



State Habitat Meeting

Holiday Inn Convention Center
110 2nd Avenue
Kearney, Nebraska



Covey Corner – Help bring up the next generation of conservationists by inviting them to the Covey Corner. We'll have outdoor education and shooting activities geared towards various age groups. First 30 youth to register will receive a free shirt!

Rustic Patch and Wine Tasting – We've paired up with the Rustic Patch in Kearney to offer a new opportunity of outdoor painting and local wine tasting. PF is matching the cost to offer a lower rate of \$20 for each participant with a cap of 25 for the room. Please RSVP with [Ashley](#) early to be sure you have a spot. Check out the Rustic Patch [here!](#) Registration deadline for the painting is **February 1**.



Keynote Speakers:

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Director Jim Douglas, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

2018 Farm Bill and Conservation – Bethany Erb, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Governmental Affairs

Nebraska Alternatives Beyond CRP – Ritch Nelson, USDA State Biologist

Hitler's Effect on Pheasant Habitat in Nebraska – Larkin Powell, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Director of Great Plains Cooperative Ecosystems Studies

Missouri Quail Research; Raccoon Densities, Movements, and Bobwhites – Frank Loncarich and Kyle Hedges, Missouri Department of Conservation Land Managers

Hot Topics:

Precision Agriculture, UNL Advances, and Wildlife Benefits – Andy Little, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Monarchs and Milkweed – Mercy Dinwiddie, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Nebraska's Public Access Opportunities – John Laux, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission



Nebraska's Prairie Grouse – Ecology and Management – Bill Vodehnal, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

The Conservation Reserve Program: Past, Present, and Future – Eric Zach, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Historical Review of the Saline Wetland Complex and Benefits to Upland Game and Other Wildlife – Molly Haas and Tom Malmstrom, Saline Wetland Conservation Partnership

“How To” Demonstrations:

Redefining the Versatile Dog -- *Aleah German, Last Call Bird Dog Kennels*; Learn about gun dog basics and starting your new hunting partner on birds. Aleah is the owner of Sully who is the first Vizsla to ever earn passes in AKC Senior Retriever, HRC Seasoned, and first to earn a title in NAHRA. She currently has two Vizslas that she has trained to achieved AKC Master Hunter titles and will do a live demonstration of techniques on how to mold a versatile gun dog.



Plant and Manage Shrub Thickets – *Steve Anderson, Anderson Habitat Solutions and Ryan Lodge, Pheasants Forever*; Shrubby cover is an important component of habitat with quality sites disappearing across the landscape. However, shrubs can be reestablished with proper placement, prep work, and follow-up management. Hear from the biologist that plans the designs and the contractor with tips of best planting method, chemical use and care.



Conduct Wildlife Surveys – *Ben Wheeler, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever*; Wildlife Professionals conduct wildlife surveys each year to determine population trends and change overtime. However, landowners and wildlife enthusiasts can conduct these same surveys to tell them more about the wildlife use of their area. Here's how to conduct whistle counts, crow counts, lek surveys and more!

Ranching for Wildlife and Profit – *Russ Sundstrom and Andy Moore, Pheasants Forever*; Eastern Red Cedar control is vital for cattle operations and to maintain quality wildlife habitat. Resource Professionals and ranchers have teamed up in the Loess Canyons south of North Platte to take on the cedar tree issue and restore native grassland to the area. Learn how to tackle the tough species, work with your neighbors, and implement change that is noticeable on the landscape.



Introduce the Next Generation to the Outdoors – *Pheasants Forever Chapter Leader and Marissa Jensen, Pheasants Forever*; Recruit, Retain, and Reactivate, right? How!?! What steps do we take to introduce and keep the next generation of conservationists? How do you run a quality youth or beginner hunter event? Learn a few tricks of the trade as well as new ideas from the ones that do it best...the volunteers.

Shooting Instruction – *Mark and Sally Stevens, NRA Certified Advanced Shotgun Coaches.* Mark and Sally Stevens are joining up with the ladies of Beyond the Shot to help us with shooting instruction followed by demonstration. The duo comes from Minnesota and will be offering breakout sessions on Saturday as well as a shooting workshop on Sunday from 9:00am to 12:00pm at the Fort Kearney Shooting Sports Range. The workshop is designed for the beginner or struggling shooter and will be capped at 20.

Habitat, Youth, and Other Topics

- Becoming an Outdoor Woman
- Upland Slam Drawing
- Recovering America's Wildlife Act
- Prescribed Fire
- Cover Crops
- Best Management Practices
- Monarch Update and Pollinator Habitat
- Federal, State, and Local Program Options
- Lots More!



Schedule

Friday Night Kickoff: Chapter Volunteers, Partners, and the General Public is invited to attend a reception with appetizers and drinks beginning at 7:00pm.

Saturday Meeting: Registration begins at 7:30am with the first presentation at 8:10am. Presentations will conclude by 4:35pm.

Saturday Night Entertainment: The Prairie Hills Pheasants Forever Chapter will host their annual banquet on February 9th following the presentations. Plan to stick around for entertainment and to support Nebraska youth and conservation!

Please help spread the word by passing this along. A full agenda will be posted on our website. **Registration is OPEN!** Fill out the attached form or click [here](#) to register online by **January 15th for Early Bird Pricing.** Please contact Ashley at 308-850-8395 or Asnelson@pheasantsforever.org if you have questions!

This meeting is made possible by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, the Nebraska Environmental Trust and Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Volunteers. We look forward to providing this event each year to say THANK YOU to our great partners, landowners, and chapter volunteers.

