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## Showcase Your Season with #Plant2022



***Are you growing more with fewer inputs? Show us!***

This planting season let's highlight the innovation and leadership demonstrated by conservation-minded farmers in our #Plant2022 campaign. We'll share your photos and stories on social media, blogs, and a nationwide storymap. Learn more (<https://go.usa.gov/xuTqj>)

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## USDA Accepting New or Modified Proposals for the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement

***SAFE helps producers achieve critical conservation goals, while receiving financial benefits.***

USDA is welcoming new and modified proposals from conservation partners for the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative, a part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) focused on effectively managing wildlife habitat. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has expanded available practices under this initiative in response to feedback from partners.

Through SAFE, producers and landowners restore vital habitat in alignment with high-priority state wildlife conservation goals. Specifically, landowners establish wetlands, grasses, and trees. These practices are designed to enhance important wildlife populations by creating critical habitat and food sources. They also protect soil and water health by working as a barrier to sediment and nutrient run-off before they reach waterways.

### **Expanded Practices**

To help improve the planning and implementation of the SAFE initiative, FSA is adding two new practices with the assistance of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), FSA's sister agency. In partnership with FSA, NRCS employees across the country provide CRP participants with critical conservation planning assistance, which will now include managing for early successional habitat cover establishment or management, as well as wildlife habitat planting. These additional eligible practices will enable SAFE partners to better target a wide variety of wildlife species, such as the Northern bobwhite, lesser prairie-chicken, and the New England cottontail.

As part of this year's SAFE signup, FSA will also authorize cost-share assistance for producers who would like to re-enroll acres in CRP but need assistance updating their vegetative cover to align with NRCS practice standards for early successional habitat or wildlife planting.

### **Submitting Proposals**

Eligible entities for SAFE include government entities, non-profits, or private organizations.

Additionally, partners with SAFE projects with both General and Continuous CRP practices must submit modified proposals to continue in the program.

New and modified proposals for SAFE projects must be submitted to the FSA State Office in Indianapolis in June. Contact your State Office for the state-specific deadline. More information on developing proposals is available at [fsa.usda.gov/crp](https://fsa.usda.gov/crp).

### **More Information**

SAFE is part of the Continuous CRP signup, and producers can begin enrolling in new or updated SAFE programs beginning October 1, 2022. Meanwhile, the Continuous and Grassland signups are currently open, and producers can learn more by contacting their local [USDA Service Center](#). To learn more about SAFE and its benefits, see the initiative's [fact sheet](#).

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. It was originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production. The program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits.

CRP complements other USDA conservation programs, including several programs offered by NRCS for working lands and conservation easements. Earlier this month, NRCS released its [Northern Bobwhite, Grasslands and Savannas Framework for Conservation Action](#) to help guide voluntary conservation work over the next five years across 25 states, including over 7 million acres of new conservation practices on productive, working lands, and will contribute to the Biden-Harris administration's efforts to make our nation a leader on climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience. The plan will accelerate voluntary conservation efforts for the Northern bobwhite quail and the grassland and savanna landscapes that the species calls home.

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## Register for National Small Business Week Summit on May 2-5



### ***Get Valuable Information for Your Ag Business.***

Next week is National Small Business Week, and we want to recognize America's farmers and ranchers who are part of the small business community. USDA is partnering with the Small Business Administration (SBA) to hold a virtual summit from May 2-5.

The event will feature access to critical federal resources, educational workshops, and networking to help our Nation's entrepreneurs pivot and grow in the face of challenges, seize new opportunities, and put the dream of starting a small business in reach.

This interactive, online event will help you collect new ideas for your small business. You will also hear practiced advice on current business strategies, meet other business owners, and chat with industry experts.

[Register here.](#)

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**Indiana Farm Service Agency**  
**Service Center Locator**

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