

# Corners for Wildlife

According to the Nebraska Rural Mail Carrier Survey, since 2000, ring-necked pheasants are down 58% statewide and northern bobwhite quail are down 36% statewide. Northern bobwhite populations have decreased by a staggering 82% nationwide since 1967. Both bees and monarch butterflies are also making headlines with their dramatic declines in recent years. Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, along with several partners are doing their part to slow these declines and provide incentives for landowners to increase habitat.

The Corners for Wildlife (CFW) program is a unique program that is only offered in Nebraska. The program is a partnership with Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, Natural Resource Districts, Nebraska Game &

Parks Commission and the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

In many areas of the state where center pivots exist, dryland and flood irrigated corners are less profitable and some years may be unprofitable. The CFW program provides a steady income on these corners when a high diversity grass and wildflower mix is planted to increase wildlife and pollinator habitat. In intensively farmed areas, these corners may be the only habitat that exist for ring-necked pheasants, northern bobwhite quail, and other grassland birds. This also becomes a great water savings program for the state when irrigated corners are seeded to grass.

The CFW program is a popular option among landowners. Landowners receive a rental payment for a five-year contract to establish and maintain high diversity wildlife habitat on areas associated with a center pivot.



*The Corners for Wildlife program is designed to help establish wildlife habitat on center pivot corners not capable of sustaining high yields when planted to row crops.*

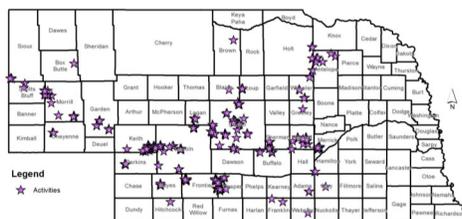


*High diversity grass and wildflower mixes are used in the CFW program to provide excellent nesting and brood rearing cover as well as pollinator benefits.*

## Program Highlights

- Plant corners or odd areas to high diversity grass and wildflower mix
- Up to \$100/acre annual rental payment
- 75% cost share
- 5-year contract

Corners For Wildlife Report  
2012 - 2014



*Locations of CFW projects throughout the state from 2012 to 2014.*

## INTERESTING FACT

**The National Audubon Society's report of the "Top 20 Common Birds in Decline" has the northern bobwhite being the #1 most imperiled species.**





*When corners are established to permanent wildlife habitat, the erosion that occurs on row crop lands from water will be significantly reduced.*



*Corners for Wildlife projects are designed with wildlife in mind.*

### **Project Requirements**

Landowners enrolling in CFW agree to establish wildlife habitat on areas next to a center pivot. The land does not have to be operated by the same person that operates the acres under the pivot. Projects are seeded to a cover practice that establishes high quality nesting, brood rearing and pollinator habitat. Landowners are also encouraged to plant native shrub thickets. Materials are cost shared 75% by Nebraska Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever with the landowner responsible for 25% of the material costs. Participating NRDs will cover 100% of the shrub planting costs.

The landowner has 3 rental payment options to choose from:

- **Options #1:** Plant a high quality grass and wildflower mixture designed by a PF wildlife biologist for upland game birds, grassland songbirds and pollinators. There is no shrub requirement for this option. The maximum yearly rental payment for this cover practice is \$60 per acre for 5 years.
- **Option #2:** Plant a high quality grass and wildflower mixture designed by a PF wildlife biologist for upland game birds, grassland songbirds and pollinators. Shrubs and/or trees can be added and planted in rows. The maximum yearly rental payment for this cover practice is \$75 per acre for 5 years.
- **Option #3:** Plant a high quality grass and wildflower mixture designed by a PF wildlife biologist for upland game birds, grassland songbirds and pollinators. At least 400 shrubs will be planted per corner in a block formation to mimic a natural thicket. This generally requires two thickets per corner. The maximum yearly rental payment for this cover practice is \$100 per acre for 5 years.



*Common milkweed is essential to the monarch butterfly life cycle. Common milkweed is included in CFW seed mixes to increase habitat for monarchs.*



*An American plum shrub thicket planting after 6 years. Most shrubs are now producing fruit!*

### **Program Benefits:**

- Conserves ground and surface water.
- Establishes high quality wildlife habitat.
- Increases water quality.
- Encourages and rewards landowners to establish permanent wildlife habitat.
- Increases native wildlife and pollinator populations.
- Benefits the economies of local communities by increasing wildlife hunting opportunities.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION



*Through a partnership with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, wildlife biologists are available to help provide wildlife habitat guidance, technical assistance on the available conservation programs and design seeding mixtures.*

*For further information visit [NebraskaPF.com](http://NebraskaPF.com) or call 844-733-3669.*

