Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

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USDA
United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency

DNR
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Today's Agenda

- General CRP: Sign-Up 56
- Conservation Planning
- Environmental Benefits Index (EBI)
- CRP Establishment
- CRP Management

General CRP

CRP is a federally-funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead devoted to conservation benefits.

CRP participants establish long-term cover on the land.

In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance.

Rental payments are unique to the soils of the land offered.

Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Accepted contracts for the CRP enrollment period will begin Oct. 1, 2021.

General CRP

General CRP is a competitive bid process, where land is offered nation-wide, and the USDA selects offers based on their Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) ranking.

FSA collects data for each EBI factor based on the relative environmental benefits for the land offered. EBI rankings are unique for each tract of land offered for CRP.

FSA assigns each offer a score based on the offer's relative environmental factors. Each offer competes with all other offers. USDA determines the acceptability of the offer based on the ranking results.

General CRP

Eligible Producers are:

Individuals	Trust – revocable
General partnership	Trust - irrevocable
Joint venture	Federal – owned
Corporation	State and local government
Limited liability company	Public school
Limited partnership	Churches, charities and non-profit organizations
Limited liability partnership	Indian tribal venture
Limited liability limited partnership	BIA or Indian represented by BIA
Estate	Individual operating a small business

General CRP – Person Eligibility

Eligible owner must meet 1 of the following requirements:

- Owned the land for 12 months before:
  - the close of signup for general signup
- Acquired the land by will or succession as a result of death.
- A deed must be provided to the local FSA office to determine the date ownership commences by the later of:
  - The date of the deed was recorded
  - The date of possession, if the possession date was **after** the recording date.

General CRP – Person Eligibility

Eligibility Criteria for Operators:

- operated the land for 12 months
  - 12 months prior to the close of the general signup
  - 12 months prior to submitting an offer for continuous signup

and

- provides satisfactory evidence that control of land will continue uninterrupted for entire CRP-1 period with one of the following:
  - statement signed by the owner
  - written lease for the appropriate time period
  - owner's signature on CRP-1

General CRP - Cropping History

Eligible cropland, must include cropland that includes both of the following:

- Planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during 4 of the 6 crop years from 2012 through 2017
- Expiring CRP may re-enroll in the final year, unless the acreage has a CRP useful life easement that extends beyond the length of the current CRP-1.
- Physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity as determined by the FSA.

Land Eligibility for General Signup

For land to be eligible for ranking during a General Signup, the land must meet one of the following:

1. Erodibility – have a weighted average Erodibility Index (EI) of 8 or greater.
2. Expiring CRP – be currently enrolled CRP in the last year of the contract set to expire on 9/30 of the current year.
3. CPA's – be located within an approved National or State Conservation Priority Areas (CPA).

CRP General Sign-up 56

January 4, 2021 to Feb. 12, 2021

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency

Conservation Reserve Program

General Signup 56 Enrollment Period
Jan. 4, 2021 through Feb. 12, 2021

FACT SHEET
January 2021

Overview

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will conduct a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general enrollment from Jan. 4, 2021, through Feb. 12, 2021.

CRP is a federally-funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead devoted to conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Accepted contracts for this CRP enrollment period will become effective Oct. 1, 2021.

CRP is authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 and was reauthorized by the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill). FSA administers CRP, while other USDA agencies and partners provide technical support. Additional information on CRP is available in the FSA fact sheet, "**Conservation Reserve Program**."

Submitting CRP Offers

Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP may be offered for enrollment during this CRP general enrollment period. In addition, CRP producers whose CRP contracts are expiring on Sept. 30, 2021, including acres expiring from certain State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) practices and the Highly Erodible Lands Initiative (HELI) contracts may submit offers.

To submit CRP offers, producers must contact their local FSA office. FSA will accept offers only during the enrollment period.

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for CRP enrollment, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the end of this CRP enrollment period, unless:

- The new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner's death;
- The ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right of redemption in accordance with state law; or
- The circumstance of the acquisition presents adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP.

What Land is Eligible?

To be eligible for the CRP general enrollment period, land must be cropland (including field margins) that is planted, or considered planted, to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2012 to 2017, and be physically and legally capable of being planted (no planting restrictions due to an easement or other legally binding instrument) in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Alfalfa or other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may also be eligible.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency

Conservation Reserve Program

56th General Enrollment Period
Environmental Benefits Index (EBI)

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Ranking CRP Offers

FSA will rank offers submitted by landowners for the 56th CRP general enrollment period according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). FSA collects data for each EBI factor based on the relative environmental benefits for the land offered. EBI rankings are unique for each tract of land offered for CRP.

FSA assigns each offer a score based on the offer's relative environmental factors. Each offer competes with all other offers. FSA determines the acceptability of the offer based on the ranking results.

For the 56th CRP general enrollment period, FSA will use the following EBI factors to assess the environmental benefits for the land offered, as follows:

- Wildlife habitat benefits resulting from covers on contract acres (N1);
- Water quality benefits from reduced erosion, runoff and leaching (N2);
- On-farm benefits from reduced erosion (N3);
- Benefits that will likely endure beyond the contract period (N4);
- Air quality benefits from reduced wind erosion (N5) and;
- Cost (N6).

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General CRP
Environmental Benefits Index (EBI)

FSA will rank offers according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI).

The EBI ensures that the most environmentally sensitive acres are selected relative to cost and all offers are considered fairly.

All offers are ranked nationally.

Environmental Benefits Index (EBI)

