UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

2027

# PROSPECTUS FOR

# CATTLE GRAZING

ON

ALLOTMENTS E2, E3, E4, E5, E7, E8, E9, E11, E12, E13, W1

MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

ILLINOIS

BID OPENING DATE: December 2nd, 2026
OPENING TIME: 2:00pm

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

# GRAZING PROSPECTUS AND BIDDING INFORMATION

## Introduction

The purpose of this prospectus is to provide information to qualified individuals interested in bidding on available cattle grazing allotments administered by the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. The allotments being offered in this prospectus are:

| Allotment Name | Pasture Name | Total Acres | Total Head Months | Maximum Capacity |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Allotment E2** | Tract 10 | 303 Acres | 700 Head Months | 100 Cows with or without calves, or a yearling. |
| **Allotment E2** | Tract 215 | 488 Acres | 1,400 Head Months | 200 Cows with or without calves, or a yearling. |
| **Allotment E2** | Tract 8 | 231 Acres | 630 Head Months | 90 Cows with or without calves, or a yearling. |
| **Allotment E3** | Tract 70 | 125 Acres | 420 Head Months | 60 Cows with or without calves, or a yearling. |
| **Allotment E4** | Tract 206 | 405 Acres | 1,400 Head Months | 200 Cows with or without calves, or a yearling. |
| **Allotment E5** | Tract 4 | 176 Acres | 350 Head Months | 50 Cows with or without calves, or a yearling. |
| **Allotment E7** | Tract 41 | 173 acres | 420 Head Months | 60 Cows with or without calves, or a yearling. |
| **Allotment E8** | Tract 57 | 111 Acres | 252 Head Months | 36 Cows with or without calves, or a yearling. |
| **Allotment E9** | Tract 73 | 178 Acres | 840 Head Months | 120 Cows with or without calves, or a yearling. |
| **Allotment E11** | Tract 5 | 331 Acres | 1,050 Head Months | 150 Cows with or without calves, or a yearling. |
| **Allotment E12** | Tracts 11, 12,13, 19, 214/40 | 855 Acres | 2,100 Head Months | 300 Cows with or without calves, or a yearling. |
| **Allotment E13** | Tract 38 | 144 Acres | 350 Head Months | 50 Cows with or without calves, or a yearling. |
| **Allotment W1** | Tract 144 | 347 Acres | 700 Head Months | 100 Cows with or without calves, or a yearling. |

It is strongly recommended that prospective bidders carefully read this Prospectus in its entirety, as well as applicable grazing permits, allotment management plans, allotment maintenance requirements, the latest permittee instructions, trail maps and hunting zones. Copies of these documents are available upon request. It is also strongly recommended that prospective bidders

conduct their own site inspections and/or attend the public showing(s) when offered prior to submitting a bid.

Please contact **Len Kring (815) 423-2148 or Liz Kovel (779) 717-2986** if you have any questions or if you would like to acquire any of the grazing related documents mentioned above.

## Terms of Grazing Permits Offered

A Term Grazing Permit will be issued to the qualified high bidder and will authorize grazing of **cattle** within the designated grazing boundaries as described in this prospectus. The **annual grazing season will be restricted to the period of April 1 through November 1** unless otherwise stated in the Term Grazing Permit. No grazing will be permitted outside of these dates without prior written approval from an authorized Forest Service representative.

In accordance with FSM 2231.03(1), the Term Grazing Permit resulting from this advertisement will be issued for a 5-year period (Expiring on December 31, 2031). Upon expiration of the Term Grazing Permit issued under this prospectus, a new prospectus will be issued, and the grazing boundaries will again be made available to the public for bidding. The current permit holder will be provided with the opportunity to retain their permit through matching the qualified highest bidder as provided for in 36 CFR 222.54 and FSH 2209.13, 81.42(e) provided they remained in good standing. Grazing use cannot be authorized during any period of delinquency in payments amount due.

All permits will be issued in accordance with FSM 2200 and the terms and conditions, Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the individual grazing permits.

## Minimum Qualifications

To be eligible for a grazing permit, the successful bidder must be a U.S. citizen and **own forty (40) acres of base property** necessary to adequately care for the permitted livestock should it become necessary to remove them from National Forest lands during the grazing period. ***** The base property shall have the necessary facilities, such as fences, water and forage to support the permitted livestock.

