

# NEWSLETTER



## NEWS

Two weeks ago, I shared in my previous newsletter that I would give away some small prizes if my subscription list hits 100 readers. We did it, and I would like to celebrate the milestone by giving away some small prizes.

You can win one of these prizes:

Third prize - Cabela's Northern Flight Camo rifle sling

Second prize - Browning folding knife

First Prize - Gerber Hunting knife with bone saw

## MORE NEWS

The hunting draws are open! Please log into ALBERTAREALM and submit your draws for 2024/5 hunting season, and remember the draws closes on June20th.

Some bad news is, the draws have gone up from \$3.83 per draw to \$5.25....

Dont forget to look at the harvest report to see what your odds are for being successfull toward a draw.

In order to win one of these prizes, you will have to follow these rules.

- Go to the following URL, answer two simple questions, and enter your e-mail. **CLICK ON THE PICTURE AT BOTTOM**
- Only one entry per person.
- The deadline for entry will be Sunday, 9th June at midnight MST
- The winners' names will be posted in the following newsletter.
- Prizes may be picked up, or I can mail them to the winners if you are a resident of Alberta.
- Winners outside Alberta must pick up the prize or pay for shipping.
- The judges' decisions and the winner's names will be final.

## Shotguns, shot and chokes - 1 of



When it comes to shotgun and shotgun shooting, the following three factors should be kept in mind before you decide to go to target shooting or hunting:

- What gauge will I be shooting?
- What shot type and size am I going to use?
- What choke should I use?

This newsletter will cover the first of three series - SHOTGUNS AND GAUGE

### Standard shotgun Gauges:

10-gauge: For the bigger and longer distance shooting of bigger birds like turkeys and geese – or deer hunting

12-gauge: The most popular and versatile gauge, widely used for hunting and sport shooting.

16-gauge: Less common but prized for balancing the power of the 12-gauge and the lighter recoil of the 20-gauge.

20-gauge: Lighter with less recoil, suitable for smaller game and younger or smaller shooters.

28-gauge: Used for small game and by shooters who appreciate its lightweight and minimal recoil.

.410 bore: Technically, it is not a gauge but is often categorized similarly. This is a small shotgun bore used for small game and beginners.

## SHOTGUNS AND GAUGE

It does not matter if your shotgun is a single-barrel, double-barrel, side-by-side, over-and-under, pump action, or semi-automatic. After you know what you are going to shoot, the three things you need to consider are the gauge, shot, and choke.

Have you ever wondered where the gauge system comes from? It's a fascinating piece of history still relevant in shotgun shooting today. The gauge system dates back to a time when shotguns were used primarily for hunting and ammunition was made by hand. The term 'gauge' comes from the word 'gager,' an old French word meaning to pledge or to measure. This system reflects a time when standardization was not as precise, and ammunition was hand-cast, making it a unique and somewhat archaic system that persists through tradition and utility.

It starts with a one-pound lead ball. The diameter of a one-pound lead ball is 1.65 inches. This is called a one-gauge size, and the bore to shoot that ball will be a one-gauge barrel. If you divide the one-pound lead into two equal-sized round balls, each ball will have a diameter of 1.32 inches and be referred to as a two-gauge. When we look at the most popular shotgun, the 12 gauge, it means that 12 spherical lead balls with the same diameter as the gun's bore would weigh one pound. For a 20-gauge shotgun, it would take 20 such balls to weigh one pound. The higher the number in gauge, the smaller the barrel bore will be, and the smaller the bore, the less recoil there will be. The exception to this procedure is the .410 shotgun. The bore diameter is not referenced in gauge but in inches. Its size is designated in terms of a bore diameter of .410 inches.