

Fact Sheet

Habitat Seed Distribution Program

The Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), in cooperation with the Scott County Chapter of Pheasants Forever, provide free corn and sorghum seed to Scott County landowners to provide food and cover plots for wildlife.

The principle objective of food and cover plots is to establish safe foraging patterns that restrict unnecessary movements and provide a dependable source of food to help carry female birds through the winter in good condition. It also helps to underscore the importance of establishing food plots closely adjacent to existing winter cover. Otherwise, the plots must provide significant cover in addition to being a source of food.

Corn and sorghum are generally accepted as the most appropriate and reliable food sources. Soybeans, millets, wheat, rye and buckwheat, although a good source of food, tend to lodge and get buried by snow; this makes them less reliable as food sources and forces the birds into the open in order to utilize and consume them.



How do I get free corn and sorghum to establish a food plot on my property?

- Stop by the Scott SWCD office in the spring and fill out an application and indicate on an aerial photo where the seed will be planted.

Guidelines for the program:

- Two bags of seed (maximum) per landowner
- Food plots must be five acres or less
- The food plots must be left over the winter until the spring of the following year
- Land that has leased hunting rights is not eligible
- The seed provided is to be used for wildlife habitat only.



What kind of seed is available?

- **Corn.** For food plots, plant 15 pounds of seed per acre
- **Sorghum.** For food plots, plant at a rate of 15 pounds of seed per acre. This sorghum grows to the height of 2 to 3 feet tall and provides food and some cover
- **Field Sorghum.** For cover plots, plant at a rate of 10 pounds of seed per acre; a heavier rate will result in a poor stand and will lie down. This seed is also called "cane sorghum," growing 7 to 12 feet tall. Some varieties have a seed that provides some food to pheasants and other wildlife. This variety may also reseed itself the following year.

For more information, contact:

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