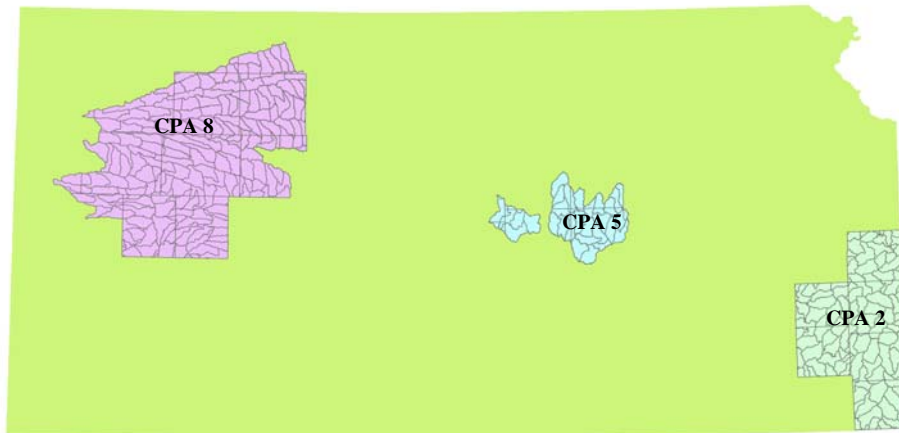


USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to enhance high priority wildlife habitat in Kansas. The SAFE project will assist to design, install and maintain permanent upland bird nesting and brood-rearing habitat on any cropland, or the dryland corners of center-pivot irrigation systems.

**KANSAS
CRP SAFE Geographic Areas**



Sign-up

Sign-up begins the later of March 17, 2008, or re-authorization of CRP by Congress at local FSA offices for the CRP SAFE Habitat Initiative and runs continuously until the acreage goal is met.

Eligible Land and Practices

All areas of Kansas will be eligible for this practice. Special focus will be given to land located in Kansas CRP Conservation Priority Areas 2, 5 and 8. In addition, land must meet basic CRP eligibility requirements.

Acceptable land is cropland that was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in four out of six years between 1996 and 2001 and is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agriculture commodity.

Rental Rates

Rental rates are based on three predominant soils on land offered for enrollment. FSA bases rental rates on the average value of dry-land cash rent for the past three years and adjusts rates to reflect the relative productivity of soils within each county.

SIP and PIP Payments

A one-time up front signing incentive payment (SIP) of \$100 per acre for CRP contracts for 10 or more years will be paid by FSA after eligibility criteria are met and the CRP contract is approved.

A one-time practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40 percent of the eligible installation costs will be paid after the CRP practice is installed, eligible costs are verified and other payment eligibility criteria are met.

Cost-share Payments

In addition to the payments described, FSA will pay up to 50 percent of the eligible cost of establishing a permanent cover.

Contracts

The effective date of the CRP contract is the first day of the month following the month of approval. In certain circumstances, producers may defer the effective date for up to six months.

Contracts are for not less than 10, nor more than 15 years.

Cooperating Agencies

CRP is administered by USDA's FSA with assistance from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Technical Requirements for CRP CP38E, SAFE Habitat

This practice will establish and maintain 30,100 acres of diverse native grass and forb cover within crop fields throughout Kansas to provide nesting, brood-rearing and edge type habitat, which research has shown to be most limiting to upland bird populations. Quail, pheasant, greater prairie chicken and other grassland associated wildlife will benefit from CP38E enrollments in Kansas.

Eligible location:

- Acres may be enrolled anywhere within the cropped field (including alfalfa and other non-program crops, crop rotations, and summer-fallow).
- Acres are ineligible in fields of non-native grasses, including fescue, brome, Caucasian bluestem, yellow bluestem and bermuda.
- Center-pivot irrigation corners are considered part of the irrigated field and are eligible in their entirety.
- CP38E acres may not be established immediately adjacent to native perennial grass enrolled in CRP under the same ownership, with the exception of waterways, where the CP38E strip would essentially widen the other continuous practice strip. CP38E acres may intersect (not parallel) with any Continuous or General CRP.
- Acres may be enrolled next to grazed or hayed native pasture.
- Acres are intended to be islands of edge habitat in a cropped field and thus General Signup CRP may **NOT** be established such that edge habitat is reduced within the same field with CP38E.

