



# Annual Wildlife Cover

Incentive payments range from \$178 - \$597/acre

## What is it?

A full season planting designed to be standing cover in the summer months for brood rearing of ground nesting birds (Quail, Pheasants, Turkeys, etc.) and in the winter for protective and thermal cover for wildlife.

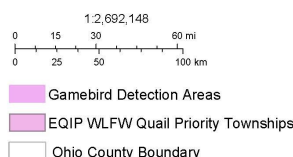
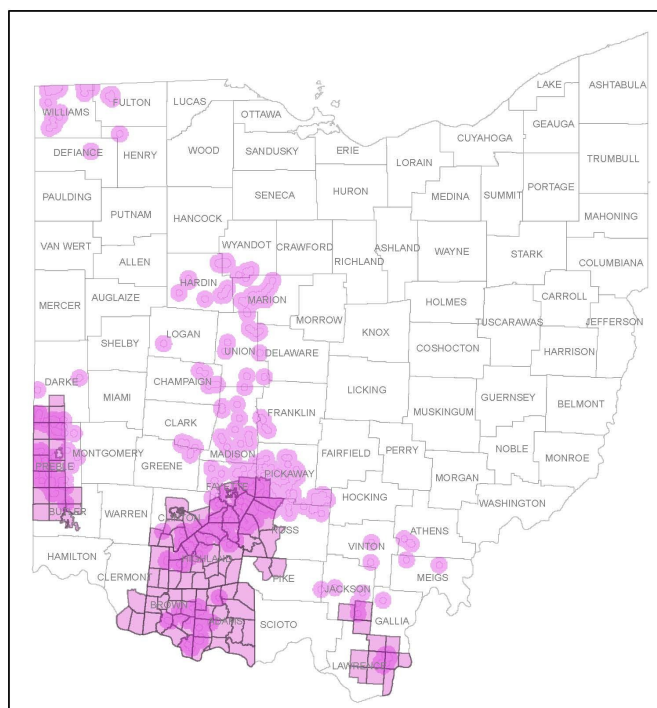


Hen pheasant utilizing annual cover in snow. Credit: Nathan Pflueger, Nebraska PF

## Who is eligible?

Land must currently be row cropped and fall within the grassland game bird priority areas (**all purple areas in map below**).

Grassland Gamebird Priority Areas



## What are the general guidelines?

Implementation of annual wildlife cover must meet the following guidelines:

- Limited to 50 acres per FSA tract.
- Must be adjacent to unmowed, standing grass area that is at least 30 ft. wide and 1 acre in size. (i.e. CRP, fallow fields, old fields, unmowed hay, lightly grazed pasture).
- Can be planted as a whole field, or as a buffer, field border, or a strip, but must have a minimum width of 60 feet throughout.
- There are 3 different seeding options with varying planting dates (**see back**). Cover cannot be mowed, crimped, or destroyed until March 15 or later.
- Cover **may not** be harvested, and manure **may not** be applied after seeding. Consult NRCS for manure/nutrient application technical guidance.



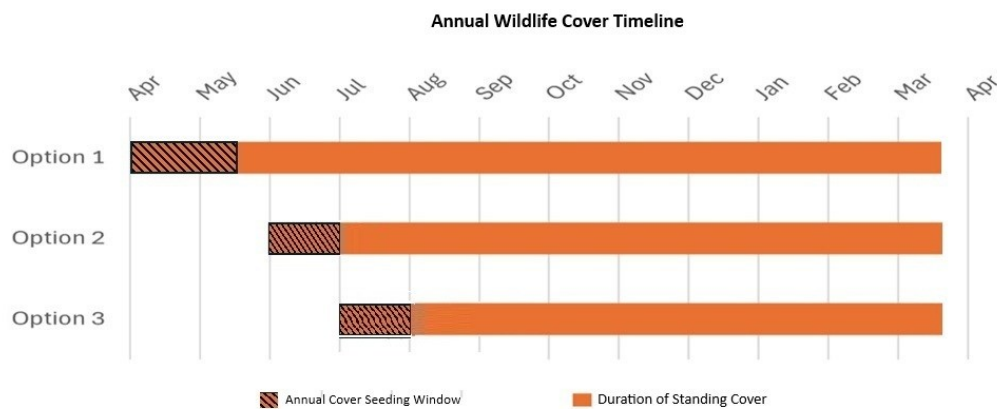
Rooster pheasant utilizing annual cover. Credit Nathan Pflueger, Nebraska PF



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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| Cover Option | Length of Time | Starting Month             | Incentive Payment* (\$/acre) | Foregone Income Payment Eligible | Monitoring & Management | Seed Mix    | Seed Mix Requirements   |
|--------------|----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|---|
| Option 1     | 12 months      | April                      | \$597                        | Yes                              | Optional                | Cool Season | 1 Small Grain, 3 broad-leaves (forbs/legumes) minimum               |
| Option 2     | 10 months      | June                       | \$597                        | Yes                              | Optional                | Warm Season | Cultivated Sorghum required. 3 broad-leaves (forbs/legumes) minimum |
| Option 3     | 9 months       | July (after wheat harvest) | \$178                        | No                               | Optional                | Warm Season | Cultivated Sorghum required. 3 broad-leaves (forbs/legumes) minimum |

\*Incentive payment is issued upon inspection of standing cover after March 15th

\* based off of FY26 rates and are subject to change. Foregone income is a payment (included in incentive payment) compensating producers for foregoing one year of row crop production (Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, etc.).

### Annual Wildlife Cover Mixes

| Five Species Mix   |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Species            | lbs./acre |
| Sorghum-Sudangrass | 24.0      |
| Grain Sorghum      | 3.7       |
| Soybean            | 13.0      |
| Buckwheat          | 6.0       |
| Red Clover         | 3.0       |
| Six Species Mix    |           |
| Species            | lbs./acre |
| Sorghum-Sudangrass | 24.0      |
| Grain Sorghum      | 3.7       |
| Cereal Rye         | 13        |
| Soybean            | 13.0      |
| Buckwheat          | 6.0       |
| Red Clover         | 3.0       |



Annual Wildlife Cover in the growing season

To see if you qualify for the Annual Wildlife Cover and to learn more, please contact your Wildlife Management Consultant by scanning the QR Code or visiting the link below or contact Preble Soil & Water Conservation District at (937) 456-5159



<https://bit.ly/3Rg8bbF>