

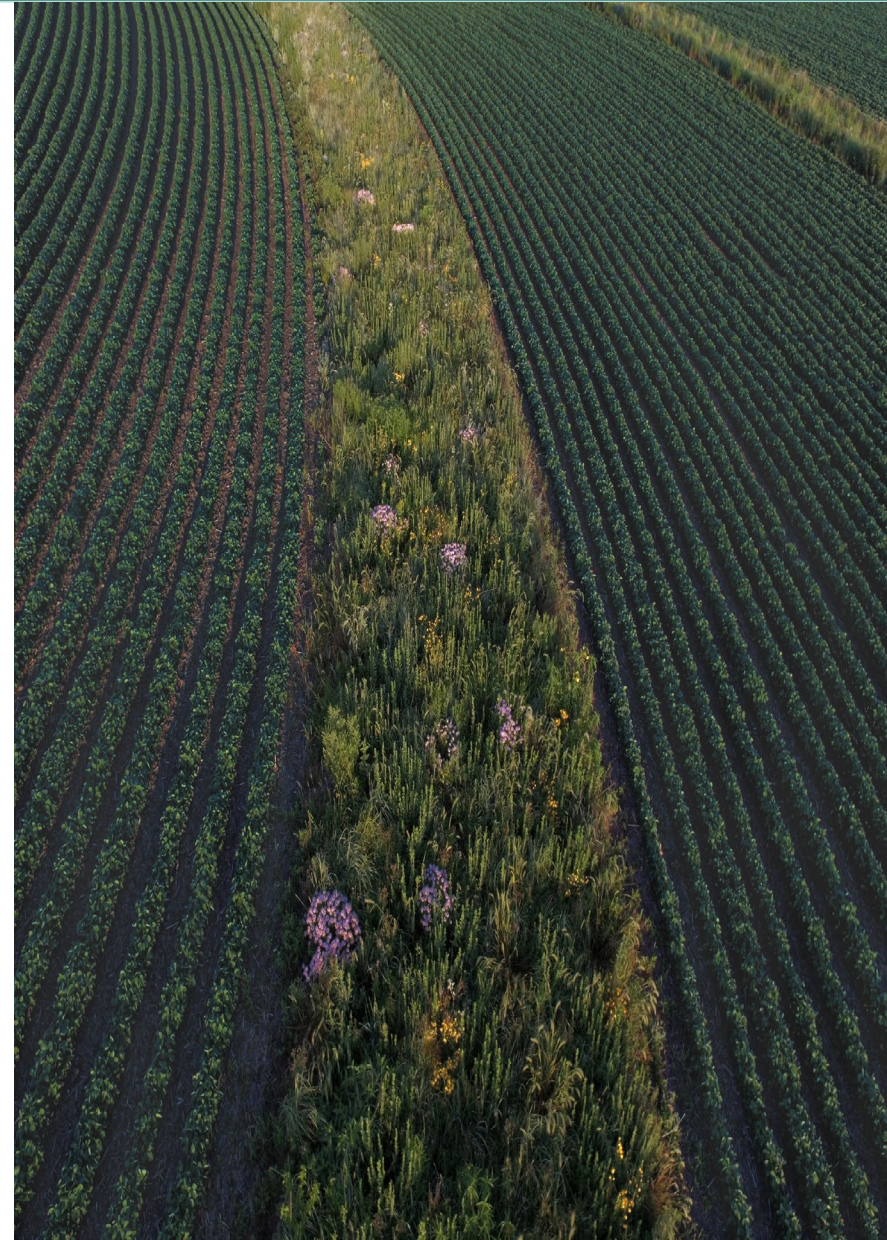
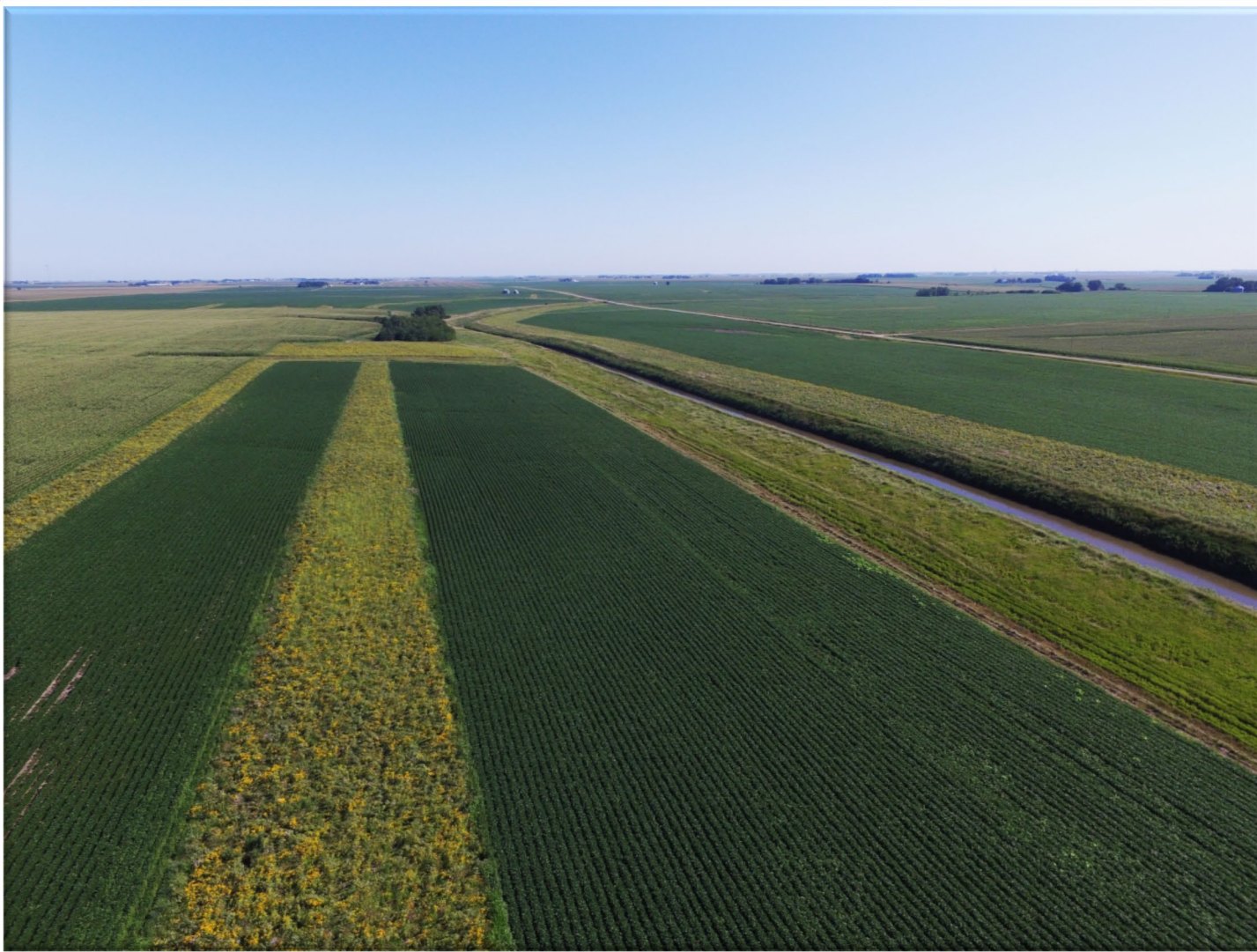


