

Washington County Pheasants Forever 16th Annual Mentored Youth Pheasant Hunt

October 3, 2020



On Saturday, October 3, 2020, Washington County Pheasants Forever Chapter held its 16th Annual Mentored Youth Pheasant Hunt. There were 8 youth participants, ages 12 to 15, who attended the event along with 36 volunteers who helped make this event a tremendous success. The mixed weather, partly cloudy, 40-65 degree weather was perfect for all of our outdoor activities and we escaped the rain showers!

Once again, we were supported by our gracious host of the event; the Blair Youth Shooting Sports Club partner for use of their updated facilities along with 9 volunteer staff. Blair Youth Shooting Sports Club, which provided multiple discipline experience with youth from the club serving as coaches for shooting disciplines 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 event demonstrates the 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, a new DryFire shooting simulator, 5 stand, Hunter Safety refresher, instruction on Nebraska hunting laws / asking permission to hunt on private property, how to clean shotguns, locating downed birds in the field without a dog.

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, all 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 2020

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	Dry Fire Station
Pheasant game law review & Asking permission to hunt.	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 and Nebraska Game Laws along with asking permission to hunt on private property prior to the day's activities.



Dog Handler, Mark Howard, explains how to hunt with a dog during the Hunting Dog Demonstration.



Two youth and their mentors help the dog handler demonstrate how to properly walk through the field...



... keeping each youth/mentor team in line and on either side of the dog handler.

The dog successfully flushes out a Pheasant.



Mentors illustrate the shot pattern at distance on target at the shotgun safety demonstration. Patterning is the first station each youth participates in real firearm usage. The visual effects of a shotgun hit to a water jug drives home the importance of safety when in the field.



With the help of a generous donation from Ed Olsen, our PF Chapter purchased a new Dry Fire simulator to help improve the youth's success on the trap range and in the field; by teaching them how to perform follow-through on the shot and align their shot.



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 at the Blair Youth Shooting Sports complex



Adult Mentors provide detailed guidance on marksmanship skills.



Youth keeps a sharp eye out for a safe and clear 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 two 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.

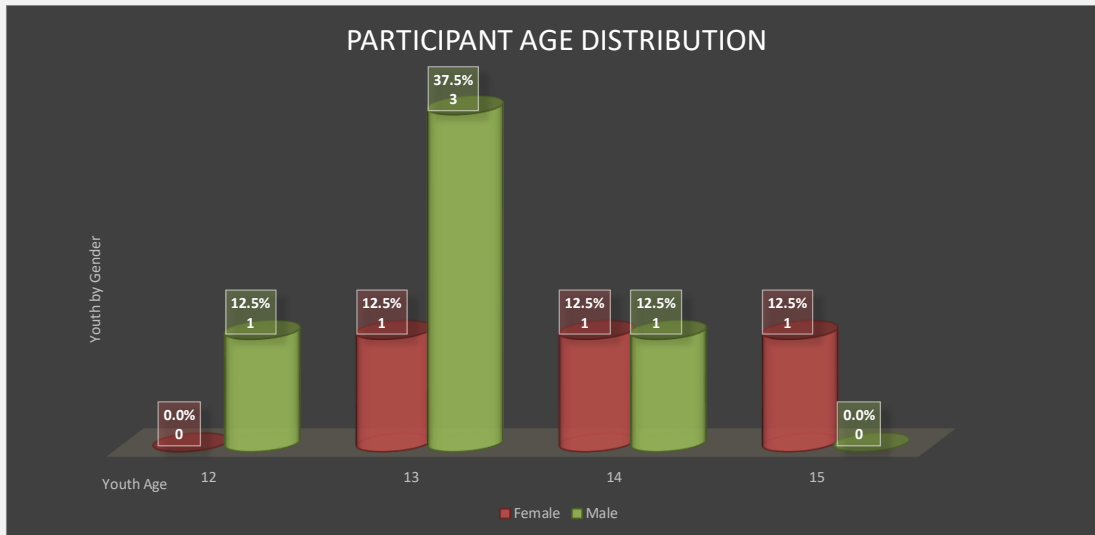


Each of the youth participants were presented a Pheasants Forever and Nebraska Game & Parks donated hunting vest.



