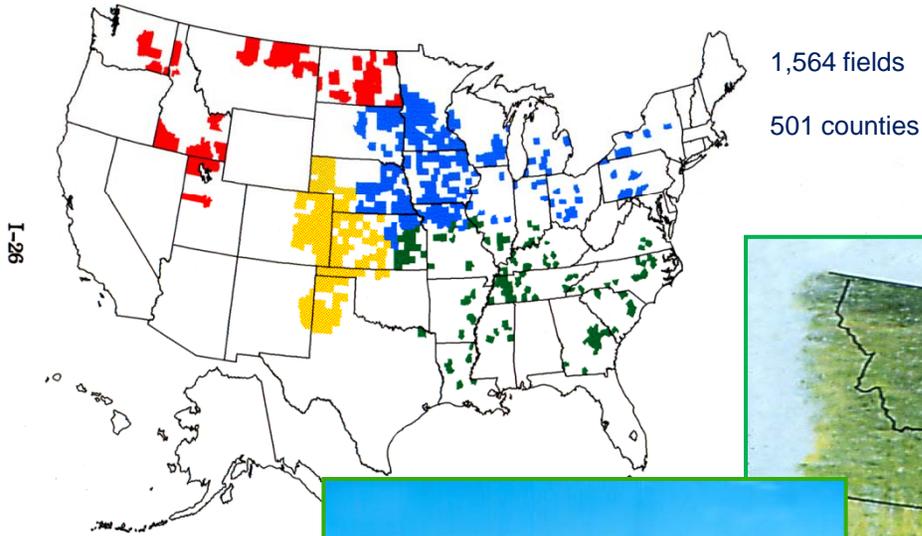


*Agricultural Landscapes:  
Conservation and Wildlife*

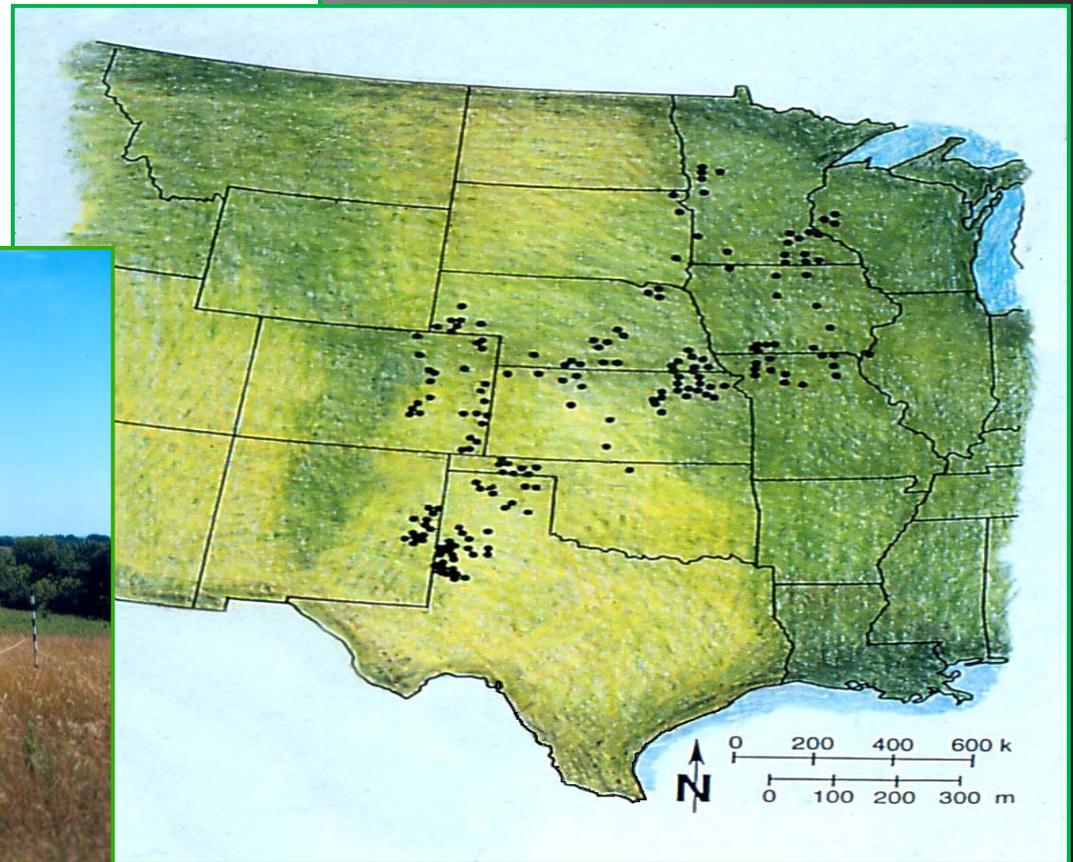
*Notes from the  
Conservation Reserve  
Program*

