

Iowa Early Successional Quail SAFE

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Iowa Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Bureau are partners in implementing a State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) project to enroll agricultural land in Iowa's primary quail range counties. The purpose of the Iowa Early Successional Quail SAFE is to create early successional habitat for brood-rearing adjacent to preferred native short grass nesting habitat across Iowa's primary quail range.

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 Iowa Early Successional Quail SAFE project is to provide habitat for Northern bobwhite quail. Northern bobwhite quail are important to Iowa because they are an economically significant game species that has suffered a 96% population decline since 1962. Northern bobwhite quail are designated a species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) in the Iowa wildlife action plan.

Habitat

Landowners and agricultural producers participating in Iowa Early Successional Quail SAFE are required to develop a conservation plan with assistance from the USDA Natural

Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or a technical service provider. The conservation plan will provide details on how to plant, establish, and manage habitat for Northern bobwhite quail. Offers must be at least 5 acres or larger. All offers will provide nesting and early successional habitat. Nesting cover must be a mixture of native grasses and forbs. Early successional habitat will be created by seeding 25% of the offer to annual plants in year one, to be left fallow and unharvested for two growing seasons. Annuals, usually small grains, are required to be reseeded in years 4, 7, and 11 based on contract length. Winter food plots, edge feathering, and shrub plantings are allowed to enhance benefits, but not required. After the habitat is established, it will need to be maintained and managed by prescribed burning, spraying, grazing, interseeding or disking on the nesting habitat acres. Planting annuals on the early successional habitat locations will meet required management activities on those acres. Proper habitat establishment, maintenance, and management will maximize benefits for Northern bobwhite quail.



Male bobwhite quail. Photo Courtesy Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Project Location

The Iowa Early Successional Quail SAFE project location is Adair, Adams, Appanoose, Audubon, Cass, Cedar, Clarke, Crawford, Dallas, Davis, Decatur, Des Moines, Emmet , Fayette , Fremont, Guthrie, Harrison, Henry, Iowa, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Lucas, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Mills, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, Muscatine, Page, Polk, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Ringgold, Scott, Shelby, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington, Wayne, and Woodbury counties.

Eligible CRP Practices

This SAFE project uses the following CRP practices:

- ◆ CP38E-4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- ◆ CP38E-12, Wildlife Food Plot

Haying and Grazing

Emergency and non-emergency haying and grazing are not authorized.

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.

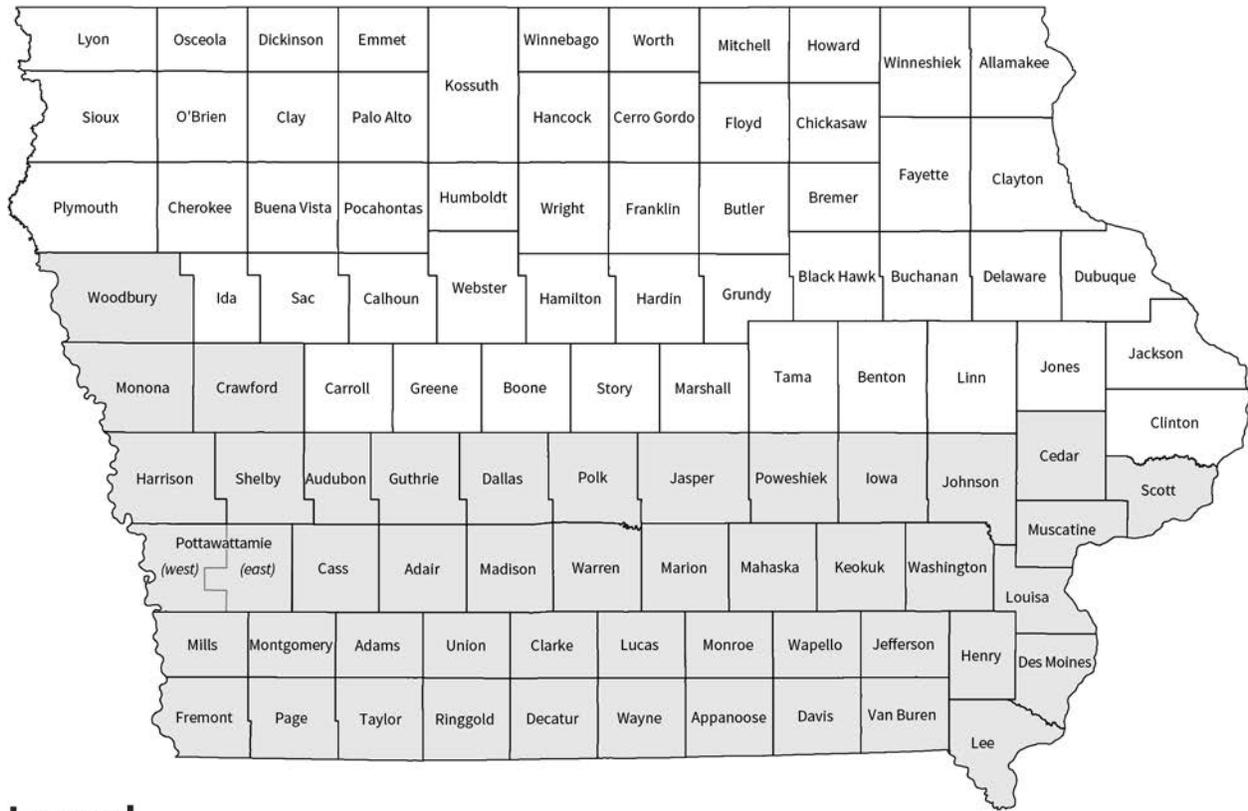
For More Information

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 or nearest DNR office: iowadnr.gov/crp.



Iowa Early Successional Quail SAFE site, nesting habitat adjacent to brood habitat. Photo Courtesy Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Iowa Early Successional Quail SAFE Project Map



Legend

- FSA County Boundary
- Iowa Early Successional Quail SAFE Project Area