

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Who is eligible?

Any landowner/operator with land established in CRP for at least 4 years. Land leased to private entities for hunting purposes does not qualify for this program.

Will this jeopardize my participation in the CRP program?

No. All practices are approved by USDA and state and local NRCS and FSA offices.

Does the land have to be enrolled in KDWP's Walk-In-Hunting Areas (WIHA) program?

No, but money is limited. Those enrolled in WIHA and WIHA habitat program will have first priority for participation.

Now, where do I start?

1. Contact local KDWP wildlife biologists or regional office listed in this brochure, your local Farm Service Agency (FSA), or Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office.

2. The district wildlife biologist will meet with you, inspect the CRP fields and suggest the best habitat upgrades. You then decide which practices to apply, and the biologist will create a one-page habitat improvement plan which will also serve as a contract for payment.

3. Your local FSA or NRCS office will work with you to modify your contract and grant necessary approval.

4. Once the contract is modified, you may do the work yourself or hire a contractor to do custom work.

5. Upon satisfactory completion of the habitat work, payment is made to the landowner or custom contractor.

WHAT ARE PAYMENT RATES?

Practices

Payments ¹

Light disking (*no more than 15% of the field acres in CRP*) \$12.50/acre

Interseeding - *KDWP also provides alfalfa (no more than 1/2 of the field acres)* \$10.00/acre

Burning (*no more than 1,000 acres*) \$1.00/acre

KDWP CRP enhancement payments are in addition to USDA CRP midcontract management cost-share payments in most cases.

¹ Payments will be made to contractors if landowners are unable to do the habitat work. In addition to practice payments, CRP landowner-cooperators in KDWP's Walk-In Hunting Areas (WIHA) program qualify for a signup bonus of \$1.00/acre for a maximum of 1/2 of the field acres. Burning signup bonus is \$0.25/acre for a maximum of 1,000 acres.

CRP non-WIHA landowners receive no signup bonus but may qualify for habitat practice payments.

CONTACT FOR INFORMATION

Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks
KDWP District Biologists:

Region 3 Office

1001 McArtor Rd.
Dodge City, KS 67801
(602) 227-8609

(BARTON CO.)

Charlie Swank, (620) 793-3066

(FORD CO.)

Craig Curtis, (620) 227-8609

(CLARK CO.)

Tim Urban, (620) 227-8609

(FINNEY CO.)

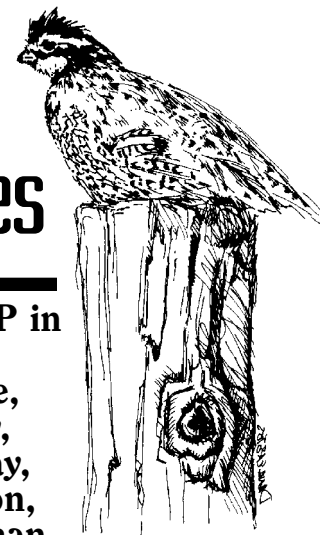
Daryl Fisher (620) 276-8886

(MORTON CO.)

Kraig Schultz, (620) 450-8287

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or handicap. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 1020 S Kansas Ave. Suite 200, Topeka, KS 66612-1327 07/05

CRP Wildlife Habitat Upgrades



Do you have CRP in Barber, Barton, Clark, Comanche, Edwards, Finney, Ford, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Kiowa, Lane, Meade, Morton, Ness, Pawnee, Pratt, Rush, Scott, Seward, Stafford, Stanton, Stevens, or Wichita counties?

More birds on the land,
more \$ in your pocket.

A new program for 2005 presented by the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks and the Central Prairie RC&D.



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RIDE BACK IN TIME
"Improving Our Quality Of Life!"



Pheasant and quail populations in these counties fluctuate from year to year. Many factors may contribute to this, but quality habitat is the driving force for improving bird numbers.

Biologists from Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP), and groups such as Pheasants Forever and Quail Unlimited agree that Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands offer the best opportunity to improve habitat for upland game birds. These fields, although quite productive during the first few years of establishment, quickly become less and less inviting to birds for nesting and brood rearing as the tall, native grasses begin to dominate the stands. It has been shown that bird productivity drops off substantially after the field has been established for five years.

A few easy management practices can return CRP productivity for pheasants and quail.

Landowner-cooperators in KDWP's Walk-In Hunting Areas (WIHA) program qualify for a

signup bonus plus habitat practice payments. Non-WIHA landowners qualify only for the habitat practice payment. Following is a summary of qualifying habitat practices.

LIGHT DISKING

Light disking is probably the simplest practice with the fastest results for increasing nesting and brood rearing. Strips are disked through the CRP, disturbing the surface and allowing annual plants a chance to establish. These might be wild sunflower, ragweed or similar plants used extensively by game birds. Grass in the strips is "set back" but not destroyed and in 2-3 years will be as thick as before.

BROOD STRIPS

The benefits of strip disking can be magnified by drilling a legume mix over the disked strips. It has been shown that "brood strips" with alfalfa and other broad leaved plants are food factories for chicks.



ALFALFA INTERSEEDING

Simple interseeding of alfalfa into burned, hayed, or grazed CRP can help establish "broodstrips" without disking.

BURNING

Burning of CRP removes old grassy debris buildup and rejuvenates established grass. It improves travel for young and old birds alike by getting rid of the old ground litter. Finally, it improves strip disking and interseeding success by allowing equipment to make better contact with the soil.

