Continuous CRP Sign-up Factsheet

March 2023

CP27 Farmable Wetlands & CP28 Farmable Wetland Buffers

Farmable wetlands are depressions within a crop field where water from irrigation or rainfall seasonally collects. When they have water in them farming becomes difficult; crops get flooded out and equipment gets stuck. Often, landowners have to farm around them which cuts into productivity.

A large majority of farmable wetlands actually fall into the playa wetland category. Playas are ancient wind-formed, nearly circular small depressions with a layer of clay coating the bottom. The clay prevents water from seeping into the ground, even after years of being actively farmed.

Farmable wetlands which are not playas are often linked directly to the water table, meaning that inputs to crop production such as fertilizers and pesticides have a direct link to the groundwater.

From a wildlife standpoint, maintaining these wetlands is very important. When inundated, most farmable wetlands hold one to three inches of water but can be much deeper. They provide much needed rest stops for migratory waterfowl such as ducks, geese, and cranes.

Their seasonal nature means that water levels are constantly fluctuating, creating bare mud flats attractive to shorebirds. Before long the bare soil will be vegetated by a flush of annual plants which attracts insects and provides a large seed crop, creating prime habitat for upland game brood rearing, pollinating insects, and song birds. They can also provide attractive browse and bedding areas for deer.

CP27 Farmable Wetlands & CP28 Farmable Wetland Buffers are two practices that go hand-in-hand to help make those "unproductive" acres productive again.

In a CP27/CP28 enrollment, the wetland is allowed to naturally regenerate and a buffer is seeded around the wetland to prevent it from filling up with sediment, filter out excess nutrients and pesticides, and provide additional wildlife cover.

Playa wetland dominated by Pennsylvania smartweed (Polygonum pensylvanicum). This native plant provides an excellent food source for waterfowl, especially ducks.

An example of a Farmable wetland (CP27) and Farmable Wetland Buffer (CP28) located in a crop field. These "unproductive" acres are now producing some income and wildlife.

INTERESTING FACT

30ft ***The minimum width of a wetland buffer should be 30 feet to function efficiently.***

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Areas of fields which flood out every couple years resulting in a loss of production have a steady income option with CP27/CP28 Farmable Wetlands and Farmable Wetland Buffers CRP.

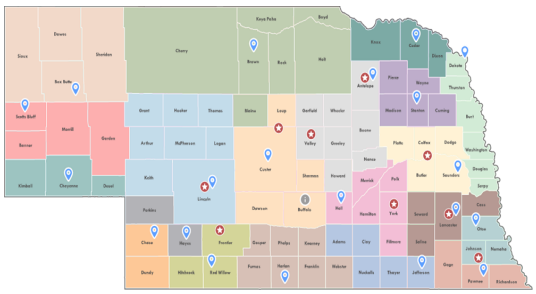
American avocet (Recurvirostra americana) wading in a playa wetland

An example of a CP28 buffer practice that is providing excellent habitat for song birds, upland wildlife, and pollinators.

What does a CP27/CP28 contract look like?

- Provides beneficial habitat for migratory birds, shore wading birds, and many other wildlife species.
- Acres must be cropland or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during at least 3 of the 10 most recent crop years.
- Eligible acres may be signed up on a continuous basis and are not subject to competitive ranking nationwide.
- Maximum size of wetland acres (CP27) is 40 acres. There is no minimum.
- Maximum size of wetland buffer acres (CP28) is no greater than 4 times the associated wetland acres. Minimum size is a width of 30’ around associated wetland acres.
- Annual payment rate based on the county soil rental rate established for the three predominant soils.
- 10 - 15 year contract length.
- Standard 50% cost-share on establishment practices.
- Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) and Practice Incentive Payments (PIP) may be available.
- No management activity is required on the CP27 acres (wetland acres) but is encouraged during dry years to promote early successional vegetation.
- No cost-share for management is available, but is still required once in the lifetime of a CP28 (buffer acres) part of the contract.

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
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FSA FARM SERVICE AGENCY