



Washington County Pheasants Forever 8th Annual Youth Hunt

October 13th 2012



On Saturday October 13th, 2012, Washington County Pheasants Forever Chapter held its 8th Annual Youth Hunt. There were 16 youth participants, ages 12 to 14, who attended the event along with 44 adult volunteers who helped make this event a tremendous success. We thought the rain was going to make the event challenging based on up to the minute forecasts, falling rain as the staff traveled to the event site. Mother nature ended up shining on us as the staff gathered just before 6:00am the rain slowed to a sprinkle and by the time setup was complete it had stopped and began clearing, the event wrapped up with the sun shining and all had a pleasant experience.

Each youth was teamed with a mentor to work with them one-on-one throughout the day's activities. Mentors shared hunting experiences, embraced safety to the youth through many activities including shooting blue rock, the .22 range, learning how to clean shotguns and how to locate downed birds in the field. Jon Reeves our Local Conservation Officer from the Nebraska Game and Parks also instructed youth about Nebraska 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 all but one youth participant was able to take a shot at a Ring-Neck Pheasant and 69% were successful – this is on par with 2011 at 75% and still 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.



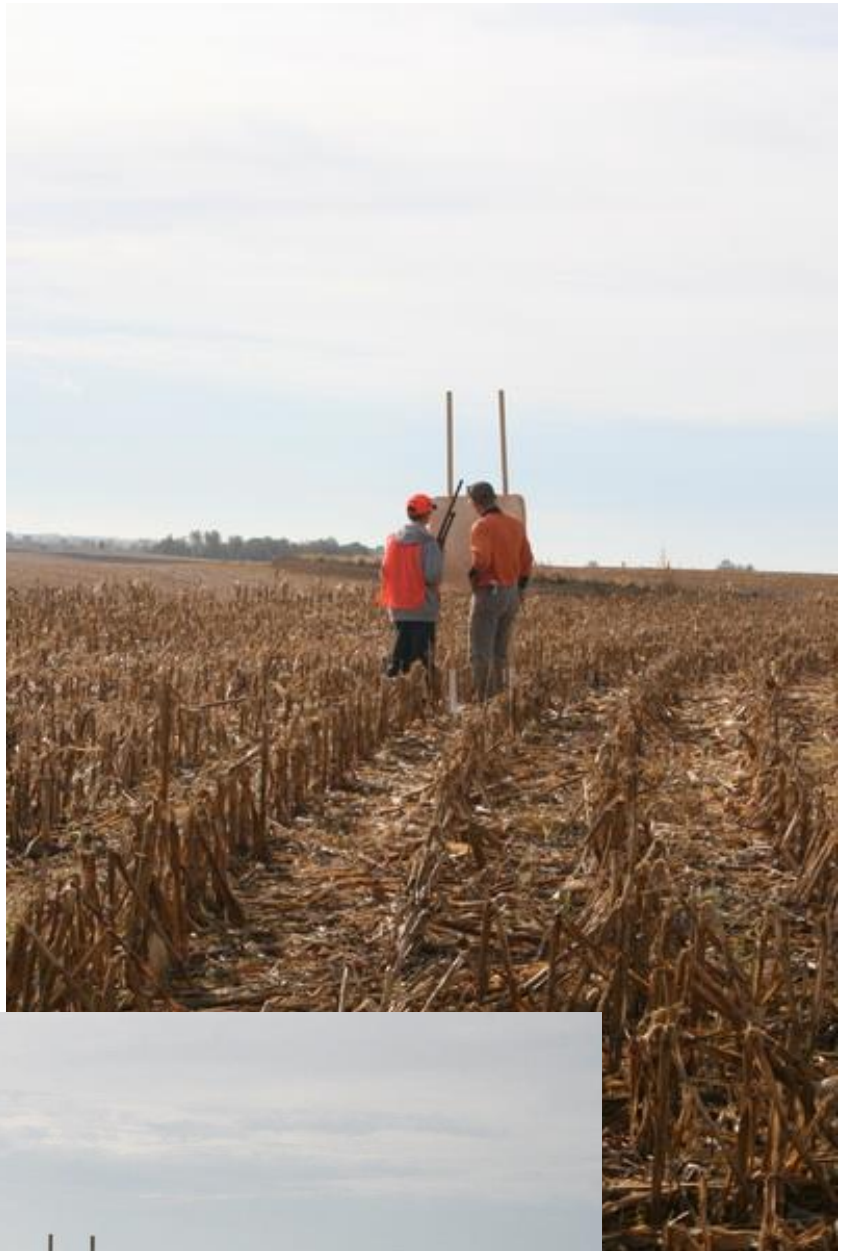
Dog Handlers prepare for the dog demonstration.



Dog is on point to a bird during the demonstration



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 participate at the Blue-Rock shooting station to practice their skills before the Field Hunt experience.



Mentors provide detailed guidance on marksmanship skills.



Local Conservation Officer Jon Reeves 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 the key to accuracy.



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 illustrates pheasant flight pattern.



Mentor guides youth as the take a shot at a Pheasant



Sweet success after working the native tall grass CRP ground.



