

Minnesota Wildlifers,

Welcome to the November 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

- [DNR's latest crackdown on deer farms could halt movement of captive whitetails for more than a year](#) - The DNR bans movement of farmed deer once again to protect against the spread of a disease that threatens to ruin Minnesota's \$1.3 billion deer hunting economy
- [Life Among the Grasses - What is the most bio diverse place on the planet Earth?](#) – The most diverse environment in the world when you look at an area greater than 100 m² is indeed the tropical rainforest. But when you look at smaller areas, the answer turns out to be different. When they counted the number of species of vascular plants in an area smaller than 100 m², they found out that the most diverse environments are actually temperate grasslands.
- [US declares 23 bird, fish and other species extinct](#) – In all, 11 birds, one bat, two fish, one plant and eight types of mussel have been declared extinct.
- [Evolving Pheasants Forever increases birds, habitat, while helping corporations reach sustainability goals](#) - Now employing some 280 wildlife biologists, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever are leveraging significant new government and corporate funds to multiply their conservation reach.
- [USDA Launches First Phase of Soil Carbon Monitoring Efforts through Conservation Reserve Program Initiative](#) - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$10 million in a new initiative to sample, measure, and monitor soil carbon on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to better quantify the climate outcomes of the program. CRP is an important tool in the Nation's fight to reduce the worst impacts of climate change facing our farmers, ranchers, and foresters.
- [USDA Invests \\$4.7 Million to Provide Outreach and Technical Assistance to Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers](#) - Today's announcement builds upon current efforts to increase USDA program participation by historically underserved farmers and ranchers. FSA has actively worked with 10 organizations with existing relationships with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Office of Tribal Relations to promote participation in CFAP 2 since May. As a result of this targeted outreach, program participation by historically underrepresented producers has increased by 14% since the program reopened in April 2021.
- [Pheasants Forever And Quail Forever Join Coalition Submitting Recommendations To Biden Administration On "America The Beautiful" Initiative](#) - The recommendations highlight several of the sporting-conservation community's priorities as they relate to the Administration's forthcoming American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas. The Atlas will track progress-to-goal accomplishments of conservation and restoration efforts. Ultimately, the goal of the initiative is to conserve 30 percent of waters and 30 percent of lands across the U.S. by 2030.

Pollinators and Insects

- [Helping the little guys: Shoshone pollinator festival reminds folks to thank the bees](#) - Debbie Burke, president of For The Love of Growing gardening club, understands the importance of pollinators and wants to help ensure their survival. Eight months ago she started the Shoshone Pocket Pollinator Park. To help get the word out, Burke is hosting a Pollinator Festival including three different contests and a raffle.
- [Prairie strips prevent soil erosion, help pollinators](#) - Five years ago, four prairie strips were planted on the Stoffel farm. The foundation has been working alongside Iowa State University to build awareness about the ecosystem services prairie strips provide across the Midwest.
- [PERENNIALS WITH PURPOSE](#) - "Since planting prairie on my terraces, I haven't had a problem with erosion and now, there is wildlife galore. When I take people on a tour of the strips, I have to slow down so I don't knock over a bunch of monarchs."
- [Local beekeepers' alliance encourages bee conservation amid commercial beekeeping losses](#) - "If they are way up high in a tree and they are not bothering anybody, I'd say just leave them alone," Atascadero beekeeper Michael Lindsey said. If a beehive is in an area near your house that is too close for comfort, and you call a company to remove them, but Lindsey said make sure to ask what method they use to get rid of the hive. "They may come and spray a pesticide and it kills the bees," Lindsey said. "Then bees in the neighborhood like in a tree somewhere, they will come and rob out that hive that got sprayed with pesticide. Then they will take that pesticide to their hive and then it will kill those bees."
- [National Corn Growers Association Forges New Partnership With Pheasants Forever And Quail Forever](#) - "Pollinator health is a leading sustainability issue in 21st-century agriculture," said Ohio grower and PTAAT Vice Chair Patty Mann. "As public interest in pollinator health continues to increase, stakeholders in this discussion – our members and producers nationwide – have a critical role to play for implementation. By partnering with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, NCGA can assist growers with profitability and sustainability measures on their farms for win-win scenarios."

Pesticides and Invasive Species

- [Sunflower screenings receive increased scrutiny after additional Palmer amaranth outbreaks](#) - Another Palmer amaranth weed outbreak believed to be caused by contaminated sunflower screenings from Cass County, North Dakota, is creating new scrutiny for the inexpensive livestock feed.
- [As waterhemp and ragweed shows herbicide resistance, Minnesota researchers want farm samples](#) - Minnesota farmers are seeing signs of herbicide resistance in waterhemp and ragweed, prompting University of Minnesota researchers to seek out more samples of weed seed.
- [Cover crop can reduce waterhemp in soybean](#) - University of Missouri Extension weed specialist Mandy Bish and a team of researchers studied how planting soybean into living cereal rye, or "planting green," and then terminating the cereal rye affected biomass accumulation, soybean stand and yield and early-season waterhemp emergence.

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

- Restoration Webinar Series – Fall 2021 – Register today: z.umn.edu/RestorationWebinars
 - November 4 noon to 1 – Buckthorn, the ongoing challenge
 - November 18 noon to 1 – MN State seed mixes, recipes for success
- Otter Tail County Historical Society in Fergus Falls will be displaying the artwork of Ross Hier in their rotating exhibit. The residency runs from October 25th to December 3rd. **For more information follow the link here:** <https://www.otchs.org/Exhibits/TravelingExhibits.html>
- [John Oliver shines light on Federal Duck Stamp contest](#) – Several hours after the contest concluded, John Oliver, the host of HBO’s “Last Week Tonight,” aired a segment about the Duck Stamp. Oliver gave a quick history of the stamp, explained the fact that it has raised more than \$1.1 billion for habitat conservation, and spotlighted a feud among a couple of Duck Stamp artists. Then he revealed that he and his production team were responsible for the entries of five rather unorthodox paintings into this year’s contest – which were auctioned off online raising nearly \$100k with all proceeds going to the USFWS duck stamp program.
Watch the full video here: [Duck Stamps: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver \(HBO\)](#) (12:05min)