


The background of the slide features a close-up of vibrant green leaves with prominent veins, overlaid with a semi-transparent white rounded rectangle. Below the rectangle, the bottom portion of the slide shows a blue-green surface with white, concentric ripples, suggesting water.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

As of September 2020



What is WV CREP and what are some of the basics?

WV CREP

WV's CREP is a multi-agency, Federal/State Partnership program designed to provide additional money and increased technical services to agricultural producers to establish permanent land cover and install related conservation practices to help reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat of important watersheds.

WV CREP

- **CREP is simply an “E”nhanced version of USDA’s Conservation Reserve Program (CRP);**
- **Partners are the enhancement, working together to implement CREP and bringing forth additional funding and technical assistance;**

WV CREP

- **Assistance is guided by special “Agreements” between the Partners;**
- **The first Agreement to begin WV CREP was signed by the Governor of WV and the USDA Secretary of Agriculture in April of 2002;**

WV CREP

- **An allotment of 9,160 acres are authorized for enrollment into WV's CREP within important watersheds;**
- **WV's CREP consists of 10 to 15-year contracts with landowners or tenants of agricultural land;**
- **There are no easements associated to WV's CREP;**

WV CREP

- **Acres are approved to a contract on a first come, first served basis;**
- **CREP contract participation is totally voluntary;**
- **Acres under contract must solve an identified resource concern;**
- **Acres under contract may be as small as .01 acres.**



WV CREP

Who are the WV CREP Partners?



WV CREP Partners

- **USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)**
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**
- **US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**
- **West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA)**
- **West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP)**
- **West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA)**
- **West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR)**
- **West Virginia Division of Forestry (WVDOF)**

WV CREP Partners

- **Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers CREP through the local FSA County Offices;**
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the primary technical service provider (TSP);**

WV CREP Partners

- **WV Division of Forestry provides technical assistance for tree cover/tree planting practices;**
- **Other CREP Partner Agencies provide technical input and assistance as needed or as available;**

