



Annual Report

FFY 2004

October 2003 – September 2004

On October 29, 2003, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed by the State of New York and the U.S. Department of Agriculture launching the New York State Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). This exciting new program helps protect water quality and advance environmental stewardship in select agricultural watersheds and public wellhead areas throughout New York State.

The goal of NYS CREP is to enroll 40,000 acres over the course of the program. A strong foundation has been set throughout this first year, which will help attain that goal. Over 1,400 acres were enrolled in the first year and demand continues to increase as more farmers hear about NYS CREP.

Partnership is the key to success for NYS CREP. Not only are several agencies involved at the state level, but staff in each of the 53 counties work to implement the program locally. Cooperation and information-sharing have been essential to provide thorough and accurate information to potential participants statewide.

Introduction

As soon as the news was out that the NYS CREP program had been made official, farmers across the state began making inquiries and signing up their acres to participate. As of September 30, 2004, reported information indicates that 232 landowners have expressed interest in joining in the program, and a total of 1,462 acres were enrolled in CREP contracts.

There are 12 major basins that have been targeted for the program and the acres enrolled in these watersheds are sure to have a positive impact on water quality. Each watershed was chosen because segments within them had documented water quality impacts from agriculture, identified through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) 1996 Priority Waterbodies List. In an effort to protect drinking water supplies, land surrounding public wellhead areas and highly erodible slopes are also eligible to enroll through NYS CREP.

In return for taking these environmentally sensitive lands out of production and placing them in the CREP for ten to fifteen year contract periods, producers are eligible to receive the following: annual rental payments, annual maintenance payments, cost-share assistance, practice incentive payments and a signing incentive payment. Creating buffers and establishing vegetative cover demonstrates agriculture's commitment to the environment and the health of neighbors in their community.

Outreach Activities

Signing Ceremony

Rain was falling and the streams were flowing on the afternoon of October 29, 2003 as 200 people assembled at Herrington Farms in Troy to celebrate the announcement of the NYS CREP. Federal Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman made the trip from Washington D.C. to upstate New York for this momentous occasion. State Agriculture Commissioner Nathan Rudgers and State Soil and Water Conservation Committee (SWCC) Chairman Dennis Hill joined Secretary Veneman in signing the Memorandum of Agreement that made the program official. A press release was sent out and several Albany-area media outlets, including television and radio stations, covered this important event.



Pictured here, along with other supporters at the signing of the CREP agreement are; SWCC Chair Dennis Hill, Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, and NYS Commissioner of Agriculture Nathan Rudgers.

Training Sessions

Once the program began operation, state and federal staff joined forces to educate program implementers statewide. A series of training sessions were held in January 2004 to educate employees from Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA). The training sessions were a huge success, with 80 SWCD employees, 80 NRCS employees, and 80 FSA employees in attendance, representing almost every county statewide.



WRAPPING UP THE FIRST YEAR
Success Stories Sought

September 30th brought us to the close of the first Federal Fiscal Year of the NYS CREP. What a year it's been! The CREP agreement was signed last Fall, and SWCD, NRCS and FSA folks leapt into action. We already have about 1500 acres in active NYS CREP contracts! This means that the conservation plans have been approved, the contracts have been signed, and some producers have even gotten payments. Way to go, all of you!

We will be putting together an annual report on the status of NYS CREP, and we need some "success stories." You may not have practices on the ground yet, but please take a moment to consider whether you have a notable CREP success in your county. Have you gotten several farms to sign up in a critical area? Do you have one particularly important site to highlight? If you have a story to tell (especially with photos), please contact Emily Svenson to have your story included in the annual report. This is a prime opportunity to put your district in the spotlight.

Thanks to all for a super first year!

COME IN FROM THE COLD TO LEARN ABOUT CREP

Three regional training sessions will be offered this winter to explain how to prepare a CREP conservation plan that will meet program requirements, consider all natural resource issues, and establish clear expectations for the producer. A sample conservation plan is being developed for you to model your plans after.

