

PRAIRIE NEWS

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

October 2012

35451 253rd Street
Kimball, SD 57355

Pheasant and Farming Update:



The South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Department reported that the statewide pheasants per mile index increased by 18% from last year. Chamberlain (in Brule County) had the highest pheasant brood survey results, with 10.81 pheasants per mile. Although we are below the 10-year average, last winter's mild temperatures aided a population rebound.

We firmly believe in a strong relationship between farming and pheasant conservation. Although CRP land has been declining across South Dakota, we have maintained our interest in this program. This summer we also registered several hundred acres with the Wetland and Grassland Habitat Program. Our fields are harvested with consideration to hunting, and we rotate our hunters between fields to encourage pheasant stability.



Meanwhile, we have begun combining soybeans. With sporadic rainfall this summer, we were only anticipating about 15 bushels per acre, but fortunately, the yields are proving substantially higher. Stay tuned, as sunflowers will be harvested next!



Lodge Update:

Probably every delivery driver from Minneapolis to Sioux Falls is now familiar with our Lodge! We've discovered that some GPS systems provide incorrect directions, but with a little guidance, the furniture and fixtures have been arriving daily. Some items require assembly and following the directions translated from foreigners has been interesting, but we



continue to persevere. You can also check us out on Facebook to see more pictures.

Other News:

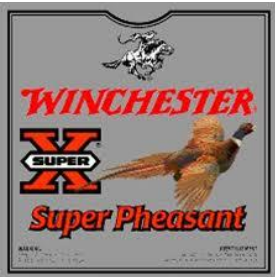
We would like to extend a special thank you to Ryan Morton, who joined our team a few months ago as a consultant for client services. Actually, Ryan wears many hats as he has extensive experience guiding upland hunting groups at several different locations. Many of you may have spoken with Ryan as he is also our first point of contact for guests. Aside from helping the Lodge, Ryan owns and operates Grain Driver Labradors, a premier dog training business. You can learn more about this program at <http://www.graindriverlabradors.com/>



Hunting Tips:

Ammunition and the appropriate loads are important for big game hunting as well as upland and waterfowl hunting. The difference between wounding and successfully retrieving a downed bird often

depends on the chosen load. There is no doubt that a quality shell makes an average shooter better while just the opposite occurs when our sharp shooters don't differentiate their ammo.



The benefits of the correct shell selection remain all inclusive. The hunt itself is more enjoyable due to the decrease in time lost looking far and beyond for wounded running birds. Dogs remain in front of the line where they belong rather than a field over or 150 yards ahead chasing the wounded bird. Every time our line comes to a halt and the guide, the dogs, and other members of the party abandon our line and begin the search, gaps are



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created and the birds we worked to gather begin to race back the other way. Lines become more uniform and safety afield also improves having no one left behind the line or out of position in the path of other shooters.



Unfortunately, shell prices are on the rise for both target and field loads with no foreseeable future of ever declining. We beat the spike in cost and wisely purchased, in bulk, all the needed ammo for every gauge. Rather than overpaying for lack luster shells and the hassle and headache of transporting them, Dakota Prairie includes ammunition in our package.

You will also reap the benefits of fewer pellets in your meat. Our shells are high velocity copper coated and don't pull feathers into the meat or butcher breasts. On average, they are more likely to pass cleanly through the target providing a higher percentage recovery rate and far better table fare. Please call with any questions regarding shells or any other details of the hunt.



Helpful Links:

As opening weekend fast approaches, we thought you might welcome some links for transportation, hunting and highlights in and around Brule County.

<http://www.sfairport.com/>

Sioux Falls Regional Airport with direct flights to Denver, Dallas, Minneapolis, Chicago, Colorado Springs, Orlando, Las Vegas, Mesa and Columbus

<http://gfp.sd.gov/licenses/>

South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Department information on licensing and permits for everything from hunting and fishing to boats and recreational vehicles

<http://www.alsoasis.com/>

Al's Oasis, a landmark along the Missouri River, is a family operated business and still offers 5¢ coffee along with a smile