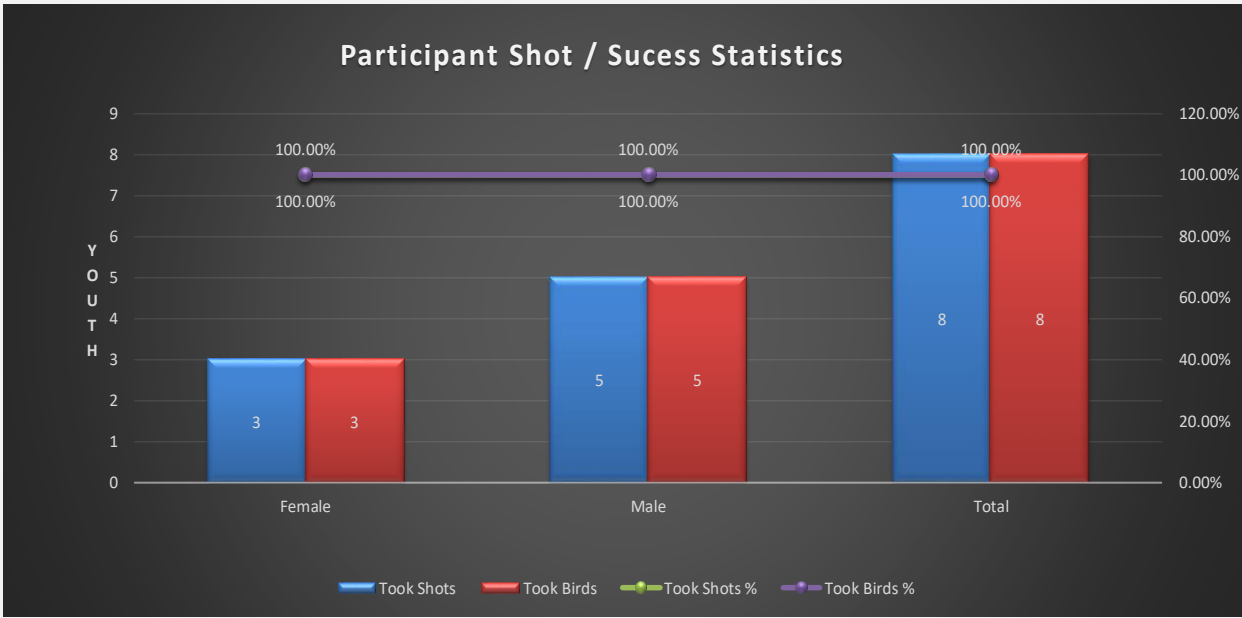
2020 Youth Hunt Statistics

This year's hunt had 8 youth participants, 5 Young Men and 3 Young Ladies ranging from 12 to 15 years of age.



