

Washington County Pheasants Forever 15th Annual Mentored Youth Pheasant Hunt



September 21, 2019

On Saturday, September 21, 2019, Washington County Pheasants Forever Chapter held its 15th Annual Mentored Youth Pheasant Hunt. There were 8 youth participants, ages 12 to 15, who attended the event along with 37 volunteers who helped make this event a tremendous success. The crisp, mostly cloudy, 40-60 degree weather was perfect for all of our outdoor activities and we escaped the rain showers! Once again, we were supported by 7 volunteer staff from our local partner, Blair Youth Shooting Sports Club, which provided multiple discipline experience with youth from the club serving as coaches for shooting and gun cleaning. Adults from the club augmented our volunteer staff in various roles such as: mentors, shooting coaches, range cadre and other critical roles for the event. This was a great continuation of a very valuable partnership.

Each youth participant 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, learning how to clean shotguns and how to locate downed birds in the field. Dan Roberts, a retired Local Conservation Officer from the Nebraska Game and Parks, instructed youth about Nebraska hunting laws and the proper way to ask a landowner for permission to hunt on private property.

The highlight of the day was a live pheasant hunt that occurred at the Blair Youth Shooting Sports Club facility just outside of Blair, Nebraska. 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 7 of the 8 were successful.

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



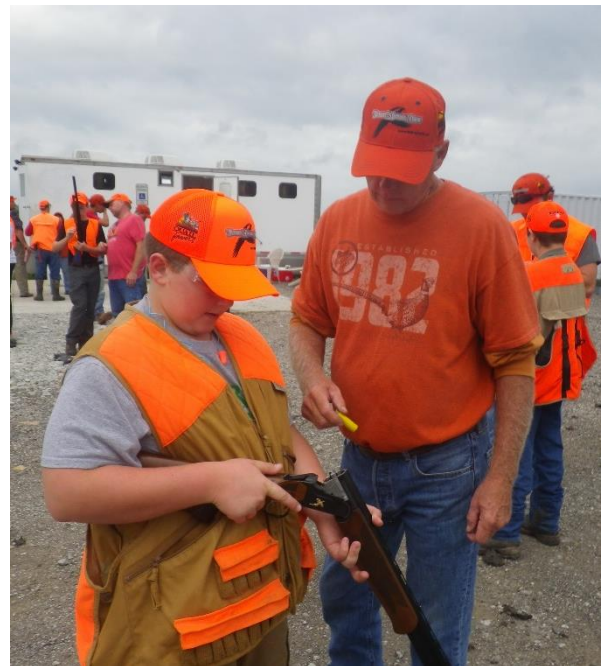


Our Agenda for 2019

Hunter Safety Refresher Session	Locating downed birds without a dog.	Taking care of your bounty, cleaning and transporting your birds
Shooting Clay Targets	Gun Cleaning and Safety	Asking permission to hunt.
Pheasant game law review	Guided Pheasant Hunt with Dogs and Mentors.	Shooting 5 Stand Activity

Here are just some highlights of the event

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





Dog Handler prepare for the dog demonstration.

Dogs are on point to a bird during the demonstration



Mentors illustrate the shot pattern at distance on target at the shotgun safety demonstration. 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. Two of the Blair Trap Team youth helpers offer their expertise to the youth participants along side the adult mentors.



Adult Mentors provide detailed guidance on marksmanship skills



Retired Conservation Officer Dan Roberts and Certified Nebraska Hunter Education Instructor Ed Olson 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.



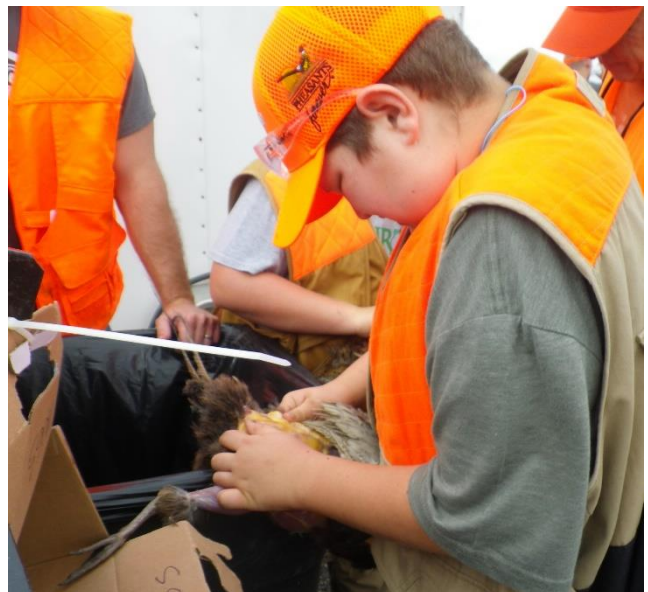
Youth keeps a sharp eye out for a shot under the supervision of the mentor and dog handler as they walk a field.



Sweet success.



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.



Participants get a perspectives of proper shotgun cleaning from to of the Blair Trap Team youth helpers.



Everyone enjoyed lunch provided by the Pheasants Forever Chapter. Fresh pheasant was prepared so that each youth participant would be able to enjoy a taste of pheasant.

We had a great group of volunteers that make our PF Mentored Youth Pheasant Hunt a success.



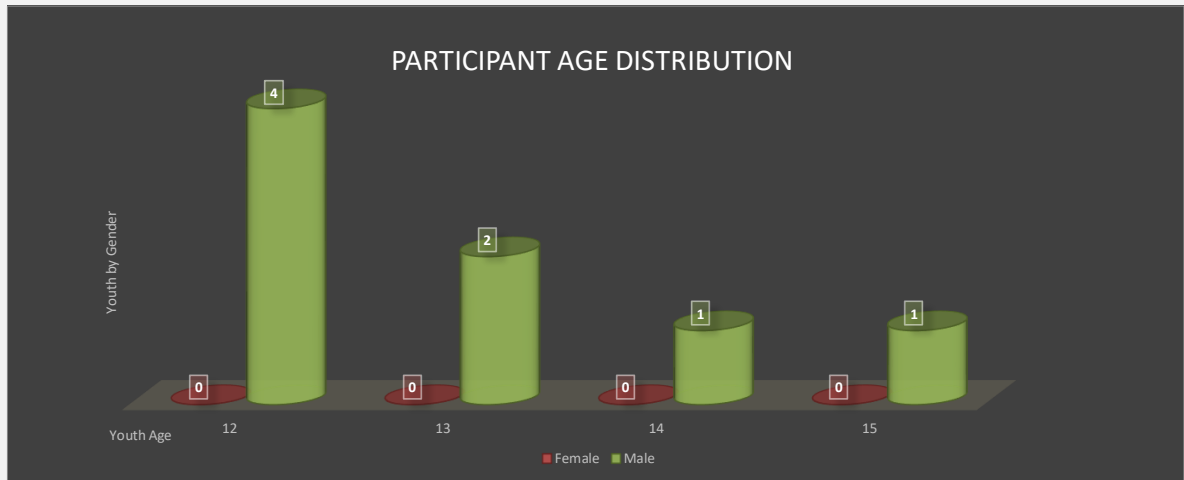


Each of the youth participants were presented a Pheasants Forever and Nebraska Game & Parks donated hunting vest.



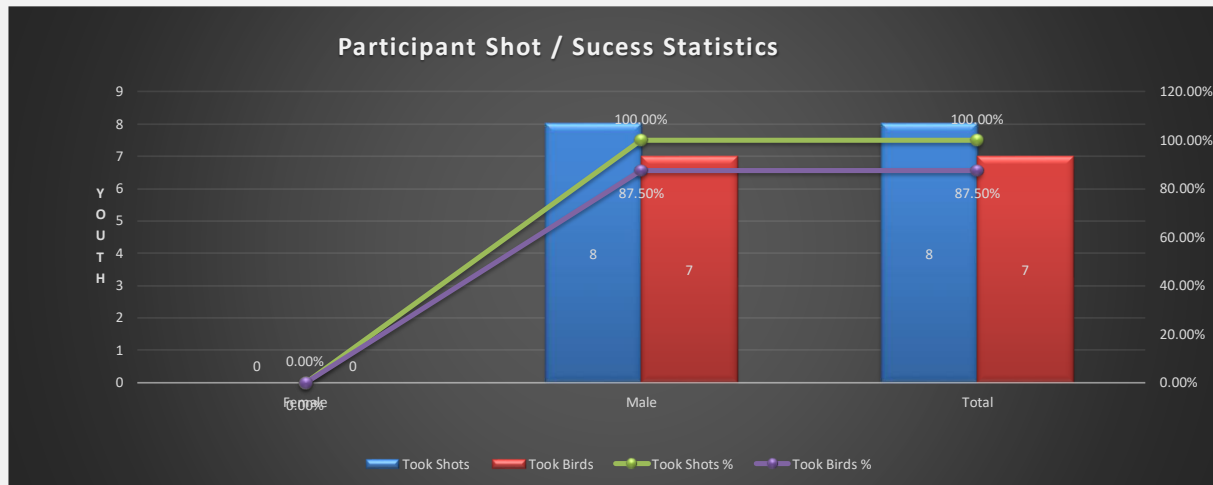
2019 Youth Hunt Statistics

This year's hunt had 8 youth participants, 8 Young Men ranging from 12 to 15 years of age.



