

Washington County Pheasants Forever 7th Annual Youth Hunt

September 24th 2011



On September 24th, 2011, Washington County Pheasants Forever Chapter held its 7th Annual Youth Hunt. There were 16 youth participants, ages 12 to 14, who attended the event along with 39 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 Conservation Officer 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 75% were successful – this is up from just over 50% in 2010.

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.



Dog Handlers prepare for the dog demonstration.



Dog is on point to a bird during the demonstration



Youth participate at the Blue-Rock shooting stations to practice their skills before the Field Hunting 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.



Proper Sight Picture and Shooting Position are key to accuracy.



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.



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.



Dog Handler and youth examine a bird just after a successful shot.



Sweet success after working the native tall grass CRP ground.



Youth, Dog Handler, Dog and Mentors in the field when Youth successfully takes a solid shot, team examines the bird after the dog retrieves it.



Youth provide bird tag and success tracking information for the event to meet reporting regulations and allow youth to legally transport their birds.



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.

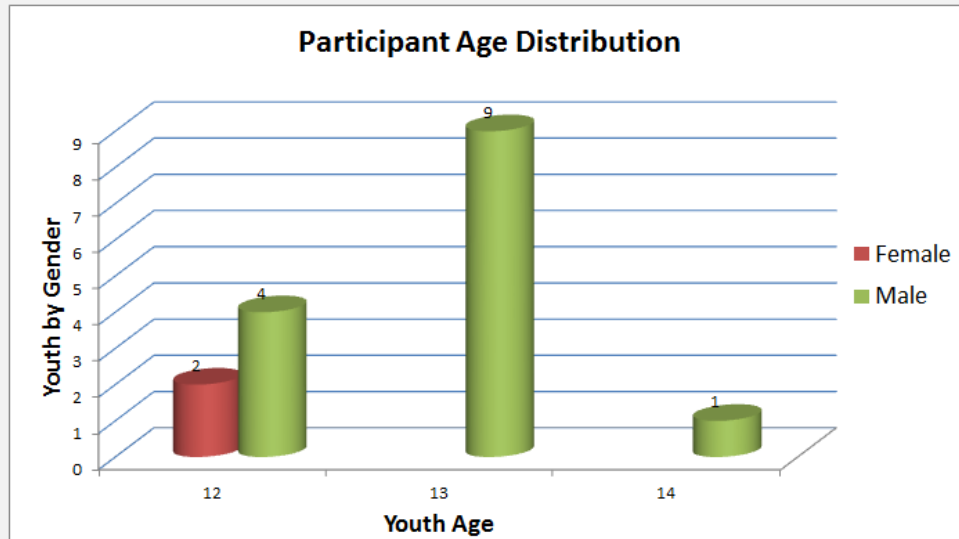


Each of the youth participants were presented a Pheasants Forever and Nebraska Game & Parks donated hunting vest.



