

SAND COUNTY FOUNDATION PROPOSAL FORM

TO ENTER A CONTRACT FOR COVER CROP DRONE SEEDING
in fulfillment of the 2026 Dubuque County Watersheds Cover Crop Program

Job: Supply cover crop seeding of farm fields by drone for Sand County Foundation in accordance with the attached specifications. The contractor may bid any or all townships.

Bidding deadline: Proposals must be received no later than 5:00 P.M., Friday, April 10, 2026 at Sand County Foundation, 44 E Mifflin St, Suite 1005, Madison, WI 53703, or by email to office@sandcountyfoundation.org

Job completion date range: August 1 to September 23, 2026, with at least 50% of acres completed by August 25.

Job specifications:

Business Name: _____

Website (if applicable): _____

Employer Identification Number: _____

Name of Owner or Chief Executive: _____

Please attach a CV or provide below a web link or background information about the business and its owner or chief executive:

Please provide descriptions of equipment and staffing you expect to use to fulfill the bid's services. If you intend to subcontract additional drone pilots for this work, include their business names here. Please limit response to 500 words or less.

Please provide a description of your capacity to receive and store seed from a seed vendor. Including the location and type of storage facility, means to unload seed, days/times available to receive seed, and the maximum number of 2,000 lb totes (or other containment) that you can hold at any given time. If none, enter "N/A". Please limit response to 500 words or less.

If you prefer to work with a specific seed vendor, or to pick up seed from a specific location or via a specific type of container or loading system, please state these preferences here:

Please enter the maximum number of acres for which you can commit to apply cover crop seed according to the specifications and timeline of this project. This must be a realistic number accounting for foreseeable limitations such as weather, equipment maintenance, and commitments to other customers:

Please estimate the average number of acres onto which cover crop seeds can be applied per day, and an average number of days that you will operate per week. State whether you expect to achieve this rate within the first week of the project (beginning August 1).

Budget

Complete the budget table below. See attached map of townships, and attached flyer listing seed mixes. If bidding for the entire county at the same price, enter the first row only. If bidding for only certain townships, leave other rows blank.

TOWNSHIP	PRICE PER ACRE at 60-70 lb/ac seeding rate (see attached flyer for details)	ADDITIONAL CHARGE per acre to pick up seed, if preferred over delivery*
Entire County	\$	\$
Liberty	\$	\$
Concord	\$	\$
Jefferson	\$	\$
Peru	\$	\$
New Wine	\$	\$
Iowa	\$	\$
Center	\$	\$
Dubuque	\$	\$
Dodge	\$	\$
Taylor	\$	\$
Vernon	\$	\$
Table Mound	\$	\$
Mosalem	\$	\$
Cascade	\$	\$
Whitewater	\$	\$
Prairie Creek	\$	\$
Washington	\$	\$

* From a to-be-determined location within Dubuque County or not more than 30 driving miles of Epworth, IA

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 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 Sand County Foundation 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.

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.

Name of Bidder

Phone

Address City State Zip

Email

Phone

Signature Date

Printed Contact Name

SAND COUNTY FOUNDATION COVER CROP DRONE SEEDING SPECIFICATIONS

The contractor shall apply seed between August 1 and September 23 according to a schedule of operations to be provided by Sand County Foundation and Dubuque County Watersheds. Because timely cover crop establishment significantly improves conservation outcomes, the schedule of operations will include numerical milestones for acres completed by designated dates, dependent upon weather conditions.

The contractor is to apply seed at seeding rates to be specified by Dubuque County Watersheds (between 60 and 70 lbs/ac). All cover crop seed will be provided by one or more seed dealers contracted separately by Sand County Foundation. The contractor shall work with the specified seed dealer(s) and/or Dubuque County Watersheds to determine when and how seed will be picked up or delivered. The contractor is responsible for communicating to the seed dealer(s) and/or Dubuque County Watersheds any preferences or limitations in the packaging or method of transferring seed.

The specific fields and total number of acres to be seeded by the contractor will be determined by Dubuque County Watersheds and Sand County Foundation. In the likely event that multiple drone applicators are contracted for this project, Sand County Foundation will provide all applicators with an opportunity to state their preference to serve specific farm clients with whom they have existing business relationships. Sand County Foundation reserves the right to remove, add, or limit the number of acres assigned to any contractor to balance the workload among all contractors and complete the project in a timely manner.

Sand County Foundation will provide the contractor with access to geospatial data through an ArcGIS Online mapping tool and/or mobile app detailing each field to be seeded and contact information for field owners or operators.

The contractor shall schedule applications in the following order according to current crops; corn grain fields first, then soybean fields. This may require more than one visit to a given farm if the farm grows more than one crop type. The contractor will record the date, seed mix, seed weight, seeded acres, and relevant notes regarding each field seeded in the online mapping tool within 24 hours after seeding.

The contractor shall give the listed field owner or operator notice of fields scheduled for seeding at least 24 hours prior to arrival. The contractor shall follow instructions provided by producers and/or Dubuque County Watersheds staff regarding field access or other constraints.