All livestock grazed on National Forest lands must be **owned by the permittee** as specified in the Permit Application and Bid Form. ***** All cattle grazed on National Forest System lands will be ear tagged or branded sufficiently to be distinguished from other livestock in the area.

The permittee must possess the ability to adequately care for and control the livestock placed on National Forest System lands.

***** To exercise use of this permit, the permittee will furnish all evidence of ownership requested by the Forest Service.

## Allotment/Pasture Location and Description

All lands and specified facilities associated with this Prospectus are owned and controlled by the United States and administered by the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The number of cattle is based on Head Months (HM). **A HM is the amount of forage necessary for one (1) 1,000 lb. cow for one (1) month.** The **grazing season is for seven (7) months of the year from April 1 to November 1**. The carrying capacity of one acre is two head months. **The minimum carrying capacity allowed is ninety percent of the maximum carrying capacity**. Stocking rates are predetermined based on forage quality and abundance. Any cattle in excess will be considered trespass. **Exceeding maximum carrying capacity more than once is grounds for fines or termination of permit. The permit holder will have 5 days to remedy the problem.**

**Frequent or excessive escapes of cattle due to permittee negligence regarding fence maintenance may be cause for revocation of permit.**

## Allotment E2

These offerings include three (3) pastures, a total of 968 acres, suitable for cattle grazing. ***Each of the three (3) pastures will be bid separately.*** The successful bidder will be required to place a second lock on access gates to allow them access to the permitted pasture. It is strongly recommended that prospective bidders attend the scheduled pasture showing prior to bidding.

**Tract 10 Pasture:** This pasture located in the Manhattan Township of Will County, Illinois at Township 34 North, Range 11 East, Section 31. The main access to this pasture is from Hoff Road to South Gougar Road. It is 10 miles northeast of the Midewin Supervisors Office and 7 miles southeast from the town of Elwood.

The type of vegetation present is cool season grasses, and the current water supply comes from a water well located near the southern border that is pumped at the bidder's expense. External fencing is a combination of barbed wire and chain link. There is an intermittent water that separates this pasture into two units and a distinct gated area to cross. The southern unit will be utilized for 80% of the grazing season.

**Tract 215 Pasture:** This pasture located in the Jackson Township of Will County, Illinois at Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 36, Florence Township of Will County, Illinois at Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 1, and Wilton Township of Will County, Illinois at Township 33 North, Range 11 East, Section 6. This pasture is accessible from Hoff Road. It is 10 miles from the Midewin Supervisors Office and 7 miles from the town of Elwood.

The type of vegetation present is cool season grasses, and the current water supply comes from a water well that is pumped at the bidder's expense. External fencing is a combination of barbed wire and chain link.

**Tract 8 Pasture**: This pasture located in the Jackson Township of Will County, Illinois at Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 36, Florence Township of Will County, Illinois at Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 1, and Wilton Township of Will County, Illinois at Township 33

North, Range 11 East, Section 6. This pasture is accessible from Hoff Road. It is 10 miles from the Midewin Supervisors Office and 7 miles from the town of Elwood.

The type of vegetation present is cool season grasses, and the current water supply comes from a water well that is pumped at the bidder's expense. External fencing is a combination of barbed wire and chain link.

## Allotment E3

This offering includes one (1) pasture suitable for cattle grazing. The successful bidder will be required to place a second lock on access gates to allow them access to the permitted pasture. It is strongly recommended that prospective bidders attend the scheduled pasture showing prior to bidding.

**Tract 70 Pasture:** This pasture located in the Florence Township of Will County at Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Sections 8 and 17. It is accessed from Prairie View Drive. It is 2.5 miles east of the Midewin Supervisors Office and 4 miles from the town of Wilmington.

The type of vegetation present is cool season grasses, and the current water supply comes from a water well that is pumped at the bidder's expense. External fencing is chain link. There is internal barbed wire fencing to keep livestock out of the riparian area of the waterway. No cows shall enter the riparian area.

## Allotment E4

This offering includes one (1) pasture suitable for cattle grazing. The successful bidder will be required to place a second lock on access gates to allow them access to the permitted pasture. It is strongly recommended that prospective bidders attend the scheduled pasture showing prior to bidding.

**Tract 206 Pasture:** This pasture located in the Florence Township of Will County, Illinois at Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Sections 14 and 15. It is accessed from South Arsenal Road. It is 7 miles from the Midewin Supervisors Office and 8.5 miles from the town of Wilmington.

