



Perfect Timing to GIVE BIG!

We need your help. The budget cycle for Prairie Plains has traditionally followed a reliable pattern - January through May we bring in revenue by planting prairie restorations for our agency partners and private landowners. This revenue, along with ongoing membership donations, carries us through summer and pays for necessities including insurance premiums, real estate taxes and payroll.

The summer months are busy with SOAR, YNP, YNE, seed harvest, thistle cutting and tree removal, but revenue doesn't pick up again until November, when we receive rental payments for grazing and farming on our preserves and receive generous year-end donations from our members and friends.

This year is different. Due to COVID restrictions in 2020, many offices were shuttered and employees worked from home. This prevented the site visits and landowner meetings that result in our prairie restoration plantings, and therefore has significantly impacted our revenue to start the year.

So here's the plan: We're going to flip our usual budget cycle on its ear! With the help of **GO BIG GIVE on May 6th**, we're encouraging our supporters to consider donating to Prairie Plains in the middle of the year. Your support now will help us bridge the summer gap until we get back into planting prairies next winter.

And the work is coming! High-diversity, local ecotype prairie restoration continues to be an important part of conservation work in Nebraska, as our agency partners, our communities and our nation prioritize pollinators, birds, and air, soil and water quality. We're involved in strategic planning and grant proposals with organizations across the state. In addition, we are working to create our own program that connects businesses wanting to improve their carbon footprint with landowners who want to restore marginal cropland to prairie.

There are many ways to help! (And if you already have - THANK YOU!)

GO BIG GIVE on May 6 is a fundraising campaign presented by the Grand Island Community Foundation and the Heartland United Way. Visit gobiggive.org anytime on or before May 6, search Prairie Plains and donate!

We've enlisted Prairie Plains land steward Jeff Gustafson to star in a series of videos to inspire donations and to celebrate some key giving milestones. Check out the giving tiers in the graphic shown and invite everyone you know to participate!

JOIN THE PRAIRIE ACRE CLUB - Select your acre at prairieplains.org/join and sign up today!

MAIL IN A CHECK - If you're more comfortable using the enclosed envelope, that works, too!

We've got so much important work to do this year. Thank you for considering a donation to keep the momentum going!



NEWSLETTER
March/April 2021

GO BIG GIVE

MAY 6 • 24 HOURS TO CLICK & GIVE

We're releasing a **BRAND NEW VIDEO** each time we reach a new tier! [#GoBigPrairie](https://twitter.com/GoBigPrairie)



Signs of Spring!



10-year-old Ava Bullerman spent a Saturday helping dad (restoration ecologist Mike Bullerman) flag a prairie restoration site at Troester Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) in Hamilton County prior to planting.

There's always work to be done on the land! Land steward Jeff Gustafson, assistant Jared Sullivan and pup Ringo spent considerable time replacing fence at the Sherman Ranch this spring. Grazing has always been an important land management tool and provides revenue for ongoing improvements.



Although strong spring winds delayed our prescribed burn season, we capitalized on several days in April to light things up. Jared Sullivan was on drip torch duty at Olson Nature Preserve near Albion.



SOAR is back!!! Along with the Youth Naturalist Program (YNP) and Young Nebraska Ecologists (YNE). We were heartbroken to cancel our education programs in 2020, and are thrilled to be planning an awesome summer full of fun and discovery. Go to the Education page at prairieplains.org to learn more and register.

YNP (Grades 6-8) - June 21-23
YNE (Grades 9-12) - June 28-30
SOAR (Grades 3-6) - July 5-17

We've made some modifications to group sizes and session length to accommodate as many campers as possible in a safe manner.

We hope to see your camper soon!

PRAIRIE PLAINS LINK

is a publication of



Grasslands are disappearing. At Prairie Plains we restore and protect grasslands and invite you to visit the prairie and help us care for these wild places.

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Learn more and become a member:

www.prairieplains.org
(and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!)

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