PHEASANT

The 2025 pheasant season was open from 18 October 2025 – 31 January 2026 statewide. There was also a Youth season open 27 September - 5 October on public and private land and an early resident season open 11-13 October on public lands only. The daily limit was 3 cock pheasants, possession 15. To hunt pheasants, residents were required to hold adult, youth, or mentored small game, 1-day small game, or adult or senior combination licenses; nonresidents were required to obtain adult, youth, or mentored small game or nonresident shooting preserve licenses. Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident license holders. No shooting preserve license holders were surveyed and none of their harvest is included in the estimates below. Separate Department records showed a total harvest of 399,495 pheasants on private shooting preserves in 2025, of which 24,922 (6%) were designated as wild birds.

In 2025, there were 86,104 resident and 88,067 nonresident licenses issued that allowed holders to hunt pheasants. Approximately 15,000 residents and 15,000 nonresidents were surveyed for the upland bird seasons. Survey response rates were 25% for residents and 31% for nonresidents. Due to a sampling error no nonresident youth or nonresident mentored license holders were surveyed and estimates are based on average participation and harvest from the 2024 survey.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting pheasants, there were a projected 57,076 resident and 82,574 nonresident pheasant hunters.

A projected 1,351,081 pheasants were harvested (583,028 by residents, 768,053 by nonresidents) during the 2025 seasons. When asked about their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), resident upland bird hunters reported an average satisfaction rating of 5.22 while nonresidents reported a satisfaction rating of 5.81.

An estimated 19,196 residents participated in the early, resident-only season. The projected harvest for this season was 24,447 birds.

The Youth season participation rate by youth/mentored license holders was approximately 17.2% (1,173 hunters); nonresidents were not surveyed on their participation.

The five counties with the highest reported harvests from highest to lowest were Brown, Beadle, Brule, Spink, and Tripp.

Comparison of the 2016 - 2025 Pheasant season statistics

	Resident Hunters					***Nonresident Hunters***				
Year	***Number Hunters***	***Harvest***	***Ave Day Hunted***	***Ave Bag***	***Satis-faction***	***Number Hunters***	***Harvest***	***Ave Day Hunted***	***Ave Bag***	***Satis-faction***
2016	61,746	478,099	6.24	7.86	4.72	81,141	692,497	4.14	8.57	5.43
2017	52,538	326,936	6.08	6.30	4.23	67,232	501,773	3.96	7.47	5.06
2018	53,577	392,020	6.26	7.38	4.64	69,018	558,863	4.06	8.11	5.38
2019	47,403	354,742	6.17	7.48	4.67	63,801	474,754	4.04	7.44	5.28
2020	59,042	518,288	8.09	9.28	5.06	62,289	560,618	4.47	9.00	5.75
2021	54,411	473,728	7.62	8.71	4.75	75,606	593,695	4.30	7.85	5.38
2022	53,846	510,957	7.75	9.49	5.09	73,887	647,759	4.25	8.77	5.85
2023	56,457	572,159	8.05	10.13	5.03	77,004	671,036	4.43	8.71	5.72
2024	58,195	587,346	8.12	10.09	5.23	82,067	723,977	4.42	8.82	5.85
2025	57,076	583,028	8.02	10.21	5.22	82,574	768,053	4.63	9.30	5.81

