



# ROOSTER TALES

FRVC NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2010



## YOUTH HUNT 2010 FAST APPROACHING

Pheasants Forever Chapter 585 will hold their annual Youth Hunt Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup> 2010.

Again this year, RW Ranch has generously donated the use of their facilities. The day will consist of a short classroom session featuring hunter safety, pheasant biology, and hunting regulations. From there it's off to the trap range for a tune up with mentors from the chapter. The day culminates with a stocked pheasant hunt with chapter members and their well-trained dogs. Lunch and ammunition will be provided.

As in past years, there will be two sessions to insure a quality experience for everyone involved.

Please sign up by filling out the enclosed registration form and returning it by September 4<sup>th</sup>. Additional registration forms are available on our website [www.foxvalleypheasants.com](http://www.foxvalleypheasants.com).

We look forward to seeing you again this year



## 2010 PRE-SEASON WINE AND CHEESE TASTING



Back by popular demand is our preseason social! It will be held at Vitale's on September 13th, 2010. You won't want to miss this one, as we have changed this event up from what you are used to seeing by recruiting new sponsors that will make the evening more of a wine and cheese tasting event. We will still hold a sit down dinner and as always, there will be great prizes. There are a limited number of tickets, so if you are interested in buying a ticket please see the invite on page 3 of this newsletter. We are looking forward to seeing you at our Preseason Wine and Cheese Tasting event!

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# PHEASANTS FOREVER FOX VALLEY CHAPTER

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JERRY MATHUSEK

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**CROWING COUNT-**

Start 45 minutes before sunrise. Drive 10 mile routes, stopping every 0.5 miles to listen and record location of crowing roosters on plat book maps. Finish 1 to 1.5 hours after sunrise.

*PheasantsForever@gmail.com*

**YOUTH HUNT-**

Members and their dogs pair one-on-one with youth who have passed the gun safety course to have a group field day hunt for youths to experience pheasant hunting.

*Mark Lewis (920) 379-6526*

*Al Heidl (920) 231-0860*

**MEMBERSHIP-**

To recruit the avid pheasant hunters who are not members to join and participate. Committee would meet occasionally to discuss and act on ways to increase membership in our chapter.

*Ryan Seeley (920) 424-9979 or pheasantsforever@sbcglobal.net*

**ADOPT A DNR PLOT-**

Clean up of a specific Winnebago County areas 4-5 times a year.

*PheasantsForever@gmail.com*

**FUNDRAISING-**

Assist in selling tickets to raffles, help out at the sponsor banquet, attend fall social etc. during the year.

*Jerry Mathusek (920) 235-5610 x 11 or jdm972@cs.com*

**LAND ACQUISITION-**

A planning/work committee for our chapter to initiate land acquisition programs. These programs are funded and executed using federal and state grants, Pheasants Forever national and local funds, easements and land trust cooperation.

*Jack Doemel (920) 231-1096 or buglejack@hotmail.com*

**HABITAT/PREDATOR-**

A planning committee to work on improving habitat and controlling predation.

*PheasantsForever@gmail.com*

**BANQUET-**

**Attend planning meetings before next year's banquet.**

*Ryan Seeley (920) 424-9979 or pheasantsforever@sbcglobal.net*

*Al Heidl (920) 231-0860*

**VOLUNTEER OPPROTUNITIES-**

Sign up to participate in various activities throughout the year.

Get on the e-mail or call list to be contacted about upcoming events.

*Ryan Seeley (920) 424-9979 or pheasantsforever@sbcglobal.net*

**LEOPOLD EDUCATION PROJECT (L.E.P.)-**

**The L.E.P. is designed to teach the public about humanity's ties to the natural world and to provide leadership in the effort to conserve and protect the earth's natural resources.**

*Jack Doemel (920) 231-1096 or buglejack@hotmail.com*

**NEWSLETTER-**

Contribute articles, photos, or ideas to the newsletter.

