



Food Plots on CREP Easements

General Food Plot Guidelines:

- Always follow Illinois State Laws governing planting and manipulation of food plots (baiting)
- Always follow rules provided by FSA during 15-year Federal Contract
- Use the NRCS standards and specifications (Conservation Practice 645) as reference for upland or wetland wildlife habitat management for the desired wildlife species to determine:
 - suitable plant species for food plots
 - establishment and management of food plots
 - food plot location
 - total acres to be devoted to food plots
- Apply this practice to CREP/CRP land that is suitably located and adapted to the establishment of annual or perennial wildlife food plots.
- Food Plots shall:
 - Enhance wildlife habitat
 - Be managed such that erosion levels are at or below the soil loss tolerance
 - Prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring
 - Be included in the approved conservation plan
 - Be carried out as specified in the approved conservation plan

Expired Federal Contract Acres and Additional Acres:

- Can be moved around from year-to-year; if relocated, the previous food plot area **must** be seeded to an approved permanent vegetative cover at the producer's expense; producer must inform SWCD/IDNR of new location
- Cannot harvest or manipulate food plots (except for mowing or disking of sunflowers for dove management)
- Total acreage in food plots cannot exceed 10% of total easement acres
- Must be at least 30' wide
- No single food plot can exceed 5 acres
- Food plots cannot exceed 10% of a distinct area or field
- No two food plots can be immediately adjacent; food plots must be a minimum of 660' from one another
- Cannot clear native woody vegetation greater than 3" Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)
- Cannot clear an area with an average canopy cover greater than 25% of native woody vegetation
- Cannot clear trees planted as part of Federal Contract

- Allowed on expired Federal CREP/CRP practices Conservation Practices:
 - CP1
 - CP2
 - CP3
 - CP3A
 - CP4D
 - CP25

- After IDNR review, **may** be allowed on expired Federal CREP/CRP Conservation Practices: CP9, CP21, CP22, and/or CP23
 - Permitted only if Conservation Practice was applied to an entire field
 - Prohibited if Conservation Practice is less than 100' wide on average
 - Prohibited within 50' of a river or stream
 - Prohibited within 30' of where earthwork was conducted for wetland restoration or shallow water area
 - Prohibited on berms or levees