

Conservation Reserve Program

CP-12

WILDLIFE FOOD PLOT

Food Resource | Wildlife Habitat | Soil and Water Quality



Why Choose CRP? You Benefit. Land, Water and Wildlife Benefit.

Food plots established to enhance other CRP practices provide lifesaving resources of food and shelter when wildlife need it most. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with practices like this to achieve many farming and conservation goals. Whatever the conservation challenge – soil conservation, water quality protection or wildlife habitat enhancement – CRP is a proven land performance and management solution.

Why Wildlife Food Plots?

For many wildlife and songbird species that do not migrate during winter months, planting a warm or cool season forage mix or small grains on cropland can be the key element to survival. Often food grown for wildlife are field crops, but a number of other grains – such as rye, millet and buckwheat – are also good options. Food plots provide escape cover for wildlife and critical shelter during extreme weather. Forbs, grasses and legumes offer additional benefits, including improving soil health and sequestering carbon. Offered in **general sign-up**, CP-12:

- Provides a food source and cover for many types of wildlife species, especially upland birds
- Reduces soil erosion
- Sequesters carbon

Financial Benefits

CP-12 participants are guaranteed:

- 10-15 years of annual rental payments
- Additional incentives may be available in your state under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



Eligible Land

- Planted or considered planted 4 out of 6 years between 2008 and 2013
- Capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity
- Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions

Practice Requirements

- May be in conjunction with the following practices only: CP-1, CP-2, CP-3, CP-3A, CP-4D and CP-25
- Existing CRP contracts may be revised to include a Wildlife Food Plot
- Wildlife Food Plots shall not exceed 5 acres
- Practice may be relocated each year
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled
- Practice will be maintained without cost-share payments

Owner/Operator Eligibility

Participants must:

- Have owned or operated the land for more than 12 months prior to program sign-up
- Be in control of the land for the length of the contract
- Meet USDA payment eligibility provisions

Obligations

Participants will:

- Work with USDA-approved conservationist to develop a conservation plan
- Perform periodic management activities according to the conservation plan
- Complete seeding of the practice within 12 months of the effective date of the contract

Proven Conservation Benefits

- In prime habitat, a 4% increase in CRP vegetation is associated with a 22% increase in pheasant counts
- CRP reduced nutrient losses in FY 2014 by an estimated 542 million pounds of nitrogen and 108 million pounds of phosphorus
- In 2014, CRP lowered greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 43 million metric tons of CO₂ - the same benefits as taking nearly 8 million cars off the road for a year

FSA will ultimately determine participant and land eligibility.

For More Information:

Contact your local USDA, Farm Service Agency:

<http://offices.usda.gov>