

PRAIRIE NEWS

<http://SD-PheasantHunting.com>
1-855-SD Lodge

September 2014

35451 253rd Street
Kimball, SD 57355

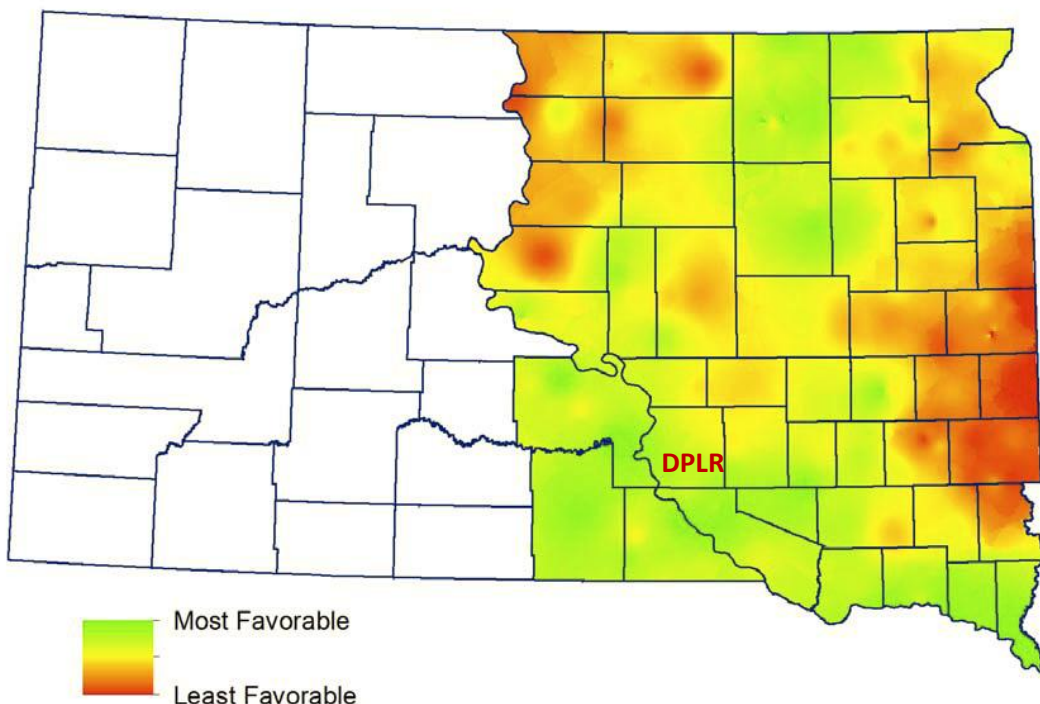
Brood Survey Report:

Finally, the long-awaited Brood Survey Report from the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks has been released. The GFP website at <http://gfp.sd.gov> also has the 2014 Pheasant Outlook report, 2013 Pheasant Economics, and the 10 Year Brood Count Trends.

We encourage you to read the full report, but the big number that everyone is excited about is the 76% overall increase in statewide Pheasants Per Mile (PPM) index from 2013 to 2014. Since last year's numbers hit a 30-year low, it was inevitable that this year would rebound. Although we are still below the 10-year average, the numbers approximate the birds in 2002 when hunters harvested 1.26 million roosters.



Of the 13 regions that the GFP surveys, the Chamberlain area that includes Brule County and the Dakota Prairie Lodge had an increase of 147% in the PPM index from 2013 to 2014. The report noted the significant role that environmental conditions play in pheasant production and survival.



Temperature and precipitation data are combined to develop an "environmental condition index" that differs by region. The GFP data show that Brule County falls within the "most favorable" areas for environmental conditions.

Note: We are just east of the Missouri River approximately one-third of the way up from the bottom of the state.

In addition to monitoring the current pheasant population, we are always considering the future as well. Therefore, we found the report particularly encouraging because the number of hens increased 55% from last year. The total number of roosters was similar to 2013, the number of broods increased 81%, and brood size increased 8%. Although weather plays a key role in the current pheasant population, habitat quantity and quality dictate long-term potential for increased populations. Nesting cover, primarily grassland, is considered the most important limiting factor for future pheasant numbers.

In Brule County, we are fortunate that many of our surrounding farmers still have large cattle herds. Therefore, large quantities of hay are required, and much of our native grasslands are intact. Immediately around the Lodge, hundreds of acres of grassland exist and support our pheasant population.

Lodge Update:

Our new cedar sign graces the entrance to the Lodge and welcomes our hunters. Special thanks to my nephew Jason Korzan from Oklahoma for the custom design and construction of the sign. We love it!



Prairie Puzzle:

The answer to last month's question about record June rainfall that may have destroyed pheasant nests was in the southeast region of South Dakota. Congratulations to Mr. VanTilburg of Kentucky for winning our Prairie Puzzle.

September question: ***In the past ten years, which year had the highest statewide Pheasants Per Mile index?***

- a) 2006 b) 2004 c) 2008 d) 2013

Please submit your answer by September 25, 2014 to be included in the prize drawing for a free Dakota Prairie Lodge & Resort hunting hat. Responses will be accepted via mail, phone, or email. Good luck!