United States
Department of
Agriculture

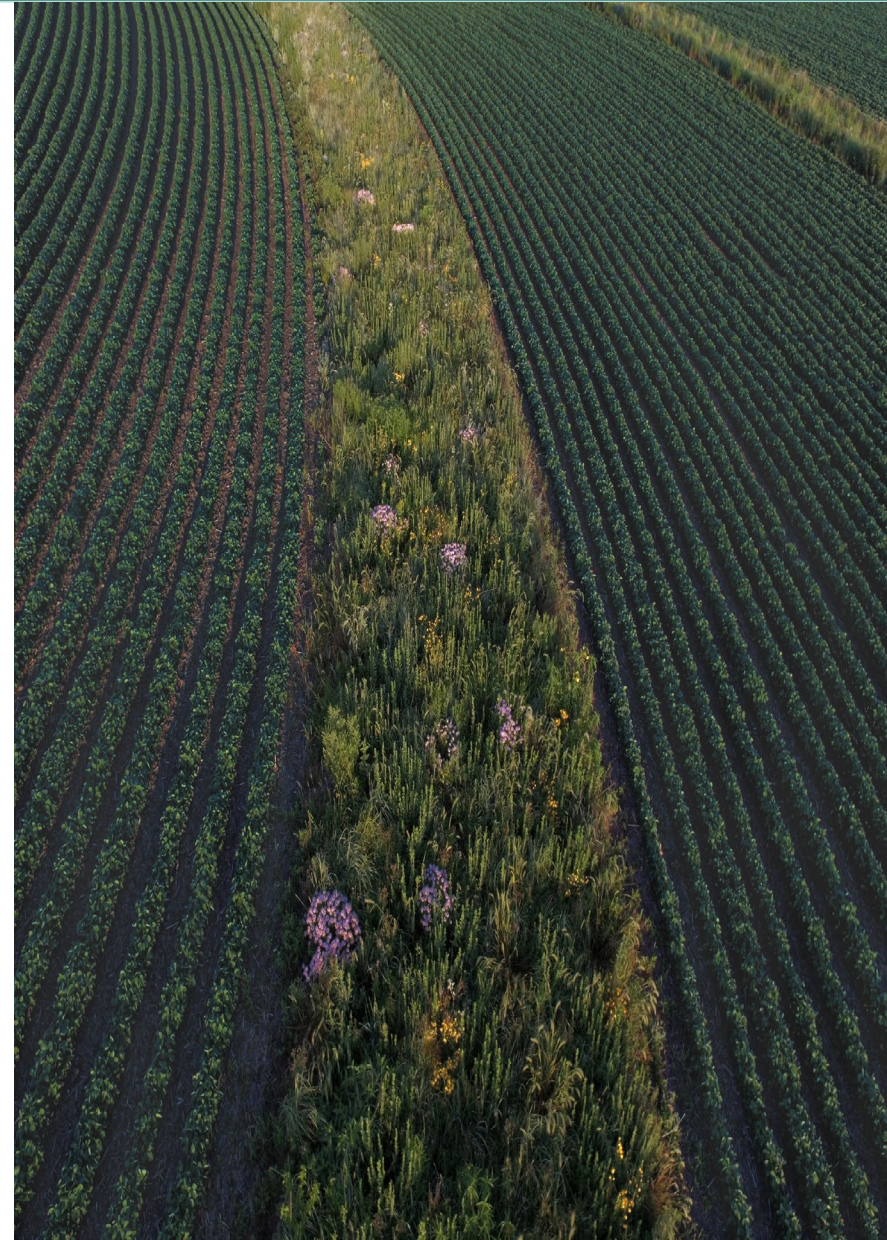
CP-43 Prairie Strips



Prairie Strips



Incentivizing Conservation Practice Adoption



Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018

- **Authorized Prairie Strips for CRP**
- **Included as a CLEAR practice**

Sec. 1223

FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 1985

46

Subtitle D—Agricultural Resources Conservation Program

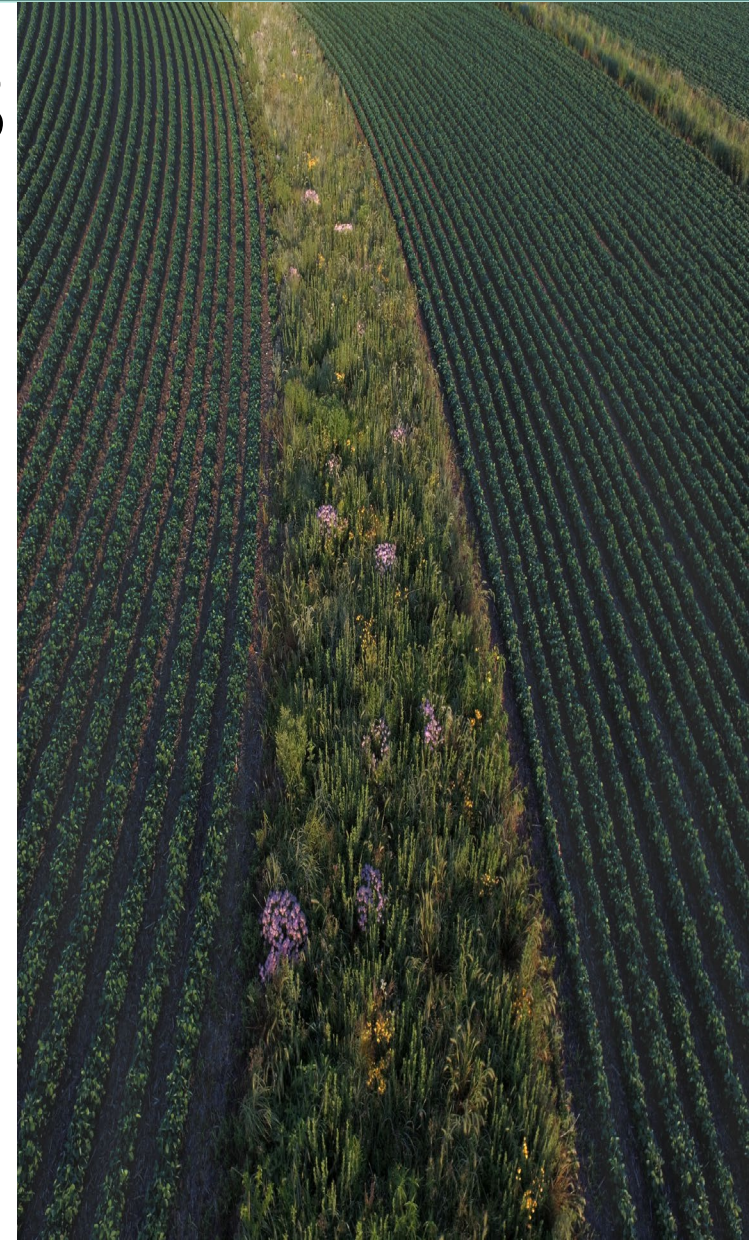
CHAPTER 1—COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Subchapter A—General Provisions

SEC. 1230A. 16 U.S.C. 3830a. GOOD FAITH RELIANCE.

