

Name of Practice: CREP RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFER
VACS Program Specification for No. CP-22

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Riparian Forest Buffer which are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

This practice provides the state rental portion of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) for riparian forest buffer installation on marginal pastureland or cropland along water features.

Its purpose is to improve water quality and wildlife habitat by establishing a riparian forest buffer along water features in marginal pastureland or cropland.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. This is the rental payment for the installation of a forested riparian buffer in conjunction with a CREP contract with FSA.
2. Applicable in marginal pastureland and cropland.
3. FSA determines eligibility.
4. See applicable state BMP specifications for technical guidance:
 - i. CRFR-3 Woodland Buffer Filter Area
 - ii. CRSL-6 CREP Stream Exclusion with Grazing Land Management (used when the water source is a well, spring development or pond)
 - iii. CRWP-2 CREP Stream Protection (used when the water source is a hardened access)
 - iv. CRWQ-11 CREP Agricultural Sinkhole Protection (used to remove non-woody debris from CREP protected karst features)
 - v. A CRLF-1 CREP buffer length reporting marker will be used to report the linear feet of stream bank protected by removing livestock from access to the CREP restored riparian buffer when no buffer fencing (WP-2) and/or alternative watering system (SL-6) practice is installed or reported via the Tracking Program. This reporting marker will be used in conjunction with the CP-22 rental practice and the CRFR-3 Woodland Riparian Buffer Filter Area practice to report the linear feet of stream bank protected when a riparian forest buffer is restored either by planting or natural regeneration on cropland or pastureland and no buffer fencing (reported as linear feet protected under a WP-2 or SL-6 practice) is reported.

5. This practice is subject to the standards of the CP-22 contained in the FSA 2-CRP Handbook and the CREP amendment to the CRP Handbook.
6. All practice components implemented must be maintained for the lifespan of the CREP contract. By accepting either a cost-share payment or a state tax credit for this practice, the participant agrees to maintain all practice components for the specified lifespan. This practice is subject to spot check by the District throughout the lifespan of the practice and failure to maintain the practice may result in reimbursement of cost-share and/or tax credits.

C. Rate(s)

1. The state rental rate is \$5 per acre, per full year of the contract (as identified in field 9 of the CRP-1), for the life of the contract paid in a lump sum amount when all BMPs in conjunction with a CREP contract have been installed.

D. Technical Responsibility

Technical and administrative responsibility is assigned to qualified technical DCR and District staff in consultation, where appropriate and based on the controlling standard, with DCR, Virginia Certified Nutrient Management Planner(s), NRCS, DOF, and VCE. Individuals certifying technical need and technical practice installation shall have appropriate certifications as identified above and/or Engineering Job Approval Authority (EJAA) for the designed and installed component(s). All practices are subject to spot check procedures and any other quality control measures.

Revised April 2023