

# Leaving CREP on the Table

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) helps farmers restore frequently flooded and marginally productive cropland. In exchange for taking land out of production and implementing conservation practices, farmers are paid an annual rental rate.

There are 232,000 environmentally sensitive acres in the Kaskaskia and Illinois River watersheds eligible for CREP funding. In these areas, landowners can implement conservation practices to help...



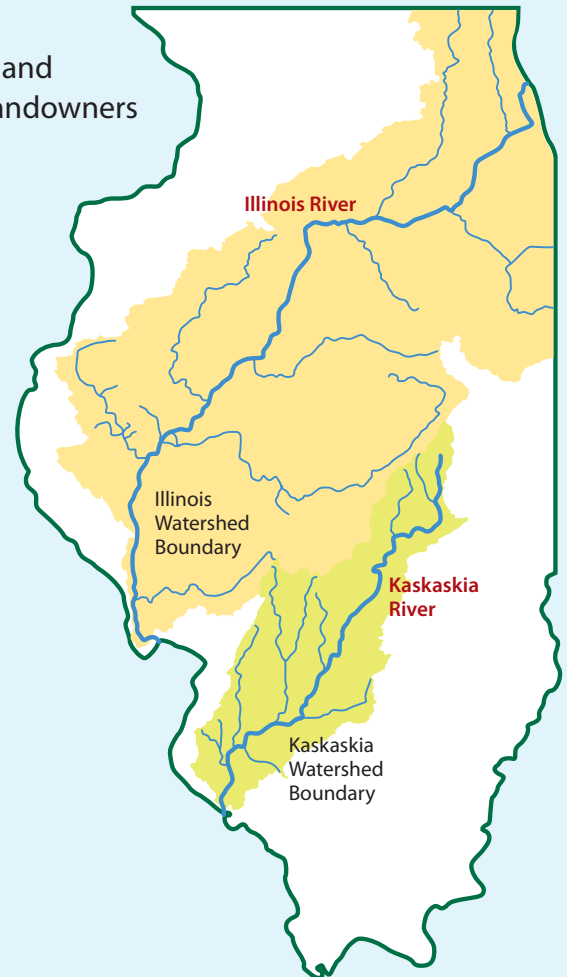
Reduce soil  
and nutrient loss



Improve  
water quality



Enhance critical  
habitat for  
fish and wildlife



However, for CREP to work you've got to give a little to get a little. Each state agrees to fund around 20% of the total program costs, while the rest is funded with federal dollars. For every dollar that Illinois dedicates to enrolling a local landowner into an easement agreement, the federal government will invest \$4 in recurring payments to the landowner.



**\$4 million**

Avg annual  
Illinois contribution



**\$16 million**

Avg annual  
federal contribution

**\$20 million**

Avg annual  
program cost

Unfortunately, state funding for CREP has been **suspended** in Illinois **since 2015**—meaning no new enrollment in the program. Illinois is leaving **105,000 acres** of environmentally sensitive land unprotected and over **\$16 million** on the table every year. That's money that could be helping support farmers dedicated to improving our soil and protecting our water.

[Include specific ask and  
contact info here]