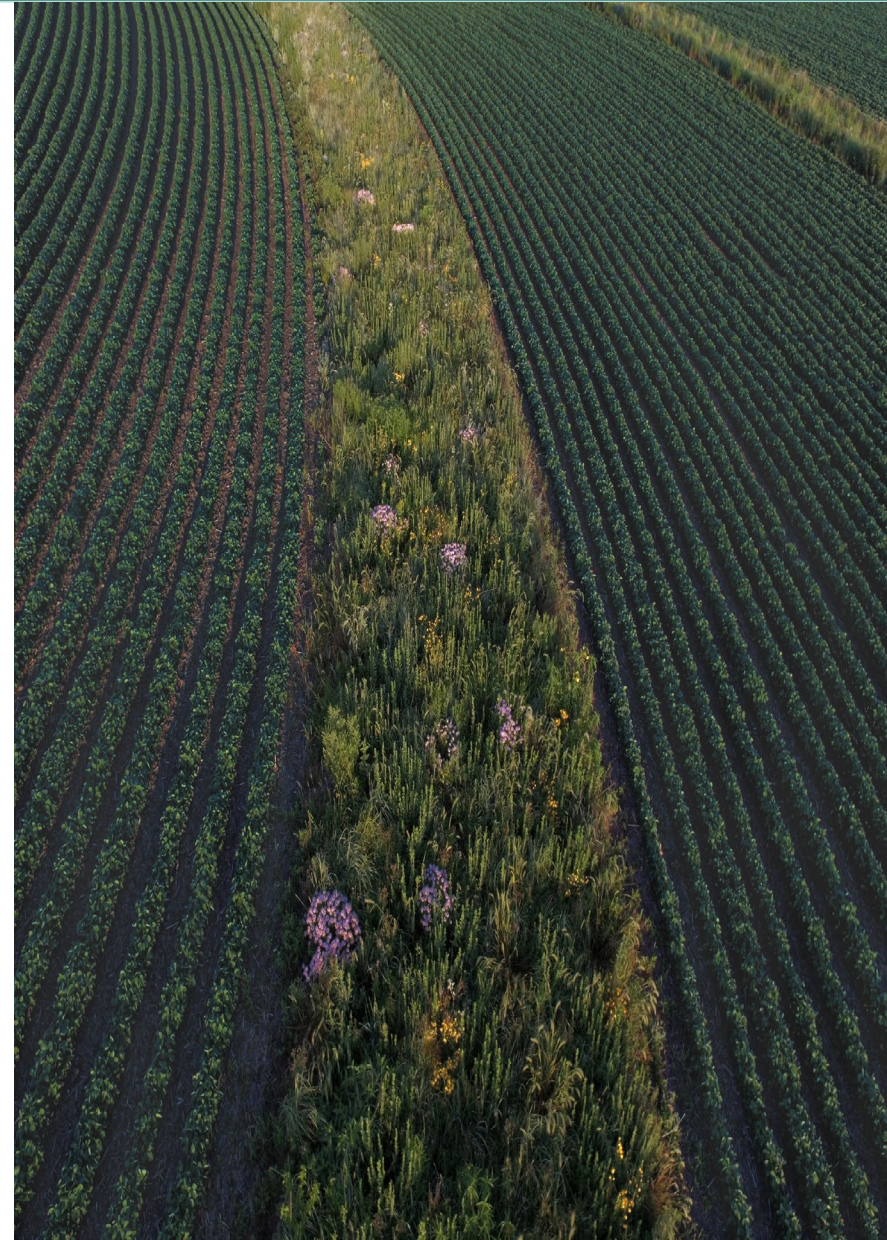
Subchapter B—Conservation Reserve

SEC. 1231. 16 U.S.C. 3831. CONSERVATION RESERVE.



Conservation Reserve Program

- **USDA Conservation Program**
- **10 or 15 year contracts**
- **Provides Annual Rental Payment**
- **Requires establishment of conservation practices**
- **Cost share**
- **Incentives**
- **Eligibility requirements for participation**



Conservation Reserve Program – Iowa

October 2019

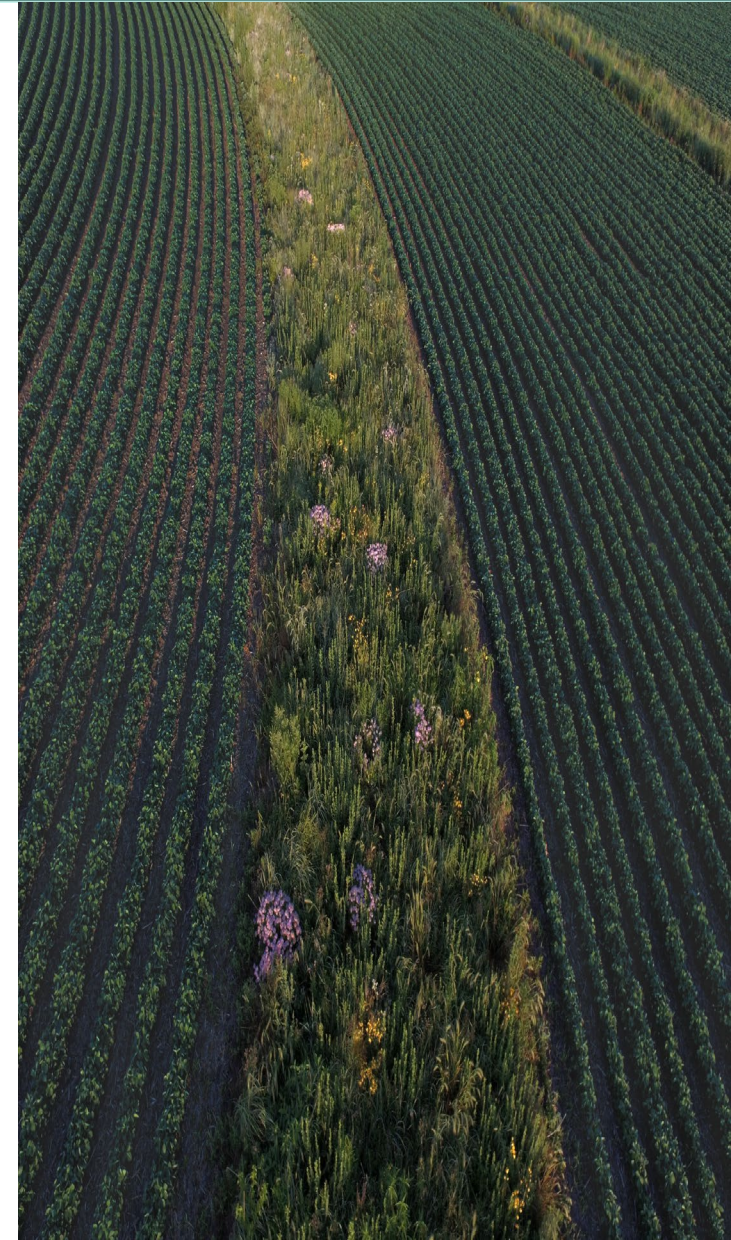
Acres enrolled in CRP 1,702,549

- 4th highest in nation
- 7.8% of nations total

Number of contracts 104,105

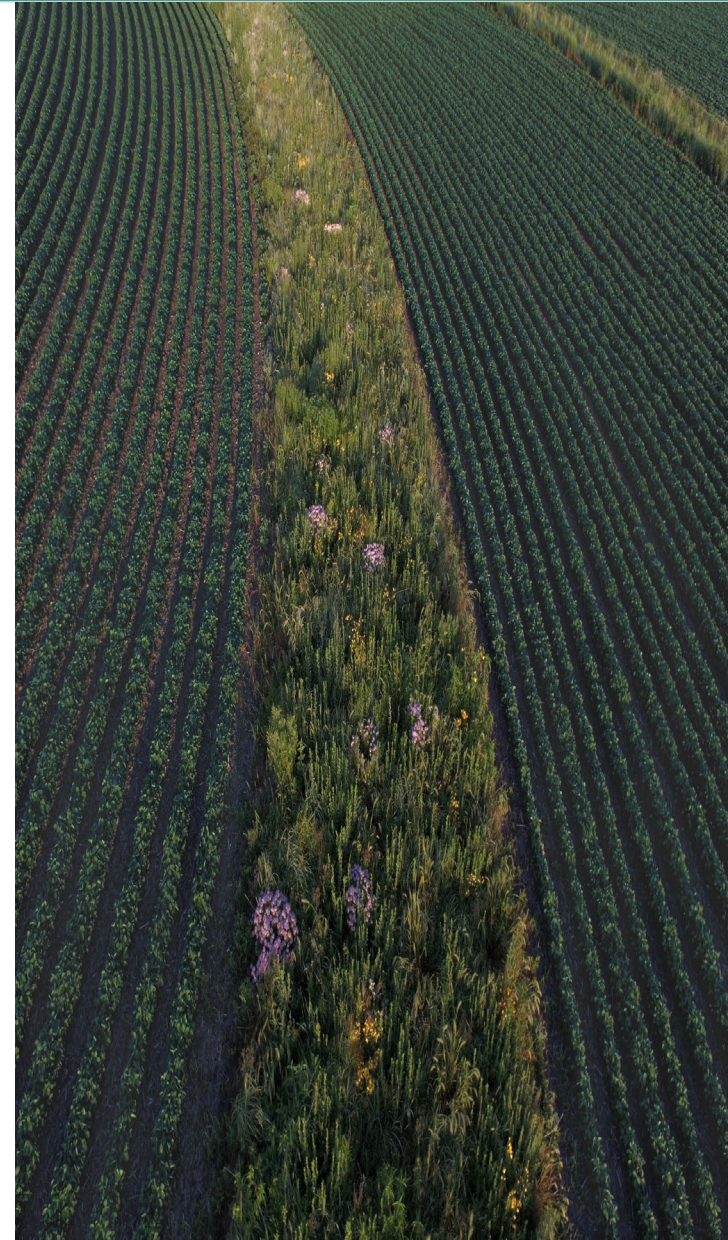
- Highest in nation
- 17.7% of nations total

