

Minnesota Wildlifers,

Welcome to the September 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 26, 2021
- [Do protected areas work?](#) - Long-term monitoring shows protected areas safeguard bird populations and support federal and state mandates
- [USDA accepts 2.8 million acres for the CRP](#) - This year, almost 1.9 million acres in offers have been accepted through the General CRP Signup, and USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has accepted over 897,000 acres for enrollment through the Continuous Signup.
- [Southern Minnesota farmers expect strong pre-pile harvest](#) - American Crystal Sugar Co. of Moorhead, Minnesota, Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative of Renville, Minnesota, and Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative of Wahpeton, North Dakota, now under way with their pre-pile harvests that started about Aug. 25, 2021, sometimes delayed due to rains.
- [Bean field collapses and falls 25 feet in rural Polk County](#) - Near Climax, Minnesota, a small crack in the ground has grown, causing a quarter-mile long stretch of bean field to fall 25 feet. Few have ever seen anything like it.
- [Winona County field day shows the hype is real for cover crops](#) - People traveled from five different states to an Aug. 10 soil health field day held by the Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District and Unruh Cover Cropping.
- [Menahga farm demonstrates sustainable grazing](#) - You'd never guess there was a severe drought at Single Cedar Farm, located south of Wolf Lake. Robert and Sue Keranen operate a 100 percent perennial, pasture-based farm. They raise grass-fed beef and pastured pork. The Sustainable Farming Association (SFA) showcased the Keranens' ag practices during an "Adaptive Grazing Field Days" event last month.
- [MN DNR - 2021 Minnesota Prairie-Chicken Population Survey](#) – Within the standardized survey blocks, 703 males and birds of unknown sex were counted on 53 booming grounds during 2021. This contrasts with the high count of 1,618 males and 114 booming grounds in 2007. The standardized survey began in 2004.

Pollinators and Insects

- [Want A Bee-Friendly Garden? You Could Get Money From The State](#) - The effort to create more pollinator gardens across the state is getting additional funding to get more people interested and involved. The Lawns to Legumes program offers up to \$300 to cover the cost of planting a pollinator habitat in your yard. It's one way to be friendly to a population in decline.
- [Minnesotans are buzzing about wasps right now, and the weather is just one reason why](#) - Minnesotans from across the state have shared their wasp battles with KARE 11 on social media, with many asking why they seem even more prevalent – and aggressive – than ever. We reached out to Marissa Schuh, an Integrated Pest Management Educator for the University of Minnesota Extension Service, to find out what might be going on.

- [“Things look good” as 2021 monarch butterfly migration takes flight](#) - The monarch butterfly migration of 2021 has begun, and based on reports from Canada and sightings of the iconic insects in San Antonio and the Texas Hill Country, the insects are running strong. But, Chip Taylor expressed concerns about monarch numbers from the eastern Dakotas and western Minnesota since those areas “have been much warmer and drier than is generally ideal for monarch population development.”

Pesticides and Invasive Species

- [EPA Will Ban A Farming Pesticide Linked To Health Problems In Children](#) - A pesticide that's been linked to neurological damage in children, including reduced IQ, loss of working memory, and attention deficit disorders, has been banned by the Biden administration following a years-long legal battle.
- [Minnesota farmers encouraged to take part in annual practices survey](#) - The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is encouraging farmers to take part in its annual pesticide and fertilizer survey. The data helps the MDA track the awareness, adoption, and use of nitrogen and pesticides BMPs and provides guidance to education and research programs, according to a press release.

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

- [Pheasants Forever Acquisition Map](#) - In 2021, “The Habitat Organization” surpassed 212,000 acres of public lands contributions; the equivalent of 331 square miles of pheasant and quail country for upland hunters and their bird dogs to make memories afield. We've created a one-stop-shop to locate and learn about the organization’s public access and permanent wildlife habitat protection efforts. The mapping application debuts with access properties throughout the Land of 10,000 Lakes: Minnesota.
- It's the Prairie Pod special episode live from the Minnesota State Fair! Watch the video here: [Prairie Pod Facebook Live - 43:11](#)
- Speaking of the MN State Fair, below is the link to the MNDNR upcoming events at the fairgrounds: [MNDNR Events Calendar](#)