N1 + N2 + N3 + N4 + N5 + N6 = Offer Points Total

The six EBI factors

N1 – Wildlife Habitat

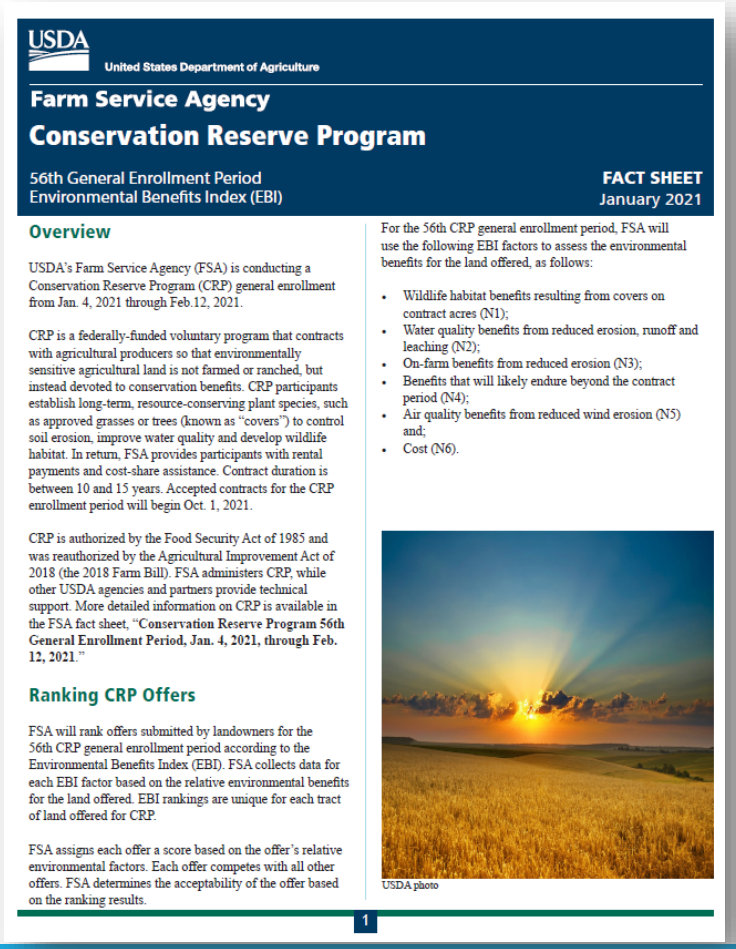
N2 – Water Quality

N3 – Erosion Reduction

N4 – Enduring Benefits

N5 – Air Quality

N6 – Cost



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- Benefits that will likely endure beyond the contract period (N4);
- Air quality benefits from reduced wind erosion (N5) and;
- Cost (N6).

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What EBI factors can YOU influence?

N1 – Wildlife Benefits
- N1a – Wildlife Habitat Cover
- N1b – Wildlife Enhancement
- ~~N1c – Wildlife Priority Zones~~

N4 – Enduring Benefits (based on N1a)

N5 – Air Quality Benefits
- ~~N4a – Wind Erosion Impacts~~
- ~~N4b – Wind Erosion Soils List~~
- ~~N4c – Air Quality Zones~~
- N4d – Carbon Sequestration (based on N1a)

N6 – Cost
- ~~N6a - Cost~~
- N6b – Offer less than maximum payment rate

Things to consider:

Expiring CRP – if the stand doesn't meet minimum requirements, then you will have to get the stand up to those practice standards through NRCS conservation plan.

More diversity cover

↓

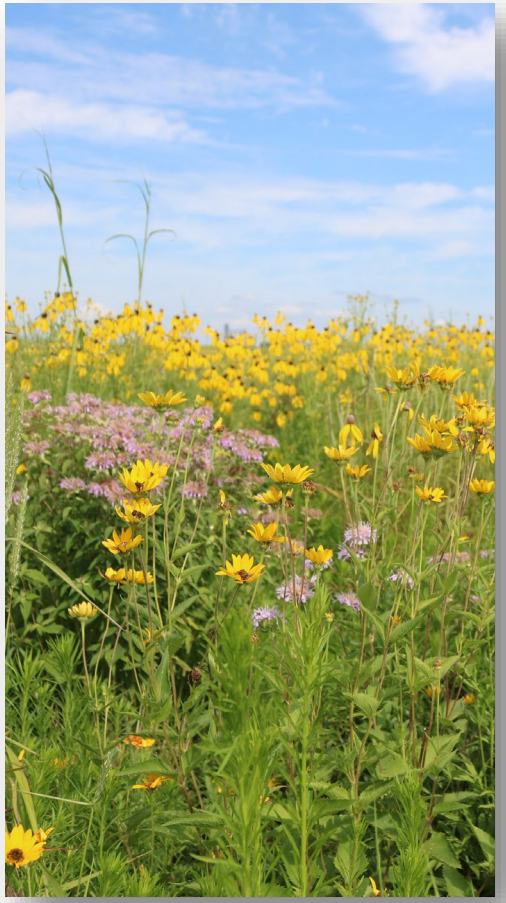
more quality wildlife habitat

↓

more points

↓

better chance of acceptance!



N1 – Wildlife Benefits Factor

-Points are awarded for cover practices and habitat improvements.

-Native mixes of diverse species generally receive the highest point scores.

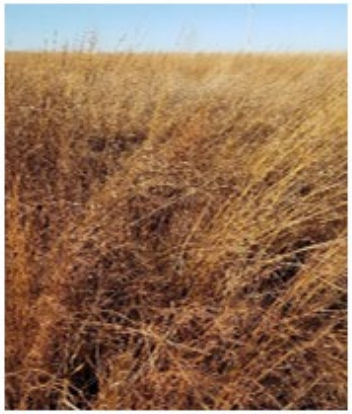
-Three Subfactors

- N1a – Wildlife Cover (0 to 50 points)
- N1b – Wildlife Enhancement (0, 5, 20 Points)
- N1c – Wildlife Priority Zones (0 to 30 points)

N1 = N1a + N1b + N1c (0 - 100 points)

N1a: Wildlife Habitat Cover (0 – 50 pts)

CP1



CP2

CP3A

CP4D

CP25

CP38E

CP42

We will come back to these…

N1b: Wildlife Enhancement (0, 5, 20 pts)

5 **Wildlife Food Plots**

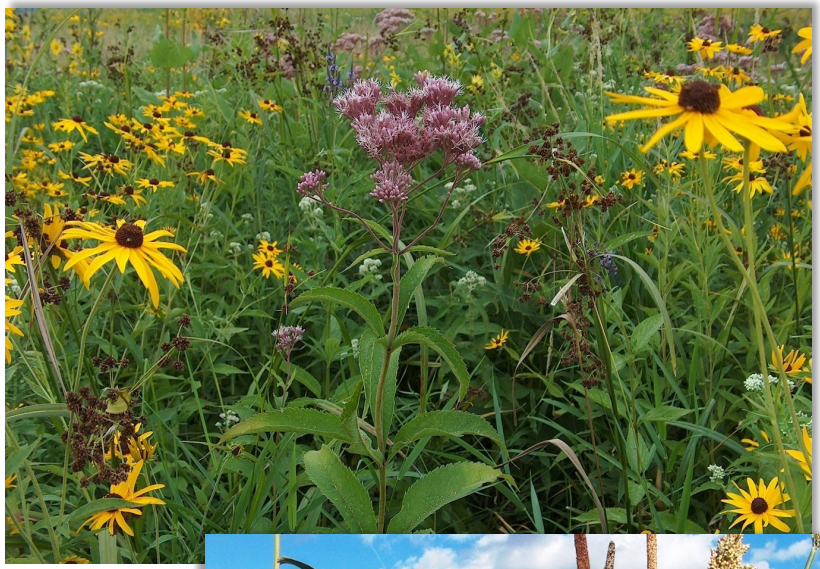
- ≤ 10% of a field, NTE 5 ac./offer

20 **Pollinator Habitat**

- CRP offered < 10 ac
  - ≥ 1 ac. of pollinator (≥ 0.5 ac plots)
- CRP offered ≥ 10 ac
  - ≥ 10% offered in pollinator (≥ 0.5 ac plots)