PHEASANT HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2025

Revised: *4/20/2026*

	RESIDENT TOTALS BY LICENSE TYPE					NONRESIDENT TOTALS		
	Combo	Senior Combo	Small Game	Youth/Ment Sm Game	Sum Estimates	Nonres Sm Game	Youth/Ment Sm Game	Sum Estimates
Licenses Sold	45,208	12,896	21,178	6,822	**86,104**	84,739	3,328	**88,067**
Projected ACTIVE UPLAND BIRD HUNTERS	**29,415**	**7,144**	**16,499**	**5,103**	**58,161**	**80,449**	**3,151**	**83,600**
Number Sampled by Survey	5,924	2,780	4,699	1,582	**14,985**	14,878	0	**14,878**
Number Responded to Survey	1,374	1,204	851	250	**3,679**	4,595		**4,595**
% Responded and Participated in Season	65%	55%	78%	75%	66%	97%		97%
Responded and Participated in Season	894	667	663	187	**2,411**	4,471		**4,471**
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	480	537	188	63	**1,268**	124		**124**
Survey Response Rate	**23.2%**	**43.3%**	**18.1%**	**15.8%**	**24.6%**	**30.9%**		**30.9%**
No. Hunters Reporting Pheasant Days	875	657	651	185	**2,368**	4,414		**4,414**
Sum Pheasant Hunted Days	7,395	5,921	4,720	1,220	**19,256**	20,552		**20,552**
Average Days Hunted Pheasants	**8.45**	**9.01**	**7.25**	**6.59**	**8.02**	**4.66**	**3.85**	**4.63**
Sum Pheasants Bagged	9,795	6,917	5,926	1,436	**24,074**	41,658		**41,658**
Average Pheasant Bag for Season	**11.19**	**10.53**	**9.10**	**7.76**	**10.21**	**9.44**	**5.87**	**9.30**
Projected Days Pheasant Hunting	**243,314**	**63,420**	**117,462**	**33,291**	**457,487**	**369,802**	**12,133**	**381,934**
Projected No. Pheasant Hunters	**28,790**	**7,037**	**16,201**	**5,048**	**57,076**	**79,423**	**3,151**	**82,574**
Projected Pheasant Bag	**322,280**	**74,088**	**147,475**	**39,186**	**583,028**	**749,572**	**18,481**	**768,053**
LCI (95%)	**288,195**	**65,811**	**131,153**	**29,782**	**542,775**	**731,708**	**14,059**	**745,767**
UCI (95%)	**359,466**	**82,933**	**164,898**	**50,118**	**625,933**	**767,816**	**22,967**	**790,783**
				TOTAL PHEASANT HARVEST =		**1,351,081**		
					LCI (95%) =	**1,274,265**		
					UCI (95%) =	**1,401,967**		
RESIDENT-ONLY OPENING WEEKEND:								
No. Hunters Reporting Pheasant Days	317	212	193	62	**784**	-	-	-
Sum Pheasant Hunted Days	227	131	129	42	**529**	-	-	-
Average Days Hunted Pheasants	**0.72**	**0.62**	**0.67**	**0.68**	**0.69**	-	-	-
Sum Pheasants Bagged	411	243	262	66	**982**	-	-	-
Average Pheasant Bag for Weekend	**1.30**	**1.15**	**1.36**	**1.06**	**1.27**	-	-	-
Projected Days Pheasant Hunting	**7,469**	**1,403**	**3,210**	**1,146**	**13,228**	-	-	-
Projected No. Pheasant Hunters	**10,430**	**2,271**	**4,803**	**1,692**	**19,196**	-	-	-
Projected Pheasant Bag	**13,523**	**2,603**	**6,520**	**1,801**	**24,447**	-	-	-
				RESIDENT-ONLY WEEKEND PHEASANT HARVEST =		**24,447**		
YOUTH SEASON PARTICIPATION:								
No. Hunters Reporting Participation				43	**43**	-	-	-
Projected No. Hunters Participating				1,173	**1,173**	-	-	-
Percent Hunters Participating				17.2%	17.2%	-	-	-
Upland Bird Hunters Mean Satisfaction Score *	5.24	5.04	5.33	5.32	5.22	5.81		5.81