The type of vegetation present is cool season grasses, and the current water supply comes from a water well that is pumped at the bidder's expense. External fencing is a combination of barbed wire and chain link.

## Allotment E5

This offering includes one (1) pasture suitable for cattle grazing. The successful bidder will be required to place a second lock on access gates to allow them access to the permitted pasture. It is strongly recommended that prospective bidders attend the scheduled pasture showing prior to bidding.

**Tract 4 Pasture:** This pasture located in the Florence Township of Will County, Illinois at Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 14. It is accessed from South Arsenal Road. It is 7 miles from the Midewin Supervisors Office and 8.5 miles from the town of Wilmington.

The type of vegetation present is cool season grasses, and the current water supply comes from a water well that is pumped at the bidder's expense. External fencing is a combination of barbed wire and chain link.

## Allotment E7

This offering includes one (1) pasture suitable for cattle grazing. The successful bidder will be required to place a second lock on access gates to allow them access to the permitted pasture. It is strongly recommended that prospective bidders attend the scheduled pasture showing prior to bidding.

**Tract 41 Pasture:** This pasture located in the Florence Township of Will County, Illinois at Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 3. It is accessed from Hoff Road. It is located 8 miles from the Midewin Supervisors Office and 5 miles from the town of Elwood.

The type of vegetation present is cool season grasses, and the current water supply comes from a water well that is pumped at the bidder's expense. External fencing is barbed wire.

## Allotment E8

This offering includes one (1) pasture suitable for cattle grazing. The successful bidder will be required to place a second lock on access gates to allow them access to the permitted pasture. It is strongly recommended that prospective bidders attend the scheduled pasture showing prior to bidding.

**Tract 57 Pasture:** This pasture located in the Florence Township of Will County, Illinois at Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Sections 7 and 18. It is accessed from South Arsenal Road to Prairie View Drive. It is located 2 miles from the Midewin Supervisors Office and 4 miles from the town of Wilmington.

The type of vegetation present is cool season grasses, and the current water supply comes from a water well that is pumped at the bidder's expense. External fencing is a combination of barbed wire and chain link.

## Allotment E9

This offering includes one (1) pasture suitable for cattle grazing. The successful bidder will be required to place a second lock on access gates to allow them access to the permitted pasture. It is strongly recommended that prospective bidders attend the scheduled pasture showing prior to bidding.

**Tract 73 Pasture:** This pasture located in the Florence Township of Will County, Illinois at Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Sections 7 and 18. It is accessed from South Arsenal Road to Prairie View Drive Road. It is located 2 miles from the Midewin Supervisors Office and 4 miles from the town of Wilmington.

The type of vegetation present is cool season grasses, and the current water supply comes from a water well that is pumped by solar power. External fencing is a combination of barbed wire and chain link.

## Allotment E11

This offering includes one (1) pasture suitable for cattle grazing. The successful bidder will be required to place a second lock on access gates to allow them access to the permitted pasture. It is strongly recommended that prospective bidders attend the scheduled pasture showing prior to bidding.

**Tract 5 Pasture:** This pasture located in the Florence Township of Will County, Illinois at Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Sections 11 and 12. It is accessed from Hoff Road. It is located 10 miles from the Midewin Supervisors Office and 8 miles from the town of Elwood.

The type of vegetation present is cool season grasses, and the current water supply comes from a water well that is pumped at the bidder's expense. External fencing is a combination of barbed wire and chain link. Internal barbed wire fencing can be utilized for rotational grazing purposes.

## Allotment E12

This offering includes five (5) pastures, a total of 843 acres, suitable for cattle grazing. **All five (5) pastures will be bid together in one total bid.** The successful bidder will be required to place a second lock on access gates to allow them access to the permitted pasture. It is strongly recommended that prospective bidders attend the scheduled pasture showing prior to bidding.

**Tract 11, Tract 12, Tract 13, Tract 19 and Tract 214/40 Pastures:** These pastures located in the Jackson Township of Will County, Illinois at Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Sections 35 and 36. This pasture is accessible from Hoff Road. It is 5 miles from the Midewin Supervisors Office and 5 miles from the town of Elwood.

The type of vegetation present is cool season grasses, and the current water supply comes from a water well that is pumped by solar power. External fencing is a combination of barbed wire and chain link. Internal barbed wire fencing can be utilized for rotational grazing purposes.

