

PRAIRIE PLAINS LINK



It's happening! In November we broke ground and poured footings and foundation walls for our new 30'x60' greenhouse at Gjerloff Prairie. This state-of-the-art structure (photo rendering above by Ceres Greenhouse Solutions, LLC) is the result of a fundraising effort that began with an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and grew into a challenge to our members and friends in May of this year. Together, in just six months, we raised over \$250,000 and started construction!

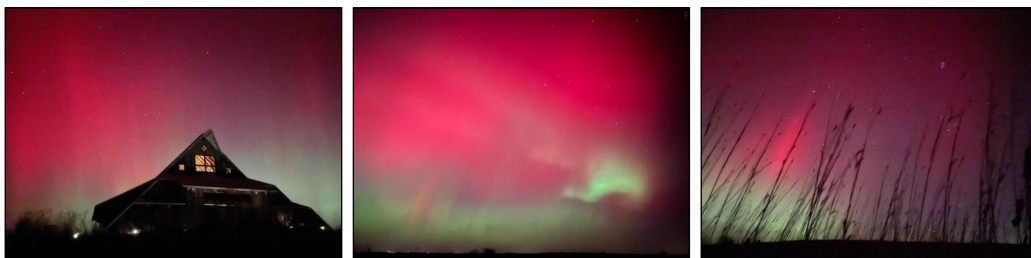


And That's Not All!

There has been much to celebrate in 2025. The Prairie Plains family, consisting of staff, members, partners, foundations and friends, came together to achieve some noteworthy accomplishments:

- We began a 3-year project to remove the remaining trees (primarily eastern redcedar) from the east side of our Sherman Ranch west of Marquette.
- Gjerloff Prairie and the Education Center hosted a plethora of events, hikes, workshops and tours.
- Restoration Director Mike Bullerman celebrated 25 years with Prairie Plains and Conservation/Education Director Sarah Bailey celebrated 15 years.
- Emma Bullerman joined us as our Media/Marketing Intern.
- Over 2,400 prairie seedling plugs from our greenhouse were installed at the Ian Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary.
- Summer Orientation About Rivers, the Youth Naturalist Program and Young Nebraska Ecologists got 3rd through 12th graders out on the land and in the water to learn, explore and have fun.
- Local kids enjoyed Summer Story Time at Lincoln Creek Prairie and Trail in Aurora.
- An epic Party on the Prairie was held in September with fabulous food, music and auction items.
- **We exceeded our fundraising match goal of \$250,000 to build a new greenhouse, solidify our summer internship program and update restoration equipment.**
- **We hired Ethan Freese to join the staff as our restoration ecologist.**
- The restoration crew collected 236 species of local-ecotype forb seed totaling 3,523 gallons. Combine harvest of grass seed was also successful.

It is our promise to make the most of the generosity of those who invest in our mission. We are fortunate to do meaningful work with a community of people who share our love of the land and our dedication to all the things Nebraska's prairies and wetlands do in the present and for the future. **Please consider a year-end gift today to solidify a strong future for Prairie Plains and our work connecting people and prairies. THANK YOU!**



As if to cap off an already incredible year at Prairie Plains, we were treated to a show of the northern lights at Gjerloff Prairie on November 11. Incredible!

No rest for the weary. Once harvest is over we move to processing. All the for seed we pick gets pushed thru the small hammermill pictured far right. It's a dirty, tedious job that must be done before planting starts in January.



Friends from the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition (NGLC) visited Gjerloff Prairie in November. Laura Nelson, NGLC Statewide Grasslands Coordinator, Ann Dvorak, with World Wildlife Fund and NGLC Advisor and Matt McGinn, sandhills rancher and NGLC board member, made the drive to hang out in the Education Center to share info about their work and learn more about Prairie Plains. As an added bonus, Ann brought her awesome kids and Kirk Schroeder, Assistant State Private Lands Coordinator with US Fish and Wildlife Service, stopped by. What a meeting of minds! There's nothing we enjoy more than hanging out with fellow Prairie Huggers!!



Take a Hike!

Kick off the New Year at Gjerloff Prairie on January 1, 2026, at 1pm. Dress for the weather and get started on those resolutions with a walk through the beautiful prairie bluffs along the Platte River. A long-standing Prairie Plains tradition, the hike is a great way to get some fresh air, take in the beautiful scenery and connect with friends old and new. It's fun for all ages and dogs on a leash are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Happy holidays and best wishes for a peaceful and healthy 2026!



PRAIRIE PLAINS LINK
is a publication of



Connecting people and prairies since
1980.

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You are invited to the
2026 Prairie Plains Annual Meeting of Members
Saturday, January 17, 2026
10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (CST)

The meeting will be available in two ways:

Join us in person at the Charles L. Whitney Education Center, 2206 N M Road, Marquette, Nebraska, or
a Zoom link can be found at www.prairieplains.org/events.

A brief business meeting will be followed by a slideshow of Prairie Plains photos highlighting 2025 activities. In-person attendees are welcome to enjoy coffee, cookies and a Gjerloff Prairie hike afterward.