Eligible size:

- Maximum acreage enrollment is 5 acres for fields less than 25 acres in size, or 20% of a field for fields 25 acres or greater, with a maximum acreage of 80 acres per field. Fields less than 5 acres may be enrolled in their entirety.
- Enrolled acreage must average between 30 and 200 feet in width, although strips may be narrower or wider in places to accommodate special concerns or better accommodate the farming operation (eliminating point rows, for example). The shape of enrolled acres is not limited to strips. Multiple CP38E strips or patches will be allowed in a field. Strips or patches must be separated by a minimum of 30 feet.

Contract length: 10 to 15 years.

Food plots:

Food plots (CP12) components are eligible in a CP38E. These areas shall be limited to 5 acres or 10% of the acreage enrolled CP38E and may include seed producing crops or legumes such as alfalfa.

Expired or expiring CRP:

New, expired or expiring CRP may be enrolled but existing cover must contain wildlife suitable cover including a native grass mix, with a forb/legume component comprising 10% or more of the plant composition, and must not contain greater than 5% non-native grasses. If the existing cover does not contain 10% forb/legume in the plant composition, the cover needs to be upgraded. An approved management practice must be completed on existing grass cover during the first or second year of enrollment.

Wildlife emphasis:

Conservation plans and planting specifications will be designed to maximize wildlife benefits. Habitat shall not be used for turn rows, roads, or for feeding or storage of hay, or equipment storage.

Eligible seeding mixes:

Seeding mixes must follow NRCS Specification 645, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management. CRP Technical Guidance Document 38 may be used as a reference or starting point. All seeding mixes must contain a mix of a minimum of four species including two native warm-season grasses and at least one forb or legume.

Native shrub plantings:

Native shrubs may be added up to a maximum of 10% cover on all SAFE enrollments to provide an additional component necessary for quail covey headquarters. If quail are the targeted resource on center pivot corners, a minimum of one deciduous shrub thicket consisting of 50 plants must be included on one corner of each pivot. Shrubs selected must provide suitable quail habitat and be adapted to the site. Trees are not eligible.

Mid-contract management:

Mid-contract management requirements will apply to SAFE enrollments, with activities designed in the conservation plan to maximize the benefits for wildlife throughout the CRP contract period. Management must be conducted at least once in each 5-year segment of the contract. Management practices cannot be applied in consecutive years in the same portion of the field. Practices available include burning, light disking, and forb/legume interseeding.

- Grazing is allowed according to current CRP policy.
- Haying is allowed according to current CRP policy. Haying is restricted to 50% of the enrolled acres in any one year.
- Mowing without removal of residue shall not be considered an acceptable form of management except to facilitate burning, disking, or interseeding.
- Burning is allowed every other year as a mid-contract management or maintenance practice.

Weed control:

Noxious weeds must be controlled. Undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled, as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding land. Spot spraying shall be the method of choice for herbicide application.

Example payment:

160 acre field, 32 acres enrolled in CP38E, values based on Kansas *average* CRP payments

- CRP rental payment: \$42/acre x 32 acres x 15 years = \$20,160.00
- Signup incentive bonus: \$100/acre x 32 acres = \$ 3,200.00
- Establishment cost-share: \$70/acre x 32 acres x 50% = \$ 1,120.00
- Practice incentive payment: \$70/acre x 32 acres x 40% = \$ 896.00
- CRP maintenance payment: \$4/acre x 32 acres = \$ 128.00
- Mid-contract management: \$11/acre x 32 acres x 3 treatments = \$ 1,056.00
- Total \$26,560.00

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