

# Conservation Reserve Program

CP-16A

## SHELTERBELT ESTABLISHMENT

Energy Savings | Crop and Livestock Protection | Wildlife Habitat



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

Shelterbelts save energy, provide wind protection for farmsteads and livestock areas, and control snow accumulation. 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 Shelterbelts?

By planting rows of trees and shrubs on the edges of cropland, landowners and farmers create a natural wind barrier to protect fields, farmsteads, and livestock from wind damage. Shelterbelts also provide vital habitat for wildlife as a source of food and cover. Offered in **continuous sign-up**, CP-16A:

- Saves energy
- Protects crops, livestock and homesteads
- Increase pollinator habitat
- Creates wildlife habitat
- Reduces wind erosion

## Financial Benefits

### CP-16A participants are guaranteed:

- 10-15 years of annual rental payments
- Payments covering up to 90% of the eligible costs of establishing the practice
  - 50% from a Cost-Share Payment and
  - 40% from a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)
- Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) up to \$100/ac
- Mid-Contract Management Cost Share
- Maintenance Rate Incentive
- 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
- Suitable for planting trees
- Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions

## Practice Requirements

- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects and pests shall 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 sign-up
- 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 planting of the practice within 12 months of the effective date of the contract

## Proven Conservation Benefits

- In prime habitat, a 4% increase in CRP vegetation is associated with a 22% increase in pheasant counts
- CRP reduced nutrient losses in FY 2014 by an estimated 542 million pounds of nitrogen and 108 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 benefits 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>