*Krissy Seeley (920) 424-9979 or kr1ssyann@sbcglobal.net*

# PHEASANTS

*forever*<sup>®</sup>

FOX RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER

[www.foxvalleypheasants.com](http://www.foxvalleypheasants.com)

*Preseason Wine & Cheese Tasting Social at Vitale's Restaurant  
Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> Cocktails – 5:30, Dinner – 7:00, Business Casual  
\$75 per person, limited to 100 people*

*Wines & Wine Tasting provided by McKnight & Carlson  
Everyone will receive a bottle of wine of their choice to take home  
Cheese & smoked meats provided by:*

*The Butcher's Block, Fine Meats & Deli, N. Fond Du Lac*



*Dinner Selections – All include bread, soup & salad*

*Seafood Pasta Marinara*

*Spiedini w/ Shrimp*

*Chicken Fettuccini*

*Tenderloin Steak Sandwich*

*Baked Mostacholi w/ Meatballs*

*Pan Fried Walleye*

*Your choice of dessert, provided by Tamara's, to follow*



*Door prizes – Remington 1100 G-3 12ga Auto, Weatherby 270  
w/scope, diamond necklace, Packer game package, Blu-ray player.  
Silent Auction items for the ladies & gents, plus limited raffles.*

*For more information or tickets, contact Jerry Mathusek at (920) 379-1425  
All proceeds will support local habitat – thank you for supporting  
Pheasants Forever, the habitat organization!!*

## SO YOU WANT TO PLANT A PRAIRIE?

*By Mark Kaczorowski*

I guess the best way to start this article is to first introduce myself. My name is Mark Kaczorowski and I will be entering my final semester of college this fall at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, where I am pursuing a bachelors of Science degree in Natural Resources Management. As of when this article was written, I was over mid-way into a summer internship with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS) in Oshkosh. **The internship is part of the ‘Conservation on The Land Internship Program’ which is funded by Pheasants Forever and the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association.** As part of the Internship I have had the opportunity to visit a lot of the (CRP) Conservation Reserve Program, (CREP) Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, and (WRP) Wetland Reserve Program native prairie plantings throughout Winnebago County. Through doing this I have been able to observe what tactics and techniques work to successfully establish a prairie and which do not. This article will discuss what tactics and techniques work.

From what I have seen, the most important factor that attributes to successful prairie establishment is a genuine effort from the landowner. If the landowner wants a planting to be a success and is willing to put in the time and effort to make it happen, it will. Along with effort, there are some key steps to follow in order to give your prairie the best chance for success. The keys can be summarized into three steps - planning, preparation, and maintenance.

I will start with the initial step, planning. Planning consists of site selection, plant selection, timing and method of planting. Site selection may be limited depending on individual circumstances, but ideally the best sites are open dry areas that provide high amounts of sunlight and have a low density of noxious weeds. Plant selection is based largely upon soil types and soil saturation. The climate type where the planting is taking place also needs to be considered. The USDA uses hardiness zones to determine how well a plant will survive during winter. Also, native genotype seeds should always be used as these plants are best-adapted to their environment. The time of year a planting occurs is an important factor in establishing the stand. There are basically two options of when a planting can occur, early spring or late fall. Generally fall plantings work better for wildflowers than spring plantings, because the freeze thaw action works the seed into the soil providing a natural like planting scenario. Fall planting allows for seeds to germinate in the spring when the soil temperature and moisture is right for that particular species to grow. **Fall planting also acts to ‘stratify’ or cold-treat the seeds, leading to better germination.** In Wisconsin the best time for fall plantings is typically in November. Spring plantings generally work better for grasses than fall planting because warm season grasses have a higher germination rate in warmer temperatures and the higher amounts of precipitation in spring make watering less critical. In Wisconsin the best time for spring planting is typically from May through June. There are several methods of planting to choose from. If the site to be seeded is small, less than an acre, hand broadcasting is a viable option. The key to successful hand broadcasting is even dispersal of the seeds. Mechanical seeders are used for larger areas. Two of the most common options for mechanical seeders are broadcast seeders and drill seeders. The NRCS office maintains a list of seeding contractors. The key to any method is to plant shallowly. **Flower seed is the size of pepper. When planted over ¼” deep it will not grow.**