## Allotment E13

This offering includes one (1) pasture, a total of 132.5 acres suitable for cattle grazing. The successful bidder will be required to place a second lock on the access gates to allow them access to

the permitted pasture. It is strongly recommended that prospective bidders attend the scheduled pasture showing prior to bidding.

**Tract 38 Pasture:** This pasture located in the Jackson Township of Will County, Illinois at Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 34. This pasture is accessible from Hoff Road. It is 5 miles from the Supervisors Office and 5 miles from the town of Elwood.

The type of vegetation present is cool season grasses, and the current water supply comes from a water well that is pumped at the bidder's expense. External fencing is a combination of barbed wire and chain link.

## Allotment W1

This allotment incudes one (1) pasture, a total of 347 acres suitable for cattle grazing. The successful bidder will be required to place a second lock on the access gate to allow them access to the permitted pasture. It is strongly recommended that prospective bidders attend the scheduled pasture showing prior to bidding.

**Tract 144 Pasture:** This pasture located in the Wilmington Township of Will County, Illinois at Township 33 North, Range 9 East, Section 12. This pasture is accessible from River Road. It is approximately 5 miles from the Supervisors Office and approximately 5 miles from the town of Wilmington.

The type of vegetation present is cool season grasses, and the current water supply comes from Prairie Creek and is pumped at the bidder's expense. External fencing is a combination of barbed wire and chain link.

# General Operational Considerations and Requirements

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

**Watering:** Water must be pumped at the bidder's expense, unless otherwise noted. Riparian protection is a primary concern of the Forest Service, and these resources will be monitored closely. Natural intermittent streams may also be utilized, however riparian grazing is discouraged, and measures (i.e. electric fencing, temporary fence, etc.) may be required if excessive resource damage occurs as determined by Range Management staff.

**Tanks for watering cattle are to be furnished by the high bidder.** Service done to existing wells will be at the permit holder's expense. Maintenance and service on wells done on Forest Service lands need to be in conjunction with the Rangeland Management Specialist. No new wells can be added without the approval of the Rangeland Management Specialist, failure to notify and work in conjunction with specialist can result in fines or termination of permit.

**Mineral:** Locations for mineral block/mineral supplement placement shall be approved by the Forest Service prior to actual placement.

**Corrals:** The permittee will be required to furnish their own corral gates for temporary holding pens for catching livestock. The use of temporary holding pens must be closely coordinated with the Forest Service to prevent resource damage. Any location for temporary holding pen placement shall be approved by the Forest Service prior to the actual placement. A portable corral is available for permittee use with ample coordination and advanced request.

**Fencing and Fence Maintenance:** Allotment perimeter fencing is predominantly a chain link fence intermixed with a five (5) strand barbed wire fence. Fence maintenance and/or reconstruction have occurred on an as needed basis. **The prospective bidder is strongly encouraged to inspect the fencing prior to submitting a bid. Frequent and excessive escapes of cattle due to permittee negligence regarding fence maintenance may be cause for revocation of permit.**

The permittee will be required to furnish all maintenance on existing fences, including existing chain link fences. Materials **will not be** furnished by the Forest Service. These additional requirements will be **at the expense of the successful bidder** and should be considered part of the operational expenses when submitting a bid. The successful bidder will bear the **full costs** for all materials, labor, and equipment for this work unless specifically stated otherwise in a Fee Credit Agreement.

**Allotment Forage Conditions:** Allotment pastures are a mix of cool season grasses and forbs. Brush and/or invasive species removal should occur throughout the 5-year permit cycle with prior approval from the Range Management Specialist.

Plants that are toxic to livestock have the potential to occur within any grazing allotment. Invasive and/or noxious weeds such as poison parsnip, poison hemlock, thistle, autumn olive, teasel and multi-flora rose are also a concern. The Forest Service will assist the successful bidder in identifying these plants and may offer some options for control. However, the Forest Service is **NOT** responsible for any injury or losses due to toxic plants.