Step-by-step instructions and a sample to duplicate – it doesn't get much better than that, folks!

Keep an eye out for an upcoming announcement of dates and locations. If there are specific topics you'd like to see included in the training, please drop me an email: emily.svenson@agrnt.state.ny.us.

PARTNERSHIP PAVES THE WAY

Did you ever wonder if there's anyone out there who wants to hear your suggestions on CREP? Actually, there is a NYS CREP Steering Committee that meets every couple of months to work out the issues encountered as this new program gets up and running. The committee is comprised of representatives from FSA, NRCS, the State Committee, Ag & Markets, NYCEA, NYS DEC, NYS DCR, and Delaware County SWCD. If you ever have issues that you would like the Steering Committee to consider, you can submit them to Emily Svenson. The next Steering Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, November 30.

Like the Logo?

CREP has a new look! The acronym we've all grown to love has undergone a makeover. If you would like to use the new bluebird logo for your publications, please contact Emily or Michele for an electronic file.

ELIGIBLE WATERSHEDS

In July, FSA released a final revised listing of watersheds eligible for NYS CREP. It is important to note that for each 11-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC) number listed, any land in that HUC can be considered for NYS CREP. The notice also clarified that public watersheds need not be in eligible HUCs in order to be eligible for NYS CREP. Thanks to Allen LaPere for getting the new list approved!

A map of the eligible HUCs was recently e-mailed to each county FSA office. Contact Emily if you need a copy.

Newsletters

Because this program is implemented by counties, keeping them up-to-date with the latest information is critical to the success of the NYS CREP. Over the course of the first year the SWCC has released 5 newsletters. These newsletters were aimed at county Soil & Water Conservation Districts to inform them about program developments. Topics have included training opportunities, outreach suggestions, and program clarifications. (See Appendix A)

Outreach Materials

While counties have been busy signing-up farmers for the NYS CREP, much of the State partnership's focus has been on developing outreach materials. An outreach plan was developed, which identifies audiences that need to be reached and the messages to deliver.

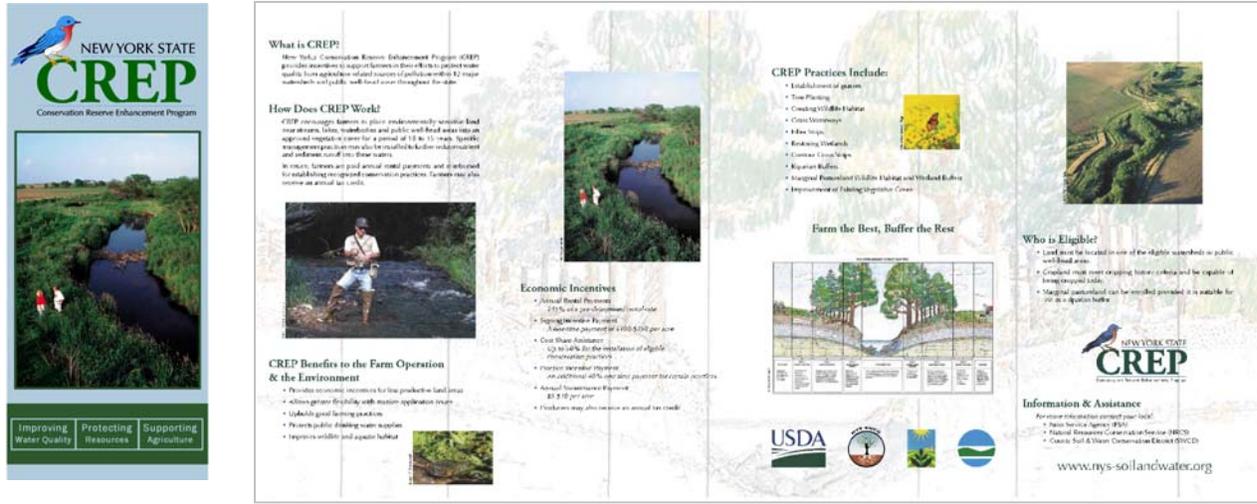
**NYS Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
 OUTREACH PLAN**

