

CRP Information and Updates

March 8, 2023



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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



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CRP Updates



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CRP Updates

- **National Cap**
 - 27 million acres (FY23)
- **Current Enrollment**
 - 23 million acres
- **Administration's Goals**
 - Climate Smart Ag



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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



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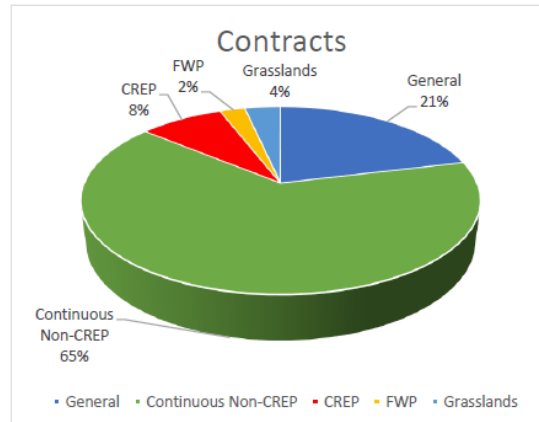
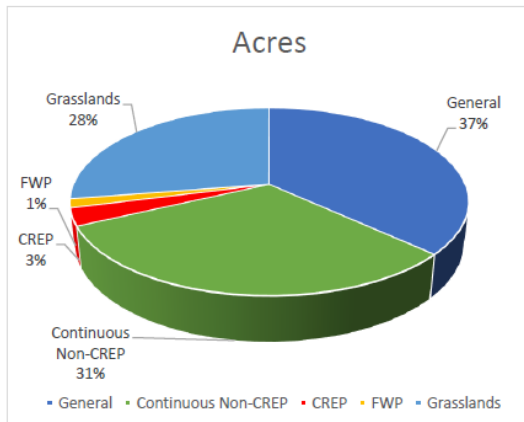
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National CRP Numbers

Current Active Contracts

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

Number of Contracts 544,276



FSA CRP
 Monthly Summary
 January 2023

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Iowa CRP Numbers

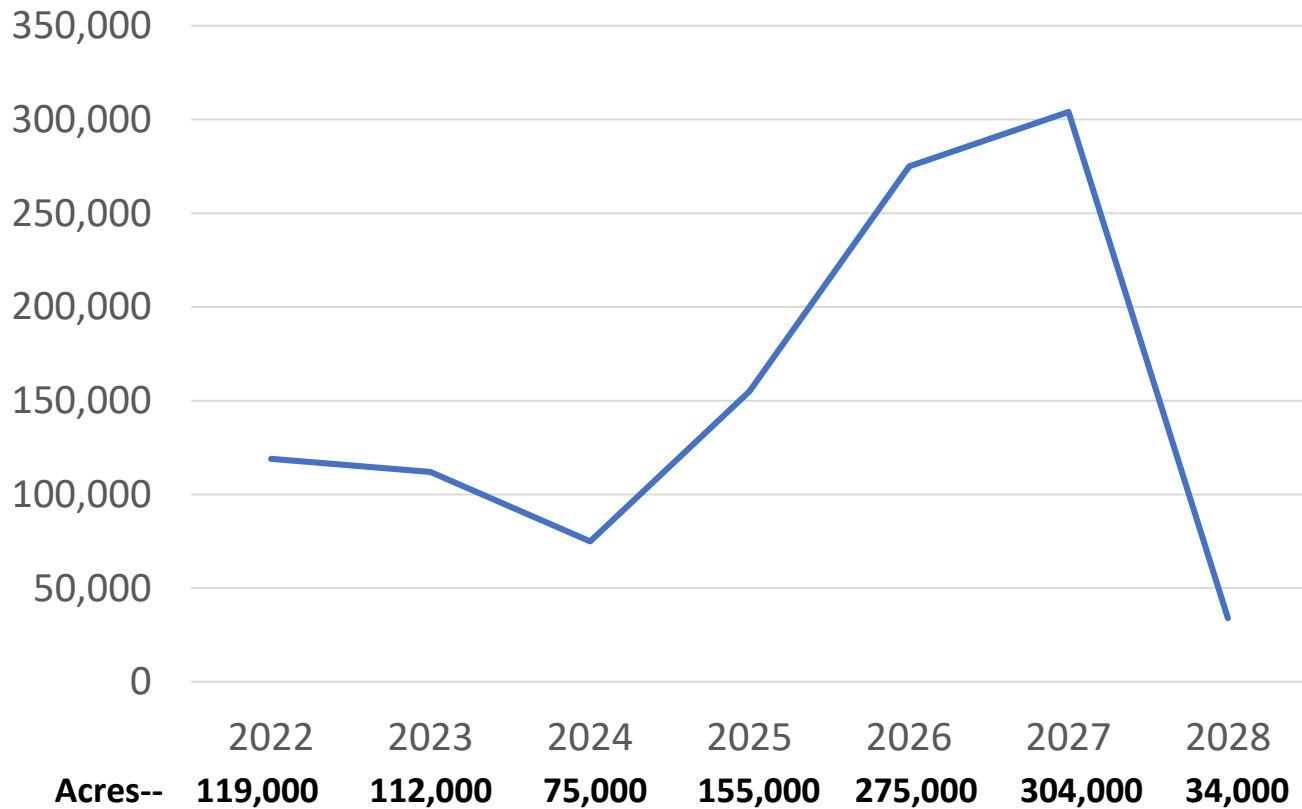
<u>Current Active Contracts</u>	<u>National</u>	<u>Iowa</u>
General	8,450,571 ac.	351,552 ac.
Continuous (non-CREP)	7,182,618 ac.	1,236,691 ac.
Farmable Wetland	349,667 ac.	93,264 ac.
CREP	695,807 ac.	3,302 ac.
<u>Grasslands</u>	<u>6,363,962 ac.</u>	<u>3,779 ac.</u>
Total	23,042,625 ac.	1,688,588 ac.
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



