

# **PRAIRIE CHICKEN & SHARP-TAILED GROUSE**

Historically, these two species, plus ruffed grouse, have been combined under the name "Prairie Grouse." In these reports, harvest estimates for these species were combined. In 2006, hunters were asked specifically how many of each species were harvested of the total harvest and 76% were identified as sharp-tailed grouse, 20% as prairie chickens, and 4% were unknown. They continue to be combined for the overall harvest estimates in this report.

The 2015 grouse season covered 19 September 2015 – 3 January 2016 statewide. Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. The daily limit was 3 birds, possession 15. To hunt grouse residents required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult, senior or junior combination, or youth small game licenses; nonresidents were required to obtain adult or youth small game or nonresident shooting preserve licenses. Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. No shooting preserve license holders were surveyed and none of their harvest is included in any of the data in this report.

In 2015, there were 91,789 resident and 89,284 nonresident licenses issued that allowed holders to hunt prairie grouse. Approximately 10% of residents and nonresidents were surveyed for the upland bird seasons. Survey response rates were 65% for residents and 67% for nonresidents.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting grouse, there were a projected 7,866 resident and 5,032 nonresident grouse hunters.

From the survey responses, a projected total of 49,894 grouse were harvested (34,506 by residents, 15,388 by nonresidents) during the 2015 season.

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being very dissatisfied, and 7 being very satisfied), resident upland bird hunters reported an average rating of 4.98 while nonresidents reported a rating of 5.49.

## A comparison of the 2006 - 2015 prairie grouse harvests

Year	Resident Hunters					Nonresident Hunters				
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction
2006	7,836	27,269	4.02	3.48	4.99	6,135	13,620	3.92	2.22	5.71
2007	6,164	23,177	4.37	3.76	5.39	4,663	10,865	3.70	2.33	6.00
2008	7,044	34,023	4.46	4.83	5.31	5,383	13,458	4.26	2.50	5.86
2009	6,377	26,018	4.41	4.08	4.93	4,571	12,662	4.19	2.77	5.59
2010	7,879	39,868	4.49	5.06	5.20	5,386	17,020	3.92	3.16	5.88
2011	6,789	27,581	4.19	4.09	4.78	6,407	20,718	4.01	3.26	5.63
2012	7,197	31,223	4.68	4.38	4.65	7,037	19,005	3.83	2.70	5.14
2013	7,149	19,858	4.28	2.76	4.11	4,523	7,840	3.87	1.73	4.95
2014	6,503	25,847	4.55	4.01	4.85	4,254	9,943	3.99	2.31	5.52
2015	7,866	34,506	4.72	4.40	4.98	5,032	15,388	4.05	3.08	5.49

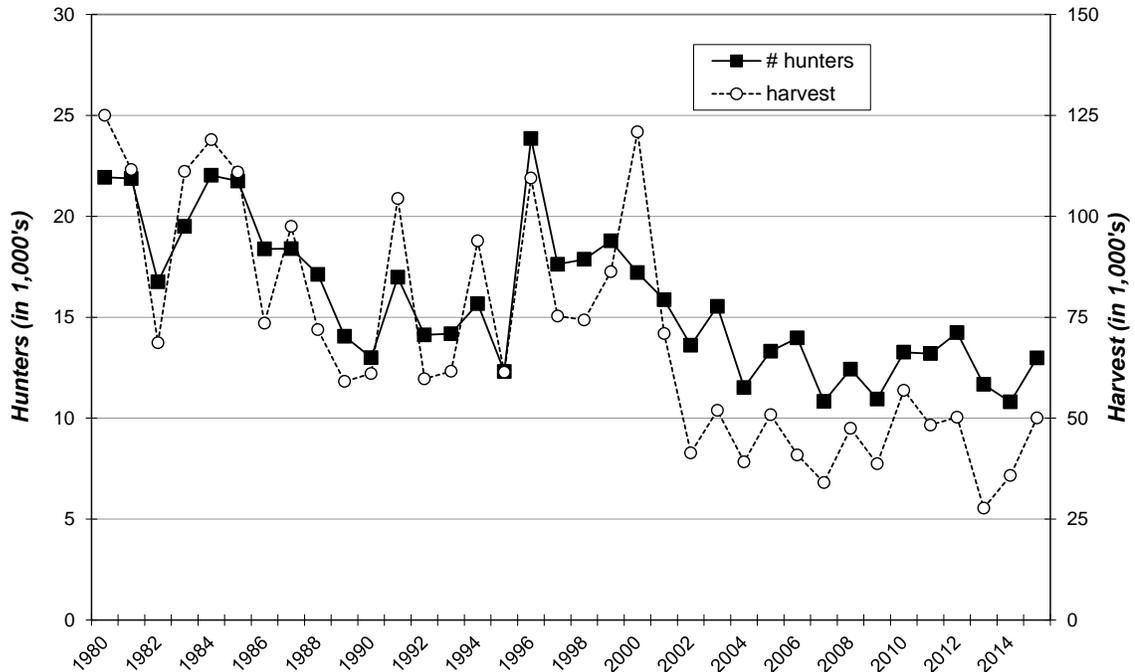
## PRAIRIE GROUSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2015