20 **SAFE Practice**

- ≥ 51% of Offer is in SAFE Area and Offered as SAFE Practice



N1b: Wildlife Enhancement

Option 1 - Wildlife Food Plots (5 pts)

- ✓ ≤ 10% of a field, NTE 5 ac.
- ✓ No cost-sharing
- ✓ Food plots are best for wildlife when they are 2 acres or more.

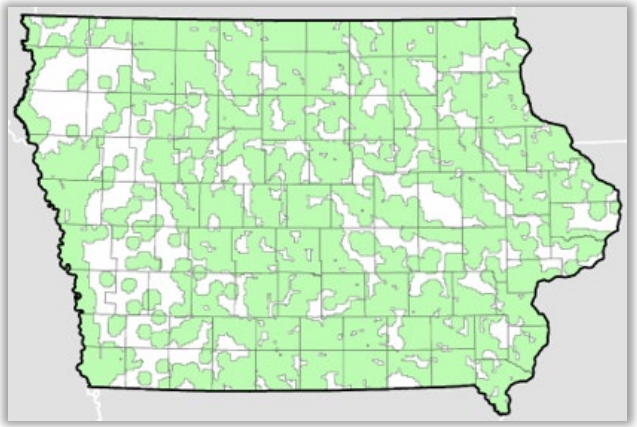
N1b: Wildlife Enhancement

Option 2 – Pollinator Habitat (20 pts)

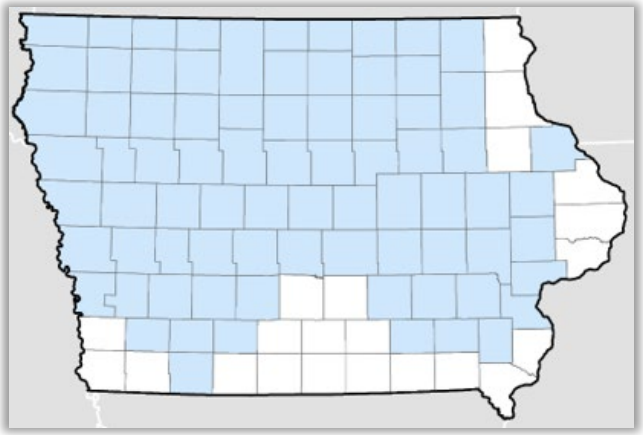
- ✓ 10-20+ wildflower species
- ✓ Flowering April-October
- ✓ Brush piles and edge-feathering encouraged
- ✓ Great way to help pollinators and other wildlife species!

N1b: Wildlife Enhancement

Option 3 – State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (20 pts)

