



# News Release

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**Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas)** [www.fws.gov/southwest/](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/)

**For Release:** July 1, 2010

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## Comments Solicited on Refuge Farm Program

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) in north central Texas is currently reviewing farming activities that take place on the Refuge. As part of this process the public is being invited to provide early comments on potential issues or concerns that should be considered.

On many refuges throughout the nation, farming programs provide benefits for both resident and migrating animals. For example, farming programs provide supplemental forage for resident and migratory wildlife, manage undesirable and/or invasive vegetation, restore native habitats and aid in the recovery of threatened or endangered species, and in some cases provide a safe resting spot for migrating waterfowl and help to keep them off private farm fields. Farming programs also provide increased wildlife observation, photography, and environmental education opportunities.

Hagerman currently manages approximately 500 acres of croplands. The farming is conducted by Refuge personnel. Crops are produced to provide for wintering and spring wildlife feeding needs, but also include grains of high caloric value like corn during high stress periods. Crops currently grown include Japanese millet, winter wheat, soybeans, mung beans, clover mix, and corn. Other wildlife species such as white-tailed deer, north bobwhite quail, and wild turkeys benefit and utilize the crops planted for migrating waterfowl. Hagerman does not use genetically modified crops.

This comment period is known as ‘Scoping’ under the National Environmental Policy Act. During scoping the Refuge is looking for general comments on the farming program. These comments will assist in determining the next course of action. Comments will be accepted until August 1, 2010. Comments should be sent to [Kathy\\_Whaley@fws.gov](mailto:Kathy_Whaley@fws.gov) or mailed to; Refuge Manager, Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge, 6465 Refuge Road, Sherman, Texas 75092

This review of the Refuge’s farming program is part of a nationwide review of all Refuge farming programs. For the status of farming programs being reviewed throughout the southwest and commenting instructions please visit <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/Plan/planindex.html>

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