Youth successfully takes a solid shot.



Successful youth and their bounty.



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 get a refresher in proper shotgun cleaning practices.





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

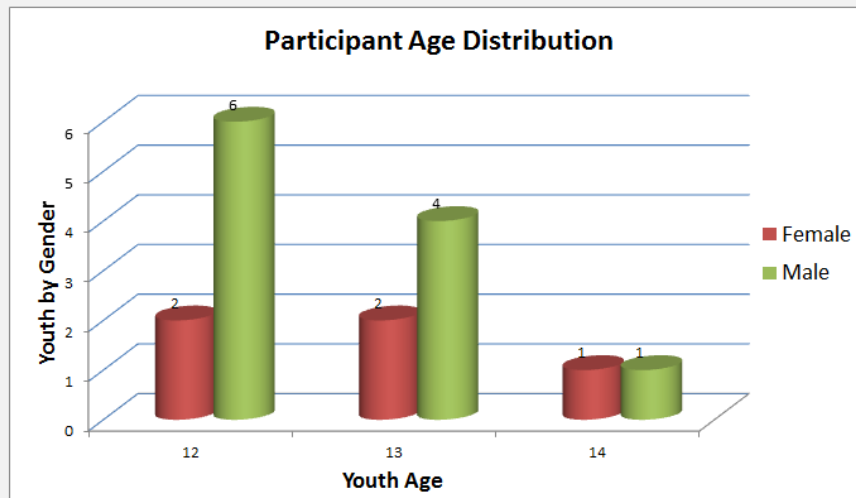


Each of the youth participants were presented a Pheasants Forever and Nebraska Game & Parks donated hunting vest.



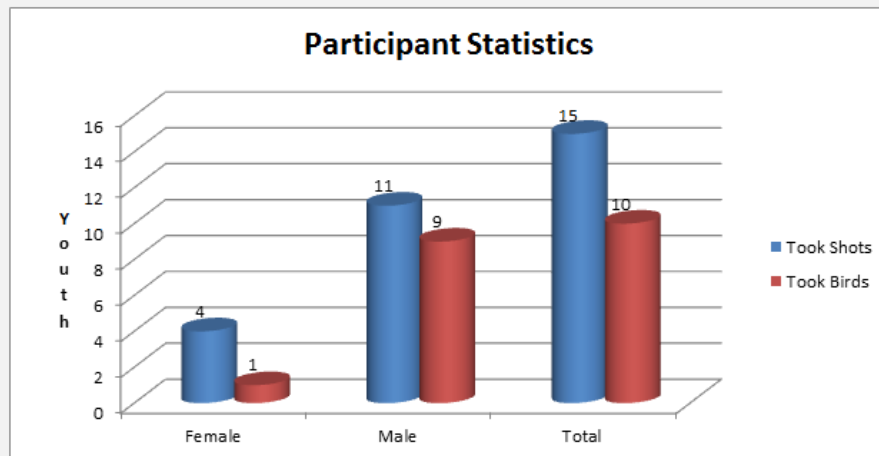
2012 Youth Hunt Statistics

This year's hunt had 16 youth participants, 5 Young Ladies and 11 Young Men ranging from 12 to 14.



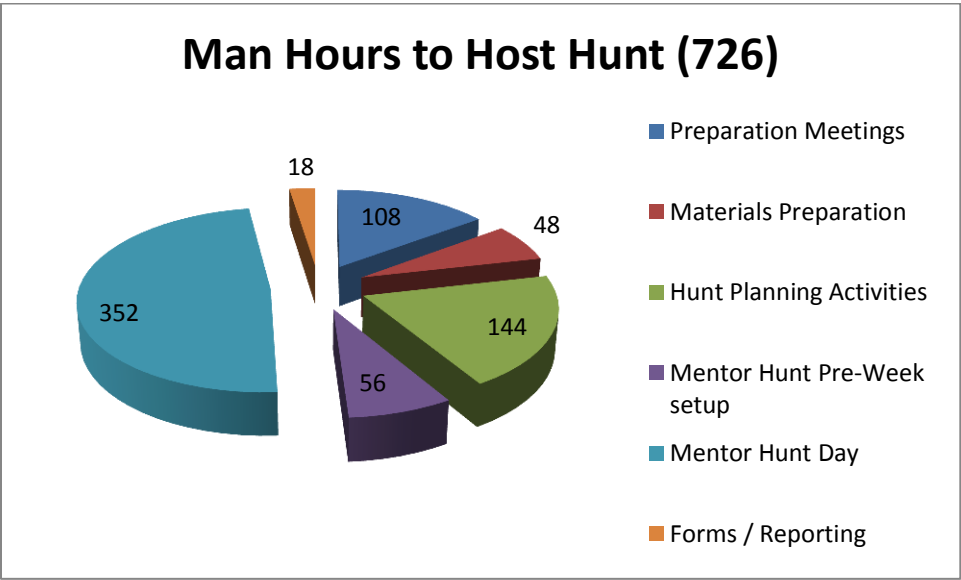
Age	Female	Male
12	2	6
13	2	4
14	1	1
Totals	5	11
	16	

15 youth were able to get shots at birds this year and 69% were successful and some took home multiple birds.

