Benefits of CRP SAFE for Wildlife

Native, healthy grasslands are important for many iconic Oklahoma species like northern bobwhite quail. Enrolling eligible cropland into CRP SAFE is a great way to enhance habitat for wildlife while receiving rental payments through the USDA’s Farm Bill program.

CRP SAFE Conservation Benefits:

- **Restores native grassland vegetation.**
- **Provides important year-round habitat for grassland-dependent wildlife.**
- **Increases food diversity for wildlife.**
- **Increases nesting habitat for birds.**
- **Provides nectar-producing wildflowers for butterflies and other pollinators.**
- **Increases biodiversity.**
- **Protects highly erodible soils.**
- **Improves water quality.**
- **Enhances soil productivity.**
- **Reduces downstream flood damage.**
- **Sequesters carbon.**
How CRP SAFE Works:

1) Landowners in eligible counties apply through their county USDA office.
2) USDA biologists visit the property and/or assist landowners through the enrollment process.
3) Landowners follow guidelines and receive CRP SAFE payments annually from the USDA.

General Landowner Requirements:

- Enrolled cropland is planted to native vegetation, including no less than 8 grasses and 10 forbs.
  - 50% forb mix when monarch butterfly is primary target (30% when monarch is secondary target).
- At least 1% of acreage will be planted to sand plums if these shrubs were present historically.
  - Plums will be planted on 3-5 foot spacings with a minimum patch size of 30 foot X 50 foot.
- Invasive and noxious weeds will be controlled through spot treatment.
- Mid-contract management will occur twice during the contract period including between years 5-8 and years 10-13. Mid-contract management options include:
  - Prescribed Burning
    - Conducted outside of the May 1 to July 1 primary nesting season.
  - Strip Disking
    - Conducted only between December 1 and March 1.
  - Strip Spraying
    - Conducted during the growing season but outside of the May 1 to July 1 primary nesting season.
  - Forb/Legume Interseeding
    - Requires some type of prior disturbance for optimum germination of the forb/legume seed.
  - Mowing
    - Conducted only from February 1 through March 15.

Habitat Type to be Restored:

Mixed- and tallgrass prairie, sand sage/bluestem shrubland and sand plum shrubland.