

BLAIR FIELD OFFICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEVENTH EDITION - JULY 2021

WILDFLOWER OR NOXIOUS WEED?

Knowing the difference between native grasses, wildflowers and noxious weeds is important to growing and sustaining a healthy ecosystem. Noxious weeds reduce crop yield, suppress native flora and can even dry up wetland areas. It's important to note that though some native wildflowers may be deemed 'undesirable,' noxious weeds pose a threat to ecosystem viability and cause environmental harm. For farmers and backyard gardeners alike, identification of noxious weeds before they spread remains a valuable and necessary skill.

Can you identify the noxious weeds versus native flora below?



Photos by Kalani Fortina, Terry Schumacher, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

ANSWERS:

A. Saltcedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) - noxious weed **B.** Yarrow (*Achillea*) - wildflower **C.** Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*) - noxious weed **D.** Purple Loosetrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) - noxious weed **E.** Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) - wildflower **F.** Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) - noxious weed **G.** Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) - wildflower **H.** Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*) - noxious weed **I.** Prairie Spiderwort (*Tradescantia bracteata*) - wildflower



**Visit our
booth at the
Washington
County Fair!**
JULY 31ST - AUGUST 4TH

The deadline for
CRP General
Signup is
July 23rd



Tribute - Terry's

A Word from Terry Schumacher,
Land & Water Programs Coordinator

The Summer Solstice has come and gone. One of the things that I have learned is that no matter what is going on, time keeps rolling by. I have had the privilege of being the Land & Water Programs Coordinator with the P-MRNRD for over 10 years. In the last 10 years a lot has changed and yet much is still the same.

The NRD still has the bread-and-butter cost-share programs available to assist landowners in their conservation goals, but there are also some new programs like cost-share for cover crops and pollinator/safety corners available. Contact your local Field Office to explore the opportunities.

The other change that I have been part of is the new faces of the NRD in your local Field Offices.

It is a challenge to lose years of experience, but it is also exciting to see new ideas and the "we can do this" attitude! The scariest part of this whole time and change thing is that I am becoming that old guy!

Field Notes:



The annual P-MRNRD Field Office Staff Meeting was held June 24th at Danish Alps Recreation Area. Following the meeting, a celebration was held for Kelly Fravel. Kelly retires July 2nd after 33 years in the Dakota City Field Office. Congratulations Kelly!

MEET ANDY BOHNENKAMP, NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST!



Howdy Folks! Here's a little about myself... Growing up in my family's restaurant in Florence, Nebraska I grew to appreciate the small business values of faith, self-reliance, hard work and common sense and I also really valued time away in the outdoors! ANY chance I could get away from the chaos of the city and go camping, hunting or fishing I took it and those moments fostered a love of the outdoors and a love of the beauty and abundance that the land and its resources afforded. I started my career in conservation as a young volunteer in college with the US Forest Service in Hot Springs, SD making just \$13/day, counting hawks, foxes and grass on the rugged hills of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland. From there I worked my way up as a summer Range Technician for the same outfit 2 more summers in a row and then graduated college and said "now what!?". So I did what any person without a cell phone did I looked in the phone book and called this place in Omaha called NRCS! The DC at the time told me there was a part-time spot open if I wanted it and the rest is history!

I have worked for NRCS for 19 years in various offices including, Weeping Water, Lincoln, Omaha, Tekamah and Blair and have held several positions from part-time WAE, Soil Conservation Technician, Soil Conservationist and Resource Conservationist. However, all of the career choices in my life pale in comparison to the choice I made to ask the woman of my dreams, Sarah LaHood, to marry me 18 years ago! Together we have 6 children and live just north of Omaha around the corner from where I grew up. As a father I try to instill the same values I learned growing up as well as the importance of taking care of the land so that it will continue to take care of all of us. Hopefully someday soon you can stop-in to the office and just say hello, I'll be looking forward to it!