The next step in the process of planting a successful prairie is preparation. The key to site preparation is to eliminate all of the existing vegetation. In some cases this may be a difficult task. One option is the use of herbicides. Multiple applications of herbicides are critical to effectively eliminate weeds. Just one application is not sufficient. It is not enough to kill the existing sod and any weed seeds that lay dormant underneath the surface of the soil. The dormant seeds may come back and dominate the stand. Many of the **“weeds” are actually cool season species, such as red, white, sweet clovers, brome, bluegrass, quackgrass,** etc, which grow faster and earlier than the native plantings, giving them an advantage. The weeds may out-compete the native species for resources, particularly sunlight, leading to the eventual failure of the stand. Two applications of herbicides should be the absolute minimum with three applications or more being even better. The best type to use is a glyphosate based herbicide such as Roundup or Kleenup. Another method that can be used is smothering. Smothering is a simple and effective method, but is only efficient on a smaller scale. Smothering is done by covering the area with a dark colored plastic or pieces of plywood for an entire growing season to kill the plants underneath it. Cultivation is another option for eliminating existing vegetation. Again the key to this is repetition. It is recommended to cultivate the soil about every other week for a year, or even longer depending on whether or not all vegetation has been eliminated, before a planting can occur. Patience is essential in the preparation step because an area that has a high seed bank of weeds usually takes a year or two to successfully prepare. If the site is not properly prepared you are setting your planting up for disaster.

The final step in establishing a successful prairie is maintenance. Maintenance for the first two years after seeding can be summarized by mow, mow, and mow some more. So much mowing is needed because it controls the weeds without adversely affecting the native plantings. Without mowing the weeds could out-compete the newly seeded native plants. Mowing also prevents the weeds from producing more seeds. The ideal height of mowing is about 6 inches or higher. The frequency of mowing will vary depending on the conditions of the particular year, but once a month is sufficient for most years. It is also important to **mow often enough to prevent “windrowing” from occurring, which could smother the native plantings** under a heavy thatch. Mowing is still effective in the third year after planting and beyond, but is not needed as frequently, and is typically used for controlling areas with high amounts noxious weeds. Burning is essential to maintaining a healthy prairie after it is established. Burning sets back the development of weeds, removes litter from soil surface, and increases the growth and development of native grasses, flowers and legumes. Burning can be done as often as every year but is recommended once every three years. Though maintenance in the first couple of years after seeding can be somewhat intensive, very little maintenance is required after a prairie is established, except for the occasional burn.

Native prairies can offer an abundance of beauty and provide many recreational opportunities. They also provide great habitat and can restore low quality soil. With proper planning, preparation and maintenance a successful prairie can be established fairly easy and will never have to be replanted, providing years of enjoyment.

*Mark is the 2010 recipient of the Pheasants Forever-Fox River Valley Biology Intern Scholarship. The scholarship is given out by our chapter annually to benefit a college student while pursuing a major in a conservation/environmental field that we feel will benefit the PF mission.*

## *USDA ANNOUNCES CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM GENERAL SIGN-UP*

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 26, 2010 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that a general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will begin on August 2, 2010 and continue through August 27, 2010. During the sign-up period, farmers and ranchers may offer eligible land for CRP's competitive general sign-up at their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. The 2008 Farm Bill authorized USDA to maintain CRP enrollment up to 32 million acres. Jim Miller, Agriculture Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services, made the announcement on behalf of Secretary Vilsack during a conference call with reporters.

"America's farmers and ranchers play an important role in improving our environment, and for nearly 25 years, CRP has helped this nation build sound conservation practices that preserve the soil, clean our water, and restore habitat for wildlife," said Miller. "Today's announcement will help us create a greener and healthier America, and I encourage all interested farmers and ranchers to contact their local FSA office to learn more how to take advantage of this opportunity."

To help ensure that interested farmers and ranchers are aware of the sign-up period, USDA has signed partnership agreements with several conservation and wildlife organizations, which will play an active role in USDA's 2010 CRP outreach efforts. Additionally, Secretary Vilsack has recorded two public service announcements, which are available to the press and public at [www.fsa.usda.gov/psa](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/psa).

CRP is a voluntary program that assists farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers to use their environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolling in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers in exchange for rental payments, cost-share, and technical assistance. CRP protects millions of acres of America's topsoil from erosion and is designed to improve the nation's natural resources base. Participants voluntarily remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production by entering into long-term contracts for 10 to 15 years. In exchange, participants receive annual rental payments and a payment of up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing conservation practices.

