

The Pheasant Flyer



Pheasant Country newsletter written and/or compiled by Debra Kuchera.

Pheasant Country LTD - Mitchell, SD • PO Box 807
Visit our Website at www.pheasantcountry.org

Fall 2007 Vol. 12 Issue 1



Support Pheasant Habitat in the Mitchell Area. Attend the **22ND ANNUAL PHEASANT COUNTRY BANQUET FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19TH WORLD'S ONLY CORN PALACE**

Once again Pheasant Country LTD-Mitchell volunteers are getting ready for our Annual Pheasant Banquet in the World's Only Corn Palace to kick-off the 2007 pheasant hunting season. Pheasant hunters flock to this area every year because of our outstanding hunting reputation and the great hospitality extended to them. According to the South Dakota Game Fish, and Parks website, over 29% of non-resident hunters and 65% of the resident hunters reported participating in the regular opening weekend in South Dakota with over 290,000 birds bagged. You can see it is a very exciting evening with lots of enthusiasm for the start of the pheasant season. We again expect over 650 people at this night's event featuring an auction of original wildlife art by Mark Anderson, John Green and James Green, among other great auction items. Attendees also enjoy the many games, raffles and a roast pheasant dinner served by a local caterer.

Look what's happening:

- Gun Pyramid – with 10 guns on three levels and a bonus gun
- Big Gun Raffle – 1 in 100 chance for a Weatherby Athena III 12 gauge shotgun, 2nd place – Winchester Model 70, 3rd place – case of Federal ammo Sponsored by Endorf, Lurken & Olson and by CorTrust Bank
- Pistol raffle
- Youth Gun Pyramid & Youth Gun Raffle with special gun donated by Dr. Holum
- Auction items – to name a few--close to twenty items — custom designed pistol donated by Lucid/Clem Boyd & a prairie dog hunt, one custom designed gun from Boyds' Gunstock Industries, special pair of Remington DU 870's donated by Dr. Howe, real buffalo robe, a rustic Rosemary Mellette inlaid table, a Vizsla puppy
- New this year – a mini-chopper with Pheasant Country's logo custom painted
- Chance to win an ATV or golf cart – with our lively Dice Game – a lucky roll of five 6's make you the winner!!
- Numerous raffles including the Federal shell pyramid, the electric trap thrower, a puppy and many fun games
- Chance to win Federal shot shells throughout the raffles and games
- Many unique items on the Silent Auction tables

Doors will open at 5:00 p.m., with a cash bar. Get there early to get your favorite seat and have a chance to win some door prizes. To purchase tickets see the form on back of newsletter or go to our web site at www.pheasantcountry.org. By buying a ticket for \$45 and completing the ticket stub, you become a member of this fine organization. Each PLC landowner/contract holder will receive a special card that entitles them to a free ticket.

*Thank you to our
major contributors!*



Thank You to Our Many Loyal Members and Supporters!!

We want to say thanks to those who have attended in the past and supported our organization and especially to the local businesses in Mitchell and the surrounding area who have made generous donations of merchandise, services and cash donations to make this event possible each year. A special thanks to CorTrust Bank for their tellers and help in serving as our in-house bank at the Banquet.



LITTLE POINTER!!

Anderson Kennels has once again donated a well bred Vizsla pup to be placed on our great line-up of auction items. This puppy has great blood lines with over five champions in its pedigree and whelped on July 31st with seven littermates. The sire is two generations removed from Hungary where the Vizsla breed originated. Mike and Mavis Anderson are the owners of Anderson Kennels who provide pet boarding, training,

hunting dog conditioning and have a Vizsla and Lab stud service along with pups for sale. Mike says that the sire and the dam are hunting guide dogs that retrieve well and naturally back each other's points. They also make loving family pets. For more information visit their website at www.andersoncountrykennels.com or call 605-996-1618.

GET YOUR SHOTGUNS READY – BIRD NUMBERS EXPECTED TO BE BEST IN MANY, MANY YEARS!

An article that was on the front page of Mitchell's newspaper, The Daily Republic, on September 4th, announced that pheasant numbers statewide are up by 23% according to a brood count taken along 110 routes across the pheasant range. Doug Hansen, State Wildlife Director for the Game, Fish and Parks Department said that South Dakota has not been blessed with such a large pheasant population since four decades ago. "When we last saw numbers like this, it was in the early 1960's". It was reported that the number of broods that were seen increased by 15% from last year, and the average number of chicks per brood increased by 11%. Hansen said that the increase is due to good weather and habitat, and the habitat is provided by the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) which idles about 1.4 million acres of South Dakota farm land. He encourages concerned landowners, hunters and others to push Congress to include strong conservation provisions in the new Farm Bill that keep CRP acres at the level needed to support pheasants. The state is due to lose about 296,000 acres of CRP in the next year in the current program, he said.

