

# NEW YORK STATE CREP

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program



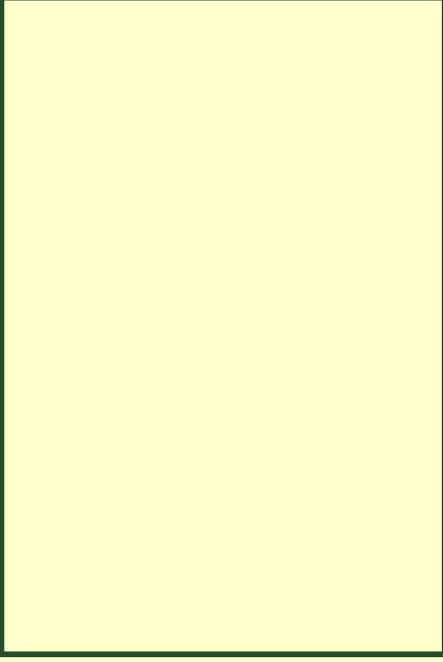
## Contacts

The CREP partnership brings together state and federal funds to assist farmers in their voluntary protection of soil, water and wildlife resources.

**For more information contact your local:**

**United States Department of Agriculture**  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Farm Service Agency

**County Soil & Water Conservation District**



## Eligibility

Land must be located in one of the eligible watersheds or public wellhead areas and meet one of the criteria below:

- Cropland planted to commodity crops four of the six years from 1996–2001 and capable of being cropped today.
- Marginal pastureland suitable for use as a riparian, wildlife habitat or wetland buffer.

Enrollment is on a continuous basis.



Restoring wetlands is an eligible CREP practice.

*Cover photo:* Planting riparian buffers along waterbodies slows and filters water runoff from farm fields. This reduces sediment and other pollutants from entering the stream and establishes wildlife habitat.

*Photo Credit:* USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

New York State  
**Soil & Water**  
Conservation Committee

[www.nys-soilandwater.org](http://www.nys-soilandwater.org)



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Improving Water Quality

Enhancing Wildlife Habitat

Supporting Agriculture



NEW YORK STATE

# CREP

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

New York's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) broadens opportunities for farmers in their efforts to reduce the amount of nutrients and sediments entering the State's water bodies and public drinking water supplies.

Participants place environmentally sensitive farmland near streams, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands and public wellhead areas into an approved vegetative cover for 10 to 15 years.

In return, farmers are paid enhanced annual rental payments and reimbursed for establishing priority conservation practices.

## Economic Incentives

- Annual rental payments
- Cost-sharing for installing conservation practices.
- An additional 40% practice incentive payment on certain conservation practices.
- \$100 per acre one-time signing incentive payment.
- \$4 to \$9 per acre maintenance payment.

## Farm the best, buffer the rest!



Fencing cattle out of streams and providing a stable livestock crossing is a CREP priority.

## CREP Practices Include:

- Establishing Permanent Grasses on Highly Erodable Cropland
- Tree Plantings
- Creating Wildlife Habitat
- Grass Waterways
- Filter Strips
- Restoring Wetlands
- Contour Grass Strips
- Riparian Buffers
- Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat or Wetland Buffers
- Livestock Exclusion from Streams

## CREP Benefits

- Provides economic incentives to set aside less productive environmentally sensitive areas.
- Helps farmers meet setback requirements for manure spreading.
- Upholds good farming practices.
- Restricts livestock access to streams.
- Improves water quality
- Protects public water supplies.
- Establishes and enhances habitat for birds, fish and other wildlife.
- Bolsters a positive public perception of agriculture



CREP cost-shares alternative water sources for animals fenced out of streams.