

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
April 2025

PROSPECTUS FOR
ROW CROP PRODUCTION
FOR
Up to 2 GROWING SEASONS
ON
5 PARCELS
ON
MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

BID OPENING DATE: April 22nd, 2025

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 TRACT(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 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 is:

- Parcel 1: Approximately 424 acres
- Parcel 2: Approximately 158 acres
- Parcel 3: Approximately 453 acres
- Parcel 4: Approximately 195 acres
- Parcel 5: Approximately 405 acres

It is strongly recommended that prospective bidders carefully read this prospectus in its entirety, as well as applicable requirements and instructions.

Please contact Jeff Martina (815) 423-6370 if you have any questions related to permit conditions. To schedule an inspection of the site(s), please contact Len Kring (815) 423-6370.

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: <u>Parcel 1</u>	Acres: 424
Location: T34N R10E Sec. 31 & 32 and T33N R9E Sec. 12	
Cropping Period: 2 years (2025-2026)	<i>No Till Only</i>
Name: <u>Parcel 2</u>	Acres: 158
Location: T33N R10E Sec. 4	
Cropping Period: 1 year (2025)	<i>No Till Only</i>
Name: <u>Parcel 3</u>	Acres: 453
Location: T33N R10E Sec. 8, 9 & 16	
Cropping Period: 2 years (2025-2026)	<i>No Till Only</i>
Name: <u>Parcel 4</u>	Acres: 195
Location: T33N R10E Sec. 9, 10, 15 & 16	
Cropping Period: 2 years (2025-2026)	<i>No Till Only</i>
Name: <u>Parcel 5</u>	Acres: 405
Location: T33N R10E Sec. 2, 3, 10 & 11 & T34N R11E Sec. 31	
Cropping Period: 2 years (2025- 2026)	<i>No Till Only</i>

TERMS OF ROW CROP PERMITS OFFERED

A Special Use Permit will be issued to the high bidder for each parcel, authorizing row crop production. Depending on the parcel and at the sole discretion of the authorized officer, the period of use will begin April 2025 and may continue through December 31, 2026, on select parcels.

- 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.
- Permit length may be up to two years.

**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 – 17-4, 17-5, 20-2, 20-3, 20-4, 20-5, 20-6, 22-1, 22-2, 22-3, 54-3, 54-4, 213-1

This offering includes 14 tracts, approximately 424 acres, suitable for row crop production utilizing no till only. This parcel is available through the 2026 growing season (2 years).

Parcel 2 – 79-1, 79-2, 79-3, 79-4, 79-5, 79-6, 79-7, 79-8

This offering includes 8 tracts, approximately 158 acres, suitable for row crop production utilizing no till only. This parcel is available through the 2025 growing season (1 year).

Parcel 3 – 21-1, 28-2, 28-3, 28-4, 28-5, 32-1, 32-2, 33-1, 33-2, 33-3, 33-4, 33-5, 33-6, 33-8, 34-2, 34-3, 83-0, 83-2, 83-4

This offering includes 19 tracts, approximately 453 acres, suitable for row crop production utilizing no till only. This parcel is available through the 2026 growing season (2 years).

Parcel 4 – 33-7, 49-1, 49-2, 49-3, 60-1, 60-2, 60-3, 60-5, 60-6, 60-7

This offering includes 10 tracts, approximately 195 acres, suitable for row crop production utilizing no till only. This parcel is available through the 2026 growing season (2 years)

Parcel 5 – 36-1, 36-2, 37-6, 40-2, 40-4, 42-1, 42-2, 42-3, 42-4, 42-5, 43-1, 43-2, 43-3, 51-1, 51-2, 52-1, 52-2, 65-2 and 65-5.

This offering includes 19 tracts, approximately 405 acres, suitable for row crop production utilizing no till only. This parcel is available through the 2026 growing season (2 years).

GENERAL OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

The application of pesticides is restricted to only the approved herbicides identified in the National Environmental Policy decision document for Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (referenced page 4 of this document). **Herbicide Daily Logs must be maintained and submitted to the Midewin Special Uses Coordinator within one week of application.** Gates must be closed. If gates are left open for brief periods during peak use, please include additional staffing in your bid proposal to secure those gates; exceptions will not be granted. Most roads on-site are in poor condition due to deferred maintenance and overgrown with brush. Please take this in consideration when bidding; Midewin does not have resources available to brush cut roadsides or field edges. The permit holder shall furnish proof of insurance, such as a certificate of insurance, to the authorized officer prior to the issuance of this permit and annually thereafter while this permit is in effect. Any insurance policies obtained by the holder shall include the United States as an additional insured.

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 tracts being offered are one of many tracts identified within the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie for agricultural activities. Soils and physical features of the tracts 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 2025 up through December 31, 2026, on select parcels.

UTILITIES

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

BID PROCEDURE (PER PARCEL)

- (1) All bids are lump sum and will be sealed in an envelope upon submission.

****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 the bid being disqualified.

- (2) The bid must be accompanied by a Cashier's Check or Money Order made out to the USDA Forest Service in the amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00).

****Note:** Checks or Money Orders will be returned to all unsuccessful bidders.

- (3) The permit will be awarded to the qualified high bidder.

****Note:** The deposit may be applied to the fee of the high bidder.

- (4) If the high bidder cannot fulfill the terms of the Special Use Permit, the bid deposit may be forfeited, and the prospectus may be reissued for bid or may be offered to the next highest bidder. A Bill of 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, April 22nd, 2025

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.