



Washington County Pheasants Forever 6th Annual Youth Hunt

October 9th 2010



On October 9th, 2010, Washington County Pheasants Forever Chapter held its 6th annual Youth Hunt. There were 15 youth participants, ages 11 to 15, who attended the event along with 37 adult volunteers who helped make this event a success.

Each youth was teamed with a mentor to work with them one-on-one throughout the day's activities. Mentors helped teach safety to the youth through many activities including shooting blue rock, stationary targets, learning how to reload shotgun shells and how to locate downed birds. A representative from the Nebraska Game and Parks also instructed youth about hunting laws and the proper way to ask a landowner for permission to hunt on their property.

The highlight of the day was a live pheasant hunt that occurred at the farms of Rod Jensen and brothers, Curt and Mick Jensen. The youth, guided by their mentors, experienced a very realistic field hunting experience using bird dogs controlled by a dog handler. This year each youth participant was able to take a shot at a Ring-Neck Pheasant and just fewer than 50% were successful.

After the events of the day, the Washington County Pheasants Forever Chapter and Wimmer's Meat Products provided lunch for everyone. Those who completed the youth hunt received a hunting vest provided by a joint partnership of Pheasants Forever, Nebraska Game & Parks and Boyt Harness. All in all it was a very successful day full of education, sportsmanship, and fun.



Here are just some highlights of the event

Participants and Mentors receive a Hunter Safety refresher session prior to the day's activities.



Youth participate at the Blue-Rock shooting stations to practice their skills before the field hunt experience.



Mentors provide detailed guidance on marksmanship skills.



Local Conservation Officer conducts session on Nebraska Pheasant laws and how to obtain permission to hunt on private land and provide a refresher of hunter ethics and game laws.



Mentor carefully demonstrates safe .22 rifle firearm handling and observes marksmanship skills at the rifle range station.



Mentors illustrate the shot pattern at distance on target at the shotgun safety demonstration station. The effects of a shotgun hit to a water jug drives home the importance of safety when in the field.



Dog Handler gives youth and mentors a field procedure & safety brief before entering the hunting area. Youth also learn how to locate down birds without a dog by using distance estimation and grid coordinate methods.



Youth keeps a sharp eye out for a shot under the supervision of the mentor and dog handler as they walk a field.



Sweet success after working the native tall grass CRP ground.



Youth, Dog Handler, Dog and Mentor enter a game field. Youth successfully takes a solid shot, team examines the bird after the dog retrieves it.



Successful youth dress and clean their bounty under the supervision of mentors. The proper field preparation of harvested game is an important part of the hunting experience focusing on the wise use of the harvested game.



Youth participating in the Hand Loading Instruction station where youth get a refresher course on the components of shotgun ammunition and learn the basics of shotgun shell reloading in a safety controlled environment.



Youth enjoy a lunch provided by the Pheasants Forever Chapter and Wimmer's Meat Products.

