

STATE WILDLIFE GRANT

State of Illinois Grant Segment/Proposal

PROJECT TITLE: FARM BILL BIOLOGISTS B GRAND PRAIRIE AND SOUTHERN TILL PLAIN GRASSLAND WILDLIFE VENTURES

PROJECT NUMBER: T-64-D-1

NEED: NO CHANGE

OBJECTIVES: NO CHANGE

EXPECTED BENEFITS AND RESULTS: NO CHANGE

APPROACH:

The Farm Bill Biologists (FBB) will be employees of Pheasants Forever. They will be housed in NRCS/SWCD county offices. Two FBBs will work all SAFE areas in the Southern Till Plain (tentatively stationed in Effingham and Marion Counties) and will be assigned 3 to 4 SAFE areas each. ~~Two~~ **Three** FBBs will be assigned to the southern half of the Grand Prairie (tentatively stationed in Ford and Tazewell Counties) will cover at least 5 to 6 SAFE areas apiece. FBBs will provide the IDNR with a monthly report of their activities.

The minimum qualifications for a FBB will be a B.S. degree in wildlife or other environmental degree, basis knowledge of Federal Farm Programs and knowledge of habitat management. Each FBBs will be employed for two years and paid \$37,861 (including benefits) the first year and \$42,740 (including benefits) the second year. The job responsibility for a FBB will be to 1) promote, coordinate and implement the conservation provisions of the Federal Farm Bill and other related wildlife conservation programs, 2) to carry out habitat planning, program promotion, contract coordination, conservation plan modification, site assessment and reporting activities, and 3) provide technical assistance for wildlife habitat enhancement techniques to private landowners and public organizations.

The total cost of this project will be ~~\$450,000~~ **\$517,954** of which ~~\$225,000~~ **\$258,977** will be federal share and the state match will include ~~\$112,500~~ **\$129,488.50** from the Wildlife and Fish Fund and ~~\$112,500~~ **\$129,488.50** from the State ~~Pheasant~~ Funds.

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION:

Contractual:

The request includes \$450,000, federal and state match, to contract with Pheasants Forever to provide ~~\$322,404~~ **\$403,005** salaries and benefits for ~~(4)~~ **5** Farm Bill Biologists and ~~\$127,596~~ **\$114,949** operational costs (i.e., travel, office supplies) to implement the proposal.

BY OBJECT CATEGORIES	FED SHARE	STATE SHARE	TOTALS
SALARIES, WAGES, & FRINGE BENEFITS (see note 1)	\$161,202 \$201,502.50	\$161,202 \$201,502.50	\$322,404 \$403,005

TRAVEL (see note 2)	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
EQUIPMENT (\$5,000+)	\$0	\$0	\$0
SUPPLIES/COMMODITIES (see note 3)	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$32,000
CONTRACTUAL (see note 4)	\$27,798	\$27,798	\$55,596
REVISED CONTRACTUAL (see note 4)	\$21,474.50	\$21,474.50	\$42,949
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TOTAL DIRECT CHARGES:	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$450,000
REVISED TOTAL DIRECT CHARGES:	\$258,977	\$258,977	\$517,954
INDIRECT COSTS	\$0	\$0	\$0
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TOTALS	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$450,000
REVISED TOTALS	\$258,977	\$258,977	\$517,954
	@ 50%	@ 50%	100%

PROGRAM INCOME: NONE

NOTES:

1. Salaries, fringe, and benefits for ~~(4)~~ 5 biologists @ approx. \$37,861/person the 1st year & \$42,740/person the 2nd year.
2. Travel, lodging, and per diem expensed for 4 biologists @ approx. \$5,000/person/year X 2 years.
3. 4-computers @ approx \$2500 each, 2-printer/scanner/copiers @ approx. \$500, and general office supplies (ie. paper, ink, pens, etc.) @ \$10,500/year X 2 years for 4 biologists.
4. Administrative expenses, overhead, and promotional program expenses for Pheasants Forever to operate the program for 2 years.

