

NDSU Ag Update

Winter survival

By Evan Twedt
NDSU Extension Agent



Although this winter has been a treat for most, it could be raising some possible concerns for winter wheat producers. With very little snow-cover, winter wheat winter survival could be an issue. There are many factors that can affect survival of winter wheat including length of exposure of the crown to low temperatures, soil moisture and plant conditions, surface and standing residue and

snow cover. According to the USDA ARS center in Mandan, North Dakota target field plant population for winter wheat should be about 17 plants/ft² and yields are decreased as plant populations drop below 11 plants/ft². Although this is hard to calculate because unfortunately winter kill in not uniform throughout the field, bag test can be implemented to determine surviving populations and spring management strategies can be applied to attempt to make up for population lost. For more information on bag tests or spring management strategies please contact your local extension office.

Attention: The Griggs County Crop Improvement Association will be having its 2012 spring meeting Friday, Feb. 17, from 9 am to noon, with a meal to follow.

The topic of this year's meeting is Farmland Leasing. Please join us as NDSU Farm Management Specialists Dwight Aakre and Andy Swenson speak on the subjects of Land Values and Rental Rates, Crops Share Lease Agreements, and Improving Negotiation Strategies - Landowner/Operator Communication.

For more information please contact Evan Twedt, Griggs County Extension Agent, 797-3312, or evan.twedt@ndsu.edu.

Public Notice

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION
Minnkota Power Coop, Inc.
345 kV Transmission Line -
Center to Grand Forks
Siting Application
Case No. PU-09-670

NOTICE OF FILING AND
NOTICE OF HEARINGS
JANUARY 18, 2011

On September 7, 2011 the Commission issued Corridor Certificate No. 121 to Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota) designating a transmission facility corridor for approximately 260 miles of 345 kV transmission line and associated facilities to be constructed from the Center Substation near Center, North Dakota to the Prairie Substation near Grand Forks, North Dakota.

On December 2, 2011 Minnkota filed applications for a modification to the designated corridor, a waiver of procedures and time schedules, and a transmission facility route to be designated within the modified corridor as shown on the attached map.

Minnkota requests the Commission waive requirements under N.D.C.C. chapter 49-22 that separate hearings be held concerning the waiver request,

the corridor modification and the route permit.

Three separate public hearings will be held with each covering an overview of the project, but focusing on specific portions of the project in the specific areas of each hearing. A Public Hearing on the application will be held:

February 22, 2012, 9:00 a.m. at Memorial Hall, 805 Main Ave. Washburn, ND 58577. This hearing will focus primarily on portions of the project in Burleigh, McLean, Oliver and western Sheridan Counties.

February 27, 2012, 9:00 a.m. in the Baker Courtroom at the UND School of Law, 215 Centennial Drive Stop 9003, Grand Forks, ND 58201. This hearing will focus primarily on portions of the project in Grand Forks, Nelson and Steele Counties.

March 1, 2012, 9:00 a.m. at the Chieftain Conference Center Tepee Room, 60 4th Ave.S, Carrington, ND 58204. This hearing will focus primarily on portions of the project in Eddy, Foster, Griggs, eastern Sheridan and Wells Counties.

The issues to be considered are:

1. Will the location, construction, and operation of the pro-

posed facilities produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and upon the welfare of the citizens of North Dakota?

2. Are the proposed facilities compatible with the environmental preservation and the efficient use of resources?

3. Will the proposed facility locations minimize adverse human and environmental impact while ensuring continuing system reliability and integrity and ensuring that energy needs are met and fulfilled in an orderly and timely fashion?

4. Is it appropriate for the Commission to approve a 1,000 foot-wide corridor as requested in the application?

For more information contact the Public Service Commission, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, 701-328-2400; or Relay North Dakota, 1-800-366-6888 TTY. If you require any auxiliary aids or services, such as readers, signers, or Braille materials, please notify the Commission.

PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION
Kevin Cramer, Commissioner
Tony Clark, Chairman
Brian P. Kalk, Commissioner
GCC Jan. 27, & Feb. 17, 2012 / 193927

North Dakota Outdoors

By Doug Leier
North Dakota
Game & Fish

Between the phone and my email inbox, I get a lot of questions. This time of year, the most popular are:



"Where are the fish biting?" and "How are the pheasants doing?"

The answers are: "Beneath the ice," and "Pretty good, but a few weeks of winter still remain."

