



# IOWA HABITAT FOR EARLY SUCCESSIONAL & NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRDS

## STATE ACRES FOR WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT

***Do you miss the sound of Ruffed Grouse drumming in the spring? Consider restoring critically important early successional habitat by developing dense, young forest on your property to benefit woodland wildlife with this new program!***

### DESCRIPTION & BENEFITS

If you have cropland or an expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract, there is a new initiative available in Iowa. State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)<sup>i</sup> *Habitat for Early Successional and Neotropical Migratory Birds* is for Iowa landowners who want to develop early successional forest habitat for Ruffed Grouse, American Woodcock, and many other neotropical migratory birds.

The *Habitat for Early Successional and Neotropical Migratory Birds* initiative makes available a new CRP practice. It's specifically designed to develop high-density, hardwood tree plantings to provide early successional forest habitat, create corridors between larger blocks of forest, and minimize forest fragmentation.

Other forest wildlife species, including pollinators, will benefit too. Most of all, Iowa's natural resources will benefit from reduced erosion and improved water quality.



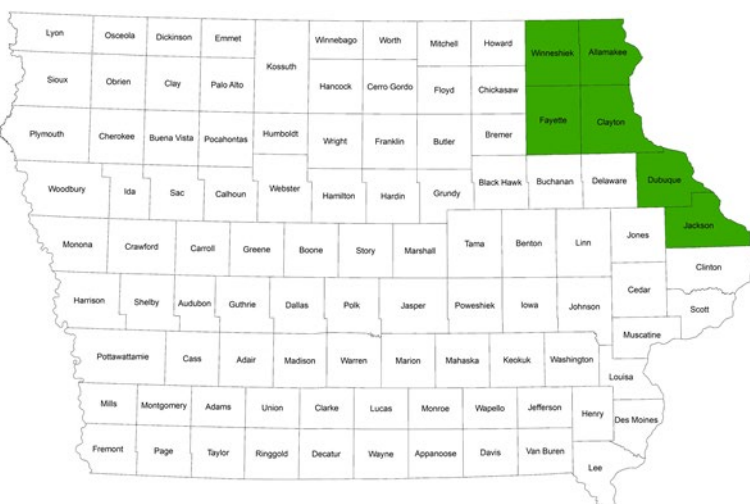
Eligible producers can sign up at their local [USDA Farm Service Agency](#).

### ELIGIBLE COUNTIES

All areas shown in green on the map are eligible for the *Habitat for Early Successional and Neotropical Migratory Bird* CRP sign-up.

Enrollment in the *Habitat for Early Successional and Neotropical Migratory Bird* CRP practice is limited to Winneshiek, Allamakee, Fayette, Clayton, Dubuque, and Jackson counties.

Landowners in non-shaded areas may be eligible for other SAFE<sup>1</sup> CRP practices.



## PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

Offers must be a minimum of 5 acres unless immediately adjacent to an existing woodland. Offers must be established to at least 90% trees and/or shrubs at a minimum of 1,000 trees/shrubs per acre. Plantings should consist of at least 5 hardwood species (predominately oak). Plantings may also include Aspen and Conifers if appropriate and upon approval. Native grass and forb plantings may be developed in areas adjacent to cropland.

## PURPOSE

- Increase populations of neotropical migratory bird's dependent upon early successional forest habitat
- Benefit threatened or endangered species, or those with a significant decline
- Improve, connect or create high quality forest habitat
- Provide habitat for beneficial pollinators
- Improve water quality and reduce erosion

## PAYMENTS

### Rental Rate

- Based on maximum soil rental rate established for the three predominant soils
- 10 to 15-year contract length

### Cost-share

- 50% cost-share to establish practice

## ELIGIBILITY

- Land that was cropped or considered cropped four out of the six years from 2012 to 2017.
- Eligible cropland includes row crops, small grains and forage crops grown in an acceptable rotation

## SEEDING SOURCES

The Iowa DNR recommends planting native Iowa trees and shrubs. These species are suitable for Iowa's weather and growing conditions. Plant materials can be purchased at local nurseries, including the Iowa State Forest Nursery.

## MORE INFORMATION

- [www.fsa.usda.gov/ia](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ia)
- [www.iowadnr.gov/crp](http://www.iowadnr.gov/crp)

## PARTNERS

Iowa Department of Natural Resources, USDA - Iowa Farm Service Agency, USDA - Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Pheasants Forever, Iowa Department of Agriculture - Division of Land Stewardship, Conservation Districts of Iowa and Iowa County Conservation Boards.



State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) is a nationwide Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice within the continuous sign-up. The SAFE initiative allows public and private organizations and state and federal agencies to propose areas where new CRP acreage is essential to benefit endangered, threatened or high priority fish and wildlife species. There are four other SAFE CRP projects in Iowa, visit the Iowa DNR's website for more information on other SAFE projects.