



# Farm Service Agency Conservation Reserve Program

## KANSAS UPLAND GAME BIRD STATE ACRES FOR WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT (SAFE) INITIATIVE

HABITAT RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION

**Fact Sheet**  
December 2020

### Why Choose State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)?

The State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Initiative restores vital habitat to meet high priority state wildlife conservation goals. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners several opportunities to achieve multiple conservation goals. Species targeted by SAFE include those designated as rare and declining species, species of significant social importance, and species of greatest conservation need. Through the Kansas Upland Game Bird SAFE Initiative, landowners create nesting/brood-rearing habitat on portions of crop fields in areas where crop production is the predominate land use to improve populations of bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasants and other grassland-associated wildlife.

#### Upland Game Bird SAFE Practices:

- CP38E-2 - Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
- CP38E-4D - Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- CP38E-12 - Wildlife Food Plot Establishment (conjunctive)
- CP38E-25 - Rare and Declining Habitat

Practice is available through CRP general sign up. Please check with your local FSA county office for sign up periods for SAFE practices in your area.

### SAFE Benefits

With 98% of Kansas in private ownership and nearly all of that in some form of agricultural production, farm fields have been getting larger with monotypic cropping, which has reduced edge habitat and diversity that was once common on the landscape.

CP38E will increase the amount of usable space for upland birds across the entire field by creating a permanent habitat component along field edges while converting only a small percentage of the field acreage. Acreage enrolled can be patches or strips of fields where crop production is limited. Early monitoring data indicate upland bird numbers are improved in fields with CRP cover established.

### SAFE Initiative Impacts

This initiative seeks to establish and maintain diverse native grass and forb cover within crop fields to provide nesting, brood-rearing and edge habitat which research has shown to be beneficial to upland birds.

Quail and pheasant populations have both responded favorably to CRP. Areas of mixed native grass and forbs are especially valuable for these edge-loving birds when associated with crop fields. Thus, this CP38E initiative will benefit upland bird populations.

#### Additional Benefits Include:

- Provide flexible options for landowners to enhance their lands for wildlife
- Improve water quality
- Soil erosion prevention
- Improve soil health



Photo: Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism



# Kansas Upland Game Bird CRP SAFE – December 2020

## Eligible Land

Eligible land must be within the designated targeted areas.

Expired CRP may be enrolled, but existing cover must contain suitable wildlife cover. Eligible cropland includes cropland that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during 4 of the 6 crop years from 2012 through 2017 and is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

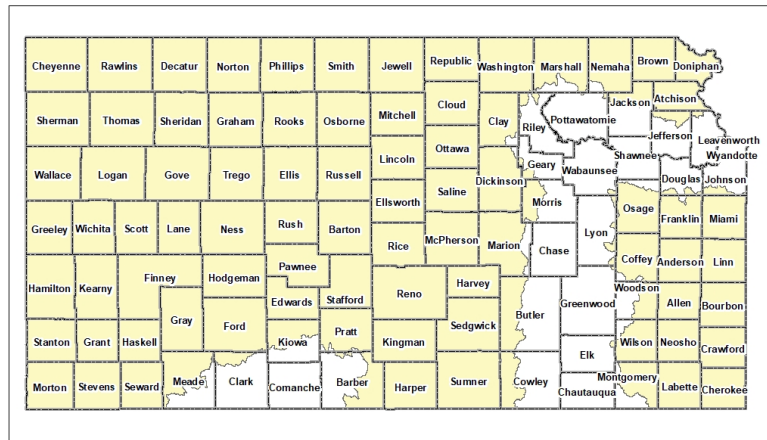
Maximum acreage enrollment is 5 acres for fields less than 25 acres in size, or 20% of a field for fields 25 acres or greater, with a maximum acreage of 80 acres per field. Fields less than 5 acres may be enrolled in their entirety. Enrolled acreage must average between 30 and 200 feet in width, although strips may be narrower or wider in places to accommodate special concerns or better accommodate the farming operation.

- CP12 (food plots) are eligible in CP38E. Individual food plots must not exceed 5 acres in size and must not be immediately adjacent. Food plots may include annual or perennial seed-producing forbs or legumes such as alfalfa.

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 activities may include non-emergency haying and grazing.



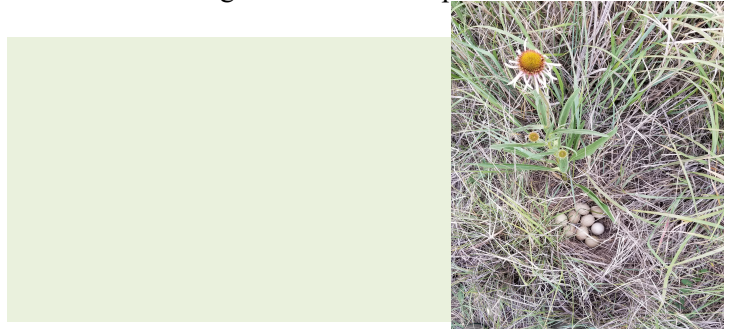
Photo: Audubon



## Cover Requirements

Conservation plans and planting specifications will be designed to maximize wildlife benefits. All seed mixes must contain a minimum of five species of grasses, forbs, legumes, and/or shrubs. Native shrubs may be added on SAFE enrollments to provide an additional habitat component. Trees are not eligible.

Landowners may select from a variety of native grass, forb, legume, and shrub species. Recommended mixtures are designed to meet site specific soil conditions.



### Financial Benefits

- 10-15 years of annual rental payments
- Payments of up to 50% Cost-Share for practice establishment

Photo: Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism

## More Information

For more information, contact your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).