

# GRASSLAND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

IMPROVING GRASSLAND HEALTH AND DIVERSITY FOR WILDLIFE BENEFITS



## Program Overview

The Grassland Improvement Program (GIP) is designed to improve the health and diversity of grasslands. Payments are offered to defer grazing with the objective of building fuel for a prescribed burn. Since 2008, the Grassland Improvement Program has directly impacted over 39,000 acres in Nebraska.

## Program Highlights

- Eastern Redcedar control
- Payment for deferred grazing
- Develop a rotational grazing plan
- Increase grassland diversity
- Wildlife habitat improvement



### EASTERN REDCEDAR CONTROL

Nebraska loses about 38,000 acres of rangeland and forest each year to redcedar invasion. We're using prescribed fire to help reverse negative impacts associated with redcedar invasion — namely, reduced livestock forage production, grassland fragmentation, and grassland habitat loss.



### GRAZING MANAGEMENT

Rotational grazing allows producers to control the timing, intensity, and duration of grazing, which are key to building up the fine fuels necessary for prescribed burning. Research shows dormant-season burns increase forage quality and availability, which can improve livestock performance.



### WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

Grazing and fire are essential management tools for long-term grassland conservation. Together, they help maintain healthy, functioning grasslands that support diverse communities of plants, pollinators, and grassland-dependent wildlife, like Greater Prairie Chickens and Sharp-tailed Grouse.

## Eligible Land

The Grassland Improvement Program is available statewide to help improve the health and diversity of grasslands. Range or pasture land must be suitable for program management activities. To maximize benefits, landowners may also utilize EQIP.

## Management Activities

Deferred grazing is used in conjunction with other grassland management activities, such as prescribed fire, rotational grazing, cross fencing, interseeding, redcedar control, erosion control, and habitat improvements for grassland wildlife and pollinators.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Pheasants Forever and partner biologists work with participants to develop plans for grazing management and prescribed burns. Vegetation surveys and photo points are used to monitor and evaluate outcomes.

## Payments

Program participants receive an incentive payment of \$35-\$60 per acre (depending on location) after completing deferred grazing and a prescribed burn on enrolled grasslands. Additional cost-share opportunities may be available through local, state, and federal conservation programs.

## Enrollment and More Information

Please complete and return a Notice of Interest form if you wish to join us in improving grasslands. Program acceptance is dependent on application ranking criteria.

For more information about Pheasants Forever and its programs, visit our website at [NebraskaPF.com](http://NebraskaPF.com) or contact your local Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist.

