

Midwest Pheasant Study Group

11th Meeting September 28 – October 1, 2009
Rockstad's River Inn,
Fort Ransom, North Dakota

Continued Development of a National Pheasant Conservation Plan



Hosted by the North Dakota Game & Fish Department

Stanley C. Kohn, Chairman

Summary of the 2009 Midwest Pheasant Study Group Meeting

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- States in attendance: ND, SD, NE, KS, MN, IA, MO, WA, MI
- Don McKenzie, Northern Bobwhite Quail Group, was in attendance and outlined how the bobwhite quail plan was put together. He identified their successes and problems.
- Each state provided information on their 2008 pheasant population, management activities, ongoing pheasant research, and harvest season.
- Outline of National Pheasant Plan from OH meeting was reviewed. State assignments were discussed.
- Time was spent working on Goals and Objectives of the Plan. How do we want this Plan to help us manage pheasants in the future?
- Much of the meeting's work involved developing population measures for the Plan based on long-term average harvest as determined appropriate for each state as part of the harvest objectives.
- We will try to apportion harvest by habitat type pre- and post CRP years. If successful, this will allow each state to list the acres of each habitat type necessary to produce a desired level of harvest.
- Time was also spent attempting to identify habitat levels needed to achieve harvest objectives.
- We hope to have a draft of the Plan completed by the September 2010 meeting of the pheasant committee. At that time we will probably seek funding for a Plan coordinator.
- A field trip offered folks the opportunity to see different habitats that have been planted in North Dakota for pheasant nesting and wintering cover.
- Pheasants Forever staff presented information on the status of the CRP program.

- ND Game and Fish staff outlined the Department's private lands program from initiation to present status. The Department has just short of 1 million acres in the programs at the present time.
- Jeff Lusk, NE, presented results of his research on pheasant survival when incorporating an artificial brooding device called the "Surrogator". Even though it is regularly used in several states, Jeff found that the Surrogator did not significantly increase pheasant survival.
- The meeting produced NO specific action items that the Director's have to act on.
- Indiana will host the 2010 meeting. Don McKenzie invited the pheasant group to meet with the Bobwhite Quail Tech Committee folks next August in Wichita, KS. The group chose to let IN decide where and when to meet in 2010.