

**DATES TO
REMEMBER:**

MN Waterfowl Opener
October 2, 2010

MN Fall Turkey Opener
October 7, 2010

MN Pheasant Opener
October 16, 2010

3rd Annual DNR/PF Youth
Hunt
October 23, 2010

MN Deer Opener
November 6, 2010

MN Muzzleloader Opener
November 27, 2010

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The Rooster

Review

VOLUME 3 — ISSUE 4

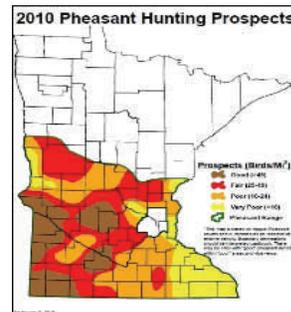


10/1/2010

2010 Pheasant Forecast

Despite its worst winter in nearly a decade, Minnesota's August roadside survey remains unchanged from 2009, when hunters harvested more than 400,000 roosters. According to Kurt Haroldson, wildlife biologist for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Farmland Population and Research Group, hunters can expect a harvest around that mark in 2010.

The winter of 2009-10 was the most severe period for much of the farmland region in 10 years, which



did cause some pheasant mortality. Spring nesting conditions were excellent early, but declined in June. And Minnesota lost 21,000 CRP acres from its pheasant range from 2009, but increases in enrollment of other farm programs and acquisition of public lands

exceeded CRP losses. The 2010 pheasant index (62.8 birds/100 miles driven) was similar to 2009, but the hen index portion of the survey was 28 percent below the 10-year average. Overall, considering the severity of the past winter, pheasant hunters and state biologists were pleasantly surprised by the numbers this year.

The best opportunities for harvesting pheasants likely will be in the southwest where observers reported 104 birds per 100 miles of survey driven. Hunters also will find good harvest opportunities in the central
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Ask Permission Before Hunting on CRP, CREP or RIM

Fall is upon us, bringing with it cooler days and longer nights. We are starting to see the harvest machines dot the landscape and hunters stalking game through the fields and woodlands. It is important for hunters to review state regulations and property laws. All hunters need to be knowledgeable of the laws governing the land they

intend to hunt, specifically land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), or the Reinvest In Minnesota program (RIM). Landowners enrolled in these programs retain the right to control all access to their property. If they choose, the land can be posted and all hunting

prohibited. If a land-owner requests that you leave the property, you must do so or you are in violation of trespass laws. Always ask permission
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SCPF is now on
Facebook



Search for Stearns County
Pheasants Forever on
Facebook and become a fan!

2nd Annual Longest Tail Feather Contest

Don't miss the fun—

When:
Saturday, December 4, 2010

Where: Padua Pub

Cost: \$40/two person team

Habitat Highlight

Wild Bergamot

Also known as Bee balm. Perennial plant 2 to 4 feet tall with tubular pinkish or lavender flowers arranged in dense, globe-shaped heads at tops of stems.

Blooms July-August. Leaves opposite, to 5 inches long,



toothed, lance-shaped. All plant parts have a minty fragrance. Dry prairie, thickets, old fields; often forms colonies. Leaves and roots used medicinally by American Indians.

Check Us Out On the Web
www.stearnsfpf.org

2010 Pheasant Forecast Continued from page 1

and west central regions, where observers reported 76 and 70 birds per 100 miles driven, respectively.

Season Dates: October 16 through January 2, 2011

Daily Bag Limit: 2; changes to 3 on December 1 through end of season

Possession Limit: 6; changes to 9 on December 1 through end of season.

[Read the full DNR Roadside Survey](#)



Ask Permission Before Hunting on CRP, CREP or RIM

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before entering private land. **You need permission to hunt on CRP, CREP and RIM land even if it is not posted.**

Trespassing is a misdemeanor, and if convicted you could lose your license to hunt and be subjected to additional fines and punishments. All conservation and peace officers enforce trespass laws. Remember, your actions reflect on all hunters. You can view the Minnesota DNR Trespass Law by going to following web-site: [Hunting and trapping regulations: Minnesota DNR](#)

There are over 1.7 million acres of CRP, CREP and RIM in Minnesota. These acres



have been established to grasses, forbs and trees to protect the soil, improve water quality, and provide cover for wildlife. The habitat created through grass, forbs and tree plantings provides food and cover

for wildlife to survive and flourish. However, hunting of the game present is a secondary benefit for those who choose to hunt or allow hunting on their conservation acres. For hunters that don't have access to private property, Minnesota also has the luxury of over 1.6 million acres of [public hunting land](#). These lands are mostly Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) and are posted for Public Hunting. Minnesota's 77 Pheasants Forever Chapters have spent over \$36 million on wildlife habitat efforts which includes 343 land acquisitions totaling 29,762 acres.

Another Successful Big Brothers Big Sisters Youth Hunt

Central Minnesota Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Stearns County Chapter of Pheasants Forever again hosted a youth mentor hunt at Fischer’s Kennel and Hunt Club. This opportunity was created to provide an understanding and appreciation for hunting, conservation, and the outdoors where there is a need and desire.

