

## Brood survey shows pheasant numbers are up in the Clark County area and across the state

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) has completed the annual pheasant brood survey and the results show a 42 percent increase in the statewide pheasants-per-mile (PPM) index from 2014.

The 2015 statewide PPM index of 3.80 is up from 2.68 last year and 1.52 in 2013. The statewide PPM index is similar to 2011 when hunters harvested 1.56 million roosters. "The favorable winter and spring weather conditions for the second consecutive year contributed strongly to another large increase in pheasants-per-mile," stated Kelly Hepler, GFP Secretary. "This year's population index is more than double the 2013 level when hunters harvested just under one million pheasants. Although the index continues to lag behind the 10-year average due to the extremely high counts from 2005 through 2010, a second straight year of substantial gains in the index is great news for our hunting community."

From late July through mid-August, GFP surveyed 109, thirty-mile routes across the state to estimate pheasant production and calculate the PPM index. The survey is not a population estimate, but rather compares the number of pheasants observed on the routes and establishes trend information. Survey routes are grouped into 13 areas,

Pheasants Per Mile (PPM)				
Local Area	Routes	2015	2014	10 yr. avg.
Aberdeen.....	14	3.21	2.74	5.79
Brookings.....	11	1.70	1.16	3.60
Chamberlain.....	10	8.84	6.55	13.32
Huron.....	17	4.02	2.92	6.82
Mitchell.....	16	4.55	3.04	5.58
Mobridge.....	8	5.02	3.59	6.69
Pierre.....	12	7.48	5.20	9.03
Sioux Falls.....	13	2.11	1.06	1.97
Sisseton.....	5	1.30	0.77	1.88
Watertown.....	12	2.01	1.21	4.35
Western SD.....	5	2.44	1.53	2.60
Winner.....	8	5.97	3.78	7.01
Yankton.....	10	2.06	1.36	1.41
STATEWIDE.....	109	3.80	2.68	5.45

based on a local city, and the index value of each local city area is then compared to index values of the previous year and the 10-year average. Survey results indicate that pheasant numbers will again be highest along the Missouri River corridor in the broad regions around Winner, Chamberlain, Pierre and Mobridge. Great pheasant abundance also exists in the James River Valley in the regions near Mitchell, Huron and Aberdeen. Fewer pheasants will be available farther east in the I-29 corridor, but ample opportunity for quality hunts still exist. Great populations of pheasants occur in west-

ern South Dakota where favorable habitat exists.

"Habitat continues to be at the forefront of the conversation and is a crucial factor in pheasant numbers," stated Hepler. "Bird numbers are higher in parts of the state where quality habitat conditions still exist, primarily on grasslands including those enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program as well as fields of cereal crops such as winter wheat. We continue to work in cooperation with the Governor's

**Pheasant numbers**  
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## Valve was fixed Monday at swimming pool

Right when one thought the swimming pool season was over...a broken valve needed attention. City of Clark water superintendent Darin Altfillisch is shown getting on the scuba gear preparing to go underwater and fix this valve. Altfillisch stated

that even though swimming was over for 2015, it is important to get this situation fixed and prepare winterization of the Horace Bennett Memorial Swimming Pool.

## Schools in rural areas continue to show stability - numbers wise

The trend for many years in rural South Dakota is to have declining public school enrollments.

Enrollment decline and school budget concerns seem to go hand in hand as state public school funding is predicated upon student numbers.

Public schools in South Dakota receive \$4,877 in state aid per student in grades K-12. South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard has set up a Blue Ribbon Task Force on Teachers and Students. Said Daugaard as to why this task force was needed, "We need to understand where teacher shortages are occurring and what can be done to address them. We need to ask why 12 states can spend less per student than South Dakota, yet pay their teachers more. We need to ask why, even as we hear growing concerns about teacher salaries, many schools' reserve funds are increasing. These questions need to be answered with hard data, not anecdotes or opinion surveys."

The 2015-16 school numbers show stability in all three area schools and all three schools have stabilized in population. Clark is down 13 students from a year ago; Willow Lake is up five and Henry is down five from a year ago. (If one doesn't count preschool - as no 2015-16 preschool numbers were given.)

Enrollment for the three area schools is at 798 compared to 827 a year ago, 811 two years ago and 789 three years ago.

**Clark**  
Two years ago Clark had 388 students PK-12, last year there were 404 when school started, so the 2015-16 number of 391 is in between those two numbers.

There are 80 students in Clark High School, down from 94 a year ago. The senior class of 29 is the second largest in the school system behind 32 in the kindergarten class. The average number of students in each grade at Clark, K-12

is nearly 21 and including colony schools it is 28.

There are 100 students at colony schools compared to 92 a year ago. "School is off to a nice start at Clark," said second year superintendent Warren.

