

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
March 2026

PROSPECTUS FOR
ROW CROP PRODUCTION
FOR
Up to 2 GROWING SEASONS

ON
9 PARCELS
ON
MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

BID OPENING DATE: March 11, 2026

OPENING TIME: 2:00 PM

SUBMIT BIDS TO: PRAIRIE SUPERVISOR
MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
30239 SOUTH STATE ROUTE 53
WILMINGTON, IL 60481

LIMITING CONDITIONS

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS PROSPECTUS WAS TAKEN FROM THE BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION. THE SOURCES ARE CONSIDERED RELIABLE BUT NO WARRANTY OF THE ACCURACY THEREOF IS MADE. ALL BIDDERS ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE THEIR OWN INVESTIGATION AS TO THE FACTS ABOUT THE AREAS, ACRES, AND ESTIMATES OF CROP PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES/REVENUES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANYTHING INDICATED IN THIS PROSPECTUS. DUE TO THE UNCERTAINTY OF INCLEMENT WEATHER AND GROUND CONDITIONS, ACCESS TO THIS AREA FOR SOME OR ALL OF THE PARCEL(S) AVAILABLE FOR BID MAY BE INACCESSIBLE OR UNREACHABLE FOR INSPECTION. THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PROSPECTUS WILL BE INCORPORATED AND MADE PART OF THE ACTUAL SPECIAL USE PERMIT.

ROW CROP PROSPECTUS AND BIDDING INFORMATION

Introduction

The purpose of this prospectus is to provide information to qualified prospective bidders interested in bidding for row crop production on available parcels administered by the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. The parcels being offered in this prospectus are:

- Parcel 1: Approximately 425 acres
- Parcel 2: Approximately 548 acres
- Parcel 3: Approximately 154 acres
- Parcel 4: Approximately 218 acres
- Parcel 5: Approximately 42 acres
- Parcel 6: Approximately 244 acres
- Parcel 7: Approximately 45 acres
- Parcel 8: Approximately 159 acres
- Parcel 9: Approximately 77 acres

It is strongly recommended that prospective bidders carefully read this prospectus in its entirety, as well as applicable requirements and instructions. This row crop prospectus differs from previous row crop prospectuses

Acreages are approximate and will vary depending on wetland expansion, noxious weeds, rocky areas, rough areas, and equipment capabilities.

Please contact Len Kring (815) 423-2148 if you have any questions, to discuss permit conditions and to schedule an inspection of the site.

All bidders are expected to make their own investigation as to the facts about the areas, acres, and estimates of crop production capabilities/revenues.

**Row Crop Areas
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
Will County, Illinois**

Name: Parcel 1	Acres: 425
Location: T33N R10E Sec. 1 & 2; T34N R10E Sec. 35 & 36 and T34N R11E Sec. 30	
Cropping Period: 2 years (2026- 2027)	No Till Only
Name: Parcel 2	Acres: 548
Location: T34N R10E Sec. 33 and T33 R10E Sec. 4	
Cropping Period: 2 years (2026- 2027)	No Till Only
Name: Parcel 3	Acres: 154
Location: T34N R10E Sec. 31 and T33N R9E Sec. 24 and T33N R10E Sec.18	
Cropping Period: 2 years (2026- 2027)	No Till Only
Name: Parcel 4	Acres: 218
Location: T33N R10E Sec. 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15	
Cropping Period: 2 years (2026- 2027)	No Till Only
Name: Parcel 5	Acres: 42
Location: T33N R10E Sec. 15	
Cropping Period: 2 years (2026- 2027)	No Till Only
Name: Parcel 6	Acres: 244
Location: T34N R10E Sec. 34	
Cropping Period: 2 years (2026- 2027)	No Till Only
Name: Parcel 7	Acres: 45
Location: T33N R09E Sec. 14	
Cropping Period: 2 years (2026- 2027)	No Till Only
Name: Parcel 8 (Soybeans 2026, corn 2027)	Acres: 159
Location: T33N R09E Sec. 11 & 12	
Cropping Period: 2 years (2026- 2027)	No Till Only
Name: Parcel 9 (2026-2027)	Acres: 77
Location: T33N R10E Sec. 8	
Cropping Period: 2 years (2026- 2027)	No Till Only

TERMS OF ROW CROP PERMITS OFFERED

A Special Use Permit will be issued to the qualified high bidder for each parcel, authorizing row crop production within the designated boundaries as described in this prospectus. The period of use is April 2026 through December 31, 2027. The special use permit resulting from this advertisement will be issued prior to the seasonal operating period for 2026 and expiring on December 31, 2027, for a total of two (2) seasonal operating periods. Upon expiration of the special use permit, a new prospectus may be issued, and the parcels will again be made available to the public for bidding. Use cannot be authorized during any period of delinquency in payments of amount due.