Age	Female	Male
12	0	4
13	0	2
14	0	1
15	0	1
Totals	0	8

All the youth participants were able to get shots at birds this year and 87.5% (7 of 8) were successful and some took home multiple birds.



Field Hunt	Female	Male	Total
Participants	0	8	8
Took Shots	0	8	8
Took Shots %	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Took Birds	0	7	7
Took Birds %	0.00%	87.50%	87.50%

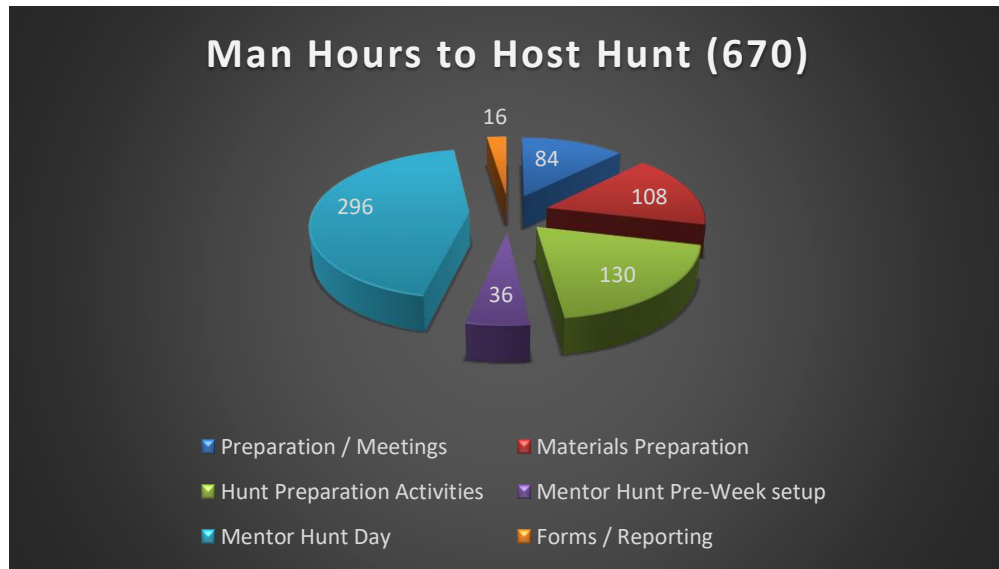
Examining the statistics in more detail examining both of our hunt fields, how may took shots and the bag counts including totals by gender. We can observe that the fields, shots and success rates so we can look for ways to improve next year.

1. Accuracy was good this year with 8 youth taking shots and 9 birds bagged !
2. We limited to one field this year due to Missouri River Flooding and relocating the event to the Blair Shooting Sports complex.

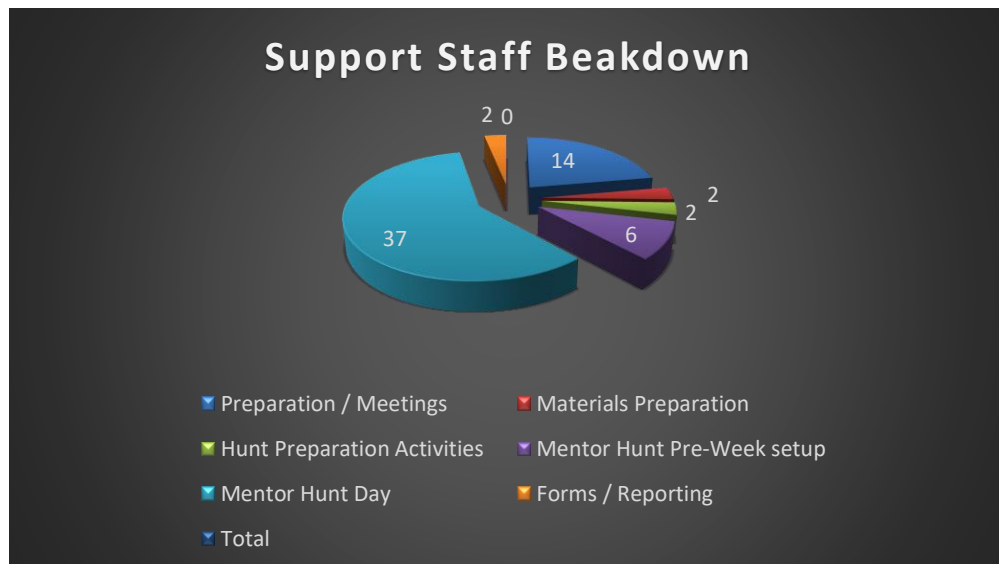


Field	Females Taking Shots	Female Bag Count	Males Taking Shots	Male Bag Count	Total Taking Shots	Total Birds Taken
Blair Trap	0	0	8	9	8	9
Total	0	0	8	9	8	9

