

PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

Offers must be 20 to 160 acres. All enrolled offers will provide nesting cover, winter cover and a winter food plot. Nesting cover must be a block of mixed native grasses and wildflowers minimum of four species, more diversity is encouraged. Winter cover will be a block of switchgrass, minimum 25% of offer not to exceed 20 acres. Winter food plot will be 10% offer not to exceed 5 acres. Preferred location is adjacent to winter cover as site feasibility allows. Shrub/shelterbelts are allowed but not required.

PURPOSE

- Increase populations of ring-necked pheasant and other grassland wildlife species
- Benefit threatened or endangered species, or those with a significant decline
- Improve, connect or create high quality grassland and wetland habitat
- Provide nesting, brood and winter cover
- Provide habitat for beneficial pollinators
- Improve water quality and reduce erosion

PAYMENTS

Rental Rate

- Based on maximum soil rental rate established for the three predominant soils
- 10 to 15-year contract length

1. State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) is a nationwide Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice within the general sign-up. The SAFE initiative allows public and private organizations and state and federal agencies to propose areas where new CRP acreage is essential to benefit endangered, threatened or high priority fish and wildlife species. There are four other SAFE CRP projects in Iowa, visit the Iowa DNR's website for more information on other SAFE projects.

Cost-share

- 50% cost-share to establish practice

ELIGIBILITY

- Land that was cropped or considered cropped four out of the six years from 2012 to 2017.
- Eligible cropland includes row crops, small grains and forage crops grown in an acceptable rotation

SEEDING SOURCES

The Iowa DNR recommends planting native Iowa prairie seed types. These grasses and wildflowers are suitable for Iowa's weather and growing conditions. Plant materials can be purchased at local nurseries and seed dealers.

MORE INFORMATION

www.fsa.usda.gov/ia

www.iowadnr.gov/crp

PARTNERS

Iowa Department of Natural Resources, USDA - Iowa Farm Service Agency, USDA - Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Pheasants Forever, Iowa Department of Agriculture - Division of Land Stewardship, Conservation Districts of Iowa and Iowa County Conservation Boards.