**Cooperative Work for Fee Credit: Fee** Credit is a system for allowing term grazing permit holders to complete required or when necessary, range improvements (Conservation Measures) that are above and beyond routine pasture management or maintenance in lieu of paying grazing fees. In short, the grazing fee will be reduced by the amount of fee credit work allowed. A Fee Credit Agreement must be developed in writing **prior** to any work being performed and will become a part of the Term Grazing Permit. Examples of fee credit projects include, but are not limited to: *mowing*, new fence construction (for rotational grazing purposes), installation of new stock watering facilities, pasture access road improvements, and reclamation of pasture from brush encroachment. To qualify for a Fee Credit to be put in place, the Fee Credit must be signed by the Permit Holder and the Prairie Supervisor before the work can begin. Work done outside of the Fee Credit is not eligible and will not be considered credit. Fee Credit will **NOT** be granted for such projects as: routine fence or other structural improvement *maintenance*, range improvements that are for the sole purpose of permittee convenience, or other routine livestock management practices.

*Options for mowing will be made on a rotational basis in conjunction with prescribed burning performed by the Forest Service, coordination with Range Management staff will provide schedule. Other vegetation management activities can be utilized with approval of the Forest Service.

**General Permit Requirements:** (Required of all Term Grazing Permit holders on an annual basis.)

A Bill for Collection will be issued by the Forest Service prior to the start of each grazing season that specifies the kind, number, and class of livestock allowed to graze, the period of use, the grazing allotment, and the grazing fees. **At least 90% of the permitted livestock must be released on the permitted area by May 15th of each year to validate the grazing permit.** All livestock must be marked or tagged as specified in the grazing permit. Color and/or type of ear tag and/or brand, must be specified. **No livestock will be released until the permit is approved, the bill for collection has been paid in full, and notification is received from a Forest Service representative. Failure to pay the grazing fees on or before the authorized on-date (April 1) may result in an action to suspend or cancel the permit.**

**The permitee may not transfer, assign, lease, or sublet this permit in whole or in part.**

The permittee will manage livestock in accordance with the Allotment Management Plan and all provisions set forth in Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the Term Grazing Permit. An example grazing permit is available upon request.

Permittees must graze at least 90 percent of the number of livestock under a term grazing permit each year, unless the Forest Service approves non-use. Failure to place livestock on NFS lands within 10 days after the authorized "on date" without approved non-use (or without approval from the authorized officer for a delayed turn-on date) may result in suspension or cancellation of the permit.

**Ownership Requirement:**

Only livestock owned by the permittee are authorized to graze under this permit. To exercise use of the permit, the permittee will furnish all evidence of ownership requested by the Forest Service. Livestock purchased and subsequently sold back to the original owner, or to an agent, assignee, or anyone representing or acting in concert with the original owner, within a 24-month period without prior written approval by the Forest Officer in charge will not be considered valid ownership of the livestock.

Only livestock marked, tagged, or branded as shown in the application upon which this permit is based, will be allowed to graze under this permit unless the permittee has advance written approval from the Forest Officer in charge to do otherwise.

**Specific Permit Requirements:**

The additional operational requirements listed below will be the responsibility of the successful bidder and will be included in the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit when issued. These requirements will occur on an annual basis and must be met for the permit to remain in

compliance. Failure to maintain permit compliance may result in suspension, modification, or cancellation of the permit. These additional requirements will be at the expense of the successful bidder and should be considered part of the operational expenses when submitting a bid. The successful bidder will bear the **full costs** for all materials, labor, and equipment for this work unless specifically stated otherwise in a Fee Credit Agreement.

**Required Range Improvements:**

The successful bidder will perform an inspection of all structural improvements within their permitted pasture prior to **April 1, on an annual basis.** They will perform all necessary perimeter fence maintenance to contain their livestock prior to release of any livestock onto the permitted boundary. **It will be the responsibility of the successful bidder to provide all labor, materials and equipment necessary to maintain all fences to an acceptable standard unless otherwise noted.** Should existing fencing be deemed too deteriorated to be maintained, and replacement becomes necessary, fee credit could be allowed for the new construction. The successful bidder will be required to annually inspect and repair, as needed, all perimeter fencing and other structural improvements prior to the release of their livestock.

**Liability:**

The Forest Service is in no way responsible for personal injury or property damage resulting from permitted livestock. Liability insurance for the permitted livestock is strongly recommended and may be required by state law. The permittee claims full responsibility for personal injury or property damage resulting from the permitted livestock in accordance with state law.

# Other Considerations (e.g., Recreational Use, Allowable Use)

**Other Considerations:**

The Term Grazing Permit only conveys grazing privileges to the successful bidder. As with all National Forest lands, these tracts are open to the public for recreational use in accordance with Forest Service regulations and policies. **The acquisition of a grazing permit in no way limits the public's right to access these lands.**

Representatives from various government agencies and ecological monitors, including, but not limited to: floristic quality, frog, butterfly, and birds may enter and actively monitor on the allotment during the various seasons and as permitted to conduct work. This includes utilizing access roads into and within the pasture.

