

## Instructions

Please download this Word document (available on the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund Program website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm> ) to your computer and provide the information as requested. You are not limited to the spacing provided. After completing the report, save it and attach it to an e-mail and send it to [outdoorheritage@nd.gov](mailto:outdoorheritage@nd.gov) AND print it and mail it to: North Dakota Industrial Commission, ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program, State Capitol – Fourteenth Floor, 600 East Boulevard Ave. Dept. 405, Bismarck, ND 58505. If you are unable to scan attachments, mail them with your paper copy of the report. You will be sent a confirmation by e-mail of receipt of your report and attachments.

### Outdoor Heritage Fund Status and Final Report Form/Guidelines

This report is used to show progress of grant projects funded through the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Status Reports and the Final Report must be submitted as required in Contract.

Contract Number 002-033	Report Date 12/31/2014	Period Covered by Report October 14, 2014 to December 31, 2014
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Project Name  
**North Dakota Pollinator Partnership**

Project Sponsor Name  
**Pheasants Forever**

Responsible Official (Last, First Middle) <b>Olson, Matthew P</b>	Responsible Official's Title <b>North Dakota Regional Representative</b>
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Project Sponsor Address <b>Lisbon</b>	State <b>ND</b>	Zip Code <b>58054</b>	Telephone Number <b>(701) 202-8120</b>
City	State	Zip Code	Telephone Number

#### Financial Update

Please provide the following information regarding the funding for your project based on the contract award:

#### Funds Spent this Reporting Period

(As appropriate please provide copies of receipts for purchases)

Match Funding \$ 0

In-kind Funding \$ 0

OHF Funding **Requested for Reimbursement** \$ 0

Total Funding Expended for this Reporting Period \$ 0

#### Total Funds Spent to Date

Match Funding \$ 0

In-kind Funding \$ 0

OHF Funding Received and Requested for Reimbursement \$18,375

Total Funding Expended to Date \$ 0

#### Balance of Grant Funds

Match Funding \$ 0

In-kind Funding \$ 0

OHF Funding still to be Requested \$155,375

Total Funding to be Expended on this Project \$173,750

Do you anticipate needing to request a grant extension    If yes, please explain

/\_/ Yes    /X/ No

Work Completed during Period Covered by Report:

(This information will be posted on the Outdoor Heritage Fund/Industrial Commission website)

The North Dakota Pollinator Partnership grant with the Outdoor Heritage Fund was signed and took effect on October 14, 2014. This grant is designed to increase plant diversity (most importantly flowering plants) on land enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to increase both wildlife habitat and quality of locations for honeybee producers to place honeybee apiaries. Since the grant has been signed, our staff has been working to find landowners who are enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program that would like to participate in this cooperative program with the Outdoor Heritage Fund. As an organization we have put out a press release discussing the grant, we have had an article in the Journal newspaper in Crosby about the grant, created a fact sheet for local NRCS offices, and mailed out informational fliers to 74 landowners who are enrolled in PLOTS and the Wetlands Reserve Program to let people know that this opportunity is available (see attached).

Through our outreach efforts we currently have nine landowners who are interested in enrolling in the program. Of those nine interested landowners, five of those projects are for enhancing the existing cover on WRP's and four of them are on new seeding WRP's. Our staff is currently working with these individuals and the NRCS State Office to determine how many acres of pollinator habitat could be implemented on these contracts, what an appropriate seed mix for these locations would be, and best possible location on the WRP would be. With the timing of the grant contract taking affect, we have not been able to start any field work in the 2014 year. Field work is anticipated to start spring of 2015 with site preparation on new WRP's and WRP's that are going to be enhanced by the North Dakota Pollinator Partnership. As an organization we are excited for the upcoming spring to begin work in the field towards completing this grant.

Photos of work completed are welcome (If appropriate, please submit photos of key elements of the project completed or in progress during reporting period) Do not exceed five photos per project report.

Signature of Responsible Official

Matthew Olson

Exhibit B

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The project reports shall be provided to the Commission in both electronic and hard-copy formats with permission for unrestricted distribution. The electronic versions shall be in a suitable format for posting on the Outdoor Heritage Fund/Commission website.



Divide County Elementary students sit Thursday on bales of hay, in an outdoor classroom assembled by FFA members to deliver lessons on farming and where food comes from.

## Seniors share lessons about farming

### National Teach Ag Day observed with variety of activities

**By John D. Taylor**  
Divide County Elementary School students got a chance last week to learn about agriculture from their older siblings at the high school, as part of a celebration of National Teach Ag Day, Sept. 25.