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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

SAFE Practice	Practice Type	Corresponding Practices	Pages
CP38E	Permanent Wildlife Habitat-Noneasement	CP4D	2-8
CP38E	Wildlife Food Plot	CP12	9-12

Habitat for Early Successional and Neotropical Migratory Birds

SAFE Practice	Practice Type	Corresponding Practices	Pages
CP38C	Hardwood Tree Planting	CP3A	13-17
CP38E	Permanent Wildlife Habitat-Noneasement	CP4D	18-22

Gaining Ground for Wildlife

SAFE Practice	Practice Type	Corresponding Practices	Pages
CP38E	Permanent Wildlife Habitat – Noneasement	CP4D	23-27
CP38E	Wildlife Food Plot	CP12	28-31

Iowa Pheasant Recovery

SAFE Practice	Practice Type	Corresponding Practices	Pages
CP38E	Permanent Wildlife Habitat-Noneasment	CP4D	32-37
CP38E	Wildlife Food Plot	CP12	38-41
CP38E	Example SAFE Pheasant Recovery		42

Early Successional Quail Habitat

SAFE Practice	Practice Type	Corresponding Practices	Pages
CP38E	Permanent Wildlife Habitat-Noneasment	CP4D	43-47
CP38E	Wildlife Food Plot	CP12	48-50

Haying and Grazing under SAFE	Early Successional/ Neotropical	Gaining Ground	Pheasant Recovery**	Early Successional Quail Habitat	Grand River Grassland
Non-Emergency Haying	ineligible	eligible	eligible	ineligible	ineligible
Non-Emergency Grazing	ineligible	eligible	eligible	ineligible	eligible

** 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.



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Continuous SU59—SAFE Updates



Gaining Ground for Wildlife CP38E-4D

CRP: Wildlife Plan

Implementation Requirements

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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



Pair of Bobolinks/Photo courtesy of USDA



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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**



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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**



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Conservation Cover



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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

IA NRCS Native Seeding Calculator

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 tricornis*, 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 Number(s): _____ 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://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 _____

Conservation Program (if applicable): _____

Contract # (if applicable): _____

CRP Practice (if applicable): _____

Seeding Purpose(s): _____

Moisture Regime: _____ Local Ecotype Required*: _____

*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 Forbs Allowed: _____

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

Planned Seeding Date: _____

Seeding Dates for Native Species

Spring	April 1 - July 1
Dormant	November 15 - March 31
Frost*	February 1 - March 31

*Debearded 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 8 Canada wildrye seeds/sq. ft. unless otherwise specified.
- When allowed, mixtures may include up to 20% introduced forbs, 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 Requirement(s) (if applicable):

Pollinator Seedings

Requirements for Pollinator Seedings:

- Minimum of 10 species in the mix (diverse prairie restoration requirements apply).
- Maximum of 20 grass seeds/sq. ft.
- Minimum of 1 bunch grass or 1 clump forming sedge and 1 legume will be included.
- A minimum of 3 forb species will be included for each blooming period (Spring, Summer, Fall).

Prairie Strips

Requirements for Prairie Strips:

- Must have 20 seeds/sq. ft. of grass and 20 seeds/sq. ft. of forbs.
- Native forb and grass species only (no introduced species allowed).
- A minimum of 2 forb species will be included for each blooming period (Spring, Summer, Fall).
- A minimum of 10 flowering forb species.

Monarch Habitat

Requirements for Monarch Habitat:

- Follow the pollinator seeding requirements.
- A minimum of 1.5% of the mix shall be priority milkweed species.
- 60% of the forbs shall be high value forbs (including priority milkweed species).
- Introduced forbs are not allowed.
- Maximum of 1 seed/sq. ft. for big bluestem and switchgrass.
- Maximum of 1.3 seeds/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:

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- 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			
Requirement	Criteria	Mix or Component	Criteria Met
All Sites			
Grass Seeds/ft ² , Range	10 to 30	30.000	Meets Criteria
Forb & Sub-shrub Seeds/ft ² , Range	30 to 10	10.000	Meets Criteria
Total Seeds/ft ² , Minimum	40	40.000	Meets Criteria
% Annual and Biennial Forbs, (of Forb Component)	0-20%	20.000%	Meets Criteria
% Introduced Forbs Seeds/ft ² , (of Total Mix)	0-20%	0.000%	Meets Criteria
-%Alfalfa Seeds/ft ² , (single species)	0-10%	0.000%	Meets Criteria
-%Alsike Seeds/ft ² , (single species)	0-10%	0.000%	Meets Criteria
-%Kura Clover Seeds/ft ² , (single species)	0-10%	0.000%	Meets Criteria
-%Red Clover Seeds/ft ² , (single species)	0-10%	0.000%	Meets Criteria
-%White Clover Seeds/ft ² , (single species)	0-10%	0.000%	Meets Criteria
*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			
Grass Seeds/ft ²	> 20	30.000	Meets Criteria
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?**



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Questions



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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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