



News Release



For Immediate Release

USDA Farm Service Agency
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FSA Offers Program for Wildlife Enhancement

Bozeman, MT – The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin signup Jan. 5, 2009 in three areas within Montana through the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) program to address local wildlife conservation needs. The three areas include Blaine, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Glacier, Hill, Liberty, McCone, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Teton, Toole and Valley counties.

Enrollment for SAFE is available under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) continuous signup. Continuous signups will automatically be accepted if all eligibility requirements are met. The practices will address wildlife habitat that can be enhanced through the restoration of eligible cropland. Individual practices for each SAFE were developed similar to CRP general signup practices. Contracts are between 10-15 years. Cost-share is available at 50 percent with an additional signing incentive payment of \$10/acre/year and a practice incentive payment of 40 percent on the total cost of installing the practice. Practices will be monitored and evaluated to show an improvement to the wildlife habitat.

SAFE allows producers to install practices that benefit high priority State wildlife conservation objectives through the use of targeted restoration of vital habitat.

For further information regarding eligibility criteria, contact your local Farm Service Agency office in any of the counties involved in SAFE. Additional information is available on the Montana Farm Service Agency website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

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