# Interagency CRP Monitoring Study

USDA, IAFWA, USFWS, 31 State Fish and Game Agencies  
1985 - 1994



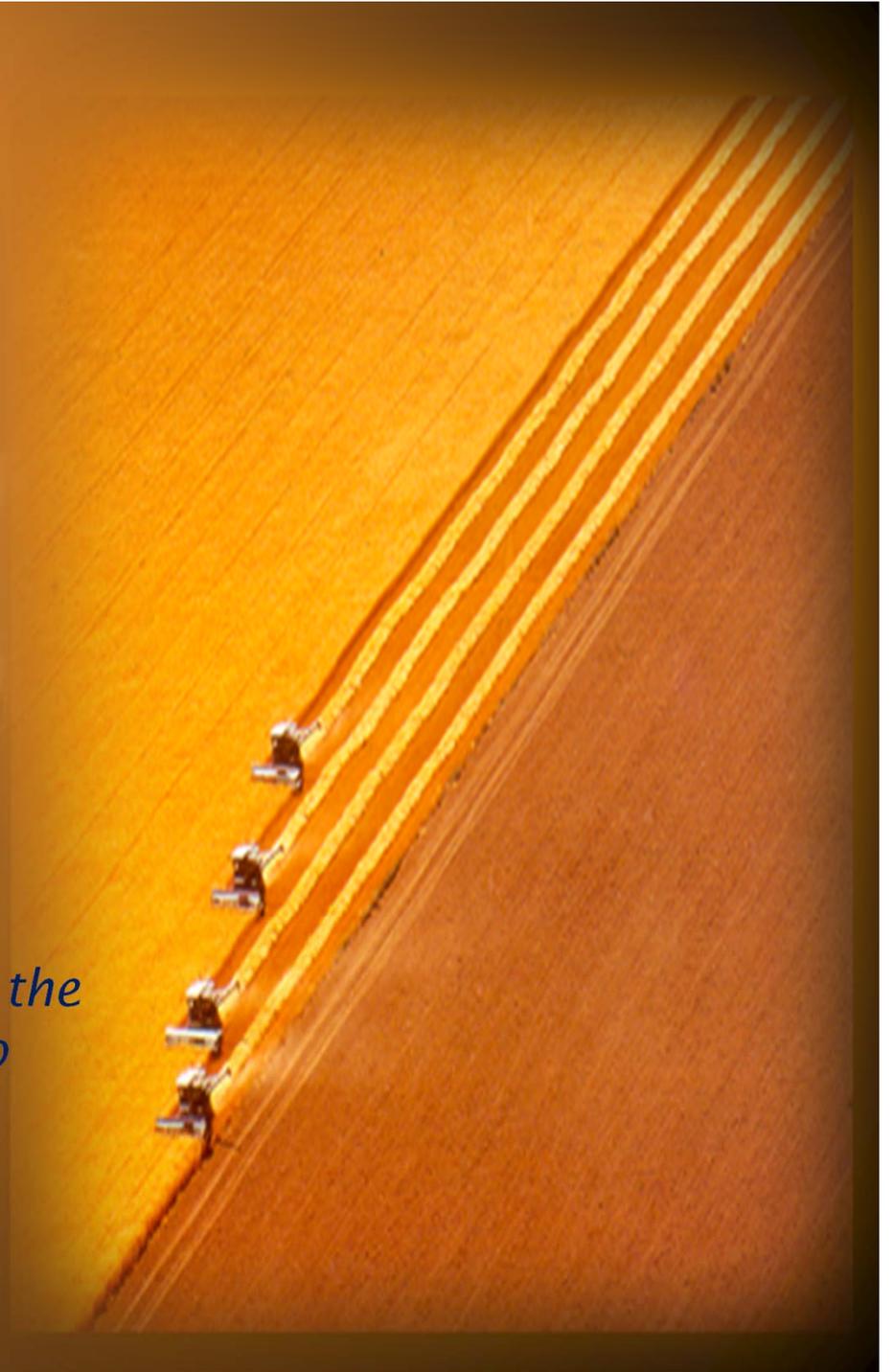
Ave. annual CRP enrollment: 30.6 million ac  
85% in grass (40,000 + mi<sup>2</sup>)

