



## Michigan's CREP

was created to protect our environment and wildlife. Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to implement conservation practices of great significance to the state, and valuable to the nation, in matters of soil erosion, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

CREP is part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and offers enhanced financial incentives for participants. In Michigan's CREP, farmers and other landowners in priority watershed areas agree to enroll eligible parcels of land in the program for 14 to 15 years and establish prescribed conservation practices.

In return, landowners receive cost-share assistance in establishing conservation practices.

Eligible practices include:

- Riparian buffers
- Field windbreaks
- Filter strips
- Wetland restoration
- Shallow-water wildlife areas
- Controlled livestock access
- Conservation easements.

## Contact Us:

## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

A unique opportunity offering financial benefits to landowners and a healthy environment for Michigan.

## Do I Qualify?

CREP priority watersheds include the Lake Macatawa, Western Lake Erie Basin and Saginaw Bay Watersheds. Eligible land must be planted with an agricultural commodity (any crop planted and produced by annual soil tilling) four of the six years from 2012 to 2017 and is physically and legally capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity in a normal manner.

Selected land within Michigan's CREP priority watersheds is eligible for the program. Property owners in these priority watersheds are strongly encouraged to take part. The local Farm Service Agency can help landowners identify suitable parcels of land.

## Financial Benefits

### Example:

"Jim" heard about Michigan's CREP and stopped in at his local Farm Service Agency for a no-obligation assessment<sup>1</sup> of 10 acres of land he believed to be suitable for the program. CREP representatives determined that the land was eligible, and Jim enrolled in the program. Jim decided to put in a filter strip<sup>2</sup> and purchased seed, fertilizer, equipment and labor. He spent \$70 per acre for the following return on his investment:

One-time Investment & Payments: Establishment & Signing	Landowner Investment	One-time Payments	Annual Payments
Landowner (seed, fertilizer, equipment & labor per acre)	\$70	-	
Michigan (50% of establishment cost per acre)	-	\$35	
Federal (50% of establishment cost per acre)	-	\$35	
Federal Practice Incentive (10% of establishment cost per acre)	-	\$7	
Water Quality Incentive (WLEB only \$50)	-	\$50	
State Signing Bonus (\$150 per acre, none for CP1 & CP2)	-	\$150	
<b>Total per acre</b>	<b>\$70</b>	<b>\$277</b>	
<b>Total for 10 acres</b>	<b>\$700</b>	<b>\$2,770</b>	
Annual Investment & Payments: Rental and Maintenance	Landowner Investment	One-time Payments	Annual Payments
Landowner (equipment & labor per acre to maintain site <sup>3</sup> )	\$14	-	-
State maintenance allowance	-	\$100	-
Federal soil rental (Based on 140% of \$100 SSR <sup>4</sup> )	-	-	-
Climate Smart Incentive (varies 0-10%, included in the rental payment)	-	-	\$140
Federal signing incentive (Based on 32.5% annual rental payment)	-	\$464	\$3
<b>Total per acre</b>	<b>\$14</b>	<b>\$146</b>	<b>\$143</b>
<b>Total for 10 acres</b>	<b>\$140</b>	<b>\$1,460</b>	<b>\$1,430</b>
<b>Total for 10 acres over 15 years</b>	<b>\$2,100</b>	<b>\$1,460</b>	<b>\$21,450</b>
<b>Project Return (Payments - Investments) = \$21,450 + \$2,770 + \$1,460 - \$700 - \$2,100 = \$22,800</b>			

<sup>1</sup>prospective enrollees. <sup>2</sup>Areas of grasses, legumes or other vegetation that filter runoff or waste water by trapping sediment, pesticides, organic matter or other pollutants. Filter strips are established on cropland at the lower edge of a field or adjacent to a body of water. <sup>3</sup>Estimate for annual mowing. Based on 2019 Custom Machine and Work Rates Estimates, Michigan State University Extension, [http://www.canr.msu.edu/farm\\_management/uploads/files/MSU%20Custom%20Work%20Rates%202019.pdf](http://www.canr.msu.edu/farm_management/uploads/files/MSU%20Custom%20Work%20Rates%202019.pdf) <sup>4</sup>Payments will be based upon the soil rental rate (SRR) in the area. Jim's rate is \$100 per acre.



## Environmental Benefits

Michigan's CREP will be the largest voluntary environmental improvement program in the state's history, initially involving 80,000 acres of land in three watershed areas, which will be dedicated to conservation practices. CREP will be key in reducing non-point source pollution in rural areas. The program will:

- Protect Michigan's lakes, rivers, ponds and streams
- Filter runoff water of silt, pesticides and other pollutants
- Replenish water tables
- Protect topsoil from erosion
- Enhance wildlife habitat
- Encourage wildlife diversity
- Reduce flooding
- Increase oxygen levels

The benefits of Michigan's CREP go beyond the state's borders by helping to maintain the purity of the Great Lakes, which make up 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater. The Great Lakes aesthetic, environmental and commercial value are vitally important to the entire region and the nation.