

Kansas Habitat for Upland Game Birds SAFE

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks are partners in implementing a State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) project to enroll agricultural land in all counties in Kansas. The purpose of the Kansas Habitat for Upland Game Birds SAFE is to improve populations of bobwhite quail, ring-neck pheasants, and other grassland-associated wildlife by creating nesting/brood-rearing habitat on portions of crop fields in areas where crop production is the predominate land use.

Background

SAFE is part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP is a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with landowners and agricultural producers to establish and manage vegetative covers that control soil erosion, improve water quality, and provide wildlife habitat.

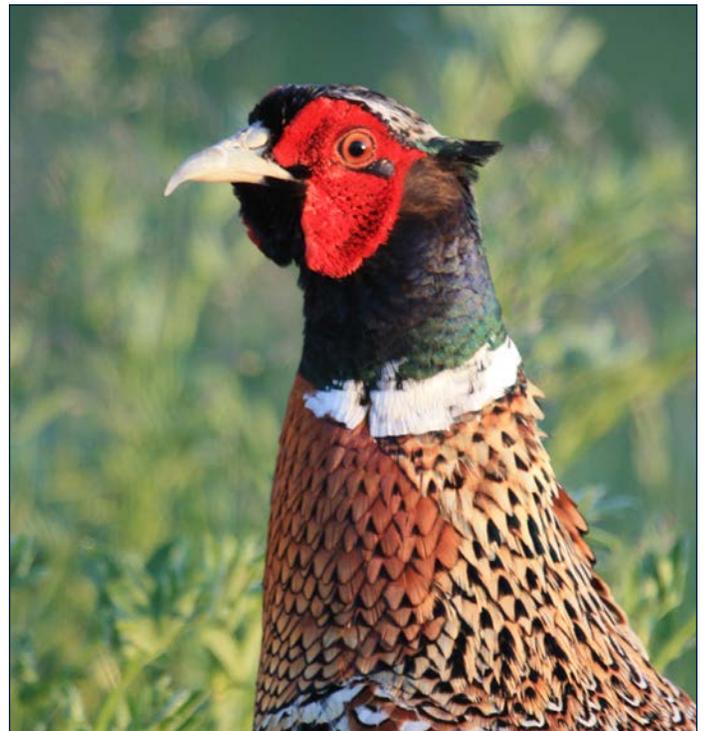
SAFE is a unique type of CRP that offers organizations the opportunity to partner with the USDA to establish habitat for high-priority wildlife species on agricultural land. SAFE sponsors work with the USDA to identify the wildlife species, the vegetative cover that provides habitat for the target species, and the location in the state where the habitat is needed. A partnership is formed between the SAFE sponsor and the USDA, and federal funds are made available to allow for CRP enrollment on eligible land within the SAFE project location.

Target Wildlife Species

The goal of the Kansas Habitat for Upland Game Birds SAFE project is to provide habitat for northern bobwhite quail and ring-necked pheasant. Northern bobwhite quail and ring-necked pheasant are important to Kansas because they are considered species of special concern, greatest conservation need, and significant economic importance for rural communities.

Habitat

Landowners and agricultural producers participating in Kansas Habitat for Upland Game Birds SAFE are required to develop a conservation plan with assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or a technical service provider. The conservation plan will provide details on how to plant, establish, and manage habitat for northern bobwhite quail and ring-necked pheasant. The habitat being established is edge-type habitat located on less productive areas adjacent to or within cropped fields planted to native grass and forb species best suited for wildlife in the area. After the habitat is established, it will need to be maintained and managed by approved site-specific management activities such as burning, disking, and interseeding conducted on a rotational basis at least once in each 10-year segment of the contract. Proper habitat establishment, maintenance, and management will maximize benefits for northern bobwhite quail and ring-necked pheasant.



Project Location

The Kansas Habitat for Upland Game Birds SAFE project location includes all counties in Kansas.

Eligible CRP Practices

This SAFE project uses the following CRP practices:

- ◆ CP38E-2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
- ◆ CP38E-4D, SAFE Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- ◆ CP38E-25, Rare and Declining Habitat

Haying and Grazing

Emergency haying and grazing activities are prohibited for this project. All non-emergency haying and grazing activities may occur according to standard CRP policies.

Eligibility Requirements

Because SAFE is part of CRP, certain land and participant eligibility rules apply. To begin with, land must be in the project area and meet cropping history. CRP participant eligibility rules also apply to SAFE.

Payments and Incentives

In exchange for participation in CRP SAFE, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants with annual per acre rental payments, cost-share to assist with habitat establishment expenses, and in some cases additional monetary incentives.

For More Information

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