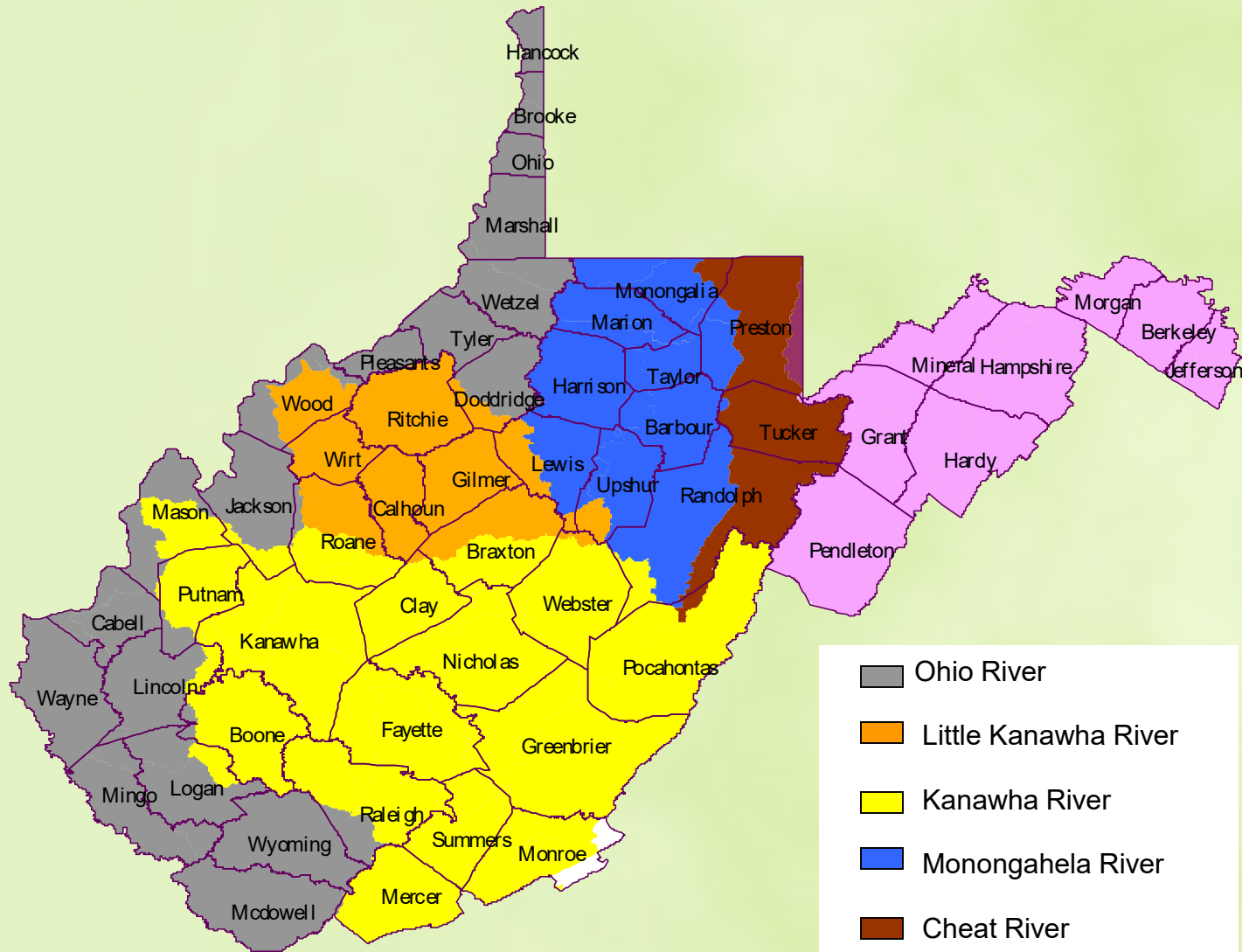
WV CREP Partners

- **WV Conservation Agency is the lead agency for the State's CREP Partners and represents the Conservation Districts with CREP;**

WV CREP

**Where are the important
watersheds (eligible areas)
under WV CREP?**

West Virginia Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program



WV CREP

As CREP is a program to establish permanent land cover, what are the specific practices used for establishing permanent cover and how are they identified?

WV CREP

- In administering CREP, FSA first utilizes a special numbering system to track the Cover Pactices (CP) on the ground, on contracts, and in the computer. These are expressed as CP1, CP2, etc.;
- There are six (6) individual Cover Pactices for WV CREP. They are:

WV CREP

- CP1** Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes (*on cropland only*)
- CP2** Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses (*on cropland only*)
- CP3A** Hardwood Tree Planting (*on cropland only*)
- CP21** Filter Strip (*on cropland only*)
- CP22** Riparian Buffer (*on cropland or marginal pastureland*)
- CP23** Wetland Restoration (*on cropland only*)

WV CREP

- **Next, FSA also utilizes NRCS's technical practices to establish cover and associated conservation needs. These practices are identified by NRCS's practice codes;**
 - **Example:**
 - **CP22 – Riparian Buffer**; this cover practice utilizes NRCS's technical practice code of **391- Riparian Forest Buffer** for planning and establishment guidance

WV CREP

**What is WV's most popular
CREP practice?**

CP22 – Riparian Buffer

**NOTE: Due to this fact, CP22 – Riparian
Buffer information will be concentrated on
the most for this training.**

WV CREP

**Can you briefly explain a
CREP Contract?**

WV CREP Contract

- **CREP contracts consist of:**
 - **An offer to enroll into CREP** (CREP Application Request Letter)
 - **Contract forms** (Form CRP-2C, CRP-1, Appendix)
 - **Conservation Plan (CPO)**
 - **with Tree Planting Plan** (on CP22 and CP3A)
 - **Other supporting documentation**

WV CREP Contract

- **CREP contracts are binding contracts. Contracts, including the cover practices and other conservation practices must be maintained for the life of the contract;**
 - Penalties exist, including reductions in payments for noncompliance, or refunds of all payments plus interest and liquidated damages for voluntary terminations of contracts;

WV CREP Contract

- **CREP contracts expire at the end of their life, on September 30th of the final year;**
- **Contracts can never be less than 10 years nor more than 15 years;**
- **Several financial payments and incentives are available with an approved contract.**

WV CREP

In respect to CP22 Riparian Buffer, what kind of practices can be done under a CREP contract?