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE

Also, please note for those who need public transportation around town, Palace Transit will be available to transport people during the day and evenings. Palace Transit will be transporting people from motels to the Pheasant Country Banquet and back to the motel on October 19. Pheasant Country LTD wants all who visit and hunt to remain safe, before, during and after the hunt. Make arrangements by calling (605) 995-8440 or cellular (605) 999-8440.



PHEASANT RECIPES

Calling all chefs who know how to prepare tasty pheasant entrees or dishes!

Do you have a special recipe you would like to share with all of the web site readers? What is your favorite pheasant recipe?

We are looking for recipes to post to our web site. Please email us at info@pheasantcountry.org or send to Pheasant Country LTD, P O Box 807, Mitchell, SD 57301. We would love to hear from you!

HUNTERS!

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PHEASANT COUNTRY LTD FACTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Pheasant Country LTD (PCL) is a 501 C-3 organization that was founded in 1985 by Mitchell businessmen, and there were 18 landowners involved in its first year. We are a local sportsmen's organization dedicated to improving pheasant and wildlife habitat in the Mitchell area as well as promoting the shooting sports for youth.

Recently, Pheasant Country was the major sponsor of a new Great Plains grass drill purchased early this year to be used by Davison County Conservation District. This will replace the Tru-Ax grass drill purchased by Pheasant Country for the Davison County Conservation District two years ago. This drill is designed for the no-till grass seeding and is 15'3". Dean Strand is the operator who has reported that in 2007 we have planted over 2,000 acres of grass and alfalfa. With the previous drill that was purchased by PCL, Strand reported that we had planted over 1,600 acres in 2006, which he felt was an unbelievable year until 2007. The seeding was done in Aurora, Davison, Hanson, Miner and Sanborn counties. Pheasant Country has over \$46,000 invested in the grass drill. We hope many of the area landowners will take advantage of this great piece of conservation equipment. Please contact Steve Vlieger at the Farm Service Agency in Mitchell at 605-996-1564 for details. He can assist in determining the best type of grass and cover and whether cost share is available.

WAYS IN WHICH PHEASANT COUNTRY IS INVOLVED:

Landowner Participation:

- 260 landowners/PCL contract holders set aside 10 acres wildlife food plots within a 35 mile radius of Mitchell
- The majority of funds raised at the Banquet go towards these landowners to offset some of the expenses towards putting in their wildlife food plots. \$672,000 has been paid since 1985.
- Seed GiveAway held in April where PCL landowners have the opportunity to obtain free seed for their wildlife food plots. Thanks to the generosity of Syngenta Seeds Incorporated and Monsanto Company for their donations we were able to plant many food plots. Also thanks to local restaurants and grocery stores for providing rolls and coffee. **Thanks especially to Big Green Fertilizer Company for the use of their facilities.**
- Annual Landowner Steak Fry held in February where they receive their reimbursement checks for putting in wildlife food plots according to their contract. This year each landowner received a \$140 check.
- Participating landowners receive up to \$500 over two years for 8 row minimum shelterbelts if they have signed up in the program through their local Conservation District. Call Mike Kuchera for details at (605) 996-1120 or email us at info@pheasantcountry.org

Community Involvement:

- Club has great involvement from their over 50 active volunteer members. To be on the volunteer roster, please contact info@pheasantcountry.org
- Participate in the Corn Palace Stampede chili cook-off
- Participate as a Ducks Unlimited local sponsor
- Hold Banquet annually in the World's Only Corn Palace
- Make annual contribution to Palace Transit



Photo of PCL Volunteers Passing out Seed in April at Big Green Fertilizer Company – Pheasant Country Landowners/Contract Holders all have the opportunity to receive seed on a first-come, first-serve basis

 **the Tumbleweed**
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Support Shooting Sports and Public Hunting:

- Make annual donation of \$2500 to the Mitchell Trap Club to sponsor the State Youth Trap Shoot Championships. Over \$28,000 has been donated since 1996.
- Purchased ammunition for the 4-H shooting sports
- Hold annual Youth Pheasant Hunt – donated by Rooster Roost Ranch - giving away a shotgun to a lucky youth who passes the Hunt Safe test
- Have made donations to the Indoor Gun Range, Mitchell Trap Club, shared in purchases of two public hunting areas in Miner County and in Davison County



Received lots of letters from the youth who attended the 2007 South Dakota Junior Trapshooting Championships held at the Mitchell Trap Club on August 4 - 5. Jerry Opbroek, of Mitchell, coordinator of this event said that without the support of Pheasant Country this trapshoot would probably cease to exist unless some other major contributor could be found. 150 youth ages 10

through 17 participated. 40 adults shot in the "over 17" competition. Pheasant Country has been donating to this event since 1996.

A thank you letter . . .

from Tessa from Gordon, Nebraska stood out as she enclosed the photo. "Thank you Pheasant Country, LTD so very much for supporting the South Dakota State Trapshoot. I had a ton of fun there, and I hope you keep supporting the South Dakota State Trapshoot. It is nice that people from Nebraska can come and have a great time. Thanks again." We sent her a letter asking if we could put this in our newsletter and where she got all of the trophies. She said she got all of the trophies at our trapshoot. She got the 1st Open Lady Sub-Junior 16 yard, then 1st in Open Lady Handicap and 1st in Open Lady Doubles. Way to shoot Tessa!