Audience	Message	Desired Action	Outreach Materials/Activities
Farmers - all sizes - all types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> environmental benefit financial benefit public perception benefit cow health (biosecurity) benefit – safe drinking water for livestock (see buffer obstacles report) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sign up for CREP! maintain practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> brochure Q&A display sample newsletter article PowerPoint Empire Farm Days
SWCDs, NRCS, TSPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> environmental benefits of CREP practices (water quality, wildlife, etc.) importance of planning whole farm (especially contributing fields) regional benefits (e.g., wildlife corridors) benefits to the farmer benefits to the District (e.g., legislators) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tell farmers about CREP plan beyond just CREP practices target watersheds or corridors to maximize water quality and wildlife benefits work with WQCCs to maximize benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> newsletter training sessions flow chart of CREP steps FAQ – responses to common reasons for not participating (see "Farmers")
FSA staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> environmental importance of CREP practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tell farmers about CREP work with farmers to choose environmentally beneficial lands and practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> training
Community/ Environmental Groups - Trout Unlim. - watershed groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> environmental benefits of CREP practices public water supply protection benefits to fisheries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> promote CREP in their region cost-share CREP practices or complementary practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fact sheet annual report
Legislators - county - state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> success stories in their area environmental benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> support SWCDs (reimbursement, county appropriations) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fact sheet annual report
Agricultural Organizations/ Ag & Markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> enhancing farm viability through CREP (access to capital) forestry benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> promote CREP provide funding? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> annual report
Other SWCC partner agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> success stories environmental benefits (e.g. drinking water) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> annual report
FSA (national)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CREP success 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> annual activities report
GENERAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> establish presence of program as a partnership communicate purpose of program 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOGO WEB SITE press conference

blue = completed/ongoing red = currently being developed green = high priority next steps

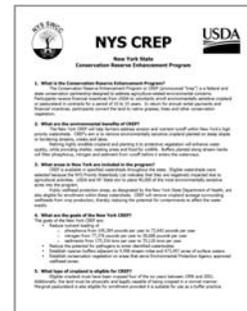
So far, the following outreach materials have been released:
(See Appendix B)

1. **Brochure:** A program-specific brochure was developed through a joint effort between FSA and the SWCC. The SWCC printed 5,000 copies of the brochure, all of which have been distributed statewide. Copies were sent to each county for their use, and the SWCC distributed copies at the Empire Farm Days. The brochure will be updated and reprinted in the next fiscal year.



2. **Display:** A large tabletop display was created that describes the opportunities and benefits of the program along with color pictures and diagrams. The new bluebird logo was developed and is featured proudly on the display. The display has been used at several events and is available for counties to utilize at local events.

3. **Fact Sheet:** A fact sheet for farmers, using a question and answer format, was released right away and continues to be an important outreach tool. It targets the needs and concerns of potential applicants.



4. **Sample Newsletter Article:** The SWCC developed a sample article which was distributed to all counties to use in their publications. Many counties used this article or their own to inform their farmers about NYS CREP.



Monitoring Program

The State has developed an innovative method to monitor program accomplishments through a link with the established NYS Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program. The AEM program uses a tiered approach to inventory, assess and identify solutions to potential environmental concerns on farms. AEM staff developed a program-specific tool for NYS CREP called the AEM CREP Site Condition Evaluation. The resource professional works with the farmer to record the condition of the potential CREP site using a system of questions with numbered options to select from. The worksheet is repeated after practice implementation to record the improvement in the site condition. (See Appendix C)



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Site Condition Evaluation

Background
The New York State Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is a collaborative effort between the USDA and the State of New York. The goal of this program is to restore permanent vegetative cover on 40,000 acres of cropland and/or marginal pasture over a 5-year time period. Vegetative cover will improve water quality by reducing the amount of sediment, nutrients and pathogens entering waterways and drinking water supplies from adjacent agricultural lands.

