



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

CSP Job Sheet H-2

HABITAT MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT

April 2006

NEBRASKA

Name: _____

Early successional habitat on field borders, buffers, odd areas adjacent to cropland

Payment = \$25.00 / acre / year for all field borders, buffers, and odd areas which are maintained and managed according to specifications noted below. Payment is made during each year of the contract – not just during years when management is conducted.

The intent of this enhancement is to provide high quality nesting, brood-rearing, feeding/pollinating, loafing, and winter cover for most wildlife, including insects, song birds, and game birds, in an area where this habitat type is limiting. Early successional habitat is characterized by the presence of broadleaf plants (i.e. perennial forbs as well as weeds such as sunflower, marehail, pigweed, kochia, ragweed) that are desired by many wildlife species. Conditions are similar to what occurs in the initial three to five years following a new grass seeding into cropland. These areas provide benefits to various wildlife species. During the summer, growing broadleaf plants provide an overstory canopy with an open understory to protect wildlife from aerial predators and the hot summer sun and support high populations of soft-bodied insects for food. In winter months, tall, stiff-stemmed broadleaf plants provide important winter cover that will resist winter winds and snow accumulation and contain a source of seeds to be used as food.

Required Elements:

- Grassland habitats such as field borders, filter strips, contour buffer strips, and odd areas such as pivot corners and abandoned farmsteads which are located adjacent to cropland must have management implemented every three to five years to improve overall habitat values, especially plant diversity.
- These areas must be a minimum of 30 feet wide to be considered eligible for payment.
- Management activities must include either disking, prescribed burning, or site-specific herbicide treatment to “set-back” growth of existing vegetation followed by an interseeding of legumes or forbs (and grasses if necessary).
- A minimum of two native or desired introduced grass species must be present and at least one perennial forb/legume must constitute 10% or more of the stand (following treatment).
- Smooth brome and Kentucky bluegrass are not considered to be desired introduced grass species but are eligible for payment if the disturbance is frequent and intensive enough to produce desired results.
- Areas must be protected from annual haying, grazing, or burning activities other than those techniques used periodically to implement disturbance needed to improve plant diversity.

Documentation Required:

Complete Table 1 which documents the tracts, fields, and field borders, buffers, or odd areas which are eligible to receive the Early Successional Habitat enhancement payment and will be managed according to the specifications outlined above. On an annual basis, complete Table 2 which documents the actual conditions on those tracts and fields during the current crop year. Examples are provided in the first two lines for assistance.

Table 1. Lands eligible for Early Successional Habitat on Field Borders, etc. during the contract period.

<i>Tract / Field Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Buffer Type</i>	<i>Planned Management</i>
T 123 – Field 3 & 6	27.2	Pivot Corners	Disk and Inter-seed Legumes
T 123 – Field 4	4.7	Field Border	Prescribed Burning

Table 2. Reported conditions on eligible fields during the noted crop year: _____

<i>Tract / Field Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Buffer Type</i>	<i>Management Applied</i>
T 123 – Field 3 & 6	27.2	Pivot Corners	N/A – Treated in 2004
T 123 – Field 4	24.5	Field Border	Burned on April 22, 2005

Certification:

I certify that I have performed management and subsequent maintenance on field borders, buffers, and odd areas in order to qualify for the specified enhancement payment as listed above.

Name: _____ Date: _____