



Continuous CRP

January 2015

CP-38E SAFE Habitat for Greater Prairie Chickens in Tallgrass Prairie

This Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice is available in the tallgrass prairie ecoregion of Nebraska where greater prairie chicken range currently exists, and in counties with high potential for range expansion with the addition of suitable CRP habitat.

Tallgrass prairie is one of the most threatened ecosystems in North America. Over 98% of eastern Nebraska's tallgrass prairie has been lost. The remaining tracts are small in size and are threatened by further fragmentation, overgrazing, herbicide spraying, and exotic plant, shrub and tree invasion.

Prairie grouse are iconic species of the plains, and a popular game bird. Although initially opportunistic with the introduction of agriculture, increasing scarcity of large intact tracts of land in the eastern portion of their range with suitable lekking, nesting, and brooding cover has resulted in population declines.

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) enrollments for prairie chickens accept tracts of land from 40 to 160 acres to reincorporate large blocks of quality nesting and brooding cover on the landscape. Additional wildlife benefits can be achieved by incorporating multiple plantings (eg. nesting cover, brood-rearing cover, winter cover) to better meet year round life-cycle needs. Customized seeding designs and an interspersed cover types will diversify habitat benefits for prairie chickens, other upland game birds, and a host of grassland nesting songbirds.



Greater prairie chickens require large areas of prairie for lekking and nesting cover.



Every spring, male greater prairie chickens perform display rituals and compete to breed with females.



Fields with heavy litter accumulation or an invasion of brush should be burned on a three-five year interval rotation.

INTERESTING FACT

Groups of males will assemble in early spring on communal mating grounds called "leks."



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Greater prairie chickens require large areas of prairie or suitable grasslands for nesting, brood rearing and roosting cover.

Purpose

- Benefit greater prairie chicken and other rare or declining wildlife species.
- Improve or create high quality grassland habitat.

Eligibility

- Acres must be cropland or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during four of six crop years. Years are determined by the Farm Bill.
- Eligible acres may be signed up on a continuous basis and do not have to wait for a sign up period as long as acres are available.
- Does not have to be Highly Erodible Land (HEL) to be eligible.
- Minimum size requirements for CP38 is 40 acres with a maximum of 160 acres.
- Contracts may have a duration of 10 to 15 years.
- Planting of food plots is allowed without cost assistance.

Rental Rate

- Annual payment based on the county soil rental rate established for the three predominate soils.

Incentives

- One time sign up bonus payment (SIP) of \$100 per acre.
- Reimbursement payment of approximately 50% of costs for establishment and management practices.
- One time practice incentive payment (PIP) of approximately 40% for establishment costs once all the practices are completed and initial 50% reimbursement payment is made. Both of these payments together make up about 90% of the cost of establishment.

Management

- Mid-Contract Management (MCM) is required at least once during the length of the contract.
- If CP38 is planted into existing grass cover, an initial MCM activity will be required to establish the planting.
- Haying and grazing are allowed on CP38 acres.



Fields signed up under the Tallgrass Prairie SAFE program through CRP are eligible for haying and grazing according to CRP guidelines.



All areas shown in orange on the map are eligible for SAFE Tallgrass Prairie Continuous CRP sign-up. Up to 28,850 acres may be enrolled in Continuous CRP for this project within eligible counties.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Through a partnership with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, wildlife biologists are available to help provide wildlife habitat guidance, technical assistance on the available conservation programs and design seeding mixtures. For further information visit NebraskaPF.com or call 844-733-3669.



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