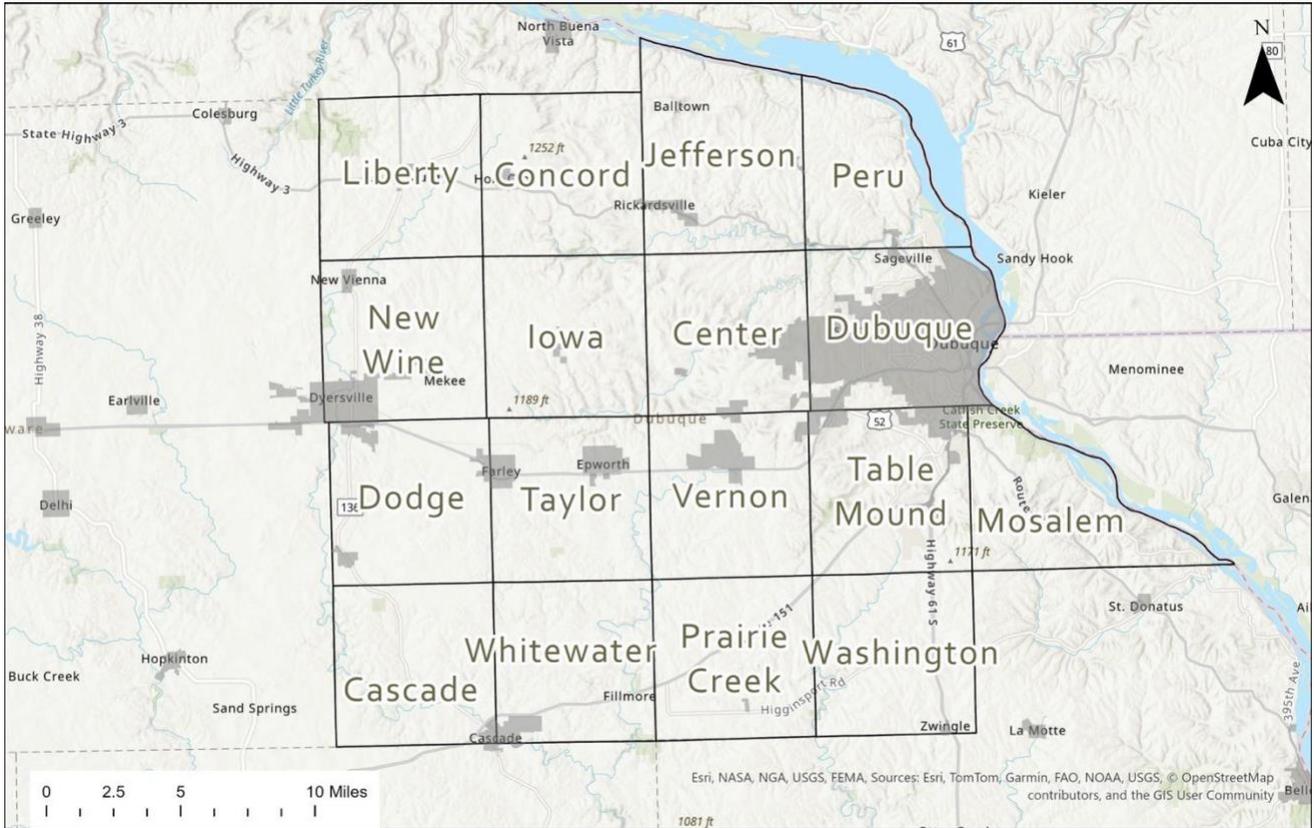
The contractor shall provide Sand County Foundation with the boundaries of the final-seeded area for each field as a geospatial data file (shapefile, GeoJSON, or KML) within one month of seeding.

All drone operators including sub-contracted operators must have current and appropriate FAA certification and must comply with all federal, state, and local regulations.

Successful bidders must provide a certificate of insurance within 30 days of the date of the approval for the awarding of a contract.

Sand County Foundation reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

Township map



Cover Crop Program 2026



The Dubuque County Watersheds Cover Crop Program helps farmers establish early cover crop species on corn and soybean acres, reducing erosion and enhancing soil fertility all without the hassle of seeding it yourself. Save time, protect your land, and boost your farm's long-term productivity!



Choose from our premium selection of seed mixes:

Drone Mixes:	Winter Kill Mix Oats (90%) Rapeseed (5%) Radishes (5%) 60 lbs/acre	Premium Mix Corn Rye (65%) Oats (35%) 70 lbs/acre	Premium Mix Soybean Rye (80%) Radishes (10%) Rapeseed (10%) 65 lbs/acre	Wheat Mix Wheat (65%) Oats (35%) 65 lbs/acre
Drilled Cover Crop Mix Corn Silage:	Rye (65%) Wheat (35%) 60 lbs/acre			

Seeding will take place August 1 - September 23, 2026 via drone. Drill seeding will take place between September 10 - October 1, 2026.

Get more information and enroll:

Scott Hendricks: **563-213-8388** or **Scott.Hendricks@dubuquecountyiowa.gov**

Allisen Freihage: **563-451-7171** or **Allisen.Freihage@dubuquecountyiowa.gov**