



Farm Service Agency Conservation Reserve Program

Texas - Prairie State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Project

Fact Sheet
November 2022

Purpose

The State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Initiative restores vital habitat in order to meet high priority state wildlife conservation goals. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with several opportunities like this to achieve many conservation goals. Participation in the Texas Prairie SAFE project allows landowners to reconnect geographically and reproductively isolated populations of Lesser Prairie-Chickens, Northern Bobwhite and other grassland wildlife species by creating, restoring, and maintaining 250,000 acres of native prairie habitat patches and corridors.

Benefits

The potential benefits of this SAFE Initiative include:

- Habitat restoration for grassland wildlife
- Improve water and air quality
- Improve plant health
- Erosion and runoff prevention
- Water quality and aquifer recharge improvement

Eligibility

CRP enrolls existing cropland into conservation cover. CP-38E is a cropland practice. Eligible sub-practices include CP38E-4D (Permanent Wildlife Habitat) and CP38A-33 (Upland Bird Habitat Buffer). Land offered for enrollment must satisfy basic CRP eligibility and cropping history requirements. Landowners should check with their local FSA office to determine individual eligibility.



Practice Requirements

CP33 and CP4D enrollments shall consist of existing or established herbaceous plant cover best suited to provide wildlife habitat appropriate for the ecological site. Only native grasses are authorized. Introduced grasses are not authorized and shall not be included in cover mixes. A wildlife conservation plan must be developed with the participant.

Expiring CRP contracts are eligible and may require enhancements that increase diversity and reduce the density of current vegetation cover.

Haying or grazing may be permitted outside of the primary nesting season (March 1 - July 1) on Prairie SAFE acres when conducted according to non-emergency haying and grazing procedures.

Grazing and haying prescriptions for emergency and non-emergency use are limited to not more than once every three years and 50% of the contract acres in a calendar year. Grazing prescriptions should consider minimum stubble heights and intensity as to allow for plant recovery and preserve habitat quality for enrolled acres.



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Financial Assistance

Financial assistance through this SAFE Initiative may include:

- 10-15 years of annual rental payments
- Payments of up to 50% Cost-Share for practice establishment
- Practices enrolled through CRP Continuous Sign-up will also receive
 - A 50% Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)
 - Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) equal to 32.5% of first full year's annual rental payment
 - A Climate Smart Annual Practice Incentive of 3, 5, or 10% based on the practice cover.

More Information

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For details, contact your local FSA office. To find your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: farmers.gov/service-locator

Texas Prairie SAFE Project Area Map