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

RESIDENT-ONLY WEEKEND 2025 PHEASANT SEASON PARTICIPATION AND BAG

Last Revised: 25 March 2026

	# Days Hunted	# Responded	% of Total	Ave. Bag
Residents	0	3,150	85.6%	
	1	328	8.9%	1.21
	2	147	4.0%	2.59
	3	54	1.5%	3.80

Total Pheasant Harvest Distribution by County 2025

COUNTY	HUNTER DISTRIBUTION # Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	HARVEST DISTRIBUTION # Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	Birds/Hunter **
Minnehaha	1,825	1.4	1,869	17,520	1.4	17,898	9.6
Pennington	232	0.2	239	1,234	0.1	1,266	5.3
Brown	8,306	6.5	8,746	75,333	6.0	78,764	9.1
Beadle	6,108	4.8	6,415	69,923	5.6	72,974	11.4
Codington	2,010	1.6	2,082	16,076	1.3	16,614	8.0
Brookings	3,398	2.6	3,519	34,855	2.8	35,905	10.3
Yankton	1,237	1.0	1,283	9,439	0.8	9,739	7.6
Davison	3,160	2.5	3,323	28,067	2.2	29,345	8.9
Lawrence	37	0.0	40	406	0.0	431	10.8
Aurora	3,953	3.1	4,163	48,193	3.8	50,353	12.2
Bennett	757	0.6	794	4,535	0.4	4,724	6.0
Bon Homme	1,140	0.9	1,180	11,247	0.9	11,577	9.9
Brule	5,951	4.6	6,284	64,152	5.1	67,194	10.8
Buffalo	516	0.4	542	5,474	0.4	5,699	10.6
Butte	275	0.2	290	1,379	0.1	1,458	5.0
Campbell	1,212	0.9	1,279	9,975	0.8	10,511	8.2
Charles Mix	3,379	2.6	3,547	34,931	2.8	36,465	10.3
Clark	2,851	2.2	2,990	27,265	2.2	28,333	9.6
Clay	711	0.6	734	5,768	0.5	5,924	8.1
Corson	681	0.5	720	6,390	0.5	6,744	9.4
Custer	203	0.2	212	1,689	0.1	1,746	8.3
Day	2,696	2.1	2,846	16,089	1.3	16,952	6.0
Deuel	764	0.6	792	5,465	0.4	5,669	7.2
Dewey	958	0.7	1,018	8,231	0.7	8,683	8.6
Douglas	1,475	1.1	1,553	15,272	1.2	16,007	10.4
Edmunds	2,891	2.3	3,038	35,025	2.8	36,536	12.1
Fall River	430	0.3	440	1,578	0.1	1,620	3.7
Faulk	3,813	3.0	4,031	37,292	3.0	39,195	9.8
Grant	569	0.4	593	4,262	0.3	4,442	7.5
Gregory	2,969	2.3	3,148	28,698	2.3	30,277	9.7
Haakon	867	0.7	899	5,018	0.4	5,204	5.8
Hamlin	1,715	1.3	1,784	18,112	1.4	18,703	10.6
Hand	2,813	2.2	2,956	27,011	2.1	28,201	9.6
Hanson	1,514	1.2	1,581	14,913	1.2	15,447	9.8
Harding	522	0.4	546	3,126	0.2	3,284	6.0
Hughes	4,387	3.4	4,620	41,176	3.3	43,123	9.4
Hutchinson	2,117	1.7	2,218	19,890	1.6	20,724	9.4
Hyde	852	0.7	902	8,156	0.6	8,580	9.6
Jackson	191	0.1	196	930	0.1	954	4.9
Jerauld	1,612	1.3	1,698	15,789	1.3	16,620	9.8
Jones	1,293	1.0	1,364	10,851	0.9	11,389	8.4
Kingsbury	2,963	2.3	3,089	31,727	2.5	32,878	10.7
Lake	1,974	1.5	2,035	15,517	1.2	15,984	7.9
Lincoln	1,044	0.8	1,072	9,490	0.8	9,697	9.1
Lyman	4,665	3.6	4,939	44,347	3.5	46,691	9.5
McCook	1,983	1.5	2,049	21,886	1.7	22,490	11.0
McPherson	1,911	1.5	2,025	18,685	1.5	19,680	9.8
Marshall	991	0.8	1,041	7,323	0.6	7,636	7.4
Meade	347	0.3	368	2,550	0.2	2,673	7.4
Mellette	194	0.2	205	1,433	0.1	1,510	7.4
Miner	3,191	2.5	3,332	42,593	3.4	44,150	13.3
Moody	988	0.8	1,011	7,439	0.6	7,601	7.5
Perkins	2,288	1.8	2,401	16,714	1.3	17,465	7.3
Potter	2,490	1.9	2,625	24,332	1.9	25,547	9.8
Roberts	945	0.7	982	7,385	0.6	7,631	7.8
Sanborn	2,548	2.0	2,673	29,815	2.4	31,047	11.7
Spink	5,141	4.0	5,433	61,833	4.9	64,793	12.0
Stanley	1,236	1.0	1,289	15,566	1.2	16,042	12.6
Sully	2,166	1.7	2,274	25,173	2.0	26,333	11.6
Tripp	4,535	3.5	4,820	49,378	3.9	52,003	10.9
Turner	768	0.6	788	6,417	0.5	6,572	8.4
Union	683	0.5	701	3,287	0.3	3,368	4.8
Walworth	2,221	1.7	2,346	17,144	1.4	18,049	7.7
Ziebach	463	0.4	484	5,309	0.4	5,505	11.5
Oglala Lakota	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Todd	137	0.1	145	1,211	0.1	1,275	8.8
Unk/Unreported	6,338	-	-	54,607	-	-	8.6
TOTALS:	***134,601***	***100%***	***134,601***	***1,311,895***	***100%***	***1,311,895***	***9.75***

