



Washington County Pheasants Forever 9th Annual Mentored Youth Pheasant Hunt



September 28, 2013

On Saturday September 28, 2013, Washington County Pheasants Forever Chapter held its 9th Annual Mentored Youth Pheasant Hunt. There were 16 youth participants, ages 12 to 15, who attended the event along with 40 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 and falling rain as the staff traveled to the event site. Mother Nature ended up shining on us as the our outdoor events began around 9:00 am the rain slowed to a sprinkle and the event wrapped up with the sun shining and all had a pleasant although muddy 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 & Curt Jensen and Rodney Madsen. The youth, guided by their mentors, experienced a very realistic field hunting experience using bird dogs controlled by a dog handler. This year all youth participants were able to take a shot at a Ring-Neck Pheasant and 43.75% 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.



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 they take a shot at a Pheasant



Sweet success after working the native tall grass CRP ground.



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.





Fresh Pheasant was prepared so that each youth participant would be able to enjoy a taste of Pheasant.

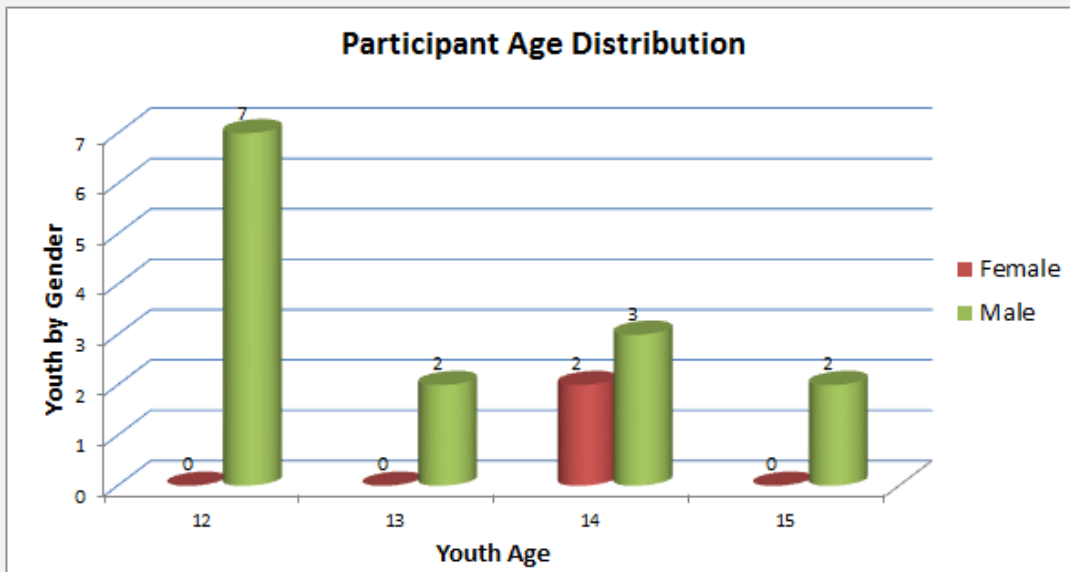


Each of the youth participants were presented a Pheasants Forever and Nebraska Game & Parks donated hunting vest.