Another frequent question throughout the year, from parents and students, is "How do you get a job in the natural resources field?"

How to become a game warden seems to be at the top of the list, followed by both fisheries and wildlife biology in equal numbers. Few people ask about the many other possibilities, but whatever the career goal, there are literally dozens of other paths to take.

I can personally attest that in the natural resources field, similar to most other employment, you can follow a typical progression, or travel down a winding road and end up in a good place that you never imagined or dreamed existed.

Not to say goals are not important, but here's some insight from a guy who's been there. First and foremost, a four-year college degree is a basic requirement. If the career aspiration is more research or species-specific, such as furbearer biology, you'll need a graduate degree.

Even then, if you're willing, able and meet the minimum qualifications, the high level of interest in limited opportunities (North Dakota Game and Fish has one furbearer biologist) will generate stiff competition from applicants from across the nation.

Beyond the degree, and especially if you are more adept at hands-on technical work such as a fisheries or wildlife biology, field experience sandwiched into college will provide multiple benefits. First, you'll find out if the job is something in which you'd potentially like to spend your working life. Better to find out early during your collegiate years, rather than after you've invested money and time into earning a degree.

I spent college summers working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service across the state, learning how to band ducks, trap predators, fix fence, etc. But I also took a detour to junior college via Dakota College at Bottineau, and learned other practical skills, not just in the classroom, but in the field as well.

Such experiences make for another box to check on an employment application. Beyond the skills learned, you'll also forge valuable working relationships, which are of course important as your career continues.

In short, expecting to land a full-time permanent job is short of realistic if a career plan just calls for earning a bachelor's degree in biology without

any field experience. Even with a degree and on-the-job experience, candidates realize how competitive the market is.

Finally, keep your options wide open. You may aspire to become an outreach biologist, but in the meantime you may find yourself working at a lumber yard, farm show, as a private lands biologist and a game warden before reaching your goal.

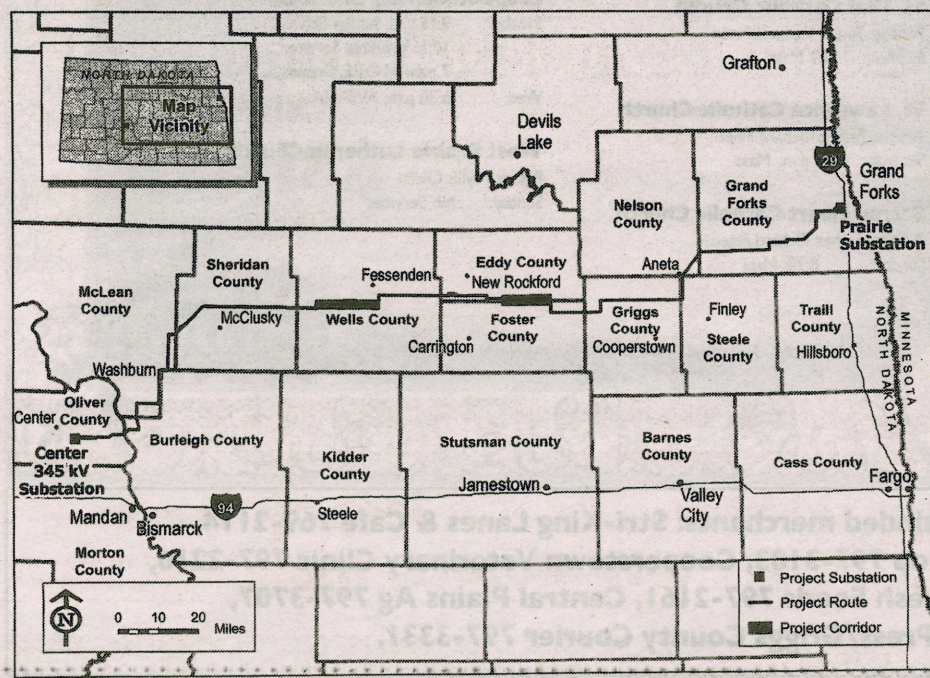
That's the route I'm on. Where it ends up, only time will tell. One thing for certain: If I had sat back and tried to decide exactly where I would go and what I would do, I'd probably still be filling out job applications.

Leier is a biologist with the Game & Fish Department. He can be reached by email. dleier@nd.gov

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