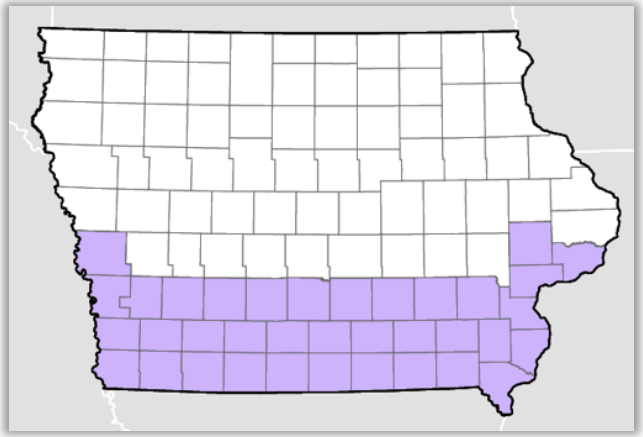


Gaining Ground



Pheasant Recovery

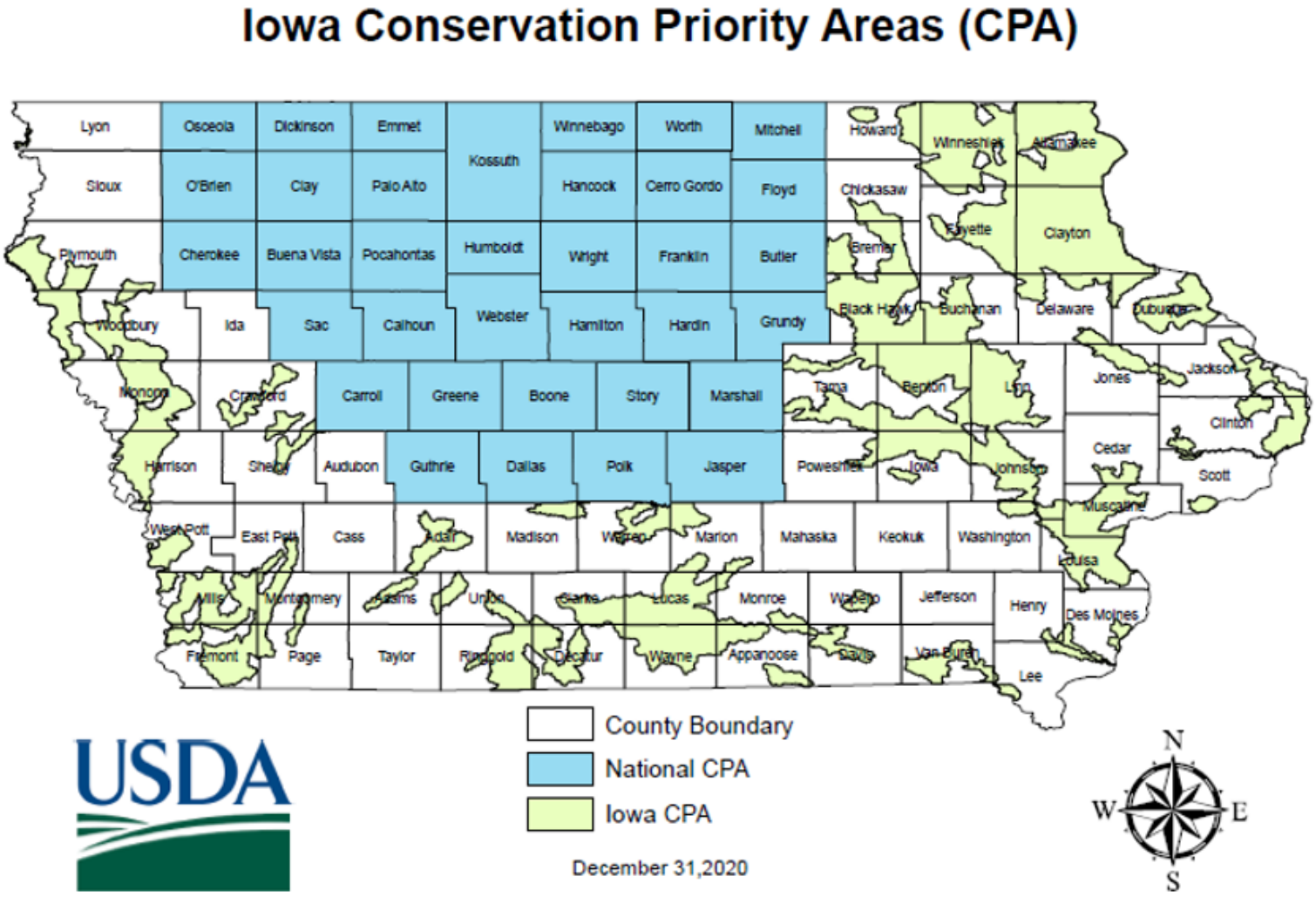
Quail Habitat



Grand River Grassland
&
Habitat for Neotropical Migratory Birds
- Limited counties!

We will come back to these…

N1c: Wildlife Priority Zone (0 or 30 points)



N4: Enduring Benefits (0 - 50 points)

Based off the likelihood the cover selected in N1 is to remain in place beyond the CRP contract period.

Table 4 – Practices for the N4 Criteria	Points
New hardwood tree (CP3A), longleaf pines, or Atlantic White Cedar plantings or CP25 where the plant community is existing or will be established to primarily trees. New hardwood tree CP38C-3A, or CP38C-25 where the plant community is existing or will be established to primarily trees.	50
Existing or enhanced stand of hardwood Trees, Longleaf pine, and/or Atlantic White Cedar (CP3A or CP38C-3A)	40
New pine/softwood tree (CP3 or CP38C-3)	30
CP25, CP38E-25, where the plant community is existing or will be established to a primarily grass and/or shrub complex or CP42 or CP38E-42.	25
Existing pine/softwood tree (original contract signed as CP3 or CP38C-3)	20
All other conservation practices not listed (CP1, CP2, CP4D, CP38E-1, CP38-2, CP38E-4D)	0

N5: Air Quality Benefits

Evaluates quality improvements caused by wind erosion from cropland. In addition, this factor has points for the value of CRP land that provides carbon sequestration.

There are 4 subfactors:

- N5a – Wind Erosion Impacts (0 to 25 points)
- N5b – Wind Erosion Soils (0 or 5 points)
- N5c – Air Quality Zones (0 or 5 points)
- **N5d – Carbon Sequestration (3 to 10 points)**

  only subfactor in landowner's control

N5d: Carbon Sequestration Benefits (3 - 10 points)

Based off the cover type selected in N1

Table 5 – N5d Carbon Sequestration	
Practice	**Points**
CP3, CP3A, CP25 (primarily trees), CP38C-3, CP38C-3A, CP38C-25 (primary trees)	10
CP25 (primary grass complex), CP42, CP38E-25 (primarily grasses), CP38E-42	5
CP4D, CP38E-4D	4
CP1, CP2, CP38E-1, CP38E-2	3
CP12, CP38E-12	0

This subfactor evaluates the benefits of sequestering greenhouse gases by practice over the expected life of the practice.

N6: Cost

Designed to optimize the environmental benefits per dollar for CRP rental payments

Two subfactors:

- N6a – Cost (point value determined after end of enrollment)
- N6b – Offer less than maximum payment soil rental rate (0-25 points)

Table 6 – N6b Offer Less than Maximum Payment Rate	
Percent Below Maximum Payment Rate	N6b Points
1	2
2	4
3	6
4	8
5	10
6	12
7	14
8	16
9	18
10	20
11	21
12	22
13	23
14	24
>=15	25

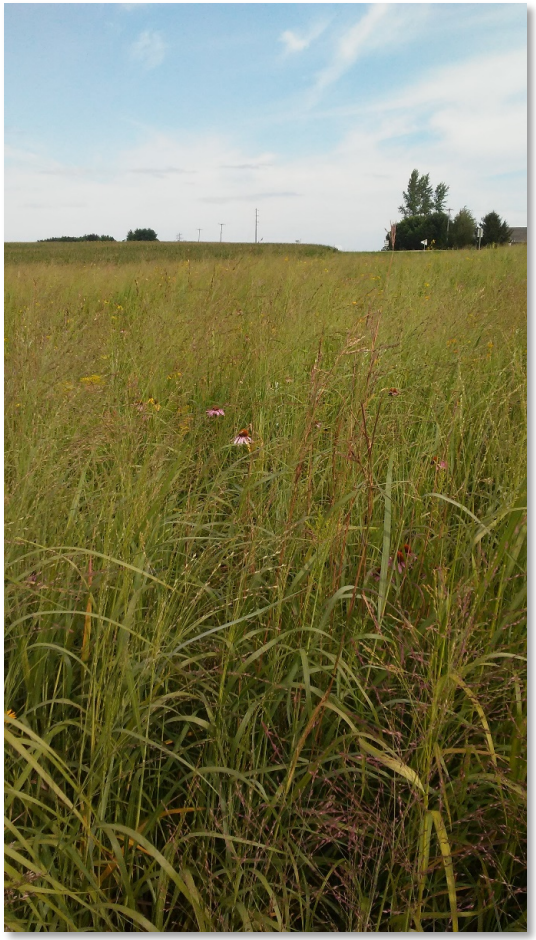
Example:

Farmer Bob will receive $100/ac. for his CRP based on his soils.

He decided to offer 15% less than that estimate soil rental rate ($85/ac.) in order to get an additional 25 points on his General CRP offer.

