



# IDNR/CREP Conservation Management Plan (CMP) Request

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702 (217) 557-6498

## Wildlife Food Plot (Non-CRP)

### CREP CONSERVATION PRACTICE:

**Wildlife Food Plot (Non-CRP)** – Optional conservation cover comprised of annual or perennial vegetation established to provide suitable food and habitat support for wildlife in the area. Annual food plot acres typically require annual disturbance and seeding to maintain the conservation cover. Perennial food plot acres do not require annual disturbance and seeding to maintain the conservation cover.

### IDNR/CREP PRACTICE GUIDELINES (Section C):

Wildlife Food Plot (Non-CRP) establishment and maintenance on CREP easement acres shall follow current IDNR/CREP guidelines. Practice guidelines are subject to periodic updates at the discretion of IDNR/CREP. Please reference Section C of this document for information on applicable practice guidelines.

## A: CMP REQUEST OVERVIEW



The following CREP Conservation Management Plan (CMP) request may be utilized by CREP landowners for the establishment or relocation of Wildlife Food Plot(s) (Non-CRP) on CREP additional acres and expired Federal CRP/CREP acres only.<sup>1</sup> All requests must be signed/approved by IDNR/CREP before practice implementation. Approved practices should be implemented within one year of the approval date unless alternatively specified herein. Any modifications to an approved CMP or any changes associated with the implementation or relocation of a Wildlife Food Plot (Non-CRP) require the submittal and approval of a new CMP request. **Most CREP CMP requests will be approved by IDNR/CREP within 30 calendar days of submission but please allow up to 60 calendar days for reviews/approvals. Please submit questions and CMP requests to [DNR.CREP@Illinois.gov](mailto:DNR.CREP@Illinois.gov) for review/approval.**

### REQUEST ELIGIBILITY:

**IDNR/CREP Wildlife Food Plot (Non-CRP)** is an eligible conservation practice for CREP additional acres and expired Federal CRP/CREP acres.<sup>1</sup> Associated CREP easements must be in compliance with the applicable CREP easement document to maintain eligibility. Easement compliance shall be at the discretion of IDNR/CREP. Practice eligibility shall be subject to IDNR/CREP review and approval. All CMP requests must be signed/approved by IDNR/CREP before practice implementation.

<sup>1</sup>All conservation management planning activities on acres currently encumbered by a federal CRP/CREP contract are the responsibility of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) until expiration of the federal contract. Upon expiration of the federal CRP/CREP contract, maintenance of the acres covered by this Conservation Plan shall continue as described by the federal CRP/CREP conservation management plan(s) unless amended by IDNR/CREP. Please direct management questions regarding active federal CRP/CREP contracts to your local United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center.

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## B: CMP REQUEST PROCEDURE



1. CREP landowners should thoroughly review and understand Section C (*IDNR/CREP GUIDELINES: WILDLIFE FOOD PLOT (NON-CRP)*) before completing the attached CMP request (Section D). Please submit IDNR/CREP guideline questions to [DNR.CREP@Illinois.gov](mailto:DNR.CREP@Illinois.gov).
2. **CREP landowners may complete Steps 1-6 of the attached CMP request (Section D) and submit to [DNR.CREP@Illinois.gov](mailto:DNR.CREP@Illinois.gov) for review/approval.**
  - a. All steps listed as “(Required)” must be completed for each request. Required steps include: easement information, plot location(s) map(s), plot location information, plot size estimate(s), planned vegetation estimate(s) and the landowner certification.
3. IDNR/CREP will review the completed CMP request for approval.
  - a. Please ensure that all contact information is correct. IDNR/CREP may contact the CREP landowner to request additional information.
4. If the CMP request is approved by IDNR/CREP:

*As of 4/18/2022, all CREP CMP requests must undergo an environmental review for threatened, endangered or cultural resources. This process is conducted by the IDNR Comprehensive Environmental Review Process (CERP). This process typically takes 1-2 weeks but may take up to 45 days depending on CMP details. Please allow a complete timeframe of 60 calendar days for IDNR review/approval as you plan implementation for approved CMP requests.*

- a. The approved draft will be documented as an IDNR/CREP Conservation Management Plan (CMP) Addendum.
- b. Copies of the IDNR/CREP Conservation Management Plan Addendum will be kept on file at IDNR/CREP and emailed to the CREP landowner and the administering county SWCD.
- c. CREP landowners shall follow IDNR/CREP Wildlife Food Plot (Non-CRP) Guidelines (Section C) and independently implement the CMP.