- Only corn, soybean and winter wheat row crops utilizing no till (conservation till in select parcels) practices may be permitted.
- Cover crops may be required; species other than winter wheat must be approved in advance.
- Herbicides currently approved** for use on Midewin are listed below.
- Fertilizers are approved for use. Those products containing human waste (i.e., sewage effluent, landfill material, sewage solid waste) and pig waste are not permitted.
- There will be no acreage adjustments for field drainage issues related to weather and/or wildlife.

**The following herbicides are approved for use on the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

- 2,4-D
- Glyphosate
- Pelargonic acid
- Sethoxydim
- Triclopyr
- Chlopyralid
- Fosamine
- Ammonium salt of imazapic

PARCEL LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Parcel 1 – (Includes field no. 44-1, 44-2, 44-3, 44-4, 44-5, 44-6, 44-7, 45-1, 45-2, 45-3, 46-1, 46-2, 216-1, and 216-2)

This parcel is comprised of 14 fields, approximately 425 acres in total that are suitable for row crop production utilizing no till only. Twelve of the fourteen fields are located together and can be accessed via gravel two-track paths. Two of the fields are separated and located about 1 mile away and accessed via Cherry Hill Road. This parcel is available through the 2027 growing season (2 years).

Parcel 2 – (Includes field no. 16-1, 16-2, 18-3, 18-4, 18-5, 18-6, 29-1, 29-2, 37-1, 37-2, 37-3, and 37-4)

This parcel is comprised of 12 fields, approximately 552 acres in total that are suitable for row crop production utilizing no till only. All the fields are located together and are accessed via Hoff Road trailhead and gravel two-track paths. This parcel is available through the 2027 growing season (2 years).

Parcel 3 – (Includes field no. 17-3, 55-1, 55-2, and 217-1)

This parcel is comprised of 4 fields, approximately 154 acres in total that are suitable for row crop production utilizing no till only. Three of the four fields are located together and can be accessed via Rt 53 and S. Arsenal Road. The fourth field is located about 3 miles away and can be accessed from the Iron Bridge Trailhead parking lot. This parcel is available through the 2027 growing season (2 years).

Parcel 4 – (Includes field no. 50-1, 50-2, 50-3, 50-4, 50-5, and 62-1)

This parcel is comprised of 6 fields, approximately 228 acres in total are suitable for row crop production utilizing no till only. Five of the six fields are located together while the sixth field is located about 0.50 miles away. These fields are accessible via gravel two-track paths. This parcel is available through the 2027 growing season (2 years).

Parcel 5 – (Includes field no. 48-2)

This parcel is comprised of one field, approximately 42 acres that are suitable for row crop production utilizing no till only. Access is via Chicago Road. This parcel is available through the 2027 growing season (2 years).

Parcel 6 – (Includes field no. 14-1, 14-2, 15-1, 15-2, 15-3, 15-4, and 15-5)

This parcel is comprised of 7 fields, approximately 244 acres in total are suitable for row crop production utilizing no till only. All the fields are located together and are accessed via Hoff Road trailhead and gravel two-track paths This parcel is available through the 2027 growing season (2 years).

Parcel 7 – (Includes field no. 123-2, 124-6, 124-7, and 124-11)

This parcel is comprised of 4 fields, approximately 52 acres in total are suitable for row crop production utilizing no till only. All the fields are located together and accessible via River Road and Henslow Trailhead parking lot. This parcel is available through the 2027 growing season (2 years).

Parcel 8 – (Includes field no. 108-3)

This parcel is comprised of 1 field, approximately 184 acres in total are suitable for row crop production utilizing no till only. Access is from River Road and gravel two-track paths This parcel is available through the 2027 growing season (2 years).

Parcel 9 – (Includes field no. 26-1, 27-1, 27-2, 28-1, 76-1, 76-2, and 76-3)

This parcel is comprised of 7 fields, approximately 77 acres in total are suitable for row crop production utilizing no till only. The fields in this parcel have been fallow for the last five years and have been managed through mowing, prescribed fire and herbicide treatments. Four of the seven fields are located together while the other fields are about 0.25 miles away and are accessed via gravel and paved paths. This parcel is available through the 2027 growing season (2 years).

GENERAL OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

General Operational Considerations and Requirements will be reoccurring annually and must be met for permit to remain compliant.

Annual Reports

- An annual report will be required to be submitted no later than December 31st after the completion of a growing season. A sample of the report will be provided with the special use permit and operating plan.

Herbicides:

- Application of pesticides is limited to only the approved herbicides identified in the National Environmental Policy Act decision document for Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.
- Herbicide Daily Logs must be maintained and submitted to the Midewin Special Uses Coordinator twice in a growing season. First submission shall occur no later than July 15th, the second submission shall be by December 1st.
- All equipment and off-road equipment will be washed down by the contractor prior to entering Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie to ensure that all possible invasive plant species are removed from the equipment

Gates

- Gates must be closed. If gates are left open for brief periods during peak use additional staff will need to be posted at the gate to guard against unauthorized entry. There are no exceptions.

