

October 1, 2009

Dear Chapter President or Chapter Habitat Chairman:

Hello there, it's time again for the annual habitat programs letter. Please read over the various programs below to see which ones your chapter, or you personally, would like to participate in.

1) Conservation Seed Program (corn, sorghum, alfalfa, sunflower, winter wheat)

This is the program where we obtain year-old seed and distribute to landowners who will plant it and let it stand throughout the winter. As always, this program is based solely on availability. We cannot guarantee the type of seed or quantities that will be available. For this reason do not promise landowners they will receive seed until availability is determined. Also remember that there is a 3 bag limit per person for each type of seed.

The state chapter budgets this expense through the Super Fund so local chapters do not pay anything up front for the seed. However local chapters will be required to charge \$5.00 per bag of corn, sorghum, alfalfa and winter wheat seed and \$3.00 per bag of sunflower. **PLEASE NOTE THIS IMPORTANT PROGRAM CHANGE FOR 2009. The chapters will be required to pay \$4.00 per bag (\$2.50 / bag of sunflower) at the time of PICKUP with a check made out to the Pennsylvania State Chapter NWTf.** Local chapters can keep the remaining \$1.00 (\$.50 on sunflower) to offset their travel and distribution expenses. The money collected will be deposited back into the state Super Fund. Charging for the seed will allow us to fund more habitat projects that have a longer term benefit than planting seed that produces a one-year crop. The \$3.00 and \$5.00 per bag is the approximate total cost of the seed and trucking. We cannot charge more than our cost. The only exception to this procedure is that we will not collect any money from DCNR or the PGC as they have saved us thousands of dollars in hauling fees by picking up seed for us at no charge.

Seed orders throughout the country will be filled on a first-come first-serve basis. Pennsylvania will place our state's seed order to NWTf headquarters on December 15, 2009. Consequently, the deadline for local chapter orders is November 30, 2009.

The ordering procedure will also remain the same, with orders going to Tom Bunty. Tom will develop a spreadsheet and give it to Sam McCartney and Dale Butler. We will also be using the same two storage buildings again this year. In Western PA, we will use the H.R. Bierly Storage Garage at 585 N Pennsylvania Ave, Centre Hall, PA 16828, and in Eastern PA, we will use the Valley Seeding Company, 306 West County Rd., Sugarloaf, PA 18249.

Please use the enclosed Conservation Seed Order Form to place your orders with Tom Bunty. Also be sure to specify on the order form to which storage facility you want your seed delivered.

Sam McCartney will handle distribution for picking up at Bierly's Garage and Dale Butler will handle the distribution at Valley Seeding Company.

Chapters that order an entire tractor trailer load (858 fifty pound bags or 1716 twenty five pound bags) can receive the load at their chapter's storage location but the seed must still be ordered through Tom Bunty.

Chapters may also consolidate their orders with other local chapters in their area to achieve a full load. Keep in mind this is a big job receiving and distributing a trailer load of seed and you will be responsible for collecting the monies to reimburse the PANWTF at the time of distribution !

Points to consider for full load orders:

You will need:

- A forklift to unload the pallets off the trailer and to load pick-up trucks.
- A dry, rodent-proof building for storing the seed. Receiving seed at a parking lot for distribution on the day of receipt will not be permitted based on problems in the past.
- Someone who is willing to act as the contact person for the delivery of the seed by the trucking company. This will happen between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM on a weekday. The seed will need to be unloaded soon after the truck arrives. Unfortunately we only get one to three days notice informing us when the seed will be delivered.
- Someone who is willing to coordinate the pick-up of seed by our chapter people.

Please remember that anyone planting this seed has to agree to let it stand for wildlife throughout the winter. They must fill out the enclosed Conditions of Acceptance Form. Chapters are then required to mail the completed forms to Dale Butler, PO Box 4, Noxen, PA 18636.

2) Seed Subsidy (cost sharing of clover mixes by individual members)

2009 will be the ninth year Pennsylvania participates in the Seed Subsidy Program. The seeds available for 2009 will be Clover Select and Northeast / Midwest Strut & Rut which are the same as last year.

One-half the cost of the seed will be paid by the member and the other half will come out of the Pennsylvania Super Fund. **The deadline is April 1, 2009 or until the budgeted dollar amount is reached.** Our members will be notified via an article in PA Turkey Talk. We will not be doing a mailing to every adult member in the state like we did a few years ago.

3) Operation Appleseed

This is the program where chapters can obtain 25 crabapples along with tree shelters, fertilizer packs, stakes and weed mats. Operation Appleseed is funded out of the national projects portion of Super Fund so there is no charge to the chapters. All chapter presidents will be mailed a letter and order form in January. Seedlings and kits will arrive before May 1.

4) Super Fund projects originating at the local chapter level

Right now is the time to be meeting with your Pennsylvania Game Commission land managers, DCNR foresters and Army Corp biologists to plan spring projects. Greensheets for projects on State Gamelands need to be turned in by your PGC land manager to his regional office in January. Project greensheets on State Forest lands, Army Corp properties or private land open to public hunting are to be submitted to: Jon Pries, 612 Harman Road, Trout Run, PA 17771. **The deadline for greensheets going to Jon Pries is January 15, 2009. This date is critical and must be adhered to.**

As you can see we have a lot going on in Pennsylvania. Thanks to the fund raising efforts of you, our local chapter volunteers, Pennsylvania can continue to reap the benefits of using the Super Fund to create valuable wildlife habitat. Thanks for your dedication and for all you do for the wild turkey and the NWTF.

Sincerely,

Dale Butler, Habitat Committee Chairman