

Dear hunters,

I hope 2022 finds everyone well. I just wanted to update everyone on the goings on in Olton and some changes to our pheasant hunt. I know the 2021 hunt was a bit different than hunts we have had in the past, but we are learning from our mistakes and are already working on making our 2022 hunt the best yet.

I know there was some concern with the size of some of the groups last year. That is a tricky thing to handle. The answer is it all comes down to cover. Ample rain last summer gave us an abundance of cover. We felt we needed bigger groups to be able to hunt our land properly without birds hunkering down between walkers. We are working on a way to perhaps have our guides coordinate with each other so that each group can stay small and then maybe join with another group to walk larger thicker areas. This is an ongoing conversation to figure out the best way to do it. I welcome any of your thoughts and ideas. As we get closer to December we will see how much cover we have and make a plan of attack.

Our next concern was the amount of wild birds we had last year. After our hunt we decided to release more pen raised birds hoping they would breed and we would get a good hatch. So far it looks like our efforts are working. In talking with some of our landowners most have said they have seen more chicks this year than they have in a long time. We just need Mother Nature to help us out with some rain to keep them growing and going.

We are also addressing the issue with enough bathroom space. I have already reserved a heated portable bathroom trailer that we can set up right outside the front door of the Ag Pavilion, so bathroom time at breakfast shouldn't be an issue anymore.

We are also going to try to expand our raffle this year. Mr. Ward had an excellent idea. If any members of your group have something they would like to bring to donate, we would love it. This is something that will be tax deductible. We just need an appraised value and we will have a receipt ready for you when you register for the hunt Saturday morning. If you would like to donate an item just let us know in advance what you are bringing so we can get the word out to everyone.

One unfortunate thing I feel I need to tell you now is that due to the rising cost of everything to provide meals for our hunters, cost of pen raised birds and ordering more birds this year we will have to raise our price per gun from \$375 to \$400. This isn't a decision that came easy for us, but if we want to continue to have a quality hunt, we feel that this is necessary.

Lastly, I want to tell you how much we appreciate all of you coming to hunt with us every year. The pheasant hunt is our main source of income for each year. Your money helps us support and advertise our local businesses. It helps us support our school and students as we provide scholarships to some of our seniors and ag ambassadors. Its helps us to have area wide events like our annual community Easter egg hunt, trunk or treat, Ag Awareness Day for all the schools in the area, our annual Sandhills Celebration the first weekend in August, and our Hometown

Christmas Celebration the 2nd week of December. We also try to help out families in need in our community as well as donating to Snack Pack for Kids.

Thank you again for your support, and we can't wait to see everyone in December. We are in a pretty severe drought right now so please pray for some rain to come our direction. The last measurable rainfall we had was last July. We need it bad to help our wild bird population thrive. If you are interested in donating an item for our raffle just let us know.

You can call Wesley at the Chamber office at (806)-285-2292. Email us at occa@oltonchamber.org, or call me personally at (806)-632-7254.

We will send registration info later on this summer, and I will try to keep everyone updated on our progress preparing for the hunt as we go through the year.

Thank you again, and please pray for rain,

Brice Redwine

Olton Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture