

Continuous CRP

February 2022

CP-43 Prairie Strips

Prairie Strips (CP-43) are a new continuous CRP practice under the Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative of CRP, which prioritizes water quality practices.

Prairie Strips integrate small amounts of native grasses and wildflowers at strategic locations within row crop fields (e.g. along the contour) to reduce soil erosion and runoff. Prairie strips also provide plant diversity for wildlife and beneficial insect habitat.

Within a row crop production system, prairie strips can be placed around the edges of a field, through the field, in terrace channels, next to waterways, or on pivot corners.

Limited machinery travel, such as turning and crossing, is allowed on prairie strips during normal farming operations.

Benefits of Prairie Strips:

Prairie strips are a flexible, in-field conservation practice that allows farmers to sustain production while also providing a range of ecological and economic benefits. Researchers from Iowa State University have shown that converting as little as 10% of a crop field to native prairie can significantly reduce soil erosion and nutrient losses:

- Reduce sediment loss by 95%
- Reduce phosphorus loss by 90%
- Reduce nitrogen loss by 85%

Strategic placement can provide economic benefits by improving equipment operation and efficiency:

- Lay out strips to fit farm equipment
- Avoid farming ridge points
- Take unprofitable acres, such as pivot corners, out of production

Plus, prairie strips increase the diversity of pollinators, birds, and other wildlife.



Prairie strips are a proven tool for improving and protecting row cropped farm fields.



Researchers have shown that areas of native plants, planted in the right places in a field can provide benefits that far outweigh losses from converting a small portion of a field to prairie.

INTERESTING FACT

Converting 10% of land to strips of native perennials can reduce soil loss by up to 95% and nitrogen runoff by 85%.

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Eligible Practices

A combination of NRCS practice standards may be used to help achieve farming and conservation goals :

- 327 Conservation Cover
- 332 Contour Grass Strip
- 386 Field Border
- 393 Filter Strip

Purpose

The primary purpose of prairie strips is to preserve water quality and soil fertility by reducing the amount of soil and nutrients leaving the field. Additionally, prairie strips provide a flexible option to support plant, pollinator, and wildlife diversity within a row crop system.

Rental Rate

Rental rate annual payment is based on 90% of the county soil rental rate.

Incentives

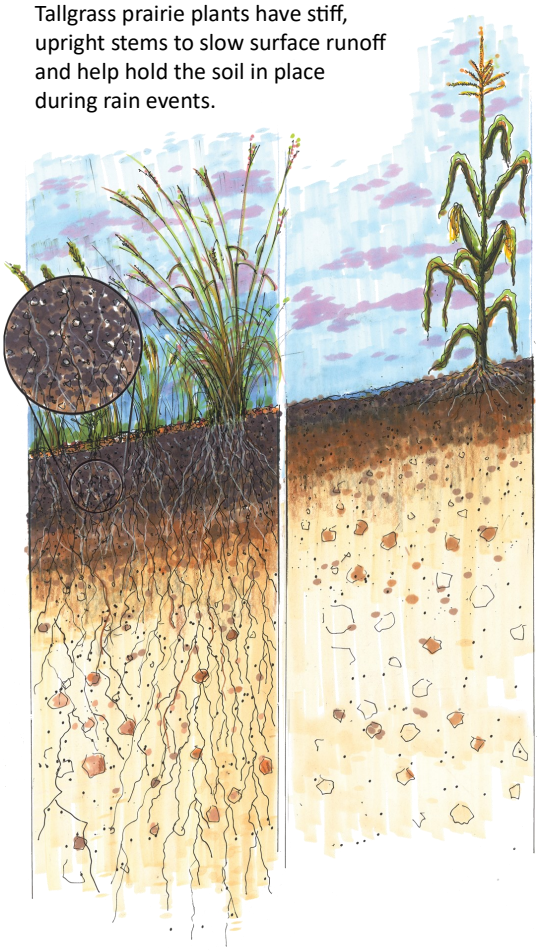
- Payments up to 50% cost-share for practice establishment.
- Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) and Practice Incentive Payments (PIP) may be available.

Eligibility

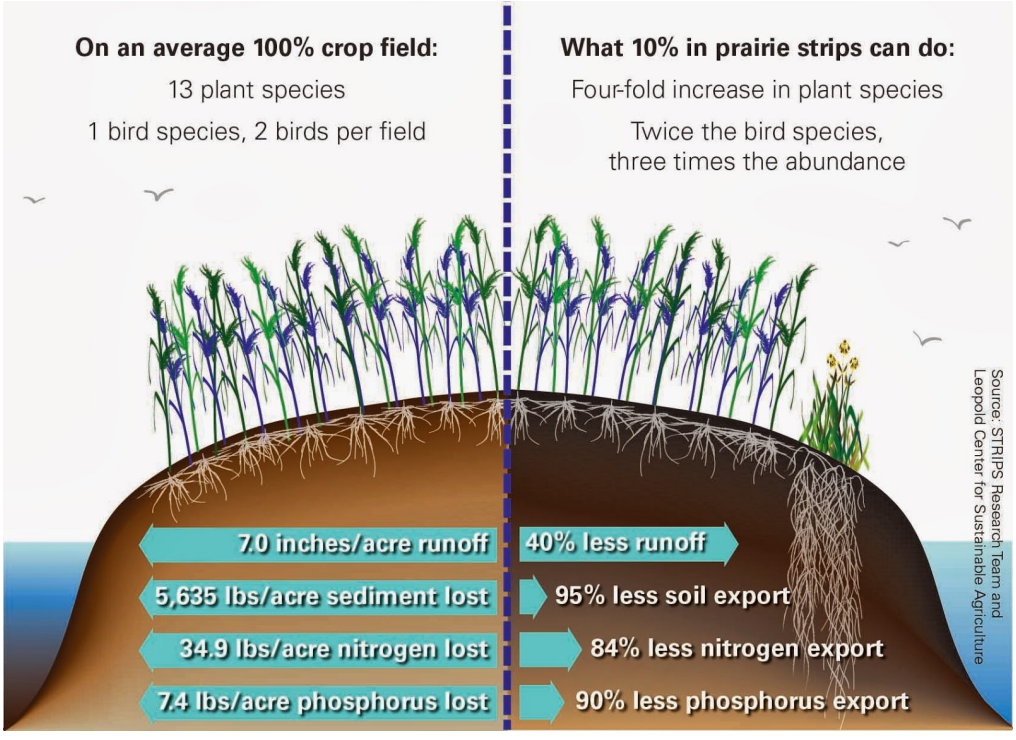
The eligible acres must be cropland that was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during four of six years.

- Prairie strip placement depends on field size, slope, and soil types.
- May not to exceed 25% of the cropland area per field.
- Width ranges from 30-120 feet.
- Pivot corners of any size may be enrolled as prairie strips if needed to reduce soil erosion or provide water filtering.

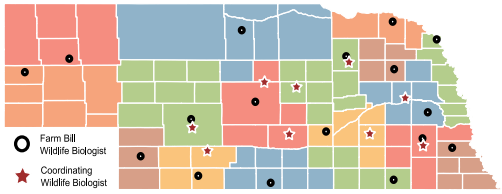
Tallgrass prairie plants have stiff, upright stems to slow surface runoff and help hold the soil in place during rain events.



Deep-rooted grasses and wildflowers improve infiltration and increase soil organic matter.



FOR MORE INFORMATION



Through a partnership with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, wildlife biologists are available to help provide wildlife habitat guidance, technical assistance on the

available conservation programs and design seeding mixtures.

For further information visit NebraskaPF.com

PHEASANTS forever The Habitat Organization
QUAIL forever The Habitat Organization
NEBRASKA GAME PARKS
The Nebraska Environmental Trust "preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations"
USDA NRCS United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
FSA FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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