Recreationalists and recreational opportunities and activities, including, but not limited to hunting, hiking, bicycling, and equestrian may actively utilize the pasture during various seasons. This includes utilizing access roads to and within the pasture. Bicycles and equestrian use will be restricted to designated trails. While conflicts between permittees and National Forest visitors have been held to a minimum in the past, operational problems may occur due to gates being left open, damage to fencing, and/or harassment of livestock. Due to the number of prairie visitors who utilize these areas, all livestock, and especially bulls, placed within the pastures must be very gentle and easy to handle.

The permittee will be allowed limited vehicular access into the permitted grazing boundaries for livestock management or improvement maintenance purposes. All permittees, including representatives, must have an authorized Midewin placard. Vehicles found not in compliance will be towed at the owner's expense. 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 to permitted grazing boundaries.**

# Grazing Fees

The successful bidder will be billed for the initial grazing year per the bid submitted.

In subsequent grazing years, as required by 36 CFR 222.54(g), the grazing fee for each competitively bid Term Grazing Permit will be adjusted annually with a Bid Adjustment Factor (BAF), using the current hay price index for the Corn Belt Subregion.

To establish a ***Base Grazing Value (BGV)***, the submitted bid will be divided by the 2026 Bid Adjustment Factor; this number will be your BGV for the life of the permit. The BGV will then be multiplied each year by the current year's BAF to determine the grazing fee for each of the subsequent years during the term of the grazing permit.

| **Examples:** | Year | Bid Adjustment Factor |
|---|---|---|
| | 2013 | 1.24 |
| | 2014 | 1.55 |
| | 2015 | 1.53 |
| | 2016 | 1.43 |

A bid of $7.00 per HM submitted in 2013 would have a BGV of **$5.65** ($7 divided by 1.24). The same $7.00 bid submitted in 2014 would have a BGV of **$4.52** ($7 divided by 1.55).

| Original Bid | Year/BAF | Fee for 2013 Bid Rate | Fee for 2014 Bid Rate |
|---|---|---|---|
| $7.00 | 2013/1.24 | $5.65 x 1.24 = $7.00 | N/A |
| | 2014/1.55 | $5.65 x 1.55 = $8.76 | $4.52 x 1.55 = $7.00 |
| | 2015/1.53 | $5.65 x 1.53 = $8.64 | $4.52 x 1.53 = $6.92 |
| | 2016/1.43 | $5.65 x 1.43 = $8.08 | $4.52 x 1.43 = $6.46 |

As can be seen in these two examples, the first year will be billed at the original bid amount. However, in subsequent years the grazing fee may be higher or lower than the original bid depending upon the BAF of the first and each of the subsequent years.

Grazing fees are assessed by the HM. One (1) HM is equal to one (1) cow (with or without calf) grazing for one (1) month. For example, 12 head of livestock grazing for a 7-month grazing season would equal 84 HMs (12 x 7 = 84).

**Payment will be made to the USDA, Forest Service. No livestock will be released onto National Forest lands until notification of payment is received, the permit has been approved, and the permittee is notified by the Forest Service to proceed. Annually, the permittee must provide proof of purchase for cattle to be turned out. This may be provided as a sales receipt to the permit holder for cattle. Receipts must be provided before cattle are released. Permittees must obtain new vehicle placards annually.**

## Offerings

The offerings involved in this prospectus are exclusive authorization to graze cattle on the offered parcels or grazing allotments **for seven (7) months of the year from April 1, 2027 to November 1, 2031.**

The Forest Service reserves that right to adjust the Head Month (HM) by extending or reducing the length of grazing period, or by adding or reducing acreage or HMs, which will result in an amendment to the grazing permit as well as the price of the permit. The rationale for adjusting the HM would be to achieve proper habitat management for the grassland bird species using this area to restore the pasture to native grasses and forbs in accordance with the goals and objectives of the Midewin Land and Resource Management Plan.

The Forest Service reserves the right to adjust the bids on an annual basis, based on the hay price index. The hay index may go up or down and a three (3) year average is computed.

