



## Program Benefits

- Cash Payments for Annual and 3-year Agreements— \$80—125/acre
- Harvesting and Grazing Permitted July 16 — March 31
- Doesn't Conflict with most Nutrient Management Plans
- Cost-share on Seeding Upgrades for some Grasses
- Improves Water Quality
- Reduces Erosion
- Improves Soil Quality



*A variety of signs are available to land-owners, including **Keep Gates Closed**, **Live-stock Area**, **No Motorized Vehicles**, **Hunting by Permission Only**, **Safety Zone**, and **others**.*

## PGC Regions and Contact Information

- Northwest Region— 814-432-3187  
P.O. Box 31, Franklin, PA 16323
- Southwest Region— 724-238-9523  
4820 Route 711, Bolivar, PA 15923
- Northcentral Region— 570-398-4744  
1566 S. Rt. 44 Hwy, Jersey Shore, PA 17740
- Southcentral Region— 814-643-1831  
8627 William Penn Hwy, Huntingdon, PA 16652
- Northeast Region— 570-675-1143  
Intersection Rts.415&118, Dallas, PA 18612
- Southeast Region— 610-926-3136  
448 Snyder Road, Reading, PA 19605

## PGC Headquarters

Mike Pruss Phone: 717-787-9613  
2001 Elmerton Ave. Fax: 717-787-6957  
Harrisburg, PA 17110 E-mail: mpruss@pa.gov

## Pheasants Forever

Jim Kauffman, Private Lands Biologist  
(570) 591-0147  
jkauffman@pheasantsforever.org



## Deferred Use of Grasslands for Wildlife

PGC  
and  
USDA - Farm Service Agency  
Schuylkill and Dauphin Counties



Wildlife habitat for working farms and forests

For Questions or To Enroll, call the Pheasants Forever Private Lands Biologist or your local Region using the Contact Information provided on Back, or Visit Our Website : [WWW.PGC.STATE.PA.US/VA](http://WWW.PGC.STATE.PA.US/VA)

## Hunter Access and the New VPA-HIP for Private Lands

Private Lands make up more than 80% of the Pennsylvania landscape. The majority of hunters in Pennsylvania hunt on private lands. As a result, private landowners are our most important cooperators when it comes to hunter recreation and appropriate wildlife management.

Funding for this new initiative comes from the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Improvement Program (VPA-HIP) authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. For the next 3 years, our goal is to increase the number of landowners that allow public hunting on their lands and provide free habitat improvements on those private lands to meet the interests of the landowner and the needs of some wildlife.

Our primary focus is for key habitats used by wildlife that have very specific habitat needs. The greatest habitat needs are for shrublands, young forests, un-mowed grasslands (especially native grassland), and natural wetlands, including forested wetlands and seasonal wetlands.



**Wild pheasants need undisturbed grasslands, and the PGC is actively transplanting them into some areas.**

## Landowner Benefits

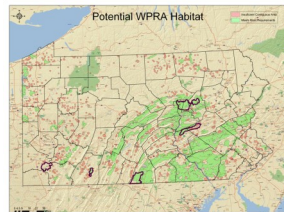
- Incentive payment for grassland set-aside acres
- Liability Protection and Enhanced PGC Enforcement
- Landowner Hunting and Antlerless Deer Licenses
- Free Tree Seedlings and Bird Boxes
- Free Habitat Improvements and CREP Incentive

## How Does Grassland Deferred Use Work?

**It's for the Birds!** - The PA Game Commission has identified 5 areas of the state as Wild Pheasant Restoration Areas. These areas have or will begin this year, transplanting wild pheasants from South Dakota during winter. For the transplants to be successful, at least 8% of the non-forested areas must provide undisturbed grassland nesting and brooding habitat. For pheasants, that is from April 1st to July 15th.

**What's wrong with CREP?** - Nothing, it has done a good job of providing nesting cover, but it is not enough in our target Pheasant Restoration area, so we are offering a deferred grassland use option.

**Who is Eligible?** - All private landowners, including individuals, families, corporations, and conservancies that are enrolled in the PGC Hunter Access Program. Landowners must have at least 50 acres of huntable land to enroll.



**What Land is Eligible?** - Areas must be within a PGC defined Wild Pheasant Restoration Area. Existing hayfields or grass pastures that are not tall fescue or smooth brome. For the 3-year option, cropland is eligible if grass will be established. Expiring CREP can be enrolled if cover is not tall fescue or smooth brome.

**Are there minimum or maximums I can enroll?** - To be efficient and provide adequate nesting habitat, we are requiring at least 10 acres minimum deferred use, but there is no maximum. We do have a total annual acre cap of 2,500 acres, so when that is reached we will continue enrollments for future years.

**How much will I get paid?** - There are two options, an annual contract and a 3-year contract. We prefer 3-year contracts, but want to give landowners a chance to test-drive the program first, if they want to. For the Annual option, we

pay \$80/acre per year, and for the 3-year option, we pay \$100/acre per year, and if you agree not to use the grass at all, we pay \$125/acre. We will make payments each August following the deferment.

**When is the Deferment?** - The deferment agreements will begin April 1st. The enrolled area can not be disturbed for the period between April 1st and July 15th.

**What Uses are Compatible?** - Between July 16th and March 31st, the area can be fertilized, sprayed, lightly disked, mowed, grazed, or left undisturbed.

## What are the Landowner Obligations?

**Enter Agreement** to allow public hunting access(1 year, 3 years, or 10 years if native grass is established).

**Allow reasonable Hunter Access** to at least one of the four following categories: Deer/Bear, Turkey, Small Game, or Trapping. Category limitations are permitted, but at least one category must have no limitations.

Enrolled properties are marked by a dot on a county level map available to hunters on the PGC website. All personal information is privacy protected by law, no name, address, phone number or any other information is released or available to the public.

**Cottontail rabbits also respond well to grassland habitats interspersed with brushy areas and hedgerows.**



*Funding for this program has been provided by the USDA Farm Service Agency through a competitive grant.*