

United States Department of Agriculture



Farm Services Agency Online

Tennessee Fact Sheet Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) CP38E – Bobwhite Habitat Restoration

Specifications



Purpose

The purpose of the practice is to provide permanent habitat for bobwhite quail that prefer native grass, shrubs and forbs. This practice will be designed to create and improve habitat to a level as determined by the planning biologist.

Eligibility

Landowners can enroll anytime under then Continuous CRP practice if eligibility requirements are met and if within the priority area. The priority areas include the following counties: Carroll, Coffee, Crockett, Dyer, Fayette, Franklin, Gibson, Giles, Greene, Hancock, Hardeman, Hawkins, Haywood, Henry, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lincoln, Madison, Maury, Meigs, McMinn, McNairy, Montgomery, Obion, Rhea, Robertson, Tipton and Weakley. Land must have a cropping history 4 out of 6 years from 2008-2013.

Whole or partial field enrollment is eligible. Areas to be enrolled in SAFE may be located adjacent to an existing USDA buffer as long as the SAFE 38E does not defeat the purpose of the existing buffer. A partial field enrollment must be at least 150' in width.

General Provisions

Payments include annual rental payment based on a soil rental rate, an annual maintenance payment, a one-time Practice Incentive Payment (PIP – 40% of eligible cost) and a 50% USDA cost share for installation. Food plot areas do not receive a PIP or establishment cost share. There is a one-time Signing Incentive Payment (SIP) of \$100 for each eligible acre enrolled.

A soil test is required to determine lime needs (no lime is needed if PH is 5.0 or above. No fertilizer is required. Approved plants (list available at local USDA Service Center) are limited to native warm season grasses, (NWSG), legumes, forbs and native shrubs.

All introduced grasses (fescue, bermuda, etc.) must be eradicated before any establishment is allowed. Natural Regeneration is not permitted for this practice. On steeper slopes, the no-till method (using a special drill because of the fully seed) of planting native grasses is preferred to reduce soil loss. If conventional tillage is used, a firm seedbed is recommended. It should be prepared by disking (or harrowing), then roll or cultipack, broadcast the seeds, then roll and cultipack again. Temporary cover and food plots of up to 10% of the CP38E acreage may be approved.

Shrub cover (covey headquarters) is a critical component of quail habitat and is required for 2.5% to 30% of the offered acres, via blocks (from 50'X50' up to ¼ acre) and/or linear hedgerows (from 30' to 50' wide). No shrub planting will be placed immediately adjacent to (within 150' of) existing forested areas unless it serves to widen existing hedgerows or connect wooded areas as a travel corridor.

Established cover must be maintained by the participant for the life of the contract. NWSG areas must be treated at least twice during the contract with an approved mid-contract activity, beginning the 4th growing season. All maintenance and mid-contract activities but must be performed outside the primary nesting season (4/15-7/01). Mid- management treatment options include strip- disking, herbiciding, prescribed burning and optional legume interseeding. Spot-spraying noxious weeds and woody encroachment may be necessary if approved by County Committee and may be performed within the primary nesting season.

Mowing by itself is not a mid-contract management activity, but can be used to prepare vegetation for other approved mid-contract management activities like herbicide application or fall strip disking. Shrub areas will not require a mid-contract management activity.

Contract Terms are 10-15 years long as determined by the participant.