

Kentucky Northern Bobwhite Quail and Grassland Songbird SAFE

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources are partners in implementing a State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) project to enroll agricultural land in 39 Counties across Western and Central Kentucky. The purpose of the Kentucky Northern Bobwhite Quail and Grassland Songbird SAFE is to restore and maintain grassland habitats for the Northern Bobwhite Quail and other grassland 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 Kentucky Northern Bobwhite Quail and Grassland Songbird SAFE project is to provide habitat for the Northern Bobwhite Quail, Dickcissel, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Henslow's Sparrow. Bobwhite Quail and other grassland wildlife species are important to Kentucky because the quail, and other songbirds that share similar habitats are threatened populations due to habitat loss and increased use of pesticides.

Habitat

Landowners and agricultural producers participating in Kentucky Northern Bobwhite Quail and Grassland Songbird 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 the Northern Bobwhite Quail, Dickcissel, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Henslow's Sparrow. The habitat being established is diverse native grassland that will provide cover and food for wildlife and provides many other environmental benefits. After the habitat is established, it will need to be maintained and managed by controlling weeds, and either disking, burning, herbicide application, inter-seeding, haying, or grazing to maintain plant diversity. Proper habitat establishment, maintenance, and management will maximize benefits for the Northern Bobwhite Quail and other grassland wildlife species.



Photo by The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Project Location

The Kentucky Northern Bobwhite Quail and Grassland Songbird SAFE project location is Allen, Ballard, Barren, Breckinridge, Butler, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Daviess, Edmonson, Fulton, Grayson, Graves, Green, Hancock, Hardin, Hart, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Larue, Livingston, Logan, Lyon, McCracken, McLean, Marshall, Meade, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Simpson, Taylor, Todd, Trigg, Union, Warren, and Webster Counties.

Eligible CRP Practices

This SAFE project uses the following CRP practices:

- ◆ CP38E-2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
- ◆ CP38E-4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- ◆ CP38E-12, Wildlife Foot Plot
- ◆ CP38E-25, Rare and Declining Habitat (Primarily Grass)
- ◆ CP38E-42, Pollinator 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.



Kentucky Northern Bobwhite Quail and Grassland Songbird SAFE Project Map



Legend

-  FSA County Boundary
-  Kentucky Northern Bobwhite Quail and Grassland Songbird SAFE Project Area