CRP Information and Updates

March 8, 2023

Matt Allen-NRCS Resource Conservationist—CRP Manager
Agenda

CRP Updates
• Program Overview
• Program Acres
• CCRP SU59—SAFE Project Updates
• CRP Certification Review

Conservation Cover Practice Standard
• Practice Standard Update
• Seeding Calculator Update
• Seeding Plan Supplement Review

Questions
CRP Updates
CRP Updates

• **National Cap**
  • 27 million acres (FY23)

• **Current Enrollment**
  • 23 million acres

• **Administration’s Goals**
  • Climate Smart Ag
CRP Updates

General CRP
• General CRP Signup—February 27th – April 7th

Continuous CRP (SU59)
• SAFE from General to Continuous
• HELI to Continuous

• CLEAR30 – now nationwide
  • 30 year contracts
National CRP Numbers

Current Active Contracts

General 8,450,571 ac.
Continuous (non-CREP) 7,182,618 ac.
Farmable Wetland 349,667 ac.
CREP 695,807 ac.
Grasslands 6,363,962 ac.
Total 23,042,625 ac.

Number of Contracts 544,276

FSA CRP Monthly Summary
January 2023
Iowa CRP Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Active Contracts</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>Iowa</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>8,450,571 ac.</td>
<td>351,552 ac.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Continuous (non-CREP)</td>
<td>7,182,618 ac.</td>
<td>1,236,691 ac.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farmable Wetland</td>
<td>349,667 ac.</td>
<td>93,264 ac.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREP</td>
<td>695,807 ac.</td>
<td>3,302 ac.</td>
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<td>Grasslands</td>
<td>6,363,962 ac.</td>
<td>3,779 ac.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>23,042,625 ac.</td>
<td>1,688,588 ac.</td>
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Number of Contracts: 544,276
103,938 (19%)
Avg. 16.5 ac./contract

Note—SAFE Enrollment is 472,188 ac or 28% of all CRP in IA
Iowa CRP Expirations

Expiring Acres

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Acres</th>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>119,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>112,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>155,000</td>
</tr>
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<td>2026</td>
<td>275,000</td>
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<td>2027</td>
<td>304,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2028</td>
<td>34,000</td>
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Continuous SU59—SAFE Updates

• CCRP SU59 Started Oct. 1, 2022

• SAFE moved to Continuous
  • Partners were required to submit a modification if they wanted SAFE projects.

• Beginning with SU59 all SAFE projects are CP38E-4D, CP38E-12 or CP38C-3A
  • Exception: Early Successional/ Neotropical Birds Habitat offers tree practices CP38E-4D & CP38C-3A

• Food Plots (CP38E-12)—shall not exceed 10% of the offer –NTE 5 ac. per plot (on applicable SAFE projects)
### Continuous SU59—SAFE Updates

#### Grand River Grassland CRP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAFE Practice</th>
<th>Practice Type</th>
<th>Corresponding Practices</th>
<th>Pages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CP38E</td>
<td>Permanent Wildlife Habitat - Noneasement</td>
<td>CP4D</td>
<td>2-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP38E</td>
<td>Wildlife Food Plot</td>
<td>CP12</td>
<td>9-12</td>
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#### Habitat for Early Successional and Neotropical Migratory Birds

<table>
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<th>SAFE Practice</th>
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<th>Corresponding Practices</th>
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<td>CP38C</td>
<td>Hardwood Tree Planting</td>
<td>CP3A</td>
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<td>CP38E</td>
<td>Permanent Wildlife Habitat - Noneasement</td>
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<td>18-22</td>
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#### Gaining Ground for Wildlife

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Practice Type</th>
<th>Corresponding Practices</th>
<th>Pages</th>
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<td>CP38E</td>
<td>Permanent Wildlife Habitat - Noneasement</td>
<td>CP4D</td>
<td>23-27</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP38E</td>
<td>Wildlife Food Plot</td>
<td>CP12</td>
<td>28-31</td>
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#### Iowa Pheasant Recovery

