



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region



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APR 30 2018

Memorandum

To: Project Leaders, National Wildlife Refuge System, Region 6

From: Assistant Regional Director, National Wildlife Refuge System, Region 6 

Subject: Cooperative Agriculture Program Guidance

I'm pleased to announce the release of the Region 6 Cooperative Agricultural Program Guidance. Cooperative agricultural practices for wildlife and restoration of habitat on refuge lands is an indispensable management tool used to restore the ecological diversity and habitat quality of refuge lands. This benefits grassland health and the restoration of high quality habitat for migratory birds, pollinators, and other wildlife.

This guidance is designed to assist refuge managers and their staff in developing and implementing a cooperative agricultural program on their refuge. It provides step by step procedures for developing cooperative agricultural agreements, which will serve as the foundation for all Region 6 cooperative agricultural programs. The guidance will insure that agreements follow a standard process including public notification of agricultural opportunities, selection of permittees, competitive bidding, and establishment of approved rates. It also outlines procedures for the use of genetically modified crops, deductions, expenses, and exchange of use.

This guidance has gone through numerous reviews, including a region-wide review process in 2017 and again in 2018. We appreciate all the comments and feedback we have received. We hope you are pleased with the results of those efforts. If you have any questions about this guidance please contact your zone refuge supervisor who can provide further clarification.