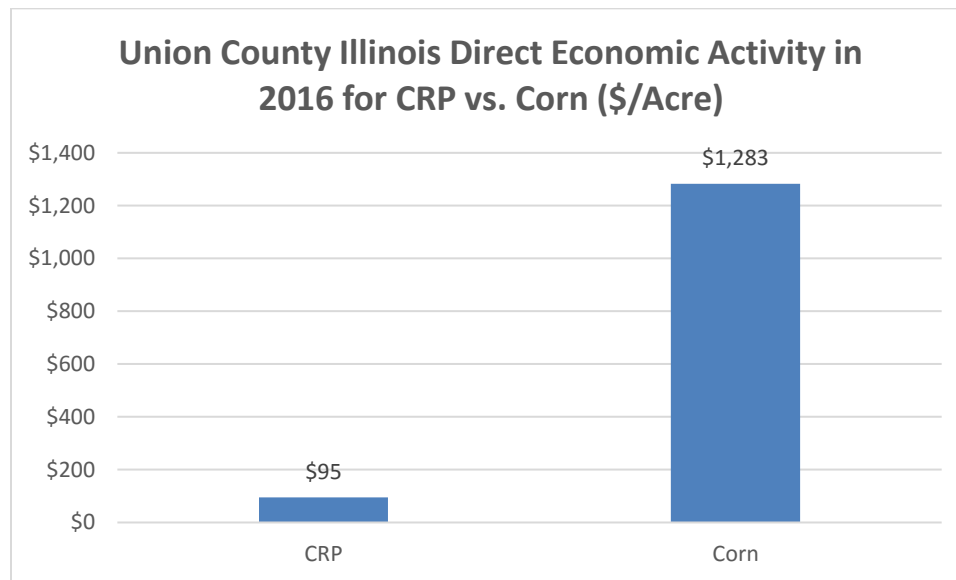


CRP in Union County, Illinois

In Union County, Illinois, one acre of corn cropland can generate \$1,283 of [economic activity](#) for the area. In 2016, the 12,945 acres of corn in the county resulted in about \$17 million of direct economic activity.



In contrast, the 15,073 acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in the county generated only \$1.4 million in direct economic activity in 2016.

Some CRP acres in Union County have the potential to generate substantial economic activity, but are being idled in the USDA program. The government paid \$95 for an acre in CRP in 2016, but an acre planted to corn in Union County had the potential to generate \$1,283 of economic activity (including expenses and revenue).

Moreover, only 1,390 acres of the 15,073 CRP acres in Union County are maintained with [conservation practices](#) primarily focused on soil erosion and water quality. The remaining acres are primarily dedicated to wildlife. The NGFA advocates for conservation practices that improve the resources needed for an agricultural economy to thrive – principally, soil and water.

If CRP operated as a program that truly targeted the most environmentally sensitive land, Union County would be allowed to more fully reap the economic benefits of its productive farmland while also conserving natural resources.

View more information about the NGFA and CRP at <http://www.ngfa.org/farm-bill/>



*Information last updated June 22, 2017

Table 1: Union County Illinois: CRP Acres & CRP Rent

Year	CRP Acres	Avg. Gov't Paid CRP Rental Rate
1980	0	NA
1990	20,429	\$62.02
2000	19,647	\$68.18
2010	17,966	\$72.28
2015	14,888	\$81.09
2016	15,073	\$94.72

Source: USDA's Farm Service Agency.

Table 2: Union County Illinois CRP Practices in 2016

Primary Focus on Soil Erosion & Water Quality	Acres
CP21 Filter Strips	471
CP22 Riparian Buffer	919
Subtotal	1,390
Primary Focus on Wildlife and Water Quality	Acres
CP23 Wetland Restoration	219
CP23A Wetland Restoration Nonflood Plain	37
Subtotal	256
Primary Focus on Wildlife or Other	Acres
CP1 Introduced Grass and Legume Establishment	3,477
CP2 Native Grass, Forb and Legume Establishment	299
CP3 Tree Planting	2
CP3A Hardwood Tree Planting	650
CP4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat Nonease	764
CP9 Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife	12
CP10 Veg Cover, Grass Already Est	7,488
CP11 Veg Cover, Trees Already Est	572
CP12 Wildlife Food Plot	25
CP25 Rare and Decling Habitat	44
CP32 Expired Hardwood Trees	94
CP33 Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds	2
Subtotal	13,427
Total	15,073

Source: USDA's Farm Service Agency.



Table 3: Union County Illinois Direct Economic Activity for Corn in 2016

Item	Per Acre of Corn 1/	Corn Acres in Union County 2/	Direct Economic Activity for Corn
Corn grain	\$610.08		
Corn silage	\$0.24		
Total Value of Production	\$610.32	12,945	\$7,900,592
Seed	\$106.49		
Fertilizer	\$122.49		
Chemicals	\$29.58		
Custom operations	\$17.96		
Fuel, lube, and electricity	\$16.43		
Repairs	\$23.79		
Purchased irrigation water	\$0.00		
Interest on operating inputs	\$0.73		
Hired labor	\$3.07		
Opportunity cost of unpaid labor	\$23.80		
Capital recovery of machinery and equipment	\$98.74		
Opportunity cost of land (rental rate)	\$200.65		
Taxes and insurance	\$10.04		
General farm overhead	\$18.98		
Total Cost	\$672.75	12,945	\$8,708,749
Total Value of Production and Cost	\$1,283.07	12,945	\$16,609,341

1/ Source: USDA's Economic Research Service.

2/ Source: USDA's Farm Service Agency.

Table 4: Union County Illinois Direct Economic Activity for CRP in 2016

Item	Per Acre 1/	CRP Acres 1/	Direct Economic Activity
CRP Payments	\$94.72	15,073	\$1,427,715

Source: USDA's Farm Service Agency.