Purpose of this Worksheet
The purpose of this worksheet is to record a visual assessment of a site before and after CREP practices are implemented. This will provide documentation of the environmental impact of the CREP program. The "before" section of the worksheet should be completed as part of the planning process before CREP practices are installed. The "after" section of the worksheet should be completed after all CREP practices are complete and certified. It is only necessary to complete the sections that apply to the appropriate CREP category (riparian buffer, highly erodible field or wetland protection area).

Participant Information

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____ Best time to contact _____

Site Information

CREP Contract # _____
 FSA Farm ID _____ Tract # _____ Field # _____
 Location of property _____
 Town and county _____

Watershed: Basin _____ 11-digit HUC _____

Type of CREP site: riparian buffer highly erodible field wetland protection area
 Current land use: annually tilled pasture hay (long term)
 crop rotation other _____

Predominant soil type _____

Does the site flood? never rarely (1 year out of 5, or less)
 occasionally (2 years out of 5) frequently (once in two years or more)

What type of wetlands are present on the site?
 none converted wetland (CW)
 farmed wetland (FW) farmed wetland - pasture & hayland (FWP)
 prior converted cropland (PC) other _____

Resource concerns: wildlife water quality erosion flooding

1 02/01/05

CREP Environmental Benefit Report

The USDA Farm Service Agency requires that all CREP contracts installed under the NYS CREP report environmental benefits derived from this program. In order to meet these requirements, the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee requires that an Environmental Benefits Report (EBR) be completed immediately following the installation and certification of CREP practices and complementary practices.

Please return this form, along with the AEM Site Condition Evaluation, to the NYS SWCC office:
 NYS SWCC, 1 Winans Circle, Albany, NY 12219 fax: 518-457-3412

Landowner	County	CREP Contract #	Date Completed

Location Description

FSA Farm ID _____ Watershed: _____
 Tract # _____ Basin _____
 Field # _____ 11-digit HUC _____
 Town _____

Practice Information

CREP Category:
 riparian buffer For Buffers:
 highly erodible field Miles of Streambank Buffered _____
 wetland protection area Contributing Acres _____
 Number of Animals Excluded _____

Practices are on:
 Cropland _____ ac. Did you receive funding from the NYS
 Pastureland _____ ac. Ag NPS program for installing CREP
 Pann. Hay _____ ac. practices? yes no
 If yes, list grant contract # _____
 Total Practice Acres _____

NRCS Best Management Practices Installed:

BMP #	BMP Name	Amount	Unit

Complementary Practice Information

Please list all complementary practices installed on this farm: _____
 Did you receive funding from the NYS Ag NPS program for installing complementary practices? yes no
 If yes, please list grant contract # _____

Environmental Benefit
(to be completed by SWCC)

Total Acres: _____ Pounds of P Reduced: _____
 Tons of Sediment Reduced: _____ Pounds of N Reduced: _____

The results of the AEM Site Condition Evaluation will be used alongside the Environmental Benefits Report also developed for CREP. Using this form, resource professionals record statistics on the practices implemented so that a mathematical model can be applied to estimate the amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reduced through the program. Because the NYS CREP is being implemented in many watersheds simultaneously, the improvement in water quality may be difficult to measure at first. This tool will allow an estimate to be calculated with reasonable accuracy. (See Appendix D)

