

Wisconsin Karner Blue Butterfly SAFE

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are partners in implementing a State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) project to enroll agricultural land in Eau Claire County and parts of Jackson County. The purpose of the Wisconsin Karner Blue Butterfly SAFE is to increase Karner Blue butterfly habitat by establishing new prairies with their sole food source, wild blue lupine.

Background

SAFE is part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP is a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with landowners and agricultural producers to establish and manage vegetative covers that control soil erosion, improve water quality, and provide wildlife habitat.

SAFE is a unique type of CRP that offers organizations the opportunity to partner with the USDA to establish habitat for high-priority wildlife species on agricultural land. SAFE sponsors work with the USDA to identify the wildlife species, the vegetative cover that provides habitat for the target species, and the location in the state where the habitat is needed. A partnership is formed between the SAFE sponsor and the USDA, and federal funds are made available to allow for CRP enrollment on eligible land within the SAFE project location.

Target Wildlife Species

The goal of the Wisconsin Karner Blue Butterfly SAFE project is to provide habitat for the Karner Blue Butterfly and other pollinators. Karner Blue Butterflies are important to Wisconsin because they are listed as a federally endangered species and are a target species listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need within the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan.

Habitat

Landowners and agricultural producers participating in Wisconsin Karner Blue Butterfly SAFE are required to develop a conservation plan with assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or a technical service provider. The conservation plan will provide details on how to plant, establish, and manage habitat for Karner Blue Butterfly. The habitat being established is a diverse mix of native grasses and forbs. After the habitat is established, it will need to be maintained and managed by prescribed burning or mowing. Proper habitat establishment, maintenance, and management will maximize benefits for the Karner Blue Butterfly by ensuring the availability of wild blue lupine.



Project Location

The Wisconsin Karner Blue Butterfly SAFE project is located in all of Eau Claire and western Jackson county.

Eligible CRP Practices

This SAFE project uses the following CRP practices:

- ◆ CP38E-25, SAFE Rare and Declining Habitat – Tallgrass Prairie

Haying and Grazing

Haying and Grazing activities are not allowed on Karner Blue Butterfly SAFE practices.

Eligibility Requirements

Because SAFE is part of CRP, certain land and participant eligibility rules apply. To begin with, land must be in the project area and meet cropping history. CRP participant eligibility rules also apply to SAFE.

Payments and Incentives

In exchange for participation in CRP SAFE, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants with annual per acre rental payments, cost-share to assist with habitat establishment expenses, and in some cases additional monetary incentives.

For More Information



This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions or requirements may apply. Consult your local FSA office for details. For more information, contact your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: farmers.gov/service-locator.



Wisconsin Karner Blue Butterfly SAFE Project Map



Legend

-  FSA County Boundary
-  Wisconsin Karner Blue Butterfly SAFE Project Area