<table>
<thead>
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<th>SAFE Practice</th>
<th>Practice Type</th>
<th>Corresponding Practices</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>Permanent Wildlife Habitat - Noneasement</td>
<td>CP4D</td>
<td>32-37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP38E</td>
<td>Wildlife Food Plot</td>
<td>CP12</td>
<td>38-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP38E</td>
<td>Example SAFE Pheasant Recovery</td>
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</table>

#### Early Successional Quail Habitat

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<th>Practice Type</th>
<th>Corresponding Practices</th>
<th>Pages</th>
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<td>CP38E</td>
<td>Permanent Wildlife Habitat - Noneasement</td>
<td>CP4D</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP38E</td>
<td>Wildlife Food Plot</td>
<td>CP12</td>
<td>48-50</td>
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<table>
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<th>Having and Grazing under SAFE</th>
<th>Early Successional/Neotropical</th>
<th>Gaining Ground</th>
<th>Pheasant Recovery**</th>
<th>Early Successional Quail Habitat</th>
<th>Grand River Grassland</th>
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<td>Non-Emergency Haying</td>
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<td>eligible</td>
<td>eligible</td>
<td>ineligible</td>
<td>ineligible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Emergency Grazing</td>
<td>ineligible</td>
<td>eligible</td>
<td>eligible</td>
<td>ineligible</td>
<td>eligible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Iowa Pheasant Recovery is eligible for Non-Emergency Haying and Grazing. However, the established 25% winter cover is NOT eligible for any haying and grazing. See page 35 of this Exhibit for more.

**Emergency Haying and Grazing is not authorized for SAFE in Iowa for all Sign Up numbers.
Continuous SU59—SAFE Updates

Gaining Ground for Wildlife CP38E-4D
CRP: Wildlife Plan
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Implementation
Requirements
Iowa Conservation Practice 645
October 2022

Description
Gaining Ground for Wildlife is a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative. Gaining Ground SAFE is designed to establish at least two blocks of native grass mixes differing in height (e.g., tall & short) and diversity. This practice is to be established on eligible cropland within 3 miles of existing protected habitats and will benefit a suite of wetland and grassland songbirds with different habitat requirements.

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

This document will serve as the wildlife plan.

Practice Requirements
- All Gaining Ground for Wildlife contracts will be CP38E-4D (Permanent Wildlife Habitat-Noneasement).
- Habitat blocks/offers must be a minimum of 10 acres if not adjacent to an existing (public or private) wildlife habitat.
Contiguous SU59—SAFE Updates

Gaining Ground--CP38E4D & CP38E-12

Contracts with 40 acres or more it is recommended to provide four native cover types, 25% of the offered acres for each cover type

Eligible Cover Types (Combination of any two is required)

- **Tallgrass with low forbs** (5 species), (e.g., CP2, 30:10 mix)
- **Tallgrass with high forbs** (>10 species), (e.g., CP25 & CP42 20:20 mix)
- **Shortgrass with low forbs** (5 species), (e.g., CP2, 30:10 mix)
- **Shortgrass with high forbs** (>10 species), (e.g., CP25 & CP42 20:20 mix)
- **Shortgrass with high forbs** (>10 species), (e.g., CP42 10:30 mix)

***Single mix/cover type across all contracted acres is NOT ALLOWED.***

***10% Seeding Tolerance- Max Acre split can be 60/40***
CRP Certification

• 2020 change – NRCS started certifying all practices
• Need documentation to show practices installed to practice standard
• Clients need to turn in:
  • Signed seeding plan
  • Seed tags
• Seed mixes
  • Species
  • PLS (germination and purity)
  • Seeding Calculator
Conservation Cover
Conservation Cover Practice Standard Update

- **National Review**
  - Has yet to come from national

- **State Review**
  - In a holding pattern

- **Support Documents**
  - Guidance Documents
  - Implementation Requirements
  - Statement of Work
  - Others as needed
Highlights of Changes (email 9/9/2022)

