

Minnesota Wildlifers,

Welcome to the January 2022 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](mailto:jcnelson8487@gmail.com)) or Nicole ([ndavros@gmail.com](mailto: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**

- [Minnesota Land Exchange Board approves Lac qui Parle County land sale over county's opposition](#) - The Land Exchange Board cited the right of property owners to sell their land to willing buyers as the principle deciding their votes. Gov. Tim Walz, Attorney General Keith Ellison and State Auditor Julie Blaha emphasized that they appreciated the concerns raised by Lac qui Parle County and the governor said the issues need to be aired going forward.
- [New USDA partnership focuses on underserved producers](#) - The U.S. Department of Agriculture is helping to ensure that underserved farmers, ranchers, and foresters have the tools, programs and support they need to succeed in agriculture. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced USDA will provide approximately \$75 million in American Rescue Plan funding to 20 organizations to provide technical assistance to connect underserved producers with USDA programs and services.
- [World's largest carbon capture pipeline aims to connect 31 ethanol plants, cut across Upper Midwest](#) - Spanning five states and involving at least 31 ethanol plants connected by 2,000 miles of pipeline, an Iowa company is poised to make a major investment in low-carbon fuel. Summit Carbon Solutions, an offshoot of Summit Agriculture Group, is behind the \$4.5 billion Midwest Carbon Express project, with the goal of sending 12 millions tons of CO2 annually to western North Dakota, where it can be stored underground. It would be the largest carbon capture project in the world.
- [Project Carbonview seeks to measure and reduce carbon emissions](#) - Project Carbonview, conceived by Bayer, is currently in its pilot phase. Farmers who are eligible for the project are compensated for their participation. While Project Carbonview is dedicated to helping farmers and producers, it also focuses on the supply chain's emissions as a whole. The project aims to cut down on carbon emissions throughout the entire supply chain and not just in the soil where the growing takes place.
- [Among the gloom of Minnesota water pollution, a glimmer in the Red River Valley](#) - Lawndale Creek is one piece in a puzzle that's allowed the MPCA to remove the south branch of the Buffalo River from the impaired waters designation, one of 31 such water bodies deemed improved enough to warrant de-listing this year. A designated trout stream, the headwaters of Lawndale Creek are located in the Rothsay Prairie Core Area.
- [Cover Crop Lessons From Four Midwest Farmers](#) - At the Soil Management Summit in Mankato, Minnesota, farmers shared their mistakes and successes planting cover crops on their farms. (Featured Farmer and Rock SWCD employee Doug Bos, was recently awarded the [2021 Outstanding SWCD Employee](#) at the MASWCD annual convention)

## Pollinators and Insects

- [The butterflies are back! Annual migration of monarchs shows highest numbers in years](#) - "The last few years we've had less than 30,000 butterflies," biologist Emma Pelton said. "Last year, we actually dropped below 2,000 butterflies. So really an order of magnitude change in a short time period." But this year, the numbers are starting to pick up. Biologists and volunteers across California have already counted more than 100,000 monarchs.
- [Bees may take generations to recover from one exposure to insecticides](#) - This new research, published in PNAS, shows that even a single exposure to insecticides in a bee's first year of life affects offspring production, and since the effects of the pesticides are cumulative, this results in an overall decrease in the bee population.

## Pesticides and Invasive Species

- [Tallgrass prairie wildlife exposure to spray drift from commonly used soybean insecticides in Midwestern USA](#) - Recently published research conducted in Minnesota by Katelin Goebel and her co-authors found insecticides used to combat soybean aphids at both focal and reference sites, suggesting these chemicals are ubiquitous on our farmland landscape. Chlorpyrifos (common tradename Lorsban), [recently banned for use on food crops by the E.P.A.](#), was the most common insecticide used by cooperating farmers in the study. The authors found insecticide spray drift up to 400 m from soybean/grassland field edges, which was the furthest distance they examined.
- [Waterhemp Gaining Resistance To Dicamba](#) - "So it seems to have generalist resistance mechanisms that are not specific to any one herbicide. It really makes resistance management more challenging. In the past we have talked about rotating herbicide sites of action but in a population like this that has metabolic resistance, simply rotating sites of action is not going to resolve resistance problems."
- [MDA to Seek Approval for 2022 State-Specific Restrictions for Dicamba Herbicide](#) - The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) today announced that it will work with the makers of four dicamba herbicide products and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement state-specific use restrictions for Minnesota during the 2022 growing season. The restrictions are aimed at curbing off-site movement of the products.

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

- Check out the post on the [Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Facebook group](#). They describe how to access original public land survey notes and maps completed on the [BLM Website](#). These surveys were completed between 1848 and 1907 and were used to create the "Marschner Map." \*Note: it'll be easiest to use this site on a desktop. And, you'll need to brush up on reading cursive hand writing!
- [Prairie Pod Holiday Bonus Episode](#) - We're featuring people of the prairie to showcase their real life work in the fight to save a landscape that hangs on with just under 2% left in the state. Their special connections show us the joy and power of prairie. We hope you enjoy the voices of people who share our passion and get to take a moment to laugh, cry, and lose yourself for a little while in the stories of what prairie offers us: the courage to accept and adapt to change. We hope these prairie stories warm you up and remind you of golden prairie days outside over the winter ahead.