

attempting any off-road travel during this season. Sprouted winter wheat is considered an unharvested crop. Therefore, hunting or off-road travel in winter wheat is not legal without landowner permission.

All regular hunting season regulations not addressed above apply to the spring season. For more information on regulations refer to the 2012 Spring Light Goose Hunting Regulations and the 2011 North Dakota Waterfowl Hunting Guide.

New CRP General Sign-up, Initiatives Provide Opportunities

Producers interested in submitting bids to enroll land in Conservation Reserve Program acres have a deadline of April 6.

Kevin Kading, North Dakota Game and Fish Department private land section leader, said applications received during the current sign-up period are ranked against others according to the Environmental Benefit Index.

"Producers can receive assistance from private land biologists with the Game and Fish Department, Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever," Kading said. "Private land biologists can help producers find the best possible combination of factors that will positively influence their EBI score, and increase their likelihood of being accepted into the program."

The Game and Fish Department also offers additional

incentives and cost-share if producers enroll their CRP acres into the department's Private Land Open To Sportsmen program to allow walk-in access for hunting. "This is an option producers should keep in mind when applying for the CRP," Kading said.

Expired CRP acres, and land currently enrolled in CRP with an expiration date of Sept. 30, 2012 are eligible. In addition, landowners may also offer new acreage into this sign-up if cropping history and other eligibility requirements are met.

In addition, U.S. Department of Agriculture secretary Tom Vilsack announced on March 2 a new CRP initiative that allows producers nationwide to enroll up to 1 million acres of land in a new CRP initiative to restore grasslands, wetlands and wildlife. This new allocation of acres will be available through a continuous sign-up rather than a general signup. North Dakota has not yet received its allocation of acres for this initiative, but information will soon be available through local county USDA Farm Service Agency offices.

Producers can contact any of the following biologists for more information about the general sign-up or the new CRP initiative, or attend a local workshop listed below. Information on how producers can maximize their EBI score is also available on the Game and Fish website, gf.nd.gov.

NDGF Private Land Biologists

· Ty Dressler, Dickinson – 227-7431 (Stark, Hettinger, Adams, Slope, Bowman)

· Levi Jacobson, Bismarck – 328-6647 (Burleigh, Emmons, Kidder, Oliver)

· Nate Harling, Devils Lake – 662-3617 (Bottineau, Rolette, Towner, Cavalier, Ramsey, Pembina, Walsh, Grand Forks, Nelson)

· Todd Buckley, Williston – 774-4320 (Divide, Burke, Williams, Mountrail, McKenzie)

· Terry Oswald, Jr., Lonetree – 324-2211 (Sheridan, Wells, Eddy, Foster, Benson, Pierce)

· Renae Heinle, Jamestown – 253-6480 (Stutsman, Barnes, Lamoure, Dickey, Sargent, Griggs, Cass, Richland, Ransom, Steele, Traill, McIntosh, Logan)

· Ryan Huber, Riverdale – 654-7475 (McLean, Mercer, McHenry, Ward, Renville)

· Kory Richardson, Lake Ilo NWR – 548-8110 (Dunn, Billings, Golden Valley)

· Jon Roaldson, Bismarck – 328-6308 (Grant, Morton and Sioux)

Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologists

· Rachel Bush, Jamestown – 252-2521 ext. 129 (Stutsman, Barnes, LaMoure)

· Matthew Flintrop, Dickinson – 225-3811 ext. 118 (Stark, Hettinger, Billings and other western counties)