

# **Cost-Share Opportunities for Stand Establishment & Management Practices**

*Brian P. Saunders*

*District Conservationist*

*USDA-NRCS*

## Farm Bill Programs Addressing Forestry Issues:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

# EQIP & WHIP

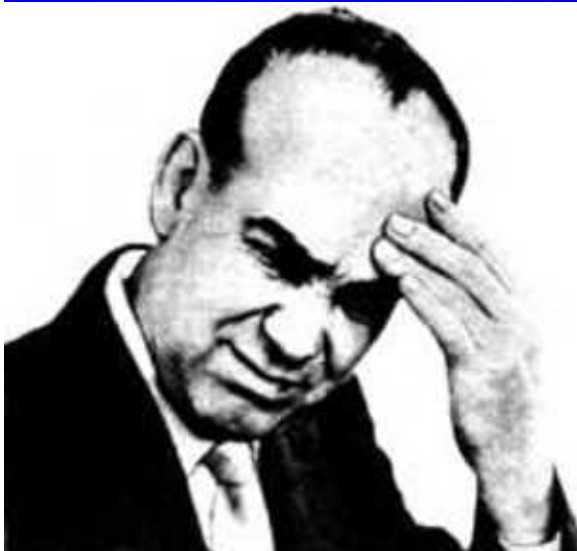
*(very similar programs)*

Both programs offer opportunities for:

- Site Preparation (fire or chemical)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Maintenance

**EQIP & WHIP**

**Alphabet  
Soup!**



# Site Preparation:

## Prescribed Burning:

- $<15\text{ac.} = \$132.00/\text{ac}$
- $15 - 40\text{ac.} = \$53.00/\text{ac}$
- $>40\text{ac.} = \$35.00/\text{ac}$



## Site Preparation (cont.):

Woody herbicide treatment on trees planted <350/ac =  
**\$72.15/ac**

Woody herbicide treatment on trees planted >350/ac =  
**\$50.50/ac**

Herbaceous herbicide treatment on trees planted <350/ac =  
**\$41.00/ac**

Herbaceous herbicide treatment on trees planted >350/ac =  
**\$28.75/ac**

Drum Chopping = **\$115.00/ac**



# Establishment (*planting*)

Hardwood Planting = \$680.00/ac

Longleaf Pines = \$131.00/ac

Mixed Shrub = \$728.00/ac

Hardwood / Mixed Shrub = \$913.00/ac

Mixed Shrub, including VA-70 Shrub Lespedeza = \$1,085.00/ac

Pines >350/ac = \$29.60/ac

Pines <350/ac = \$26.21/ac (*same as DOF's RT Program*)



# Maintenance

- Critical Area Planting on Logging Trails = \$740/ac
- Prescribed Burns
- Firebreaks:
  - Plowed = \$30.00/ac
  - Disked = \$11.40/ac
  - Re-Disked = \$7.40/ac



# Maintenance (*cont.*)

- Mid-Rotation Herb Application  $< 350$  trees/ac =  
\$61.00/ac
- Mid-Rotation Herb Application  $> 350$  trees/ac =  
\$29.00/ac
- Mechanical Thinning  $< 350$  trees/ac =  
\$61.00/ac
- Mechanical Thinning  $> 350$  trees/ac =  
\$43.00/ac

# Talk With Your Local Conservationist About Your Plans and Ideas.



# S.A.F.E.

State Acres For wildlife Enhancement

# General Information

- SAFE is a CRP program
- Also known as CP38
- The Farm Service Agency is the point of contact for applying for any CRP practices
- CP-38 has been designed to address high-priority wildlife objectives in the state
- The USDA's goal is to restore or enhance 500,000 acres of wildlife habitat across the nation (4,300 coming from VA).
- An application for CP-38 can be submitted for enrollment from 10 to 15 years
- An enrolled participant will receive annual rental payments, incentives, and cost-share assistance to establish habitat-enhancing natural covers on eligible land

# Eligibility Requirements

- As with all CRP, the land and applicant must meet certain eligibility requirements
- Cropland that was planted to an agricultural commodity during four of the six years from 1996 to 2001.
- The land must be physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity
- The land must be within a designated SAFE area and appropriate for the practices associated with the program

# SAFE Cost Share

- Signup Incentive Payment (SIP)
  - \$100/ac upon contract approval
- Cost Share
- Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)
  - 40% of eligible installation costs
- Annual Rental Payments

CRP

SAFE

VA Culpeper Basin SAFE

VA Longleaf Pine SAFE

VA Riparian Buffer SAFE

VA Rare & Declining Habitats SAFE



# VA Longleaf Pine SAFE

- VA Goal = 1,000 acres
- Target Species = Red Cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, & Redheaded Woodpecker



# Eligible Longleaf Cities/Counties:

- Accomack
- Amelia
- Brunswick
- Charles City
- City of Chesapeake
- Chesterfield
- Dinwiddie
- Gloucester
- Greenville
- City of Hampton
- Hanover
- Henrico
- Isle of Wight
- James City
- King William
- King and Queen
- Lunenburg
- Mathews
- Mecklenburg
- Middlesex
- Newport News
- New Kent
- Northampton
- City of Norfolk
- Nottoway
- City of Poquoson
- City of Portsmouth
- Powhatan
- Prince George
- Southampton
- City of Suffolk
- Sussex
- Surry
- City of Virginia Beach
- City of Williamsburg
- York