“BBBS’s record of helping youth is the main reason for PF support,” said Joe Klein, board member of the Stearns County Pheasants Forever chapter and coordinator for this event. “We see this as an opportunity to pass along the hunting tradition.”

The day’s activities included gun safety, trap shooting, and an actual pheasant hunt followed by a lunch. Each Little and their Big were paired with a Stearns County Pheasants Forever volunteer along with their hunting dog while only

the Littles hunted. The day was a wonderful experience for the kids as well as the volunteers. “We are



thrilled to be partnering with Big Brothers/Big Sisters,” explained Ken Fruth, Youth

Director for the Stearns County Chapter of Pheasants Forever. “Pheasants Forever is honored to work with an organization with Big Brothers/Big Sisters’ reputation and tradition to guide our youth in conservation and hunting ethics.” This is the fifth year Stearns County Pheasants Forever has hosted this type of hunt. This has been made possible with donations from Xcel Energy, Dave & Ann Thelen—Thelen Distributing, Scheel’s, Joe & Lila Klein and [Fischer’s Hunt Club](#).

From the President

Now is the time of year that we as sportsmen and sportswomen have been waiting for all year. Whether you pheasant hunt, duck hunt, turkey hunt, deer hunt, or whatever hunting you do, it all comes together in the Fall.



Chris Denn
SCPF
President

There are several things that one could discuss with the seasons upon us. Let’s cover a few of them. As always, safety is the first thing to consider before hunting any wild game. Most of this can be covered in maintaining our equipment. Clean and operable gear and equipment will most always

prevent any mishaps in the field. Along with this is knowledge of how your equipment works. Take the time to learn your equipment and how it operates before your hit the field. Practice if needed, and ask for help if you have questions.

Public and private hunting areas. Through everyone’s hard work and with the support of Pheasants Forever (PF) and our conservation partners, we are fortunate to have as much public hunting land as we do in Stearns County and the surrounding area. And remember, we also have a lot of hunters that use this land. Be respectful of other hunters and work together in the fields.

Member Photos



2009—Nathan Hylla, 49” Musky from “Secret Lake”



2009—Jason White, Canadian Walleye

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Brad Cobb at
1231tlc@charter.net
(320) 493-4695

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Stearns County Chapter of
Pheasants Forever



**Renew Your
Membership
Today!**

Leave a Legacy

By Chad Bloom
SCPF Director

As time progresses we look forward and backward. Looking back we see the memories of the steps that have got us to today. Maybe the transition from the long warm summer days to the crisp fall days stir memories of you hunting with your parents, siblings or your kids. When you change direction and look forward and consider possibilities of those continued endeavors what do you see? Will you have a place to hunt? Will the youth that come after us get the same chance to experience the memories that we cherish? As people who love the outdoors what can one do to impact the future? We can ask ourselves what will our legacy be to the outdoor way of life.

As you meet with your financial planner consider asking about carving out a piece of your investment to go to Pheasants Forever - the habitat organization. When you are reviewing your life insurance policy ask your agent about making a donation from those funds to Pheasants Forever. As you stand on your porch and look out on your land and consider what to do with it please consider Pheasants Forever.

From the President Continued from page 3

There is plenty of ground for everyone to enjoy. And in respect to private property, be sure you have permission to be on other people's property. Ask permission, and go so far as to ask for written permission. Bring along some paper and ask for a signature, it could really help out if it came into question if you are on someone's property.

Let's not forget our four legged friends who without them, sometimes it's not worth getting out of the truck. Make sure they are healthy enough to be in the field. It's never too late to start working your dogs before your hunts. Exercise them regularly. We all know how sore and stiff we become after our first hunt of the season. Imagine how sore and tired our dogs are after their first hunt too. Water is critical, so be sure there is plenty available, and if not, be sure to carry water with you. Dehydration will ruin your day for both you and your dog.

There are many more things I could discuss, but I will end with one topic that everyone can enjoy... memories. From your first hunt to the last one you just finished, memories and stories are created with each hunt. Don't forget your camera. A quick photo that you don't think about at the time will bring back memories and stories for years to come.

If your resources are more available, Stearns County Pheasants Forever is looking for sponsors. Sponsorship options could be something like sponsoring one of the many guns we give away at our annual banquet. Perhaps help off-set the cost of our banquet meal. Did you know Stearns County Pheasants Forever helps with the youth sporting clays team? The point is, SCPF really needs your help in continuing to do great things for our county, our state and our outdoor way of life.

If you have any questions or want to discuss more in depth please call Chad at 320-292-4771.

Member Photos



2009 - Payton, Nate & Ben Hylla and their dog Ruger pictured with the Canada geese Nate harvested. Sadly the Hylla's recently lost Ruger to an illness.



2002 - Jason Selvog with his dog Zoe and her first retrieve, a nice drake mallard.