

- Important issue here in Kansas is the upcoming USFWS deadline of making a decision on the possible listing of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative
- USFWS upgraded the candidate status of the LEPC from 8 to 2 in 2008
- August of this year the Service will publish a proposed listing of Threatened, Endangered, or make a decision of not warranted for listing at this time
- NRCS in order to increase and improve LEPC habitat throughout the five state range of the chicken started the Lesser Prairie-chicken Initiative in 2010
- Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) recognized the concern of expiring CRP being retained in grass and continuing to provide LEPC habitat
- NRCS could provide financial assistance for water development, cross fencing and other practices but the largest cost to producers was perimeter fencing. NRCS revised their program rules to provide financial assistance for perimeter fencing around expired/expiring CRP.
- This made it more attractive for producers to leave expired CRP in grass and incorporate it into a working lands grazing system.
- LPCI has three primary goals
 - Transform idle CRP lands to working grasslands
 - Improve the sustainability of grazing lands
 - Remove and control invasive woody species
- LPCI has been very successful providing over \$19M in financial assistance to improve or create LEPC habitat on over 700,000 acres.
- Strategic Watershed Action Teams (SWAT) have provided 11 on the ground positions providing range and biological assistance through partner employees.
- NRCS has provided an accomplishments report to our state Fish and Wildlife agency partners of actions taken through the LPCI to improve and establish LEPC habitat
- NRCS has committed to continuing to work with our state partners as they develop a five state plan addressing LEPC future goals and needs.