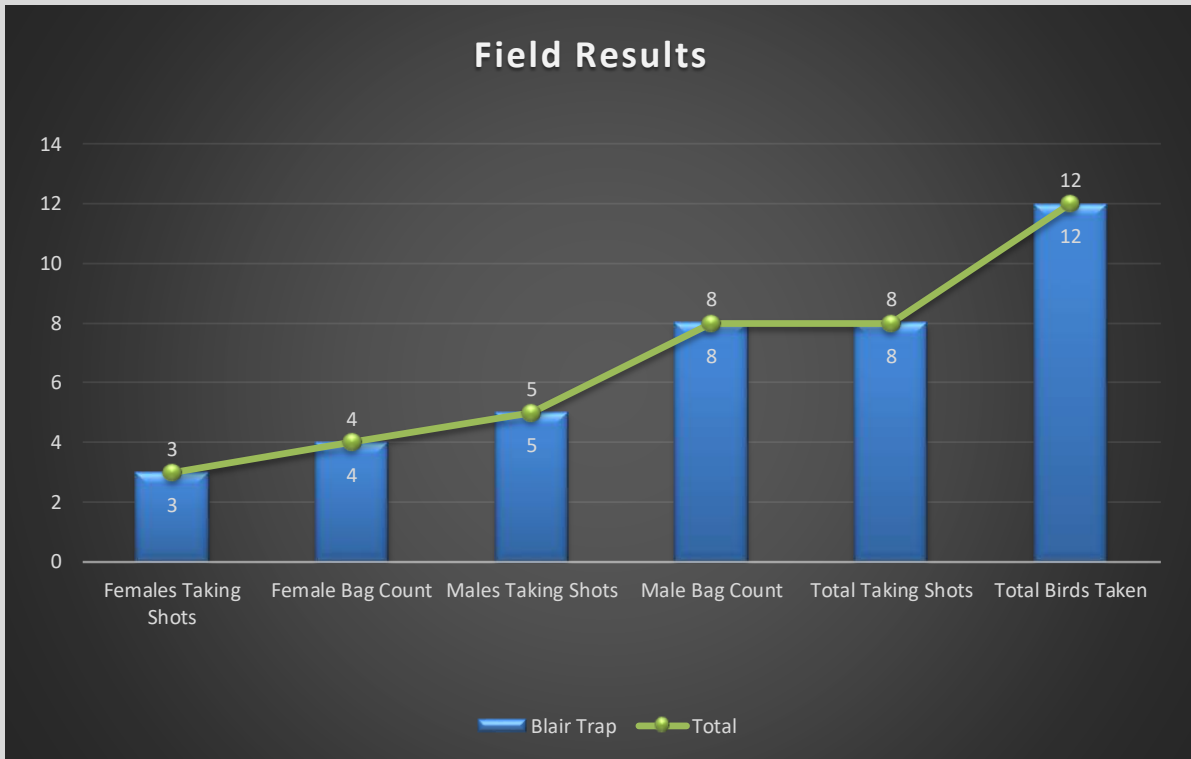
Age	Female	Male	% Female	% Male
12	0	1	0.0%	12.5%
13	1	3	12.5%	37.5%
14	1	1	12.5%	12.5%
15	1	0	12.5%	0.0%
Totals	3	5	37.5%	62.5%
	8		100.0%	

All the youth participants were able to get shots at birds this year and 100% were successful and some took home multiple birds.



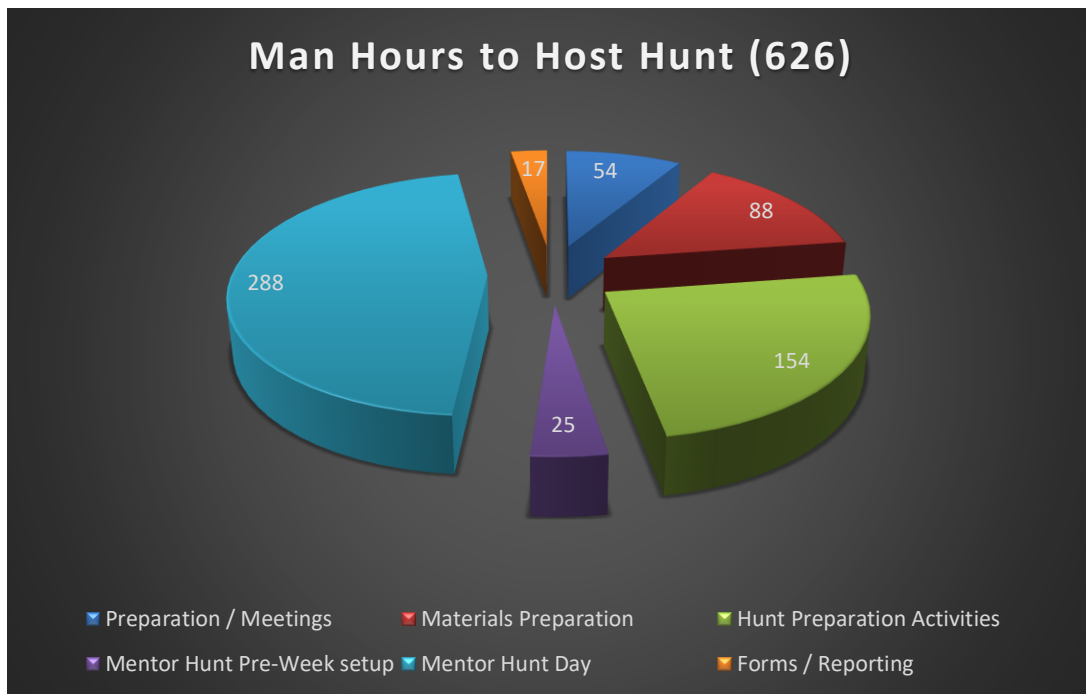
Field Hunt	Female	Male	Total
Participants	3	5	8
Took Shots	3	5	8
Took Shots %	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Took Birds	3	5	8
Took Birds %	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Examining our hunt Field Statistics in more detail we can break down how many youths took shots and their bag count including totals by gender. We can observe that the field, shots and success rates so we can look for ways to improve next year. Accuracy was good this year with all 8 youths taking shots and 12 birds bagged!

