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Incentives for Wildlife Enhancement on Midwestern Farms

by Marcos Robles

Opportunities to Protect Wildlife on Midwestern Farms



Predator friendly wool in Montana, Tall-Grass prairie beef in Kansas, bison tours in Minnesota, an organic Bed and Breakfast in Wisconsin, bird festivals in California, and a trumpeter swan festival in British Columbia -all represent innovative efforts involving farmers to support wildlife. These examples are described in a new IATP booklet titled, "Incentives for Wildlife Enhancement on Midwestern Farms." This document by Marcos Robles, provides ideas, strategies and examples of farmers, ranchers and rural landowners working to enhance wildlife habitat on their property.

Instead of relying exclusively on agriculture production for on-farm income, some farmers are looking at other options. At the heart of these efforts is an attempt to promote what is called "multifunctional "agriculture". This concept recognizes that farms produce more than food and fiber, and can also "produce" wildlife habitat, biodiversity, good water quality, attractive landscapes, and help preserve rural communities.

The booklet offers ideas on traditional fish and game species, as well as other native species. While there is some information on government programs, the booklet emphasizes private-sector incentives because these efforts seem to spawn more local innovation, are more citizen and community-driven, and are more flexible and better suited to fit the local context.

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