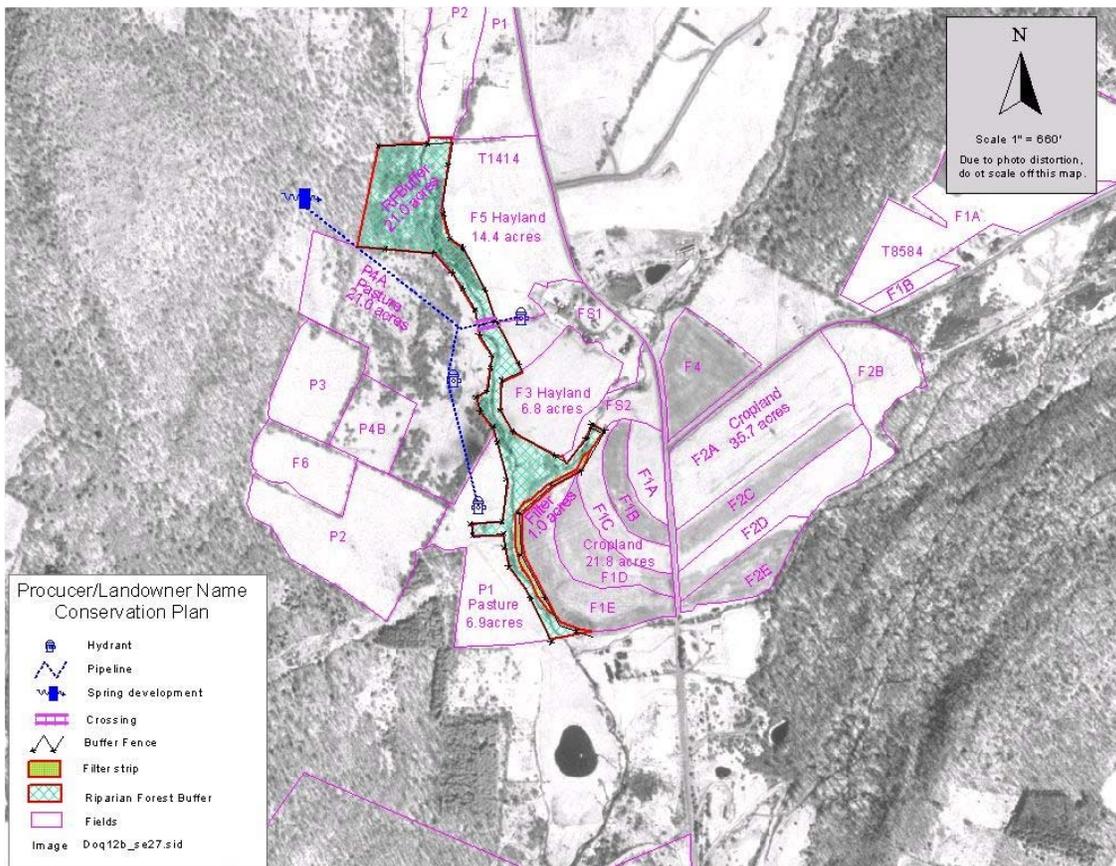
On the eve of the announcement of the NYS CREP, New York was informed of an opportunity for funding through USDA for additional monitoring work. The SWCC assembled a comprehensive three-part funding proposal that was submitted to USDA in September 2003. The proposal included farm-level, watershed-level and state-level monitoring and evaluations, featuring projects developed by Cornell University and the State University of New York. Unfortunately, funds were not made available for this activity, but the State continues to look at funding sources to implement these activities. (See Appendix E)

Technical Assistance

Because this is a statewide program, technical assistance is provided by a variety of conservation professionals across the state. In each county, either the SWCD, NRCS, private Technical Service Providers, or a combination of parties may provide technical assistance to landowners. The training sessions held in January 2004 educated program implementers about procedures, eligible practices, payment policies, and more. Seasoned in the development of conservation plans and the application of USDA programs, many participants found it easy to include NYS CREP in their conservation efforts. Additional training is being planned and will continue to be provided in order to further strengthen the capabilities of conservation partners.

Many SWCDs see NYS CREP as a great opportunity to provide additional conservation opportunities to their farm customers by providing technical service for CREP. The SWCC worked with NRCS to arrange for Districts to enter into Contribution Agreements with NRCS that will provide reimbursement for their CREP technical services. SWCDs who choose to provide technical services may receive cost-share of \$500 per CREP contract for their services. In counties where the SWCD does not provide technical services, NRCS will take this role.

The first five conservation plans developed by each county were reviewed by the FSA state office for quality assurance. Based on this review, a sample plan is being developed to ensure consistently high quality of plans statewide.



