

# PRAIRIE NEWS

<http://SD-PheasantHunting.com>  
1-855-SD Lodge

May 2014

35451 253<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Kimball, SD 57355

## **Food Plots:**

Now that we have spent almost two months picking rock in the fields, we are ready to plant our food plots. And we've been fortunate to have numerous experts willing to provide planning advice. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office sent field workers to check the slope of all areas that might contain food plots to ensure that disturbing the soil would not create runoff into wetlands. Then Pheasants Forever sent a Farm Bill Biologist to determine soil types that served as a basis for species recommendations. These biologists are specialized consultants in conservation programs and habitat planning. Their purpose is to assist landowners in designing, developing and funding habitat improvements on private lands. Of course, we also consulted local experts who have been planting food plots for years and have good, practical advice.

High-energy grain food plots are an essential wildlife management practice. When designed and placed correctly, these areas reduce bird mortality and help bring hens through the winter in peak condition for breeding. Therefore, Pheasants Forever has developed their Signature Series of food plot mixes:



***Blizzard Buster*** – Specific mixture of five grain and four distinct forage sorghums. This blend of early grain and forage sorghums provides maximum shelter and food for game birds and other wildlife in areas with tough winters. Specially designed to create a food-rich, dense cover, it provides both winter habitat and food when established in large plots.

***Covey Rise*** – Mixture of five distinct grain sorghums with a wide area of adaptation, with bright fall colors. This blend provides super food value and great habitat structure! It is the most eye-pleasing winter food and cover available for birds, and creates great hunting habitat. Pheasants and quail love it.



***Early Longtail Milo*** – Short growing seasons are no longer a barrier to good food production for game birds and other wildlife. Early Longtail Milo is a short stature, very early maturity grain sorghum that provides a heavy seed crop in as little as 85 days in normal growing conditions. It is wonderful food and escape cover for birds. Longtail Milo makes great hunting habitat that affords maximum visibility of your bird dogs while working cover.



**Cane Madness** – Specific mixture of eight, strong stemmed forage sorghums with high grain production that provides heavy seeded tall cane sorghums for birds, and an effective screen for your deer! This blend provides what matters most for your birds — cover that beats winter, and abundant high energy food.

**Winter Shield** – Mixture of four distinct grain sorghums, six forage sorghums and two millets to provide the critical energy needed to pull your birds through the toughest winters. Winter Shield provides some of the best winter cover and food available for pheasants and quail. It will increase your birds' survival prospects, while providing a haven for other wildlife.



**Winter Survival** – Provides excellent cover and food for wildlife in areas with tough winter weather. A blend of early grain varieties, this mix is heavy on high energy corn, and rounded out with sorghums, sunflowers, and buckwheat. It is very attractive to upland game birds, deer, turkeys, songbirds and a wide range of other wildlife.

**Rooster Booster** – Provides feeding habitat for deer, turkeys and upland wildlife, and generally lasts longer than corn-only food plots. It provides a diverse cover and food plot area for pheasants, quail and other wildlife. This early maturing mix is heavy on sorghums, with plenty of corn, buckwheat and german millet.



Pheasants Forever also offers a variety of other food plot mixes to attract deer, doves and other wildlife. Some of these also appeal to pheasants, but we are choosing between the mixes specifically designed for pheasants. We may opt to include alfalfa and clover in our mixes as these encourage development of an insect haven for pheasant broods, but we will likely avoid the brassica blends that include turnips and kale as these are targeted towards deer and turkey.

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### **Prairie Puzzle:**

The answer to last month's question about April's holidays was all of the above (World Penguin Day, Pig in a Blanket Day and National Honesty Day). Congratulations to our winners: Mr. Harrison from Arizona and Mr. Cluchey from South Carolina.

May question: ***What is the common name for grain sorghum?***

- a) Hemp                      b) Milo                      c) Maize                      d) Barley                      e) Canola

Please submit your answer by May 15, 2014 to be included in the prize drawing for a free Dakota Prairie Lodge & Resort hunting hat. Responses will be accepted via mail, phone, or email. Good luck!