

Michigan Pheasant and Monarch Recovery SAFE

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Michigan Department of Natural Resources are partners in implementing a State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) project to enroll agricultural land in 41 in the southern Lower Peninsula and 5 in the Upper Peninsula counties. The purpose of the Michigan Pheasant and Monarch Recovery SAFE is to [help abate the decline of monarch butterflies, grassland birds, 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 Michigan Pheasant and Monarch Recovery SAFE project is to provide habitat for monarch butterfly, ring-necked pheasant, Henslow's and grasshopper sparrows, sharp-tailed grouse, and mallard ducks. Monarch butterfly, ring-necked pheasant, Henslow's and grasshopper sparrows, sharp-tailed grouse, mallard ducks and other grassland birds are important to Michigan because they have suffered significant population declines and have significant social and economic value to Michigan.

Habitat

Landowners and agricultural producers participating in Michigan Pheasant and Monarch Recovery 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 monarch butterfly, ring-necked pheasant, Henslow's and grasshopper sparrows, sharp-tailed grouse, and mallard ducks. The habitat being established is diverse grasslands and wetland habitat that will provide nesting, brood rearing, winter cover, and milkweed for monarch butterflies. After the habitat is established, it will need to be maintained and managed by prescribed burn, managed haying, managed grazing, light disking, interseeding wildflowers, and grass specific herbicide. Proper habitat establishment, maintenance, and management will maximize benefits for monarch butterfly, ring-necked pheasant, Henslow's and grasshopper sparrows, sharp-tailed grouse, mallard ducks, and other grassland bird species.



Photo by Dan Kennedy, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Project Location

The Michigan Pheasant and Monarch Recovery SAFE project location is in the following 46 counties: Allegan, Arenac, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Chippewa, Clare, Clinton, Delta, Dickinson, Eaton, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Mackinac, Mecosta, Menominee, Midland, Monroe, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Tuscola, Van Buren, and Washtenaw.

Eligible CRP Practices

This SAFE project uses the following CRP practices:

- ◆ CP38A Buffers-21 Filter Strips, CP22 Riparian Buffers, and CP33 Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds, and CP43 Prairie Strips
- ◆ CP38B Wetlands-23 Floodplain and CP23A Non-Floodplain
- ◆ CP38E Grass-2 Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses, CP4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat, CP12 Wildlife Food Plots, Rare and Declining Habitat, and CP42 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.



Photo by Mike Parker, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Michigan Pheasant and Monarch Recovery SAFE Project Map



Legend

-  FSA County Boundary
-  Michigan Pheasant and Monarch Recovery SAFE Project Area