

# PRAIRIE NEWS

<http://SD-PheasantHunting.com>

September 2013

1-855-SD Lodge

35451 253<sup>rd</sup> Street

Kimball, SD 57355

## **Pheasant Brood Count:**

Breaking news across South Dakota is the pheasant brood count report issued Friday by the Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Department, which indicates the pheasants per mile estimates are dramatically lower than last year. While we do not disagree with the overall GFP report, we believe the Dakota Prairie Lodge & Resort is very fortunate to be situated within the best possible pheasant-friendly environment. Immediately to the east of the Lodge are food plots and a large CRP tract. The Lodge itself rests on 240 acres of native grassland, which is critical for nesting and retention of hens. We have trees lining the north and west sides of our land for protection from adverse weather, and beyond our boundaries lie fields of corn, soybeans and other crops.



This past weekend we mowed an extensive area around our new target stand, mostly consisting of wild sunflowers, and noted the large number of grasshoppers, also a component of the pheasant diet.



While mowing, we disturbed several pheasant families and were surprised by both the age of the chicks and size of the broods. Some of the babies appeared not more than eight weeks old, which means they will not have their distinctive coloring established by the beginning of hunting season. Also, the average size of the broods we roused out of the sunflowers were between seven and ten chicks, which is many more than we commonly see on the roads and in the ditches this year.

For hunting, we anticipate that our guests will fill their limit, but they may need to walk a bit further than during previous years. If there's a compelling NASCAR race or football game on in the early afternoon, we can record it for you. The availability of young pheasants from late hatches bodes well for hunts in November and December when these birds have established color. Early in the season, we may find ourselves seeing surprising numbers of hens that are actually these young birds.

## **Lodge Update:**



With opening weekend less than two months away, the finishing touches are being applied to the Lodge. Early in August, we had intermittent rain, which slowed our landscaping efforts but we were still able to make substantial progress.





The great room on the main level is comprised of various seating areas, as well as a bar and game tables. With easy access to the kitchen and dining room on the east side, and the gift shop and mudroom towards the northwest,



this area is spacious enough to accommodate large groups without feeling cramped. Smaller groups can congregate in front of the fireplace for a cozy evening.

In the lower level, the Lodge has essentially the same bedroom layout, with accommodations for another 20 guests. A second lounge allows multiple groups to choose whether or not to mingle, with similar amenities to the main level space.



Outside, the deck offers great views and peaceful relaxation. This should be a fun place to congregate upon returning from hunting.



## **Prairie Puzzle:**

The answer to last month's question about the presidents depicted on Mount Rushmore is George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt. Congratulations to first place winner Mr. Campbell, second place winner Mr. Harrison from Arizona, first runner-up Mr. Smith from Wisconsin, and second runner-up Mr. VanTilburg from Kentucky.

September question: ***Of the following four poker hands, which is the winner: two pair, flush, straight, or full house?***

Please submit your answer by September 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!