Conservation Practices (CP)

Table 1 – Cover Practices (CP) for the N1a Criteria	Point Score
CP1 Permanent introduced grasses and legumes	
Existing monoculture (1 species) stand of an introduced grass.	0
Existing stand of 2 to 3 species or planting new stand of 2 to 3 species of an introduced grass species	10
Existing stand or planting mixture (minimum of 4 species) of at least 3 introduced grasses and at least 1 forb or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area	40
CP2 Permanent native grasses and legumes	
Existing monocuture (1 species) stand of a native grass.	0
Existing stand (minimum 2 to 3 species) or planting new mixed stand (minimum of 3 species) of at least 2 native grass species and at least 1 forb, or legume species beneficial to wildlife.	20
Existing stand or planting mixed stand (minimum of 5 species) of at least 3 native grasses and at least 1 shrub, forb, or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area.	50
CP3 Tree planting (general) 2/	
Southern Pines (Softwoods) - Solid stand of pines/softwoods (existing according to State-developed standards or planted at more than 550 trees per acre).	10
Northern Conifers (Softwoods) - Solid stand of conifers/softwoods (existing according to State-developed standards or planted at more than 850 trees per acre).	
Western Pines (Softwoods) - Solid stand of pines/softwoods (existing according to State-developed standards or planted at more than 650 trees per acre).	
Southern Pines (Softwoods) - Pines/softwoods existing or planted at a rate of 500 to 550 per acre depending upon the site index (State-developed standards) with 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover.	50
Northern Conifers (Softwoods) - Conifers/softwoods existing or planted at a rate of 750 to 850 trees per acre depending upon the site index (Statedeveloped standards) with 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover.	
Western Pines (Softwoods) - Western Pines (softwoods) - Pines/softwoods existing planted at a rate of 550 to 650 per acre depending upon the site index (State-developed standards) with 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover.	
Opening for Southern and Western Pines are not to be less than a minimum of 2 acres or a maximum of 5 acres in size for fields of 20 acres and larger. For smaller fields will be based upon percentage. Opening in Northern conifers will be one-half to 2 acres in size. Opening may include buffers on the interior of the field. Field edges (borders) may be used if they are irregular in shape and average 30 feet in width. Natural regeneration of native herbaceous or shrubby vegetation with required maintenance may be permitted within open areas if it is consistent with NRCS technical standards and concurred with by State FWS or U.S. FWS Officials. Open areas of native grasses and/or shrub planting best suited for wildlife in the area shall be considered CP3 for EBI scoring and contract purposes.	50



CP1 – Introduced Grasses & Legumes

Point Score (N1a)	Cover Criteria
0	**Existing**: monoculture (1 species) of an introduced grass
10	**Existing**: ≥ 2 – 3 introduced grasses **New**: ≥ 2 – 3 introduced grasses
40	**Existing/New**: 4 species minimum - ≥ 3 introduced grasses, 1 forb/legume

CP2 – Native Grasses & Legumes

Point Score (N1a)	Cover Criteria
0	**Existing**: monoculture (1 species) of a native grass
20	**Existing**: 2 native species minimum **New**: 3 species minimum - ≥ 2 native grasses + 1 legume/forb
50	**Existing/New**: 5 species minimum - ≥ 3 native grasses, at least 1 forb, legume, or shrub species for wildlife

CP3A – Hardwood Tree Planting

Point Score (N1a)	Cover Criteria
10	Existing or planning solid stand of nonmast-producing hardwood species
20	Existing or planning solid stand of a single hard mast-producing species
30	Existing or planning Mixed stand (less than 3) of hardwood species
50	Existing or planning Mixed stand (≥ 3 species) of hardwood species

CP4D – Permanent Wildlife Habitat

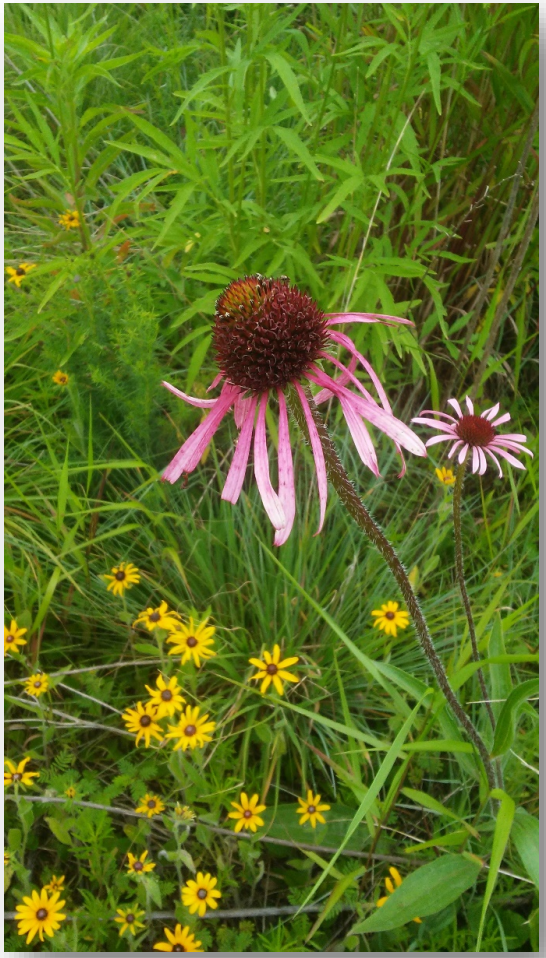
Point Score (N1a)	Cover Criteria
40	**Existing/New**: minimum of 4 species – grasses, trees, shrubs, forbs, or legumes planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited for wildlife in the area.
50	**Existing/New**: minimum of 5 **native** species – grasses, trees, shrubs, forbs, or legumes planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited for wildlife in the area.

Offer must be ≥ 5 acres.

A conservation planner will work with you to develop a wildlife plan for this option!

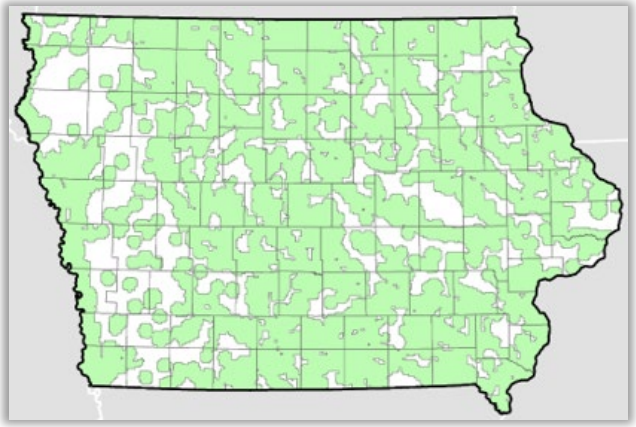
CP25 – Rare & Declining Habitat Restoration

Point Score (N1a)	Cover Criteria
50	**Existing/New**: minimum of 5 **native** grasses and at least 10 **native** forbs. • Shrub plantings are authorized NTE 5% of contract acres. • Trees are not approved cover on CP25 in Iowa.

