



INFORMATION BULLETIN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

September 2017

Migratory Birds, Butterflies and Pollinators CRP State Acres for Wildlife (SAFE)

Overview

The Migratory Birds, Butterflies and Pollinators Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) State Acres for Wildlife (SAFE) project is designed to provide private land owners a market-based financial incentive for restoring playa wetlands.

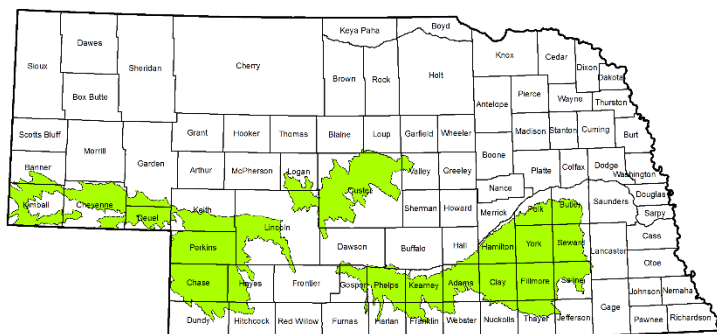
Playa wetlands are shallow depressions that often fill with water after spring rainstorms or fill from underlying aquifers. There are three playa areas of Nebraska included in this CRP SAFE: Southwest Playas, Central Table Playas, and Rainwater Basin.

There are 42 Nebraska counties with land included in the project area: Adams, Banner, Blaine, Buffalo, Butler, Chase, Cheyenne, Clay, Custer, Dawson, Deuel, Dundy, Fillmore, Franklin, Frontier, Furnas, Garden, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Jefferson, Kearney, Keith, Kimball, Lancaster, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, Morrill, Nuckolls, Perkins, Phelps, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, Valley, Webster and York.

The purpose of this CRP SAFE is to restore playas to their proper function, providing benefits that include improved water quality, water recharge for the Ogallala Aquifer and enhance habitat for migrating waterfowl, cranes and



Migratory Bird State Acres For wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Eligible Areas of Nebraska



Eligible Wetland Areas

High Playa Wetland Density HUCs



0 35 70 105 140 Miles

Produced by the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, Grand Island, NE

shorebirds, as well as resident wildlife, butterflies and other pollinators.

Up to 10,000 acres can be enrolled in this CRP SAFE project in Nebraska. Land owners can offer a contract for enrollment at any time as sign-up will be ongoing until that acre cap is reached.

Program Basics

This project uses a competitive bid process, whereby land owners submit an offer to enroll their playa acres for the amount they are willing to accept as an annual payment, up to a maximum of \$300 per acre. Contracts are for a period of 10-15 years.

The minimum enrollment per offer is two acres, and the

maximum enrollment per offer is 160 acres.

Contract offers can be submitted through FSA at any time, and those offers will be ranked at intervals in a competitive bid process based on the lowest rental rates offered.

Once a contract offer is accepted by FSA, land owners will work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) regarding the technical assistance necessary to restore the contract area.

Program Details

To be eligible, the playa hydrology must be restored to the full extent possible, as determined by NRCS.

Your local FSA Office will work with you to determine if

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you have acres that may qualify for this program.

In addition to annual rental payments, land owners can receive payments up to 90 percent of the cost of implementing the conservation practices. Of this, 50 percent is cost-share on the materials and activities associated with establishing the practice, while 40 percent is for Practice Incentive Payments.

Some requirements for land to be eligible include:

- Must have been planted four out of six years from 2008 through 2013;
- Is located entirely in project area;
- Is located outside a 100-year floodplain;
- Is a playa wetland.

Marginal pastureland is not eligible.

No wetland determination is required or needed.

For More Information

This information bulletin is provided for informational purposes only; other eligibility requirements or restrictions may apply. For more information on the Migratory Birds, Butterflies and Pollinators CRP SAFE, contact your local FSA office. To locate office information, go to <http://offices.usda.gov>.



Photo courtesy Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

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