

PROPOSAL FORM

TO ENTER A CONTRACT FOR COVER CROP DRONE SEEDING
in fulfillment of the 2026 Batch and Grow Cover Crop Program

Purpose:

American Farmland Trust (AFT) is launching and supporting farmer-led groups to improve soil health, promote continuous living cover, and keep nutrients on the land in partnership with Sand County Foundation. Farmer-Led Advances in Soil Health (FLASH) is a statewide initiative in Illinois where farmers are leading efforts in priority watersheds to improve soil health and protect water quality. FLASH groups are organized by farmers, for farmers, with each group tailoring conservation efforts to address local needs and priorities. In Clinton County, the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is serving as the local partner for the Clinton County FLASH group.

Job: Supply cover crop seed for Clinton County FLASH group as per attached specifications. Each seed mix is a separate and distinct project. The contractor may bid on any or all seed mixes.

Bidding deadline: Proposals must be received no later than 8:00 AM, June 1, 2026. Please email to the following contacts:

Keelyn Bloch, Clinton County SWCD | Keelyn.Bloch@il.nacdnet.net

Helen VanBeck, American Farmland Trust | hvanbeck@farmland.org | 872-250-8771

If you have any specific questions, please don't hesitate to email or call.

Job completion date range: The identified seeding period is between August 13 and December 20, 2026. We expect seed pick-up to occur during this period.

Job specifications: see below

Business Name: _____

Website (if applicable): _____

Employer Identification Number: _____

Name of Owner or Chief Executive: _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Seed Storage and Pickup

Please provide details of seed container type, location, and date/time ranges of availability for pickup:

Please share any other information you feel is relevant. 500 words

Budget

Bidder should complete the budget table below based on per acre seeding cost. Seed should be mixed based on the rates listed below. The intention is to seed up to 2500 acres in any combination of the following seed mixes. Please include any price breaks available. See below for seed specifications.

Seed mix	Seeding Rate (via Drone) lbs/acre	Price per acre (based on seeding rates at left)	Note any volume discounts, if applicable
Mix 1 Winter barley, Winter oats, Annual Ryegrass, Crimson clover, Balansa clover, Vetch, Rapeseed	Winter barley - 5 Winter oats - 5 Annual Ryegrass - 5 Crimson clover - 4 Balansa clover - 2 Vetch - 2 Rapeseed - 1	\$	
Mix 2 Winter barley, Winter oats, Crimson clover, Balansa clover, Vetch	Winter barley - 10 Winter oats - 10 Crimson clover - 4 Balansa clover - 2 Vetch - 2	\$	
Mix 3 Cereal rye, Winter barley, Annual ryegrass, Rapeseed, Crimson clover, Balansa clover, Vetch	Cereal rye - 20-30 Winter barley - 10-15 Annual ryegrass - 3 Rapeseed - 2 Crimson clover - 2 Balansa clover - 1 Vetch - 1	\$	
Mix 4 Cereal rye	Cereal rye - 40	\$	
Mix 5 Oats, radish, turnip	Oats - 32 Radish - 1 Turnip - 1		

American Farmland Trust reserves the right to remove, add, or limit the amount of seed required for each seed mix.

Cover Crop Seed Specifications

The contractor shall supply seed as designated in the specifications. The contractor shall store the seed until drone operators are able to pick up seed between July-September. The contractor is to provide seed within Pure Live Seed limits to allow for proper seeding rates. The contractor shall give AFT notice of when seed arrives.

The contractor shall supply seed tags that document the purity and germination percentage of each seed type in each mix.

Due to budget Constraints, AFT reserves the right to remove, add, or limit the amount of seed required for each seed type.

The amount of seed to be purchased is an estimate of needs of the project. AFT reserves the right to vary the tonnage per seed mix as determined by personnel responsible for application of the seed.

The following specifications and dimensions shall apply to the cover crop seed for the project. AFT reserves the right to waive compliance on minor technicalities on the specifications and to accept or reject any or all proposals which appear to be in the best interest of AFT.

The following are the minimum conditions which will apply:

1. Pure Live Seed

Seeding Rate lbs/acre are planned for the seed to be used to have a minimum Pure Live Seed (PLS)% of 80%. All seed to be used must be tested for germination and purity by a certified seed lab so that PLS can be determined. The % germination is multiplied by the % purity to calculate the PLS% of the seed. All seed within a mix must meet the NRCS standards for PLS% of 80%.

Germination	Purity	PLS %
>98%	>82%	>80%
>97%	>83%	>80%
>96%	>84%	>80%
>95%	>85%	>80%
>94%	>86%	>80%
>93%	>87%	>80%
>92%	>87%	>80%
>91%	>88%	>80%
>90%	>89%	>80%

2. Seed Mix information – See above under Budget

Terms and Conditions

Contractor selections will be made by members of the farmer-led group, with consideration given to factors such as cost, experience and reputation of service provider, and proximity to fields. American Farmland Trust (AFT) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, negotiate with vendors, and award contracts based on the best overall value. This RFP does not constitute an offer to contract. This RFP is grant funded. AFT will pay its vendors after receiving reimbursement from our grant funders.

Notice - Project is Subject to the Availability of Funds to be Provided by a Federal Grant. This project is being funded by a United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service under a Regional Conservation Partnership Program Grant award made to Sand County Foundation (the "Award"). American Farmland Trust is a subgrantee of Sand County Foundation.

Accepted proposals or contracts made in connection with this RFP are subject to the availability of funds provided under the Award. All AFT payments and other liabilities of whatever nature shall be subject to prior receipt by AFT of the corresponding funds from the USDA under the Award. In the event of any pause, suspension, delay in receipt of funds, or early partial or full termination of the Award, AFT, in its discretion may elect to cancel this RFP or suspend or terminate any accepted proposal or contracts. AFT will notify of such action as soon as is reasonably practicable. During any suspension, you must take all appropriate action to minimize the incurrence of costs. Upon any termination, you must cancel outstanding commitments.

Certification

The bidder hereby certifies that no other principal is involved in or has an interest in this proposal; that the bidder has thoroughly examined the plans and specifications and this proposal form and is aware of the special provisions contained herein; that the bidder has examined the site of the work and understands that the quantities of work required by the plans and specifications are approximate only and are subject to increases and decreases; that the bidder understands that all quantities of work actually required must be performed and that payment therefore shall be at the unit prices stipulated herein; and that the bidder proposes to timely furnish the specified materials in the quantities required and to furnish the machinery, equipment, labor and expertise necessary to competently complete this project by the time specified.

Acceptance of a bid by American Farmland Trust is subject to confirmation and review and no contract enforceable by the bidder is created until execution of a written contract by all parties. If this bid is accepted, bidder agrees: to execute a formal contract within thirty days of the date of approval for award. Upon execution of a written contract by all parties, the contractor agrees to begin work in accordance with the contract documents and to either complete the work within the contract period or pay liquidated damages, which shall accrue for each additional working day the work remains uncompleted; to perform all "extra work" required to complete the project at unit prices or lump sums to be agreed upon in writing prior to commencement of such "extra

work” or, if prior agreement cannot be reached, to perform the work on a “force-account basis” as provided in the specifications.

The signing of this Bid document shall serve as an unsworn declaration that I (the owner, partner, President, other corporate officer, or an authorized representative) hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that I have read, understand, and accept the Bidding Certifications and other provisions contained in the proposal notice/notice to bidders.

Signature

Date

Printed Contact Name