By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, CRP also protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds and streams. Acreage enrolled in the CRP is planted to resource-conserving vegetative covers, making the program a major contributor to wildlife population increases in many parts of the country. As a result, CRP has provided significant opportunities for hunting and fishing on private lands. Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this sign-up provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall covering about 4.5 million acres may make new contract offers. Contracts awarded under this sign-up are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1, 2010.

FSA implements CRP on behalf of Commodity Credit Corporation. FSA will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) for environmental benefits to be gained from enrolling the land in CRP. The EBI consists of five environmental factors (wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits) and cost. Decisions on the EBI cutoff will be made after the sign-up ends and after analyzing the EBI data of all the offers.

Those who would have met previous sign-up EBI thresholds are not guaranteed a contract under this sign-up. In addition to the general sign-up, CRP's continuous sign-up program will be ongoing. Continuous acres represent the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land. For more information, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.

# 2010 General CRP Act Now!

- The USDA has announced a new signup period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) from August 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Farm the Best Conserve the Rest!
- Cost share and Annual Rental Rate Available to plant grasses and trees to achieve your wildlife goals.

Please Contact your County Farm Service Agency Office  
or Your Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

920-733-1575 ext.108



# BULLSEYE FOR YOUTH ARCHERY SHOOT 10AM – 4PM BANQUET AT 5:30 PM

**YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR SUCCESS**

**OCTOBER 16, 2010**

**WHAT:** A full day of activities for youth ages 8 – 19 managed by certified safety instructors

- Archery Range
- Hunter Safety
- Bow Hunter Safety
- ATV Safety
- Tree Stand Safety
- Deer Tracking and Blood Trail Event

## PRIZES FOR EVERY PARTICIPANT

**WHY:** Provide youth with education, opportunity and exposure to outdoor sports activities.

<p><b>WHERE:</b> Critters Wolf River Sports 700 West Main Street Winneconne, WI 54986 (920) 582-0471</p>	<p><b>BANQUET:</b> Buffet catered by Fin 'N' Feather Silent Auction Raffles – Guns, Bows, 50/50 and much more Door Prizes</p>
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**SPONSORED BY:** WAEF - Winneconne Area Education Foundation, Inc.

**COMMITTED PARTNERS:**

<p>NASP National Archery in the Schools Program WI Department of Natural Resources Winnebago Archers Club Inc. Butte des Morts Conservation Club Fin 'N' Feather Showboat – Restaurant Pheasants Forever – Fox Valley Chapter Wayne's Piggly Wiggly</p>	<p>Critters Wolf River Sports Woodeye's Bar &amp; Grill Wolf River Resorts Poygan Conservation Club Winneconne Kiwanis Club 102.3 WAUH The Bug</p>
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**Banquet Tickets can be purchased in Winneconne at**

**Critter's Sports, Woodeye's Bar & Grill, Piggly Wiggly, Fin 'N' Feather and Winneconne High School**

Archery Shoot - Admission Fee \$5 per participant

Banquet - Adults \$50 Youth Ages 8 – 19 \$30

For registration information, sponsorship opportunities, or general questions, contact

Jim Wolf - [marilynwlw@yahoo.com](mailto:marilynwlw@yahoo.com) (920) 379-3500 or (920) 582-7133

Tami Holmes – [tami.holmes@live.com](mailto:tami.holmes@live.com) (920) 243-8155 [www.bullseyeforyouth.com](http://www.bullseyeforyouth.com)

All proceeds benefit the Winneconne Area Education Foundation Inc.

The Winneconne Area Education Foundation, a component of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, was established to promote and support educational opportunities for students in the Winneconne Community School District and to strengthen community participation.



