

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

# Food Plots Give Wildlife A Hand

BY GARY HOWEY  
Hartington, Neb.

These days, you hear a lot of talk about food plots dealing with the pros and cons of planting them.

There are those that feel they aren't needed, doing more harm than good, while others feel they're essential, especially in the upper Midwest and our northern tier of states.

I agree, good food plots have a tendency to concentrate the game, making it easier for predators to find them, but the benefits, especially during the cold tough winters, when does are carrying the fawn seem to outweigh the disadvantages.

I feel food plots, when put in the right place and established correctly serves its purpose, giving upland game and other species of wildlife help needed when they need it most.

The important thing is that food plots are established in the proper location and planted properly. Proper location can be very important to wildlife, especially during the winter.

Food plots need to be in close proximity to the area where wildlife spend the majority of their time. During the winter, wildlife won't have any excess energy and if they have to leave cover and travel to a food plot a distance away, they'll use up valuable energy, making themselves more susceptible to predators.

This is the reason; food plots should be near winter cover such as sloughs or shelterbelts.

By putting food plots near these areas, wildlife are able to get to their food source easily without using up needed energy or having to worry about traveling across open ground.

There's a lot more to putting in a food plot than simple throwing some seed in the ground and by doing it right, you're assured that your food plot will be there



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Properly established food plots not only help wildlife to make it through the tough season, they also help them to obtain the needed minerals to develop big racks. As this photo shows, Casey Christensen from Hartington, Neb., knows the advantage of food plots, planting them in several locations where he hunts.

when the wildlife need it.

According to food plot specialists at Nature's Own ([www.whitetailhabitat.com](http://www.whitetailhabitat.com)), there are four important things needed in order to have a successful food plot: Seed soil contact, adequate soil moisture, adequate soil temperature and adequate soil ingredients.

## Seed Soil Contact

When putting in a new food plot, the soil should be worked down to three or four inches, tilling it up which breaks up any large clods of dirt.

You won't want to till the soil too deep as this brings up weed seeds and the fewer weeds you have to fight when establishing your food plot, the better.

Once you've worked the soil, rake the

area to remove any rocks or debris. Then spread your seed with the same type of equipment used to spread fertilizer or by hand for those smaller areas. Don't put all of the seed on going the same direction; you'll want to spread half at right angles to the first trip through the field. By doing this, you'll cover the area completely.

You'll want to plant the seed approximately 1/8 to 1/4 inch deep. Once you've finished planting, it's a good idea to roll it to firm up the seedbed.

## Adequate Soil Moisture

If everything works out the way you hoped Mother Nature would supply enough moisture this fall to keep the seeds moist. In order to get seeds to germinate evenly, you don't want the topsoil

layer to dry out.

## Adequate Soil Temperature

Most cool season grasses and legumes germinate when soil temperatures reach approximately 50 degrees. Seeding done prior to the time that will lay dormant until the proper temperatures are reached.

## Adequate Soil Ingredients

Seeds will need to have enough nutrients to germinate and send out roots. Seeds send out roots in search of food; this is why you should have an adequate supply of nutrients at all times. When planting, it's an excellent idea to use some type of starter fertilizer. Starter fertilizers are high in phosphorus, helping to stimulate aggressive root growth and establishment. Once you've planted, it's not a bad idea to begin a regular scheduled fertilization program.

Early fall is good time to start thinking about getting a food plot in. You'll find that food plots planted in the fall are easier to get started and when planting in the fall you'll have less problems than those started in the spring.

There are several types of food plots that when planted in early fall will have enough growth by early winter to attract wildlife

By following these recommendations, you'll be assured that your planting will not only be successful, but will also be located in an area that wildlife will be able to get to easily and safely.

For more information on planting food plots for all species of wildlife, check out [www.whitetailhabitat.com](http://www.whitetailhabitat.com).

*Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is the producer/host of the award winning Outdoorsmen Adventures television series which airs on FOX affiliates throughout the upper Midwest, co-host with Simon Fuller of the Outdoor Adventures radio show heard each morning on KVHT-106.3 FM and ESPN AM 1570. For more information on outdoor activities, live outdoor videos and information on the Outdoorsmen Adventures television series check out [www.outdoorsmenadventures.com](http://www.outdoorsmenadventures.com).*

# Big Ten

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"The experience from playing in front of huge crowds should only help when you go at a place like that."

