

Ohio Pollinator and Monarch SAFE

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever are partners in implementing a State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) project to enroll agricultural land in 43 counties throughout Ohio. The purpose of the Ohio Pollinator & Monarch SAFE is to establish diverse stands that will provide stable and long-term sources of pollen, nectar, host plant resources, and ground nesting habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Background

SAFE is part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP is a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with landowners and agricultural producers to establish and manage vegetative covers that control soil erosion, improve water quality, and provide wildlife habitat.

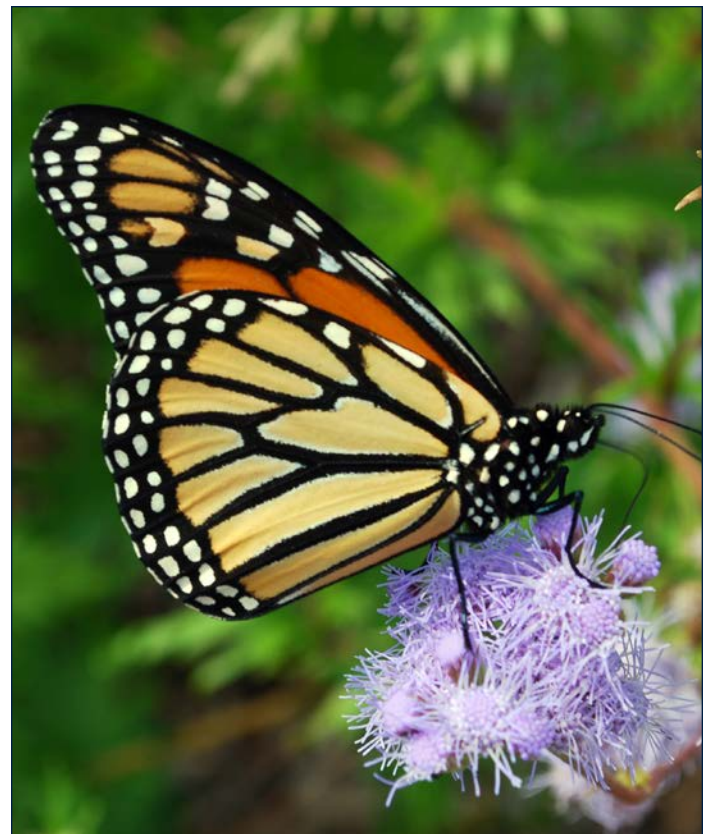
SAFE is a unique type of CRP that offers organizations the opportunity to partner with the USDA to establish habitat for high-priority wildlife species on agricultural land. SAFE sponsors work with the USDA to identify the wildlife species, the vegetative cover that provides habitat for the target species, and the location in the state where the habitat is needed. A partnership is formed between the SAFE sponsor and the USDA, and federal funds are made available to allow for CRP enrollment on eligible land within the SAFE project location.

Target Wildlife Species

The goal of the Ohio Pollinator & Monarch SAFE project is to provide habitat for monarchs and other pollinators. Pollinators, including wild bees, are important to Ohio because they have suffered significant population declines and play an important role in the agricultural economy.

Habitat

Landowners and agricultural producers participating in the Ohio Pollinator & Monarch SAFE are required to develop a conservation plan with assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or a technical service provider. The conservation plan will provide details on how to plant, establish, and manage habitat for monarchs and other pollinators. The habitat being established will include a diverse seeding mix best suited for monarch and pollinator habitat. This will address both adult nectar and larval food source requirements. After the habitat is established, it will need to be maintained and managed by controlling weeds and either disking, herbicide application, prescribed burning, prescribed mowing, flash grazing, or interseeding to maintain plant diversity. Proper habitat establishment, maintenance, and management will maximize benefits for monarchs and other pollinators.



Project Location

The Ohio Pollinator and Monarch SAFE project location includes Allen, Ashland, Ashtabula, Athens, Carroll, Clermont, Columbiana, Coshocton, Erie, Franklin, Guernsey, Harrison, Henry, Hocking, Holmes, Huron, Jefferson, Licking, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Medina, Meigs, Mercer, Montgomery, Morgan, Muskingum, Ottawa, Perry, Portage, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Scioto, Stark, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Van Wert, Vinton, Warren, Washington, Wayne, and Wood counties.

Eligible CRP Practices

This SAFE project uses the following CRP practices:

- ◆ CP38E-4D, SAFE Permanent Wildlife Habitat

Haying and Grazing

Haying is not permitted on acreage enrolled under the Ohio Pollinator and Monarch SAFE. Flash grazing may be utilized as a management activity and must be completed according to a prescribed grazing plan developed by NRCS.

Eligibility Requirements

Because SAFE is part of CRP, certain land and participant eligibility rules apply. To begin with, land must be in the project area and meet cropping history. CRP participant eligibility rules also apply to SAFE.

Payments and Incentives

In exchange for participation in CRP SAFE, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants with annual per acre rental payments, cost-share to assist with habitat establishment expenses, and in some cases additional monetary incentives.

For More Information

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions or requirements may apply. Consult your local FSA office for details. For more information, contact your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: farmers.gov/service-locator.



Ohio Pollinator and Monarch SAFE Project Map

