

## What are the financial benefits?

- Up to 100% cost share for preparation and establishment of the diverse grasslands.
- A one-time signing bonus of \$100 - \$150 per acre.
- Annual rental payments for enrolled acres including an annual maintenance payment (based on 3 predominant soil types)

## How do I learn more about CRP-SAFE?

Contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA). Phone numbers for Counties eligible for this practice are listed in this brochure. FSA will be able to determine producer eligibility. All of the forms necessary to enroll in the program are available at the FSA office.



County	Phone Number
Barry	269-948-8037
Branch	517-278-2725
Calhoun	269-781-4263
Clinton	989-224-3720
Eaton	517-543-1512
Genesee	810-230-8766
Hillsdale	517-849-9890
Ingham	517-676-4644
Ionia	616-527-2098
Jackson	517-789-7719
Kalamazoo	269-327-0940
Lapeer	810-664-0895
Lenawee	517-263-7400
Livingston	517-676-4644
Monroe	734-241-8540
Shiawassee	989-723-8263
St. Joseph	269-467-6336
Washtenaw	734-761-8789



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## *CRP-SAFE Diverse Grassland Planting*



[www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi)

# Diverse Grassland Planting



On March 22, 2007, FSA announced a new CRP initiative, State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE). SAFE allows producers to install practices that benefit high priority State wildlife conservation objectives through the use of targeted restoration of vital habitat.

The program, was the result of an agreement between USDA, wildlife management agencies, conservation and commodity groups -such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Nature Conservancy, Pheasants Forever, the Michigan Department of Agriculture, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

A diverse grassland planting consists of a mixture of planted short or tall native grasses and wildflowers reminiscent of the short and tall grass prairies that once were common in southern Michigan. A subset of the short grass planting is a savanna, which includes scattered clumps of planted oak trees.

The goal of SAFE is to create 7,500 acres of diverse grasslands in the following 18 southern Michigan counties: Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe, Shiawassee, St. Joseph and Washtenaw.

The 18 south Michigan counties eligible for SAFE were chosen because they once contained most of the state's native grasslands.

## SAFE Policy

The diverse grassland planting must include a short grass prairie component that includes planting of clusters of oak trees, and may include a tall grass prairie component.

Between 30 and 100% of the total acres must be planted to short grass prairie. Further, native oak trees must be planted on at least 10% but not more than 30% of these short grass prairie acres, at a rate of 4 trees per acre. In all cases, oak trees will be planted on at least 2 acres.

Zero to 70% of the total acres may be planted to tall grass prairie. For tall grass prairie plantings greater than 20 acres a minimum of 2 acres and a maximum of 5 acres may be planted to a homogeneous block of switch grass. For linear plantings less than 20 acres, no more than 2 acres may be planted to switch grass.

Wildlife Food Plots are eligible for the SAFE CP38E (Diverse Grassland) that are greater than 30 acres blocks. For CP38E that are linear habitats, food plots are not allowed. In Michigan, each



Wildlife Food Plot must be at least 0.25 acres each, but no larger than 10% of a field, not to exceed 5.0 acres per field. Both annual grain food plots and legume food plots are eligible. Cost-share is not available for Wildlife Food Plots.

## Required Management

All Diverse Grassland SAFE contracts must have mid-term contract management activities scheduled that are site specific and will ensure plant diversity, wildlife habitat, and protection of soil and water resources.

## What producers are eligible?

- Owners or operators of eligible land who meet the adjusted gross income rules
- Producer must be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland provisions.
- Operators must have a 10—15 year lease with the landowners to enroll
- All landowners must sign the CRP-1 contracts
- Landowners may not take land under lease from an operator to enroll it in CRP.



## Eligibility

To be eligible for this SAFE practice the land must be located in the SAFE focus area that includes 18 counties in the southern Lower Peninsula of Michigan. The land must have a cropping history (4 out of 6 years from 2002 - 2007), and be either a block of 30 acres or greater in size or, if a linear habitat, must at least be a minimum of 200 feet wide and 10 acres or greater in size.

Landowners with previously existing CRP enrolled lands may enroll additional contiguous acres under SAFE agreements that meet the above criteria.