



## Farm Service Agency

# Conservation Reserve Program

## Ohio Pollinator & Monarch SAFE

Fact Sheet  
December 2020

### Overview

USDA Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) in Ohio is aimed at creating conservation practices to address the highest priority wildlife objectives in the State through the use of targeted restoration of vital habitat. Ohio SAFE seeks to enroll cropland in CRP Practice CP38 for 10-15 years to benefit Monarch butterflies and other essential pollinators.

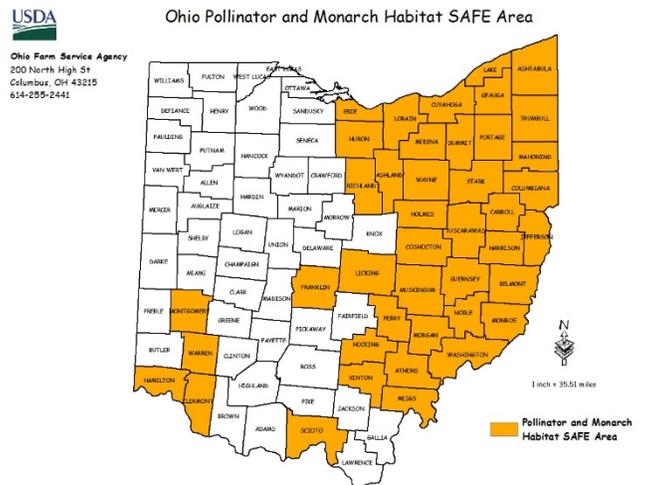
Ohio’s SAFE is a State-led effort, mostly the result of Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), along with other public and private organizations such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Farm Service Agency. Ohio is targeting the SAFE CP38 practices in areas of local, regional, or even global biodiversity and declining species significance. SAFE has economic and programmatic benefits for landowners including enhanced economic incentives, and the opportunity to enroll whole fields.

### Goals

The goal of this project is to increase the amount of appropriate habitat for the monarch butterfly and other pollinators in Ohio. The enrolled habitat, a mix of grasses and forbs, will provide important nectar sources as well as the required larval host plant species. Because of the significant decline in monarch numbers, both range-wide and in Ohio, the monarch butterfly is the focus of this project. However, other pollinator species are expected to benefit from implementation of this project.

### Eligibility

The Pollinator and Monarch SAFE consists of only one CRP practice, CP38E-42, Pollinator Habitat. Pollinator and Monarch SAFE may be enrolled in only the following counties in Ohio: Ashland, Ashtabula, Athens, Belmont, Carroll, Clermont, Columbiana, Coshocton, Cuyahoga, Erie, Franklin, Geauga, Guernsey, Hamilton, Harrison, Hocking, Holmes, Huron, Jefferson, Lake, Licking, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Meigs, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Portage, Richland, Scioto, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Vinton, Warren, Washington, and Wayne.



Cropland must be legally and physically capable of producing a crop in a normal manner and must be owned for at least one year prior to submitting an offer.



## Farm Service Agency

# CRP – Ohio Pollinator and Monarch SAFE – December 2020

Eligible land is required to have a certain cropping history. The contract period will be 10-15 years and signup will be taken through FSA's General Signup process which will be held on an annual basis for the life of the 2018 Farm Bill.

Practice covers must be established to specific species of grasses and forbs as outlined in the Conservation Plan of Operations. Certain management activities may be required to be performed before the last three years of the contract.

Participants shall allow access to their land by Federal, State, or private wildlife officials to monitor the success of the practice in achieving the goals of SAFE.

### CRP Payments

Subject to contract terms and certain limitations, SAFE participants will be eligible for the following types of FSA payments:

- Cost Share Assistance – Cost share is equal to 50% of the participant's eligible costs of establishing the approved practice cover.
- Annual Rental Payment – FSA bases rental rates on the relative productivity of the soils within each county and the average dryland cash rent subject to a statutory 85% proration. FSA will calculate the maximum rental rate for each General Signup offer prior to enrollment.

Technical assistance will be provided by Federal, State, and private professionals to help participants select proper seed species, locate practice area, and establish and manage the practice cover.

### Other SAFE Benefits

SAFE provides a unique opportunity for landowners and producers, within the targeted areas, to enroll whole field acres outside the floodplain under CRP General Signup.

Additionally, SAFE may complement and fill the void left by Continuous CRP or CREP (in those areas where CREP is also available).

### Additional SAFE Information

The CP38 practice is for those participants with a strong desire to restore or increase wildlife habitat significant decline in population. Participants must be willing to allow monitoring, must properly maintain the practice cover for the entire length of the contract, and perform periodic management activities to enhance the practice cover for wildlife.

Participants whose SAFE contracts are terminated (either voluntarily or because of violations) before the end of its term, because of loss of control of land or other reasons, must refund all payments received under their contract plus interest and liquidated damages. Crop bases will not be restored if the SAFE contract acres are terminated because of contract violations. To obtain maximum benefits from CP38, the practice cover must be retained for the entire length of the agreed-to contract period.

### More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes; other conditions may apply. For more details and information about the Pollinator and Monarch SAFE, contact your FSA County office. To locate your FSA County office, visit: <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.