



# CP43 – Prairie Strips

Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

## WHAT IS A PRAIRIE STRIP

Prairie strips is the NEW continuous conservation reserve program practice under the USDA's Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) initiative. The focus of the practice is to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat.

Prairie strips are linear, diverse, perennial habitat within row crop fields. They must be between 30 and 120 foot in width and may not account for more than 25% of the cropped acres per tract. They can be placed along the edge of a field (like the old CP33 buffers practice), through the field, in terrace channels along waterways and next to pivot corners.

## WHY PRAIRIE STRIPS?

Made up of diverse native habitat, CP43 provides excellent habitat for pheasants, quail, pollinators and a suite of other wildlife. By planting at least 10% of a field to Prairie Strips, benefits include:

- 44% reduction in water runoff
- 95% reduction in soil loss
- 90% reduction in phosphorus runoff
- 84% reduction in nitrate-nitrogen runoff
- Increases in beneficial insects, pollinators and wildlife.

## FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AND ENROLLMENT

The CP43 Prairie Strips practice is a continuous CRP program. Unlike general CRP, It is not competitive so if your land meets requirements and acres are available, your land is accepted. The first step in enrolling is to visit your local USDA service center. In addition to annual payments, cost-share and incentives offset most of the establishment costs. Financial benefits include:

- 10 – 15 years of annual rental payments
- Up to 50% cost share payments for establishment
- 5% Practice Incentive Payment
- Sign-up incentive equal to 32.5% of the first year's rental payment

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or call – 866-914-7373

## WHAT TO PLANT – WHERE TO BUY SEED

Each state has specific practice standards required for the seed mix. Generally, mixes include a diverse mix of mostly perennial native grasses and wildflowers, but in some cases may also include introduced species.

At Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, our Mission is Habitat and we want to help you with yours. Our professional wildlife biologists have designed seed mixes that meet and exceed practice standards and provide quality habitat at affordable prices.

Pre-designed mixes are available online at [www.PFHabitatStore.com](http://www.PFHabitatStore.com). We can also provide quotes on mixes developed by other planners. Send your quote to [seed@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:seed@pheasantsforever.org). If you have questions, you can talk to one of our wildlife biologists at 866-914-7373.

Because any profits from our program support our mission of putting more habitat on the ground, youth in our fields and birds in the air, you're not only a customer, you are supporting conservation – Thank You.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2019/crp\\_clear\\_initiative\\_prairie\\_strip\\_practice-fact\\_sheet.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2019/crp_clear_initiative_prairie_strip_practice-fact_sheet.pdf) - Farm Service Agency Fact Sheet for Prairie Strips.
- <https://vimeo.com/291571298> A video about prairie strips implementation that is part of the Conservation Media Library.
- <https://www.flickr.com/photos/151012306@N08/albums/72157670883037538>: A step by step visual guide to prairie strips implementation. These photos were taken on real farms across Iowa and are part of the Conservation Media Library.
- [www.nrem.iastate.edu/research/STRIPs/](http://www.nrem.iastate.edu/research/STRIPs/): Iowa State University's Science-based Trials of Rowcrops Integrated with Prairie Strips (STRIPS) research initiative.

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**to speak to a Conservation Specialist**

