

# Michigan Native Pollinator Plantings SAFE

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)



## Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are partners in implementing a State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) project to enroll agricultural land in 22 Michigan counties along the Lake Michigan shoreline of the lower peninsula. The purpose of the Michigan Native Pollinator Plantings SAFE is to establish native pollinator habitat beneficial to native bees and other pollinators.

## 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 Michigan Native Pollinator Plantings SAFE project is to provide habitat for rusty-patched bumble bee, yellow-banded bumblebee, frosted elfin, and blazing star borer. Rusty-patched bumble bee, yellow-banded bumblebee, frosted elfin, and blazing star borer and other pollinator species are important to Michigan because animal pollinators are responsible for pollinating approximately 35% of all crops in Michigan. In Michigan, the value of agricultural products in 2019 from plants pollinated by bees was approximately \$1.2 billion.

## Habitat

Landowners and agricultural producers participating in Michigan Native Pollinator Plantings 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 rusty-patched bumble bee, yellow-banded bumblebee, frosted elfin, and blazing star borer, and other pollinator species. The habitat being established is a variety of native grass and wildflower species to serve as a source of nectar and pollen along with bare soil patches for ground nesting pollinators. After the habitat is established, it will need to be maintained and managed by prescribed burning, disking, and inter-seeding will be conducted every four years to promote wildflower plantings. Proper habitat establishment, maintenance, and management will maximize benefits for rusty-patched bumble bee, yellow-banded bumblebee, frosted elfin, and blazing star borer.

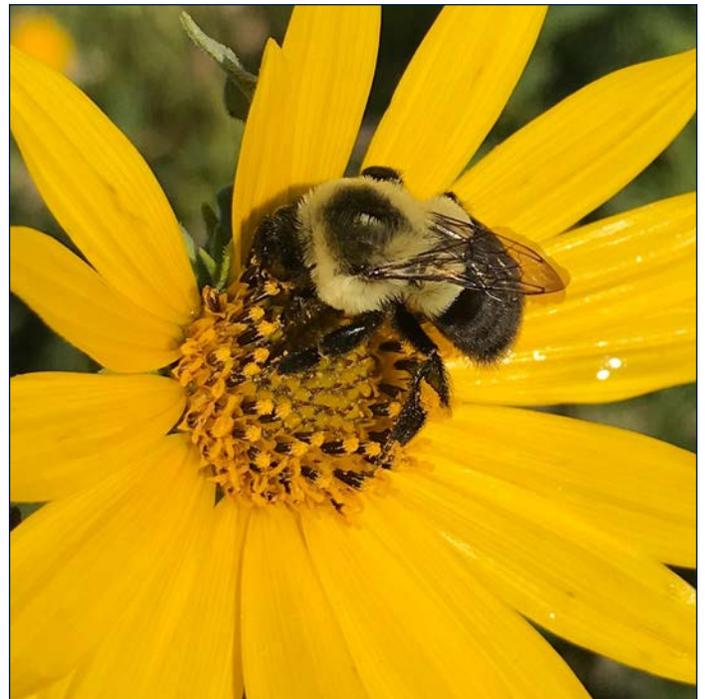


Photo by Desiree Bischer USDA FSA

## Project Location

The Michigan Native Pollinator Plantings SAFE project location is available in the following 22 counties: Allegan, Antrim, Barry, Benzie, Berrien, Cass, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalamazoo, Kalkaska, Kent, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa, Van Buren, and Wexford.

## Eligible CRP Practices

This SAFE project uses the following CRP practices:

- ◆ CP38E-42, SAFE Pollinator Habitat

## Haying and Grazing

Enrollments will not be eligible for haying and grazing provisions, including emergency provisions.

## 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](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).



# Michigan Native Pollinator Plantings SAFE Project Map



## Legend

-  FSA County Boundary
-  Michigan Native Pollinator Plantings SAFE Project Area