



Fact Sheet

April 2008

Minnesota CRP-SAFE Practices; CP38E—Back Forty Pheasant Habitat

Overview

The State Acres For wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative is designed to address state and regional high-priority wildlife objectives under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

The CP38E—Back Forty Pheasant Habitat is a continuous CRP conservation practice available in Minnesota through SAFE. The proposal was developed by Pheasants Forever of Minnesota and the Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society, in partnership with FSA, NRCS, DNR, BWSR, MASWCD, DU, USFWS and The Nature Conservancy.

23,100 acres have been allocated to Minnesota for enrollment beginning April 14, 2008.

Purpose

The Back Forty Pheasant Habitat practice serves to restore pheasant and prairie chicken habitat by establishing small blocks of grassland (10-40 acres) and enhancing existing habitats (up to 10 acres); several grassland dependent birds that are in severe decline will also benefit.

Available CP38E Practices

CP38E offers may include a combination of up to four CP38E practices at the participant's option and depending on practice acreage location as follows:

CP38E—Rare & Declining Habitat practice, must comprise

at least 75 percent of the grassland acreage within an offer and conform to NRCS Standard 643 specifications, which establishes native species on the land.

CP38E—Introduced Grasses practice may comprise up to 25 percent of the grassland acreage in an offer, which is seeded to select introduced grasses and legumes to provide a mosaic of grassland types in the landscape.

CP38E—Wildlife Habitat practice may be included in an offer where there is no adequate existing winter cover within 2 miles of the practice acreage.

CP38E—Wildlife Food Plot practice may be included in an offer where adequate winter cover is available within 1/4 mile of the practice acreage.

Introduced Grasses, Wildlife Habitat and Wildlife Food Plot practices must be established according to NRCS Standard 645, as adjusted for the CP38E.

Quality Habitat Area

Offered acreage must lie within counties included in the designated SAFE area (MN Pheasant and Prairie Chicken Range):

Operation and Maintenance

Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding lands.

Mid-contract management is required, and will be site-specific as determined by NRCS in the conservation plan.

Contract Period

The proposed CRP contract period will be 10 to 15 years. The effective date of the contract is the first day of the month following the month of approval; however, participants may defer the effective date up to 6 months.

Participant Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for enrollment, a participant must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to submitting the offer, with certain exceptions evaluated by FSA on a case-by-case basis.



Land Eligibility Criteria

Offered land must be:

- Cropland that meets current CRP cropping history requirements;
- Physically & legally capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity in a normal manner (pastureland is **not** eligible); and
- Physically located within the designated SAFE area
- Otherwise eligible.

Practice Requirements

CP38E offers may be:

- 10 to 40-acre blocks within a tract or adjacent tracts, including adjacent tracts of different ownership;
- Small fields (<10 acres) adjacent to existing habitat that collectively form a minimum of 10 acres of habitat;
- Center-pivot irrigation corners (<40 acres); or
- Cropland-ravine interface areas (<40 acres)

Payments

Annual Rent

In return for establishing long-term, resource-conserving covers, FSA provides annual rental payments to participants. FSA bases rental rates on the relative productivity of the soils within each county and the average dry land cash rent or cash rent equivalent. In addition, a maintenance rate is added to the annual rental rate and the maximum per-acre annual rental rate is calculated in advance of enrollment.

Cost-share Assistance

FSA provides cost-share assistance to participants who establish approved cover on eligible cropland. The cost-share assistance can be no more than 50 percent of the participant's cost to establish approved practices.

Additional Financial Incentives

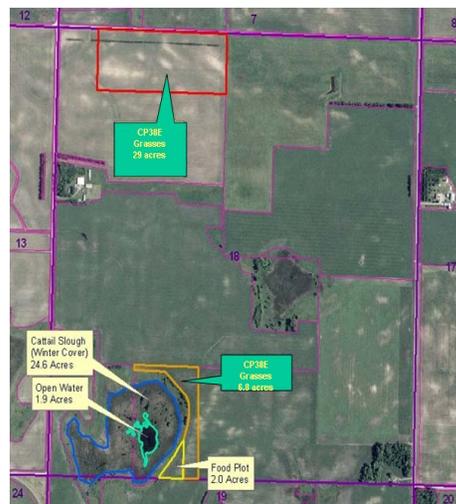
In addition to the annual rental payment and cost-share, FSA offers eligible participants the following incentives:

- A one-time signing incentive payment (SIP) of \$100 per acre for each SIP-eligible acre enrolled; the SIP will be issued after the contract is approved and all payment eligibility criteria are met; and
- A one-time practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40 percent of the eligible installation costs for PIP-eligible acres enrolled; the PIP will be issued after the practice is installed, eligible costs are verified, and other payment eligibility criteria are met.

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Examples of Eligible Acres

CP38E Practices:



Irrigation Corners:



Cropland-Ravine Interface:



For more information on SAFE sign-up, contact your local FSA office.

www.fsa.usda.gov/mn