

Pheasant News and Notes

September 2022



Trivia Question

Astute reader Eric Zach of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission came across this old print ad aimed at the suave, muscle car-loving pheasant hunters (or wannabes) of yesteryear – yes, if you look closely the guy in the inset is holding a pheasant. What car is this an ad for?



USDA and Legislative News

With a new Farm Bill scheduled for debate and enactment in 2023, Congress is ramping up its solicitation of input. Jim Inglis (Management Board, Pheasants Forever) recently testified at a House Ag Farm Bill listening session hosted by Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH) and Subcommittee Chairwoman Chair Bustos (IL) in Ohio. Jim's comments were necessarily brief but good – you can watch them [here](#). Will Clayton of PF/QF was able to testify at a similar meeting in Minnesota; his comments are [here](#). Thanks to Jim, Will, and everyone else who is providing conservation-oriented testimony at these events.

Several D.C.-based FSA staff held a webinar with members of AFWA's Agricultural Conservation Committee to answer questions and field concerns about CRP. Notes from that event included:

- As of mid-August, about 410,000 acres of continuous signup offers had been received, and the 3.1 million acres of Grassland CRP during this year's signup was reiterated.
- CP33 buffers are no longer required to cover the entire perimeter of a field.
- USDA sees CRP as an important component of addressing climate change, drought mitigation, and PFAS mitigation along with its traditional role in soil, water, and wildlife conservation. It is hoped that these new objectives will foster more interest in the program outside its traditional stronghold in the Midwest and Great Plains states.
- The lingering perception that CRP takes "prime" farmland out of production continues to be its primary political liability, particularly in light of world grain shortages caused by the war in Ukraine.
- The AFWA committee members had the most concerns about the skyrocketing number of Grasslands acres being accepted into the program and its potential to squeeze out "traditional" acres under the statutory acreage cap. Suggestions included using the threat of conversion as a threshold for eligibility instead of a ranking factor (which is not possible under the current statute) and considering ecosystem services delivered over baseline in setting signup priorities and rankings.
- Members also said it would be beneficial to continually remind decisionmakers and the public about CRP's role in helping keep species off the endangered list, and the expanded haying and grazing possibilities now available under the 2018 Farm Bill.
- Notification about new SAFE proposals should come by the end of September.

In non-CRP news, the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act will infuse a huge amount of money into other Farm Bill programs such as EQIP, CSP, RCPP, and ACEP over the next five years. Jim Inglis passed along a link to the [Farm Bureau's summary of the IRA](#), which does a good job providing background and details.

As chair of AFWA's Bioenergy Working Group, Eric Zach also passed along an ethanol trade magazine's [article](#) on the IRA, which detailed the industry's wholehearted support. Eric said one ethanol plant in Nebraska plans to capture and sequester about 10 million tons of its CO2 emissions per year, which if my math is right would be worth about \$850 million annually in tax credits under the IRA's \$85/ton payment rate. No wonder they are happy.

Notes from Around the Pheasant Range

This is the season for states to release their hunting forecasts and the summer pheasant survey results upon which they are based. [Nebraska](#) and [Iowa](#)'s results appear to show similar to higher numbers compared to last year. Hopefully other states' results will follow suit. Good luck to everyone fielding phone calls after the forecasts come out.

Our next National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan Management Board meeting will be held Monday, September 19th at 3:00-5:00pm at the AFWA Annual Meeting in Fort Worth, TX. Board members should look for a tentative agenda soon, and if you have a topic to add please let me know. I am not sure if there will be a remote participation opportunity available as part of AFWA's virtual registration option, but there might be.

Pheasant-relevant Media

[Anderson: 40 years ago, Pheasants Forever rose to a titan of conservation](#)

[Mild winter buoys Iowa pheasant population](#)

[Commission approves release of pheasants reared at Montana State Prison](#)

[Thomas Baumeister: Time to kill FWP's pheasant stocking](#)

[South Dakota bird hunting forecast from Pheasants Forever](#)

[Mild winter, normal spring and summer rains have expectations high for 2022 South Dakota pheasant season](#)

