




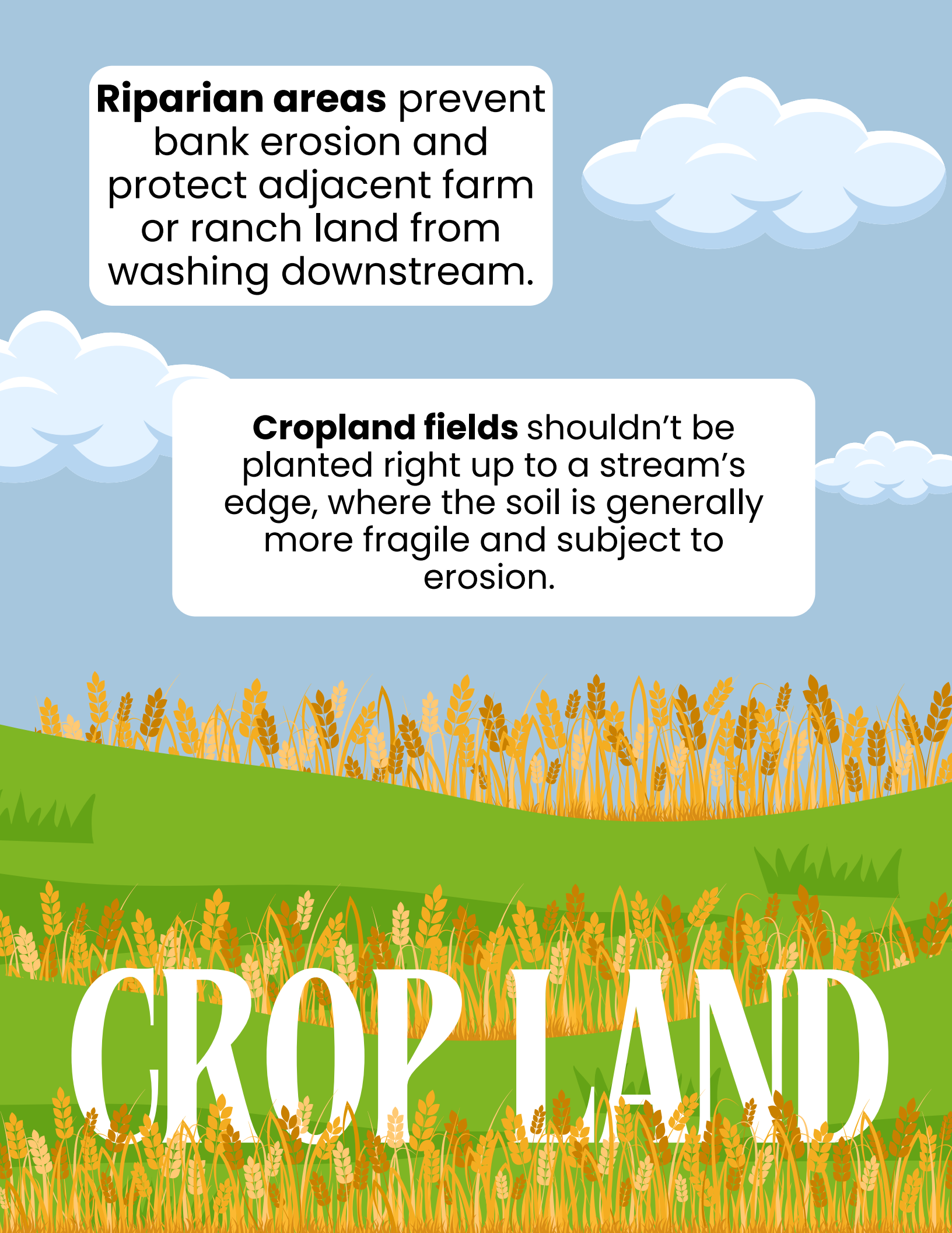
WHAT ARE RIPARIAN BUFFERS?



A **Riparian** (meaning “streamside” in Latin) **Buffer** is an area of native trees and shrubs along a stream.

Many farmers, ranchers and land managers have a growing concern over water quality issues. Riparian buffers are one of the most important practices that you can use to help control nonpoint pollution and improve water quality.

STREAMS



Riparian areas prevent bank erosion and protect adjacent farm or ranch land from washing downstream.

Cropland fields shouldn't be planted right up to a stream's edge, where the soil is generally more fragile and subject to erosion.

CROPLAND

Carbon Sequestration

Plants capture & store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Water Quality

The roots prevent soil runoff and stabilize the river banks, maintaining water quality, which communities may depend on.

Soil Health

The plants slow water flow, filter sediment & pollutants, while microbes break down pollutants like nitrates.

Riparian buffers are the grasses, shrubs, trees or other vegetation growing along streams.

RIPARIAN BUFFER





Riparian buffers also **protect wetlands.**

Wetlands reduce flooding, provide critical wildlife habitat & support diverse plant communities.

Supports Wildlife

The vegetation provides a habitat for wildlife.

Protects from Flooding

Plants help slow flood water velocities and absorbs water flows and energy.

Promotes Native Plant Growth

Introducing native plants of various forms & sizes helps improve ecological diversity.

WETLAND