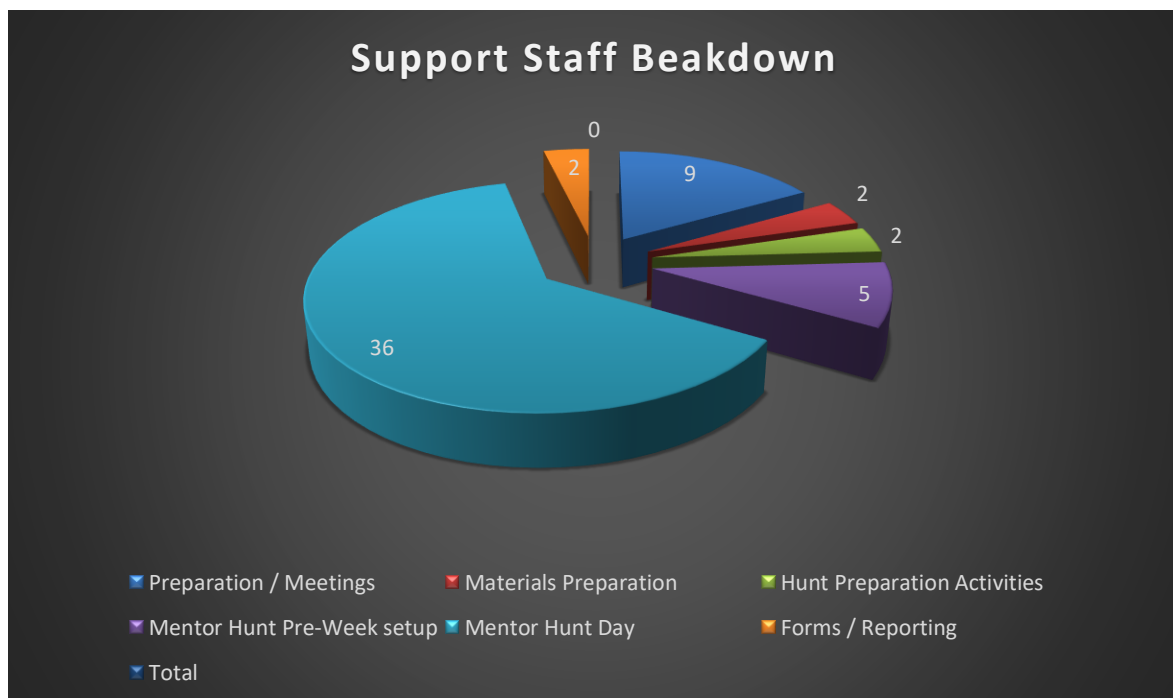


Field	Females Taking Shots	Female Bag Count	Males Taking Shots	Male Bag Count	Total Taking Shots	Total Birds Taken
Blair Trap	3	4	5	8	8	12
Total	3	4	5	8	8	12

Hosting the annual hunt requires considerable volunteer efforts each year. This year, approximately 626 man hours were invested by 36 volunteers supporting various tasks.