- Changes to moisture regime, habitat, and region.
- Common names now match the Iowa Crop Improvement Association – see CommonNameUpdates tab.
- Updated Coefficient of Conservatism numbers.
- Increased forb calculator to 90 rows.
- Updated monarch species.
- Added 7 new species: Baldwin’s Ironweed/Vernonia baldwinii, Dwarf Larkspur/Delphinium tricorne, Jerusalem Artichoke/Helianthus tuberosus, Oval-leaf milkweed/Asclepias ovalifolia, Stiff Sunflower/Helianthus pauciflorus, Tall ironweed/Vernonia gigantea (forbs), and Northern dewberry/Rubus flagellaris (woody).
- Added moisture regime to the seeding plan.
- Added Client Signature to the Seeding Plan Supplement.

*New—button that imports previous seed mixes
Seeding Plan Supplement

Iowa NRCS
Supplement to Seeding Plan (IA-CPA-4)
Conservation Cover (327) Native Plant Seeding

Name: ___________________________ County: ___________________________
Field Numbers: ___________________ Acres: ___________________ Tract: ___________________

The client is responsible to ensure the seeding mix meets the conservation practice standard and
conservation program requirements (if applicable). If the seeding mix is changed in any way, the client is
responsible to ensure the updated seeding mix is approved by an NRCS Planner. Seeding mixes can be
emailed to the conservation planner listed below. Clients are encouraged to work with their seed dealer to use
the Iowa Native Seeding Calculator to make the approval process more efficient. The Iowa Native
Seeding Calculator can be found at https://tinyurl.com/NRCS-Native-Seeding-Calculator. Seeding a mixture that is not
approved and does not meet conservation and/or program requirements could be denied financial assistance
(cost share) and may result in a conservation program violation.

By signing, you are acknowledging:
- I received a seeding plan from NRCS;
- I understand if changes are made to the plan are made, the changes need to be approved by an NRCS planner
  prior to purchase;
- Updated seeding mixes can be sent by you or your seed dealer to the NRCS planner below;
- If an unapproved seeding mix is planted, eligible cost share assistance may be denied.

Client Signature: ______________________ Date: ______________________

Conservation Program (if applicable): ______________________
Contract # (if applicable): ______________________

CRP Practice (if applicable): ______________________

Seeding Purpose(s): ______________________

Moisture Regime: ______________________
*As defined by Iowa Agronomy Technical Note #28

Nurse Crop Required: ______________________

Full Seeding or Interseeding: ______________________

Seeding Rate (seeds/sq. ft.): ______________________
Grass to Forb Ratio (seeds/sq. ft.): ______________________

Minimum Number of Forb Species: ______________________
Non-Native Forb Species Allowed: ______________________

Minimum Number of Grass Species: ______________________
Preferred Growth Form: ______________________

Planned Seeding Date: ______________________
Spring: April 1 - July 1
Dormant: November 15 - March 31
Frost*: February 1 - March 31
*Covered or smooth seed required for frost seeding.

Requirements for all seedings:
- Minimum full seeding rate for native plants is 40 seeds/sq. ft.
- Minimum of 10 seeds/sq. ft. of the mixture must be grass.
- Maximum of 4 switchgrass and ft Canada wildrye seeds/sq. ft. unless otherwise specified.
- When allowed, mixtures may include up to 20% introduced forbs, for which no one species will
  comprise more than 10% of the total mix.
- Introduced forbs are not recommended for prairie restoration efforts.
- Maximum of 20% of the forb component may be annual/biennial forbs.

Select Additional Requirements (if applicable):

Prairie Strip
Requirements for Prairie Strips:
- Must have 20 seeding ft. of grass and 20 seeding ft. of forbs.
- Native forbs and grass species only (no introduced species allowed).
- A minimum of 1 forb species will be included for each blooming period (Spring, Summer, Fall).

