



IOWA PHEASANT RECOVERY

STATE ACRES FOR WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT

If you miss the crow of a rooster, the thrill of the hunt or the brilliant flash of color as a brace of birds' bursts into flight, a new program can help you restore the pheasant population in Iowa.

DESCRIPTION & BENEFITS

If you have cropland or an expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract, there is a new initiative to bring Iowa pheasants back. State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) - *Iowa Pheasant Recovery* is for Iowa landowners who want to return pheasants to their property.

The *Iowa Pheasant Recovery* initiative makes available a new CRP practice. It's designed to restore native grasslands and wetlands where they will be the most beneficial for ring-necked pheasants. It's specifically designed to increase populations of ring-necked pheasants where their preferred habitats have been eliminated.

Pheasant and other grassland birds are particularly vulnerable to harsh winters and wet springs. Restoring top quality winter and nesting/brood-rearing habitat will help pheasant populations recover and could boost annual harvest by 100,000 roosters.

Other grassland birds and species, especially 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](#).



Thick stands of warm season grasses or shrubs provide the cover pheasants need during snowy winters.

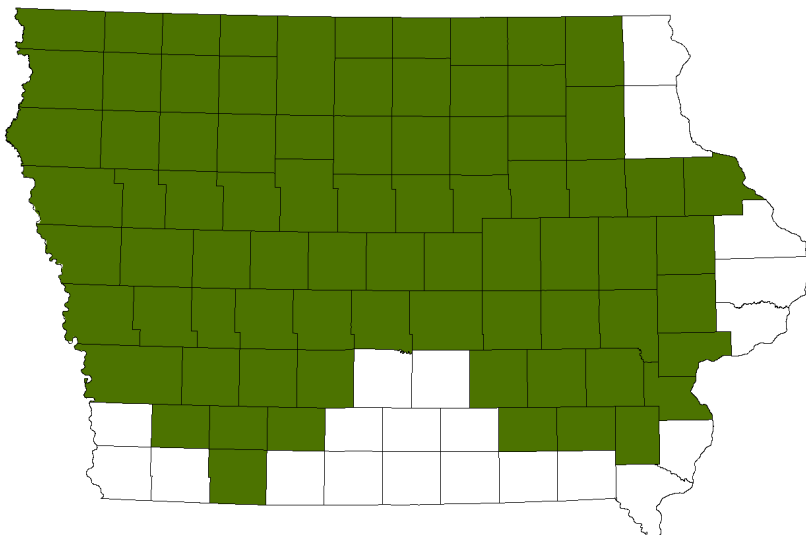
ELIGIBLE COUNTIES

The practice is available in counties that have the best potential to recover pheasant populations by providing additional habitat.

All areas shown in green on the map are eligible for Iowa Pheasant Recovery CRP sign-up.

The counties have the best odds of recovering pheasant numbers with additional top quality habitat.

Landowners in other counties may be eligible for other SAFE CRP contracts.



PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

Offers must be 20 to 160 acres. All enrolled offers will provide nesting cover, winter cover and a winter food plot. Nesting cover must be a block of mixed native grasses and wildflowers minimum of six species, more diversity is encouraged. Winter cover will be a block of switchgrass, minimum 25% of offer not to exceed 20 acres. Minimum winter food plot size is 2 acres with maximum size of 5 acres and plot(s) cannot exceed 10% of total contract acres. Preferred location is adjacent to winter cover as site feasibility allows. Shrub/shelterbelts are allowed but not required.

PURPOSE

- Increase populations of ring-necked pheasant and other grassland wildlife species
- Benefit threatened or endangered species, or those with a significant decline
- Improve, connect or create high quality grassland and wetland habitat
- Provide nesting, brood and winter cover
- 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 prairie seed types. These grasses and wildflowers are suitable for Iowa's weather and growing conditions. Plant materials can be purchased at local nurseries and seed dealers.

MORE INFORMATION

www.fsa.usda.gov/ia

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.