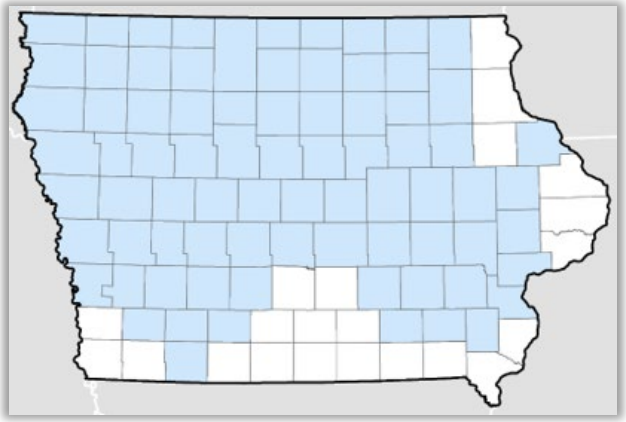


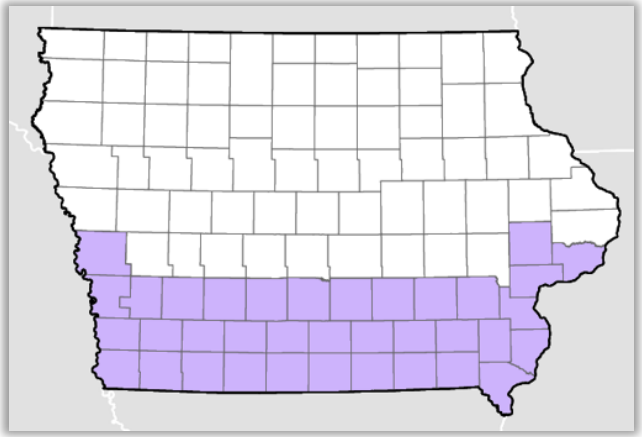
CP38E – State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Options

Gaining Ground



Pheasant Recovery





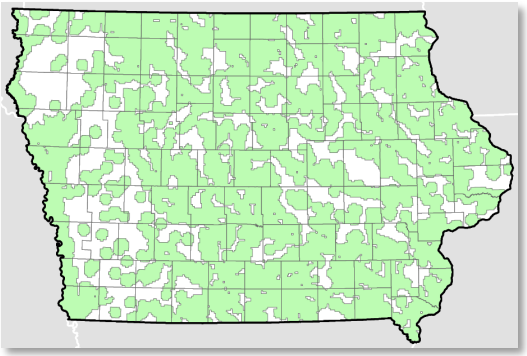
Quail Habitat

Grand River Grassland = Ringgold County Only

Habitat for Neotropical Migratory Birds = 4 Counties in NE IA Only

CP38E (CP2, CP4D, or CP25) – Gaining Ground

Point Score (N1a)	Cover Criteria
50	**CP2 – Existing/New**: minimum of 5 species – ≥ 3 native grasses and at least 1 shrub, forb, or legume
50	**CP4D – Existing/New**: minimum of 5 **native** species – grasses, trees, shrubs, forbs, or legumes planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited for wildlife in the area.
50	**CP25 – Existing/New**: minimum of 5 **native** grasses and at least 10 native forbs.



Offer Requirements: Offer must be ≥ 10 ac.

CP38E(4D) – Pheasant Recovery

Point Score (N1a)

50

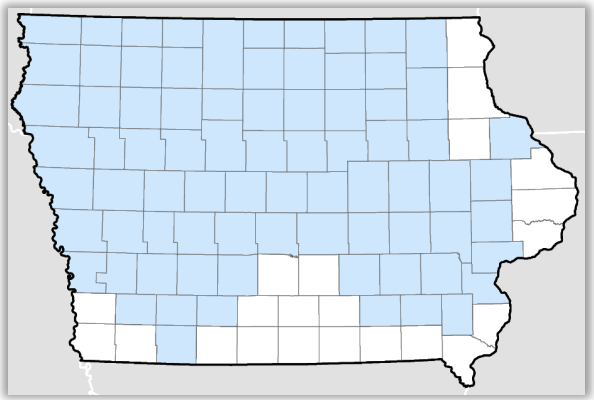
Cover Criteria

Three cover types

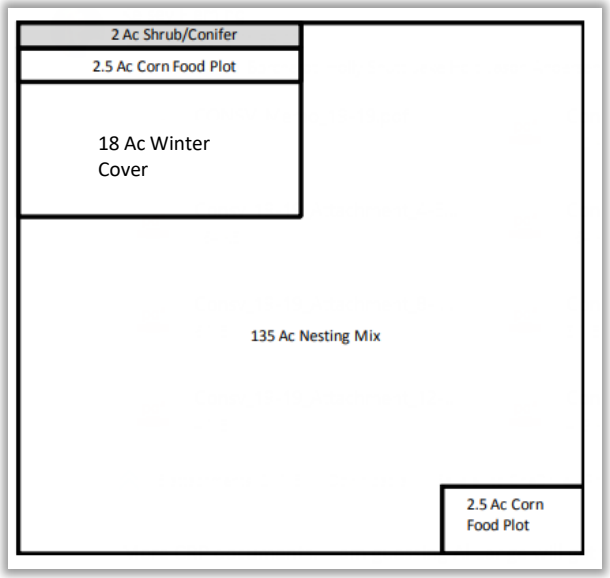
-Winter Cover (25% of offer, NTE 20 ac.)

-Food Plot (10% of offer, NTE 5 ac.)

-Nesting Cover (Remaining acres of offer)



Offer Requirements: Offer must be ≥ 20 ac. offer, NTE 160 ac.