Average Rental Rate per Acre \$221.92



Science and Policy

- **USDA began formulating policy soon after the farm bill was passed**
- **Determined that Prairie Strips would become CRP Practice CP-43**
- **Coordinating with the ISU STRIPS team was important**



Targeted Resource Concerns

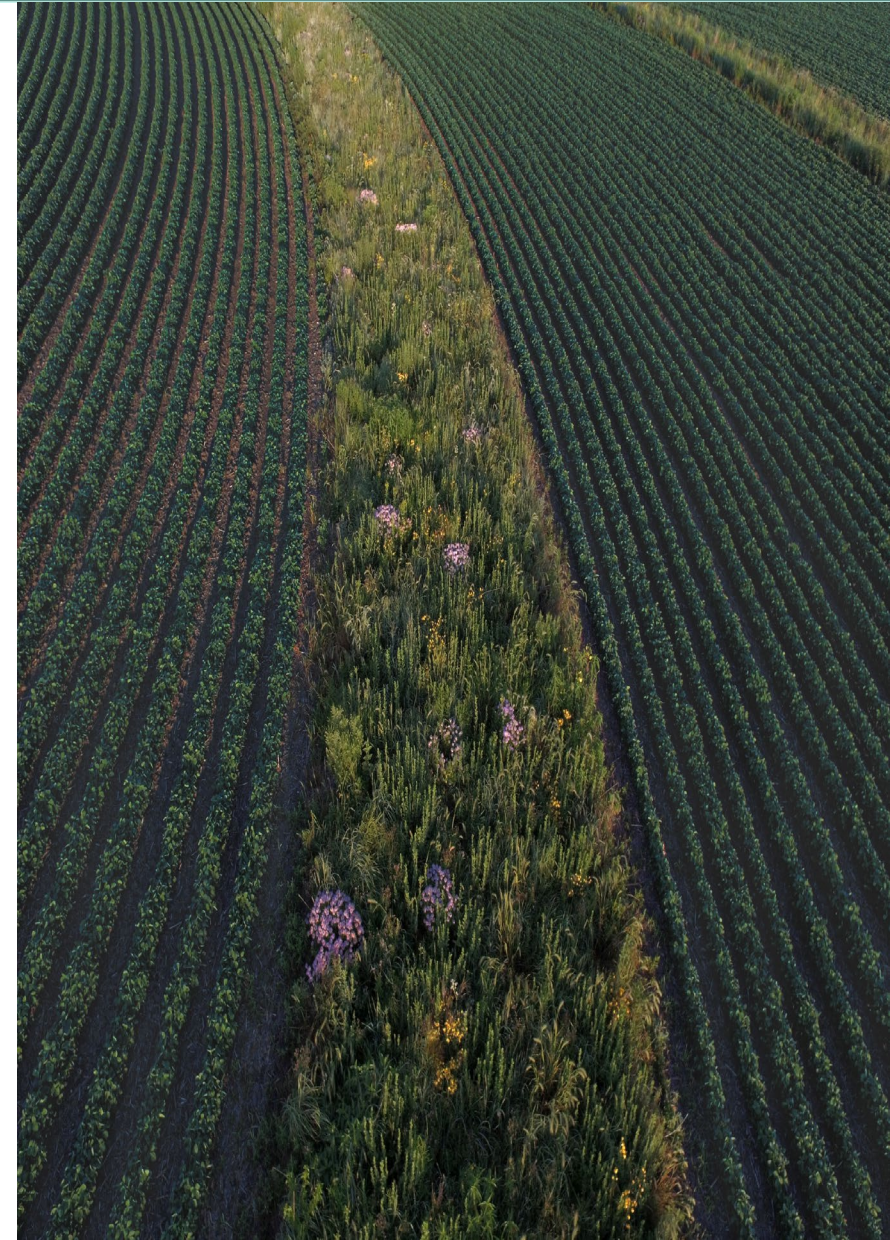
Soil Erosion

- Sheet, Rill and Wind
- Concentrated flow



Water Quality

- Excess nutrients
- Excess sediment



Targeted Resource Concerns

Inadequate Habitat for Wildlife

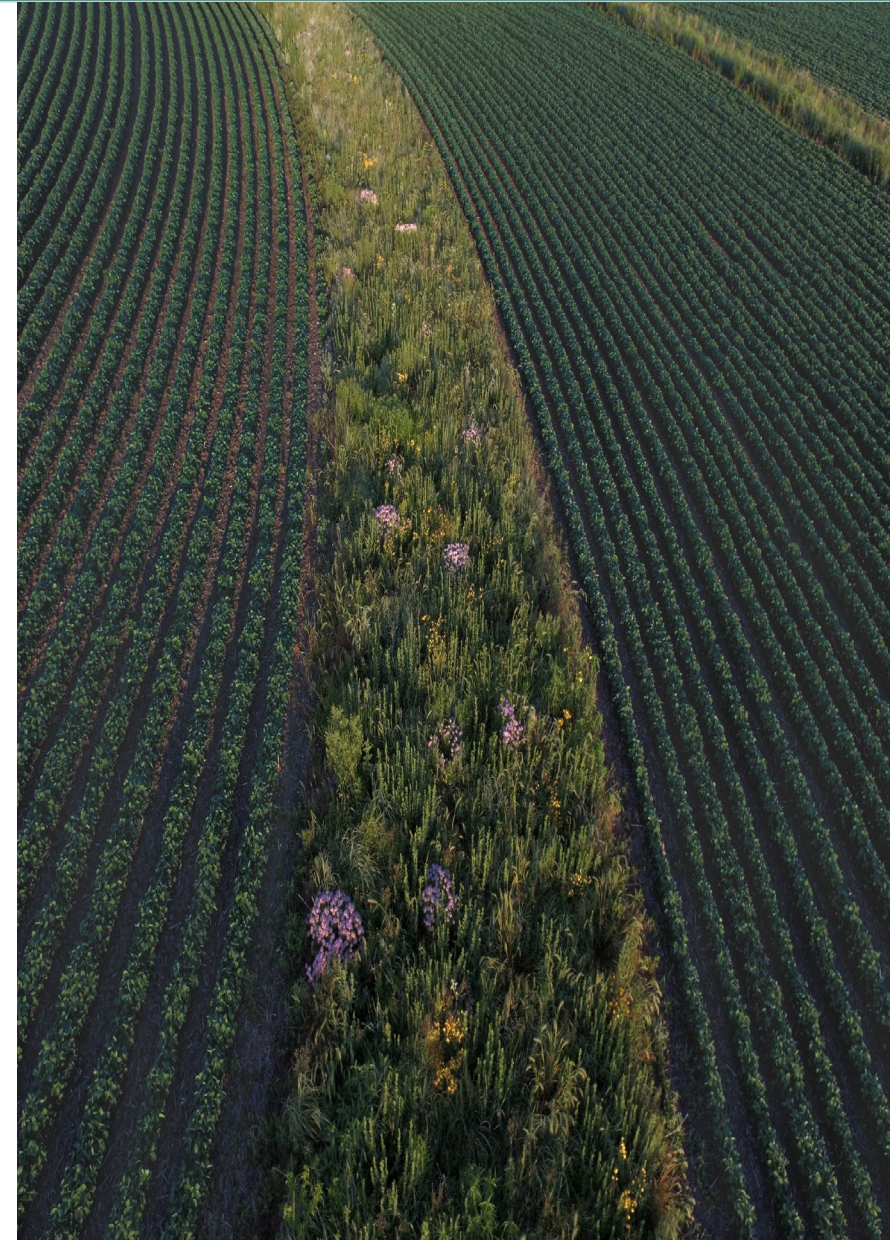
- Habitat degradation

Seeding design with emphasis on
beneficial insect habitat.



How are Prairie Strips Different?

Allows a conservation planner to work with a client to establish perennial vegetation in locations to reduce erosion and intercept water flow, while making it farmable.



