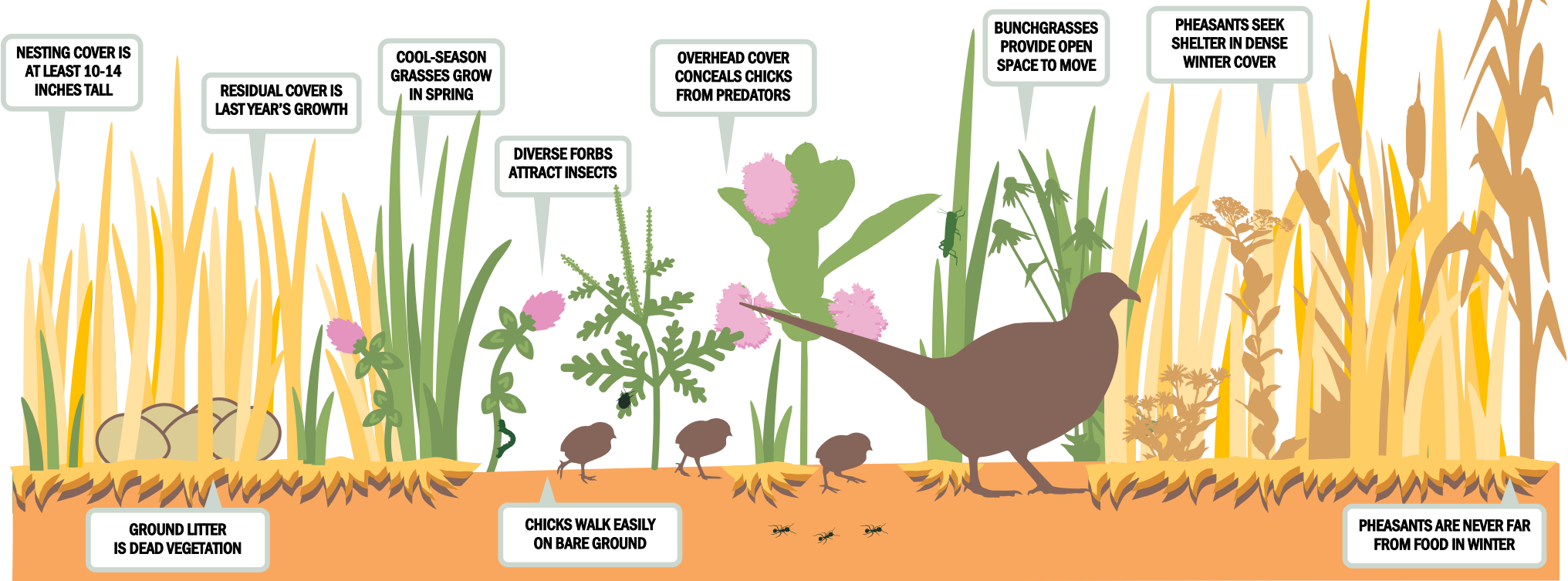


# HABITAT ESSENTIALS

What makes good habitat? Having easy access to food, water, cover, and space to support growth and survival.



## NESTING COVER

[ 1/2 GRASSES, 1/2 FORBS ]

## BROOD-REARING COVER

[ 1/3 BUNCHGRASSES, 2/3 FORBS ]

## WINTER COVER

[ WITHIN 1/4 MILE FROM FOOD ]

## DO NOT DISTURB

Pheasants nest in open habitats from mid-April to mid-July. Tall vegetation, left standing from last growing season (residual cover), helps conceal nests from predators. Hens lay a clutch of 7-15 eggs in a shallow scrape or hollow of grassy, ground litter and will not start incubating until the last egg is laid. After 23 days, the eggs hatch. Ideally, nesting cover is free from both human (haying, mowing, dog training) and weather-related (cold and rain) disturbances. To protect nests, avoid activities such as mowing, haying, and prescribed burning during the primary nesting season (May 1 to July 15).

Pheasants Forever is dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education and land management policies and programs.

## BIRDS NEED A BALANCED DIET

Pheasants eat a wide variety of foods: seeds, grains, berries, green plant matter, and especially insects. Their diet varies with age and the seasons. Protein-rich insects make up 90% of a chick's diet. Whereas, full grown pheasants eat high-energy grains to build fat reserves, which help supply winter warmth. A patchwork of grasslands and croplands across the landscape provide the habitat conditions and resources pheasants need.

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



1.) **True / False:** Both male and female pheasants are brightly colored.

2.) **True / False:** Pheasants prefer to run when in danger.

3.) **True / False:** Male pheasants are known as roosters.

4.) **True / False:** Pheasants can fly up to 60 mph when chased.

5.) **True / False:** Roosters have a ring of white neck feathers.

6.) What are the three cover types needed by pheasants?

7.) How long does it take for a pheasant egg to hatch?

8.) What is the primary diet of a pheasant chick?

## USEFUL TERMS:

**Grass** - a herbaceous, flowering plant with rounded, hollow or pithy jointed stems and long, narrow leaves with parallel veins.

**Forb** - a herbaceous, flowering plant that is not a grass; typically, broad-leaved with a network of veins (e.g., wildflowers and legumes).