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## C: IDNR/CREP GUIDELINES: WILDLIFE FOOD PLOT (NON-CRP)



*The following guidelines apply to Wildlife Food Plot(s) (Non-CRP) on CREP additional acres and expired Federal CRP/CREP acres only. Food plot questions on active (not expired) federal CRP/CREP acres may be directed to your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) or local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Guidelines are subject to periodic updates at the discretion of IDNR/CREP. All landowners shall follow Illinois State Laws governing planting and management of food plots (baiting). Please submit IDNR/CREP guideline questions to [DNR.CREP@Illinois.gov](mailto:DNR.CREP@Illinois.gov).*

### **Wildlife Food Plot Guidelines:**

- Wildlife Food Plot(s) (Non-CRP) **shall**:
  - be approved by IDNR/CREP as a component of a CREP Conservation Management Plan (CMP).
  - be continually established to an annual or perennial vegetative cover.
  - continually protect and enhance wildlife habitat.
  - continually control soil erosion and sedimentation.
  
- Wildlife Food Plot(s) (Non-CRP) **shall not**:
  - exceed 5 contiguous acres in size (individual food plot).
  - exceed 10% of the total CREP easement acres (total combined food plot acreage).
  - remain bare or unvegetated except during limited periods of establishment.
  - be harvested at any time.
  - be established within 120' of a waterbody (river, stream, ditch, lake, pond, wetland, etc.).
  - be established on levees, berms and dams.
  - be established on acres requiring the removal of trees/shrubs (planted), established as a component of a Federal CRP/CREP contract or any CREP management plan.
  - be established on acres requiring the removal of trees/shrubs (non-planted) greater than 3" in diameter at breast height (DBH) or with an established average canopy cover greater than 25%.<sup>1</sup>
  - be established or maintained in a manner that allows noxious weeds or invasive species.
  - negatively impact protected cultural or environmental resources.
  - negatively impact threatened, endangered or sensitive wildlife habitats or species.

### **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Landowners may change their approved plot vegetative cover without IDNR/CREP approval. However, wildlife food plot acres may not remain bare or unvegetated (except during limited periods of establishment).
  
- Landowners may relocate IDNR/CREP approved food plots: Plot relocation requires the submittal and approval of a new CMP request. Abandoned food plots must be re-established to an IDNR approved permanent vegetative cover at the landowner's expense.

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<sup>1</sup> *The removal or clearing of woody vegetation may be subject to additional federal, state or local regulations. It is the landowner's responsibility to seek, inform and understand these additional regulations and to consult the proper authority having jurisdiction over the acres in question. It is also the landowner's responsibility to secure any applicable federal, state, and local permits that may be required. IDNR will conduct a preliminary ecological review of the applicable CREP easement and may request additional information for food plots requiring woody vegetation disturbance.*

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**D: CMP REQUEST - WILDLIFE FOOD PLOT (Non-CRP)**



*Sections A-C (instructions & guidelines) may be omitted from the approved CMP.  
Applicable map(s) & supporting documentation shall be appended at the end of the approved CMP.*

**IDNR/CREP CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Addendum Management Plan

Wildlife Food Plot (Non-CRP)

Plan Date: IDNR/CREP Certification Date

Plan Expiration: Valid Until Modified

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

THIS CMP REQUEST SHALL ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES:

- PROTECT AND ENHANCE WATER QUALITY BY ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING PERENNIAL CONSERVATION PRACTICES.
- CONTROL SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION BY ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING PERENNIAL CONSERVATION PRACTICES.
- PROTECT AND ENHANCE AQUATIC, AVIAN AND TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE HABITAT BY ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING ANNUAL AND PERENNIAL CONSERVATION PRACTICES.
- PROTECT THREATENED SPECIES, ENDANGERED SPECIES AND ILLINOIS CULTURAL RESOURCES.
- PROMOTE OUTDOOR RECREATION (HIKING, WILDLIFE OBSERVATION, FISHING, HUNTING, ETC.)