CP38E(4D) – Early Successional Quail Habitat

Point Score (N1a)

50

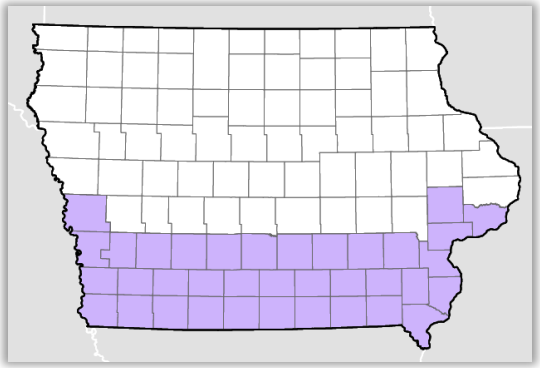
Cover Criteria

Two cover types required

-Early Successional Habitat (25% of offer acres)

-Nesting Cover – mixture of **short native grasses** and forbs (75% of offer acres)

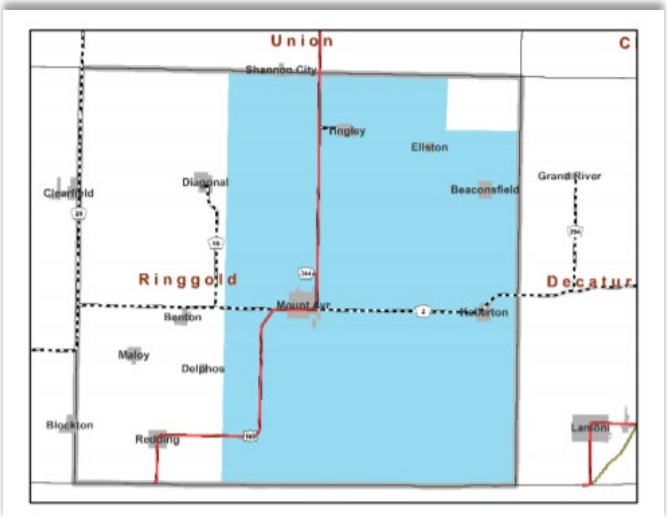
Optional: Food plots and winter cover



Offer Requirements: Offer must be ≥ 5 ac.

CP38E – Grand River Grasslands

Point Score (N1a)	Cover Criteria
50	**CP2 – Existing/New**: minimum of 5 species – ≥ 3 **short native grasses** and at least 1 shrub, forb, or legume.
50	**CP25 – Existing/New**: minimum of 5 **short native grasses** and at least 10 native forbs.



Only eligible in a portion of Ringgold County.

CP38E – Habitat for Early Successional and Neotropical Migratory Forest Birds

Point Score (N1a)	Cover Criteria
50	CP3A – Existing/New: minimum of 3 or more species of hardwood trees suited for wildlife in the area.
50	CP4D – Existing/New: minimum of 5 species of either grasses, trees, shrubs, forbs, or legumes determined in the wildlife plan.

4 Counties in NE Iowa: Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, and Winneshiek Counties

Offer Requirements: Offer must be ≥ 5 ac.

CP42 – Pollinator Habitat

Point Score	Cover Criteria
50	**Existing/New**: minimum of 9 species of pollinator-friendly flower plantings of which at least 3 species shall have their primary onset of blooming during each period: April – June 15, June 15 – July, and August – October.

Offer Requirements: Offer must a minimum of 0.5 acres.

Many options exist

Check with your local USDA office to learn more about your options!

Factors	CP1	CP2	CP38E-4D	CP3A	CP25	CP42
N1a	0,10, 40	0, 20,50	50	10,20,30,50	50	50
N1b	0,5,20	0,5,20	0,5,20	0,5,20	0,5,20	20
N4	0	0	0	40, 50	25	25
N5b	3	3	4	10	5	5
Points	**3-63**	**3-73**	**54-74**	**60-130**	**80-100**	**100**

Improving the EBI

Example

Improving the EBI

Example

Scenario #1:

The landowner can offer the existing cover as is plus offer to add a food plot and hope that their EBI ranking is above the national cutoff score.

0 + 5 + 0 + 3 = 8 points

Factors: N1a + N1b + N4 + N5d

Scenario #2:

The landowner can offer a cover of CP25.

50 + 0 + 25 + 5 = 80 points

Factors: N1a + N1b + N4 + N5d

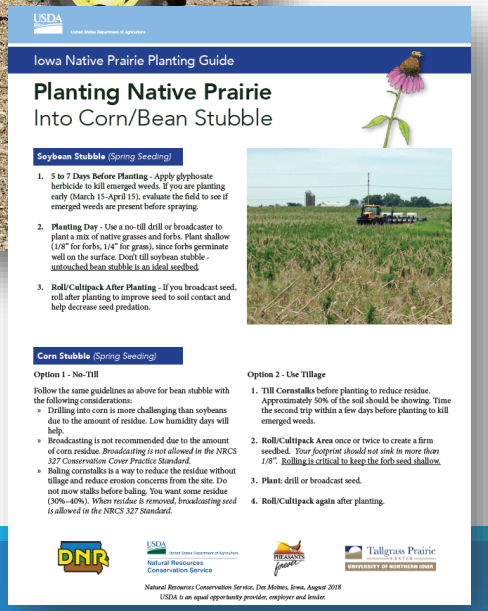
OR

Offer CP25 and enhance 10% of the acres as pollinator habitat to gain an additional 20 points.

50 + 20 + 25 + 5 = 100 points

Factors: N1a + N1b + N4 + N5d

Establishment into Corn/Bean Stubble



Iowa Native Prairie Planting Guide

Planting Native Prairie
Into Corn/Bean Stubble

Soybean Stubble *(Spring Seeding)*

1. **5 to 7 Days Before Planting** - Apply glyphosate herbicide to kill emerged weeds. If you are planting early (March 15-April 15), evaluate the field to see if emerged weeds are present before spraying.
2. **Planting Day** - Use a no-till drill or broadcaster to plant a mix of native grasses and forbs. Plant shallow (1/8" for forbs, 1/4" for grass), since forbs germinate well on the surface. Don't till soybean stubble - untouched bean stubble is an ideal seedbed.
3. **Roll/Cultipack After Planting** - If you broadcast seed, roll after planting to improve seed to soil contact and help decrease seed predation.

