

PRAIRIE NEWS

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

November 2013

35451 253rd Street
Kimball, SD 57355

Hunting Update:

The first few weeks of hunting season have been simply exhilarating. The weather has cooperated beautifully, with only a few rainy, windy days to provide additional challenges. Overall, we have been lucky enough to enjoy spectacular sunshine and comfortable temperatures. In addition to hunting, our guests have also been enjoying target shooting, our rifle range, and lounging on the deck with cigars.

As predicted, many young pheasants do not have their full mature colors yet. Several times, our hunters called "hen" but when the bird flew overhead, the first plumage was apparent under their neck. So these pheasants should be easier to identify in a few more weeks, and they will enhance our December hunts.



Early vs. Late Season Hunting:

Many hunters have asked whether pheasant hunting is better early in the season during October or several months later. There may not be a right answer to this question, but certainly the choice of timing does offer a different experience.

Better weather is one of the main advantages of hunting in October. Although South Dakota's weather is highly unpredictable, severe blizzards in early fall are uncommon – notwithstanding the substantial snowfall that the western part of the state has already seen this year. Rain can still be a problem, and we've spent opening weekend on some years slogging through mud. But usually the hunters can expect at least one day of sunny, clear weather.

Another important factor for hunting is the presence of crops still in the field. For example, a farmer may have planted several food plots in strategic locations, but if the adjacent field of corn is unharvested, the pheasants are likely to cluster there for easy feeding. If strips are not cut either, the corn field may be largely unhuntable. Later in the season, more of the crops will have been harvested, and the pheasants are likely to be found in the food plots, thick grass and trees that will provide their winter cover.

Also, the "buzz" of activity differs later in the season. For the first couple weeks, the airport is crowded, open seats on flights in and out of Sioux Falls are difficult to find, Cabela's is jam-packed with eager hunters, the highway is filled with out-of-state SUVs, and every gas station and hardware store offers hunting paraphernalia. After Thanksgiving, everyone seems to settle down and start preparing for winter. Parking at Cabela's no longer includes a half-mile walk to the store, Walmart replaces their ammunition aisle with Christmas decorations, the security line at the airport is back down to the normal two-person length, and the local diner is once again filled with familiar faces sharing the latest gossip.

If you haven't tried late season hunting, please call us. We have available dates in December, and we'd like to share this experience with you. It's quite possible you'll be a late season convert and return every year in December.

Prairie Puzzle:

The answer to last month's question about the statehood of South Dakota was November 2, 1889. Congratulations to our winner Mr. Cluchey from South Carolina.

November question: ***Which of the following are helpful for cleaning and preserving pheasants?***

- a) Game shears
- b) Sharp knife
- c) Saltwater bath
- d) Vacuum sealer
- e) Freezer
- f) All of the above

Please submit your answer by November 15, 2013 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!