Revised: 18 May 2016

	RESIDENT TOTALS BY LICENSE TYPE						NONRESIDENT TOTALS			
	Small Game	Combo	Senior Combo	Junior Combo	Youth SmGm	Sum Estimates	Nonres Sm Game	Youth Sm Game	Sum Estimates	
<b>Licenses Sold</b>	23,553	47,105	7,739	8,219	5,173	<b>91,789</b>	86,718	2,566	<b>89,284</b>	
<b>Projected ACTIVE UPLAND BIRD HUNTERS</b>	<b>19,968</b>	<b>31,994</b>	<b>4,614</b>	<b>4,768</b>	<b>4,369</b>	<b>65,713</b>	<b>83,001</b>	<b>2,325</b>	<b>85,326</b>	
Number Sampled by Survey	1,984	4,021	655	631	436	<b>7,727</b>	7,620	206	<b>7,826</b>	
Number Responded to Survey	1,163	2,687	577	312	283	<b>5,022</b>	5,168	104	<b>5,272</b>	
% Responded and Participated in Season	85%	68%	60%	58%	84%	71%	98%	93%	98%	
Responded and Participated in Season	986	1,825	344	181	239	<b>3,575</b>	5,077	97	<b>5,174</b>	
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	177	862	233	131	44	<b>1,447</b>	91	7	<b>98</b>	
<b>Survey Response Rate</b>	<b>58.6%</b>	<b>66.8%</b>	<b>88.1%</b>	<b>49.4%</b>	<b>64.9%</b>	<b>65.0%</b>	<b>67.8%</b>	<b>50.5%</b>	<b>67.4%</b>	
No. Hunters Reporting Prairie Grouse Days	75	278	53	13	23	<b>442</b>	299	6	<b>305</b>	
Sum Prairie Grouse Hunted Days	377	1,409	189	37	76	<b>2,088</b>	1,219	17	<b>1,236</b>	
Average Days Hunted Prairie Grouse	<b>5.03</b>	<b>5.07</b>	<b>3.57</b>	<b>2.85</b>	<b>3.30</b>	<b>4.72</b>	<b>4.08</b>	<b>2.83</b>	<b>4.05</b>	
Sum Prairie Grouse Bagged	272	1,391	157	32	91	<b>1,943</b>	931	7	<b>938</b>	
Average Season Prairie Grouse Bag	<b>3.63</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>2.96</b>	<b>2.46</b>	<b>3.96</b>	<b>4.40</b>	<b>3.11</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>3.08</b>	
<b>Projected Days Prairie Grouse Hunting</b>	<b>7,635</b>	<b>24,701</b>	<b>2,535</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>1,389</b>	<b>37,235</b>	<b>19,929</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>20,336</b>	
<b>Projected No. Prairie Grouse Hunters</b>	<b>1,519</b>	<b>4,874</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>7,866</b>	<b>4,888</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>5,032</b>	
<b>Projected Prairie Grouse Bag</b>	<b>5,509</b>	<b>24,385</b>	<b>2,106</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>1,663</b>	<b>34,506</b>	<b>15,220</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>15,388</b>	
	<b>TOTAL PRAIRIE GROUSE HARVEST =</b>						<b>49,894</b>			
<b>Upland Bird Hunters Mean Satisfaction Score *</b>	5.00	4.97	4.77	5.09	5.24	4.98	5.49	5.50	5.49	

\* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1="very dissatisfied" and 7="very satisfied"

## PRAIRIE GROUSE HUNTERS & HARVEST 1980-2015



## Resident Grouse Harvest Distribution by County 2015

COUNTY	HUNTER DISTRIBUTION				HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Birds/Hunter
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	
Minnehaha	3	53	0.7	57	5	89	0.3	93	1.7
Pennington	24	427	5.8	454	177	3,143	9.5	3,278	7.4
Brown	3	53	0.7	57	4	71	0.2	74	1.3
Beadle	1	18	0.2	19	3	53	0.2	56	3.0
Codington	3	53	0.7	57	6	107	0.3	111	2.0
Brookings	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Yankton	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Davison	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Lawrence	3	53	0.7	57	10	178	0.5	185	3.3
Aurora	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Bennett	5	89	1.2	95	22	391	1.2	407	4.4
Bon Homme	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Brule	4	71	1.0	76	19	337	1.0	352	4.7
Buffalo	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Butte	9	160	2.2	170	36	639	1.9	667	4.0
Campbell	1	18	0.2	19	10	178	0.5	185	10.0
Charles Mix	7	125	1.7	132	14	249	0.8	259	2.0
Clark	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Clay	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Corson	18	320	4.3	340	87	1,545	4.7	1,611	4.8
Custer	4	71	1.0	76	6	107	0.3	111	1.5
Day	3	53	0.7	57	6	107	0.3	111	2.0
Deuel	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Dewey	17	303	4.1	321	106	1,882	5.7	1,963	6.2
Douglas	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Edmunds	2	36	0.5	38	2	36	0.1	37	1.0
Fall River	2	36	0.5	38	1	18	0.1	19	0.5
Faulk	2	36	0.5	38	3	53	0.2	56	1.5
Grant	7	125	1.7	132	20	355	1.1	370	2.9
Gregory	16	285	3.8	303	38	675	2.0	704	2.4
Haakon	24	427	5.8	454	84	1,492	4.5	1,556	3.5
Hamlin	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Hand	6	107	1.4	113	13	231	0.7	241	2.2
Hanson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Harding	9	160	2.2	170	56	995	3.0	1,037	6.2
Hughes	11	196	2.6	208	59	1,048	3.2	1,093	5.4
Hutchinson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Hyde	2	36	0.5	38	24	426	1.3	445	12.0
Jackson	9	160	2.2	170	30	533	1.6	556	3.3
Jerauld	1	18	0.2	19	2	36	0.1	37	2.0
Jones	11	196	2.6	208	37	657	2.0	685	3.4
Kingsbury	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Lake	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Lyman	26	463	6.3	492	76	1,350	4.1	1,408	2.9
McCook	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
McPherson	6	107	1.4	113	12	213	0.6	222	2.0
Marshall	1	18	0.2	19	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Meade	25	445	6.0	473	107	1,900	5.7	1,982	4.3
Mellette	11	196	2.6	208	43	764	2.3	796	3.9
Miner	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Moody	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Perkins	45	801	10.8	851	278	4,937	14.9	5,149	6.2
Potter	2	36	0.5	38	9	160	0.5	167	4.5
Roberts	4	71	1.0	76	13	231	0.7	241	3.2
Sanborn	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Spink	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Stanley	39	694	9.4	737	175	3,108	9.4	3,241	4.5
Sully	8	142	1.9	151	23	408	1.2	426	2.9
Tripp	11	196	2.6	208	44	781	2.4	815	4.0
Turner	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Union	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Walworth	8	142	1.9	151	17	302	0.9	315	2.1
Ziebach	21	374	5.0	397	171	3,037	9.2	3,167	8.1
Shannon	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Todd	2	36	0.5	38	15	266	0.8	278	7.5
Unknown	26	463	-	-	80	1,421	-	-	3.1
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>7,866</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>7,866</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>34,506</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>34,506</b>	<b>4.39</b>

Last Revised: 17 May 2016

\* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.

