



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

CSP Job Sheet H-8

HABITAT MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT

February 2006

NEBRASKA

Name: _____

Vernal pools established for aquatic habitat – (i.e. farm ponds)

Payment = \$25.00 / vernal pool / year for each vernal pool (seasonal wetland or pond) – either existing or newly constructed (and vegetative buffers) that meet the requirements listed below. Payment is made each year of the contract that the vernal pool is present and maintained.

The intent of this enhancement is to provide created (not natural), seasonal wetlands for use by amphibians and reptiles including frogs, toads, turtles, salamanders and others to complete their life requisites for reproduction, feeding, etc. Other benefits include providing a water source for other wildlife species and aquatic insect production which are a food source for various song birds including swallows and swifts. These areas are also important to waterfowl and shorebirds.

Required Elements:

- Each vernal pool (seasonal water impoundment/wetland/pond) must be a minimum of ¼ acre in size (surface area of water).
- An undisturbed 30 foot vegetative buffer around the vernal pool must be maintained which is not annually hayed or grazed. (Periodic management every three to five years is allowed to improve habitat conditions.)
- Dugouts or pits located within wetlands (based on hydric soils) do not qualify for payment due to the negative impacts of these structures on natural wetland hydrology.
- New sites must be designed to pond water a minimum of 30 days during the growing season. Existing sites must have a high water mark “signature” evident on a recent aerial photo.
- Woody debris (e.g. logs) must be located within the vernal pool to provide necessary habitat components for aquatic species.

Note: This enhancement cannot be used in conjunction with the “Wetland Management and Enhancement Techniques Enhancement” as noted under Habitat Management (H-9). Naturally-occurring seasonal wetlands shall be addressed by the H-9 Enhancement and not this one.