Program Accomplishments

More than 1,400 acres were enrolled throughout the first year of the NYS CREP.

RECORD OF REFERRALS AND/OR INQUIRES FOR CREP AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2004

County	No of Requests	No. of Applications	Practice	Acres	Acres Enrolled
Albany	12	0	CP10/CP22	77.3	0
Allegany	1	0	CP1	39	0
Broome	1	1	CP22	32.9	16
Cattaraugus	6	0	CP10/CP21/CP22	20.1	0
Cayuga	15	0	CP1/CP2/CP22	27.3	0
Chautauqua	7	1	CP1/ CP22/ CP30	76.5	35.6
Chemung	0	0	0	0	0
Chenango	15	15	CP22/CP29/CP30	313.1	313.1
Clinton	0	0	0	0	0
Columbia	1		CP21/CP22	131.2	0
Cortland	19	15	CP21/CP22	345	280.6
Delaware	14	1	CP22	14	14
Dutchess	0	0	0	0	0
Erie	1	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0
Fulton	0	0	0	0	0
Genesee	0	0	0	0	0
Greene	0	0	0	0	0
Hamilton	0	0	0	0	0
Herkimer	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson	5	0	CP1/CP10	188.6	0
Lewis	2	0	CP21	8.5	0
Livingston	10	10	CP10/CP22	202.9	202.9
Madison	24	0	not available	236.9	0
Montgomery	0	0	0	0	0
Monroe	10	0	Not qualify as per NRCS	227.4	0
Niagara	1	0	CP1/CP22	not available	0
Oneida	0	0	0	0	0
Onondaga	11	4	CP8A/CP21/CP22	20	20
Ontario	8	5	CP1/CP2/CP8A/CP9	50	8.3
			CP10/CP21/CP22	103.5	0
Orange	27	25	CP1/CP21	547.66	547.66
Orleans	0	0	0	0	0
Oswego	0	0	0	0	0
Otsego	0	0	0	0	0
Putnam	0	0	0	0	0
Rensselaer	2	0	CP10/CP22	25	0
St. Lawrence	8	0	0	0	0
Saratoga	3	0	0	0	1.3
Schenectady	0	0	0	0	0
Schoharie	0	0	0	0	0
Schuyler	0	0	0	0	0
Seneca	0	0	0	0	0
Steuben	1	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	1	0	0	0	0
Sullivan	0	0	0	0	0
Tioga	0	0	0	0	0
Tompkins	5	5	CP22	22.4	22.4
Ulster	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	0	0	0	0	0
Wayne	0	0	0	0	0
Westchester	0	0	CP1/CP22	139	0
Wyoming	8	0	0	0	0
Yates	14	0	0	109.4	0
TOTAL	232	82		2957.66	1461.86
9/30/2004					

New York State CREP

2004 CREP Annual Performance

The New York State Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) agreement between New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) was signed on October 29, 2003. There were 51 acres enrolled at the end of FY 2004 in 5 contracts.

Below are tables 1 and 2:

