

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Who is eligible?

- Any landowner/operator with land established in CRP for at least 4 years (CRP producers).
- Anyone who owns land in the target counties
- Land leased to private entities for hunting purposes does not qualify for this program.

Will this jeopardize my participation in the CRP program?

No. All practices are approved by USDA and state and local NRCS and FSA offices. All CRP contract modifications must be approved by the local county committee.

Does the land have to be enrolled in KDWP's Walk-In-Hunting Areas Program?

No, but money is limited and WIHA lands will have first priority for participation.

Now, where do I start?

1. Contact local KDWP biologists or regional office listed in this brochure, a Pheasants Forever or Quail Unlimited representative, or your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office.

2. The district wildlife biologist will meet with you, inspect the property and suggest the best habitat upgrades. You then decide which practices to apply and the biologist will create a one-page habitat improvement plan which also will serve as a contract for payment.

3. The district biologist will help you determine if your CRP contract needs to be modified and will assist you with the modification process.

4. Once the contract is modified, and you or the contractor have completed the work, the district wildlife biologist will inspect the upgrades and pay you for the upgrades that you have performed.

WHAT ARE PAYMENT RATES?

Practices

Strip disking (no more than 33% of the field on CRP)

Payments

\$15/acre

Strip disking with legume upgrade ¹

\$25/acre

Food Plots ¹ (annual; or perennial with legume; max. 5% of CRP "offered acres")

\$25/acre

No-till inter-seeding with legume (max. 25% of field)

\$10/acre

¹ KDWP will furnish an appropriate mix of legumes (primarily alfalfa) or food plot seed.

AVAILABLE PRACTICES ON OTHER LANDS

Management assistance of existing habitats & development of new/improved nesting and brood rearing areas, winter and predator escape cover:

- Native shrub plantings
- Conversion of cool-season to native grasses
- Warm season native grass plantings
- Wildlife foodplots
- Control of invasive trees in native rangeland
- Woodland and hedgerow management
- Brush management in rangelands
- Prescribed burning

Discuss these management efforts with your district wildlife biologist!

Region 2 Office
300 SW Wanamaker
Topeka, KS 66606
(785) 273-6740

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, and military or veteran status. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1327. 10/09

Upland Wildlife Habitat Upgrades



Do you own land in northeast Kansas?

Would you like to see more bobwhites, pheasants, songbirds, and prairie chickens?

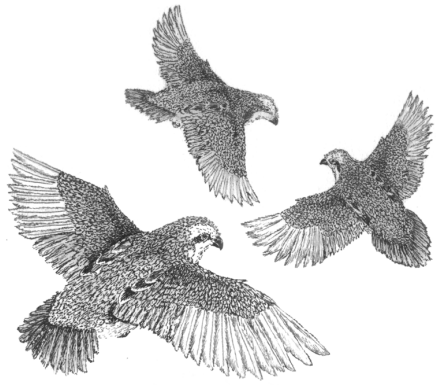
More birds on the land,
more \$ in your pocket.

A cooperative program presented by
Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks,
Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, Quail Unlimited, KAWS,
and Glacial Hills RC&D



GLACIAL HILLS
RESOURCE CONSERVATION &
DEVELOPMENT REGION, INC.





Quail and pheasant populations in this region remain lower than historical long-term trends. While many factors may contribute to these declines, biologists agree that quality habitat is the driving force for improving upland bird numbers.

Biologists from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP), Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, and Quail Unlimited agree that Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands offer the best opportunity to improve habitat for quail and pheasants. These fields, although quite productive during the first few years of establishment, quickly become less inviting to birds for nesting and brood-rearing as the tall, native grasses begin to dominate the stands. It has been shown that upland game bird productivity substantially drops off after the field has been established for five years.

A few easy and cost-effective management practices can return CRP productivity for pheasant and quail.

Non-CRP lands also can be improved to meet the life requirements of quail, pheasants, songbirds and prairie chickens.

Prairie Chicken numbers have also declined due to degraded habitat. In most cases, invasive trees, the lack of prescribed burning, harmful grazing and haying practices have resulted in reduced prairie chicken populations.