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

THIS PLAN SHALL ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING CONSERVATION PRACTICES:

- WILDLIFE FOOD PLOT (NON-CRP)

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***Steps 1-6 to be completed by the CREP landowner:***

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STEP 1: EASEMENT INFORMATION: (Required)

CREP EASEMENT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

LANDOWNER INFORMATION:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 2: WILDLIFE FOOD PLOT LOCATION MAP: (Required)**

Map(s) & supporting documentation shall be appended at the end of the approved CMP.

Attach an aerial photo location map outlining all existing and all requested wildlife food plot locations with A-Z labels unique to each plot location. (Fig. 1) The A-Z plot labels should correspond with the plot information in Step 4. Location maps may be drafted using computer/mobile device applications or hand-drafted and scanned on aerial photo prints. If the request includes existing wildlife food plot removal/relocation, include and label abandoned food plot locations that will require restoration. If the food plot layout is complex, please attach a sketch of the plot design and provide as much detail as possible. (Fig. 2).

Figure 1

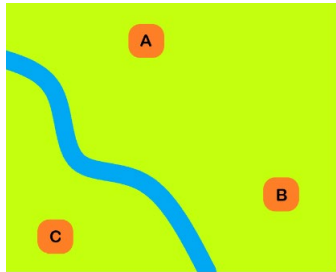
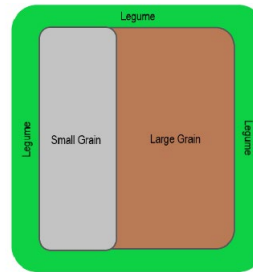


Figure 2



Simplified examples. Please outline plot locations on an aerial photo map.

**STEP 3: WILDLIFE FOOD PLOT LOCATION INFORMATION: (Required)**

**Contract status of requested food plot acres:**

- Expired Federal CRP/CREP     CREP Additional Acres     Both     Unknown

**Which of the following land cover types will be impacted by food plot establishment?**

- Forest                                       Grassland                                       Wetland

**Will plot establishment require the removal or relocation of existing food plots?**

- Yes (restoration of IDNR approved vegetative cover is required)\*     No

*\*If Yes, the CREP landowner may propose vegetation for plot restoration in Step 4 or request a seeding/planting list from IDNR/CREP in Step 5. IDNR/CREP will review all seeding/planting proposals for approval or provide approved seeding/planting lists to meet program requirements.*

**Will plot establishment require the removal of woody vegetation?**

- Yes (review the IDNR/CREP Guidelines in Section C before making this selection)\*     No

*\*If Yes: Species impacted (if known): \_\_\_\_\_*

*Method of removal: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Will stumps be removed?     Yes<sup>1</sup>     No    Method of Removal: \_\_\_\_\_*

<sup>1</sup>The removal or clearing of woody vegetation may be subject to additional federal, state or local regulations. It is the landowner's responsibility to seek, inform and understand these additional regulations and to consult the proper authority having jurisdiction over the acres in question. It is also the landowner's responsibility to secure any applicable federal, state, and local permits that may be required. IDNR will conduct a preliminary ecological review of the applicable CREP easement and may request additional information for food plots requiring woody vegetation disturbance.

**STEP 4: WILDLIFE FOOD PLOT SIZE AND VEGETATIVE COVER (Required)**

List the wildlife food plot size(s) and planned vegetative cover(s) in the table below.

