

Incentive payments

- ▶ Signing Incentive Payments of up to \$100 per acre.
- ▶ Producers will receive annual rental payments for the length of the contract (10 years). The rental payment is determined by soil types, plus a \$5 per acre per year maintenance payment.
- ▶ Cost share assistance for cover establishment is 50 percent of reimbursable practice costs plus an additional Practice Incentive Payment of 40 percent of the eligible establishment cost.



Sign-up

Program sign-up at local Farm Service Agency offices began October 1, 2004, and will run on a continuous basis (meaning eligible land may be enrolled at any time) until the state's 20,000 acres have been enrolled, or December 31, 2007, whichever comes first. Eligible acres are automatically accepted instead of being competitively ranked as in the general Conservation Reserve Program.

Information

Additional information on the Conservation Reserve Program Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds practice (CP33) is available at your local USDA Farm Services Agency office and on the FSA Web site at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Assistance

A wildlife conservation plan must be developed for this practice. Technical assistance to develop this plan should be provided early in the process by a qualified wildlife biologist. Technical assistance is available from the following sources:

Natural Resources Conservation Service
at **County USDA Service Centers** (www.nrcs.usda.gov).

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Region 1 Office
Hays, Kansas
785.628.8614

Region 4 Office
Wichita, Kansas
316.683.8069

Region 2 Office
Topeka, Kansas
785.273.6740

Region 5 Office
Chanute, Kansas
620.431.0380

Region 3 Office
Dodge City, Kansas
620.227.8609

Pratt Operations Office
Pratt, Kansas
620.672.5911



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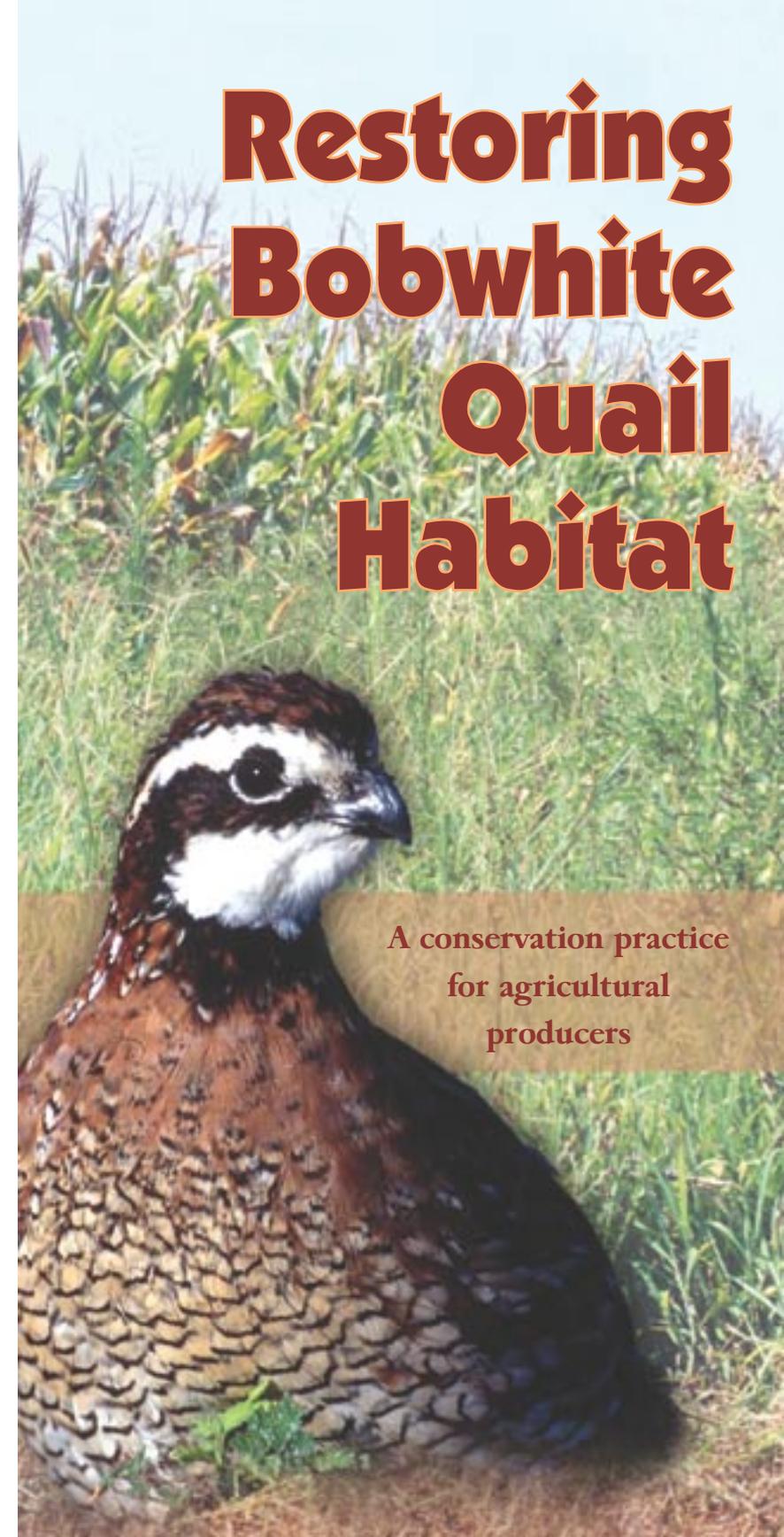