NRCS Conservation Practice Standards

A combination of NRCS practice standards

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

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Cover *Iowa Job Sheet*

Natural Resources Conservation Service *Iowa Conservation Practice 327*
Des Moines, Iowa *May 2017*

Definition
Establishing and maintaining permanent vegetative cover.

Purpose
This practice may be applied to accomplish one or more of the following:

- » Reduce soil erosion and sedimentation.
- » Improve water quality.
- » Improve air quality.
- » Enhance wildlife, pollinator, and beneficial organism habitat.
- » Improve soil quality.

Condition Where Practice Applies
This practice applies on all lands needing permanent vegetative cover. This practice does not apply to plantings for forage production or to critical area plantings.

Criteria for Conservation Cover

A. Seeding Periods
Permanent, perennial vegetative cover and/or shrubs will be established during the first recommended seeding or best planting period for the selected species or mixture. Planting dates are outlined on Table 1 of this job sheet.

B. Fertilizer and Lime Requirements
Soil fertility and pH level will be amended on introduced species to satisfy the needs of the specific plant species planned. Soil samples will be collected on the area to be seeded according to the protocol in ISU CROP 3108 "Take a good soil sample to help make decisions." Samples will be tested at a state approved testing laboratory.

» **Introduced Species** - Recommendations will be based on pastureland, according to ISU Extension publication PM 869 "Fertilizing Pastures for Conservation Cover Establishment." Lime


recommendations will be developed from Table 16 of ISU PM 1688 "General Guide for Crop Nutrient Recommendations in Iowa." Soil tests that are less than four years old may be used to make recommendations.

Fertilizer or lime will not be used when establishing seeding in Hydrologic zones B, C, or D, including floodplain filter strips as outlined in Technical Note #27, Guidance on Seeding for Pothole, Floodplain, and Other Wetlands.

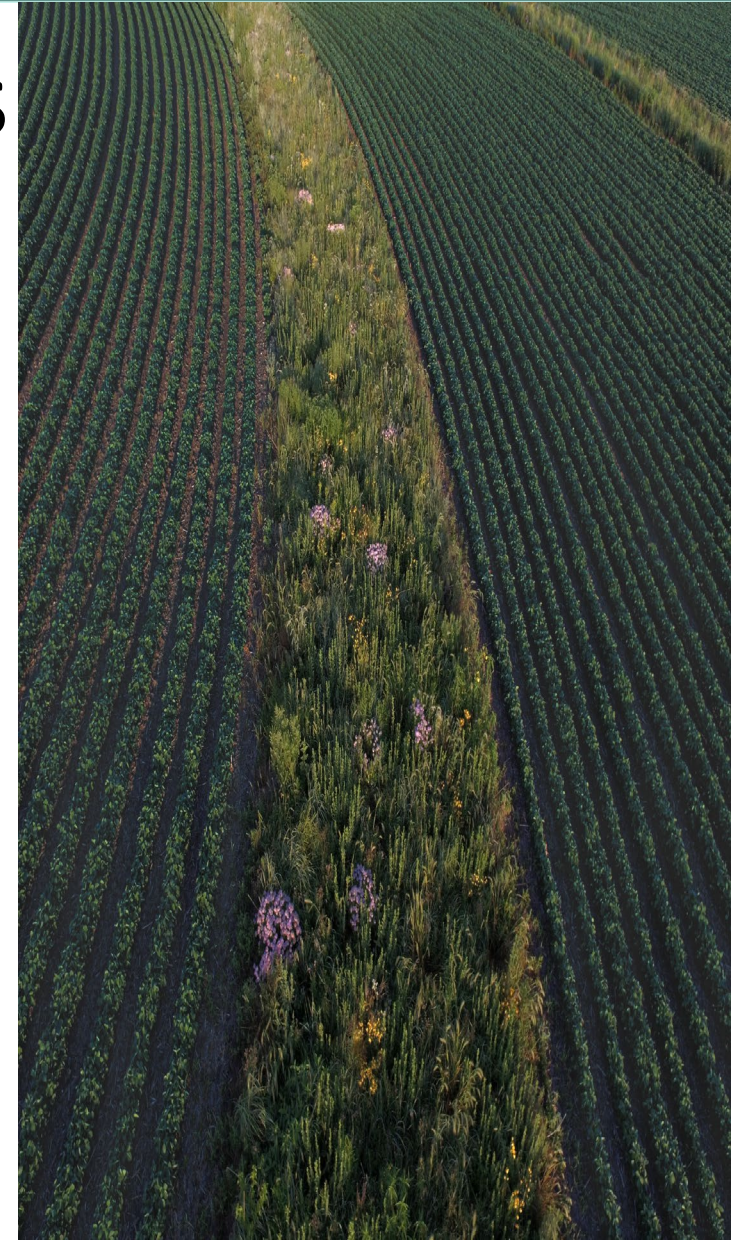
C. Companion Crop

» **Native Species** - For native grass and forb establishment, no N, P, K, or lime is required.

» **Introduced Species** - Companion crops are required on tilled fields and where slopes are >5%. Companion crops will not be required in fields that are no-tilled into existing residue, if the residue is adequate to reduce soil erosion. A companion crop of spring cereal grain at the rate of 1 bushel/acre will be drilled or broadcasted. See Table 4 in the 327 Job Sheet for a list of acceptable companion crops. The companion



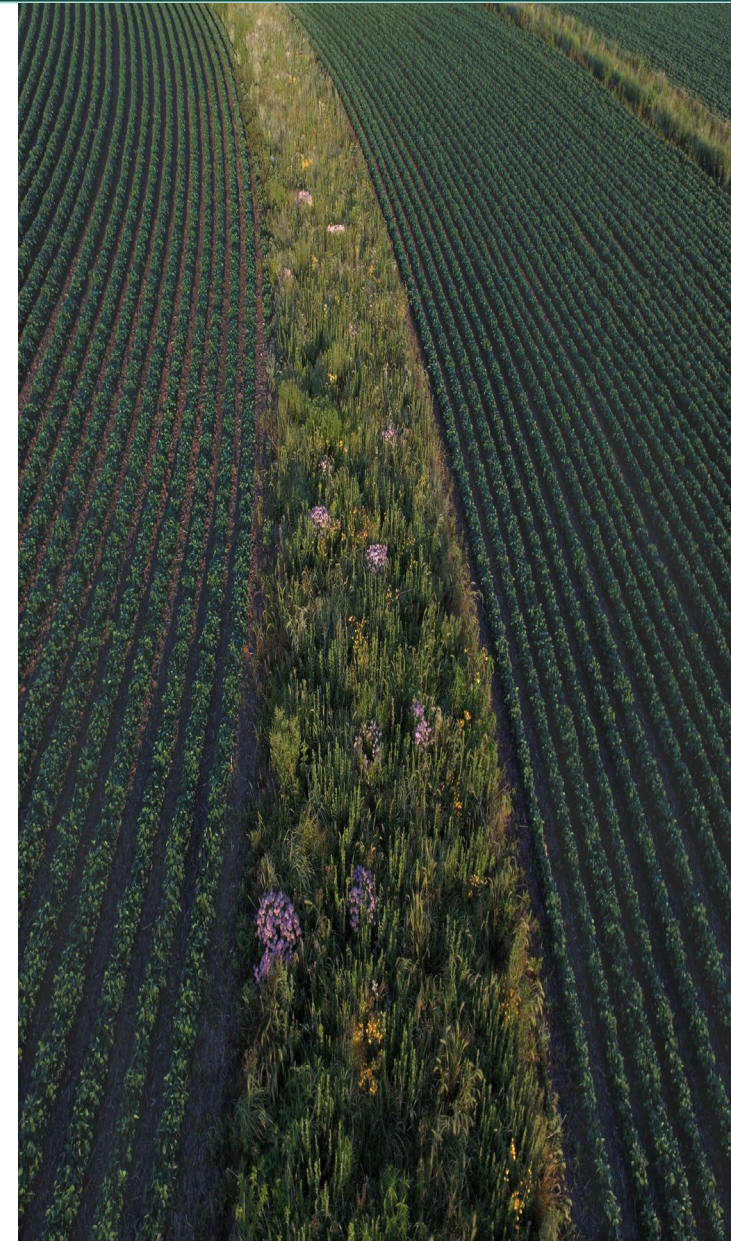
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CP-43 Prairie Strips

