



Women in Conservation

North Dakota

The final blooms of summer

As quickly as spring arrived it feels like fall is creeping in on us, and I don't know about you, but I'm not totally upset about it. There is just something about the prairie in the fall, flaunting its final blooms of the year, golden sunlight shimmering through a stand of big bluestem, and the first flocks of migrating geese overhead on a September evening cold snap – a gentle reminder of what is to come.



What's in a crown?

As an agriculture queen I have the great honor of representing my state, my organization and most importantly agriculture. The greatest thing is being able to reach people who do not have connections to the farm by attending various events and doing social media outreach. We all know it can be hard to have conversations with the public, when we are in work clothes most people are not interested. The best we can do is spread

In this issue of our quarterly newsletter, you'll find some plants to look out for as the seasons change, a note from North Dakota Miss Agriculture, a feature on one of our landowner workshops that will leave you craving apple season,, and an easy way you can help make sure future generations enjoy all that we love about the prairie this time of year!



positive information and hope we change the thinking of even one person. We are coming out of fair season and I had an amazing time visiting with many people who were first interested in me by my crown and our conversations lead into meaningful topics about the industry. I strongly believe it's not about the crown but what you do while wearing it that really matters, and you don't need to have one to have these conversations. Miss Agriculture USA is a non-profit organization that is about celebrating and promoting agriculture and the women in it. Each queen in the organization is a voice, or as we say

“AGvocate” for agriculture. If you are interested in learning more please feel free to reach out!

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Late Summer-Fall Blooms Checklist



- Blazing Stars
- Little Bluestem
- Goldenrods
- Blue Grama
- Gentians
- Big Bluestem
- Sneezeweed



A Land Legacy: Cottonwood Cider House

Stacy Nelson-Heising and her family have quite an inspiring story. Tasked with finding a way to keep the family farm profitable and her dad's legacy of organic agriculture that gives back to the land more than it takes, they turned to a value-added approach. Along with her family, a lot of hard work, and some trial and error, Cottonwood Cider House in Ayr, ND was born in 2012. Just 7 years later Cottonwood has over 2,000 apple trees and over 40 varieties, not to mention, cherries and other fruits also incorporated into their hard ciders.

Most impressively, the orchard is certified organic. Nelson and family use manual pest management including "squishing tent caterpillars with their hands" and netting some, but not all, of their cherry trees. The trees are grown into alfalfa stands to encourage ever-so important pollinators and natural pest predators. Overall Nelson values the biodiversity on their orchard and she

promotes pollinators and other wildlife through wildflower and prairie plantings. This diversity in plant, animal, and soil life adds to the flavor of their apples, but also helps her dad's legacy live on through the land.



Those who attended our recent Women Caring for the Land event at Cottonwood got to learn about all of this first hand, ID some pollinators, hear from their beekeeper, network with one another, and even taste some of that delicious cider! So be sure you don't miss our next event and stop by Cottonwood this fall or look for it on tap at your local brewery!



Conservation Note of the Quarter:

Leave your stamp on the prairie!

The Federal Duck Stamp is a requirement for all waterfowl hunters, but whether you find yourself tucked into a slough come fall or not, you're likely benefiting from these funds. Did you know that \$0.98 of every dollar goes directly to establishing and managing wetlands for the benefit of all migratory birds and our enjoyment?! Furthermore, many of our duck species nest in associated uplands that are also enhanced and conserved using these dollars. Here in the heart of the prairie pothole region, we reap the benefits to wildlife habitat, water quality, soil conservation and more, thanks to Duck Stamp funds. By purchasing your stamp you can contribute to the conservation of your favorite places too!

Partner Shout-out!

A big thank you to the North McHenry County Soil Conservation District for all their help and planning with our June Women Caring for the Land event. Despite rainy weather, women had an opportunity to connect with other women in their area and learn about soil health practices!



@NorthDakotaPF



@nodak_pheasantsforever

Got ideas or photos you want to share? Send them my way!



Upcoming Events

August 6th

Women's Wing-shooting Clinic
Capital City Sporting Clays
6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Bismarck, ND

August 20th

Salinity Management Field Tour
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Dickey County, ND

August 20th - 22nd

NWF America's Grasslands
Conference
Bismarck, ND

September 13th - 15th

Wild Outdoor Women
Fall Event
Lake Metigoshe State Park
Bottineau, ND

November 16th - 17th

Women's Learn-to-Pheasant Hunt
Ashley, ND

For questions or to RSVP for an event contact Cayla Bendel
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