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FACT SHEET

Constructed Wetland CP39

June 2011

Conservation Reserve Program
Farmable Wetland Pilot

Overview

The Constructed Wetland practice is an initiative under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that works to improve water quality by increasing nutrient and sediment trapping efficiencies as well as increase wildlife habitat in row cropped agricultural drained land.

The Constructed Wetland practice is administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) through CRP, a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers safeguard environmentally sensitive land.

Producers can enroll in CRP for the Constructed Wetland anytime through continuous CRP sign-up. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements.

Goals

The purpose of this practice is to develop a constructed wetland:

- To treat effluent from row crop agricultural drainage systems
- Is designed to reduce nutrient and sediment loading
- To provide other water quality benefits
- While providing wildlife habitat

How the Program Works

Apply this Constructed Wetland

practice on land

- In which a minimum of 25 percent of the upstream watershed is comprised of row crop agricultural drained land.
- That does not require cropping history and does not have to be cropland

The maximum size of any 1 constructed wetland CP39 is 40 acres. The total of all constructed wetlands per tract may not exceed 40 acres.

The amount of adjacent upland (buffer) acreage to be enrolled shall:

- be determined by NRCS
- not be less than the 2:1 ratio
- not exceed the 4:1 ratio
- be cropland planted to an agricultural commodity 3 of the 10 most recent crop years and be physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity

Payments

Eligible producers may receive the following types of payments:

- Up to 50% cost share for establishing permanent cover
- Annual rental payments for a 10- to 15-year period. The rental rate is based on the weighted average dry-land cash rent
- An additional incentive equal to 20 percent of the weighted average soil rental rate is

authorized for CRP participants restoring wetlands

- Upfront CRP signing incentive payment of \$100 per acre. This one-time payment is made after the contract is approved and all payment eligibility criteria are met
- Practice incentive payment equal to 40 percent of the eligible costs of installing the practice. This one-time payment is made after the practice is installed, eligible costs are verified, and other payment eligibility criteria are met

Ownership Eligibility Requirements

An owner is eligible to offer land for enrollment for this CRP initiative if the owner meets one of the following requirements:

- Owned the land for 12 months prior to filing for enrollment
- Acquired the land by will or succession as a result of death
- Acquired the land under circumstances other than for placement in CRP, as determined by the FSA National Office

Ownership eligibility requirements are satisfied if there is any combination of continuously leasing and owning by the same "person" during the 12-month period before filing for enrollment.

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For More Information

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www.fsa.usda.gov.

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