



Grassed Waterways, Non-easement in CRP

Continuous Conservation Reserve Program Practice Information Sheet

February 2007

What is the purpose of CP8A – Grassed Waterways, Non-easement?

This Conservation Reserve Program practice is intended to convey runoff from terraces, diversions, or other water concentrations without causing erosion or flooding. It is also intended to improve water quality. A grassed waterway consists of a natural or constructed vegetated channel that is shaped or graded and vegetated to carry surface water at a non-erosive velocity to a stable outlet.



How do CP8A – Grassed Waterways help the land?

Grassed waterways provide erosion control and can ease movement of machinery across slopes. They typically produce large yields of forage that can be cut for hay or grazed after the contract expires. Grassed waterways provide wildlife habitat and may provide corridors for wildlife travel. Grassed waterways prevent or reduce siltation in downstream water courses and/or water bodies.

Where are CP8A – Grassed Waterways installed?

Grassed waterways are installed in areas with existing gullies, or areas needing greater conveyance capacity and stable vegetation to prevent intermittent, concentrated flow from causing gully erosion. To be eligible for CRP, the site must have been cropped or considered cropped four of the six years from 1996 through 2001.

What are the financial benefits of installing CP8A – Grassed Waterways?

CRP pays an estimated 90 percent of the installation cost. The cost-share payment basis is 50 percent of the estimated installation cost. A Practice Incentive Payment provides the equivalent of another 40 percent cost-share.

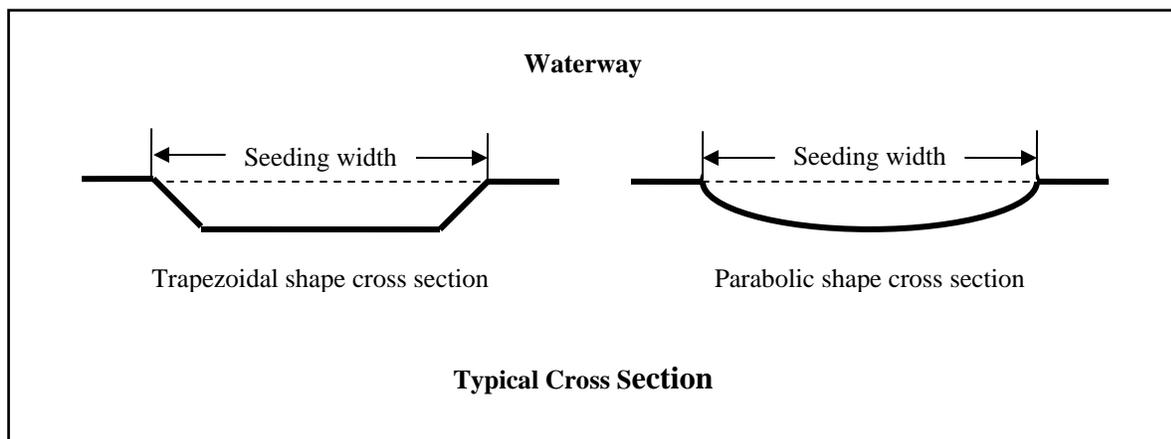
- An annual rental payment is provided each year for the 10-year contract period. The rental rate is based on the soil types and local rental rates in the county. The annual rental payments are increased by 20 percent on waterways, compared to most other CRP acreage rental rates.
- Due to the substantial environmental benefits of grassed waterways, participants receive a Signing Incentive Payment of \$100 per acre in the first year of the contract.

How can NRCS help?

Example economic comparisons of a waterway installed in central North Dakota with CRP and with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) are available from your local NRCS office. The comparisons include cost-share payments, annual rental payments, and haying/grazing considerations. Contact your local NRCS office for an economic analysis of installing a waterway on your farm with CRP.

NRCS can assist you with a design, installation, and check out of a waterway on your land, including:

- Earthwork construction
- Temporary vegetative cover, if needed
- Permanent vegetative cover establishment
- Mulching, if needed
- Maintenance plan



A grassed waterway can have a cross section configuration that is trapezoidal or parabolic. Side slopes may be constructed to accommodate maintenance and tillage/harvesting equipment that will cross the waterway.

Helping People Help the Land

All programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.