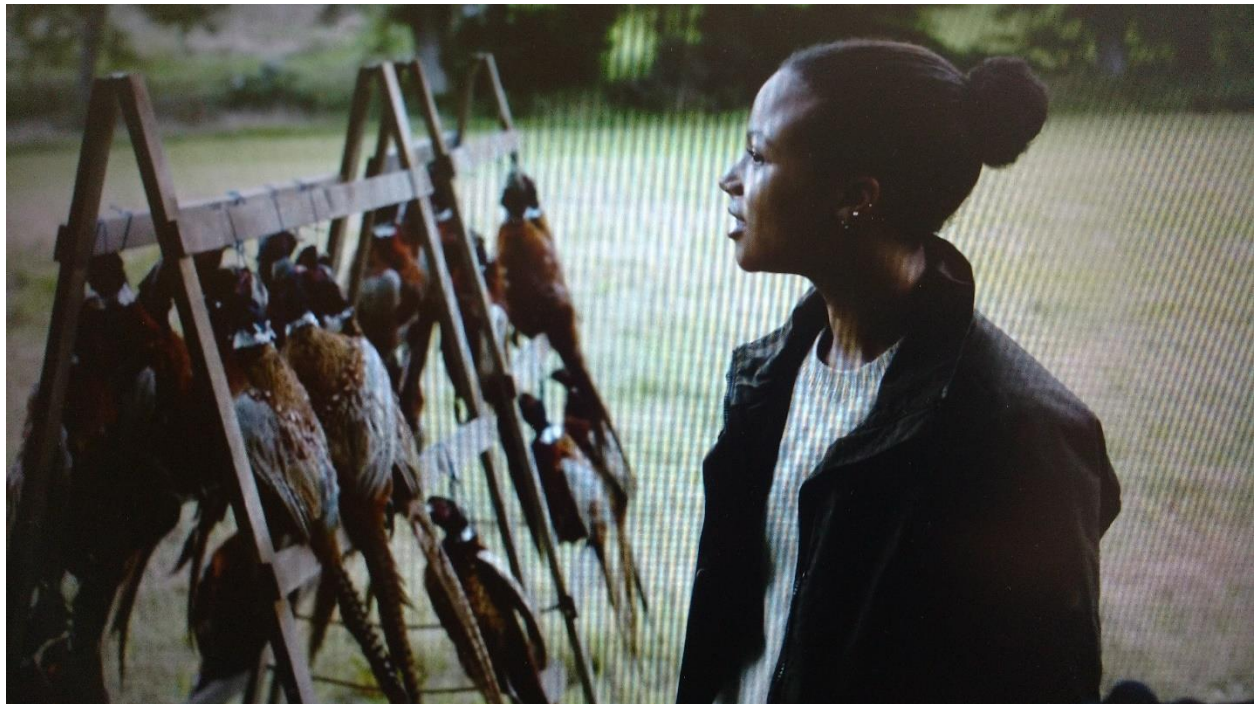
[‘Immediate ban’ needed on annual release of 50 million pheasants amid bird flu outbreak, says RSPB In defence of shooting](#)

[Pheasant meat sold for food found to contain many tiny shards of toxic lead](#)

[Recipe: air fryer pheasant with lemon and fresh herbs](#)

[Skyrim's most popular mod this past week adds pheasants to the wild](#)

There was a pheasant hunt (an English driven shoot, actually) depicted on a recent episode of HBO's *Industry*. A sample line: "I'm not really into blood sports, but thankfully pheasant is sustainable."



As usual, Hollywood traded realism for dramatic expediency, including someone taking "a few stray pellets" to the face from 15 feet and it being treated as a minor injury – the character was walking around soon thereafter without so much as a bandage. *Cinéma vérité* it is not.

Recent Literature

[Green, R., M. Taggart, D. Pain, and K. Smithson. 2022. Implications for food safety of the size and location of fragments of lead shotgun pellets embedded in hunted carcasses of small game animals intended for human consumption. PLoS ONE 17\(8\): e0268089.](#)

[Kruger, H. 2022. Breeding in an agricultural landscape: The importance of habitat and predation for the common pheasant \(*Phasianus colchicus*\). Dissertation, University of Helsinki, Finland.](#)

[Yao, H., P. Wang, N. Wang, P. J. K. McGowan, X. Si, J. Li, and J. Xu. 2022. Functional and phylogenetic structures of pheasants in China. Avian Research 13:100041.](#)

[Nolan, V., C. Scott, J. M. Yeiser, N. Wilhite, P. E. Howell, D. Ingram, and J. A. Martin. 2022. The development of a convolutional neural network for the automatic detection of Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus* covey calls. Remote Sensing in Ecology and Conservation \(early online version\).](#)

[Edwards, J. T., F. Hernandez, D. B. Webster, L. A. Brennan, C. J. Parent. 2022. Effects of native and non-native invasive grasses on northern bobwhite habitat in south Texas. Rangeland Ecology and Management 84:98-107.](#)

[Gehrt, J. M., D. A. Moon, S. C. Stratton, and D. A. Haukos. 2022. Role of landscape features in resource selection by female Greater Prairie-chickens within a constrained environment. Global Ecology and Conservation 38:e02267.](#)

[Gary, D. M., K. Mougey, N. E. McIntyre, K. L. Griffis-Kyle. 2022. Species as conservation umbrellas: A case study with lesser prairie-chicken \(*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*\) in the southern Great Plains of North America. Global Ecology and Conservation 38:02256.](#)

[Parker, N. J., D. S. Sullins, D. A. Haukos, K. A. Fricke, and C. A. Hagen. 2022. Recovery of working grasslands following a megafire in the southern mixed-grass prairie. Global Ecology and Conservation 36:e02142.](#)

Trivia Answer:

It's a 1972 Dodge Charger SE. Not only did they hunt pheasants out of muscle cars back then, they apparently did so in the summertime. Dodge recently announced that the gas-guzzling Charger will not be produced after December 2023, though a future electric version may take on the nameplate.

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>.