Wildlife Management on the Farm
Wildlife Management on the Farm

### Attracting wildlife

1. Promote diversity of habitats – parcels, types of plants, types of disturbances – in opportunity areas on the farm.

### Addressing wildlife conflicts

1. Manage the environment to change attractiveness or access to problem areas on the farm.

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**Habitat management**
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Attracting wildlife

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Forest Management

• Manage invasive species.
• Promote mast-producers by promoting sunlight on the forest floor.
Pasture Management

• Manage grazing intensity for diversity.
  • Rotations
  • Burning
  • Stocking
• Exclusion around sensitive areas like some water areas.
Time since grazing/fire
Hay fields

- Timing of haying operations can impact birds and deer
  - After July 15\textsuperscript{th} wherever possibly
- Slow pace, flushing bars
Crop fields

• Reduce tillage where possible for soil, water, and waste grain.
• Retire profit-sinks, like wet holes.
• Leave standing rows near cover
Field Edges

• Grass buffers in open areas
• Managed woodlot edges for shrubby cover
Other Opportunities

- Weedy areas around the farm
- Highly-erodible lands
- Windbreaks
- Water buffers
Wildlife Habitat Contacts

IOWA DNR PRIVATE LANDS PROGRAM STAFF

Regional county offices

https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=ia

Wildlife Habitat Contacts

Iowa Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists
Partnership to Increase Conservation Delivery to Iowa Landowners

[Map of Iowa with county highlighted and contact information for wildlife biologists]
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Attracting wildlife

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Addressing wildlife conflicts

1. Manage the environment to change attractiveness or access to problem areas on the farm.
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Addressing wildlife conflicts

Habitat management

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Birds

• Iowa law protects “all birds” except European Starlings and House Sparrows.
• Pigeons are ‘game species’ with continuous open season.
• Reduce roosting locations around buildings – brush piles, dense shrubs, large trees.
• Haze
• Reduce open food sources like waste grain piles.
• USDA APHIS Wildlife Services offers bird control practices, including avicides and targeted shooting.
Mammals

Ant mounds in burned CRP field

Pocket gopher mounds

Mole mounds
Mammals

- Most small mammals, including moles and pocket gophers, are not protected in Iowa law.
- Badgers, raccoons, foxes, opossums, etc. are game species with seasons and regulations.
- Groundhogs and coyotes are game species but have continuous open seasons.
- Shooting, trapping most effective after exclusion attempts.
Wildlife Damage Contacts

IOWA DNR WILDLIFE DEPREDATION PROGRAM STAFF

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