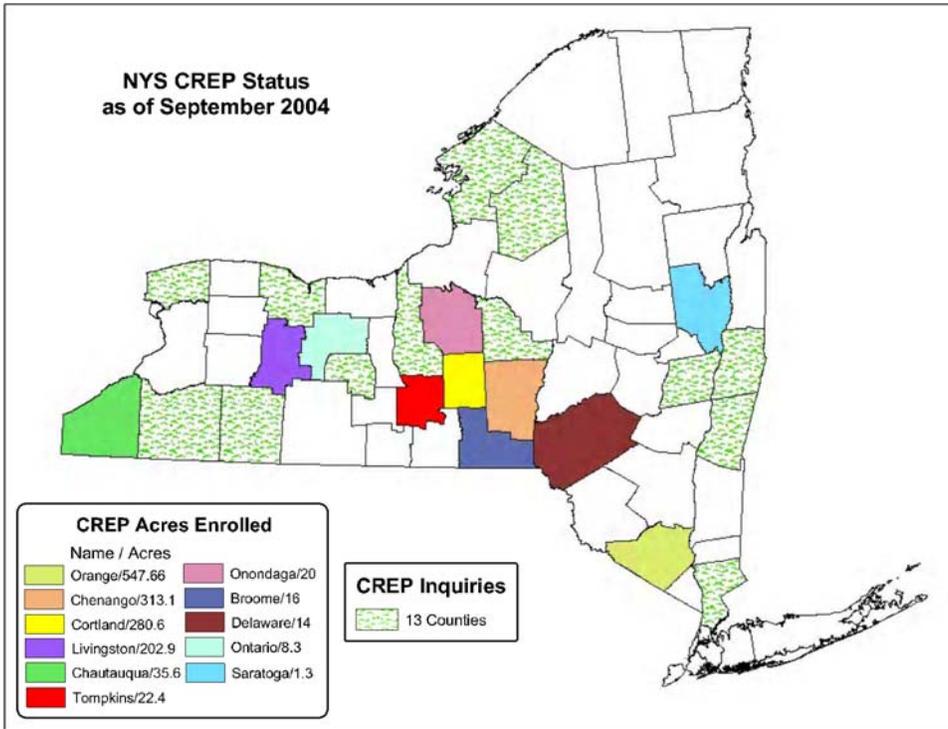
Table 1 gives a breakdown by county and practice of the program, and average rental rate per acre. Table 2 shows total expenditures for program year 2004 and the cost for the life of the contracts.

Table 1. FY 2004 Accomplishments

County	Chautauqua	Livingston	Ontario	Avg. Rental Rate
CP8A Contracts	-	-	2	
CP8A Acres	-	-	3.6	
CP10 Contracts	-	2	-	
CP10 Acres	-	24.7	-	
CP22 Contracts	1	-	-	
CP22 Acres	22.7	-	-	
Avg. Rental Rate per Acre				\$118

Table 2. Total Expenditures FY 2004

Total Rental Payments (USDA)	\$6,021
SIP (USDA)	60.00
PIP (USDA)	2,603.00
BMP Cost (USDA)	0.00
BMP Cost (NYS)	0.00
Technical Assistance (NYS)	0.00
Technical Assistance (PL-566-USDA)	2,500.00
Total Program Expenditures	\$11,184
Total Cost for the Life of Contracts	\$72,479



As of September 30, 2004 there were eleven counties throughout the state with active NYS CREP contracts on more than 1,400 acres. However, counties all over the state are actively promoting NYS CREP. Thirteen counties have participants lined up, and are working on CREP Conservation Plans and contract development.



The photo on the left shows where cows had access to the watercourse on this CREP site in Oneida County. The photo on the right shows how fencing has been installed to protect the waterbody by limiting the animals' direct access to the site.

Non-Federal Expenditures

In the first year of the NYS CREP program, New York State more than met its required 20% financial contribution toward program expenses, with a total State contribution of \$1,052,791. Contributed funds fell into three categories: program oversight, complementary best management practices and outreach. The greatest contribution was in the complementary BMP category, where \$1,000,000 was contributed through the State's Environmental Protection Fund toward the construction of best management practices in the twelve major basins eligible for CREP. These BMPs will enhance the water quality benefits in those basins. (Appendix F) The program oversight contribution consisted of the NYS CREP Coordinator's salary as well as technical assistance provided by the Delaware County SWCD and reimbursed by New York State. Outreach expenses were incurred to print 5000 program brochures and to create a tabletop display.