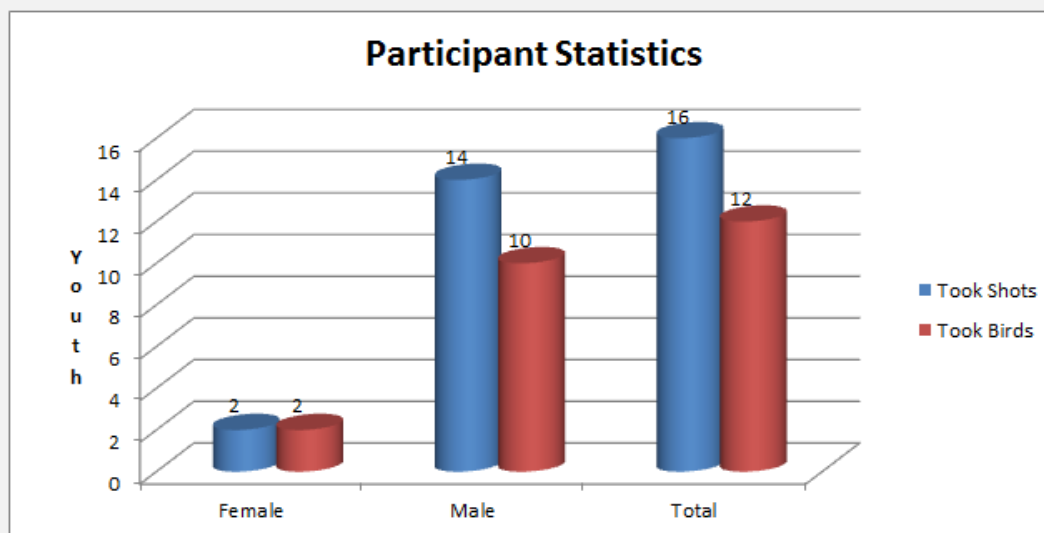
2011 Youth Hunt Statistics

This year's hunt had 16 youth participants, 2 females and 14 males ranging from 12 to 14.



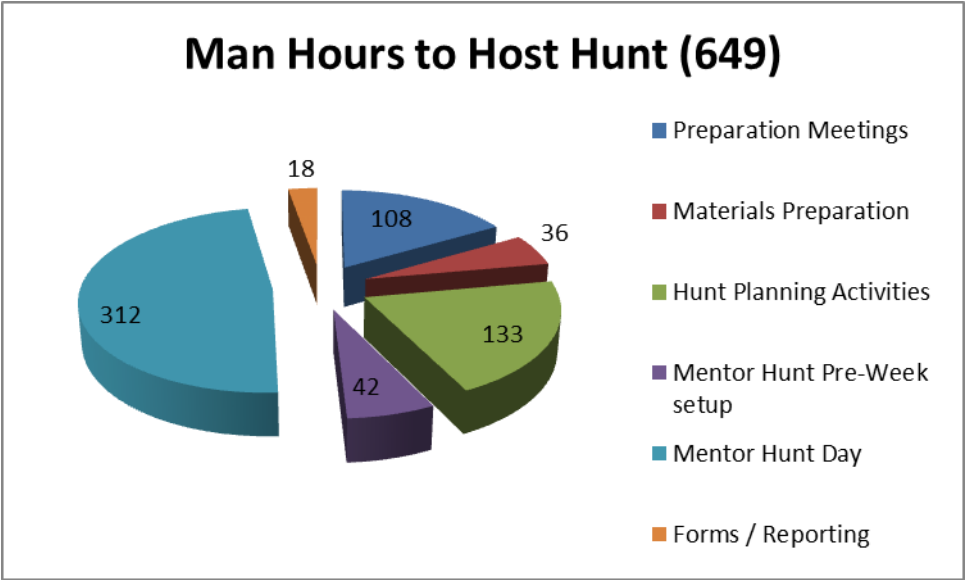
Age	Female	Male
12	2	4
13		9
14		1
Totals	2	14
	16	

All 16 youth were able to get shots at birds this year and 75% were successful and some even took multiple birds.

