

What's Developing

The pheasant population is down about 50% this year. That's disappointing news for hunters, but those who travel to this area to hunt, for the most part, are still planning to make their annual trip. It is more the hunt than the shooting of the birds that is important.

The boost to the local economy from these hunters is substantial. Food, lodging, and money spent in other local businesses are a boon to those businesses and city sales tax revenue.

In visiting with hunters who travel to this area, their conversations often center around the friends that they have made here and how much they look forward to returning year after year to renew those friendships. It is not unusual to hear of hunters who have been returning for 25 years or more.

Many make their reservations year after year at the same place of lodging. Others come to the Eureka area for the first time and seek a place to stay. The first 2-3 weeks are often booked and about all a new person can hope for is someone else's cancellation. Or else, hunt later in the season when there are fewer hunters. Hunters without a place to stay and looking for a place during the first few weeks often contact the Information Center; anyone with available lodging during that time can let the Eureka Development office know and the information will be passed on to any who ask.

Eureka is fortunate to have a motel, as well as other housing options inside and outside of city limits. Eating establishments see a large turnout for meals. Annual events held during hunting season are supported by hunters from other areas as well as local citizens. Medical and veterinarian services are utilized. Camouflage is seen everywhere.

In 2012, the SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks estimated that the 164,000 resident and non-resident pheasant hunters spent over \$172 million on expenses directly related to their hunts. Eureka is only too glad to share in that wealth.

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