



Fact Sheet – State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)

Nebraska CP38E – SAFE Habitat for Greater Prairie Chickens in Tallgrass Prairie

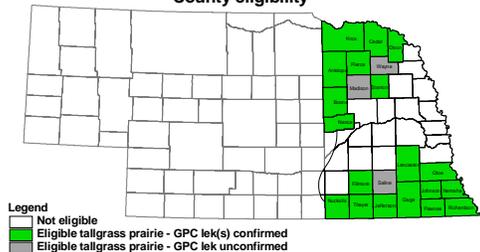
Purpose:

Maintain and continue the expansion of greater prairie chickens in Nebraska’s tallgrass prairie region. This project targets the enrollment of cropland to suitable blocks of perennial herbaceous cover in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and provides opportunity for the retention of, and habitat improvements on, existing blocks of expiring CRP.

Enrollments of CRP 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 greater prairie chickens. 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:

**Nebraska CP38E
SAFE Habitat for Greater Prairie Chickens in Tallgrass Prairie
County eligibility**



- 40-160 acre fields of cropland or expired CRP may be enrolled in eligible areas
- 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 standards for practice 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.