

FARM LESS, EARN MORE

Using CRP

CRP buffers do offer the opportunity to keep the farms most profitable acres in production while removing the least profitable.

Doug Gorby, the Pheasants Forever biologist, who works part time in our Pickaway County office calculated the comparison. First he located two of our farmers who provided the figures to use - costs and returns. For a corn crop the figures they used were: Yield 156 bu/A, Rent \$150, Equipment \$25, Seed & Chemicals \$361.50, Harvesting \$64, Total Cost = \$600.50/Acre or \$3.85/Bushel, Selling Price \$5.50/bu, Total Returns \$858/Acre, Net Returns \$257.50/Acre.

Now suppose part of that acre is substandard because of trees.

Maybe 0.1 acre yields 1/3 less. The costs remain the same, but the returns are \$28.30 less, or that area lost \$2.55. If that area were in field borders it might earn more than \$10.00. So the difference between cropping this area and putting in a field border might be \$10.00 + \$2.55 or \$12.55 on the 0.1 of an acre. If there was an acre of low yielding land converted to field borders, you would get \$125.50 more for farming one (1) acre less. Now suppose you had 10 acres instead of one.

Usually the conservation buffers that would fit this opportunity must be a minimum of 30' wide.

Why don't you use your own figures and calculate what you might expect as a profit difference.