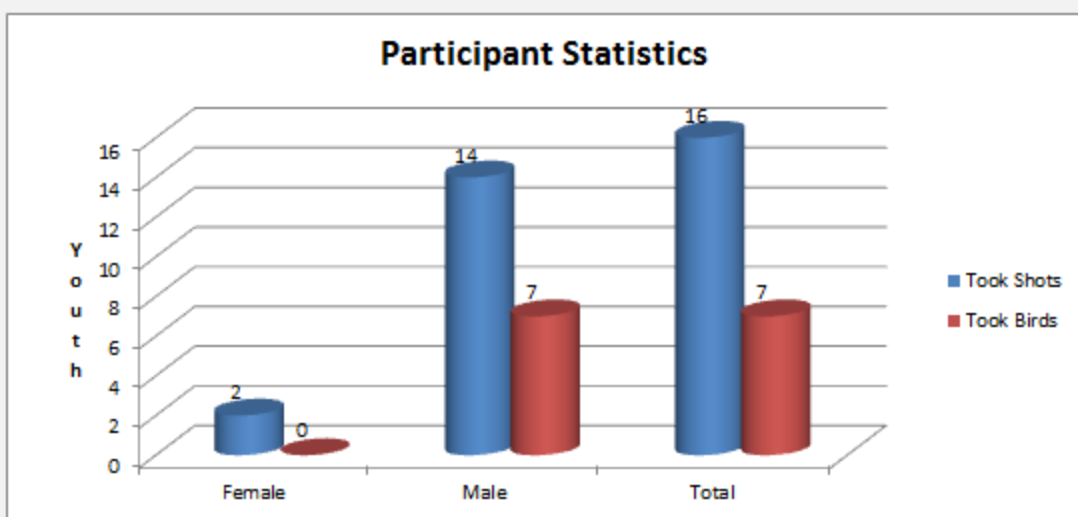
2013 Youth Hunt Statistics

This year's hunt had 16 youth participants, 2 Young Ladies and 14 Young Men ranging from 12 to 15.



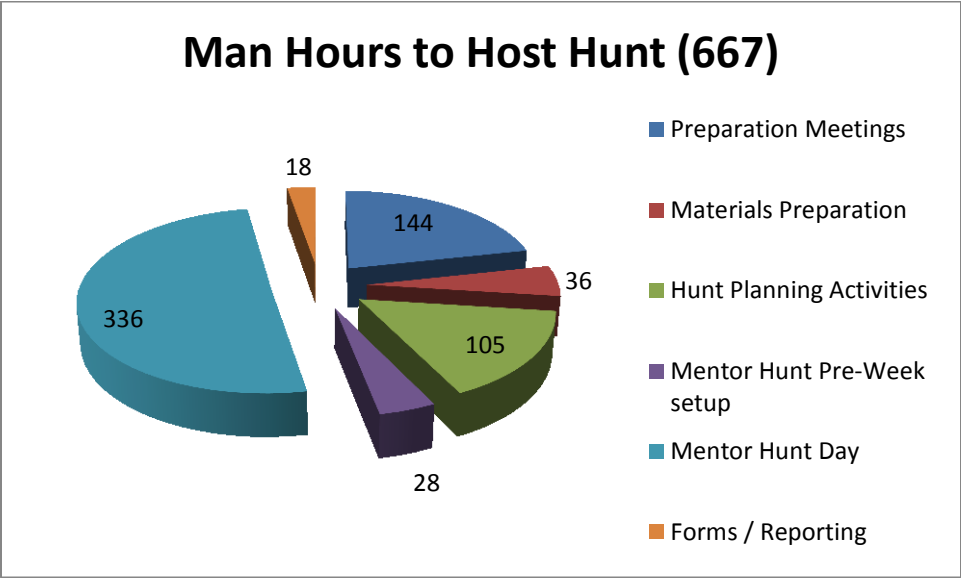
Age	Female	Male
12	0	7
13	0	2
14	2	3
15	0	2
Totals	2	14
	16	

All youth were able to get shots at birds this year and 43.75% were successful and some took home multiple birds.