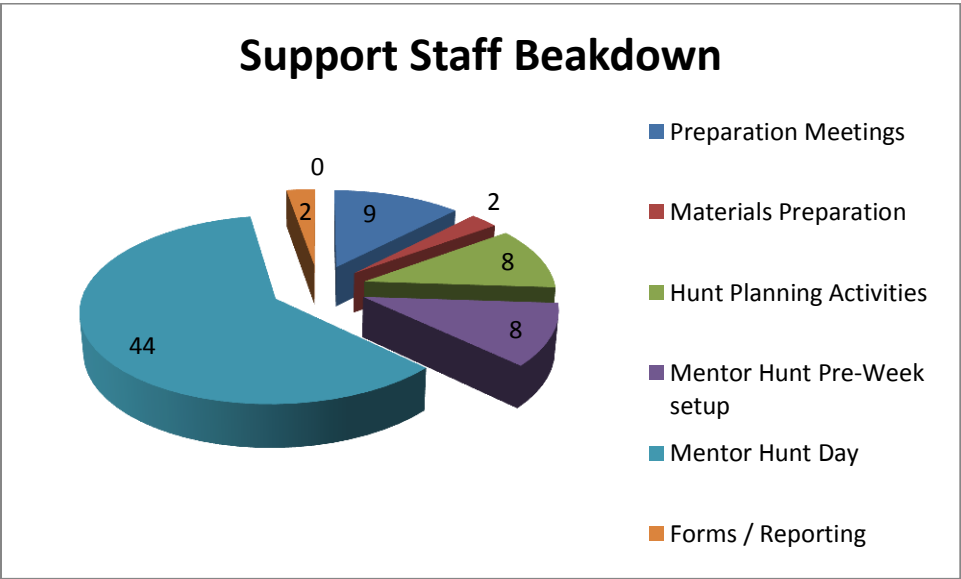


Field Hunt	Female	Male	Total
Took Shots	4	11	15
Took Birds	1	9	10

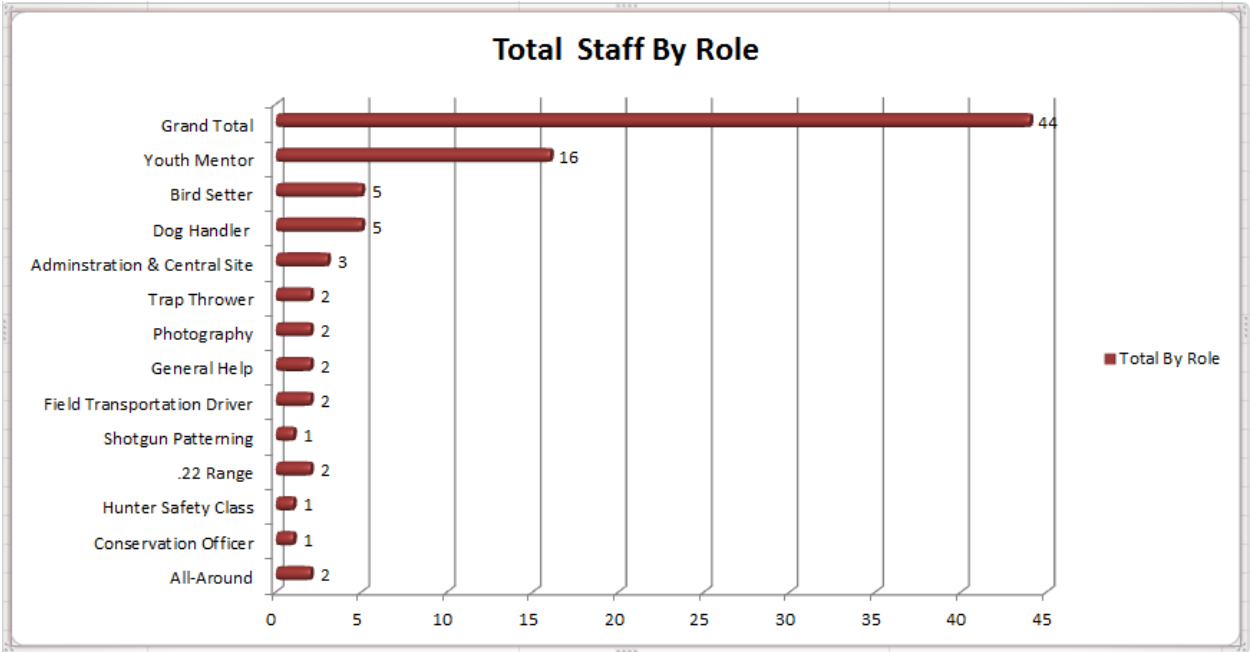
Hosting the annual hunt requires considerable volunteer efforts each year. This year pproximely 726 hours were invested by 44 volunteers supporting various tasks.



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 44 volunteers as follows:



Each annual hunt takes considerable funding. This year pproximely \$3,324.40 was used to accomplish the hunt, 63% from the Washington County PF chapter and 37% in donations from various people and organizations.