On CRP acres, landowner cooperators in KDWP's Walk-In-Hunting Areas (WIHA) program qualify for a sign-up bonus of \$200 plus \$2/acre of habitat work. Non-WIHA landowners qualify for a sign-up bonus of \$100 plus \$1/acre of habitat work (maximum of 40 acres of habitat work per non-WIHA cooperator).

The following is a quick summary of many habitat improvement practices:

STRIP DISKING

Strip disking is probably the easiest practice with the most immediate results for increasing nesting and brood-rearing habitat. Strips are disked through the CRP, disturbing the surface and allowing annual broadleaf plants a chance to establish. These might be wild sunflowers, ragweed, or similar plants critical for young upland game birds. Grass in the strips is "set back" but not destroyed and in 1-3 years will likely be as thick as prior to disking.

BROOD STRIPS

The benefits of strip disking can be greatly increased by drilling or broadcasting legumes over the disked strips. It has been shown that these brood strips with alfalfa and other broadleaved plants are "food factories" for upland game bird chicks.

LEGUME INTERSEEDING

The simple interseeding of a legume mix into burned, hayed, or grazed CRP can help establish "brood strips" without disking.

FOOD PLOTS

Traditional food plots also can increase the value of CRP and non-CRP by providing winter forage and additional cover. Food plots can be planted with grain crops or legume mixes. These also may serve as firebreaks to assist in the prescribed burning of CRP.

RANGE MANAGEMENT

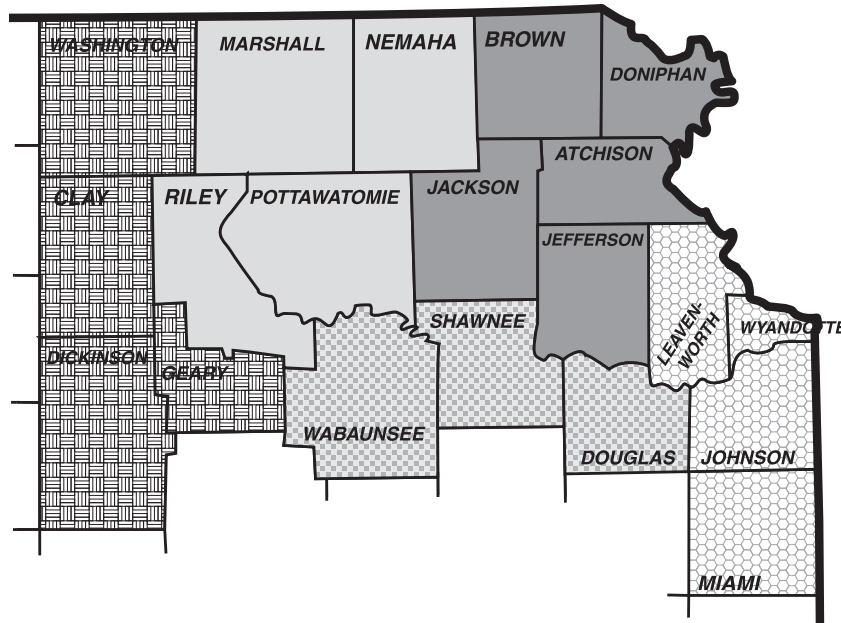
Prairie chickens, grassland songbirds and quail, can benefit from the control of invasive trees and improved management of native rangeland. Invasive trees can degrade native prairie and increase the invasion of predators of grassland birds. The canopy of mature invasive trees can also shade out the under-story vegetation which often provides needed winter cover and protection from predators.

When tree management efforts eliminate invasive trees, habitat quality for prairie chicken, grassland birds and bobwhite quail improves. Native shrubs can be managed but are not intended to be removed by this practice. Dense thickets of native shrubs such as dogwood and plum provide excellent cover.

Brush management by itself is only part of the prescription. Planned grazing, deferred grazing where needed, and prescribed burning are also necessary to prevent the recurrence of conditions that resulted in native rangeland becoming degraded by invasive trees.

Farm programs such as the Conservation Security Program (CSP) reward good land stewards of rangeland for the very conditions that this program intends to promote.

CONTACT FOR INFORMATION (KDWP Wildlife Biologists)



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