

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM



PROTECT LAND & WATER RESOURCES: LEAVE A LEGACY

Acres enrolled in CRP help preserve the land for future generations by keeping soil where it belongs: protecting the steepest, most erodible ground from runoff. CRP acres also provide cleaner air and water, benefitting all Iowans.

Dick Jensen, a Fayette County landowner, has 140 acres of native grasses in CRP and believes keeping natural areas on the farm helps connect young people to the land: “that spirit-filled, enjoyable, imaginative exploration, the adventures that intimately connected our hearts and minds to the land. Children that have those experiences value protecting the land,” Jensen says.

Along Squaw Creek in Clark County, retiree John Aschenbrenner created a 23-acre wetland to filter sediment and improve water quality.

More than 100 acres is still prime farmland, but he also enrolled 135 acres in CRP native grasses around the wetland to attract wildlife and provide a quiet retreat for his family. “We plan to use this land mostly for recreation, like walking and hiking,” Aschenbrenner says.

CRP acres also provide a way to manage land over 10 or 15 years, versus dealing with yearly leases for tenants. Rental rates have also been updated, making most payments more competitive in today’s market.

Once the CRP land is established, there is little maintenance—CRP grasslands need only be addressed mid-contract to ensure quality habitat for wildlife is maintained.



Besides the benefits to his family, Jensen values CRP for its flexibility, “CRP is the best program of all the farm programs that are offered. It’s flexible and efficient. You have options, you can do a combination of the options, and you can plant CRP where you want to plant it. It’s a great program for those who care about land stewardship.”

For more information, contact your local DNR biologist found on the enclosed letter, or go to www.iowadnr.gov.