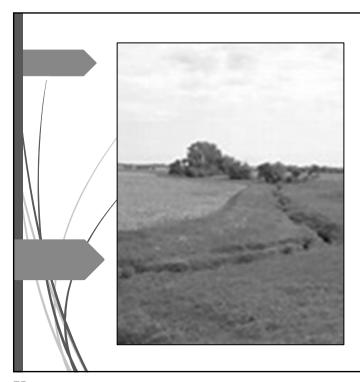
Marginal Pastureland Eligibility

- Must be immediately adjacent to perennial or seasonal stream or permanent water body
- Must have 1 out of 5, year grazing history or infrastructure for grazing exists
- Adequate tree cover does not already exist
 - i.e. 60 sq. ft. basal area/acre
- Must be devoted to CP22
- Must be addressing an existing resource concern

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CREP - Marginal Pastureland

- All marginal pastureland in the 100-year flood plain is eligible for CP22 when adjacent to a qualifying water body (2CRP par.181E)
- Marginal pastureland on land outside 100-year floodplain and with El>8 is not eligible for CREP



Filter Strips

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CREP - CP21 Eligible Land - Eligible in 100-year floodplain, next to perennial streams ONLY when there is very little, or undefined floodplains As a general rule - If in the 100-year floodplain and next to a 3rd or 4th order stream, a filter strip would not be effective and should not be enrolled.

Existing trees next to a perennial stream

- CP21 is eligible if BOTH of the following apply:
 - Existing vegetation is < 50. feet wide for orders 1 & 2 streams; <100 feet for order 3+ streams; AND
 - The filter strip will filter sediment being delivered to the riparian remnant and will improve water quality.

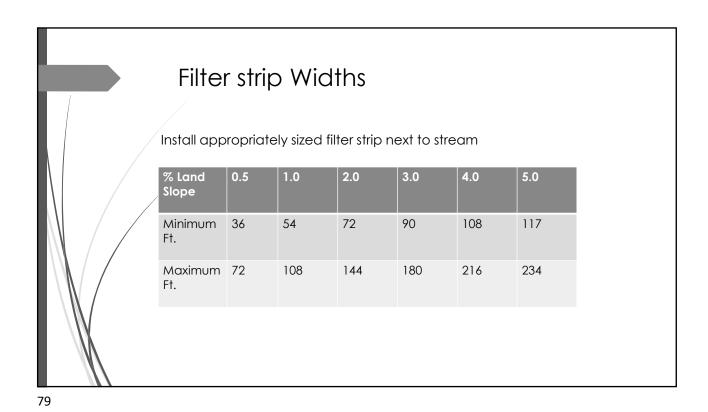
Remember-generally

if in the 100-year floodplain and next to a 3rd or 4th order stream, a filter strip would not be effective and should not be enrolled.

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Existing grass adjacent to stream?

- If the existing grass does not meet the minimum FOTG filter strip width, then additional width can be enrolled.
 - For example, there is 15 feet of existing brome along a perennial stream; land slope is 0.5% so a minimum filter strip width needed is 36 feet
 - 21 feet of filter strip can be enrolled.



Designing filter strips beyond the minimum width

Ratio of contributing runoff to filter strip acreage is> 10:1

Numerous small concentrated flow channels

Where site or soil conditions prevent optimal establishment of planned vegetation

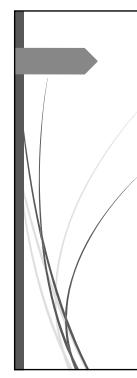
Designing filter strips for the maximum width.

- Maximum Filter strip widths are needed when:
 - Frequently manured field has soil test phosphorus levels above agronomically recommended rates (also apply 590, 633)
 - Field is located in a watershed with a documented impairment from a pollutant primarily transported in solution runoff e.g. atrazine (also apply Pest Mgt. 595)

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CP21 is not eligible for the following practices

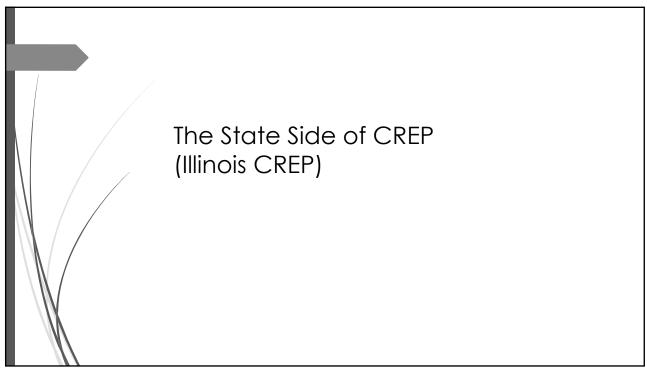
- CP9 acreage devoted to CP9 also includes adequate buffer.
- CP-22 and CP23 if a filter is needed it is included within the practice



100-year floodplain Determination

- Use Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps.
- ► For assistance in obtaining maps or transferring to other maps or the ground, contact II State Water Survey (ISWS), 217/333-0477 or FEMA Map Assistance, 1-877-FEMA-MAP.
- If the "flood of record" I.e.; greatest recorded flood elevation can be reliably determined,
 - ex. from DOT at a bridge site
 - landscape signs that provide sufficient information to the Area Soil Scientist to document 100-year floodplain