Roads

- Most roads on site are either public roads or two-track gravel roads. Any maintenance that may be necessary on the access routes to any of the parcels will need to be approved prior to any work being completed.

Insurance

- The holder shall furnish proof of insurance, such as a certificate of insurance, to the authorized officer prior to issuance of this permit and each year thereafter that this permit is in effect. Any insurance policies obtained by the holder shall name the United States as an additional insured. The holder shall have in force liability insurance covering losses, including those arising from strict liability, associated with the use or occupancy authorized by this permit arising from personal injury or death and third-party property damage in the minimum amount of \$300,000.00 as a combined single limit per occurrence.

Annual Fee

- A bill for collection will be issued by the Forest Service prior to the start of each growing season that specifies the for the portion of bid amount that is due and payable for that growing season. The initial bill will be issued immediately after the permit has been issued and the bill all growing seasons following the initial bill will

be sent out in November of each year and due by January 1st. No activity may occur until the permit is approved, and the bill for collection has been paid in full.

Utilities

- The United States has no obligation to furnish utilities or services

Other Considerations

- The permit holder may not transfer, assign, lease, or sublet this permit in whole or part.
- The acquisition of a row crop permit in no way limits the public's right to access these lands.
- The permit holder will be allowed limited vehicular access into the permit area delivery of equipment and maintenance purposes. The use of ATV/UTVs may be granted to the successful bidder(s), but this must be negotiated individually and **is not guaranteed. The Forest Service is in no way responsible for personal injury or property damage resulting from the use of ATVs, UTVs, vehicles, trailers or any other means of access into permitted area.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

All facilities and land covered by this prospectus are owned by the United States and administered by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Any oral statement by any representative of the Forest Service, modifying or changing any condition of this prospectus, is an expression of opinion only, and confers no right to the bidder.

The Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie is approximately five miles north of the City of Wilmington, Illinois, and twelve miles south of the City of Joliet, Illinois.

The parcels being offered are one of many parcels identified within the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie for agricultural activities. Soil and physical features of the parcels being offered indicate that the most recent use of this land was for soybean and corn production.

OFFERINGS

The offering involved in this prospectus is exclusive authorization to cultivate and harvest corn, soybean and winter wheat crops using no till practices beginning in April 2026 up through December 31, 2027, on the offered parcels.

BID PROCEDURE (PER PARCEL)

(1) All bids are lump sum on the bid sheet provided, signed, and will be sealed in an envelope upon submission. **UNSIGNED BIDS WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFIED.**

****Note:** All envelopes must be sealed and clearly marked on the outside with:

“ROW CROP BID ENCLOSED”

Failure to properly seal and mark the outside of the envelope may result in the bid being disqualified.

(2) The bid must be accompanied by a bid deposit of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), per parcel. Bid deposits can be made by *Cashier's Check or Money Order* made out:

USDA Forest Service
c/o US Bank
P.O. Box 6200-09
Portland, OR 97228-6200

****Note:** Bid deposits will be returned to all unsuccessful bidders. The bid deposit of the qualified high bidder will be applied to the fee.

(3) The Special Use Permit will be awarded to the qualified high bidder. Upon opening the applicant's bid, the authorized officer shall determine whether each bidder meets the qualifications to hold a permit and shall refund the deposit to any applicant who is not qualified or who does not offer the high bid.

If the Forest Service determines that no bids represent the fair market value for the advertised grazing boundaries, the Agency reserves the right to reject the submitted bids and re-advertise under a new prospectus.

(4) If the high bidder cannot fulfill the terms of the Special Use Permit, the bid deposit may be forfeited and will be offered to the next highest bidder. A Bill for Collection and Special Use Permit will be transmitted to the successful bidder to submit payment and sign the Special Use Permit.

(5) Bids will be accepted at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie until

2:00 PM CDT, March 11, 2026

All bids received will be opened publicly immediately thereafter. Bids may be hand delivered or mailed to:

Prairie Supervisor
USDA, Forest Service
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
30239 S State Route 53
Wilmington, IL 60481

(6) The deposit may be applied to the fee of the high bidder. The bid will be lump sum; however, payment will be made annually in installments. After the first installment payment is received, the Special Use Permit will be approved and issued. No activities will be permitted on any of the sites until payment is received and the Special Use Permit is approved and signed. Any of the parties, in writing, with at least 1-year advanced notice, may request to terminate the permit before the date of expiration.

The Forest Service reserves the right to extend the date for receiving bids, to reject any or all bids, and to waive any technical defects.

PERMIT(s) AWARD

The high bidder will be awarded exclusive authorization for the parcel(s) through the issuance of a Forest Service Special Use Permit(s). All permit holders are expected to comply with all the terms of the permit and with this prospectus. This prospectus will be incorporated and made part of the terms and conditions of the permit issued.