



# DAKOTA PRAIRIE LODGE & RESORT

# PRAIRIE NEWS



## TIME TO GET READY FOR PRAIRIE DOG HUNTING!



April is a busy month around here at the Lodge as we prepare our property for an influx of prairie dog hunters come May. Our first groups are arriving in just a couple weeks, and we have set up a variety of new brightly colored targets for practice shooting before we head out to the prairie dog towns. We have a yeti, a rabbit, a groundhog, a fox, and more fun shapes!

The calendar is filling up for prairie dog hunting and walleye fishing this summer. Secure your dates before they are gone by giving us a call ASAP. We hope to see you soon!

## PRAIRIE DOG MERCH NOW IN OUR GIFT SHOP

We are ramping up for prairie dog hunting season here at the Lodge. Part of the preparation is making sure that the gift shop is fully stocked and ready for our hunting groups, who will start visiting in early May. We are happy to share that we have a number of new prairie dog shirts and other accessories in stock, all ready to head home with you.

Want to browse more fun merch in the gift shop? Find branded camo logo sweatshirts, Dakota Prairie Lodge caps, Bob Allen shooting vests, Black Hills gold jewelry, and taxidermy decor.

[SHOP ONLINE](#)

## MOBILIZING OUR TEAM FOR THE SUMMER SEASON

On Monday, May 4, we will be welcoming our full hospitality team back to the Lodge to get everything up and running for our guests. It is always an exciting day when we get to catch up with friends and start the wheels of the Lodge turning for the new season. Our team will be cleaning, scouting out prairie dog towns, planting in the garden, and generally helping to prepare for hunters. We are so excited for another year with our stellar staff. We are all thrilled to make the Lodge feel like home for our prairie dog hunters and families!

When you stop by the Lodge this summer, you might also catch sight of some cows. We love partnering with local farmers to keep our land well-kept and walkable for our hunters. You'll spot some adorable calves as well. It is all part of the authentic South Dakota experience!



## SOUTH DAKOTA'S HIDDEN PRAIRIE LIFECYCLE

Dandelions have been blooming across the prairie over the past couple of weeks. These bright yellow flowers, which are often mistaken as weeds, always make us think about the complex food chains happening right in front of us. Dandelions are excellent for South Dakota's honeybee population, supporting these important pollinators as they fly between plants and promote plant reproduction and biodiversity. Honeybees are just one important piece of the equation. The abundance of plant life on the prairie directly contributes to the survival and proliferation of other animals, including those we love to hunt: pheasants, prairie dogs, and more.

### THE HONEYBEE AND MONARCH BUTTERFLY PARTNERSHIP

Back in 2015, the Pheasants Forever organization kickstarted an important alliance to support honeybee populations in North and South Dakota. Pheasants Forever offers seed blends to landowners in these states to promote the creation of native wildflower and grassland plots that positively contribute to upland bird, bee, and butterfly populations. This program is designed to create phenomenal habitats for these pollinating species, and that in turn promotes bug-rich environments for pheasants, quail, and other upland bird species. It is a win-win scenario for all.

So, how did this partnership start? And how did we realize the importance of bees and butterflies for our beloved wild pheasant population? In the 1960s, the first bird surveys were run. Twenty years later, in the 1980s, pheasant numbers had dropped by one-third. Food plots and tree line cover were found important factors, but insect populations were discovered to be perhaps the *most* important factor for chick survival. Promoting pollinator survival also helps our pheasant population.



### THE IMPORTANCE OF BEES FOR POLLINATION

Did you know that bees are estimated to be responsible for one in every three bites of food we take in America? It's true – bees are a crucial part of our ecosystem, and they need flowering plants to survive. Some people think of bees as pests, but these buzzing flyers are a key worker in building sustainable biodiversity on the prairie.

In our natural world, virtually all habitats are interconnected. Pete Berthelsen, founder of The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund, says it best: "Pollinator habitat is pheasant habitat is grassland songbird habitat is duck habitat." Everything is intertwined, and losing one creature from the mix can endanger the symbiosis of all the others. Do these sustainable missions resonate with you? Check out [Land & Legacy](#).

## PRAIRIE PUZZLE

**April Question:** What is the average lifespan for prairie dogs in the wild (if we didn't shoot them, of course)?

- a) 5-8 years
- b) 2-3 years
- c) 9-11 years
- d) 4-6 years



Submit your answer by May 10, 2026, for a chance to win! Answers will be accepted via email, phone, or mail. Correct answers will be entered into the prize drawing to receive a FREE piece of Dakota Prairie Lodge & Resort merchandise.