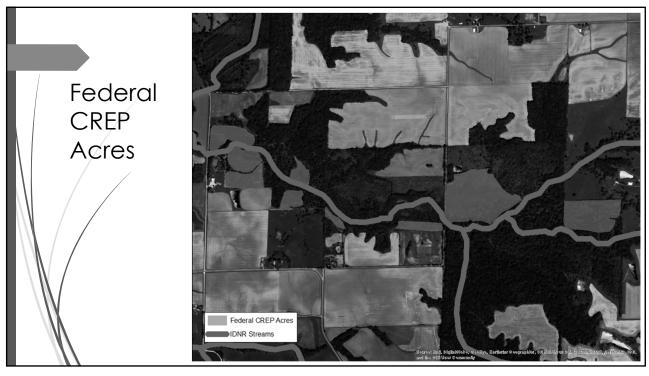
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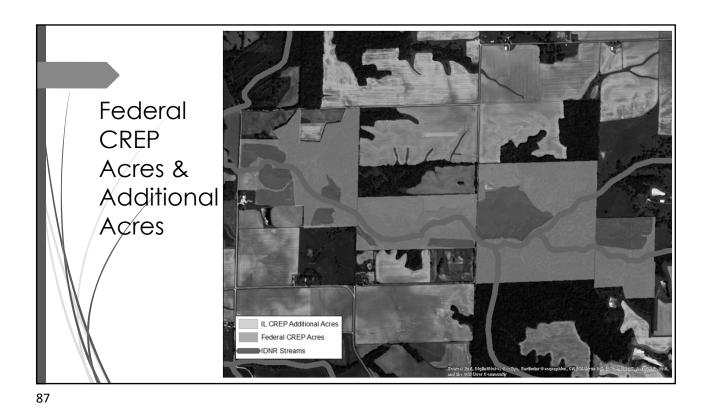


The State Side of CREP - Illinois CREP

- **Extend** and **Enhance** the conservation benefits provided by the Federal CREP/CRP contract through a conservation easement
- **Extend** 15-year or perpetual CREP easement
 - Timing begins after the Federal CREP/CRP contract ends
- **Enhance** "Additional Acres" enrolled with the easement
 - Land contiguous to the Federal CREP/CRP contract acres, that contribute to the CREP goals

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Illinois CREP Easement Payments Easement payment to the landowner is a one-time, lump-sum payment after the easement is executed ■ Based on the soil rental rate (exclusive of any incentive rate) for the three predominate soils across the entire easement Permanent easement = # acres x SRR x 30 years x 15% ■ Example: 100 acres x \$200 SRR x 30 x 15% = \$90,000 ■ 15-year easement = # acres x SRR x 15 years x 25% ■ Example: 100 acres x \$200 SRR x 15 x 25% = \$75,000 ■ IDNR reimburses the landowner for the remaining 50% cost-share for conservation practice installation on the Federal CREP/CRP acres

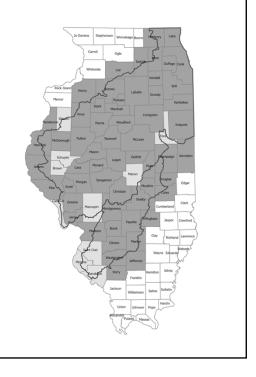
Soil and Water Conservation Districts and CREP

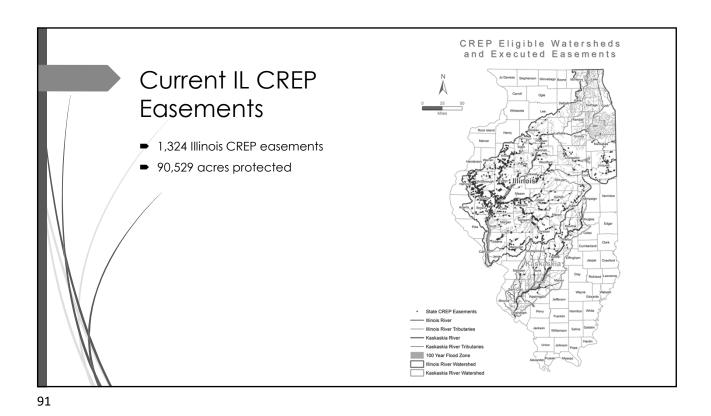
- SWCDs have been the driving force for CREP at a local level for over 20 years
 - Perform enrollment
 - Conduct monitoring
 - Assist with management of existing easements
 - Provide a local contact for their CREP landowners
- Without the assistance of the SWCDs the state side of CREP could not exist!

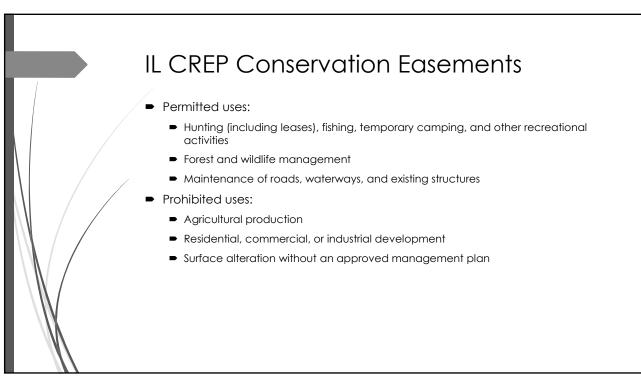
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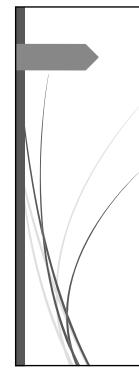
Soil and Water Conservation Districts and CREP

- Upon execution of the CRP-1, the FSA County Offices will send all necessary documents to DNR.CREP@Illinois.gov and the applicable SWCD
- If the FSA County Office is unsure of the applicable SWCD, contact IDNR









IL CREP Conservation Easements

- Easement monitored by SWCD or IDNR on a 3-year rotation
- Easements run with the land, recorded at the county courthouse
- Easements cannot be bought back
- Public access is not required but can be allowed
- IDNR and the SWCD work as a team to advise and guide the landowner towards their land management goals on expired Federal CREP/CRP acreage and additional acres.

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