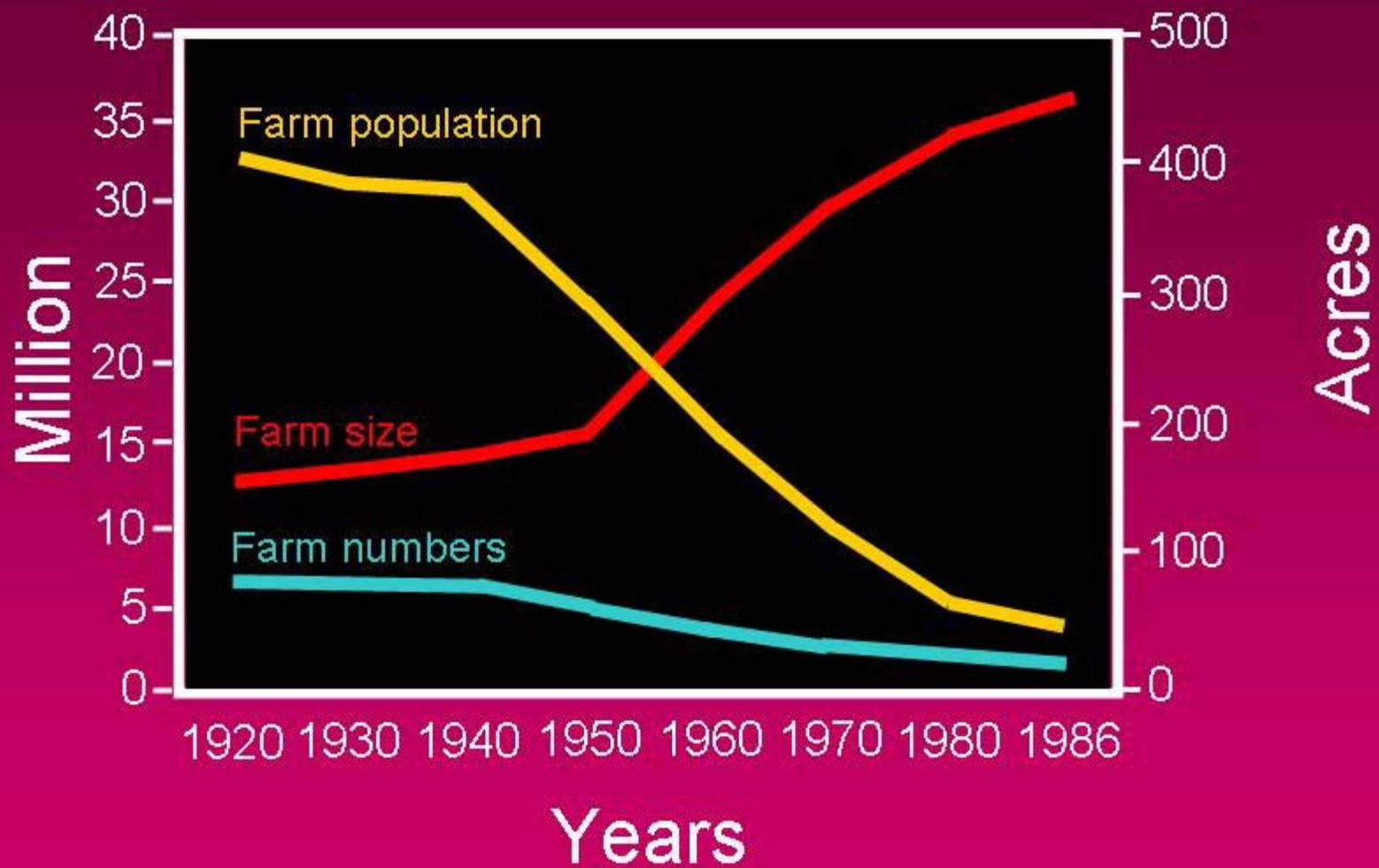




*"The farther backward you look the farther forward you are likely to see."*

*Winston Churchill*

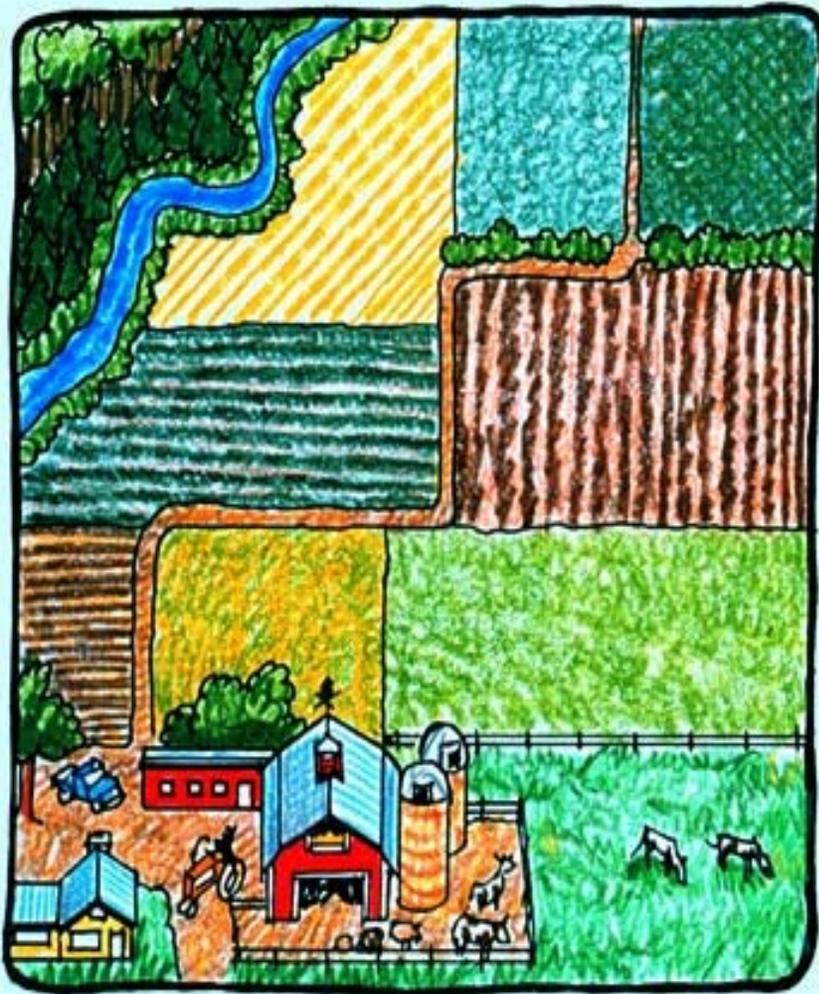




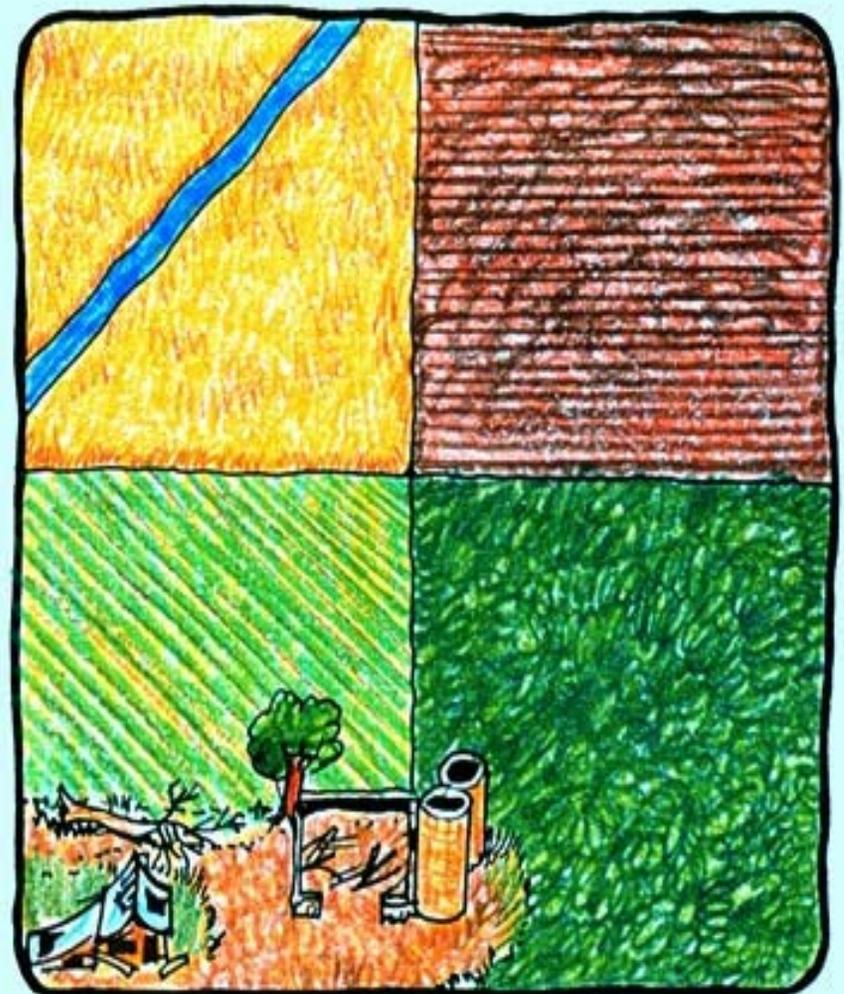
Source: USDA 1987

# Farm Patterns

1950



1985



# **Grassland Habitat Quality**

**Grass species composition**

**Area**

**Location**









1992 – 2002

