

Wisconsin Monarch and Pollinator SAFE

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are partners in implementing a State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) project to enroll agricultural land in central and southern Wisconsin. The purpose of the Wisconsin Monarch and Pollinator SAFE is to improve habitat for Monarchs and other pollinators in the southern two thirds of the state, within the agricultural zone of Wisconsin.

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 Wisconsin Monarch and Pollinator SAFE project is to provide habitat for Monarch Butterflies, Federally Endangered Rusty Patched Bumble bee and other pollinators. Monarch Butterflies are important to Wisconsin because of their unique life history and their iconic symbolism of a North American butterfly. The Monarch population has seen a drastic decrease over the last decade on their wintering grounds.

Habitat

Landowners and agricultural producers participating in Wisconsin Monarch and Pollinator 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 Monarch Butterflies and other pollinators. The nectar rich habitat being established is a mix of forbs (including milkweed—Monarch's host plant) with native or introduced grasses. After the habitat is established, it will need to be maintained and managed by prescribed burning, mowing, herbicide application, or inter-seeding. Proper habitat establishment, maintenance, and management will maximize benefits for Monarch Butterflies and pollinators in general.



Project Location

The Wisconsin Monarch and Pollinator SAFE project is located in Adams, Barron, Brown, Buffalo, Calumet, Chippewa, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Door, Dunn, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Kewaunee, La Crosse, Lafayette, Manitowoc, Marathon, Marquette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Oconto, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Portage, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Shawano, Sheboygan, St. Croix, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago, and Wood county.

Eligible CRP Practices

This SAFE project uses the following CRP practices:

- ◆ CP38B-9, SAFE Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife
- ◆ CP38B-23, SAFE Wetland Restoration
- ◆ CP38B-23A, SAFE Wetland Restoration, NonFloodplain
- ◆ CP38E-1, SAFE Establishment of Permanent
- ◆ Introduced Grasses and Legumes
- ◆ CP38E-2, SAFE Establishment of Permanent Native Grass
- ◆ CP38E-25, SAFE Rare and Declining Habitat – Tallgrass Prairie
- ◆ CP38E-25, SAFE Rare and Declining Habitat – Oak Savana Prairie

Haying and Grazing

Haying and Grazing activities are not allowed on Monarch and Pollinator SAFE practices.

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.



Wisconsin Monarch and Pollinator SAFE Project Map



Legend

- FSA County Boundary
- Wisconsin Monarch and Pollinator SAFE Project Area