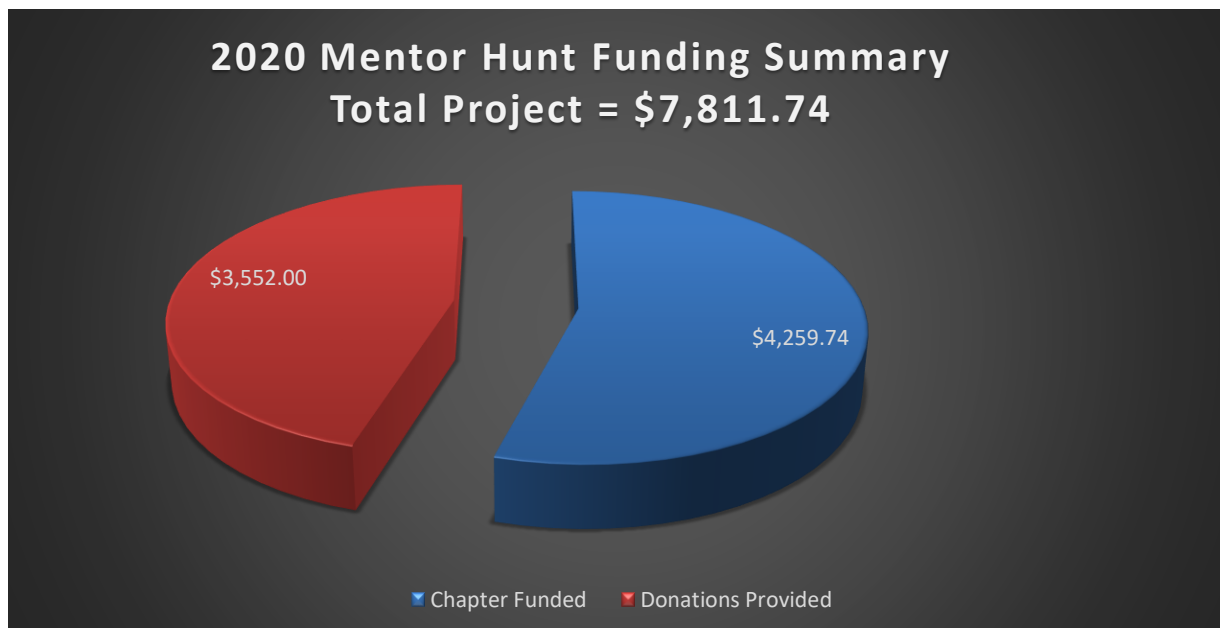
The number of volunteer staff members that participated in various parts of the hunt preparation and execution.



The Staff Roles on the day of the hunt break down the 36 volunteers as follows:



Each annual hunt takes considerable funding. This year pproximtely \$7,811.74 was used to accomplish the hunt, 53.25% from the Washington County PF chapter and 46.75% in donations from various organizations and individual contributors.



Youth Mentor Hunt Program

Expense Reporting Form

Chapter Name		Washington County #750	
Number of youth attending		8	
Date of Event		3-Oct-20	
Total Volunteers		36	
Total Volunteer Hours		626	
Cost Category	Dollar Amount	Donated Amount or Value *	Notes
Meals	\$ 266.78	\$171.00	
Hats	\$720.00	\$ -	80@9.00
Shotgun / .22 Shells	\$ 41.61	\$ -	shotgun ammunition
Bluerocks + Targets		\$ 330.00	Inventory and non-specified donation from Blair
Shooting Supplies	\$ -	\$15.00	Shooting Sports
Hunting Vests		\$ 480.00	shooting glasses, gun cleaning supplies
Educational Materials	\$ 2,436.35	\$ 2,500.00	8*60.00 PF
Promotional Materials	\$ 110.00	\$ 56.00	DryFire System
Disposable Cameras	\$ -	\$ -	Postage, ink, paper, labels
Pen-raised Birds	\$ 455.00	\$ -	
Miscellaneous	\$230.00	\$ -	35@13
Total	\$ 4,259.74	\$ 3,552.00	Lifetime permit & Table Rental
Combined Total	7,811.74		
Chapter Funded		Donations Provided	
\$ 4,259.74		\$ 3,552.00	
54.53%		45.47%	

* Please include the value of all donated services or products for your event. This will allow us to compete for more grant funds in the future and then return more dollars back to the program!

Please Send Your Completed Form To Ashley Nelson: asnelson@pheasantsforever.org