25 million ducks produced in Northern Plains CRP grasslands.



Over 90 avian species use CRP grasslands for breeding habitat.

Nest abundance 9 – 27 times greater in CRP grasslands than within cropland.

Improvement in habitat for species of special concern, Sage grouse, Texas horned lizard, declining grassland birds.









1987

1,556,652 ac in CRP

2,433 mi<sup>2</sup>

7.7% of landscape

Dale Crawford

Pre-CRP mule deer present in 48% of Panhandle counties.

Post-CRP mule deer present in 88% of counties.



**Greater numbers and diversity of beneficial insects in CRP grasslands**

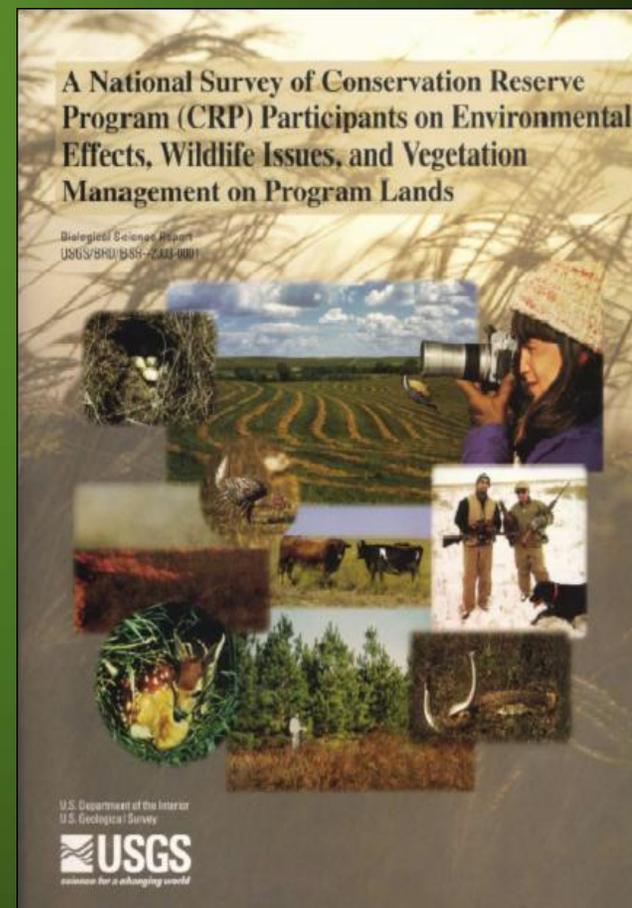
**Croplands adjacent to natural and CRP grasslands benefit from natural pollination, pest control, and greater productivity**