WV CREP – CP22

- **Under CP22 Riparian Buffer, numerous conservation practices may be determined needed or eligible, including possible financial assistance to install or implement. These include, but are not limited to:**
 - Tree Planting/Tree Establishment
 - Seedbed Preparation
 - Water Development (well, spring, etc.)
 - Pipeline
 - Water Facility (trough, tank, etc.)
 - Stream Crossing
 - Permanent Fencing

WV CREP – CP22

**What are some of the
specifics for enrolling CP22
Riparian Buffers?**

WV CREP – CP22

- **Eligible to be placed on cropland or marginal pastureland;**
- **Cropland does not need to meet CRP's erodibility index;**
- **Cropland must meet cropping history (planted or considered planted to a crop for 4 of 6 prior years);**

WV CREP – CP22

- **Marginal Pastureland = not cropland, not forestland, not woodland;**
- **Marginal = along margins of a stream or waterbody;**
- **Buffer must be adjacent and parallel to:**
 - Stream or waterbody
 - Sink holes and karst areas
 - Wetlands;

WV CREP – CP22

- **Minimum width is 35 feet from top of streambank;**
- **Maximum width is 180 feet from top of streambank;**
 - NOTE: Width may exceed 180' based on NRCS determination of water quality needs

WV CREP – CP22

- **Animals do not have to be present;**
- **Livestock must be excluded from buffer;**
- **Contracted acres must be devoted (planted or naturally regenerated) to trees;**
- **Maintenance is required during the contract period;**



WV CREP Payments

**What type of payments and
how much can be paid to a
producer for enrolling or
re-enrolling into WV
CREP?**

WV CREP Payments

- **There are several possible CREP payments, Federal and State;**
 - **Federal Payments - payments are made by FSA at the local County Offices;**
 - **State Payments - payments are made by WVCA, through the 14 local Conservation District Offices;**

WV CREP – Payments

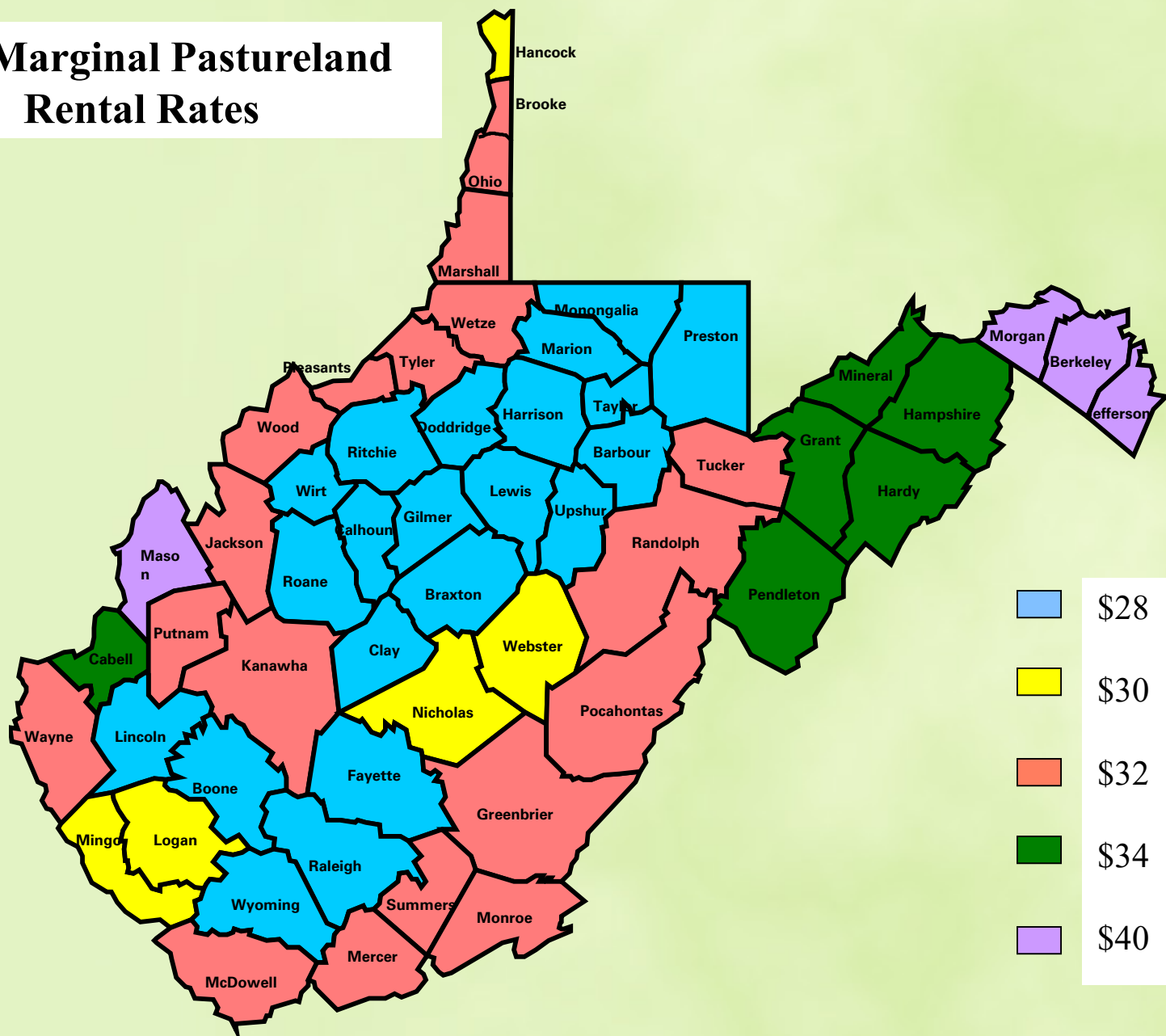
- **CREP Payments are also separated by watersheds of the State;**
- **WV's CREP Agreement includes:**
 - payments for all of WV's eligible CREP watersheds (slide 14) **plus**;
 - additional payments for WV's Potomac River Drainage area, also referred to as Chesapeake Bay drainage, minus Monroe County's Ches. Bay drainage area;