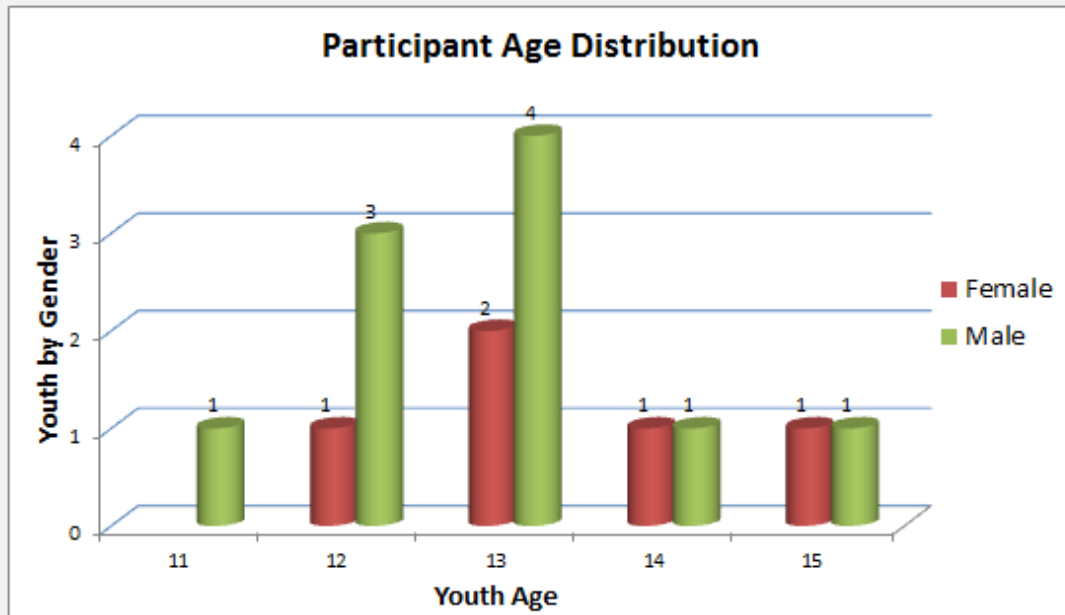


Each of the youth participants were presented a Pheasants Forever and Nebraska Game & Parks donated hunting vest.



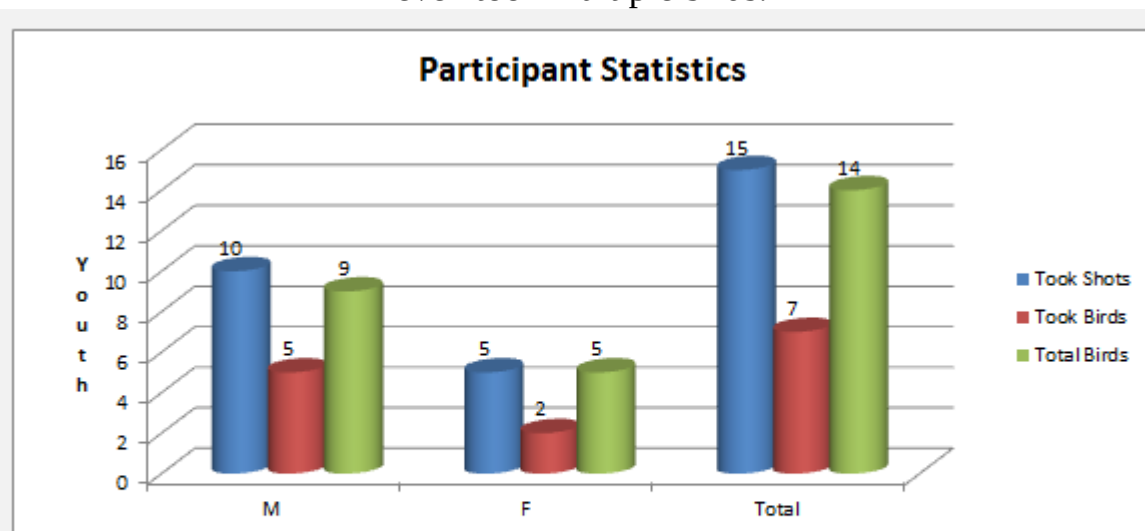
2010 Youth Hunt Statistics

This year's hunt had 15 youth participants, 5 females and 10 males ranging from 11 to 15.