- **Location:** Plot locations A-Z should correspond with the attached location map from Step 2.
- **Size:** List the size of each plot location and calculate the total plot acres. (Acres = (Plot Length x Width) / 43,560)
- **Planned vegetation:** List the proposed vegetative cover for each plot location.
  - **Landowners may change their approved plot vegetative cover without IDNR/CREP approval. However, food plot acres may not remain bare or unvegetated (except during limited periods of establishment).**
  - Plot locations may have the same cover from year to year and there is no rotation requirement.
  - If the plot location will be abandoned, include proposed vegetation for plot restoration (IDNR/CREP will review for approval or provide an approved seeding/planting list to meet program requirements)
  - If the plot location will not be used every year, include proposed interim vegetation or companion crop.

Plot Information		Planned Vegetative Cover		
Location	Acres (Plot LxW / 43,560)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Plot A				
Plot B				
Plot C				
Plot D				
Plot E				
	Total Acres	Additional location and/or rotation information can be attached.		

**STEP 5: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: (Optional)**

Please outline any additional information associated with this plan proposal. If needed, additional documentation can be attached.

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**STEP 6: LANDOWNER CERTIFICATION (Required)**

LANDOWNER STATEMENT – I CERTIFY THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE. I HAVE RECEIVED, READ AND UNDERSTAND THE IDNR/CREP GUIDELINES - WILDLIFE FOOD PLOT (NON-CRP). IF APPROVED, THE IDNR/CREP CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPLICABLE EASEMENT DOCUMENT AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE IDNR/CREP GUIDELINES - WILDLIFE FOOD PLOT (NON-CRP). I ASSUME ALL RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY FOR THE CONSERVATION PRACTICES HEREIN.

SIGNATURE OF LANDOWNER OR DESIGNEE: <sup>2</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>2</sup> Scanned or digital signatures are acceptable. IDNR/CREP will review this signed request and email the request status or CMP approval to the CREP landowner and the administering SWCD.

# IDNR/CREP CMP REVIEW



## IDNR USE ONLY

**Yes**    **No**

Easement ownership is correct and on file with IDNR (conduct parcel review)?    

Easement is in compliance with the applicable CREP easement document?    

CMP request follows IDNR/CREP guidelines?    

IDNR/CREP review complete?    

Releases/permits on file with IDNR/CREP and attached (if required)?    

CMP food plot request will replace existing food plot(s) or food plot CMP?    

*If Yes: Plans for the re-establishment of conservation cover must be provided or approved.*

CMP request will impact expired Federal CRP/CREP practices?    

*If Yes: List all impacted Federal CRP/CREP Conservation Practices (CP) \_\_\_\_\_*

Notes:

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## IDNR CERTIFICATION

THIS CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN ADDENDUM WAS REVIEWED BY THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (IDNR/CREP). THIS PLAN DOCUMENTS CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CREP PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS, GOALS, AND SPECIFIED LANDOWNER OBJECTIVES. ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET FORTH AND ACCEPTED BY IDNR/CREP IN EXISTING CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS AND ANY SUBSEQUENT ADDENDUMS, BUT NOT AMENDED HEREIN, SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT AS WRITTEN FOR THE ACRES ENCUMBERED BY THIS EASEMENT. IN THE EVENT OF A CONFLICT, THE TERMS OF THIS ADDENDUM SHALL PREVAIL. THIS ADDENDUM WAS MADE AT THE REQUEST OF THE CREP LANDOWNER, OR IN ACCORDANCE WITH IDNR/CREP REQUIREMENTS, AND IDNR/CREP ACCEPTS THE CONSERVATION PRACTICES IN THIS ADDENDUM. THE CREP LANDOWNER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT AND ASSUMES ALL RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY FOR THE CONSERVATION PRACTICES HEREIN.

SIGNATURE OF IDNR/CREP REPRESENTATIVE:<sup>3</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>3</sup> Email approved copy of the CMP to the CREP landowner and the administering SWCD.

***Applicable map(s) & supporting documentation shall be appended at the end of the approved CMP.***