LOCATION: The map of the SAFE areas can be found at <http://www.dnr.state.il.us/orc/safe/> or Appendix A

Farm Bill Biologists will likely be assigned to the following SAFE areas:

Southern Till Plain	Grand Prairie
Montgomery-Cranfill	Livingston
North Muddy	Ford-Livingston
Winterrowd	Ford Sibley
Prairie Ridge- Jasper County Unit	Iroquois-Loda
West Liberty	South Central Iroquois
Sailor Springs	McLean-Saybrook
Little Prairie	Champaign-Perdueville

Prairie Ridge – Marion County Unit

Tazewell-Manito

South Shore

Southwest-Tazewell

North Prairie

Mason-Logan

Logan-Dewitt

Logan-Sangamon

PROCEDURES:

Farm Bill Biologists will:

1. Develop a list of the landowners located within their assigned SAFE areas and provide them with information on the SAFE program.
2. On a prioritized basis, provide technical assistance to landowners within their assigned counties. Landowners within the SAFE areas will receive top priority.
3. Assist with hosting informational workshops on the SAFE program.
4. Provide technical assistance to cooperating agencies within their assigned SAFE counties.
5. Promote proper management of existing CRP fields by encouraging mid-contract management.
6. Provide accurate records of their landowner contacts and wildlife plans written.
7. Conduct site assessments to determine if wildlife habitat plans are implemented and provide monthly report on the amount of habitat created and/or managed.

The Farm Bill Biologists will follow procedures outlined by the SAFE proposal, NRCS, and Pheasants Forever.

SCHEDULE: 1 October 2009 B 30 September 2011

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

Task	10/ 09 – 12/09	11/09 – 6/10	07/10 – 12/10	01/11- 6/11	07/11 – 09/11
Hire Farm Bill Biologists	X				
Develop landowner lists and provide Information	X	X	X	X	X
Technical assistance to landowners and partners		X	X	X	X
Report landowner contacts and wildlife plans written		X	X	X	X

PERSONNEL: The following person from the Division of Wildlife Resources, Office of Resource Conservation will be managing this project:

John Buhnerkempe
Chief, Division of Wildlife Resources
Office of Resource Conservation
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702
217-557-5059
John.Buhnerkempe@illinois.gov

The following person will provide administrative supervision of the FFBs:

Aaron Kuehl
Director of Conservation – Illinois
Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever
PO Box 50
Oakford, IL 62673
217/635-5207
akuehl@pheasantsforever.org

COMPLIANCE:

The IDNR will use its CERP (Comprehensive Environmental Review Process) as a tool to aid the Department in meeting NEPA compliance for the project outlined under this grant proposal. It is the Department's policy to require CERP applications for all land disturbing activities unless those activities are covered by CERP exemptions.

All planned activities will also be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. All determinations and documentation will be in accordance with the current established U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service protocols for section 7.

All planned activities will be in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Council on Historic Preservation Act. All determinations and documentation will be in accordance with the terms of the Programmatic Agreement, as amended, effective September 23, 2002.

When applicable, those planned activities which involve a floodplain and/or jurisdiction wetlands will be done in accordance with Presidential Executive Orders 11988 and 11990.

When applicable, those planned activities which involve programs and/or site improvements will be done in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

When applicable, those planned activities which involve the use of pesticides, herbicides or other comparable chemicals will be done in accordance with current state and federal regulations to assure the safe and legal application of those chemicals. All chemicals will be applied in accordance with the manufacturers label

instructions. All persons applying chemicals will be licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture as a chemical operator along with a licensed applicator, in accordance with Illinois state law.

Grant Proposal Support Documentation:

The following documents are attached in support of this grant proposal:

1. Application for Federal Assistance (Standard Form 424)
2. Grant Agreement - Budget Information
3. Federal Aid Section 7 Evaluation Form
4. Illinois Clearinghouse Response per Federal Executive Order 12372
5. NEPA Compliance Checklist and Environmental Assessment
6. Location Maps.