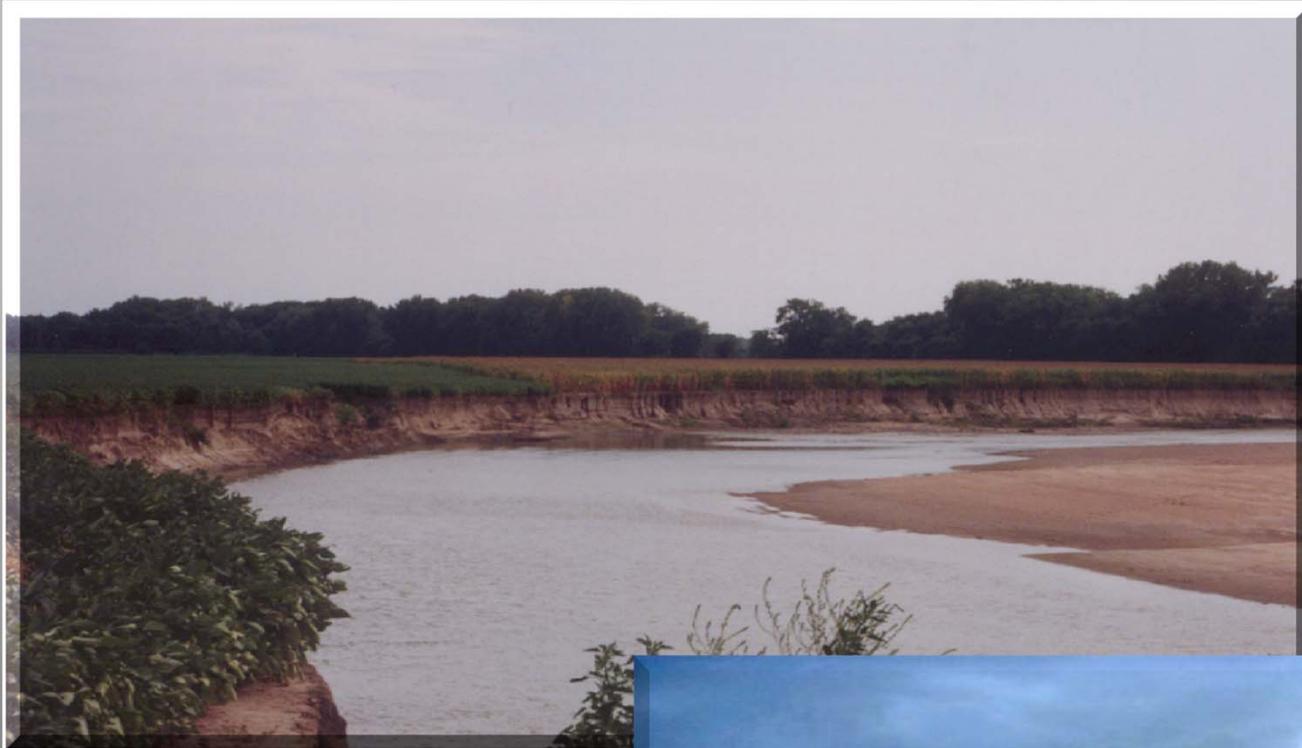


**CRP grasslands are not a source of insect pests, interspersions lessens likelihood of outbreaks in croplands**

# Environmental/Social Benefits Described By CRP Participants

Improved control of soil erosion  
Positive changes in wildlife populations  
Improved water & air quality  
Enhanced scenic quality  
Control of drifting snow  
Increased presence of surface water  
Potential increase in future income  
Ability to remain in farming  
Prevention of erosion on adjacent lands  
Decline in use of agrochemicals  
Prevention of urban expansion





