

Minnesota Wildlifers,

Welcome to the April 2021 edition of the Prairie/Farmland Newsletter. Enjoy!

Remember - we'd love for you to share any relevant content with us for inclusion in the next edition. Please send those items to either Jake (jcnelson8487@gmail.com) or Nicole (ndavros@gmail.com). And if you have any issues you'd like to investigate further with the committee, let Jake know.

Grassland/Farmland Wildlife, Habitat, Farming, Soil Health, & Federal Conservation Programs

- [Growing cover crops in Minnesota: 4 great resources to get you started](#) - Check out this blog post from the University of Minnesota Extension office and share with others who are considering incorporating cover crops as part of their cash crop management system.
- [Ag Innovation Campus breaks ground in Crookston](#) - The Ag Innovation Campus one-of-a-kind specialty processing plant will house a crush facility, oil refining, classrooms and space for private industries. The facility will be available for use by universities, commodity organizations and private businesses to specially process their oilseed commodities.
- [Taking care of what we've got](#) - Focus on habitat improvement benefiting public lands in Kandiyohi County. A partnership of Pheasants Forever and state and federal agencies is leveraging Clean Water and Land and Legacy Amendment funding sources to improve our lands.
- [Letter: Cows don't go to hardware stores — People do](#) - Brian DeVore of the Land Stewardship Project talks about whether large dairies are helping or hurting the economy.
- [How farmers can improve profitability while helping the environment](#) - Farmers and regenerative agriculture proponents Gabe Brown and Grant Breitkreutz joined Agweek's Michelle Rook on the Healthy Soils, Healthy Farms session of the Agweek Farm Show.
- [USDA announces another \\$6 billion-plus in pandemic aid](#) - After Identifying Gaps in Previous Aid, USDA Announces 'Pandemic Assistance for Producers' to Distribute Resources More Equitably
- [Trophies of big-game hunting former Ashby co-op manager Jerry Hennessey go up for sale](#) - The trustee (assignee for the benefit of creditors) is selling the extensive taxidermy from Jerry Hennessey, former general manager of the Ashby Farmers Cooperative Elevator, who is in federal prison for stealing \$5 million from the co-op between 2003 to 2018.
- [USDA to Provide \\$75 Million for Alternative Practices for Conservation](#) - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be supporting unique projects that offer alternative practices for conservation. Up to \$75 million will be made available for new projects through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program's (RCPP) Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA).
- [Building a productive pasture](#) - With NRCS rotational grazing plan and EQIP assistance, Pope County beef producer improves forage on former CRP enrollment, anticipates water-quality benefits
- [New Study Highlights Higher Profits for Ag Water Quality Certified Farms](#) - A new study by the Minnesota State Agricultural Centers of Excellence shows that farmers enrolled in the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) had higher profits than non-certified farms. This marks the second year of data highlighting improved financial outcomes.

Pollinators and Insects

- [Boosting insect diversity may provide more consistent crop pollination services](#) - Fields and farms with more variety of insect pollinator species provide more stable pollination services to nearby crops year on year, according to the first study of its kind.
- [No Mow May returns to Appleton to promote bee-friendly habitat, but council rejects extension into June](#) - The city of Appleton, Wisconsin voted 13-2 to reinstate No Mow May, which was implemented last year on a voluntary, one-year basis. The initiative lets property owners delay lawn care as a way to promote pollinator-friendly habitat in the city.

Pesticides and Invasive Species

- [Lawmakers consider banning Minnesota's most widely used pesticide](#) - Minnesota lawmakers are pushing a proposal to ban chlorpyrifos, which is typically sprayed over soybeans, wheat and sugar beets is a powerful and widely used pesticide that can cause brain damage and developmental defects in children.
- [Preliminary results from pesticide study show widespread neonicotinoid exposure in Minnesota deer](#) - Preliminary results of a study testing white-tailed deer spleens for presence of neonicotinoid pesticides show exposure of deer throughout the state, according to the Minnesota DNR.

Webinars, Podcasts, Videos, Social Media, & Other Events

- Facebook: [Becker SWCD's post](#) from March 29th 2021 shows there's still work to be done when it comes to wind erosion and protecting our soils.
- Youtube: [Fall tillage fallacy, quicker warm up in the spring and fixing compaction](#) – [8 minutes] Jon Stevens, who farms in East Central Minnesota, gives a candid perspective on the benefits of soil health.
- KARE 11: [Grow with KARE: Winter on the prairie](#) – [90 seconds] exploring the reconstructed mini prairie in the front yard of the KARE 11 building in Golden Valley.

Other Topics (including those outside of our prairie region)

- [Project Orchid](#) – The ultimate goal of the project is to improve the understanding of orchid biology in order to conserve Minnesota's wild orchid populations and to apply this knowledge to active conservation work.
- [In Japan, scientists look to the past to save the future of grasslands](#) - By comparing Japan's old and new grasslands, the study published in Ecological Research finds it may be worth prioritizing the conservation of older grasslands because they have more biodiversity. In the study, scientists define new grasslands as less than 70 years old while the old grasslands can be anywhere from 160 to thousands of years old.