



Annual Wildlife Cover

Incentive payments range from \$178 - \$739/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

What are the general guidelines?

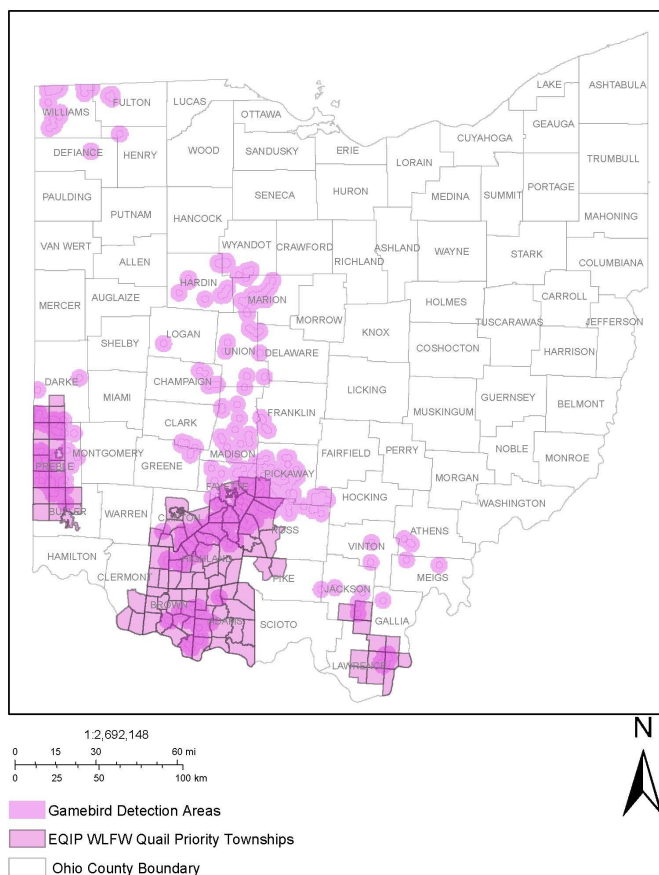
Implementation of annual wildlife cover must meet the following guidelines:

- 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.

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



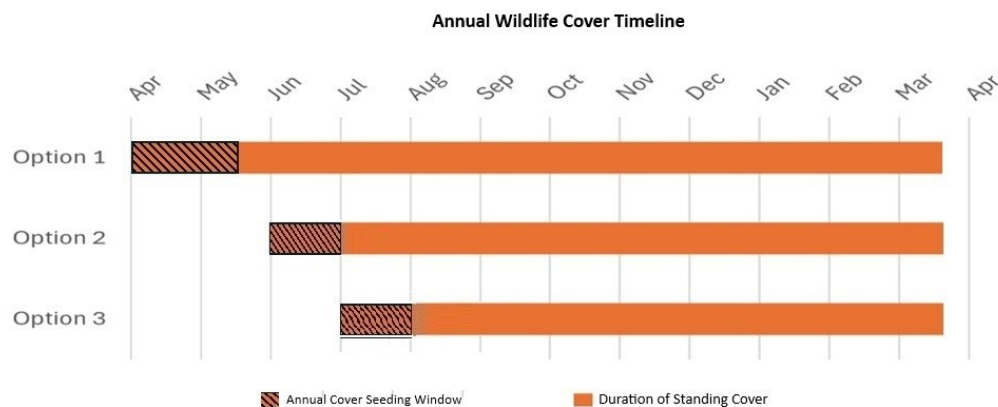
Rooster pheasant utilizing annual cover. Credit Nathan Pflueger, Nebraska PF



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	\$739	Yes	Optional	Cool Season	1 Small Grain, 3 broad-leaves (forbs/legumes) minimum
Option 2	10 months	June	\$739	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
Sunn Hemp	3.0
Buckwheat	6.0
Red Clover	3.0
Six Species Mix	
Species	lbs./acre
Sorghum-Sudangrass	24.0
Grain Sorghum	3.7
Cereal Rye	13
Sunn Hemp	3.0
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!



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