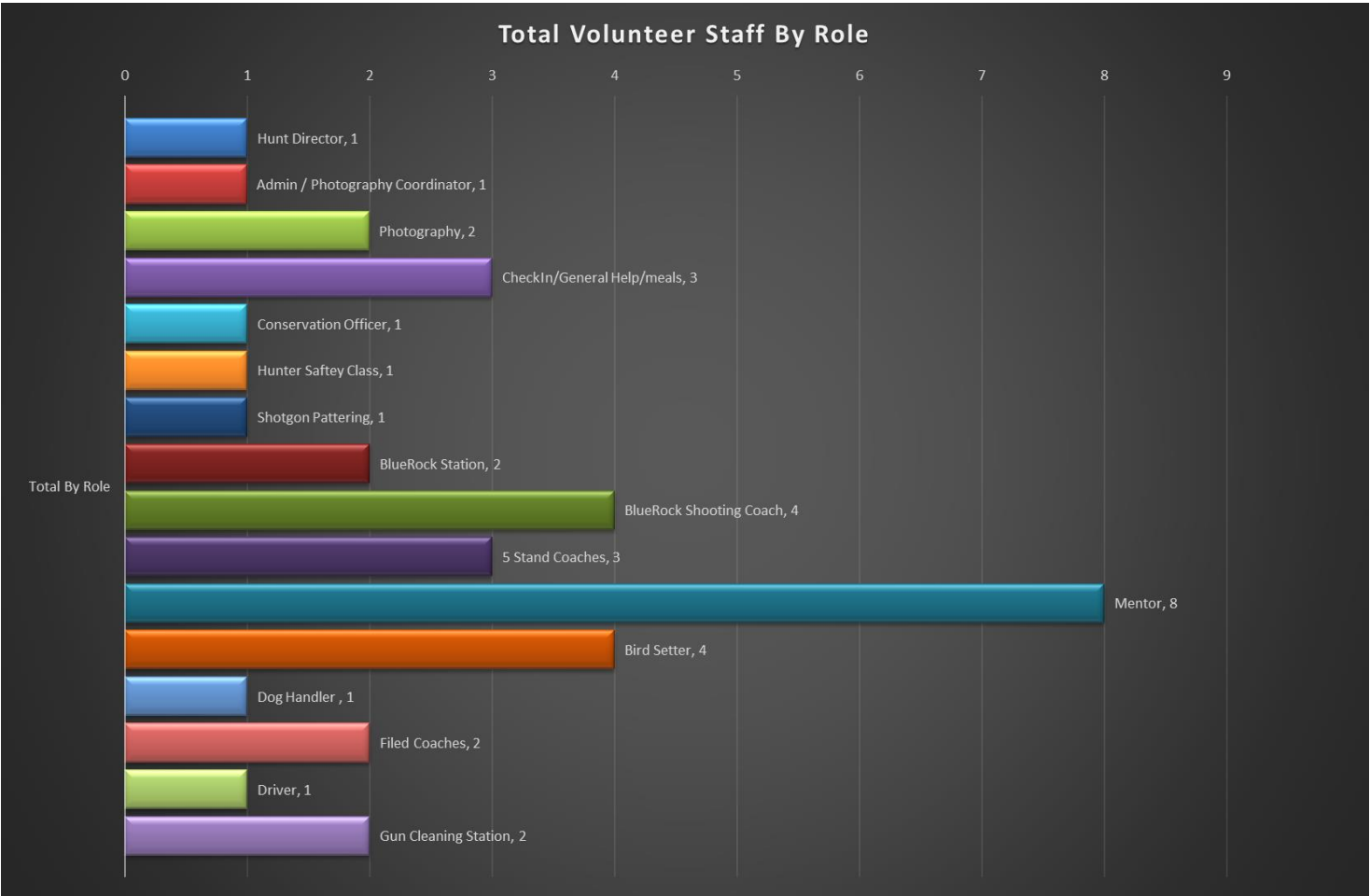
Hosting the annual hunt requires considerable volunteer efforts each year. This year approximately 670 manhours were invested by 37 volunteers supporting various tasks.



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 37 volunteers as follows:



Each annual hunt takes considerable funding. This year pproximtely \$3,541.65 was used to accomplish the hunt, 56% from the Washington County PF chapter and 44% in donations from various organizations and individual contributors.