Judging by the expected crowd today at Ryan Field in Evanston, the Coyotes won't be playing in front of their biggest crowd. The Minnesota game had 49,554 fans, while the Wisconsin game last year boasted 78,880 fans.

Northwestern got 32,597 people at its home game last week, but that was against Boston College. In last year's final non-conference game against Rice, there were 26,886 people at Ryan Field.

When it comes to action on the field, however, the Coyotes say they expect to face a potent Northwestern offense. The Wildcats have averaged 407 yards of total offense — a balance of 202.7 rushing and 204.3 passing.

The biggest threat for Northwestern is junior running back Venric Mark, who has rushed for 282 yards and leads the nation in punt return average (37.25). Junior quarterback Kain Colter is a dual threat, with 321 passing yards and 172 rushing yards.

Stopping the run has been a problem for USD. The Coyotes rank last in the Missouri Valley Football Conference in rushing defense (276 yards), a total of 552 yards allowed through two games.

"We're definitely going to be competitive, but we have to have all 11 players on defense doing the job on every play," Goro said. "There's been an extra edge around us lately; we want to get better."

Glenn said the run defense has been an area of increased focus over the last two weeks, specifically on the zone option reads and

bubble screens — two schemes Montana and Colgate used successfully against USD.

On the other side, the Coyotes have made no qualms about their intent to run the ball. A strong outing against Colgate bumped up USD's rush average to 148 yards a game, led by senior running back Marcus Sims (165 yards, 1 TD) and sophomore quarterback Josh Vander Maten (103 yards, 2 TD).

"Our offense is based off running the ball," O'Neill said. "Us linemen have to establish that; to make sure we're doing our job. As long as we're gap sound, like coach Glenn says, I feel like we'll be with them just fine."

Northwestern has used its 4-3 defensive scheme to limit its last two opponents to 13 points. Linebacker Chi Chi Ariguzo leads the team in tackles with 27 and defensive end Tyler Scott has three sacks.

"If they have seven guys in the box, I think we'll block it; make some money on it," Glenn said. "If there are a bunch of guys at the line, we have to be ready to throw it. We're not going to beat our head into the wall, just have to get a hat on a hat."

Recent history with Missouri Valley teams beating FBS schools is well-documented, which no doubt helps fuel USD's confidence, according to O'Neill.

"Confidence is kind of an understatement with this team," he said. "We've got guys just like they have guys. We're confident that we can go in there and pull out a win."

"We're coming into a new league and a strong league, so there's no reason why we can't go out and get a big win too."

*You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](https://twitter.com/jhoeck)*

## Bucks Rip Riders

ST. LOUIS — The Yankton Bucks posted a solid all-around effort in beating Sioux Falls Roosevelt 3-1 in boys' soccer action on Thursday.

Osmar Pacheco scored twice, and Cameron Luken scored for Yankton. John Dannenbring and Tully Taggart added assists.

Landon Breen stopped two shots in goal for Yankton, one in each half.

Yankton travels to Watertown today (Thursday).

Yankton won the JV match 4-2 behind a hat trick from Ricky Culver. Tanner Dykstra also scored for the Bucks. Gabe Wenzlaff and Spencer Schade made saves in goal for Yankton.

## MMC Women 6th, Men 8th After First Round In Mitchell

MITCHELL — The Mount Marty women placed sixth and the MMC men placed eighth in the opening round of the Palace City Classic on Friday in Mitchell.

Caityln Roth shot a score of 90, Kirsti Skuza shot a 93, Kelly Amundson had a 94, Kristen Shanahan shot 102 and Emily Jo Bronemann had a score of 103.

Weston Swanson shot a 79 for the day, Jason Schmidt had an 85, Dylan Bales and Brett Springman shot an 86 and Brett Korth had a 94. The Palace City Classic will finish up in Mitchell today (Saturday).

# ESD Golf

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nament averaging near 72 — par at Fox Run and most courses — Yankton's Jace Guthmiller (72.2) and Brandon Valley's Trevor Tobin (72.6). Tobin finished second in last year's championships, while Guthmiller tied for six.

"Trevor Tobin, the leader of the Lynx, is probably one of the favorites along with Jace to be ESD champion," Carroll said.

Sime also expects Guthmiller

to be in the hunt for what would be his first big tournament victory at the high school level. He has posted the low score in several duals, and has been among the top junior golfers in the state the past few summers.

