

General Cost-Share Policy - Rice County Pheasants Forever Chapter

- The budget for private lands projects will be approved by the chapter committee before April 15th each year.
- All cost-share applications must be submitted by **April 15th**. Any applications received after the April 15th deadline will be considered the following year unless funds are still available for the current year.
- Projects will be approved / funded by the PF committee based on benefits to wildlife. If more projects are submitted than available funding – partial funding may be offered or projects will be ranked by the local committee and those that provide the most benefits for wildlife will be funded.
- Pheasants Forever may be able to provide volunteer labor for your wildlife conservation project.

I. Nesting Cover - The maximum payment rate is up to 50% of the land owner's cost after any other available cost-share payments not to exceed \$50/acre to a maximum of \$500 per seeding. Rice County PF Project Committee will issue payment after a spot-check (in July or August) and a review of all bills submitted.

A) Establishment of Introduced Grasses and Legumes

- An approved seeding plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must be followed. Acceptable species include Alfalfa, Smooth Brome Grass, Tall and Intermediate Wheat Grass, Orchard Grass and Sweet Clover. There are many other varieties of acceptable grasses and legumes that can be planted. Check with the NRCS or the DNR for all the seeding options.
- Fertilizer should be added according to soil tests. The minimum application is at least 75% or the recommended rate for a yield goal of 3 Tons grass legume hay.
- Approved cost share items include seed, site preparation, fertilizer, seeding, and chemical weed control if needed. A landowner can submit bills for work that he completes, such as seeding or site preparation, but the amount must be reasonable and customary.

B) Establishment of Native Grasses and Forbs

- An approved seeding plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must be followed. Some of the most common species that can be planted include Big Blue Stem, Switch Grass, Indian Grass, Sideoats Gramma, and Little Blue Stem. There are several hundred other species of grasses and forbs native to this area, so soil and planting conditions can play an important role in the planting. Make sure to have a seeding plan before ordering seed.
- Forbs (broad leaved plants/wildflowers) are an important aspect of nesting cover as they provide structure and insect habitat critical for chick survival.
- No fertilizer is recommended with this type of planting.
- Approved cost share items include; site preparation, chemicals (per seeding plan), seed, and seeding. A landowner can submit bills for work he completes, such as seeding and site preparation, but the amount must be reasonable and customary.

II Corn and Sorghum Food Plots

- Maximum of 2 acres per food plot.
- Must be located within ¼ mile of good winter cover (cattail slough, heavy tree planting - conifers).
- Must be planted prior to **June 10th**
- Must receive adequate **weed control** by cultivation and/or chemical weed control.
- Food plot must remain intact until **March 15th** of the following spring – landowner may then harvest.
- **Non-agricultural or land in CRP or similar programs.** Up to \$100/acre cost share (PF will supply seed as available – corn, sorghum, sunflower, and survival mix available).
- **Cropland taken out of production.** Up to \$125/acre cost share for standing corn.
- **Payments** will be made in December following a spot-check by the Rice County PF project committee.

III Woody Cover

A. Minimum Design

- A minimum of **10 rows** with at least 4 rows conifer.
- Minimum row length is 200 feet. 200 feet x 10 rows = approximately a 1 acre tree planting.
- Must be in a location that will benefit pheasants both now and in the future.
- Trees must be planted as soon as possible in the spring and watered as needed the first year.
- Weed control is required for the first 3-4 years. This can be done several ways...cultivation, regular mowing, chemical weed control, fabric tree mats, or any combination of the above.
- For the first 10 years the planting should be inspected annually by the landowner and any needed items, such as replacement of dead trees or weed control, should be completed.
- The maximum payment is up to 50% of landowner's cost after any other available cost share payments. This would include a maximum of \$750 *with* tree mats and \$500 *without* tree mats.
- Trees can be purchased from private nurseries or from government agencies. The planting must be approved by one of the following: Rice County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), or the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
- Approved cost-share items are trees, labor, tree mats (including staples and installation), and herbicides used the first year.
- The Rice County PF Project Committee will issue payments after completing a spot-check of the planting and reviewing all bills submitted.