

Iowa Pheasant Recovery SAFE CP38E (CP-4D)

CRP: Wildlife Plan

Iowa Job Sheet

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Des Moines, Iowa

Iowa Conservation Practice 645
April 2017

Description

Iowa's Pheasant Recovery is a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative designed to restore pheasant habitat in Iowa's core pheasant range. All enrolled contracts will provide a habitat block of nesting cover, winter cover and a winter grain food plot.

Conservation planners should refer to 2-CRP, Iowa Amendments, Exhibit 11 for specifics.

This document will serve as the wildlife plan.



Photo courtesy of Roger Hill

Practice Requirements

- » Habitat blocks/offers must be a minimum of 20 acres and cannot exceed 160 acres.
- » Land will be considered a "habitat block" even if it is separated by a fence, water body, natural waterway, gravel road or 2-lane road. Maximum separation distance is an average width of 100 feet.
- » If habitat blocks are separated by 100 ft. or more, then each block will need all 3 components (winter cover, nesting cover and food plot).
- » Winter cover must be established on 25% of the offer not to exceed 20 acres.
- » An annually planted winter grain food plot (CP-12) must comprise 10% of the offer, not to exceed 5 acres.
- » Remaining acres of the offer must be established to nesting cover.
- » Refer to Conservation Plan Map for locations of habitat types.
- » In cases of re-enrolled CRP and enrolled hay land, eradicate perennial plant communities in Year 1, prior to planting winter and nesting cover areas. Two herbicide applications are required, one of which must be in the fall.
- » Pheasant Recovery non-food plot acres will be planned as CRP practice CP38E (CP-4D), permanent wildlife habitat.

- » Wildlife food plot acres will be planned as CRP practice CP38E (CP-12).
- » Managed harvesting for hay and biomass and routine grazing is only eligible on the nesting cover habitat.
- » Seeding plans are attached.

Winter Cover

- » Develop winter cover on 25% of the offer, not to exceed 20 acres. Winter cover consists of monoculture switchgrass and may include woody cover of shrubs and/or conifers. Woody cover plantings, if included, cannot exceed 2 acres.
- » Plant winter cover in a continuous block to maximize winter survival.
- » Switchgrass must be planted at a minimum of 4 lbs./acre. Refer to NRCS practice standard 327, Conservation Cover.
- » If woody cover is planted, it will count towards the 25% winter cover component.
- » When including woody cover, a combination of shrubs and conifers is preferred although it is acceptable to include one and not both types.

- » Woody cover plantings are encouraged, to help pheasant survival in harsh winters by providing stiff upright vegetation while protecting adjacent grassland and food plots from prevailing winds (North and West).
- » Orient woody cover habitat in linear fashion at a minimum of 4 rows, not to exceed 2 acres.
- » Ideal plantings consist of 4 rows of shrubs on the prevailing wind side, followed by 4 rows of conifers.
- » Plant native Iowa shrubs that provide high food value. Refer to approved list in Table A.
- » When possible, position shrub plantings next to a food source and in locations with a south facing aspect.
- » Refer to Conservation Practice Standard 612, Tree and Shrub establishment when developing shrub/conifer planting plans.
- » Mixtures of shrub species are desirable over monocultures.



Photo Courtesy Iowa DNR

Conservation Cover when planning nesting cover.

Nesting Cover

- » Establish nesting cover utilizing one of the following options:
 - * Native grass, forbs and legumes planted as a mix of a minimum of 4 species. Both grass and forbs must be included in the mix.
 - * Diverse native grasses, forbs and legumes planted as a mix of at least 5 grasses and 10 forbs.
 - * Introduced grasses, forbs or legumes planted as a mix of a minimum of 4 species. Forbs or legumes must be included in the mix with grass. Introduced species cannot compromise more than 50% of the nesting cover acres. The remaining acres must be one of the previous options.
- » Diverse native seedlings are recommended (minimum 5 grasses 10 forb/legume) to attract insects that will be used as a food source for brood rearing.
- » Short Native grasses are encouraged to be included in the mix.
- » Consider including milkweed (*Asclepias* species) in the seeding to benefit Monarch butterflies.
- » Firebreak establishment is allowed in the nesting cover. Apply Conservation Practice Standard 394, Firebreak.
- » Refer to Conservation practice Standard 327,

Wildlife Food Plot (CP-12)

- » Annual Winter Grain food plots are required on 10% of the offer, not to exceed 5 acres.
- » Refer to the Iowa NRCS job sheet “Food Plots for Wildlife” for guidance.
- » Grain food plots should be planted adjacent to winter cover.
- » Locate food plots on south facing slopes when possible.
- » Refer to Table B for a list of acceptable food plot species.
- » Green browse food plots are not allowed.
- » Consider geographic location when selecting food plot grains. Due to differing climatic conditions, food plot grains with stiff stems are preferred in northern Iowa. Species recommended north of Interstate 80 are notated by * in Table B.
- » It is recommended to use a combination of several grains to maximize food plot benefits.

Mid Contract Management (MCM)

- » MCM on nesting and winter habitat acres will follow guidance for CP38E Establishment of Permanent Wildlife Habitat Non-Easement, per Iowa CRP Mid Contract Management Job Sheet.
- » MCM will not occur on CP12 food plot.
- » When managing a diverse native plant community as the nesting cover, it is recommended to avoid spraying herbicide when applying MCM. Prescribed burning or disking is preferred.

Table A. Shrubs and Conifers

Native Shrubs that Provide High Wildlife Food Value
American hazelnut (<i>Corylus americana</i>)
American plum (<i>Prunus americana</i>)
Arrowwood (<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>)
Chokecherry (<i>Prunus virginiana</i>)
Elderberry (<i>Sambucus</i> spp.)
Gray dogwood (<i>Cornus racemosa</i>)
Redosier dogwood (<i>Cornus sericea</i>)
Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier</i> spp.)
False indigo bush (<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>)
Conifers that Provide Dense Cover
Concolor Fir (<i>Abies concolor</i>)
Norway Spruce (<i>Picea abies</i>)
White/Black Hills Spruce (<i>Picea glauca</i>)
Eastern White Pine (<i>Pinus strobus</i>)
Eastern Red Cedar (<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>)

Table B. Approved Food Plot Species

Species	Amount Seeded/Acre
Oats	50 lbs./acre
Spring Wheat	50 lbs./acre
Pearl Millet	20 lbs./acre
Buckwheat	40 lbs./acre
Commercial Sunflower*	8 lbs./acre
Corn*	12 lbs./acre
Grain Sorghum*	8 lbs./acre
Soybean	40 lbs./acre

* *Species recommended North of Interstate 80.*

**Spring Food Plot Seeding Dates:
April 15 – May 14**

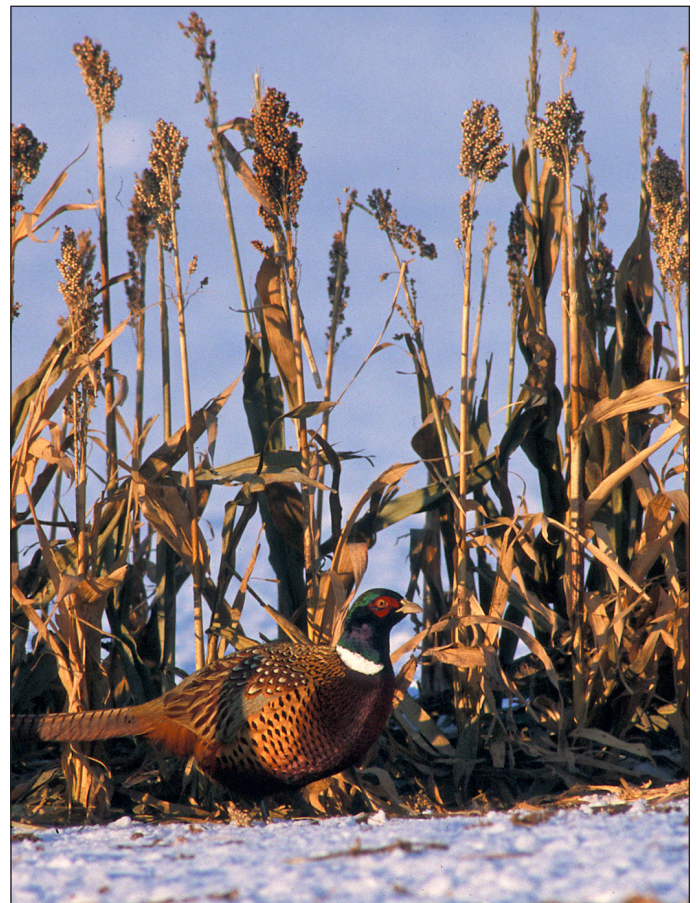
Certification of Wildlife Plan Completion:

