



CP 33 Wildlife Habitat Buffer

CP 21 Filter Strip

CP 9 Shallow Water Wildlife
Pond

CP 8A Grassed Waterway



WINNEBAGO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

County Conservationist- Katie Lidbury
Katherine.Lidbury@il.nacdn.net

SWCD Celebrates 70 Years and Recognizes Value of CRP

As the Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) celebrates its 70th Anniversary it is a great time to reflect on the programs they are involved in that help promote conservation. One of the most common United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs is the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP formerly referred to as “set aside” has made great strides over the last 60 years. In the 1950’s the idea of CRP was planted but it did not really take root until the 1980’s when the first USDA Farm Bill was officially established.

CRP allows eligible farmers and agricultural landowners a way to address soil, water, and other natural resource concerns on their land by means of providing technical and financial assistance. The program’s aim is to reduce soil erosion, reduce sedimentation in our water bodies, improve water quality, enhance/establish habitat for wildlife, and protect our wetland resources. This voluntary program provides annual rental payments and cost share assistance for establishing and managing long term resource conserving covers on eligible land. Resource conserving covers can include planting native vegetation such as forbs, grasses, shrubs, and trees based on historical land use information. The reintroduction of these species not only protects our natural resources but also increase our wildlife populations across the Country.

Nationwide there are over 600,000 CRP contracts conserving 30 million acres of land. In Illinois alone over 130,000 contracts, protect nearly 1.4 million acres. Looking closer to home, in Winnebago County over 9,000 acres are enrolled in a CRP practice. As Aldo Leopold said, “there are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot”, the Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District hopes that as they mark their 70th year and look towards the future the Winnebago County community continues to see the value in “wild things” and supports conservation programs.

For additional information on the Conservation Reserve Program you may visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp> or

Contact the SWCD at (815)965-2392 x3.



Purple Coneflower and
Brown Eyed Susan

Big Bluestem

Heart Leaved Alexander

Wild Bergamot