"Jace has been right there all year long. He's won duals but he hasn't broken through in big invitationals yet. One of these days it will happen," Sime said. "He's been a great player for a lot of years. He'll be one of them competing for the title."

Nine other golfers have averages under 80, with two more boasting averages right at 80.

Sime expects the course to be

# Coyotes

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team that won both matchups last season.

Still, that was when matches were played on the DakotaDome turf, buried in the corner.

"We haven't seen an atmosphere like that in a long time; at least since I've been here," Houk said. "That's nothing like our fans have ever seen."

*You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](https://twitter.com/jhoeck)*

## OUTDOORS DIGEST

### Nielsen Fishing Tournament Oct. 27

CROFTON, Neb. — The fifth annual Brian Nielsen Fishing Tournament will be held on Saturday, Oct. 27, at Weigand Marina near Crofton, Neb.

There will be a raffle and auction to follow at CJ's At The Lake.

For more information or to get a registration form, contact Julie at 605-664-1072 or 605-665-9522.

### 'Sight In Days' Set For Sept. 23, Oct. 14

The Yankton Sharpshooters will be holding its annual "sight in days" on Sept. 23 and Oct. 14 at the Sharpshooters range located 5 miles west of Walmart and 2 1/2 miles north of Highway 50. Hours will be 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

This will be held targets, and rests will be provided. All guns must be unloaded before entering range. See one of our range officers before removing guns from vehicles.

### S.D. Deer Licenses Reduced, Refunds Offered Due to Die-Offs

PIERRE — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department has been monitoring die-offs of white-tailed deer across portions of the state and must make adjustments to some West River deer hunting units. Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) has been confirmed in white-tailed deer, and many of the deer deaths being reported by the public are suspected to be the result of that disease.

In response to the disease, all unsold licenses will be removed from the following deer hunting units for the West River deer season: Bennett County: 11A-09 and 11B-17; Gregory County: 30A-19 and 30B-19; and Jackson County: 39B-09. In addition, 200 licenses will be removed for Meade County: 49B-09.

"As the department continues to monitor the outbreak of EHD over the next couple of weeks, we will provide additional recommendations to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission at its October meeting to address East River deer units," said GFP Secretary Jeff Vonk. "Currently, the department plans to recommend that the commission remove all unsold licenses in Bon Homme, Hutchinson, and Yankton counties and make significant reductions to leftover licenses in Brule and Charles Mix counties for the second draw of the East River deer season. Between now and the next commission meeting, we will continue our surveillance efforts with the possibility of additional license reductions."

Aside from conducting ground surveillance and collecting reports from the public, GFP is also using aerial flights to help determine the severity of deer mortalities.

"Reports of dead deer are coming from across the state, and in some instances landowners are telling traditionally hosted hunters that opportunities will be limited," Vonk said. "With that in mind, GFP is notifying deer hunters that they can voluntarily return a deer license for any season prior to the start of that respective season and receive a full refund."

Hunters desiring a refund for a deer license should send their license, including all associated tags, to: GFP Licensing Office; 20641 SD Highway 1806; Fort Pierre, SD 57532.

EHD is common in white-tailed deer and is typically detected in late summer or early fall. The virus is spread by a biting midge and causes extensive internal hemorrhaging. Many deer exhibit no clinical signs and appear perfectly healthy, while others may have symptoms such as respiratory distress, fever, and swelling of the tongue. With highly virulent strains of the virus, deer can be dead within 1-3 days. In an attempt to combat the high fever, affected deer are often found in low-lying areas or near rivers, ponds and other waters.

GFP continues to ask individuals who see sick deer or find dead deer to contact their local conservation officer or call the Pierre office at 605-773-5913. EHD is not infectious to humans.

### 2013 State Park Entrance Licenses Available Soon

PIERRE — The 2013 annual park entrance license for South Dakota's state parks and recreation areas go on sale Monday, Oct. 1.

The 2013 park entrance license is valid from Oct. 1, 2012, through May 18, 2014. Purchasers of one license can also buy a second license at half price.

The license is required for entrance into designated state parks, recreation areas and lake-side-use areas, although it does not cover camping costs or other fees.

Entrance licenses can be purchased at local state park offices or by calling the South Dakota Division of Parks and Recreation at 605-773-3391.

The 2013 annual entrance license features the image of a soaring eagle. Parks near the dams on the Missouri River offer excellent opportunities for bald eagle viewing in winter months.

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