NYS Funding for NYS CREP FFY 2004

Program Oversight	CREP Coordinator's salary and benefits	48,408
	Assistance from Delaware County SWCD	1,696
Complementary BMPs	Round X Ag Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants - up to \$1,000,000 of state funds per MOU with DEC ((\$5.5 million awarded to implementation projects on 239 farms in 12 major basins)	1,000,000
Outreach	Brochures - 5000 printed 8/12/04	1,889
	Tabletop Display – 8/13/04	798

Success Stories

Steering Committee

The first year of the NYS CREP has been focused on building partnerships. Program leaders decided that a committee was needed to guide this new program and resolve the questions that would inevitably arise as it was getting off the ground. A NYS CREP Steering Committee was formed that has fulfilled this purpose and more. The core members of the Steering Committee are the three primary agencies that carry out NYS CREP: FSA, NRCS and the SWCC. We have also involved the NYS Departments of Agriculture and Markets, Environmental Conservation, and Health, which has responsibility for public wellheads. To represent the SWCDs, the NYS Conservation Districts Employees Association was also included. We are also fortunate to have representation from the New York City CREP program, another CREP within New York State that has been up and running for several years. The Steering Committee met four times in the first year of the program, and together the members were able to make technical and programmatic decisions. Decisions included the criterion for including watersheds and wellhead protection areas in the program and adding conservation practice CP23A.

The Steering Committee has also provided a forum for new ideas to be introduced. Recently, a representative of the State University of New York gave a presentation on his work with willows and the committee had a thoughtful discussion on how willows might fit in to NYS CREP, and provide landowners with additional income from selling the bio-energy as a value-added commodity.

CRP/CREP Activity in Cortland County

Building on the successful partnership built through the Federal Continuous CRP since 1999, Cortland County has quickly emerged as a leader in the NYS CREP. Cortland County is number three in the state for total acres enrolled in the NYS CREP with 280.60 acres enrolled by the end of September 2004.

Contributing to their success is the emphasis on partnership promotion. FSA actively promotes the program through field visits and newsletters, and NRCS helps promote the program through the SWCD newsletter and discussing the program in the field.

Another cause for Cortland County's CREP success can be attributed to the integration of CRP/CREP into the county's grazing program administered by NRCS and the SWCD. Fencing along water courses, alternative water supplies, and stream crossings were eligible to receive funding under CRP/CREP. By utilizing funds through CRP/CREP it allowed the SWCD to make use of funding for the grazing program on additional fencing needs and any other cost that was over and above the CRP dollar amounts or program guidelines.

The 112 landowners that Cortland County has signed up for CRP/CREP are also helping to promote the program by word of mouth. Landowners now call or stop in to ask about the program without first being approached by one of the partners. Suzette Kocher, NRCS District Conservationist said "word of mouth is the best salesman for this program. If someone sees that a neighbor is participating it makes them more likely to get involved."

The Cortland County FSA, NRCS and SWCD continue to work as a team to get CRP/CREP buffers installed where they feel it would be most beneficial. As NRCS and SWCD staff go out and canvass the county they look for areas where animals may have unrestricted access to water courses. If areas are identified the SWCD and NRCS staff examine the aerial photos and work with FSA to outline the buffer areas on aerial photos. FSA determines the Sign-up Incentive and Practice Incentive Payment amounts. NRCS then writes a letter to the farmer explaining the program, listing the benefits and the various dollar amounts that may be available to them. Also included is a map with the buffer marked out for them to see and decide if they would like to sign-up for the program. By working together the partnership agencies have had a good success with the program.

FFY 2005 Goals

Technical Training

Some NYS CREP program implementers have requested additional training on CREP practices and creating a CREP conservation plan. In FFY 2005, a sample conservation plan will be released and additional training will be provided to increase Districts' capacity to make the most of the opportunities CREP offers to landowners.

Outreach

The first order of business for outreach is to reprint 5,000 more copies of the NYS CREP brochure, incorporating the new bluebird logo. We have already been taking requests for additional copies of the brochure. Other outreach goals include working strategically with partners to get the word out and enhancing the NYS CREP website.

Engaging NGOs

Now that the program is up and running, it is a great time to reach out to non-governmental conservation partners. Groups like Ducks Unlimited, the Nature Conservancy, and other local groups may be able to help with outreach, targeting CREP toward critical watersheds, and possibly offering cost-share funding.

Enrolling Acres

The acreage limit for year two is 5,000 acres. Based on interest shown in the program through FFY 2004, enrollment is expected to expand in 2005.