

Ohio Upland Bird SAFE

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever are partners in implementing a State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) project to enroll agricultural land in 37 counties in western Ohio. The purpose of the Ohio Upland Bird SAFE is to establish permanent, year-round habitat for Ring-necked Pheasants and Northern Bobwhite Quail.

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 Ohio Upland Bird SAFE project is to provide habitat for Ring-necked Pheasants and Northern Bobwhite Quail. Ring-necked Pheasants and Northern Bobwhite Quail are important to Ohio because they have suffered significant population declines and play an important role in the economy as a popular game birds.

Habitat

Landowners and agricultural producers participating in the Ohio Upland Bird 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 Ring-necked Pheasants and Northern Bobwhite Quail. The habitat being established is diverse grassland habitat that will provide nesting, brood rearing, and winter cover. After the habitat is established, it will need to be maintained and managed by controlling weeds and either disking, herbicide application, prescribed burning, prescribed mowing, flash grazing, or interseeding to maintain plant diversity. Proper habitat establishment, maintenance, and management will maximize benefits for Ring-necked Pheasants and Northern Bobwhite Quail.



Project Location

The Ohio Upland Bird SAFE project location includes Adams, Auglaize, Brown, Butler, Champaign, Clark, Clinton, Crawford, Darke, Defiance, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Fulton, Gallia, Greene, Hancock, Hardin, Highland, Jackson, Knox, Lawrence, Logan, Madison, Marion, Miami, Morrow, Paulding, Pickaway, Pike, Preble, Ross, Seneca, Shelby, Union, Williams, and Wyandot counties.

Eligible CRP Practices

This SAFE project uses the following CRP practices:

- ◆ CP38E-4D, SAFE Permanent Wildlife Habitat

Haying and Grazing

Haying and grazing is permitted according to CRP emergency and non-emergency policies and as defined in an approved conservation plan.

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

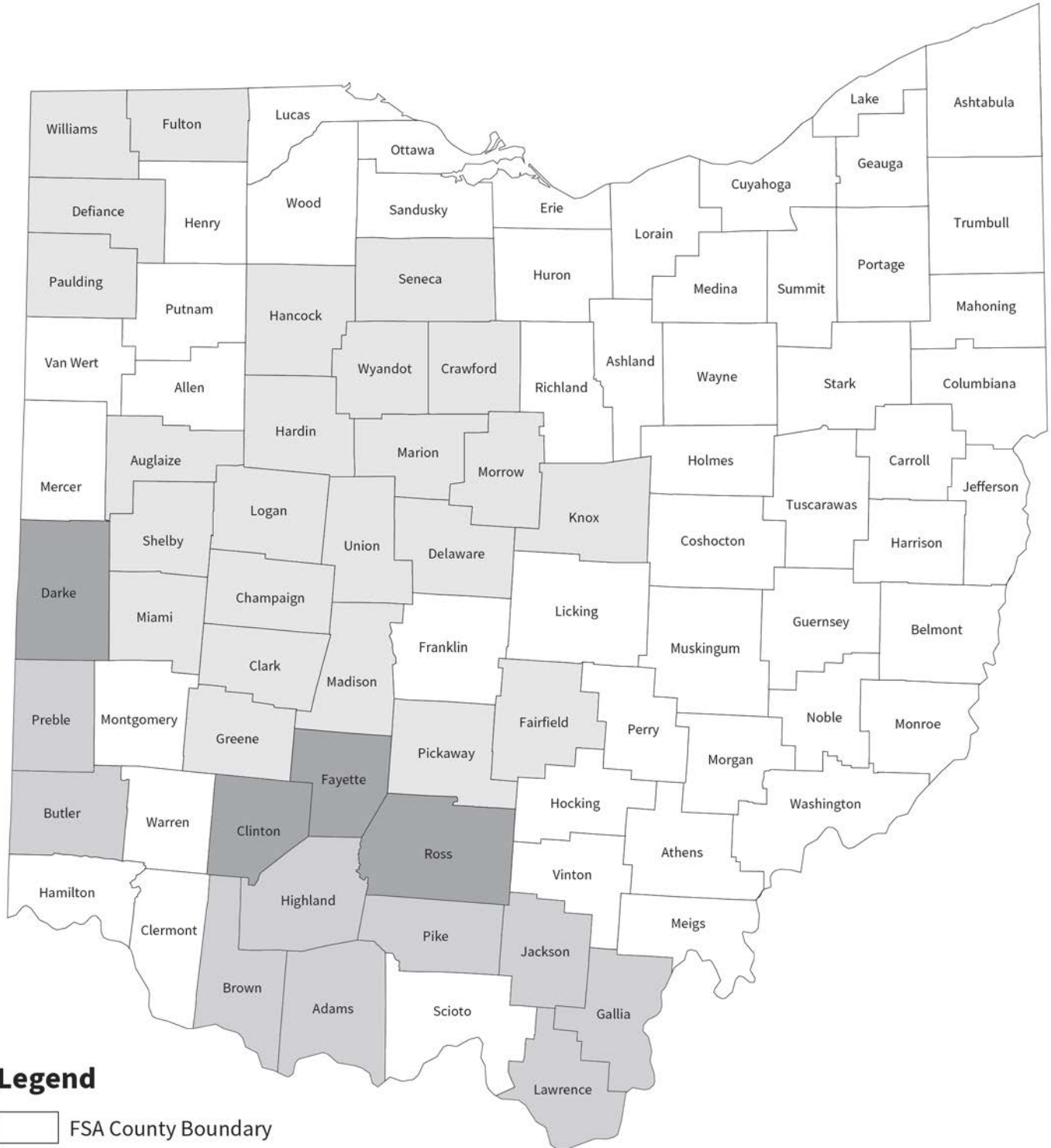
In exchange for participation in CRP SAFE, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants with annual per acre rental payments, cost-share to assist with habitat establishment expenses, and in some cases additional monetary incentives.

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.



Ohio Upland Bird SAFE Project Map



Legend

-  FSA County Boundary
-  Ohio Upland Bird SAFE Project Area, Pheasant Focus
-  Ohio Upland Bird SAFE Project Area, Quail Focus
-  Ohio Upland Bird SAFE Project Area, Pheasant and Quail Focus