**This prospectus shall herein be made a part of the grazing term permit authorized for each allotment.**

## Utilities

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

## Bid Procedure

**(1)** The attached Application for a Term Grazing Permit **must be fully completed, signed and submitted with the bid form**. The bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope. Failure to do so will result in an automatic disqualification of the submitted bid.

**(2)** All bids will be marked on the bid sheet provided and signed and sealed in an envelope when submitted. **UNSIGNED BIDS WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFIED.**

*****Note: *** All envelopes must be sealed and clearly marked on the outside with:**
**"GRAZING BID ENCLOSED"**

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

**NOTE: A bid deposit of 10% of the total amount of the bid is required (36 CFR 222.54). Bid deposits can be made by Cashier's Check or Money Order made out to USDA Forest Service. Bid deposits will be returned to all unsuccessful bidders. The bid deposit of the qualified high bidder will be applied to the annual grazing fee.**

If the high bidder cannot fulfill the terms of the Term Grazing Permit, the bid deposit will be forfeited, and the allotment will be awarded to the second highest bidder.

**(3)** To qualify, the bid must meet the minimum bid amount of **$8.67** per HM**.**

**Note:** The minimum bid is the 2026 non-competitive grazing fee established under 36 CFR 222.53 and FSM 2238.6 for the Corn Belt Subregion. This fee amount is regional in scope and does not represent the true fair market value for the grazing allotments being offered in this prospectus. **Estimated Market Value (Required):** Previous competitive bidding procedures have shown that the true fair market value for these areas is significantly higher than the established non-competitive grazing fee. Grazing advertisements on the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie have resulted in qualified bids between $7.00 and $25.52 per HM depending on the specific conditions of the grazing areas being offered. The pastures included in this prospectus were previously advertised publicly in 2022. The successfully qualified high bid was $25.00 per HM.

**The permit will be awarded to the qualified high bidder (see page 3 "Minimum Qualifications).**

Upon opening the applicant's bids, 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)** The last permit holder for each allotment has the right to match high bids received for that corresponding allotment at this bid opening, **if they are in good standing after the previous permit expired**. Matching high bids must be received in writing by the Prairie Supervisor on or before December 2nd**, 2026**.

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

# 2:00 P.M., December 2nd, 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**

**In the event two individuals submit bids for differing numbers of livestock, the Apparent High Bidder will be determined by the total bid amount, not the per head bid price. See the attached Bid Sheet to calculate the grazing bid.**

**In the case of identical bids, an oral auction will be conducted. If either party are not present, then a drawing will be conducted. See the attached Bid Sheet to calculate the grazing bid.**

**Bids may be withdrawn and/or modified no later than the exact time set for the opening of bids.**

**BIDS FOR GRAZING USE IN EXCESS OF THE ESTABLISHED MAXIMUM GRAZING CAPACITY OR BELOW THE MINIMAL ALLOWABLE LIMIT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**THE FOREST SERVICE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EXTEND THE DATE FOR RECEIVING BIDS, TO REJECT ANY AND/OR ALL BIDS, AND TO WAIVE ANY TECHNICAL DEFECTS IN THE BIDS.**

Individuals who submit a bid and an application for a term grazing permit in response to a prospectus are considered a solicited applicant per 36 CFR Part 214.2. Individuals whose bids were not selected may appeal the decision of the authorized officer under Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR, Part 214.4(a)(4).

## Permit Award

The high bidder for each allotment offered will be awarded exclusive authorization for that allotment through the issuance of a Forest Service Term Grazing Permit. 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 a part of the terms and conditions of all grazing permits issued.

## Area Showings

Individuals wanting to tour the available allotments should schedule an appointment with the Midewin Range Staff. Staff are available to take individuals to all pastures if an appointment is made.
For further information, contact the USDA Forest Service, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, 30239 S State Route 53, Wilmington, IL 60481 or call (815) 423-6370, Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. or by email: Len Kring, len.m.kring@usda.gov or Liz Kovel, elizabeth.kovel@usda.gov