Signature of Producer

Date

Fields

Acres or Number



Example Pheasant Recovery SAFE (CP38)

Prevailing NW
Winter Storms



1) 160 Acre example with shrubs

160 Ac Offer

Winter Cover

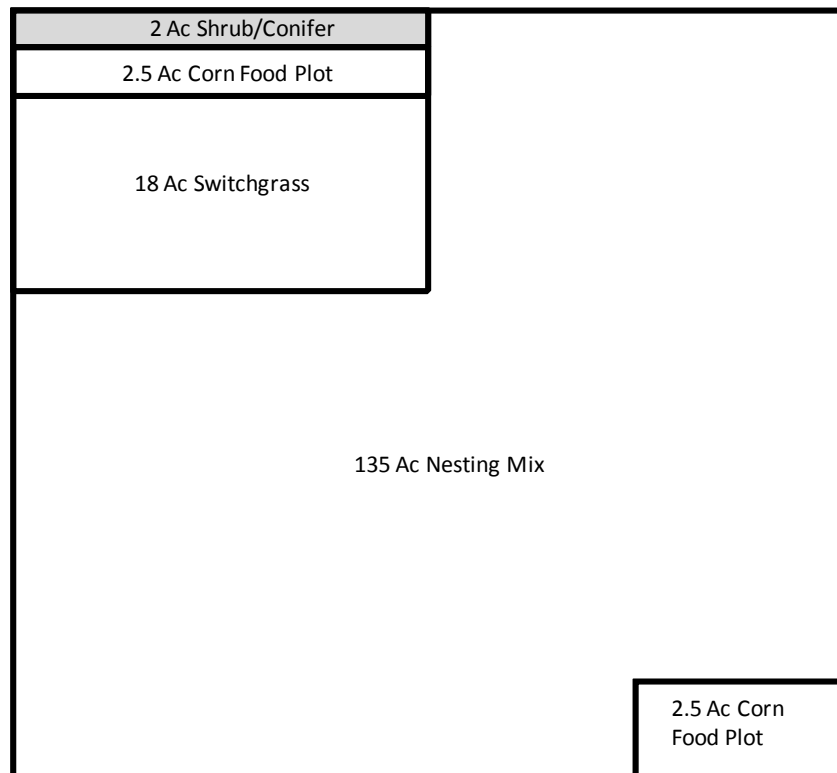
- 25% of offer NTE 20 Ac
- 8 row shrub planting part of winter cover NTE 2 acres

Food Plot

- 10% of offer NTE 5 Ac
- Adjacent to winter cover
- Multiple food plots allowed
- Can be used as firebreak for future MCM

Nesting Cover

- Choose one of the mixes



2) 20 Acre example with existing CRP waterway and no shrubs.

20 Ac Offer

Winter Cover

- 25% of offer NTE 20 Ac

Food Plot

- 10% of offer NTE 5 Ac
- Adjacent to winter cover

Nesting Cover

- Choose one of the mixes

Existing CRP

- Grassed waterway divides offer, but less than 100ft wide
- Stacking CRP practices allowed
- CRP practices address different resource concerns