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Photographs by Wes Burger, Stephen Dinsmore, Fred Faulk,
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Restoring Bobwhite Quail Habitat



A conservation practice
for agricultural
producers



Habitat Initiative

Throughout their range, bobwhite populations have declined from an estimated 59-million birds in 1980 to about 20 million in 1999. Their habitats are disappearing due to urbanization, loss of native grasslands, intensive agriculture, and a transitioning of once grassy fields into forests.



Reverse the Trend by Creating New Habitat

250,000 acres
35 states

In late 2004, the United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency introduced a new conservation practice under the continuous Conservation Reserve Program intended to create 250,000 acres of habitat for the northern bobwhite quail in 35 states. The Northern Bobwhite Quail Habitat Initiative introduces a conservation practice of early successional native grass buffers along agricultural field margins.

Conservation Practice

This new conservation practice, CP 33: Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds, provides food and cover for bobwhite quail in cropland areas. The practice must be applied around field edges of eligible cropland. The practice involves planting native warm-season grasses, forbs (wildflowers), legumes and a limited amount of shrubs. Plantings will be specified in the program participant's approved USDA conservation plan.

Buffers long have been regarded for reducing soil erosion and protecting water quality by trapping sediments, nutrients and agrichemicals. However, research has demonstrated that grass buffers provide needed habitat for bobwhite quail and upland birds, as well as reptiles, amphibians and aquatic species. Many of these species are regionally declining and of conservation concern.

Buffers not only provide food and cover for bobwhite quail and upland birds but also reduce soil erosion from wind and water, increase soil and water quality, and protect and enhance the on-farm ecosystem.



Eligibility

The initiative is limited to 250,000 acres in 35 states with geographic areas that have the greatest potential to restore bobwhite quail. Of these 250,000 acres, Kansas has been allocated 20,000 acres; 15,000 acres in the eastern third of the state which is prime quail range and 5,000 acres in the western two-thirds of the state. To be eligible, cropland must be suitably located and adaptable to the establishment of bobwhite quail. In addition, the applicant must satisfy the basic eligibility and cropping history criteria for the Conservation Reserve Program. Cropland does not need to be classified as highly erodible, but must have been cropped at least four out of six years (1996-2001). To determine individual eligibility for this practice, landowners should check with their local Farm Service Agency office. County NRCS staff or the biologists listed on the back of this publication can assist with development of a conservation plan that meets landowner wildlife objectives.

CP 33: Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds

- Provides habitat for bobwhite quail and other wildlife
- Habitat buffers can be 30' to 120' in width.
- Provides incentive payments for producers.
- Sign-up began October 1, 2004, and will run on a continuous basis.
- Automatic enrollment of eligible acres.