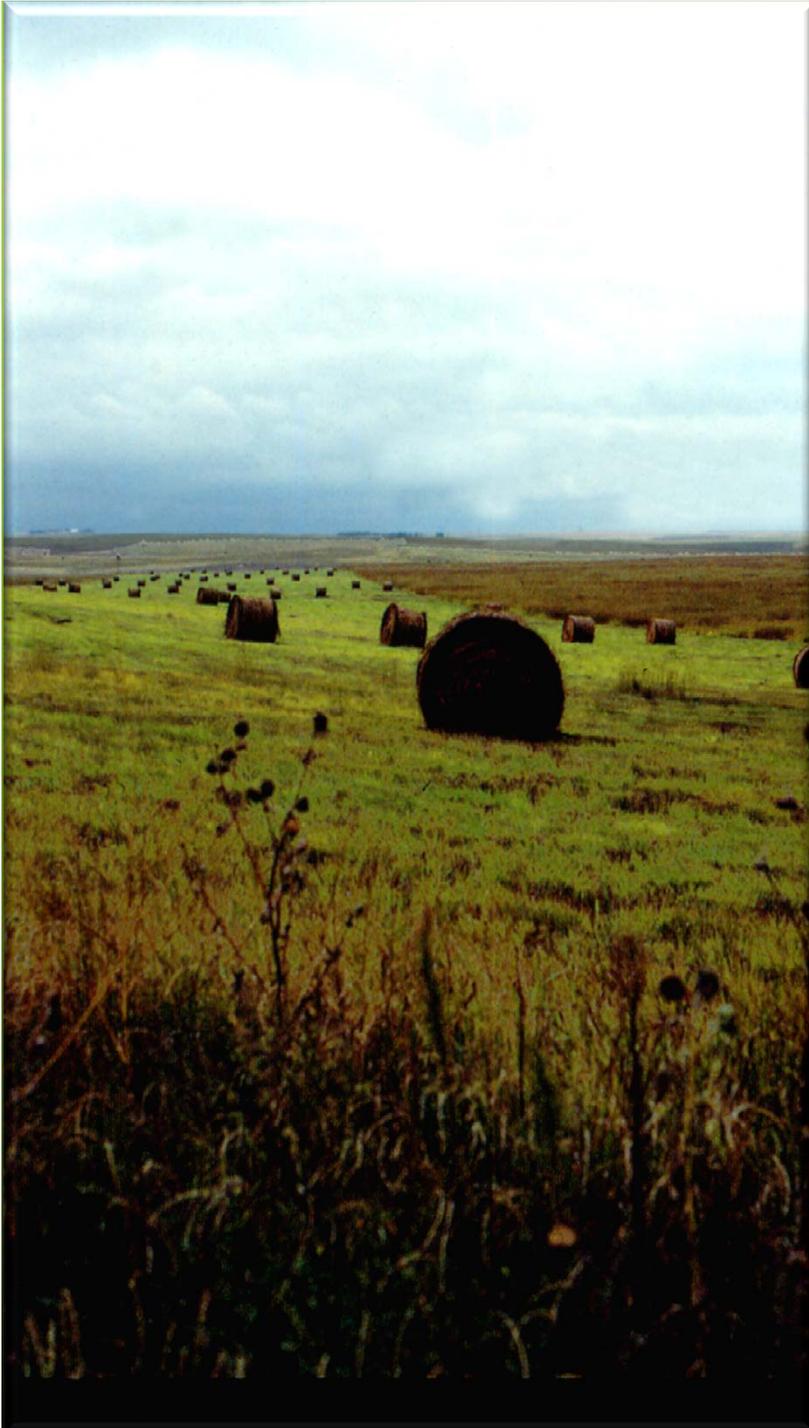
Central Kansas 2004



Grassed terrace

Cross-wind strip





Vegetation characteristics change over time with, or without, management.

CRP conservation practices have benefited wildlife from field to regional scales.

Objectives must be clearly defined.

Desired results are most often not immediate.

