

# natural habitat hunting season

In the past five years, said Leitner, Beaver Creek Gamebirds has donated 20,000 hen chicks to people to be raised and released. That didn't work as well during the drought years, he said.

This year, he said, he raised 35,000 birds. Each of the pheasants, he said, had plastic blinders on so they don't peck at each other.

In each of the pens there's a different hatch of birds, said Leitner.

It's really like a feedlot, he said, but for birds, and with a top on the pens. All of the pens open into a wide outdoor walkway. The birds are moved from the pens, down the walkway and into a building. The door is shut and the birds are moved into the connecting building, where small crates line the walls. The birds to be shipped are then loaded into the crates.

Fifteen hens can go into a crate and 10 roosters for the pheasants, he said.



A lone chukar stood in one of the enclosures at Beaver Creek Gamebirds.

— Photo by Kimberly Davis/The Oberlin Herald

In the next few weeks, he said, a lot of birds will probably go out to be released by different people. Those will be sold to people who will put them in pens near where they will be released.

Leitner said he didn't have to obtain a permit to raise the birds, but does need one to sell them.

If someone wants to buy some birds to release because they are a bird enthusiast, he said, they don't need a permit to do so. If they want to release the birds and then charge people to hunt, though, then they need a permit.

Besides just helping increase the bird population in northwest Kansas, Beaver Creek Gamebirds also provides birds to Cabela's which are stuffed



Two male pheasants flew together inside the enclosure.

— Photo by Kimberly Davis/The Oberlin Herald

and displayed in the firm's sporting-goods stores. Leitner said he also does field trips for school kids.

Besides the pheasants, he said, they raise and sell quail and chukars.

Chukars come from the western slope of Colorado and Idaho, he said. There isn't a season for chukars in Kansas, he said. The birds can be used for dog training and are also used on hunting preserves. They are a little different because the birds have all white meat.

The male and female chukars look the same, except the male birds have a small bump on their leg.

Leitner said he feeds all of the birds a grain-soybean meal mix which is similar to what cattle

eat, but with different vitamins. Mizer Milling in Atwood, he said, makes a customized blend for him.

The company, he said, consists of himself, his wife, who also works as a substitute teacher, one full-time employee and three part-time workers.

The business also offers a European Shoot, which is a mix of the old and new west, said Leitner. It's the way royalty in Europe used to and still hunt birds.

The wild bird population this year, he said, is probably as good as it's been in the past 20 years.

More information about the company is available at [www.beavercreekgamebirds.com](http://www.beavercreekgamebirds.com).

## Pheasant Hunter Breakfast Jennings Masonic Hall



**Saturday, November 1, 2008**  
**6 a.m. to 9 a.m.**  
**Jennings, Kansas**

Free will offering

Proceeds will be used  
for improvements  
to the Masonic Hall

Annual JENNINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Pheasant Supper • Sat., Nov. 1, 5-7 p.m.

- Roast Beef or Ham
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Green Beans with Bacon & Onions
- Hot Rolls & Butter
- Salad Bar
- Pie Bar
- Coffee or Tea



Adults - \$6 6-12 - \$3 5 and under - Free

Held at the Jennings United Methodist Church • 202 S. Topeka

Remington

Remington

## Welcome Hunters & Fishermen

Storewide Savings on Ammo,  
Reloading, Clothing, Boots, Guns,  
Fishing Tackle, Rods, Reels, Camping,  
Boating & Marine Supplies

FRIDAY, OCT. 31ST OPEN 'TIL MIDNIGHT

OPENING WEEKEND

SAT. 6 A.M. - 7 P.M. • SUNDAY 8 A.M. - 4 P.M.

OPEN EARLY ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY

REGULAR HOURS

9 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.

MONDAY-FRIDAY

SATURDAY — 9 - 4 P.M.



DALE'S Fish 'N' Fun

Bob Woolsey \* \* \* \* \* Joe Dejmal

502 Frontier Parkway, Oberlin, Kan. 785-475-2201

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

Remington

Remington