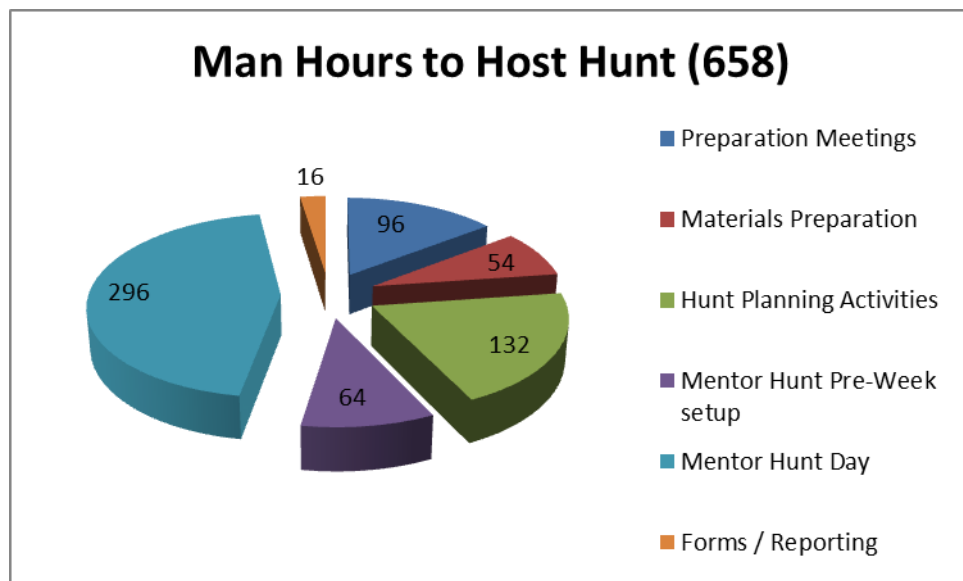
Age	Female	Male
11		1
12	1	3
13	2	4
14	1	1
15	1	1
Totals	5	10
	15	

All 15 youth were able to get shots at birds this year and almost half were successful and some even took multiple birds.

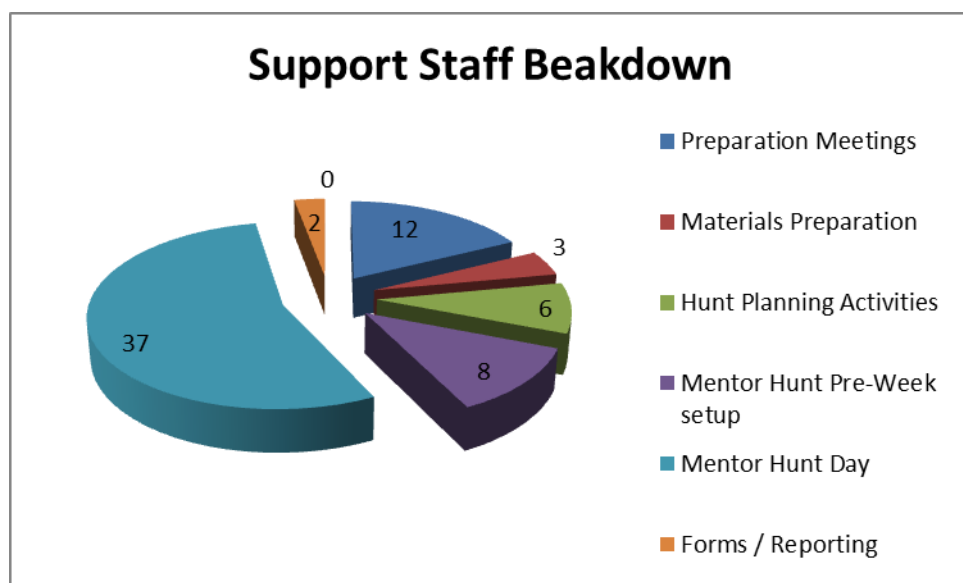


Hunted	M	F	Total
Took Shots	10	5	15
Took Birds	5	2	7
Total Birds	9	5	14

Hosting the annual hunt requires considerable volunteer efforts each year. This year over 650 hours were invested by the volunteers supporting various tasks.



The number of volunteer staff members that participated in various parts of the hunt preparation and execution.



Each annual hunt takes considerable funding. This year over \$3000.00 was used to accomplish the hunt, 62.5% from the Washington County PF chapter and 37.5% in donations from various organizations.