Throughout the day, groups of elementary school students walked to the high school to hear the older students, all Future Farmers of America (FFA) members, tell them about how agriculture is important in everyone's life, how food really doesn't come from a grocery store, but from farms—some of them run by their family members.

To drive home that message, elementary students were led through five stations, all focusing on some aspect of agriculture.

One station dealt with the county's largest crop, wheat—now being harvested, thanks to the hot, sunny weather. At this station the students got a chance to handle a fully-headed stalk of wheat, see how the plant is constructed and how grain kernels are formed.

The high school students had the elementary students hold a stalk of wheat, crumble the head into their hands and blow the chaff away, to see the kernels. Those who wanted could taste this natural product, too.

At another station, in the high school greenhouse, high school students shared their knowledge about how



Peyton Kostad selects fruit for his own fruit pizza, at a station that included lessons about food and concluded with a tasty and healthful snack.

plants sprout and come to life.

A third station featured an opportunity to make a "pizza" out of frosting, fruit and crust, to learn how various foods are put together and what they are made of. They also got to eat their creations when the class was over, so this was naturally a popular station.

The fourth station focused on farm equipment and safety. Here the elementary students learned about protective gear such as safety glasses, work boots, and gloves and learned a little bit about tractors—the most dangerous part be-

ing a PTO (power take off), which provides power to tools the tractor can use.

The final station offered students a chance to eat cotton candy and popcorn, and in a roundabout way, discover food processing.

National Teach Ag Day is celebrated to bring attention to the career of agricultural education, get students thinking about a possible career in agricultural education and support current agricultural teachers.

## Final Divide County tax meeting brings few people

**By John D. Taylor**  
More county officials than citizens attended Divide County's public hearing to increase the county's property tax millage by 7.17 percent.

The three commissioners, Tim Selle, Gerald Braly and Doug Graupe, and County Auditor, Gayle Jastrzebski, were joined by three citizens at the people's last chance to present arguments against the increase. Llewellyn Pederson, who owns farmland in Divide County; Ernie Peterson; and Donna Lagein, former mayor of Noonan.

Lagein talked about how assessments on several properties she owns, including her Noonan home, have increased, some more than 500 percent.

Her 60-year-old home, for example, which she said has not been modified since it was built, rose in value from \$44,500 to \$132,200, a \$90,700 increase.

Another property she owns, a 96-year-old home, rose from \$21,613 to \$113,200, a \$91,600 increase.

Empty lots she owns have also increased in valuation.

She called all the assessments "utterly ridiculous," and asked what the county would recommend she do to get these numbers reviewed and perhaps reduced.

All four county officials urged her to file an abatement on her properties, and get them reviewed again.

Low Pederson wanted to know if he could get a quarter section of his land reduced in assessment because for the last four years, he has not been able to get into this part of his farm to plant crops due to it being surrounded by flood water.

She believed the assessment should

adjust for this problem. Graupe wasn't sure what Pederson's answer might be. Braly said that while the county was needing 7 percent more mills, the school district's tax would likely impact Pederson more significantly.

Ernie Peterson wondered if property market value reductions he was seeing in his area would be corrected next year.

The commissioners told him the county has been using the Vanguard system for the last several years and despite no one liking how it calculates property values, it should reflect changes in market values—up or down—from year to year.

The county's new budget calls for nearly \$1.5 million—excluding road and bridge figures. This is up from nearly \$1.3 million last year, a move that requires a 7.17 percent mill increase to generate the necessary money needed to meet the budget.

Increases to the budget included:

- Farm to Market Road budget, up \$100,000.
- Senior Citizen's budget nearly doubled, rising for \$17,000 to \$35,000.
- The county's Correction Center budget has doubled, from \$30,000 to \$60,000.
- Insurance reserve jumped \$10,000 rising for \$50,000 in 2013 to \$60,000 in 2014. Yet millage rates on this declined, from 2.09 to 1.84.
- Also, comprehensive health care for county employees is up to \$100,000 this year.

The commissioners took no action, they were only gathering the final public comments before finalizing the budget.

## County Auditor reminds voters of identification rules

Divide County Auditor Gayle Jastrzebski is reminding voters they will need valid identification to vote in the upcoming General Election.

This state law also applies to absentee and mail in ballots as well as voting in person on Election Day, Nov. 4.

Jastrzebski said it is especially important for absentee voters to get by Oct. 5 if they do not have an up-to-date, valid form of identification.

Identification must show you have been a resident in your voting precinct for the 30 days prior to the election.

"If you've moved recently, you need to update your records and ID, or you

may have to return to your old precinct to vote," she said.

