

NYS CREP

New York State
Conservation Reserve
Enhancement Program

UPDATE FOR SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

APRIL 2004

DISTRICT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The long-awaited guidance on District technical assistance for NYS CREP has been issued. A memo was sent to all Districts from Ron Kaplewicz on April 7 with information on providing technical assistance for NYS CREP.

Districts who wish to provide technical assistance for NYS CREP are asked to develop individual contribution agreements with NRCS. Payment will be at a rate of \$500 per CREP contract. The guidance in the memo is intended to help ensure that contribution agreements are consistent statewide.

We are viewing this arrangement as a pilot for this year. Although NRCS has heard from a number of districts who would do the work this year for less than \$500 per contract, \$500 was established as a consistent reimbursement rate for all districts. The results of tracking actual hours this year may lead to an increase, a decrease or maintaining the \$500 reimbursement next year.

If you have questions, please contact your regional State Committee representative, or call the Albany office at 518-457-3738.

ELIGIBLE WATERSHEDS UPDATE

Many thanks to all of you who took the time to review the eligible NYS CREP watersheds in your county. We received several requests to add or adjust watersheds. Earlier this week, a team of people from FSA, NRCS, DEC and the SWCC met to go over the full list of eligible watersheds with special attention to your requests. Needed adjustments were identified, and we will now seek permission from FSA to officially amend the list. In the mean time, CREP is up and running, and you can use the list of eligible watersheds that was distributed. We'll keep you posted!

WHERE ARE THE WELLHEAD PROTECTION AREAS?

A unique feature of the NYS CREP is that it allows enrollment of land surrounding public wellheads in an effort to protect drinking water. Cropland is eligible if it lies within a state-approved wellhead protection area and is within a 2000' radius of the wellhead. It also has to be in an eligible watershed and meet all other eligibility criteria.

The NYS Dept. of Health defines wellhead protection areas, but for security reasons, they cannot release a statewide map. To get a map of a particular protection area, please contact your local health department, or call Paul Kaczmarczyk at NYS DOH: 518-402-7711 or pxk01@health.state.ny.us.

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Before and After Photos Needed!

Spring is here and hopefully some of you are getting out in the field and identifying potential sites for NYS CREP. When you start a CREP project, please take a moment to photograph the site before you begin work. Good "before" and "after" photos will be critical to telling the story of CREP's success. Ideally, before and after photos should be taken from the same perspective and during the same season. Including people or animals is a great way to add interest to the photo.



Please throw a camera in the truck when you go out to a CREP site – you'll be helping to showcase the success of this valuable program!

Note from Emily Svenson

As many of you know, my husband and I are expecting our first child at the end of this month. I will be on maternity leave through the summer and will return to work in September. If you have questions about NYS CREP while I'm gone, please contact your regional State Committee representative or call the Albany office. Someone will be happy to help you!

For more information about NYS CREP, contact the NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee at 518-457-3738.