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PHOTO SUBMITTED

Gopher mounds are a problem for area farmers and landowners; they can wreak havoc on a landscape and make it difficult to plant and combine.

Converse from page 6

ground power.

“It kills them but another gopher comes along and finds a repaired nice spot,” Converse said.

He likes to hit hay fields early in the spring before the females produce offspring. He goes back for a second trapping when they cut hay and then again in the fall to get what’s left.

Converse spends about 20 days a month working on trapping. During the winter, he also cuts firewood and spends time shoveling his driveway.

Over the years, he’s seen it all: brown gophers, babies, black gophers, spotted gophers and white gophers with pink eyes.

For Converse, it’s been a way to make a living but also a way to get to know the people of Central Minnesota.

“They’re interested in what you do and how you do it,” he said. “They’re just trying to make a living and they’re happy when you get the gophers out of their yard, garden or farm.”



PHOTO BY GRACE JEURISSEN

The trap sits in the opening of the gopher mound. Gophers don’t like their tunnel exposed because of predators, so they come to the surface to cover it again and the trap goes off.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Clint Converse occasionally finds a white gopher with pink eyes as he helps landowners rid their properties of the animals. He trapped this one near Pine River.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Clint Converse brings his truck, a golf cart and steel traps to help people rid their property of gophers. Here he harvests gopher tails and feet so a landowner can turn them in to the township to claim a bounty.