There are five forms of valid identification:

- North Dakota driver's license
- North Dakota non-driver's ID
- Tribal issued ID
- Student ID certificate
- Long Term Care ID certificate

The ID must include the voter's name, current residential address—not post office box—and date of birth. Not all forms of identification contain this information so it is important to check beforehand.

Anyone with questions may call the county auditor's office at 965-6351, or visit the [vote.nd.gov](http://vote.nd.gov) website.

## Bountiful Baskets may start Crosby drop

Interest is now being gauged in the establishment of a Bountiful Basket distribution site for Crosby.

Previously held at the Noonan Community Center, the organization will consider a site in Crosby if at least 50 people register their interest on the website [www.bountifulbaskets.com](http://www.bountifulbaskets.com).

The Northwest Health & Wellness Center may be a possible site for the regular distribution.

The organization brings a variety of fresh produce and other food items to members.

Participants are also urged to volunteer their time to help with the distribution of the baskets, helping to unload the truck and sort the foods each member takes home.

There is no cost to register for Bountiful Baskets.

## Series of developments are good news for North Dakota pheasant hunters

**By John D. Taylor**  
A series of items have resulted in some good news for the state's upland game birds, especially pheasants.

**Brood counts**  
Roadside pheasant surveys, conducted in late July and August, show the total number of birds and brood numbers are up from 2013, according to the state Game and Fish Department (NDGF).

Stan Kohn, upland game management supervisor, said the survey shows total pheasant numbers are up 30 percent from last year, and brood observations are up 37 percent.

Here in the northwest region, total pheasant numbers are up 21 percent from last year, with broods up 26 percent. Observers recorded seven broods and 57 birds per 100 miles. The average brood size was 5.1.

Kohn credited good spring weather for this increase.

To make the counts, observers drive some 100 routes, looking and listening for birds.

Kohn said the counts indicate pheasant hunters are likely to find more birds, especially more young roosters, in the fall population.

Pheasant hunting season for residents opens Oct. 4. A special



A ring-necked pheasant takes flight over a Divide County field earlier this year.

two-day youth pheasant hunt that includes nonresidents ages 15 and younger is set for Oct. 4-5. General pheasant hunting begins Oct. 11.

**Pollinator grant helps birds and bees**  
Birds—and bees—are the subject of a second piece of good news.

Late this May, the state Industrial Commission (NIC) awarded an Outdoor Heritage Fund grant for \$175,750 to Pheasants Forever (PF). To upgrade some 1,250 acres of upland habitat to

improve the cover for pheasants and sharpshooters and pollinating insects like honey bees.

This pollinator grant was one of 17 projects awarded by NIC in its 2nd round of 2014 Outdoor Heritage Fund grants.

The project will restore or enhance 1,250 acres of privately-owned land by improving habitat quality on USDA's Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) acres. Of this total, 1,000 acres will be new WRP tracts being converted from cropland to wildlife habitat. The remainder is 250 acres being

converted from brome grass to high-diversity prairie habitat.

PF and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will focus these efforts on existing prairie habitat or tracts already enrolled in the state's Private Lands Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) program, and areas located near apiaries.

"Not only has North Dakota been a consistent top-tier pheasant state, it's also the number one honey producing state, by a 2-to-1 margin," said PF's North Dakota representative, Matt Olson. "A successful pheasant hatch and a banner honey harvest aren't mutually exclusive—they both require upland habitat. Growing the flowering plants bees depend on creates the exact same habitat pheasant broods need to survive."

Ultimately, he continued, "the purpose of this project is to increase the flowering plant diversity for the benefit of upland birds and native pollinating insects."

Beekeeper Zac Browning lauded PF's work to increase pollinator habitat, as did Mary Podoll, NRCS State Conservationist. Podoll called the project a "perfect blend of local, state and federal entities partnering to help farmers and ranchers

utilize conservation programs.

Olson said NRCS and NDGF will identify the tracts to improve. Tracts within two miles of a honeybee apiary or those enrolled in NDGF's PLOTS program get higher priority. The tracts will be seeded with a diverse, permanent cover that includes more flowering species without raising landowner costs. Olson said PF isn't certain who will do the work, yet, but they're looking at options ranging from local farmers that have the equipment to prairie restoration contractors.

Due to reductions in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), more than 1.5 million acres of those CRP acres enrolled in 2007 are gone. Only 1 million CRP acres remain, sparking a sharp decline in quantity upland habitat.

