



## DAKOTA PRAIRIE LODGE &amp; RESORT

## PRAIRIE NEWS



## MEET THE LODGE TEAM

**MELISSA KING**

We are so lucky to have Melissa as a part of our Lodge team. She does a bit of everything around here – from guiding to cooking, cleaning, and driving the tractor, you can count on Melissa to lend a helping hand! She goes above and beyond to make our guests feel welcome and comfortable.

Melissa describes herself as a people person, and her favorite part of working at the Lodge is meeting people from all around the country. Melissa also loves to guide prairie dog hunters during the summer. Next time you visit, make sure you say hi to Melissa and crack a joke or two with her!

**Home State:** South Dakota

**Top Hunt:** Prairie Dogs

**Favorite Meal:** Prime Rib



## BUILDING CONNECTIONS AT DALLAS SAFARI CLUB



This year was our first time attending the **Dallas Safari Club Summer Expo**, and we had a great time! Last week, Toni, Alex, and Melissa drove down to Texas with four of our puppies to spread the word about the Lodge and find homes for our remaining furry friends. We had great success on both fronts and enjoyed meeting many new faces at the show – and seeing some old friends too, of course! We also found great homes for our final four puppies.

If you did not take home a puppy this time around, we may breed one of our amazing black labs, Molly or Emma, in a few years. Reach out to Toni to get on the waitlist for a puppy with great hunting genes!

## WATCHING THE WEATHER IN SOUTH DAKOTA?

If you have been keeping a close eye on the weather here in South Dakota, you are not the only one. You might have heard about some crazy weather that has been hitting our state recently, including tornadoes and hail. Over the past few weeks, South Dakota experienced a tornado outbreak and a *derecho*, which is a term for a lineup of repeated thunderstorms that moves across the state. The results? Tennis ball-sized hail out west by Rapid City and a large funnel cloud that sucked water right out from the Missouri River in nearby Chamberlain.

We are happy to report that we did not suffer any damage at the Lodge. While we have had some eventful weather, the front seems to be moving through, and we expect things to quiet down again around here. All of our pheasant food plots are looking great, and we're ready for an excellent roundup of roosters.



## THE JOY OF COMBO HUNTS AT THE LODGE

Did you know that it is almost dove hunting season in South Dakota? That's right: Mourning doves are hunted annually from September 1 until November 9 in The Mount Rushmore State. However, we have found that the first few weeks in September are the best time to hunt these wily birds, as they are very susceptible to cold weather and migrate onward after the first cold snap. If you are looking for a prime location for your next dove hunting trip, South Dakota is an often-overlooked destination with premier **dove hunting** opportunities. Plus, hunting doves during the first couple of weeks in September means you could schedule a combo hunt at the lodge for a taste of all that rugged South Dakota has to offer.



Dove hunting season lines up perfectly with the tail end of **prairie dog hunting** and **walleye fishing**. If you come visit us in September, you can hunt doves one day, enjoy a day on the Missouri River the next, and practice your long-range shooting with automatic weapons at a prairie dog town the following afternoon. Our team will happily help you build a trip tailored to your individual needs and preferences. We can accommodate up to 40 hunters, so bring your friends!

## TRY IT ALL WITH COMBINATION HUNTS AT DAKOTA PRAIRIE LODGE & RESORT

There are many places around the country that have great dove hunting, but it is not just anywhere that you can hunt birds, take down varmints, and reel in trophy catches all in one weekend. Imagine waking up on a misty morning and heading over to the tree line with your friends and our expert, local guide. You wait patiently for the doves to fly off their roosts, and then – *bang!* Down they go. Doves can change direction on a dime, so they make an ideal hunt for those

who are up for a challenge. After a fulfilling morning and a tasty breakfast, your crew loads up in the bus to head over to an active prairie dog town. Taking down these pests is actually a service to our local farmers, who are tired of them digging tunnels through fields and pastures. You could spend all day hitting these varmints – think of it as living target practice!



The next day, switch it up with some time out on the boat on the "Big Muddy." Your guide will load up with bait and find you the perfect spot to cast a line. We might even fry up whatever you bring home for a tasty dinner on the porch as the sun sets over the prairie. Ready to book a memorable South Dakota experience? Check out our selection of [special packages](#) to find the combination hunt that is right for you and your group.

## PRAIRIE PUZZLE

**July Question:** The geographic center of the all 50 United States is closest which South Dakota city?

- a) Kimball
- b) Belle Fourche
- c) Rapid City
- d) Brookings



Submit your answer by August 10, 2025, 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 Dakota Prairie Lodge & Resort hat.