

# SAFE - HABITAT FOR HONEY BEES

North Dakota Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

July 2020

## Overview

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative is a voluntary program available as part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to address species of special concern or considered a species of economical importance.

## Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible under continuous sign-up practices, land must be in a SAFE project area and meet basic CRP eligibility requirements. Eligible land is cropland that was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during four of the six years from 2012 to 2017. Expired or expiring CRP is also eligible if it meets the minimum cover practice standards. The land must be physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Producers with land within a SAFE geographic area may enroll in their state's SAFE project(s) provided they meet the following eligibility requirements:

- the offered acreage meets the cropping history requirement under CRP (four of the six years from 2012 to 2017)
- the site is located within a SAFE area (within 2 miles of an active apiary) and is appropriate for the practices associated with SAFE
- The offered acreage is planted to or meets the minimum cover standards outlined by the SAFE project.

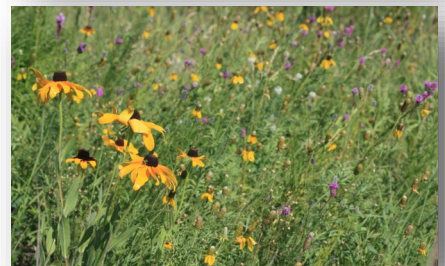
To determine individual eligibility for the initiative, landowners should check with their local FSA office.

## Benefits

It is in the economic interest of U.S. agricultural producers and the American public to ensure a healthy, sustainable population of honey bees and native pollinators. Pollinators are essential to the production of an estimated one-third of the human diet and to the reproduction of at least 80 percent of flowering plants. Insect-pollinated agricultural commodities result in significant income for agricultural producers and account for \$20 billion in annual U.S. agricultural production.

## Goals

Increase the amount of safe high quality foraging habitat for honey bees within their effective foraging range. Improve the overall health and wellness of commercial honey bee hives in North Dakota. Create effective, cost-efficient conservation alternatives for producers in the face of low crop prices, high input cost, rising rental rates with limited risk.



## Eligible Practices

### General CRP Practices

**CP38E-1 - Introduced Grasses and Legumes**

**CP38D-4D: Permanent Wildlife Habitat**

**CP38E-42: Pollinator Habitat**

### Continuous CRP Practices

**CP38E - 18B: Perennials to Reduce Salinity**

**CP38E -18C: Establishment of Salt Tolerant Plants**

**CP38A-43: Prairie Strips**

## SAFE - CP38E Project Area



### Rental & Incentive Payments

- Annual Rental Payment – calculated using county soil rental rates. General CRP practices are calculated at 85% of the weighted SRR average. Continuous CRP practices are calculated at 90% of the weighted average SRR.
- Continuous CRP practices are eligible for a Sign-on Incentive Payment (SIP) of 32.5% of the 1st year's payment.
- General and Continuous: Cost share assistance - Cost share is equal to 50% of the eligible cost of establishing the approved practice cover.
- Continuous CRP practices are allowed a 5% Practice Incentive Payment.
- Required management is required for all enrolled practices.