Another neat thank you from Jesse read, "Hey this is Jesse. I went to the South Dakota State Trap Shoot. It was fun and now I am thanking you guys and gals for sponsoring the trap shoot and hope you do it again." The Davison Co 4-H Shooting Sports members sent Pheasant Country a special thank you letter as well as many others.

Pheasant Country Board of Directors

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Rick Herrold, Vice President	Brad Zimmerman, Secretary
Debra Kuchera, Treasurer (Ex-officio)	

Board Members

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GUN RAFFLE

~ 2007 ~

BIG GUN RAFFLE

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1st prize - Weatherby, Athena III, 12 ga. Over & Under with a fine Turkish Walnut Stock and hardcase - \$2,800 value

2nd prize - Winchester M-70, Stainless Steel, 223 Caliber Rifle

3rd prize - 1 case of Federal shot shells

GUN PYRAMID

Level 1

Winchester 1885 30-06 Cal.

Level II

STEYR Mountain 25-06 Cal
Browning Hunter 12 Ga.
L.C. Smith SxS 20 Ga.

Level III

Mossberg Silver 410 Ga.
Winchester M-70 7mm Cal.
Ruger M-77 17 Cal
Savage M-116 22-250 Cal
Henry Golden Boy 22 Cal.
Remington Wingmaster 20 ga

Bonus Gun

Browning Silver Hunter 20 Ga.

Gun Raffle Pyramid Raffle Tickets are 1 chance on each level for \$40 or \$100 for 3 chances on each level plus a chance to the bonus gun.

If you would like to purchase a raffle ticket, please indicate on the form on the back of the newsletter or contact a board member.



MITCHELL WELCOMES PHEASANT HUNTERS!

The Mitchell businesses and Mitchell Area Chamber of Commerce want to welcome all of the pheasant hunters who will be coming to our area to pursue the wily ringnecks and to enjoy a fun time together. We hope you have a wonderful and relaxing experience in our community and in the great outdoors. Please remember to hunt safe and don't drink and drive. For information about the Mitchell community, accommodations, restaurants, hunting services and lodges, please contact the Corn Palace Convention Visitors Bureau at their web site www.cornpalace.org. Toll-free 1-866-273-CORN (2676).

Hunters can get their licenses on-line before coming to Mitchell at www.sdgifp.info or once you arrive in Mitchell at these establishments as listed on the Game, Fish and Parks website: Amstar, Cabela's, Coborn's, County Fair Foods, Erickson's, Grahams Interstate BP, Jack's Sinclair, Jmart, Kmart, Leader Sporting Goods, Rendezvous Emporium and Walmart. Cost of license for residents is \$49 for a Combination license and for non-residents \$110 for a small game license which is for two, 5 day periods. A Youth Small Game license is available for ages 12-15 for two, 5 day periods. Of special note is the special Youth Pheasant season the weekend of October 6-8, which is open statewide on private and public ground to both resident and non-resident youth. There is a Residents Only season for public ground only during October 13-15. Shooting preserves can offer hunting from September 1 to March 31. See the Game, Fish and Parks website for details and other license fees at www.sdgifp.info.

The season runs October 20 through January 6. Daily limit is 3 cock pheasants, with a possession limit of no more than 15 cock birds. Shooting hours are noon central daylight time to sunset, October 20-26, and 10 a.m. central standard time to sunset for the rest of the season. Review the Hunting Handbook for proper identification to be left on birds and other legalities. Which is available at www.sdgifp.info as well as at license agents.



Davison County Conservation District's new Great Plains no-till grass drill. The new drill cost close to \$50,000 with funds coming from area sportmen's groups - 3/4 funding from Pheasant Country, 1/8th from Ducks Unlimited and 1/8th from the National Turkey Federation.



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Complete and Mail or Fax:

Pheasant Country LTD, P.O. Box 807, Mitchell, South Dakota 57301 or Fax: 605-996-1232

- Yes, I want to support your organization by making a cash donation of \$ _____
- Yes, I would like buy a \$100 raffle ticket on the Big Gun - a 1 in 100 chance to win:
1st Prize: Weatherby, Athena III, 12 Gu. O/U w/ Turkish Walnut Stock and a hardcase - \$2,800 retail value
2nd Prize: Winchester M-70, Stainless Steel, 223 Caliber Rifle **1st Prize:** 1 Case of Federal Shot Shells
- Yes, I would like to buy a raffle ticket on the Gun Pyramid - 1 for \$40 _____ or 3 for \$100 _____
- Yes, I want to purchase ____ banquet tickets for October 19, 2007 at \$45.00 each (*includes membership dues*)

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed
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This form is also available on the website: www.pheasantcountry.org