

Minnesota Back Forty Pheasant Habitat SAFE

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Pheasants Forever of Minnesota and the Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society are partners in implementing a State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) project to enroll agricultural land within the pheasant and greater prairie chicken range of Minnesota. The purpose of the Minnesota Back Forty Pheasant Habitat SAFE is to restore grassland and wetland habitats to enhance populations of ring-necked pheasants and other wildlife species.

Background

SAFE is part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP is a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with landowners and agricultural producers to establish and manage vegetative covers that control soil erosion, improve water quality, and provide wildlife habitat.

SAFE is a unique type of CRP that offers organizations the opportunity to partner with the USDA to establish habitat for high-priority wildlife species on agricultural land. SAFE sponsors work with the USDA to identify the wildlife species, the vegetative cover that provides habitat for the target species, and the location in the state where the habitat is needed. A partnership is formed between the SAFE sponsor and the USDA, and federal funds are made available to allow for CRP enrollment on eligible land within the SAFE project location.

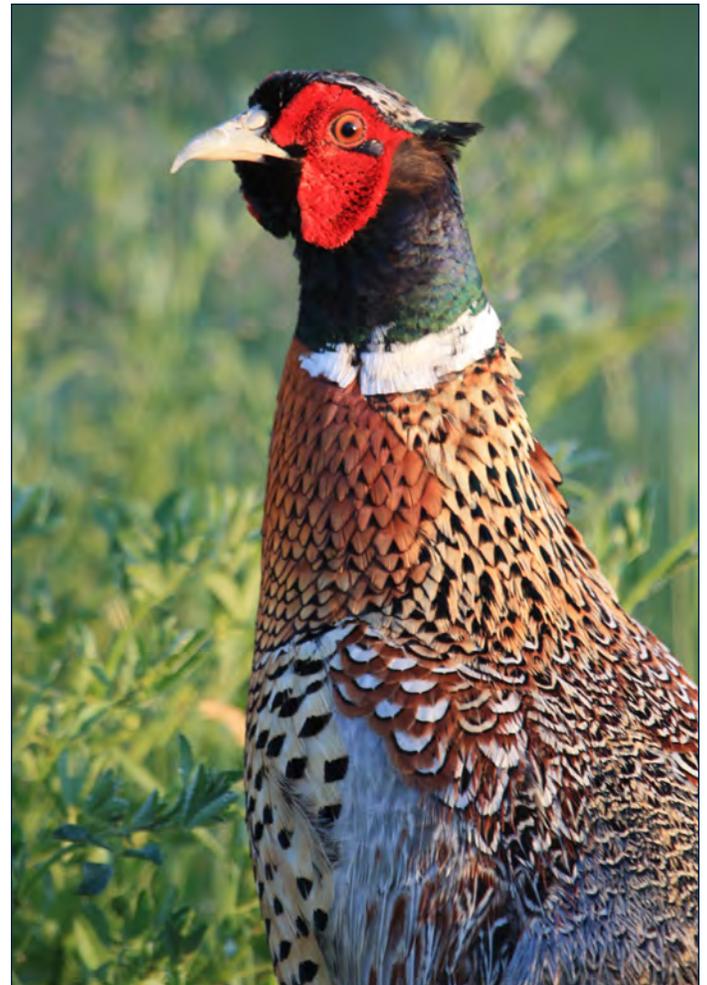
Target Wildlife Species

The goal of the Minnesota Back Forty Pheasant Habitat SAFE project is to provide habitat for pheasants, greater prairie chicken and other grassland dependent species. Pheasants are important to Minnesota because they have suffered significant population declines and play an important role in the economy as a popular game bird.

Habitat

Landowners and agricultural producers participating in Minnesota Back Forty Pheasant Habitat SAFE are required to develop a conservation plan with assistance from the

Natural Resources Conservation Service or a technical service provider. The conservation plan will provide details on how to plant, establish, and manage habitat for pheasants and other grassland wildlife species. The habitat being established is diverse grassland and wetland habitat that will provide nesting, brood rearing, and winter cover. After the habitat is established, it will need to be maintained and managed by controlling weeds and either grazing, burning, applying herbicide, disking or interseeding to maintain plant diversity. Proper habitat establishment, maintenance, and management will maximize benefits for pheasants and other grassland wildlife species.



Project Location

The Minnesota Back Forty Pheasant Habitat SAFE project location is Anoka, Becker, Benton, Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Chippewa, Chisago, Clay, Cottonwood, Dakota, Dodge, Douglas, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Grant, Hennepin, Houston, Isanti, Jackson, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Mahnommen, Martin, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Norman, Olmsted, Otter Tail, Pine, Pipestone, Polk, Pope, Ramsey, Red Lake, Redwood, Renville, Rice, Rock, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Stearns, Steele, Stevens, Swift, Todd, Traverse, Wabasha, Waseca, Washington, Watonwan, Wilkin, Winona, Wright, and Yellow Medicine counties.

Eligible CRP Practices

This SAFE project uses the following CRP practices:

- ◆ CP38E-4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- ◆ CP38E-12 Wildlife Food Plot
- ◆ CP38E-25 Rare and Declining Habitat

Haying and Grazing

Haying and grazing is allowed according to CRP emergency and non-emergency policies and as defined in an approved conservation plan.

Eligibility Requirements

Because SAFE is part of CRP, certain land and participant eligibility rules apply. To begin with, land must be in the project area and meet cropping history. CRP participant eligibility rules also apply to SAFE.

Payments and Incentives

In exchange for participation in CRP SAFE, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants with annual per acre rental payments, cost-share to assist with habitat establishment expenses, and in some cases additional monetary incentives.

For More Information

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions or requirements may apply. Consult your local FSA office for details. For more information, contact your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: farmers.gov/service-locator.



