



Continuous CRP Practice Information

CP33 Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds

7/1/2014

The purpose of this practice is to provide food and cover for quail and upland bird species in cropland areas.

Practice Guidance:

Habitat buffers for upland birds are field borders planted around crop fields to provide food and cover for upland birds and other wildlife species. Habitat borders around crop fields can provide critical nesting, brood rearing, and security cover. Many grassland dependent birds have suffered significant population declines due to the loss of habitat. Buffers can be located either around the entire perimeter of the field or along one or more sides of the field but at a minimum they must be located wherever runoff enters or leaves the field.



Example of a Habitat Buffer for Upland Birds

■ CCRP Practice Contract Information

- Only eligible in Houston and Fillmore counties
- Contract length 10 years
- \$150 / acre Signing Incentive Payment (SIP)
- Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) equal to 40% of the eligible installation costs. PIP is additive to 50% cost-share equaling 90% cost-share for practice establishment.
- NRCS Practice Standard Conservation Cover, Code 327

■ Practice Width

- Buffer width can vary across a site
- Minimum 30 ft with a maximum 120 ft average width

■ Habitat Requirements

- Minimum 4 native grass species (max: 20 PLS/SF) and 5 native forb/legume species (min: 10 PLS/SF) (see recommended seed mix on CP33 Job Sheet)
- Legumes must comprise 25-50% of the forb/legume component based on PLS/SF
- Up to 10% may be planted to woody shrub species – minimum 30 ft wide and 1,000 SF
- Shrubs may be planted in rows or clumps (see spacing requirements on CP33 Job Sheet)

Additional Information:

[NRCS CCRP CP33 Eligibility Document](#)

[NRCS Practice Code 327 Standard](#)

[NRCS Practice Code 327 Specs](#)

[NRCS CCRP CP33 Job Sheet](#)