

PRAIRIE NEWS

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

May 2013

35451 253rd Street
Kimball, SD 57355

Lodge Update:

Our target stand is progressing nicely! We designed it to have two levels, each with six throwers. In addition, there will be one "rabbit" thrower for an extra challenge.

First, the components were assembled with bottom panels attached to the frame. The top was comprised of a similar design, with both levels solidly supported to hold throwers and personnel.



Now the top section of the stand has been attached to the frame, and the stairs and handrails are in place as well.

The next step is to install all of the throwers, so watch for updated pictures in the next newsletter.

We will then be setting up the stations and testing our operation to ensure a SAFE target shooting environment can be enjoyed by operators, spectators and all of the participants.

Pheasant and Farming Update:

After winter storms Xerxes, Yogi, Zeus, and most recently Achilles have ensured record-setting snowfalls even into May, the pheasant population is certainly experiencing challenging nesting conditions. However, one key fact noted in last month's newsletter about pheasant ecology is that hens will re-nest up to five times if their chicks do not survive.



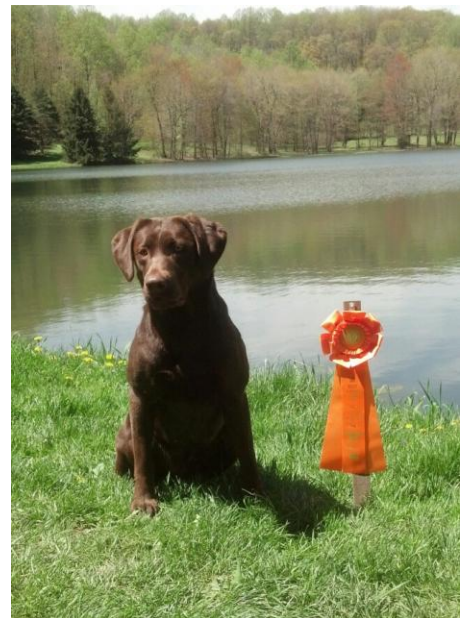
All the late, wet snow is welcomed by farmers as any moisture is generally considered beneficial, especially after the dry conditions last summer. There may be a few delays planting corn and soybeans, but the forecast for the remainder of May appears dryer and warmer. The food plots for the pheasants should not be a problem, as these are usually not planted until early June, which gives them plenty of time to grow before pheasant season opens in the fall.

In the middle of April, there were several days of very dense fog. One of our elderly neighboring farmers told us that the old-timers (apparently the original South Dakota settlers) predicted that fog is followed 90 days later by rain. If that is accurate, we can expect rain in July, which would be every farmer's dream.

Dog Training Update:

Congratulations to FoXXXy, one of the youngest of 77 entered in a master national qualifier in Coshocton, Ohio. She earned her first master pass! FoXXXy is eager for this fall's rooster rush at the Dakota Prairie Lodge & Resort.

Of course, FoXXXy had help with her achievement. Ryan Morton, General Manager at the Lodge, and owner of Grain Driver Labradors, is FoXXXy's trainer. Ryan has been an ardent supporter of FoXXXy's efforts and deserves commendation for her latest success.



Prairie Puzzle:

The answer to last month's question about the diet of hen pheasants for calcium intake was snails, egg shells and grit. Congratulations to winner Mr. Nowlin from Indiana, first runner-up Mr. Boileau from Pennsylvania, and second runner-up Mr. Bourquin from Ohio!

May question: ***In South Dakota, what is the most consecutive days an out-of-state hunter can hunt on a single license?***

a) Three

b) Five

c) Ten

d) None of these

Please submit your answer by May 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!