



DAKOTA PRAIRIE LODGE & RESORT

PRAIRIE NEWS



MEET OUR TEAM

MARY TRUMAN

Baker Extraordinaire

Mary has been part of our team at the Lodge from the beginning. She is an amazing cook and baker who started helping us out with suppers years ago. Now, she is focused on baking, and we count on her for all kinds of delicious breads, pies, kolaches, rolls, and cookies. Her monster cookies are a Lodge favorite!

These days, Mary bakes at home and delivers her tasty treats to the Lodge. She loves stopping by and socializing with the rest of the team. The warm, welcoming environment is one of Mary's favorite things about the Lodge.

Hometown: Pukwana, SD

Favorite Bake: Breads



THE LODGE LATEST: PHEASANT CHICKS AND MORE



It's official: The pheasant chicks are hatching, and we are seeing them everywhere. If you are here to hunt with us this summer, you will almost certainly see a *nye*, the term for a hen and her checks together.

Prairie dog season is going well. It's not too late to come prairie dog hunting this year: We still have late summer spots available. Our fishing groups have been very successful as well, reeling in catches large and small. While this month has been unseasonably cool, the upcoming Fourth of July weekend is expected to usher in some summer heat.

FLYING HIGH: OUR LATEST FUN TOOL AT THE LODGE

We have an exciting new addition to our machinery lineup at the Lodge! Say hello to our agricultural drone, a used DJI AGRAS T50. It offers a powerful coaxial twin rotor propulsion system and a split-type torque resistant structure, meaning that it provides top-of-the-line stability when spraying or spreading. As you may know, part of running the Lodge is caring for our land and ensuring that we foster a productive environment for our pheasant population. With our drone, we can spray our food plots even when the fields are muddy. This helps us ensure that our pheasants have all of the crops they love to eat and want to stay in our area... then, we can shoot them!

The next time you visit us, keep an eye out for our drone! Any tech lovers in your group will definitely want to check out this fun new toy.



DID YOU KNOW? UNUSUAL FACTS ABOUT RING-NECKED PHEASANTS

The ring-necked pheasant is a captivating bird. Wily and elusive, these wild roosters make for a challenging and rewarding hunt. But there might be a few things you didn't know about pheasants. We're here to fill you in.



Pheasants are not native to South Dakota! With all of the wild pheasants you will see around the Lodge, it is a common misconception that these birds are native to the area. Actually, the ring-necked pheasant is originally from China and was not introduced in the U.S. until the late 1800s. The bird was brought to South Dakota in 1908, and it has thrived on the prairie since.

Pheasants have unique hydration strategies. This one always surprises our hunters! While other birds are often found near lakes or dugouts, pheasants do not require standing water. They get the water they need by consuming dew on plants and from eating bugs. Yum!

Pheasants eat gravel. Have you ever wondered why you see so many pheasants on the road? That's because they eat gravel – yes, on purpose! Like other birds, pheasants lack teeth. Instead, they have a *gizzard*, a part of the stomach that grinds up food using the gravel and small stones that they swallow. These abrasive particles help pheasants digest.

A group of pheasants is called a bouquet. This colorful term, typically reserved for flowers, is also used to describe a group of pheasants in flight. On the ground, a group of pheasants is called a *nye* or a *covey*. A pair is called a *brace*.

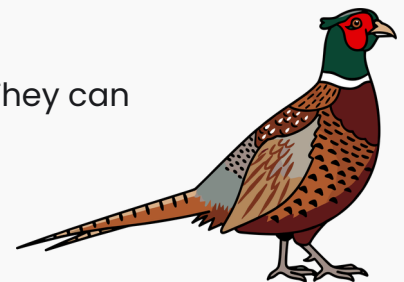
JUNE 2026 PRAIRIE DOG HUNTING: A GALLERY OF MEMORIES



PRAIRIE PUZZLE

June Question: What is the average pheasant's flight speed? (They can fly even faster when being chased!)

- a) 27-38 mph
- b) 40-50 mph
- c) 16-22 mph
- d) 8-10 mph



Submit your answer by July 10, 2026, for a chance to win! Answers will be accepted via email, phone, or mail. Correct answers will be entered into the prize drawing to receive a FREE piece of Dakota Prairie Lodge & Resort merchandise.