



Fact Sheet – State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)

Nebraska CP38E – SAFE Habitat for Upland Game Birds

Purpose:

Maintain and improve populations of upland wildlife closely tied to agricultural land uses by allowing enrollment of small fields or patches of habitat. Patches of habitat provide better opportunity for successful nesting and reduce risk of predation as compared to narrow (<100 feet wide) strips or buffers.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres enrolled in CP38E will be designed with wildlife habitat as the first priority, providing all habitat needs (nesting, brood rearing, winter roosting, and escape cover) for upland wildlife including northern bobwhite, ring-necked pheasant, greater prairie chickens, and sharp-tailed grouse. These varied grassland habitat conditions will also benefit a variety of other upland game birds and grassland songbirds, as well as meeting other CRP objectives.

Habitat quality requirements:

- Statewide eligibility
- The minimum enrollment per tract is 5 acres and maximum enrollment per tract is 80 acres, with a minimum average field size of 5 acres per tract.
- The minimum average width on an enrolled field is 100 feet, with the exception that there is no minimum if an entire existing field, as identified on current FSA records, is enrolled.
- Enrollments eligible for CP33 will not be enrolled in SAFE until Nebraska's CP33 acres are fully allocated.
- Wildlife biologists will provide specific habitat plans that provide the required habitat components (eg. nesting, brood-rearing, winter cover, escape cover, feeding areas) on CP38E enrollments, taking into consideration habitat elements existing in the local landscape.
- All acres will be enrolled as CRP practice CP38E using the CRP and FOTG Standards in CP4D (permanent wildlife habitat). CP12 (food plots) can be enrolled if a

wildlife biologist confirms food is a limiting factor on the site.

- Enrollments of expired CRP in SAFE will require habitat improvements to meet the full habitat goals.
- Establishment of native shrub thickets will be required if shrubby cover is a limiting feature, with shrubs planted in a manner to expedite development of full shrub canopy cover.
- Mid-Contract Management provisions of CRP will apply. Biologists will design habitat plantings to facilitate ease of management while meeting wildlife habitat needs.

CP38E Payments and Incentives:

- Annual rental payments based on dryland cropland soil rental rates.
- Cost-share payments for 50 percent of the eligible reimbursable costs for establishment of approved conservation practices, and for approved Mid-Contract Management activities.
- A one-time Signing Incentive Payment of \$10 for each eligible acre enrolled for each full year of the contract (up to 10 years).
- A one-time Practice Incentive Payment equal to 40 percent of the total eligible cost of practice installation.
- Enrollments of existing CRP into SAFE will not be eligible for Signing Incentive Payments, but will be eligible for cost-share and Practice Incentive Payments.
- Acres enrolled as food plots (CP12) are not eligible for cost-share or incentive payments.

Enrollment:

Up to 11,450 acres may be enrolled in Continuous CRP for this project under practice CP38E, using practices CP4D and CP12 CRP and EFOTG standards.