

# PATHWAY FOR WILDLIFE

FULL-SEASON COVER CROPS BENEFIT SOIL HEALTH AND WILDLIFE



## Program Overview

Pathway For Wildlife offers incentives to enhance wildlife habitat on cropland, working lands, and within local communities. Producers who plant a diverse cover crop mixture for one cropping season are eligible for cost share and foregone income payments. Along with soil health benefits, diverse cover crops can provide additional cover to help meet seasonal needs of upland game birds (i.e., brood-rearing, winter, and escape cover), pollinators, and other wildlife.

## Program Highlights

- Improve soil health
- Season-long wildlife cover
- 5 acre minimum enrollment
- 75% cost-share for seed mix
- Foregone income payments



### SEED CORN ISOLATION ACRES

Producers enrolling seed corn isolation acres receive 75% cost share on the cover crop seed along with a foregone income payment of \$300 per acre.

Eligible counties include Adams, Hall, Merrick, Polk, Butler, Hamilton, York, Seward, Clay, Fillmore, and Saline.



### IRRIGATED ACRES

Producers enrolling irrigated acres receive 75% cost share on the cover crop seed along with a foregone income payment of \$300 per acre on a maximum of 80 acres.

Eligible counties include Merrick, Polk, Butler, Hamilton, York, Seward, Clay, Fillmore, and Saline.



### DRYLAND ACRES

Producers enrolling dryland acres receive 75% cost share on the cover crop seed along with a foregone income payment up to \$225 per acre on a maximum of 40 acres.

Eligible counties include Merrick, Polk, Butler, Hamilton, York, Seward, Clay, Fillmore, and Saline.

## Eligible Land

Qualifying producers must have productive row crop acres within two miles of existing quality perennial habitat, which may include CRP acres, native pasture, wetlands, etc. A producer must agree to plant a diverse cover crop mixture prior to June 1st and leave the biomass standing until the following March 15th. After March 15th the producer can utilize the cover crop biomass how they prefer, and the acres can return to row crop production. Ideal sites are a minimum of 5 acres and can include marginal acres, pivot corners, edge-of-field acres, and isolation acres, etc.

## Contract Length

Contracts for the full season practice are for one season (June 1st through March 15th). There is potential to reenroll acres, but this is dependent on practice funding.

## Payments

Participants will receive 75% cost-share for a diverse, cover crop seed mixture. Seed corn isolation and irrigated acres qualify for a foregone income payment of \$300/acre. Foregone income payments for dryland acres are based on NRCS Soils Classification: \$140/acre for Class 5-8 soils (Moderate-Low Productivity) and \$225/acre for Class 1-4 soils (High Productivity).

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Sites may be chosen to monitor wildlife and soil health. Camera traps are used to monitor upland gamebird and other wildlife use of the cover crop stands. Infiltration tests are conducted on several sites to determine if the practice increased water infiltration rates.

## Enrollment and More Information

Contact Nathan Pflueger to discuss the program and enrollment opportunities.

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