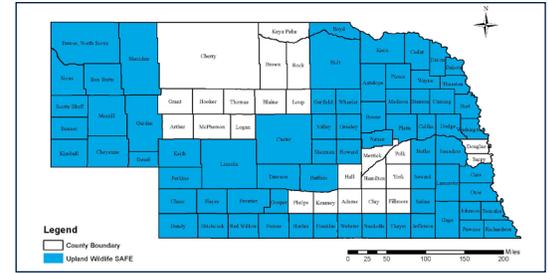


# Nebraska Upland Wildlife Habitat State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)

A CRP Special Initiative



## Overview and Goal

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and Pheasants Forever of Nebraska are partners in implementing a voluntary Upland Wildlife Habitat State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Project, a continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up option. The goal is to enroll agricultural land to create habitat for target species, including northern bobwhite, greater prairie-chicken, sharp-tailed grouse, ring-neck pheasant, and grassland and shrubland songbirds and pollinators.

The project includes 69 Nebraska counties: Antelope, Banner, Boone, Box Butte, Boyd, Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass, Cedar, Chase, Cheyenne, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dakota, Dawes, Dawson, Deuel, Dixon, Dodge, Dundy, Franklin, Frontier, Furnas, Gage, Garden, Garfield, Gosper, Greeley, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Holt, Howard, Jefferson, Johnson, Keith, Kimball, Knox, Lancaster, Lincoln, Madison, Morrill, Nance, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Otoe, Pawnee, Perkins, Pierce, Platte, Red Willow, Richardson, Saline, Saunders, Scotts Bluff, Seward, Sheridan, Sherman, Sioux, Stanton, Thayer, Thurston, Valley, Washington, Wayne, Webster, and Wheeler.

## Background

SAFE is part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (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 used for conservation benefits. CRP participants establish permanent, 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, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants with

rental payments and cost-share assistance. Partners associated with this SAFE also provide additional financial incentives.

## Eligible Conservation Practices

CRP practices available for use in this SAFE include:

- ◆ CP38E-4D – Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- ◆ CP38E-12 – Wildlife Food Plot

## Enrollment and Eligibility Requirements

Enrollment in CRP through the Upland Wildlife SAFE is on a continuous basis. To be eligible, land must be located in the project area (see above map). Cropland must meet cropping history criteria and be physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Landowners must offer no less than five-acre minimum tracts. Contracts are for 10-15 years. Landowners with expired or expiring CRP can offer acres for re-enrollment.

## Payments

Landowners receive an annual rental payment that is based on a base soil rental rate, determined by the soils of the land offered. One-time signing incentive and practice incentive payments may be available, as is cost-share assistance for eligible expenses to install the approved practice(s). Additional incentives may be available through project partners.

## More Information

For more information on this project, contact your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator). Information also can be found from project partners at [crpsignup.com](https://crpsignup.com).



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