



Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Security Program Enhancement Job Sheets

Wildlife Enhancement Job Sheets Minnesota, 2005

Farmstead Shelterbelt Renovation - Wildlife

Definition

The addition of native conifers and/or shrubs to existing farmstead shelterbelts to enhance wildlife escape, roosting, nesting or winter cover and food.

Purpose

Wildlife cover is often limited where cropland is the primary land use. Wildlife having to travel farther than a maximum of ¼ mile between secure cover and a food source during winter are highly vulnerable to predation and exposure. Enhancing the quality of existing farmstead shelterbelts adjacent to cropland will improve winter survival of resident wildlife species and provide important year-round habitat for a wide variety of migratory birds, deer, small mammals and pollinator insects.

Where Used (one or both of the following)

1. Add 1-2 rows of native shrubs 50' upwind of existing shelterbelts to reduce snow deposition. Eligible area includes 1 rod width either side of the shrub row(s).
2. Add a minimum of two rows of native conifers on the downwind side of existing shelterbelts. Eligible area includes 1 rod width either side of the tree row(s).

NOTE: This enhancement cannot be used within ½ mile of existing native prairie or active sharp-tail grouse or prairie chicken leks.

Operation and Maintenance

Shelterbelts must be protected from livestock grazing. Long term control from herbaceous vegetation competition with planted trees/shrubs required. See MN NRCS Practice Standard 650.

Documentation Required

MN-CONS-7 "Tree and Shrub Planting Plan"

Payment Rate

Payment per acre of established and maintained shelterbelt addition.

Signature _____ **Date** _____