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SET - ASIDE ACRES
and
WILDLIFE

What the Individual Farmer Can Do



IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION
in cooperation with
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Stabilization and
Conservation Service

Proper habitat is the key to abundant wildlife populations. The set-aside acres or "government ground" represent a great deal of potential habitat for Iowa wildlife; however, these acres must be managed in the proper way. You can do a great deal to improve your diverted land for wildlife without seriously affecting your farming operations. Since this land has already been taken out of crop production, why not produce a wildlife crop?

Your diverted land can be beneficial to wildlife during two critical times: 1) the nesting season and 2) the winter.



Set - Aside Acres as Wildlife Nesting Areas

All species of wildlife need safe cover areas in which to reproduce. You can help provide such safe areas on your diverted land.

1. The best nesting areas are those fields that have been diverted for 2 to 5 years. Fields such as these with established grasses, legumes or grass-legume combination cover crops produce the most wildlife. Brome grass and alfalfa combinations are especially good for pheasants.
2. Oats seeded on diverted acres can also provide adequate nesting habitat. However, these fields should be seeded with at least 2.5 bushels of oats per acre and the seeding should be completed by the end of April. By following this seeding rate and date you would provide oats cover that is tall and dense enough to attract nesting hens.

Set - Aside Acres as Winter Cover

Secure winter cover is the other type of cover that can be supplied on your diverted land. These areas will be most used after the crop harvest has taken most other cover off the surrounding land.

1. The best winter cover crop you can plant on your diverted land is a tall variety of forage sorghum or sorghum-sudan grass hybrid. These crops not only provide winter cover but some food.
2. Sweet clover is another plant that you can grow on diverted acres to provide good wildlife winter cover. These first two crops are applicable to all of Iowa but would be of most value to wildlife in the northern half of the state where the winters are more severe and the snow accumulation greater.
3. The grass, legume or grass-legume combination seedings, will provide some winter cover; however, these would be best for winter cover in southern Iowa where there usually isn't much snow accumulation.



On all of your set-aside acres that are planted to benefit wildlife it is essential not to disturb the plant cover. If the area is planted to nesting cover it should not be clipped until August 1. Early mowing not only destroys potential nesting cover but many hens and nests as well. Most county ASCS offices will give their approval to delay clipping at least until this date if there is no noxious weed problem. Areas planted for wildlife winter cover will be rendered useless to wildlife if they are plowed or grazed down before winter.



In most cases these simple suggestions can be followed on any Iowa farm - - your farm - - without interfering with profitable farming operations or taking any additional land out of production.

If you have further questions or desire free technical assistance, please contact the Wildlife Management Biologist in your area.

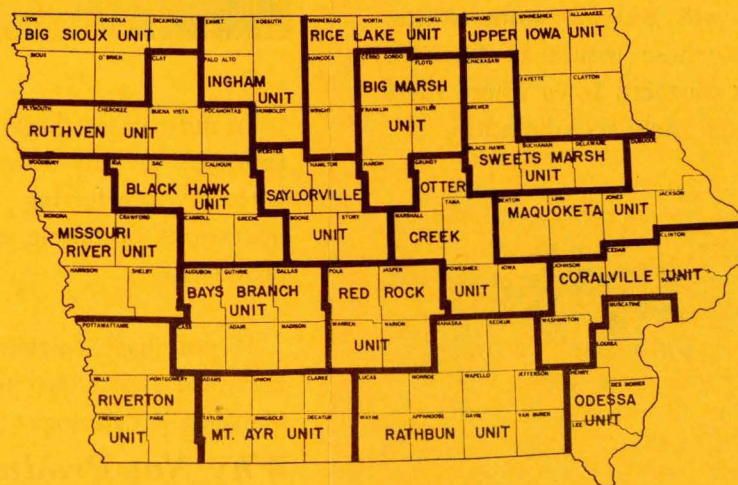
***Why Not Produce a
Wildlife Crop?***

Wildlife Management Biologist Addresses:

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| 1. | Bays Branch Wildlife Unit | Panora, 50216 |
| 2. | Big Marsh Wildlife Unit | Fish Hatchery, Clear Lake, 50428 |
| 3. | Big Sioux Wildlife Unit | SCS Office Bldg., Rock Rapids, 51246 |
| 4. | Black Hawk Wildlife Unit | SCS Office Bldg., 406 Main, Rockwell City 50579 |
| 5. | Coralville Wildlife Unit | ASCS Office Bldg., Iowa City, 52240 |
| 6. | Ingham-High Wildlife Unit | SCS Office Bldg., 20 S. 17th St., Estherville, 51334 |
| 7. | Maquoketa Wildlife Unit | Box 68, Anamosa, 52205 |
| 8. | Missouri River Wildlife Unit | SCS Office, Lindley Bldg., Onawa, 51040 |
| 9. | Mt. Ayr Wildlife Unit | SCS Office Bldg., R.R. No. 3, Mt. Ayr, 50854 |
| 10. | Odessa Wildlife Unit | ASCS Office Bldg., 117 S. 2nd, Wapello, 52653 |
| 11. | Otter Creek Wildlife Unit | USDA Office Bldg., 203 W. High St., Toledo, 52342 |
| 12. | Rathbun Wildlife Unit | R.R. No. 2, Russell, 50238 |
| 13. | Red Rock Wildlife Unit | R.R. No. 2, Pleasantville, 50225 |
| 14. | Rice Lake Wildlife Unit | R.R. No. 2, Lake Mills, 50450 |
| 15. | Riverton Wildlife Unit | SCS Office Bldg., Malvern 51551 |
| 16. | Ruthven Wildlife Unit | SCS Office Bldg., Cherokee, 51012 |
| 17. | Saylorville Wildlife Unit | Wildlife Research Station, Boone, 50036 |
| 18. | Sweet Marsh Wildlife Unit | ASCS Office Bldg., 911 E. Bremer, Waverly, 50677 |
| 19. | Upper Iowa Wildlife Unit | ASCS Office Bldg., 911 S. Mill St., Decorah, 52101 |

Units

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNITS



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