A Purpose

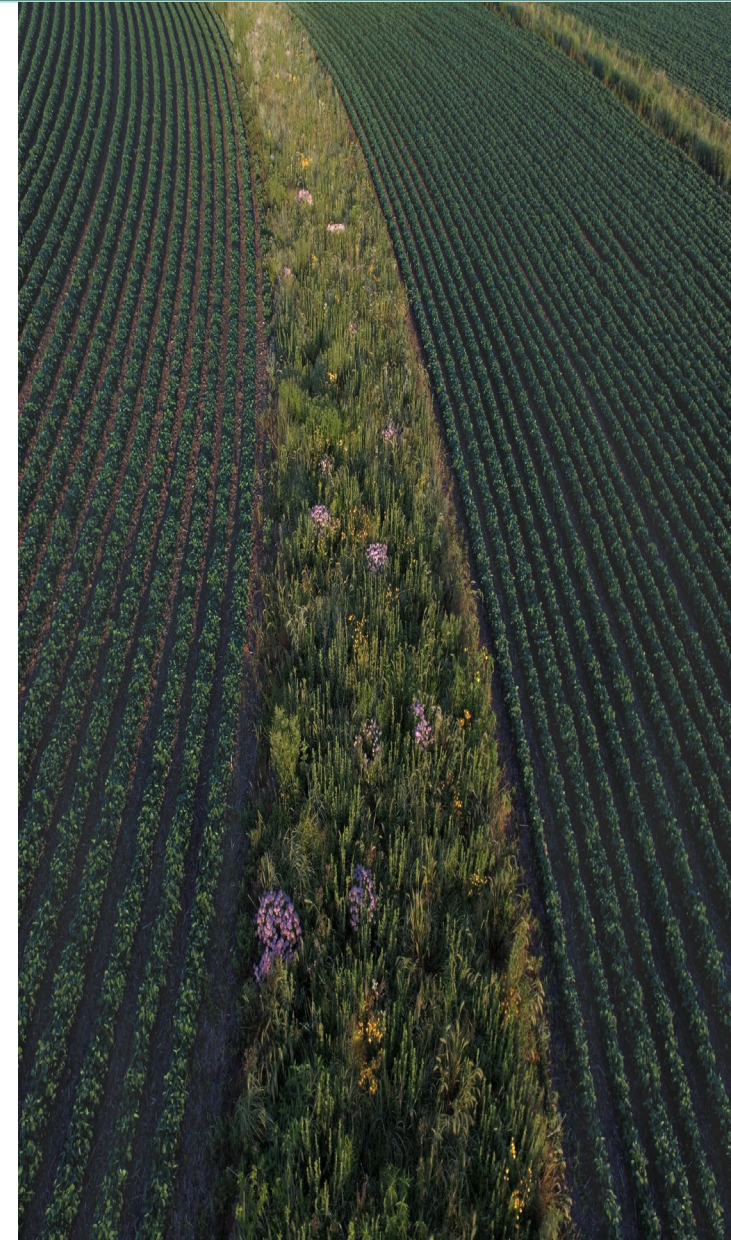
Establish strips of diverse, dense, herbaceous, predominately native perennial vegetation designed and positioned on the landscape to most effectively address soil erosion and water quality while providing food and cover for wildlife and beneficial insects. The primary purpose of prairie strips is to reduce soil erosion and pollution transport to protect water quality by intercepting surface and subsurface water flow to remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides, and other pollutants by deposition, absorption, plant uptake, denitrification, and other processes. The secondary purpose is to provide wildlife and beneficial insect habitat by establishing diverse plant communities.



CP-43 Prairie Strips

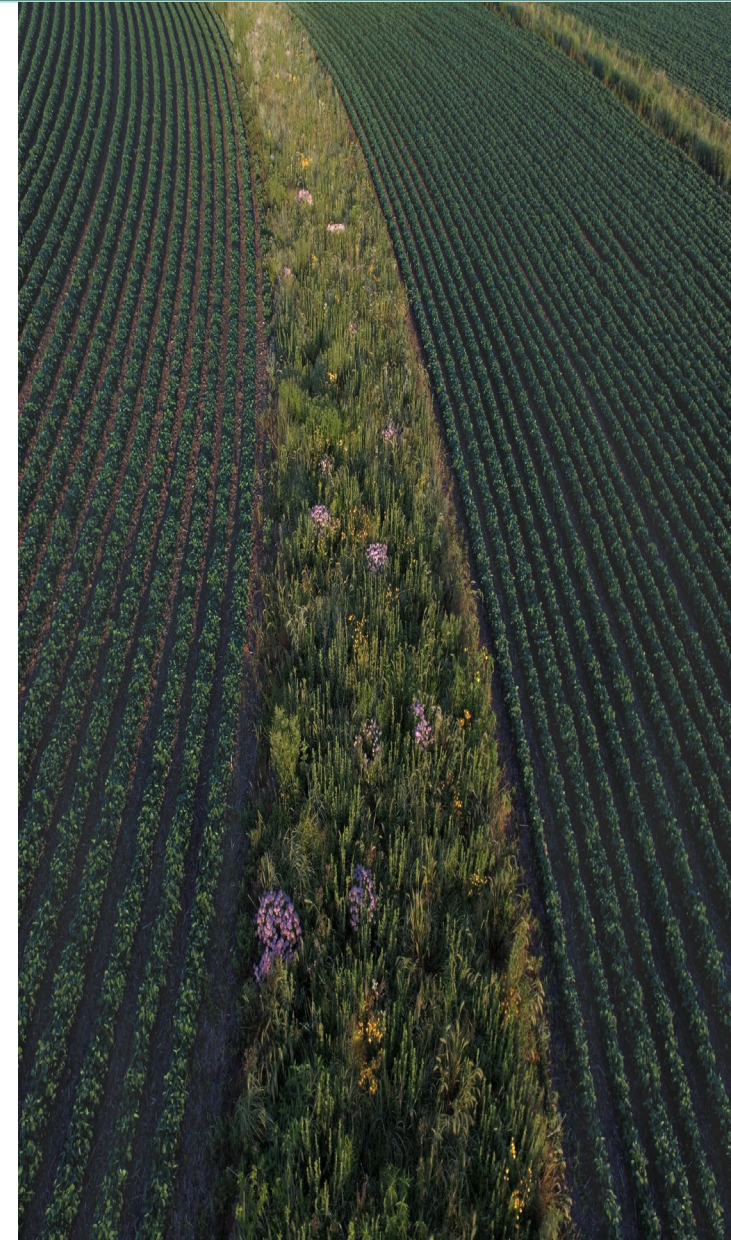
NRCS or TSP conservation planner will consider the producers conservation objectives and production system to determine appropriate locations and sizes of prairie strips to reduce soil erosion and reduce the transport of pollutants to water bodies. Prairie strips may be placed:

- Around the perimeter or portions of the perimeter of a field.
- Through the field.
- Parallel and/or perpendicular to existing grassed waterways if the conservation planner determines that effective filtering will take place in such a location.
- In a gradient or level terrace channel, diversion channel or storage area of a water and sediment control basin to intercept water runoff before infiltration or entering an outlet, if determined necessary for filtering.
- Pivot corners of any size may be enrolled as prairie strips if needed to reduce soil erosion or provide water filtering.