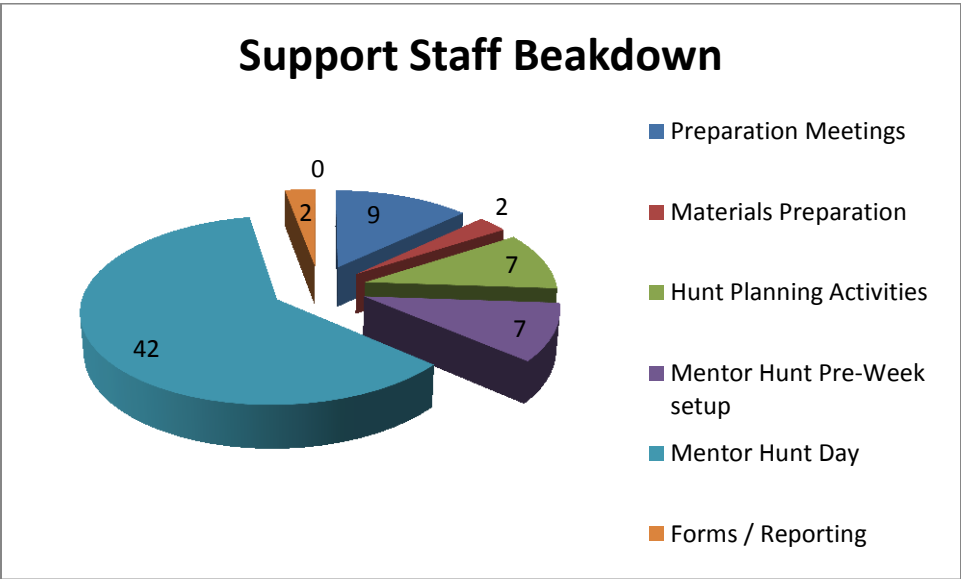


Field Hunt	Female	Male	Total
Took Shots	2	14	16
Took Birds	0	7	7

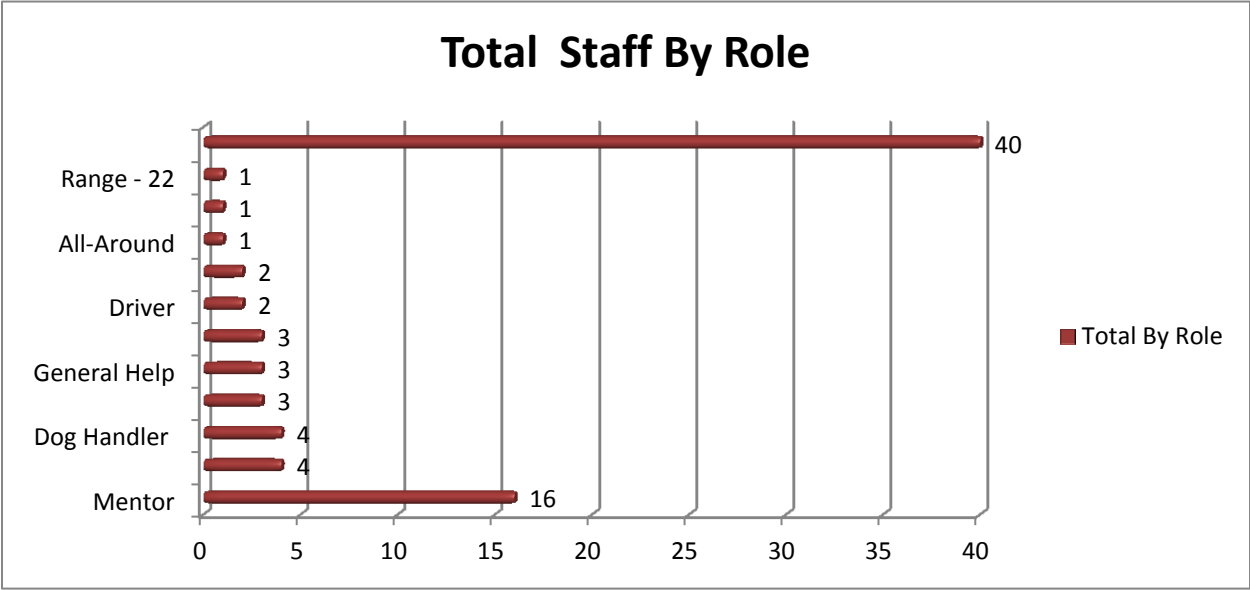
Hosting the annual hunt requires considerable volunteer efforts each year. This year pproximtely 667 hours were invested by 40 volunteers supporting various tasks.



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 40 volunteers as follows:



Each annual hunt takes considerable funding. This year pproximntely \$3,371.61 was used to accomplish the hunt, 65% from the Washington County PF chapter and 34% in donations from various people and organizations.

