



# DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

Wildlife Division  
895 3<sup>rd</sup> St. SW  
Huron, South Dakota 57350

January 2016

Dear GFP Food Plot Cooperator,

The GFP food plot program was developed nearly 50 years ago to assist landowners in providing winter cover for wildlife. Landowners receive free corn or sorghum seed to plant each spring, plus a payment to help offset planting costs. The program took a dramatic step forward last year, by offering landowners a third seed option, called our brood mix. **The brood mix is an annual mixture of cover crop species, designed to flower from spring through fall and then produce seed for wildlife to forage on during winter months. By flowering, the brood mix provides pollinator habitat that traditional corn/sorghum food plots lack.** Pollinating insects (such as bees, leaf hoppers, butterflies/moths, and even ants) thrive in areas with flowering, broadleaf plants. Insects comprise nearly 100% of a pheasant chick's diet, therefore making habitats for pheasant chicks to forage a key component of pheasant production.

The brood mix can be planted anytime during the month of May, and it can be drill seeded or broadcasted and drug in. This year's brood mix is comprised of buckwheat, canola, clover, flax, millet, milo, mustard, phacelia, radish, sorghum, and sunflower. The different species will grow at various times throughout the year, thus providing an ever-changing buffet to pollinating insects. Before planting this seed mix it is important 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, at the right time, these cover crop plants will outcompete weeds naturally, thus negating the need to spray with chemicals at all. A long-term management plan by alternating your food plots between corn/sorghum and the brood mix year-after-year will help to achieve clean, weed-free pollinator habitat year-in and year-out.

GFP will give away free seed at your designated GFP seed pick-up site as we always have. **Corn and sorghum seed is always available each spring; however, seed for the brood mix will only be available to those who return the bottom portion of this letter by March 1<sup>st</sup>.** If you have any questions about GFP's food plot program please contact Brian Pauly (605-353-7185), Matt Grunig (605-353-6699), or the Huron GFP office (605-353-7145).



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- I am interested in planting \_\_\_\_\_ acres of the brood mix this spring.
- I am interested in planting \_\_\_\_\_ acres of corn this spring.
- I am interested in planting \_\_\_\_\_ acres of sorghum this spring.
- I am no longer interested in being part of the food plot program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_