Olson believes Outdoor Heritage Fund projects are a positive first step towards restoring some of what's been lost, a way to preserve North Dakota's outdoor traditions. He remains thankful NDGF approved the project.

Work will begin in spring of 2015.

PF has more than 140,000 members and 745 local chapters, including one in Tioga.

**Federal money**  
In July, U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp announced that significant federal funds, nearly \$400,000, was coming to the state for recreation and conservation efforts.

"North Dakota," Heitkamp said, "has a booming economy, close-knit communities, and a natural beauty that is beyond compare. Outdoor recreational opportunities are plentiful. To keep preserving these areas, we need to make investments so they remain places where families are able to continue to enjoy the great outdoors."

Heitkamp expected the money from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). To maintain conservation and outdoor activities, and keep people involved in the outdoors for generations to come.

"The money will be given to the state, to be dispersed."

Local governments can apply for these monies.

LWCF is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The program has funded some 40,000 projects—1,100 in North Dakota alone. LWCF's money comes from offshore oil and gas developments set-asides.



Rachel Bush  
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North Dakota Pollinator Partnership



## Improve Pollinator Habitat & Wildlife Habitat

on lands enrolled in the Wetland Reserve Program

Opportunity is available to improve habitat for honey bees, native pollinators and wildlife on lands enrolled in USDA's Wetland Reserve Program. Financial assistance is available to renovate existing grass stands to a high diversity planting of native grasses and wildflowers. These improvements will benefit honey bees, helping to keep North Dakota #1 in honey production, improve habitat quality for wildlife, and preserve North Dakota's rich outdoor heritage.



For More Information, Contact:

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## Press Release

*For Immediate Release*  
Anthony Hauck (651) 209-4972  
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### **Pheasants Forever Awarded Outdoor Heritage Grant to Boost 1,250 acres for N.D. Birds & Bees**

*Priority areas include lands near apiaries and acres open to public hunting access*

**Bismarck, N.D. – May 29, 2014** – The North Dakota Industrial Commission has awarded a \$173,750 grant to Pheasants Forever from the state's [Outdoor Heritage Fund](#). Pheasants Forever and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will utilize the grant to upgrade 1,250 acres of upland habitat for pheasants, sharp-tailed grouse, pollinating insects and other wildlife.

One of 17 projects awarded by the North Dakota Industrial Commission in its second round of Outdoor Heritage Fund grants, Pheasants Forever's "North Dakota Pollinator Partnership" project will restore or enhance 1,250 acres of privately-owned land, improving the quality of upland habitat via the USDA's Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Of this total, 1,000 acres will be new WRP tracts being converted from cropland to upland habitat and 250 acres of land being converted from brome grass to high-diversity prairie habitat. Pheasants Forever and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will key in on priority areas near existing prairie habitat or tracts already enrolled in the state's [Private Lands Open to Sportsmen](#) (PLOTS) program as well as areas located near apiaries.

"Not only has North Dakota been a consistent top-tier pheasant state, it's also the number one honey producing state, by a 2-to-1 margin," says Matt Olson, Pheasants Forever's regional representative in North Dakota, "A successful pheasant hatch and a banner honey harvest aren't mutually exclusive – they both require upland habitat. Growing the flowering plants bees depend on creates the exact same habitat pheasant broods need to survive. In fact, pheasant chicks feast primarily on insects during the first weeks of their lives. Ultimately, the purpose of this project is to increase the flowering plant diversity for the benefit of upland birds and native pollinating insects."

"I applaud the efforts of Pheasants Forever in working to increase pollinator habitat. It is exactly this kind of effort that will help keep North Dakota's traditions of beekeeping and honey production intact for the future," reported Zac Browning, a North Dakota bee keeper.

"The Outdoor Heritage Grant awarded to Pheasants Forever is a perfect blend of local, state and federal entities partnering to assist farmers and ranchers who utilize voluntary conservation programs for the benefit of North Dakota's natural resources," said Mary Podoll, NRCS State Conservationist. "It's exciting to offer producers the opportunity to enhance wildlife and pollinator habitat."

There has been a sharp decline in the quantity of upland habitat in North Dakota in recent years due to reductions in Conservation Reserve Program acreage (a decline of more than 1.5 million acres) and the conversion of native prairies to cropland. Olson says projects funded through the state's Outdoor Heritage Fund, which was established in 2013, are a positive first step in restoring some of what's been lost, and a way to preserve North Dakota's outdoor traditions for generations to come. "We're thankful to the Industrial Commission for recognizing and approving this significant Pheasants Forever project."

To see Pheasants Forever's full "North Dakota Pollinator Partnership" proposal, [click here](#).