

# PRAIRIE NEWS

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

March 2013

35451 253<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Kimball, SD 57355

## History of the Farm:

The “family farm” may one day be a relic of the past. However, our family has such a long history of farming that we hope to continue this tradition. After political upheaval in Bohemia, Mathias and Josephine Korzan immigrated to the United States in 1868. Originally, they settled in Iowa, but later moved further westward to South Dakota when the chinch bug destroyed the wheat crops in Iowa. Brule County already had a large number of Bohemian immigrants, so our Korzan ancestors felt at home here. Mathias and Josephine had a large family with five sons and three daughters.

Meanwhile, the Sladek family also emigrated from Bohemia, settled in Kimball and had numerous children. Eventually, three of the Korzan brothers – Michael, Frank and John – married three of the Sladek sisters – Antonia, Minnie and Mary – and created a plethora of double cousins! The Dakota Prairie Lodge & Resort is located on the original homestead of Mike and “Toni” Korzan. Immediately to the west was the home of Frank and Minnie Korzan, and steps were built up and over the fence line so the sisters could easily visit each other.

One of Mike and Toni’s sons, Floyd Korzan, continued to farm the home place with the help of his six sons and three daughters. Now Floyd’s youngest son, Charlie, has expanded the farming operation with the addition of another homestead a few miles to the south and substantial acreage further west. Floyd’s daughter Margaret has fond memories of hunting with her father and brothers throughout her childhood and has built the Lodge to continue this tradition and share these experiences with a larger audience.



## Pheasant Habitat:

Land management targeted specifically for upland birds requires continuous attention and maintenance. In this issue we will review the current phase of needed habitat for the winter to spring transition. Food and cover is at a minimum for the majority of surviving birds in the state. However, our program prepared for this particular situation and put a plan in motion months ago to boost survival rates. Our action plan also takes into consideration the upcoming spring to summer phase, including all the necessities our vibrant hen population needs to nurture our wing shooting paradise.

The majority of lodges consider designating food plots as adequate, year-round cover. If the weather cooperated and was consistent, there may be more success stories to this theory. In addition, food alone does not guarantee survival. This is where our industry-leading farming paves the way for our program. The farm, even with record commodity prices, has the ability to yield more per acre and continue to designate native grasses, sloughs, and creek bottoms as an untouched, year-round sanctuary. Late winter storms that bring snow, hail, and ice are now less of a threat. Birds can stow away in these areas and in our methodically located shelter belts



to buy time until these fronts pass. We are blessed with the natural lay of our land as well. Dakota Prairie has numerous lakebeds lined with thick, weather-resistant cover. Most importantly, gently rolling hills break the wind and create a natural snow fence to keep these areas clear during the winter months. The same sanctuary that provides survival will later provide a chick lifeline in the months to come.

Now that we have the much-needed habitat, what will constitute the food supply in the interim before spring? Food plots now take the spotlight. Leaving rows of corn and milo are a great solution; however, they need to be abundant and strategically placed. Once blown in by hard packed snow, they are not accessible and become useless. It is always a gamble and costly to leave useful crops standing. Therefore, we place a great deal of emphasis on location and abundance. Proximity to shelter belts and large sloughs take precedence in placement practice.

Predators are always a concern. With birds gathered in large masses, it becomes shooting fish in a barrel for birds of prey, coyotes and fox. Having the correct cover and conveniently located food sources alleviates some of the stress derived from predation. The relationship of predator to prey is needed for a balanced system. Following that, deer and other wildlife also benefit from the benefits of properly managed land.



In the coming spring months, we will shift our mindset to the hatch and summer transition. Mother Nature always has a hand during this time. Will there be an adequate water supply with dry mild temperatures, or possibly, a late hail storm with patches of rain creating damp cool conditions before and during the hatch? The bulls eye of our land management goals are to provide upland game every conceivable edge to beat the odds.

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## **Prairie Puzzle:**

Last month's question pertained to South Dakota's three reservoir lakes:

*Lake Oahe, Lake Sharpe and Lake Francis Case all offer exceptional fishing along the Missouri River. The third lake was named for Francis Higbee Case, a Republican journalist and politician who served for 25 years in the U.S. Congress.*

March question:

***How old should a male pheasant be to display the full, deep plumage for which ring-necked pheasants are famous?***

Please submit your answer by March 14, 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!