CP-43 Prairie Strips

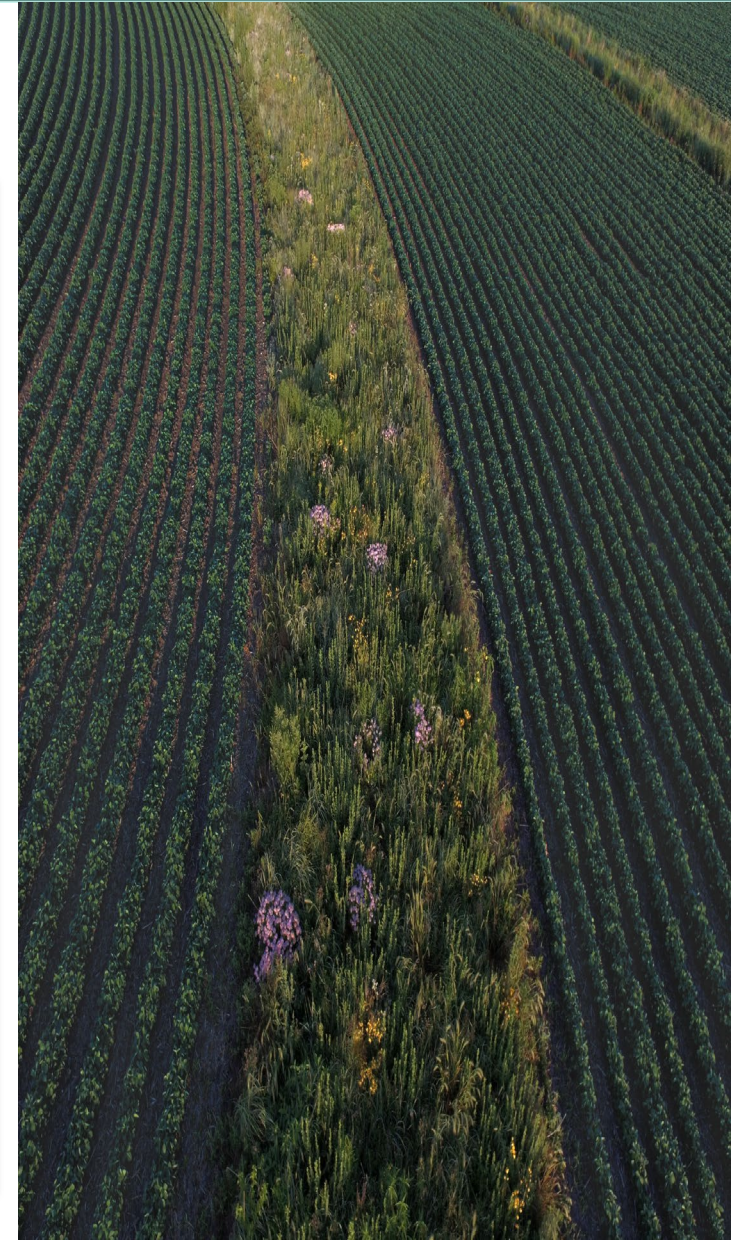
When designing prairie strips through the field to land greater or equal than 5% slope the row grade requirements in NRCS practice standard 332 contour grass strip must be applied.



CP-43 Prairie Strips

Design seed mixes to control soil erosion and reduce the transport of pollutants while also incorporating plant diversity for wildlife and beneficial insects. Seed mix criteria:

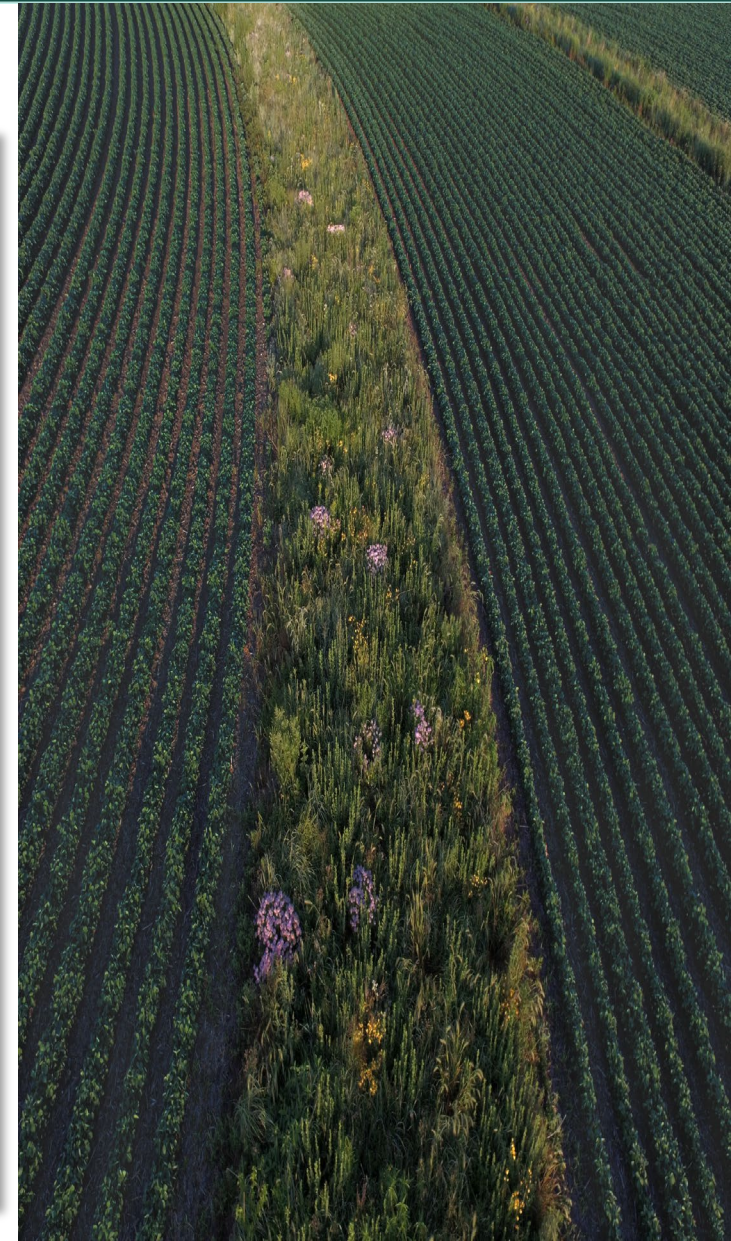
- Include grass and forb species to provide active plant growth and flowering throughout the growing season. If possible, two flowering species in each growing season and a minimum of ten flowering plants.
- Maximize forb diversity as much as possible.
- Introduced grass species are not allowed. Introduced forb species are only allowed if regional supply is limited or soil erosion and water quality benefits will be compromised with the use of native species.
- Design seed mixes to balance grass and forb amounts to provide a stable plant community. Include minimum rates for dominant competitive species. Reference regional or state ecological site descriptions, wildlife habitat planting and beneficial insect guidance to design seed mixes.



CP-43 Prairie Strips

Limited machinery traffic is allowed on prairie strips located on the perimeter of a field to replace end rows/turn rows and prairie strips located parallel and immediately adjacent to grass waterways to allow for contour farming that requires equipment traffic through the waterway area. Limitations include:

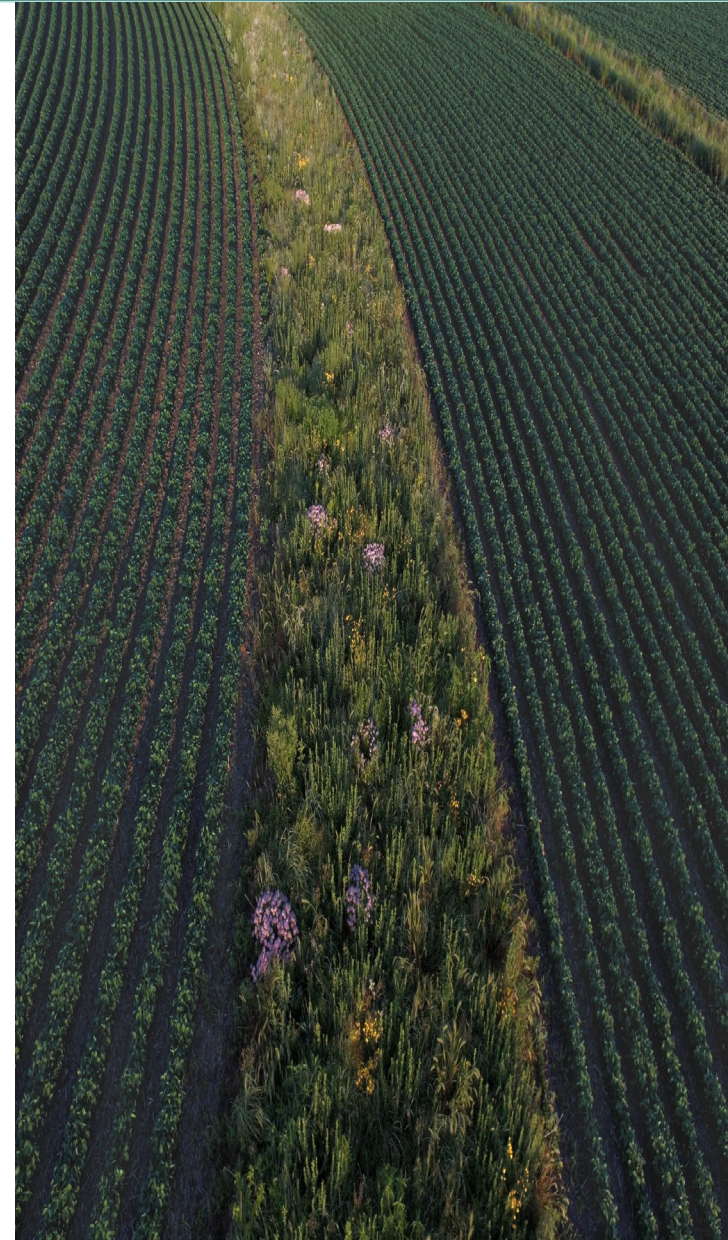
- Machinery traffic is allowed on prairie strips planted as field borders and may only be used for equipment turning during normal field operations and not as travel lanes.
- Prairie strips parallel and adjacent to grass waterways may only be crossed with machinery during normal farming operations and not used as travel lanes.
- In no case will prairie strips be used as travel lanes.
- Prairie strips shall not be used for storage of crops or equipment.



CP-43 Prairie Strips

Size policy

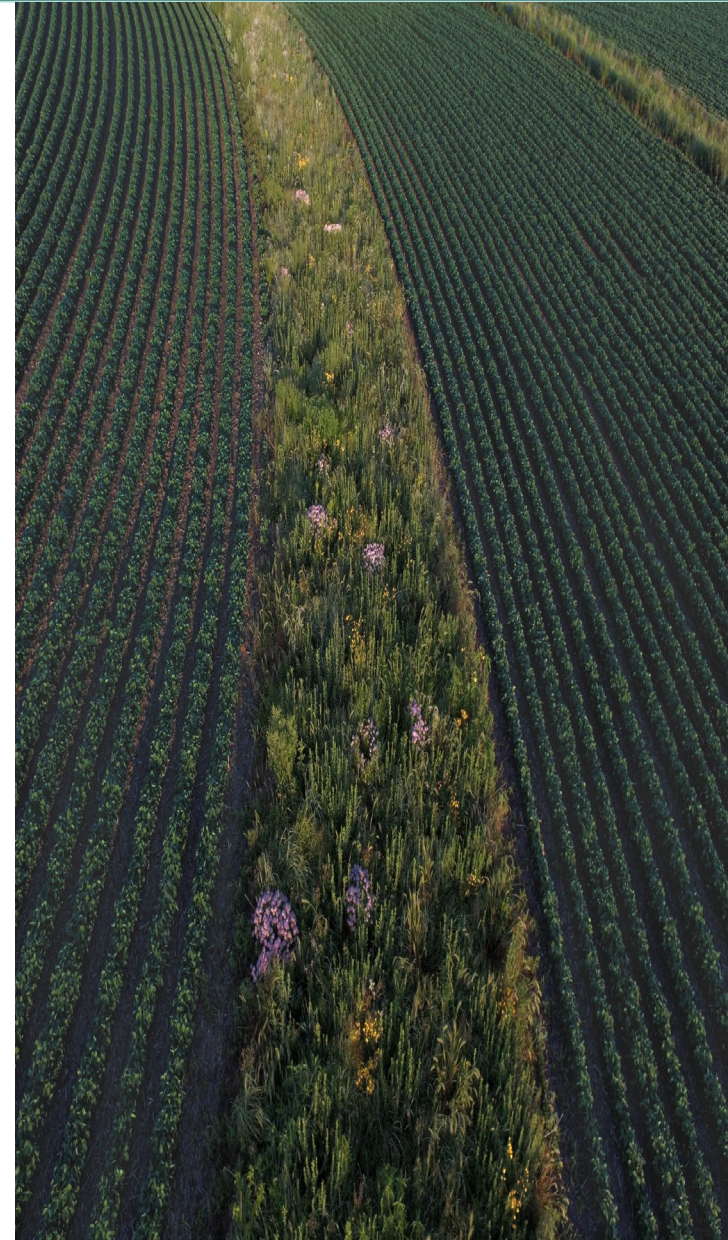
- Minimum width is 30 feet
- Maximum width is 120 feet
- May not exceed 25% of the cropland area per field
- Width of an individual prairie strip may vary



CRP Signup 53

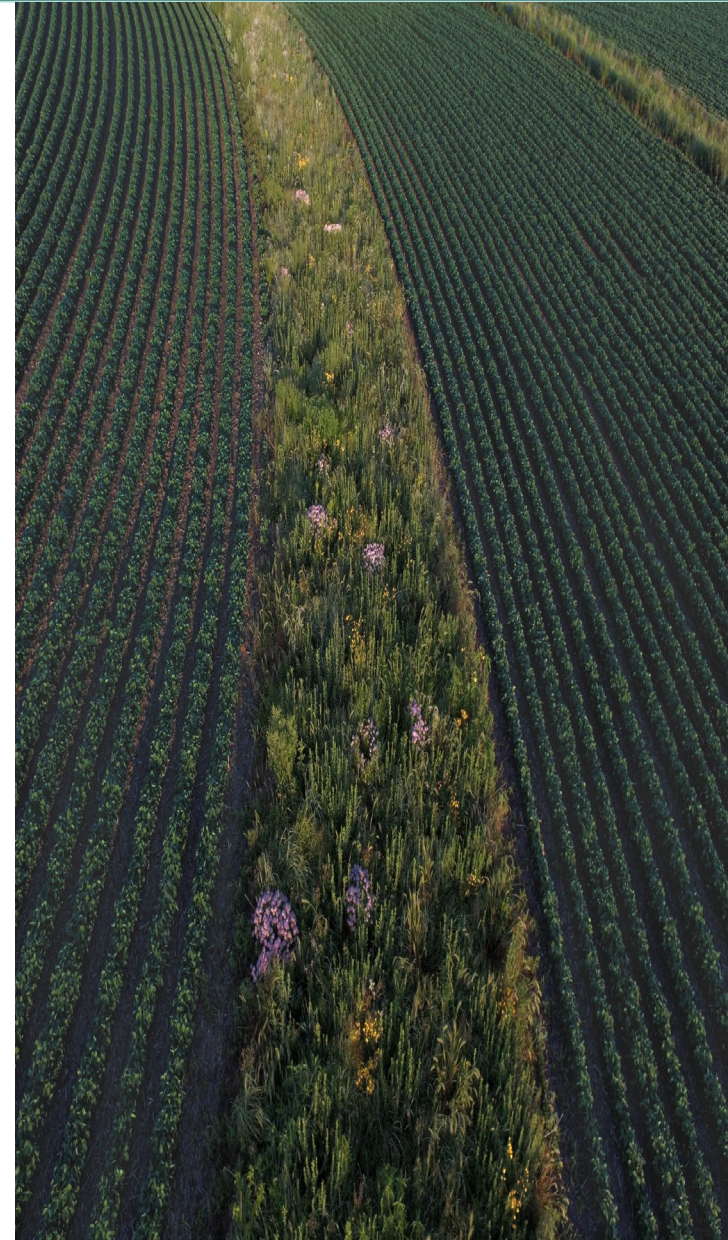
USDA to Open Signup for Conservation Reserve Program on December 9

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 5, 2019 – Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture is opening signup for the [Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\)](#) on December 9, 2019. The deadline for agricultural producers to sign up for general CRP is February 28, 2020, while signup for continuous CRP is ongoing.



CP-43 Prairie Strips

Visit your local USDA Service Center to learn more.



Questions?

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