Corn Stubble *(Spring Seeding)*

Option 1 - No-Till

Follow the same guidelines as above for bean stubble with the following considerations:

- Drilling into corn is more challenging than soybeans due to the amount of residue. Low humidity days will help.
- Broadcasting is not recommended due to the amount of corn residue. *Broadcasting is not allowed in the NRCS 327 Conservation Cover Practice Standard.*
- Baling cornstalks is a way to reduce the residue without tillage and reduce erosion concerns from the site. Do not mow stalks before baling. You want some residue (30%–40%). *When residue is removed, broadcasting seed is allowed in the NRCS 327 Standard.*

Option 2 - Use Tillage

1. **Till Cornstalks** before planting to reduce residue. Approximately 50% of the soil should be showing. Time the second trip within a few days before planting to kill emerged weeds.
2. **Roll/Cultipack Area** once or twice to create a firm seedbed. *Your footprint should not sink in more than 1/8".* Rolling is critical to keep the forb seed shallow.
3. **Plant:** drill or broadcast seed.
4. **Roll/Cultipack again** after planting.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Tallgrass Prairie Center, University of Northern Iowa

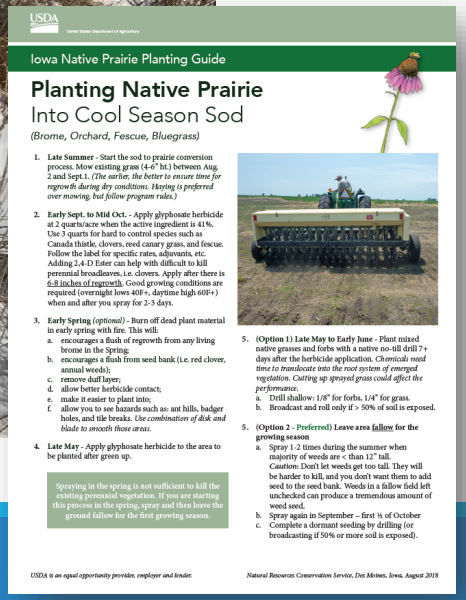
Natural Resources Conservation Service, Des Moines, Iowa, August 2018
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

- ✓ Site preparation: firm seedbed for planting
- ✓ Plant native cover (broadcast or no-till drill)
- ✓ Mowing in Years 1 & 2

Conversions from Introduced Species to Native Species

Converting an introduced stand

- ✓ Remove cover (i.e. mow/hay, burn)
- ✓ Chemical burndown (≥2 times, fall spray is critical!)
- ✓ Plant native cover



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Iowa Native Prairie Planting Guide

Planting Native Prairie
Into Cool Season Sod
(Brome, Orchard, Fescue, Bluegrass)

1. **Late Summer** - Start the sod to prairie conversion process. Mow existing grass (4-6" ht.) between Aug. 2 and Sept.1. *(The earlier, the better to ensure time for regrowth during dry conditions. Haying is preferred over mowing, but follow program rules.)*
2. **Early Sept. to Mid Oct.** - Apply glyphosate herbicide at 2 quarts/acre when the active ingredient is 41%. Use 3 quarts for hard to control species such as Canada thistle, clovers, reed canary grass, and fescue. Follow the label for specific rates, adjuvants, etc. Adding 2,4-D Ester can help with difficult to kill perennial broadleaves, i.e. clovers. Apply after there is 6-8 inches of regrowth. Good growing conditions are required (overnight lows 40F+, daytime high 60F+) when and after you spray for 2-3 days.
3. **Early Spring** *(optional)* - Burn off dead plant material in early spring with fire. This will:
   a. encourages a flush of regrowth from any living brome in the Spring;
   b. encourages a flush from seed bank (i.e. red clover, annual weeds);
   c. remove duff layer;
   d. allow better herbicide contact;
   e. make it easier to plant into;
   f. allow you to see hazards such as: ant hills, badger holes, and tile breaks. *Use combination of disk and blade to smooth those areas.*
4. **Late May** - Apply glyphosate herbicide to the area to be planted after green up.

Spraying in the spring is not sufficient to kill the existing perennial vegetation. If you are starting this process in the spring, spray and then leave the ground fallow for the first growing season.

5. **(Option 1) Late May to Early June** - Plant mixed native grasses and forbs with a native no-till drill 7+ days after the herbicide application. *Chemicals need time to translocate into the root system of emerged vegetation. Cutting up sprayed grass could affect the performance.*
   a. Drill shallow: 1/8" for forbs, 1/4" for grass.
   b. Broadcast and roll only if > 50% of soil is exposed.
5. **(Option 2 - Preferred) Leave area fallow for the growing season**
   a. Spray 1-2 times during the summer when majority of weeds are < than 12" tall. *Caution*: Don't let weeds get too tall. They will be harder to kill, and you don't want them to add seed to the seed bank. Weeds in a fallow field left unchecked can produce a tremendous amount of weed seed.
   b. Spray again in September – first ½ of October
   c. Complete a dormant seeding by drilling (or broadcasting if 50% or more soil is exposed).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Des Moines, Iowa, August 2018

Required Management Activities

CRP management is good farm management

- All CRP participants perform management activities as part of their approved conservation plan.
- These management activities are designed to maximize wildlife benefits while ensuring soil, water, and other resources are protected throughout the life of the contract.
- Remember, no cost share for Required Management (formerly known as MCM) for this CRP sign up.

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Early Successional Habitat Management (647)
CRP Required Management Activities

Iowa Guidance Document **December 2020**

Purpose

Managing plant communities is beneficial to maintain and improve wildlife habitat. Under natural conditions plant communities experience disturbance from animal activity, fire, storms and other events. This disturbance causes a plant community to change by setting back grasses and allowing flowering plants to grow. Biologists refer to this as an "Early Successional Plant Community". Without disturbance grassland plant communities may lose some of their wildlife habitat benefits and become dominated by grasses or possibly overgrown with volunteer trees. The purpose of management activities on grassland is to mimic natural plant disturbance to:

- Open the grass stand to allow wildflowers to grow.
- Provide food and shelter for grassland wildlife such as pheasants, songbirds and beneficial insects.
- Remove duff (dead and decaying plant material) and control woody vegetation in grassland.

Timing and Location

Applying a management activity is a requirement of most CRP contracts. If management is required by your CRP contract, the activity will be scheduled in your conservation plan as Early Successional Habitat Management (647).

Apply a management activity to every acre at least once during the contract. To protect soil, water, and wildlife resources, complete management over 3 years by applying an activity to 1/3 of the acres in each scheduled year except for the following:

- Burning may be applied to all acres in one year or a portion of the acres over three years, based on the burn plan.
- Contracts of 20 acres or less: management activities may be applied to all acres in one year.
- When grazing, management activities may be applied to all acres in one year, or 1/3 of the contract acres each year for three years. FSA must approve before using grazing for management.
- For CRP wetland practices, management activities are required for the wetland and buffer unless the area is inundated by water during the prescribed time frame.
- Tree and shrub plantings that are approved on CRP acres and included in the conservation plan do not require management activities.

Questions?

Iowa Department of Natural Resources