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Jenna Hill and her dog Sadie took a few minutes after hunting pheasants most of the day.

— Photo by Rex Murray

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State regulations change opening day

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has made some changes in hunting seasons and regulations this year, and perhaps the biggest involves the opening day of pheasant season.

The department approved moving the opening of quail and pheasant season back to the second Saturday of November, the traditional opening date, effective this year. The opener had been moved up to match Nebraska's, but the neighboring state simply matched the move, and the longer season wasn't particularly popular with businesses or landowners.

The season date had been moved up for two years, but going back to the traditional opening this year on the second Saturday in November.

This year's opening date will be Nov. 14.

Upland bird seasons are:

- Pheasant and Quail — Nov. 14 to Jan. 31, statewide.

- Prairie chicken — Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 (early season east of U.S. 281); Nov. 21 to Jan. 31 (northwest and east units); and Nov. 21 to Dec. 31 (southwest unit).

Another change aims to get rid of invader dove species from other lands.

There is no longer a bag or possession limits for Eurasian collared doves and ringed turtle doves during the dove season. However, if the take of exotic doves causes a hunter's daily bag to exceed 15, the exotic doves must be trans-

ported with a fully feathered wing attached.

Dove season opened Sept. 1 and ran through Oct. 31, then reopens Nov. 7-15. A separate exotic dove season will open Nov. 20 and run through Feb. 28. During this season, only Eurasian collared doves and ringed turtle doves may be taken. There is no daily bag or possession limit, but doves must be transported with a fully-feathered wing attached.

For deer hunters, nonresident antlered-deer permits and resident Firearms Either-Species/Either-Sex permits are available by drawing though online application only. There is a \$6.50 nonrefundable application fee. Unsuccessful applicants will earn a preference point for the following year's drawing.

Applicants who do not have Internet access can make application by calling (620) 672-5911. Ask for Big Game. The application deadline for the 2010 nonresident draw is April 30.

The deadline for Resident Firearm Either-Species/Either-Sex permits is in July. Applicants can view draw results online two to four weeks after the close of the application period. Results are posted at the same location application was made. Successful applicants should receive permits by mail four to six weeks after application deadline.

Other regulations are online at www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/Hunting/Hunting-Regulations. Click on the link below the picture of the summary booklet.



Mentor hunters assist a youth at a Pheasants Forever Mentor Hunting Day.

– Photo by Christie Anderson/ The Norton Telegram

Enjoy your hunt but, obey the rules

By Christie Anderson

The Norton Telegram
canderson@nwkansas.com

Land, land and more land, as far as the eye can see, but where should you go to hunt?

In Kansas, public hunting land is one of the easiest ways that a hunter can find a place. Because of programs like the Walk-In Hunting Access through the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, hunters do not have to worry about locating a landowner for permission. They can also find maps of public hunting land and rules at a Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks office, local sporting goods stores and in this publication.

While these areas are open to the public, some rules and regulations apply. The following are just a few of the rules, according to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks:

- Hunting is allowed during open seasons for hunting on lands and waters designated for public hunting.
- Target practice is allowed only in areas designated as open for target practice.
- Noncommercial training of dogs is allowed.
- Blinds and tree stands are allowed with certain restrictions.
- Vehicles must stay on maintained roadways. Off-road vehicles can be used on public land

only in designated areas.

- Camping is allowed in designated areas only.

• Dogs must be confined to a leash, vehicle, trailer or cabin, except in areas open to hunting during legal season, authorized field trials or noncommercial training.

- Hunters need to pick up and pack out any trash.

Mark Gray, with Wildlife and Parks, has several pointers for a safe and successful hunt.

“Be sure to respect the land, pick up trash and make sure that you are not trespassing,” he said. “Public land is all posted and is foot-traffic only.”

He suggested that hunters study season dates carefully.

“You also need to respect the correct dates”, he said. “Knowing the correct date is important for safety and conservation regulations.”

When you put all of the rules together and follow them, he said, you’ll never have to pay any fines. Gray says, some of the most common violations on public lands are driving on the land, shooting an animal out of season and having no license.

Public hunting can be a great resource for a hunter, he said, as long as they remember the rules and common courtesy. Because of this, public hunting land can produce some of the best memories for a hunter.

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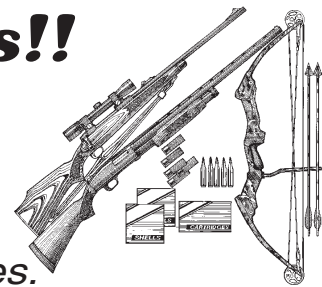
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Shawn Carney, FIC*

1210 W. 4th St.
Colby, KS
785-460-6921
785-443-2442
shawn.carney@mwarep.org

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Welcome Hunters!