\*\* Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.

## Nonresident Grouse Harvest Distribution by County 2015

COUNTY	HUNTER DISTRIBUTION				HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Birds/Hunter
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	
Minnehaha	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Pennington	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Brown	3	49	1.0	52	3	49	0.3	51	1.0
Beadle	1	16	0.3	17	1	16	0.1	17	1.0
Codington	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Brookings	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Yankton	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Davison	1	16	0.3	17	10	164	1.1	170	9.9
Lawrence	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Aurora	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Bennett	10	165	3.4	174	19	312	2.1	322	1.9
Bon Homme	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Brule	6	99	2.1	104	4	66	0.4	68	0.7
Buffalo	2	33	0.7	35	14	230	1.5	238	7.0
Butte	1	16	0.3	17	1	16	0.1	17	1.0
Campbell	4	66	1.4	69	2	33	0.2	34	0.5
Chas Mix	2	33	0.7	35	1	16	0.1	17	0.5
Clark	1	16	0.3	17	1	16	0.1	17	1.0
Clay	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Corson	11	181	3.8	191	59	968	6.5	1,001	5.3
Custer	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Day	4	66	1.4	69	11	180	1.2	187	2.7
Deuel	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Dewey	37	610	12.8	642	153	2,510	16.9	2,596	4.1
Douglas	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Edmunds	1	16	0.3	17	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fall River	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Faulk	1	16	0.3	17	3	49	0.3	51	3.0
Grant	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Gregory	10	165	3.4	174	9	148	1.0	153	0.9
Haakon	10	165	3.4	174	59	968	6.5	1,001	5.9
Hamlin	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Hand	11	181	3.8	191	7	115	0.8	119	0.6
Hanson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Harding	2	33	0.7	35	13	213	1.4	221	6.5
Hughes	12	198	4.1	208	28	459	3.1	475	2.3
Hutchinson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Hyde	3	49	1.0	52	4	66	0.4	68	1.3
Jackson	3	49	1.0	52	4	66	0.4	68	1.3
Jerauld	1	16	0.3	17	1	16	0.1	17	1.0
Jones	16	264	5.5	278	57	935	6.3	967	3.5
Kingsbury	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Lake	1	16	0.3	17	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Lincoln	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Lyman	27	445	9.3	468	51	837	5.6	865	1.9
McCook	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
McPherson	3	49	1.0	52	2	33	0.2	34	0.7
Marshall	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Meade	3	49	1.0	52	6	98	0.7	102	2.0
Mellette	4	66	1.4	69	26	427	2.9	441	6.5
Miner	1	16	0.3	17	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Moody	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Perkins	26	429	9.0	451	193	3,166	21.3	3,274	7.4
Potter	7	115	2.4	121	12	197	1.3	204	1.7
Roberts	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Sanborn	1	16	0.3	17	2	33	0.2	34	2.0
Spink	1	16	0.3	17	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Stanley	25	412	8.6	434	67	1,099	7.4	1,137	2.7
Sully	5	82	1.7	87	10	164	1.1	170	2.0
Tripp	18	297	6.2	312	30	492	3.3	509	1.7
Turner	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Union	1	16	0.3	17	4	66	0.4	68	4.0
Walworth	5	82	1.7	87	5	82	0.6	85	1.0
Ziebach	7	115	2.4	121	33	541	3.6	560	4.7
Shannon	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Todd	2	33	0.7	35	2	33	0.2	34	1.0
Unknown	15	247	-	-	31	509	-	-	2.1
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>5,032</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5,032</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>15,388</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>15,388</b>	<b>3.06</b>

Last Revised: 17 May 2016

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