

Minnesota Wildlifers,

Welcome to the August 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

- [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) – current map, released Aug 5, 2021
- [Minnesota's Farmfest back after a year off](#) - Rural Minnesota's largest annual gathering of farmers got underway on Tuesday after calling it off last year because of the pandemic. Farmfest, the three-day farm show in Redwood County that has typically drawn tens of thousands of visitors from around the Upper Midwest, runs Tuesday through Thursday on a 50-acre site about 10 miles southeast of Redwood Falls.
- [House passes FY22 spending bill bolstering ag research, enforcement agencies](#) - The House on Thursday voted 219-208 to pass a package of seven fiscal 2022 spending bills that would provide significant increases for climate measures and agricultural research while also beefing up agencies that enforce environmental and labor regulations.
- [There's not enough rainfall in the forecast to keep up with the drought](#) - Drought conditions are likely to continue to worsen in the region as high temperatures and little precipitation mean already dire soil moisture is expected to get worse.
- [Green blueprint: Developing new seed mixes](#) - BWSR is working with partners to update more than 70 state seed mixes, which are designed to target specific conservation goals or ecological features and conditions.
- [Walz visits Farmfest to advocate vaccinations, announce new license plate](#) - Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz was at day two of Minnesota Farmfest to give a keynote address and celebrate the announcement of a new Minnesota license plate.
- [Drought causes some Minnesota farmers to harvest early](#) - "When we harvest there likely will be higher nitrates, which can be poisonous to the dairy cows," Miron said. That means they'll have to chop the corn two feet off the ground, avoiding the bulk of the nitrates at the base of the plant. "We're going to end up leaving even more tonnage out in the field than what we normally would," Miron said. "And it's a dry year."

Pollinators and Insects

- [Progressive Farmer - Treated Seed Troubles](#) – Academic and government studies have found neonicotinoids present in many American waterways, from rivers and wetlands to municipal drinking water. Their presence in soils and water have been linked to detrimental effects on birds, mammals, pollinators such as bees, beneficial insects and aquatic invertebrates. CDC researchers have also found the chemicals in the urine of roughly half Americans sampled, raising questions about their effect on humans, as well.
- [A cocktail of pesticides, parasites and hunger leaves bees down and out](#) - Pollinators are under threat. A meta-analysis reveals that the combination of agrochemicals, parasites and malnutrition has a cumulative negative effect on bees, and that pesticide–pesticide interactions increase bee mortality.

Pesticides and Invasive Species

- [Off-target dicamba damage in 2021 may be the worst year yet in the Upper Midwest](#) - Joe Ikley, NDSU Extension Service weed specialist, says it appears off-target crop damage from dicamba applications in 2021 is widespread. He said victims' soybean crops have sometimes recover with timely August rains, but lose productive growth.
- [Brownfield Ag News - Roundup Stays for Farmers but not for Lawn/Garden Use](#) – Bayer says it's committed to ensuring access to glyphosate for its farmer customers but will replace all U.S. lawn and garden glyphosate-products with NON-glyphosate-based formulations to mitigate any future litigation risk.
- [The deadliest flower in the insect world is a lifeline to farmers—and the planet](#) - To the people who pick them, the flower is utterly harmless. But bugs beware: The yellow center of the 'killer chrysanthemum' contains a natural toxin that can kill them in seconds.

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

- [PF's Train the Trainer Events](#) (PDF) - Join Pheasants Forever Staff and partners on some unique field training opportunities throughout the state of Minnesota this 2021 season. These trainings are open to all NRCS, SWCD, and FSA staff within the state of Minnesota. To comply with COVID protocols, space in each session is capped at 20 participants.
- [MN DNR - Prairie Pod](#) – Season Four launched earlier in July and new episodes are released weekly. The Prairie Pod is a podcast that communicates the science surrounding prairie conservation, restoration/reconstruction, and management. Each episode covers a prairie-focused topic, and offers insights on related literature and places to explore Minnesota's beautiful prairies and other amazing natural areas. You'll hear discussions from a variety of experts, tackling the complexity, challenges and beauty of Minnesota's prairie landscape.
 - Episode 29: Snake, Rattle, and Roll: Minnesota's bluff prairies in summer to cozy hibernaculum in winter
 - Episode 30: Tohan tatankahca kin hdipi (When the Bison Came Home)
 - Episode 31: The How not the Cow (Restoration Series: Grazing Grasslands)
 - Episode 32: Prairie's importance as a mental health refuge
- [Public Lands Dedication – Cupido Wildlife Management Area, 955 Acres in Norman County](#)
 - Pheasants Forever, the Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will host a dedication ceremony to celebrate the massive partner effort which led to the creation of the Cupido Wildlife Management Area.
 - **Friday, August 6, 2021 at 2:00 pm.**
 - Parking for dedication ceremony is located in the town of Syre, MN, on the southeast corner of State Highway 32 and 120th Avenue intersection. Please follow signage; a shuttle bus will transport attendees to Cupido Wildlife Management Area.