

HABITAT MANAGEMENT (CSP Enhancements) 2006

FEBRUARY

Enhancement Activity Job Sheet

AL-CSP-EHM-JS


Enhancement Activities

Enhancements activities refer to actions that provide resource benefits beyond the level prescribed by NRCS Conservation Practice Standards. Once implemented Enhancement Activities should result in an observable or measurable improvement to the condition of one or more of the soil, water, air, plant or animal resources, or provide for more efficient resource utilization and/or energy conservation.

Enhancement Activity Benefits

Enhancement activities associated with Habitat Management can result in the following benefits to the producer and the environment:

- Increased hunting opportunities
- Increased population of beneficial animals
- Increased wildlife viewing opportunities

CSP Payments

You can earn payments by improving the quality of the wildlife habitat on your farm through a number of enhancement activities including:

- Managing fallow crop fields, field edges (30 ft. min. width), or odd corners (1 ac min.) for

native vegetation by rotational disking on a 3 year rotation

- Leaving 2 to 4 acres per 40 acres of grain crops per field unharvested for wildlife food
- Drilling clover or other legumes into existing grass stands to provide winter food source
- Utilizing a high residue management system (>75% cover and cover crop with cotton and soybeans) for crop production
- Utilizing annual winter flooding of grain fields with berms or dikes
- Manage filter strips, buffer strips, grassed waterways, or field borders by converting to native warm season grasses or adding a 30 ft. strip of native grasses

NRCS will help you assess the habitat needs on your property and must approve the design of the selected practices prior to payment.

CSP Enhancements earnings are subject to payment caps. Your actual payment will depend on your CSP Tier level and the number of acres enrolled.



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Client's Acknowledgement Statement:

I have elected to use the following Habitat Management activities and understand the requirements of the selected activities (Check all that apply):

- Rotational disking fallow fields or field edges
- Leaving 2 to 4 acres per 40 acres of grain crops per field unharvested
- Drilling legumes into existing grass stands
- Utilizing a high residue (>75% cover) management system in cropland
- Utilizing annual winter flooding of grain fields
- Enhancing filter/buffer strips, grassed waterways, or field borders by converting to native warm season grasses or by adding a 30 foot strip of native grasses

I agree that the following information will be provided to NRCS before this enhancement activity can be certified as applied:

- Written documentation of the wildlife habitat improvements installed (use attached worksheets or equivalent).
- Copies of dated receipts for material or services purchased.

I understand that CSP Enhancements earnings are subject to payment caps and that my actual payments will depend on my CSP Tier level and the number of acres enrolled.

I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of these activities.

Accepted by: /s/ _____ Date: _____

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

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Certification by NRCS:

I have completed a review of the information provided by the client and certify this activity has been applied.

Activity	Name and Title	Date:



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Name: _____

Worksheet 1 – Rotational disking fallow fields or field edges EHM17

Payment = \$50.00/acre/year/Ag Op for fallow fields/edges/odd corners disked on 3 yr rotation. Manage fallow crop fields, field edges (30 ft. min. width), or odd corners (1 ac min.) for native vegetation by rotational disking on a 3 year rotation to improve food source and habitat. Limitations are 20 acres or 20% per field and 100 acres per farm maximum. Light disking (a single pass) leaves high residue with minimal disturbance to native grass roots. At the same time it provides enough disturbance to encourage annual forbs, grasses, and legumes. These are essential because they provide an abundance of insects, which are the primary food source for young bobwhite quail. One-third of the area should be done each year, which will provide brood rearing habitat for quail in close proximity to older stands of native grasses that serve as nesting areas. Follow Conservation Practice Standard 643, Early Successional Habitat Management. Use the following (or a similar) table to document where this practice is to be done.

Management Units	Area to be managed with light rotational disking	System Acres	Year
1, 2, 3 <i>Example</i>	20 acres of field 2 and 50 foot edge around fields 1 and 3	35	2005

Rotational Disking Fallow Fields or Field Edges Certification

I certify that I have used rotational disking of fallow fields and field edges on the fields listed in the table above.

Name: _____ Date: _____



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Name: _____

Worksheet 3 – Drilling legumes into existing grass stands EHM16

Payment = \$20.00/acre/year/Ag Operation for drilling legumes into grass stands.

Drill clover or other legumes into existing grass stands to provide a winter food source for wildlife. Winter food sources are critical for all wildlife species. Planting legumes provides a high protein food source for many species including deer, rabbit, and wild turkey. It also attracts insects utilized by wild turkeys and other species during spring. Follow Conservation Practice Standard 512, Pasture and Hayland Planting and 645, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.

Use this or similar table to document where this practice is to be done.

Management Units	Type of legume to be drilled	System Acres	Year
1,4,7 <i>Example</i>	Arrowleaf clover in fields 1 and 7, Crimson clover in field 4	127	2005

Drilled Legumes Certification

I certify that I have drilled legumes on the fields listed in the table above.

Name: _____ Date: _____



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Name: _____

Worksheet 4 – Utilizing a high residue (>75% cover) management system in cropland EHM14

Payment = \$5.00/acre/year/Ag Operation for using high residue management system

Utilize high residue management system (>75% cover and cover crop with cotton and soybeans) for crop production to provide additional food source. High residue amounts left in crop fields increases insect production and availability to many species of wildlife. Bobwhite quail, wild turkeys and many species of songbirds rely on insects as a major food source, particularly in the spring. Follow Residue Management 329, 344 and 340 standards.

Use this or similar table to document where this practice is to be done.

Management Units	Type of crop with high residue	System Acres	Year
1,4,7 <i>Example</i>	Cotton/soybean rotation with cover crop	482	2005

High Residue Management System Certification

I certify that I have used a high residue management system on the fields listed in the table above.

Name: _____ Date: _____



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Name: _____

**Worksheet 6 – Enhance odd areas of fields with native warm season grass plantings
EHM13**

**Payment = \$75.00/acre/year/Ag Operation for enhancement of fields with native grass plantings.
Payment is for only for the acres of native warm season grasses.**

Manage filter strips, buffer strips, grassed waterways, or field borders by converting to native warm season grasses or adding a 30 ft. strip to provide habitat. Many songbirds and early successional species require native grassland habitats, but these habitats have been steadily shrinking within Alabama. All introduced grasses, such as tall fescue, Bermuda, and bahia, will need to be sprayed with an herbicide before planting native grasses. To maintain these grasses, these areas should be periodically burned or spot sprayed with herbicides to take out encroaching shrubs and trees. Follow Conservation Practice Standard 645, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.

Use this or similar table to document where this practice is to be done.

Management Units	Type of area to be planted with NWSG	System Acres	Year
1,2,3,4 <i>Example</i>	All grassed waterways and field borders in all four fields.	17	2005

Native Warm Season Grass Planting Certification

I certify that I have planted warm season grasses on areas in the fields listed in the table above.

Name: _____ Date: _____