Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
CREP

• A voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water.
Conservation Practices

• CP1 – Introduced Grasses and Legumes
• CP2 – Native Grasses and Forbs
• CP3A – Hardwood Tree Planting
• CP4D – Permanent Wildlife Habitat
• CP8A – Grassed Waterway
• CP9 – Shallow Water Area for Wildlife
• CP10 – Already Established Grasses
• CP12 – Wildlife Food Plot
• CP15A – Contour Grass Strips
• CP21 – Filter Strip
• CP22 – Forested Riparian Buffer
• CP23 – Wetland Restoration
• CP29 – Wildlife Habitat Buffer
• CP30 – Wetland Habitat Buffer
Benefits

- Reduce nitrogen and sediment deposition
- Restore wetland habitat
- Restore grassland habitat
CREP

- 265,000 acres authorized for Pennsylvania
  - 59 Counties
- 2,800 acres enrolled in Lancaster County
  - 930 acres of Native Grasses
  - 800 acres of Forested Riparian Buffers
  - 600 acres of Introduced Grasses
- Sign-ups after January 31, 2005 restricted to Forested Riparian Buffers
Eligibility for CP-22

- Cropland or Marginal Pasture Land within 180’ of a stream or water body
- Without an existing functional buffer
  - 30’ of 30% canopy cover
- Livestock must be excluded
Cost Shareable Items

50% FSA – 50% PA

- Tree Planting
- Streambank Fencing
- Livestock Crossings
- Walkways
- Spring Developments
- Watering Troughs
Incentives

- **Soil Rental Rate Incentive**
  - 100% of Base Soil Rental
    - $76 - $116 per acre
- **Signing Incentive Payment**
  - $10 per acre per year
- **Practice Incentive Payment**
  - 40% of eligible costs
Application

- Minimum Buffer Width 35’
- Maximum Average Width 180’
- Hardwood trees are planted at 20’x 20’ spacing
- Species
  - 4 Trees
  - 2 Shrubs
  - Native to PA
Maintenance

- Mowing and Herbicide may be used anytime during 1st 3 years to control weed competition
- After 3 years mowing should cease and noxious weeds must be controlled
- 70% Survival
Weed Control

- Herbicide treatments
- Spot mowing
  - August 1 – 15
- Noxious Weeds
  - 13 Species
CREP Process

1. Sign-up in FSA
2. CRP-2C to NRCS
3. NRCS determines eligibility & completes conservation plan
4. FSA creates contract
5. Contract is approved by County Committee
**CRP-2C**

- **HUC Code**
- **Practice**
- **Acres**
- **Soils Info**
  - **Physical Location**
  - **Soil Survey ID**
  - **Map Unit Symbol**
- **Maintenance Rate**
Status Reviews

- 1 status review per year during establishment period.
- 10% of contracts are reviewed each year.
- Status reviews are completed as needed for the life of the contract.