## YOUTH CORNER- EARTH DAY

*By Taylor Jacobson*

On Wednesday, April 22nd, the Oshkosh West Woods and Waters Club took the day off of school to celebrate Earth Day by helping the Pheasants Forever organization create better habitat for upland birds and waterfowl. The students were divided up into different groups to perform separate tasks in order to accomplish more. Jobs performed in the different groups included brush pile movers, tree cutters, and stump sprayers. The stump sprayers were in charge of spraying the stumps of cut down trees with a special chemical that would eat away at the remaining piece of tree. The people working in the brush pile group were assigned to cutting down unwanted trees and bushes from the marsh and moving them to an appropriate burning place. The tree cutting group was allowed to use the chainsaws, but a few of the students decided to take matters into their own hands and attempt to take a few trees down with nothing more than hand saws. Although it took them a while to only cut a few trees down, they felt a strong sense of accomplishment when they were finished. After a nice, long, and delicious lunch break provided by Pheasants Forever, the groups were back at work, eager to get as much done in the time that remained. Despite a little rain here and there, the overall day was a huge success for the Pheasants Forever organization. With the help of the Oshkosh West students alone, a large section of the land will now be a safer place for pheasants and waterfowl to nest without having to worry about predators hunting them. Pheasants Forever has always been about conserving land and habitat for future generations of wildlife to live safely and unharmed on, and thanks to the Oshkosh West Woods and Waters Club, they are one big step closer to achieving that goal.



# 2010 Pheasants Forever Youth Hunt

Saturday, September 11th, 2010

7:30 AM – 12 PM or 10:30 AM – 3 PM

At the RW Ranch

The 2010 Youth Hunt includes an education program, trap shoot and an actual field hunt with stocked pheasants providing an exciting hunting experience.

Participants will be matched with experienced hunters and well trained hunting dogs by the Fox Valley Pheasants Forever chapter. To insure a safe and quality hunt for everyone we ask that participants not bring their own dogs. Ammunition and lunch will be provided.

Applicants must be between the ages of 12 & 18yrs and must be graduates of a hunter safety course. Applicants ages 12 to 14 must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult.

Applicants 15 and older are not required to have a parent attend but we do encourage parents to come along.

For safety of all, participants must wear 50% Blaze Orange clothing the day of the hunt.

There is a nominal fee of \$10.00 which must be sent in with the attached registration form. **Registration deadline is Sat September 4th, 2010**

There will be two sessions. The Number of participants for each session will be limited to insure a quality experience. While we will try to accommodate your requests, Pheasants Forever may need to assign you to a session. You will be notified via email as to which session you will attend along with confirmation of your fee and registration.

If you have a group that wishes to hunt together all Registration Forms and Fees **MUST** be sent in the same envelope. Limit of 5 hunters per group. These will be honored on a first come first serve basis.

Call Al (920) 231-0860 or Mark (920) 426-0491 with questions or e-mail to [mark@thunderamultimedia.com](mailto:mark@thunderamultimedia.com).

**Directions to the RW Ranch:  
5772 Kumbier Road Pickett WI 54964**

Take highway 41 to the Highway 26 Oshkosh exit

Take Highway 26 south about 5 miles

Turn right onto County Road FF

Stay straight onto Zoar Road

Turn right onto Kumbier Road to RW Ranch

**2010 Pheasants Forever Youth Hunt**  
**Saturday, September 11th, 2010**  
 Registration and Release Form

Applicant Registration please print:

First name \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Hunter Safety Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gauge of shotgun participant will use? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Preferred session:  
 First Flush 7:30-noon  
 Second Flush 10:30am-3pm  
 Either Session is OK  
 While we will try to accommodate your requests, reservations accepted on a first come basis and we may need to assign you to another session.  
 Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 We will confirm your reservation via email so please print clearly.

Parental consent:

I am the Parent or Legal Guardian of \_\_\_\_\_.

I give them permission to participate in the 2010 Youth Hunt on Sat, Sept 11<sup>th</sup> 2010.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration is due no later than September 4th, 2010.**

Make checks payable to: Fox River Valley Chapter of Pheasants Forever.

**Enclose \$10 entry fee and this form and mail to:**

Pheasants Forever, Fox River Valley Chapter  
 C/O Mark Salzwedel  
 1424 Powers Street  
 Oshkosh WI 54901

Have questions? Call Al (920) 231-0860 or Mark (920) 426-0491 or e-mail: [mark@thunderamultimedia.com](mailto:mark@thunderamultimedia.com).



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A Blast from the Past! Youth Hunt 2007 at RW Ranch