



**Tennessee Job Sheet  
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)  
CP22 – Riparian Buffer**

### Purpose

The purposes of this practice are to remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides, and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow to protect water quality, create shade to lower water temperature, and provide a source of detritus and large woody debris for aquatic organisms and habitat for wildlife.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for this practice the land must have a cropping history (4 out of 6 years from 1996 – 2001) or be considered marginal pastureland. An existing resource concern must be present that can be addressed with a Riparian Forest buffer. If trees are present, the site can still be eligible if determined it is not a functioning Riparian Forest Buffer, and additional trees will be planted.

CRP Riparian Forest Buffers installed on cropland are eligible adjacent and parallel to perennial or intermittent streams, sinkholes, wetlands with surface water present in most years for more than 21 calendar days, and permanent bodies of water such as lakes/ponds. On Marginal Pastureland, Riparian Forest Buffers are only eligible along streams and permanent bodies of water.

### General Provisions

This practice is eligible in the Continuous CRP. Producers can enroll at any time if landowner and land eligibility requirements are met. Contract length is 10 to 15 years.

Payments include annual rental payment based on a soil rental rate, an annual incentive equal to 20% of the weighted average soil rental rate, an annual maintenance payment, a one time practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40% of the total eligible cost of practice installation, a one time incentive payment of \$10 for each eligible acre enrolled for each full year (not to exceed 10 years), and 50% cost share for installation of the practice.

### Specifications

This practice will be installed according to the Riparian Forest Buffer Standard (391) in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). This practice is not eligible to be used in conjunction with CP21-Filter Strip, CP23-Wetland Restoration, or CP9-Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife.

Riparian Buffers will be a minimum average width of 35 feet up to a maximum of 180 feet. Buffers start at the top of streambank, or water's edge of the eligible waterbody. If the site already contains an area of trees adjacent to the eligible water and narrower than the allowed practice width, up to the maximum buffer width is eligible. The tree area will be included in the calculation of width and included in the CRP plan, but not eligible for payments.

An area equivalent to 25% of the eligible riparian buffer may be enrolled in addition to the riparian buffer within a field if FSA approves that the remaining field would be too small or isolated to crop and the eligible riparian buffer exceeds 50% of the field. This area receives the annual rental rate but no incentive payments.

CRP riparian forest buffers will consist of 2 zones at a minimum, and may require a 3<sup>rd</sup> zone if concentrated flow conditions are present. Zone 1 will consist of trees/shrubs and extend a minimum of 15 feet from the edge of the body of water. Zone 2 will consist of trees/shrubs and extend a minimum of 20 feet from the edge of zone 1. Zone 3 is eligible for concentrated flow conditions, will be planted to native grasses and forbs as a filter and will be an average width of 20 feet at the edge of zone 2.

### ESTABLISHMENT REQUIREMENTS

- A minimum of three species of trees/shrubs will be established. A list of approved planting materials is available at the local USDA Service Center.
- Trees will be established on 10x10 foot spacing. Shrubs will be established on 8x8 foot spacing. Pines will be established on 8x10 foot spacing.
- No more than 20% of the buffer may be established to pines. Pine planting is limited to the outer half of Zone 2.
- Any existing fescue or bermudagrass must be eradicated prior to the planting of trees/shrubs.
- Natural regeneration is permitted, subject to the determination of technical feasibility (adequate seed source present and trees will establish within 2 years).
- Fencing and alternative water development is cost shared for livestock exclusion from the buffer and stream.
- The established planting must be maintained by the participant for the duration of the contract. All fencing and alternative water facilities must also be maintained.

No mid-management treatments are required for this practice.

Managed haying and grazing is not allowed for this practice.