**Grazing Areas 2027-2031**
**Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie**

**Will County, Illinois**

## HOW FOREST SERVICE GRAZING AREAS ARE MANAGED

- Only cattle are grazed on Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie allotments.
- Cattle grazing is primarily used as a tool to meet wildlife habitat goals.
- A minimum of 4" stubble height is maintained on cool season pastures.
- Forage production estimates are based on an average of 2.65 HMs per acre per year for cool season pastures. (Poorer pastures estimates are less). A HM is the amount of forage necessary for one 1,000 lb. cow for one month. This equals 830 lbs. of forage (dry weight). Forage production estimates consider leaving the required stubble heights.
- The following conversion factors are used to convert class of animal to HMs:

| | |
|---|---|
| Bulls | 1.0 HEAD MONTH |
| Cows with nursing calves up to 6 months of age | 1.0 HEAD MONTH |
| Cows without calves | 1.0 HEAD MONTH |
| Weaned calves | .7 HEAD MONTH |
| Yearling | 1.0 HEAD MONTH |

- To determine the number of head that can be grazed:
    - From the chart, find the size and type of livestock you want to graze (note the conversion factor).
    - Divide the total HM production for the pasture you are interested in by the conversion factor. This equals the total number of HMs grazing available for the size of animal you have.
    - Divide the result by the number of months in the grazing season-this will equal the number of head of that size of animal that can be grazed.
    - Example: You want to graze weaned calves. The pasture you are interested in produces 50 HM. The grazing season is April 1- October 31 (7 months). The conversion factor is .7 Dividing 50 HM by .7= 71.4 total HMs available. 71.4 HMs divided by 7-month season = 10 Head.
- Many allotments are still being developed.
- Allotments are inspected at least three times during the season. Permittee is responsible for maintenance of improvements in their area.
- The period of use on cool season grass pastures is April 1$^{st}$ – November 1$^{st}$. Turn-out and pull-off dates may vary according to growing conditions.

- Permittee is responsible for having cattle on areas at the proper time and removing them according to the permit agreement. Cattle will be moved from pasture to pasture according to forage conditions, to prevent overgrazing and ensure proper utilization of forage. Any changes in the permit must have the approval of the Prairie Supervisor. Failure to follow terms of the permit may result in termination of the permit.
- Keep the above information for reference if you are selected for any of the permit areas. Return only the APPLICANT QUALIFICATION STATEMENT and BID SHEET FOR FOREST SERVICE ALLOTMENTS.

APPLICANT QUALIFICATION STATEMENT

| (Check One) | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|
| I will have sufficient livestock to fully utilize the allotment. | | |
| I own base property with livestock handling facilities. | | |
| I am able to comply with allotment plan and permit conditions. | | |
| Keep my name on the mailing list. | | |
| This information is correct to the best of my knowledge<br>Applicant signature: | | |

**Please print:**

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Applicant must answer all questions to be considered.

Return to Forest Service by:

2:00 P.M. December 2, 2026

## BID SHEET MIDEWIN GRAZING ALLOMENTS

| GRAZING AREA | BID PER HM (Minimum $8.67/ HM) | HEAD MONTHS Per year | TOTAL BID Annually |
|---|---|---|---|
| *EXAMPLE: ABC Allotment Head Months = 560* | *Bid price (times) $6.29 x* | *(No. of HM in Allotment) 560 HM =* | *Equals total bid $3522.40* |
| **Allotment E-2 Tract 10** Head Months: 700 Grazing Period: 4/1 to 11/01 | | | |
| **Allotment E-2 Tract 215** Head Months: 1,400 Grazing Period: 4/1 to 11/01 | | | |
| **Allotment E-2 Tract 8** Head Months: 630 Grazing Period: 4/1 to 11/01 | | | |
| **Allotment E-3** Head Months: 420 Grazing Period: 4/1 to 11/01 | | | |
| **Allotment E-4** Head Months: 1,400 Grazing Period: 4/1 to 11/01 | | | |
| **Allotment E-5** Head Months: 350 Grazing Period: 4/1 to 11/01 | | | |
| **Allotment E-7** Head Months: 420 Grazing Period: 4/1 to 11/1 | | | |
| **Allotment E-8** Head Months: 252 Grazing Period: 4/1 to 11/01 | | | |
| **Allotment E-9** Head Months: 840 Grazing Period: 4/1 to 11/01 | | | |
| **Allotment E-11** Head Months: 1,050 Grazing Period: 4/1 to 11/01 | | | |
| **Allotment E-12** Head Months: 2,100 Grazing Period: 4/1 to 11/01 | | | |
| **Allotment E13** Head Months: 350 Grazing Period: 4/1 to 11/01 | | | |
| **Allotment W1** Head Months: 700 Grazing Period: 4/1 to 11/01 | | | |

_____ _____

BIDDER'S SIGNATURE DATE: