

Pheasant News and Notes

January 2020



Trivia Question

We all know rooster pheasants crow and cackle, but how many other distinct vocalizations do they make?

Farm Bill and USDA News

The first CRP general signup under the new Farm Bill rules is up and running with a closing date of February 28th. In several states, agency private lands staff and PF Farm Bill Biologists are busy scheduling and advertising information meetings for interested landowners, as well as mailing information to key FSA clientele. A number of fact sheets from USDA are available [here](#), but Kelsi Wehrman of PF kindly summarized the high points below, which I edited a bit:

New CRP: General Practices

- *Subject to national ranking*
- *Signup ends February 28th; ranked in March*
- *Cost-share for establishment limited to 50% not to exceed producer's cost*
- *Management activity required at producer's expense*
- *Contracts will start Oct. 1*
- *Depending on the state, contract EBI points can be increased by factors such as:*
 - *offering diverse cover*
 - *adding food plot, pollinator, or shrubs*
 - *offering highly erodible (HEL) land*
 - *offering a reduced rental rate*

New CRP: Continuous Practices

- *Eligible for Signup Incentive Payment (right at signup) – 32.5% of 1st years annual rental*
- *Eligible for Practice Incentive Payment (after establishment) – 5% of estimated cost of establishment*
- *Cost-share for establishment limited to 50% not to exceed producer's cost*
- *Management activity required at producer's expense*
- *Contracts will start month after approval (can defer up to 6 months)*

Re-enrolled CRP: General Practices

- *Subject to national ranking*
- *Signup ends February 28th; ranked in March*
- *Must meet practice standards of applicable current CP practice*
- *Could "upgrade" and increase points & receive cost-share*
- *Management activity required at producer's expense*
- *Contracts will start Oct. 1*
- *Depending on the state, contract EBI points can be increased by factors such as:*
 - *offering diverse cover*

- *adding food plot, pollinator, or shrubs*
- *offering highly erodible (HEL) land*
- *offering a reduced rental rate*

Re-enrolled CRP: Continuous Practices

- *Must meet practice standards of applicable current CP practice*
- *Management activity required at producer's expense*
- *Re-enrollment of contracts expiring in 2018 and 2019 will start month after approval (can defer for up to 6 months)*
- *Re-enrollment of contracts expiring in 2020 will start Oct. 1*
- *Those expiring in 2020 cannot sign until April 1 – signatures are only good for 6 months*

It will be a few weeks before we can gauge how much interest there is among landowners for this signup under the new rules. Also, Dave Nomsen (Management Board, PF) thought it might be April before we hear anything about how FSA plans on meeting the state acreage goals required under the new law. Rules for the required SHIPP signup are still expected later this spring.

Notes from Around the Pheasant Range

Congratulations to Tom Kirschenmann, who was recently named Director of the Wildlife Division for South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Tom is a long-time pheasant biologist, including as SDGFP's representative in the old Midwest Pheasant Study Group. I haven't been able to touch base with Tom yet, but he is the most likely replacement for Tony Leif as South Dakota's Management Board member. If so, we would look forward to formally welcoming him to the group at our March 9th meeting at the North American in Omaha.

The Minnesota DNR recently released its [Pheasant Action Plan 2020-2023](#). Minnesota is among the few states that devote a percentage of their sales tax to conservation work, so habitat objectives on public lands are perhaps more prominent than those in states without that funding source. Still, the plan points out that most pheasant habitat occurs on private land, so they are in the same boat with everyone else in trying to craft programs and projects that fit with landowners' needs and desires. We wish good luck to the DNR and their partners in delivering that ever-changing but always important objective, as well as the other habitat, R3, and human dimensions goals in the plan.

Speaking of Minnesota, Tim Lyons (Technical Committee, Minnesota) recently published [a paper](#) on estimating chick mortality from repeated observations of broods. Those of you working with radio-tagged hens should check it out. Congrats, Tim!

If I haven't mentioned it before, there is a new conference aimed at private lands biologists being planned for this March 24th-25th at the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri. The North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) has been working with state agency private lands administrators and other stakeholders to plan the meeting, which is intended to attract project delivery staff in the Midwest states who are working face-to-face with landowners. The meeting will be hosted by the Missouri Department of Conservation; more information on registration should be available soon.

An informational website is now available for the second [National R3 Symposium](#) although the registration page is not working yet. The symposium will be held May 12th – 14th in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Pheasant-relevant Media

[\\$1 million on the line for Kansas hunter who bagged pheasant](#)
[A stroll through a pheasant paradise in southern Kansas](#)
[Kansas Wildlife, Parks & Tourism investigating after pheasant hunter was shot](#)
[Michigan Pheasant Hunting Initiative brings hunting opportunities to all](#)
[Pheasant stamp proposal progresses in Michigan](#)
[Duluth native Howard Vincent steers Pheasants Forever](#)
[Pheasants still popular among Illinois hunters](#)
[Pants-less pheasant hunter caught in Washington](#)
[North Dakota pheasant hunter kills mountain lion that charged him](#)
[Number of women hunters growing in Nebraska](#)
[Are US hunters becoming an endangered species?](#)
[Aurelia Skipwith named Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
[AFWA's Fish and Wildlife Relevancy Roadmap now available](#)
[Study finds North American birds getting smaller](#)
[How a closed-door meeting shows farmers are waking up on climate change](#)
[Farmers got billions from taxpayers in 2019, and hardly anyone objected](#)

Recent Literature

[Lyons, T. P., K. W. Stodola, and T. J. Benson. 2019. Estimating the survival of unmarked young from repeated counts. *Wildlife Biology* 2020\(1\).](#)

[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. 2020. Public access for pheasant hunters: understanding an emerging need. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 84:45-55.](#)

[Kammerle, J., and I. Storch. 2019. Predation, predator control and grouse populations: a review. *Wildlife Biology* 2019\(1\).](#)

[Lavadinovic, V. M., D. Beukovic, and Z. Popovic. 2019. Common pheasant \(*Phasianus colchicus* L. 1758\) management in Serbia. *Contemporary Agriculture \(Serbia\)* 68:71-79.](#)

Trivia Answer

According to [Heinz and Gysel \(1970\)](#), roosters also produce unique “alarm,” “hiss,” “antagonistic,” and “pecked” vocalizations. You can hear alarm and flight (cackle) calls [here](#), and the antagonistic and hiss calls at various points in [this video](#). The latter brings to mind the classic [Far Side](#) cartoon with a twist: “The Bluebird of Happiness long absent from his life, YouTube’s ‘CountryHouseGent’ is visited by the Pheasant of Antagonism.” Blimey!

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>.