# Longleaf SAFE Opportunities:

- Cost-Share is authorized for:
  - Site Preparation Herbicides & Pesticides
  - Tree Seedlings
  - Seedbed Preparation
  - Seeding/Planting
  - Seeding Firebreaks

# Longleaf SAFE Stipulations:

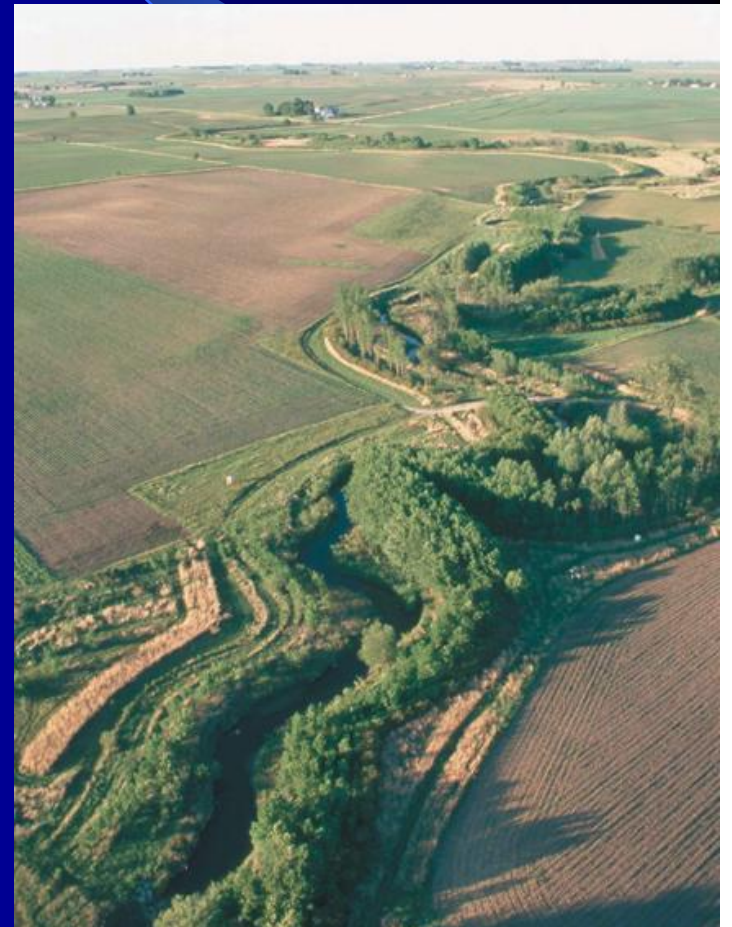
- Must have a Conservation Plan
- Planting must occur by the end of the next normal planting period
- Practice shall be maintained

# Management of Longleaf SAFE:

- Cost-Share for management is authorized for things such as:
  - Prescribed Burning
  - Selective herbicide application

# VA Riparian Buffer SAFE

- VA Goal = 1,800 acres



# Purpose of Riparian Buffer SAFE :

- Establish a stand of trees that will create wildlife habitat and corridors adjacent to waterways
- Provide an expanded riparian area for interior forest and riparian birds
- Improve quality of surface and subsurface water resources

# Riparian Eligibility Information:

*(in addition to general CRP eligibility)*

- Land must be suitable for tree planting
- Must have a Conservation Plan
- Must be maintained through life of contract
- Must be installed and maintained to minimum width agreed upon
- Marginal Pastureland is not eligible

# Riparian SAFE Size Requirements

- Minimum width = 335ft.
- With approval from the local conservationist, an area of native grasses and forbs may be included
- Can be whole fields

# Two Establishment Options:

- Conventional seeding of hardwood trees
- Natural Regeneration

# Cost Share Opportunities:

- Minerals
- Nutrients
- Seed
- Seedlings
- Seedbed Preparation
- Planting
- Water gaps, bridges, animal crossings
- Herbicides & Pesticides
- Rock-filled infiltration trenches
- Grading, Leveling, Filling
- Tree shelters, netting, plastic tubes
- Extra \$2/ac maintenance included in annual rent

# Riparian SAFE Stipulations:

- Enrolled area shall not be harvested or grazed
- Mowing is prohibited after year 3
- Noxious weeds and pests shall be controlled
- Must be established according to NRCS and VA DOF standards
- Hardwood seedlings must have root collar diameter of ¼” or greater.
- 4 ft tree shelters must be used and installed 2-3” below ground surface and zip-tied to a 1x1 hardwood stake.
- Install bird nets on top of shelter, leaving a 1” hole.
- Install 3’x3’ grass control mats, secured with pins
- Trees shall be planted at 20’x20’ spacing (110 tpa)
- Remove tree tubes after year 5

## Natural Regeneration Is Approved When:

- Adequate seed source of approved species is available
- Appropriate cover will be established under normal conditions within 2 years of signed contract
- Erosion and runoff will not be a problem during establishment

## Things to Keep in Mind About Natural Regeneration:

- Weeds must be controlled during establishment
- After 2 years, if buffer is not established, the participant will plant approved cover with no cost-share assistance
- NRCS will evaluate buffer after 2 years

# QUESTIONS?

A photograph of a man in a dark t-shirt holding a white sign with the text "SIGN ME UP!" in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The man is looking upwards and to the right. The background is a clear blue sky.

Brian P. Saunders

706 South Main Street

Emporia, VA 23847

Phone: (434) 634-2115 ex. 114

Fax: (434) 634-6575

Email: [Brian.Saunders@va.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Saunders@va.usda.gov)