

Pheasant News and Notes

December 2019



Trivia Question

Todd Bogenschutz (Management Board and Tech Committee, Iowa) was recently sent this photo of a wild bird exhibiting both male and female characteristics. What is the term for this condition?



Farm Bill and USDA News

Still no word on exactly when and how this month's general CRP signup will roll out, but such information is apparently imminent. USDA Deputy Secretary Steve Censky recently [said](#) that an early December signup is still expected, pending completion of a review of the proposed

implementation rule by the White House Office of Management and Budget. Dave Nomsen relayed that the interim rule is now closed but has not been published in the Federal Register. Until it's published, USDA is not sharing details with non-USDA employees such as Farm Bill Biologists, so many of these critical folks will probably hit the start of the enrollment period with a sharp learning curve to overcome. Censky also maintained USDA's official optimism that producers will sign up in large numbers but given the lukewarm reception the lower rental rates got during this summer's continuous signup, I'm not sure their optimism is completely warranted. We'll see.

In other national policy news, the House [passed a bill](#) reauthorizing the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) through FY2024, and [a bipartisan bill was introduced](#) in the Senate to help create roadside habitat for monarchs and pollinators.

Notes from Around the Pheasant Range

Bittersweet news from South Dakota: Tony Leif is retiring from South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Tony stepped up when we needed a Chair for our newly formed Management Board and helped guide the organization through its initial formative years. SDGFP will no doubt appoint another excellent Board member, but his wealth of experience will be hard to replace. I want to personally thank Tony for helping me and the Board get our collective efforts off the ground, and we all wish him well in his future endeavors.

[Another paper](#) from the Nebraska pheasant research crew has been published, this one regarding factors influencing hunter satisfaction. One take-home message: public access hunters appear pretty good at calibrating their expectations, so different hunting conditions can yield similar site-specific average hunter satisfaction scores.

Tom Keller (Tech Committee, Pennsylvania) sent these photos of their third annual youth-only wild pheasant hunt. As the Tech Committee will recall, the hunt essentially represents the only opportunity to take wild pheasants in the state, resulting from a decade-long habitat and population restoration project we got to see and hear about at our meeting last year. Regarding the most recent hunt, the PGC says, “after two mornings of hunts on 4 farms, 177 birds were flushed including 92 roosters, 62 shots were fired, and five long-tailed male ring-necks were put in the game bags of several very excited youngsters.” The hunt was jointly hosted by the PGC and Pheasants Forever.



A Missouri Valley, Iowa family farming operation was named Pheasants Forever’s [Precision Ag Farmers of the Year](#). The relatively new award is presented by PF in association with John Deere as part of their larger partnership promoting conservation through sustainable ag.



Pheasant-relevant Media

- [Lawmakers call attention to national bird declines](#)
- [Bipartisan Senate bill introduced to create roadside pollinator habitat](#)
- [New book documents 100 years of S.D. pheasant hunting](#)
- [Two women shot while hunting pheasant near St. Cloud](#)
- [Historically high numbers of Americans approve of hunting](#)
- [Hunting to eat is not a novel idea. It’s the original idea.](#)
- [Killing animals to save them? Hunting as conservation](#)
- [As hunters decline, groups want millennials in the blinds](#)
- [Recruiting foodies and ‘hipnecks’ as the new hunters](#)
- [Minnesota rejects lead ammunition ban](#)
- [USDA’s 2019 Rural America at a Glance](#)
- [USDA report: irrigated acres up, total water use down since 2013](#)
- [High Plains farmers race to save the Ogallala aquifer](#)
- [Monkeys outperform humans when it comes to cognitive flexibility](#)

Recent Literature

[Wszola, L. S., A. E. Madsen, E. F. Stuber, C. J. Chizinski, J. J. Lusk, J. S. Taylor, K. L. Pope, and J. J. Fontaine. 2019. Public access for pheasant hunters: understanding an emerging need. Journal of Wildlife Management \(early view\).](#)

[Shafer, L. 2019. The South Dakota pheasant hunting seasons data book. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre.](#)

[Dolezal, A. G., A. L. St. Clair, G. Zhang, A. L. Toth, and M. E. O'Neal. 2019. Native habitat mitigates feast-famine conditions faced by honey bees in an agricultural landscape. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.](#)

Trivia Answer

The condition is called gynandromorphism. According to Todd's [research](#), "Gynandromorphs ("gyne" from Greek meaning female, "andro" for male, and "morph" meaning variety) are individual animals that have both genetically male and female tissues and often have observable male and female characteristics. They may be bilateral appearing to divide down the middle into male and female sides, or they may be mosaic, with patches characteristic of one sex appearing in a body part characteristic of the other sex." Thanks, Todd!



This update is brought to you by the National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan and Partnerships. Our mission is to foster science-based, socially-supported policies and programs that enhance wild pheasant populations, provide recreational opportunities to pheasant hunters, and support the economics and social values of communities. You can find us on the web at <http://nationalpheasantplan.org>.