



DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

Wildlife Division
895 3rd St. SW
Huron, South Dakota 57350

February 2015

Dear GFP food plot cooperator,

Thank you for your enrollment and involvement in GFP's annual food plot program. The habitat you create and maintain is a strong representation of your willingness to care for our resident wildlife populations and is a reflection of your good stewardship on the land. While many of our local wildlife cannot survive on food plot habitats alone, these areas provide food and cover for wildlife during South Dakota's harsh winters.

With crop prices at record high levels over the past decade, South Dakota has seen a downward trend in the amount of land set aside for wildlife. Some of the hardest hit habitats have been CRP, native prairies, and wetlands. This downward habitat trend has led to a reduction in pheasant numbers. We have also lost many of our flowering broadleaf plants and wildflowers. These plants are important for pheasants because flowering plants attract insects, and insects are a crucial component of a pheasant chick's diet.

In an effort to enhance habitat for pheasant chicks, we are offering an annual cover crop mix that will attract insects by flowering throughout the summer, as well as produce grain seed for adult birds during the winter. The best time to plant this mix is during the month of May, and it can be either drill seeded or broadcast and drug in. The flowering plants in this mix are beneficial to pheasants, bees, grassland songbirds, and other wildlife. Besides the flowering plants, this mix also contains sunflowers and sorghums, which will stand up and provide food and cover during winter.



Before planting this seed mix, it is important that the site is prepared properly. You will not be able to spray this mix with any chemicals once it starts growing, so it is recommended that you plant this mix in an area that does not have a current weed problem. If planted in the right area and at the right time these cover crop plants will outcompete weeds naturally, thus negating the need to spray with chemicals at all.

GFP will be giving away free corn and sorghum seed at your designated GFP seed pick-up site as we always have. If you would like to plant some of this new pheasant food plot mix, the seed is also free and will be available at these pick-up sites as well. If you do not know where to pick up your free seed contact your local GFP office. **Seed for this new mix will only be available to those who return the bottom portion of this letter by March 1st.** If you have any questions about GFP's food plot program, please contact Brian Pauly at 605-353-7185.

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I am interested in planting the pheasant food plot cover crop mix this spring, and I would like enough seed to plant _____ acres.

