

# Conservation Reserve Program

CP-37

## DUCK NESTING HABITAT

Improve Wildlife Habitat | Enhance Recreation | Increase Duck Populations



## Why Choose CRP? You Benefit. Land, Water and Wildlife Benefit.

Creating duck nesting habitat increases duck populations in addition to other wetland and grassland bird and mammal species. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with practices like this to achieve many farming and conservation goals. Whatever the conservation challenge – soil conservation, water quality protection or wildlife habitat enhancement – CRP is a proven land performance and management solution.

## Why Duck Nesting Habitat?

Healthy, sustainable wetlands provide duck populations with critical high-quality feeding territories and cover for nesting and brooding. In an effort to re-establish these important ecosystems, CP-37 gives landowners and farmers the ability to restore up to 300,000 acres of wetlands – land that has been determined to have the greatest positive impact on duck populations. Eligible only for certain counties in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota, this practice is offered as a **continuous sign-up** and, in addition to creating vital duck habitat, CP-37:

- Filters sediment and nutrients from runoff
- Captures carbon
- Reduces downstream flooding damages

## Financial Benefits

### CP-37 participants are guaranteed:

- 10-15 years of annual rental payments with an additional 20% Rental Rate Incentive
- Payments covering up to 90% of the eligible costs of establishing the wetland restoration practice
  - 50% from a Cost-Share Payment and
  - 40% from a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)
- Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) up to \$150/acre
- Mid-Contract Management Cost Share
- Additional incentives may be available in your state under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



## Eligible Land

- Planted or considered planted 4 out of 6 years between 2008 and 2013
- Capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity
- Located outside of the 100-year floodplain
- Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions

## Practice Requirements

- A protective grassland buffer around the wetland shall be enrolled with a minimum of 4:1 and maximum of 10:1 ratio
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects and pests should be controlled
- Practice shall be maintained without additional cost-share payments

## Owner/Operator Eligibility

Participants must:

- Have owned or operated the land for more than 12 months prior to program signup
- Be in control of the land for the length of the contract
- Meet USDA payment eligibility provisions

## Obligations

Participants will:

- Not harvest or graze the practice area
- Work with USDA-approved conservationist to develop a conservation plan
- Perform periodic management activities according to the conservation plan
- Complete seeding and installation of the practice within 12 months of the effective date of the contract

### Proven Conservation Benefits

- Between 2005 and 2011, CRP contributed to an estimated net increase of 1.5 million additional ducks per year
- CRP reduced nutrient losses in FY 2013 by an estimated 565 million pounds of nitrogen and 113 million pounds of phosphorus
- In 2014, CRP lowered greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 43 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> – the same benefit as taking nearly 8 million cars off the road for a year

*FSA will ultimately determine participant and land eligibility.*

### For More Information:

Contact your local USDA, Farm Service Agency:

<http://offices.usda.gov>

Photos provided by Iowa Department of Agriculture-Division of Soil Conservation