WV CREP – Payments

CREP Payments include:

1. Annual Rental (all CREP areas);
 - **Federal** – paid by FSA
 - Based on approved contract acres
 - Includes CREP rental incentive of 100%
 - Includes maintenance payment, as applicable
 - Payment is made after October 1 of each year following contract start date
 - Cropland rental rate per acre is based on soil type of offered area
 - Marginal pastureland rental rate per acre is based on one rate per county (see next slide)

CRP Marginal Pastureland Rental Rates



WV CREP – Payments

Annual Rental Payment

(Example – CP22; Mason County; marginal pastureland; 10 acres; 15 years)

- \$40 (base rent per acre)
 - \$40 (CREP 100% rental incentive)
 - \$10 (maintenance for fence and water)
- \$90 per acre; paid annually for 15 years**

10 acre contract = \$900 income per year

WV CREP – Payments

- **CREP Payments include:**
 - 2. Signing Incentive Payment (SIP); (all CREP areas);
 - **Federal** – paid by FSA
 - Based on approved contract acres
 - One-time payment, paid after contract is approved
 - \$100 per acre
 - Only paid on new contract acres, not re-enrolled acres

WV CREP – Payments

- **CREP Payments include:**
 - 3. Cost Share (all CREP areas);
 - **Federal** – paid by FSA
 - 50% of practice installation costs (some limitations may apply)
 - Can be paid after completion of main practice and/or associated (component) practices
 - Only paid for implementation of practices on new contracts, not re-enrollments
 - May be paid for re-installing failed practices on new or re-enrolled contracts

WV CREP – Payments

- **CREP Payments include:**
 - 4. Practice Incentive Payment (PIP); (all CREP areas);
 - **Federal** – paid by FSA
 - 40% of practice installation costs, based on cost share amounts paid
 - One-time payment
 - Paid once after completion of all practices
 - Only paid for implementation of practices on new contracts, not re-enrollments
 - Not paid on re-installing failed practices

WV CREP – Payments

- **CREP Payments include:**
 - 5. WV One-Time Payment; (all CREP areas);
 - **State** – paid by WVCA/CD
 - Amount is equal to base rental rate multiplied by the total number of contract acres
 - Paid after FSA's approval of contract acres and notification to WVCA of approval
 - Only paid on new contract acres, not re-enrolled acres

WV CREP – Payments

- **CREP Payments include:**
 - 6. Chesapeake Bay Incentive (CCC-CBIP); (Potomac River Drainage only);
 - **Federal** – paid by FSA
 - CP22 Riparian Buffer only
 - Must be 14 or 15 year new or re-enrolled contracts
 - \$200 per acre - New contract acres
 - \$500 per acre – Re-enrolled contract acres
 - Paid after approval of contract
 - Paid in addition to other CREP payments

WV CREP – Payments

- **CREP Payments include:**
 - 7. WV Chesapeake Bay Incentive (WV-CBIP); (Potomac River Drainage only);
 - **State** – paid by WVCA/CD
 - CP22 Riparian Buffer only
 - Must be 14 or 15 year new or re-enrolled contracts
 - \$40 per acre - New contract acres
 - \$40 per acre – Re-enrolled contract acres
 - Paid after FSA's approval of contract acres and notification to WVCA of approval
 - Paid in addition to other CREP payments

WV CREP

How does a producer sign up?

Landowners or tenants of agricultural land may offer their land for enrollment into CREP at any time by contacting their local FSA County Office or by contacting any of the CREP Partner Agencies;

Signup is continuous



WV CREP

THE END

Thank You!