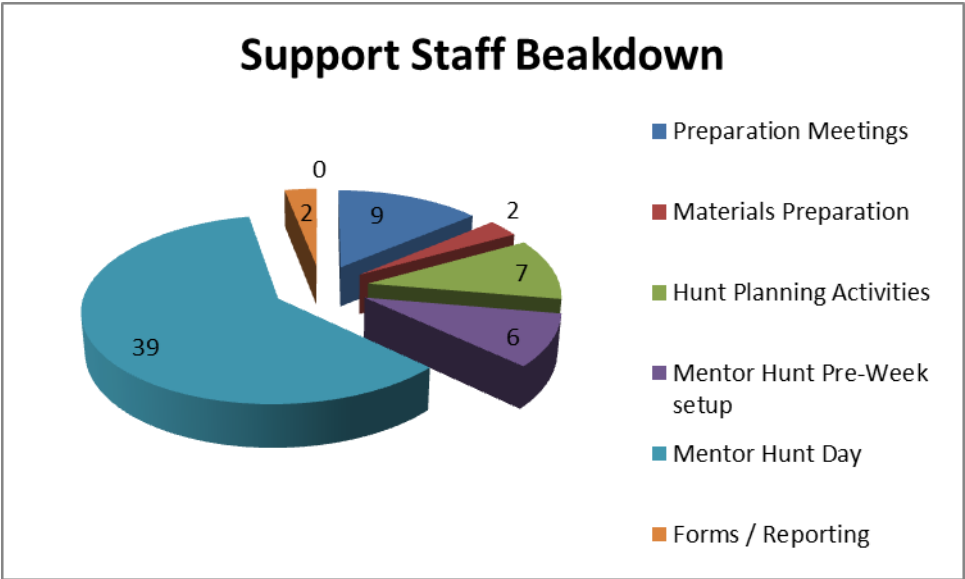


Field Hunt	Female	Male	Total
Took Shots	2	14	16
Took Birds	2	10	12

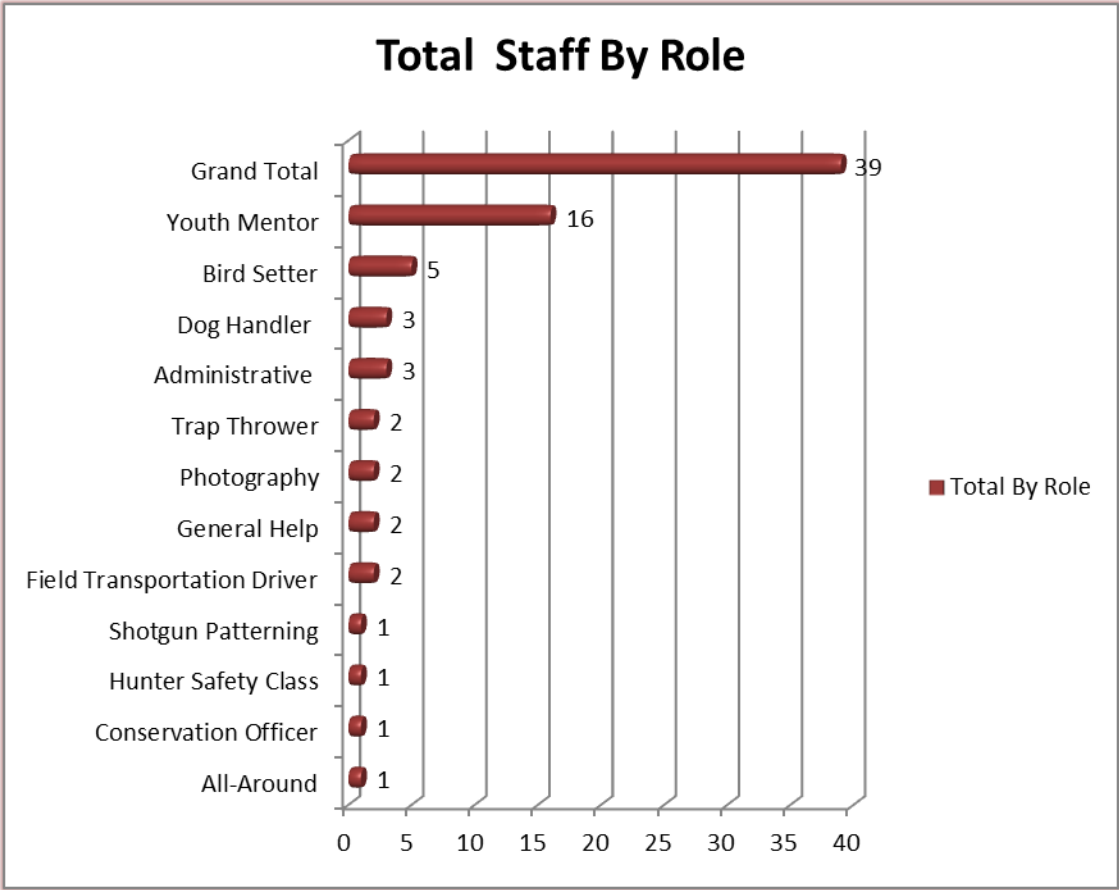
Hosting the annual hunt requires considerable volunteer efforts each year. This year pproximtely 649 hours were invested by the volunteers supporting various tasks.



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



The Staff Roles on the day of the hunt break down the 39 volunteers as follows:



Each annual hunt takes considerable funding. This year pproximely \$2,669.45 was used to accomplish the hunt, 55% from the Washington County PF chapter and 44% in donations from various people nd organizations.