Clark	15	14	13	12
Pre-school	15	14	13	12
Kindergarten	25	34	22	26
Grade 1	20	28	20	23
Grade 2	24	20	22	19
Grade 3	17	21	17	22
Grade 4	20	18	21	17
Grade 5	18	21	19	15
Grade 6	23	20	14	18
Grade 7	18	15	18	16
Grade 8	14	20	16	22
Grade 9	17	16	21	30
Grade 10	13	24	30	29
Grade 11	21	30	27	21
Grade 12	29	24	22	26
Hillcrest	27	26	27	28
Fordham	24	20	20	17
Silverlake	49	46	45	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>390</b>

**Willow Lake**  
At Willow Lake, school started with 232 students, up five from last year.

Starting at preschool and going up, there are 56 students in the first four grades and superintendent Scott Klautt said that that is very positive.

There are 55 high school students this year, with stable numbers in the top two classes, totaling 33 students, 16 in the junior class and 17 seniors.

The three colony schools in the Willow Lake district have 49 students.

Homecoming is a while off this fall at Willow Lake. Coronation is set for Monday, October 5 and the parade and football game are on Friday, October 9.

Willow Lake	15	14	13	12
Pre-school	13	18	10	13
Kindergarten	19	11	17	10
Grade 1	10	15	12	10
Grade 2	14	12	11	14

Grade 3	13	10	13	15
Grade 4	10	11	13	10
Grade 5	12	14	11	6
Grade 6	14	13	7	16
Grade 7	16	6	16	9
Grade 8	7	14	10	19
Grade 9	12	10	19	18
Grade 10	10	18	19	10
Grade 11	16	17	10	13
Grade 12	17	8	11	19
Shamrock	11	11	12	11
Mayfield	16	16	21	22
Collins	22	23	26	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>226</b>

**Henry**  
Henry has 175 K-12) students for the 2015-16 school term, down five students from last year.

"We've been holding steady," said Henry superintendent Steve Zirbel, regarding student numbers.

Zirbel said that the new school year is off to a good start.

"We have a new sign in place - 'Home of the Falcons'," said Zirbel, and he said that one thing which was new this year are the kitchen tables.

There will be 55 students in high school.

Homecoming is coming quickly at Henry, as it will be Friday, September 11.

The fifth grade with 18 students is the largest class, with kindergarten and grade three having 16 students and there are three classes with 15 students.

Henry	15	14	13	12
Pre-school	16	15	14	13
Kindergarten	16	21	13	17
Grade 1	17	12	18	9
Grade 2	9	17	9	12
Grade 3	16	8	14	13
Grade 4	10	17	14	14
Grade 5	18	11	14	7
Grade 6	10	15	9	13
Grade 7	15	10	13	14
Grade 8	9	15	16	12
Grade 9	15	13	11	13
Grade 10	15	11	10	13
Grade 11	11	14	16	14
Grade 12	14	18	13	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>173</b>



Jann Johnson and her daughter Stacy and Mace Roberts have moved to the former Caroline Opsahl John Opsahl farm near Carpenter.

Formerly from Seattle, Wash., they are bringing back to life the stately house and farm with renovations and enjoy the peace and quiet of life in the country. The house has had no permanent residents since 1990 and was known in its earlier years as the LeClaire place, built around 1910.

## From Seattle to the farm near Carpenter

"The silence is so refreshing here!" say Stacy and Mace Roberts, formerly of Seattle, Wash. and Stacy's mother Jann, who have all moved to the former Caroline Opsahl and her son John Opsahl's farm near Carpenter.

Jann and the late Thom Johnson moved to Carpenter in 2009 from Seattle, Wash. with plans of renovating this farm. They were planning on living and retiring there.

"My mother Carmen (Chesley) Lien brought my sister Candace and I back to South Dakota every year to visit in the summer," said Johnson. "We have a lot of good memories in this big house. After our daughter Stacy was born, she spent a lot of time every summer here too, often driving back with my mom and I for our summer vacations. Mom spent her last two years back here in South Dakota, she died in 2010.

Jann and her sister and then ultimately Jann, inherited the 160

acres and house. Every summer since 2008, Stacy and her husband Mace, whom she married in 1992, came back to work on the house, too. "Dad taught me how to fix a lot of things," said S. Roberts. "How to plaster ceilings, caulk, insulate, fix the strings and weights on double hung windows, fix cracks and work on the floors among other projects. We had to redo the plumbing and electrical parts of the house, too."

The house has five bedrooms, two enclosed porches, is three stories tall and has an upper balcony the family is excited to finish with a wood railing around it, so they can enjoy their countryside view. They also have plans for several outbuildings on the farm and are re-purposing the wood from them.

"We're bringing the old girl back to life," exclaims the enthusiastic S. Roberts. "This farm was the center of our family. We want to make it a diversified farm like it used to be."

So far, they've added four tur-

keys, six guineas, 30 meat and 30 laying hens and four Large Black hogs. They also have three rescue dogs, Koebe, an English creme Lab; Molly, a Spaniel/Bichon Frise mix and Kiki, a miniature Poodle.

They are also big gardeners and have two large gardens with plans of selling organic produce find-

**Seattle**  
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WEATHER			
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Aug. 25.....	69	44	0
Aug. 26.....	71	52	tr
Aug. 27.....	71	60	.08
Aug. 28.....	74	56	0
Aug. 29.....	78	55	0
Aug. 30.....	80	62	0
Aug. 31.....	80	63	0
2015 precipitation to date	18.33"		
2014 precipitation to date	14.14"		

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