Monarch Habitat
Requirements for Monarch Habitat:
- Follow the pollinator seeding requirements.
- A minimum of 1.5% of the mix shall be milkweed species.
- 50% of the forbs shall be high value forbs (including priority milkweed species).
- Introduced forbs are not allowed.
- A minimum of 1 seedling ft. for big bluestem and switchgrass.
- A minimum of 1.3 seedings/sq. ft. for indiangrass.

Additional Seeding Plan Information:

Conservation Planner: ______________________ Date: 2/16/2023
Seeding Plan Supplement

The client is responsible to ensure the seeding mix meets the conservation practice standard and conservation program requirements (if applicable). If the seeding mix is changed in any way, the client is responsible to ensure the updated seeding mix is approved by an NRCS Planner. Seeding mixes can be emailed to the conservation planner listed below. Clients are encouraged to work with their seed dealer to use the Iowa Native Seeding Calculator to make the approval process more efficient. The Iowa Native Seeding Calculator can be found at https://bit.ly/IANRCSNativeSeedingCalculator. **Seeding a mixture that is not approved and does not meet conservation and/or program requirements could be denied financial assistance (cost share) and may result in a conservation program violation.**

*By signing, you are acknowledging:*  
  a. I received a seeding plan from NRCS.  
  b. I understand if changes to the plan are made, the changes need to be approved by an NRCS planner prior to purchase.  
  c. Updated seeding mixes can be sent by you or your seed dealer to the NRCS planner below.  
  d. If an unapproved seeding mix is planted, eligible cost share assistance may be denied.

__________________________  
Client Signature  

__________________________  
Date
# Seeding Calculator Check Sheet

## Iowa NRCS 327 Conservation Cover
### Criteria for Grass Forb Mixes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Mix or Component</th>
<th>Criteria Met</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Sites</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass Seeds/ft², Range</td>
<td>10 to 30</td>
<td>30.000</td>
<td>Meets Criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forb &amp; Sub-shrub Seeds/ft², Range</td>
<td>30 to 10</td>
<td>10.000</td>
<td>Meets Criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Seeds/ft², Minimum</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40.000</td>
<td>Meets Criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Annual and Biennial Forbs, (of Forb Component)</td>
<td>0-20%</td>
<td>20.000%</td>
<td>Meets Criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Introduced Forbs Seeds/ft², (of Total Mix)</td>
<td>0-20%</td>
<td>0.000%</td>
<td>Meets Criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-%Alfalfa Seeds/ft², (single species)</td>
<td>0-10%</td>
<td>0.000%</td>
<td>Meets Criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-%Alsike Seeds/ft², (single species)</td>
<td>0-10%</td>
<td>0.000%</td>
<td>Meets Criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-%Kura Clover Seeds/ft², (single species)</td>
<td>0-10%</td>
<td>0.000%</td>
<td>Meets Criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-%Red Clover Seeds/ft², (single species)</td>
<td>0-10%</td>
<td>0.000%</td>
<td>Meets Criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-%White Clover Seeds/ft², (single species)</td>
<td>0-10%</td>
<td>0.000%</td>
<td>Meets Criteria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Long-term Plantings (>15 years) or plantings within 1-mile of remnants must be seeded with local ecotype or source identified seed. As defined by Iowa Agronomy Technical Note #28.*

## Additional Requirements for seeding sites on >5% slope

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Mix or Component</th>
<th>Criteria Met</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grass Seeds/ft²</td>
<td>&gt; 20</td>
<td>30.000</td>
<td>Meets Criteria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Additional Requirements for Wildlife Plantings

- Instructions
- Supplement to Seed Plan
- Calculator
- Seeding Plan
- [327ConservationCoverCheckSheet](#)
Seeding Plan Supplement

• What’s working?

• What could be improved?

• Are there any upcoming concerns to be aware of?
Questions
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(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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