



FACT SHEET - Southeast Indiana

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program's

Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)

Financial assistance available to restore, protect and enhance wetlands through the purchase of wetland reserve easements.



The Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) provides financial and technical assistance to protect and restore wetland habitat. This program will provide you with the opportunity to have an everlasting, positive impact on your property by restoring important wetland areas.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance directly to private landowners and Indian tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands through the purchase of a wetland reserve easement. For acreage owned by an Indian tribe, there is an additional enrollment option of a 30-year contract. This program replaced the old Wetland Reserve Program on previous Farm Bills.

BENEFITS

Wetland Reserve Easements provide habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals, reduce flooding, recharge groundwater, protect biological diversity and provide opportunities for educational, scientific and limited recreational activities.

ELIGIBLE LAND

Land eligible for wetland reserve easements includes farmed or prior converted wetland that can be successfully and cost-effectively restored. NRCS will prioritize applications based on the easement's potential for protecting and enhancing habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife.

To enroll land through wetland reserve easements, NRCS enters into purchase agreements with eligible private landowners or Indian tribes that include the right for NRCS to develop and implement a wetland reserve restoration easement plan. This plan restores, protects, and enhances the wetland's functions and values. It is the landowner's responsibility to prove clear title.

ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

Through the wetland reserve enrollment options, NRCS may enroll eligible land through:

- **Permanent Easements** are conservation easements in perpetuity. NRCS pays 100 percent of the easement value for the purchase of the easement, and between 75 to 100 percent of the restoration costs.
- **30-Year Easements** expire after 30 years. Under 30-year easements, NRCS pays 50 to 75 percent of the easement value for the purchase of the easement, and between 50 to 75 percent of the restoration costs.
- **30-year Contracts** are only available to enroll acreage owned by Indian tribes. Program payment rates are commensurate with 30-year easements.

NRCS CONTRIBUTIONS

For wetland reserve easements, NRCS pays all costs associated with recording the easement in the local land records office, including recording fees, charges for abstracts, survey and appraisal fees, and title insurance.

NRCS will also compensate landowners for the value of the easement. These values are evaluated annually and calculated using the rates found on the Indiana Geographic Area Rate Cap map, found here: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=nrkseprd334825&ext=pdf

HOW TO APPLY

Eligible landowners may apply at any time by contacting their local District Conservationist: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/in/contact/>.

NRCS CONTACT INFORMATION

- Local District Conservationists: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/in/contact/>
- Brianne Lowe, Indiana Easement Program Specialist, brianne.lowe@in.usda.gov

NRCS OVERVIEW

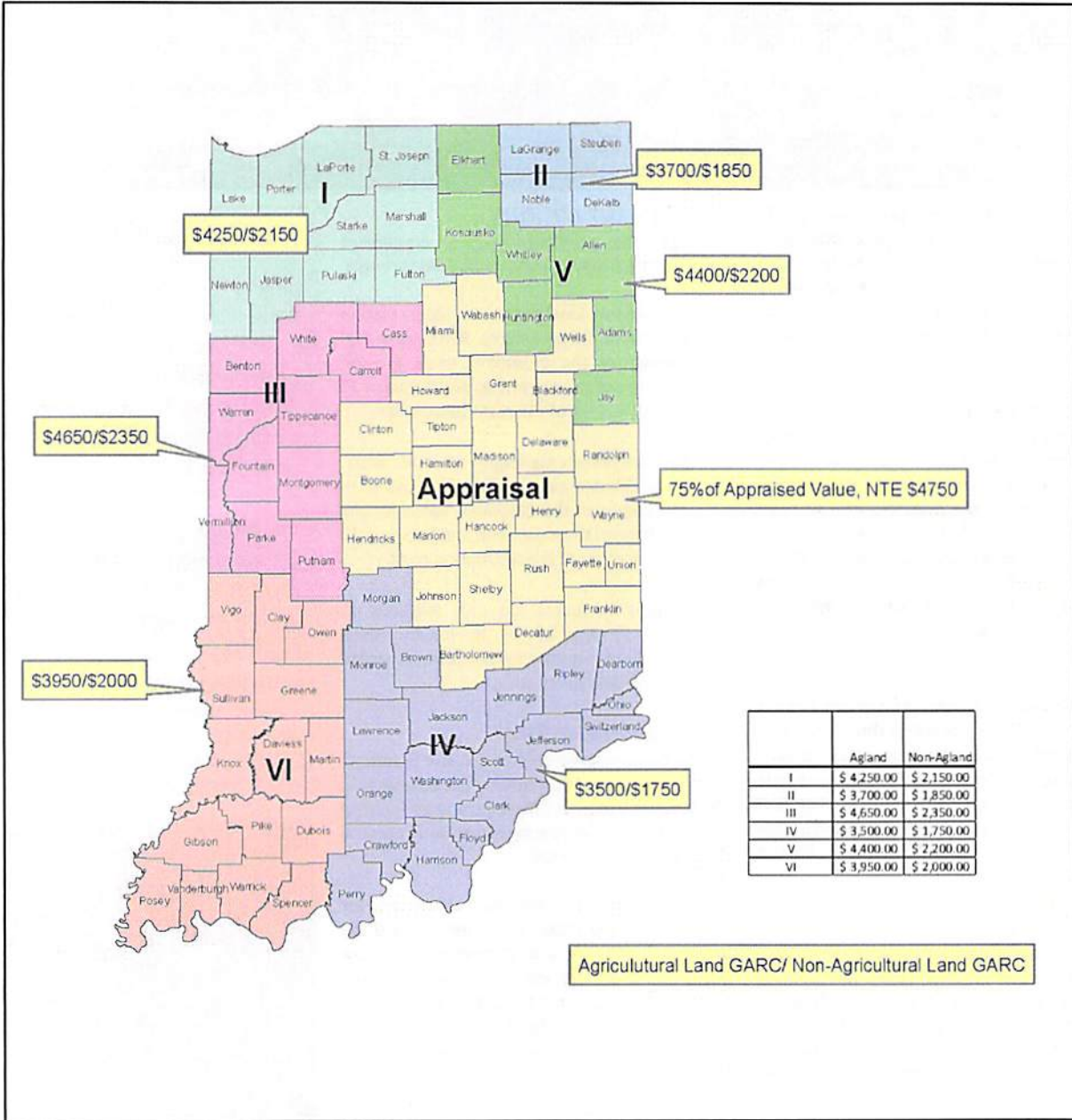
Private citizens own 70 percent of the land in the United States, making stewardship absolutely critical to the health of our Nation's environment. Farmers and forest landowners are making daily decisions about natural resource use and management that impact soil and water quality. With the Natural Resources Conservation Service's help, many are creating more productive lands while maintaining healthy ecosystems.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about WRE visit the Indiana NRCS ACEP website at: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/in/programs/farmland/?cid=stelpdb1248149



INDIANA FY 2015 WRE GARC Values



Legend

- 2015
- Appraisal
 - I
 - II
 - III
 - IV
 - V
 - VI

Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARC) for FY 2015.
Based on Area Wide Market Analysis

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