Last Revised: 24 March 2026

** 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.*

Resident Pheasant Harvest Distribution by County 2025

COUNTY	HUNTER DISTRIBUTION # Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	HARVEST DISTRIBUTION # Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	Birds/Hunter **
Minnehaha	72	1,582	3.1	1,608	698	15,768	2.9	16,037	10.0
Pennington	8	176	0.3	179	44	994	0.2	1,011	5.7
Brown	126	2,768	5.4	2,815	1,265	28,577	5.3	29,063	10.3
Beadle	106	2,329	4.6	2,368	1,303	29,435	5.5	29,936	12.6
Codington	60	1,318	2.6	1,340	457	10,324	1.9	10,500	7.8
Brookings	101	2,219	4.3	2,256	1,103	24,917	4.7	25,341	11.2
Yankton	35	769	1.5	782	284	6,416	1.2	6,525	8.3
Davison	51	1,121	2.2	1,139	472	10,663	2.0	10,844	9.5
Lawrence	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Aurora	59	1,296	2.5	1,318	843	19,044	3.6	19,368	14.7
Bennett	14	308	0.6	313	93	2,101	0.4	2,137	6.8
Bon Homme	34	747	1.5	760	364	8,223	1.5	8,363	11.0
Brule	75	1,648	3.2	1,675	961	21,709	4.1	22,079	13.2
Buffalo	9	198	0.4	201	115	2,598	0.5	2,642	13.1
Butte	4	88	0.2	89	8	181	0.0	184	2.1
Campbell	16	352	0.7	357	89	2,011	0.4	2,045	5.7
Charles Mix	61	1,340	2.6	1,363	642	14,503	2.7	14,750	10.8
Clark	54	1,186	2.3	1,206	625	14,119	2.6	14,359	11.9
Clay	23	505	1.0	514	199	4,495	0.8	4,572	8.9
Corson	8	176	0.3	179	47	1,062	0.2	1,080	6.0
Custer	5	110	0.2	112	47	1,062	0.2	1,080	9.7
Day	35	769	1.5	782	145	3,276	0.6	3,331	4.3
Deuel	22	483	0.9	491	135	3,050	0.6	3,102	6.3
Dewey	7	154	0.3	156	64	1,446	0.3	1,470	9.4
Douglas	22	483	0.9	491	219	4,947	0.9	5,032	10.2
Edmunds	49	1,077	2.1	1,095	669	15,113	2.8	15,370	14.0
Fall River	17	374	0.7	380	56	1,265	0.2	1,287	3.4
Faulk	45	989	1.9	1,005	429	9,691	1.8	9,856	9.8
Grant	14	308	0.6	313	85	1,920	0.4	1,953	6.2
Gregory	27	593	1.2	603	220	4,970	0.9	5,055	8.4
Haakon	25	549	1.1	558	125	2,824	0.5	2,872	5.1
Hamlin	44	967	1.9	983	530	11,973	2.2	12,177	12.4
Hand	48	1,055	2.1	1,072	493	11,137	2.1	11,327	10.6
Hanson	34	747	1.5	760	390	8,810	1.6	8,960	11.8
Harding	11	242	0.5	246	38	858	0.2	873	3.6
Hughes	66	1,450	2.8	1,474	623	14,074	2.6	14,313	9.7
Hutchinson	41	901	1.8	916	403	9,104	1.7	9,259	10.1
Hyde	9	198	0.4	201	86	1,943	0.4	1,976	9.8
Jackson	7	154	0.3	156	33	745	0.1	758	4.8
Jerauld	24	527	1.0	536	157	3,547	0.7	3,607	6.7
Jones	18	395	0.8	402	140	3,163	0.6	3,217	8.0
Kingsbury	71	1,560	3.0	1,586	816	18,434	3.4	18,748	11.8
Lake	66	1,450	2.8	1,474	491	11,092	2.1	11,281	7.6
Lincoln	39	857	1.7	871	376	8,494	1.6	8,639	9.9
Lyman	48	1,055	2.1	1,072	432	9,759	1.8	9,925	9.3
McCook	63	1,384	2.7	1,407	746	16,852	3.2	17,139	12.2
McPherson	18	395	0.8	402	175	3,953	0.7	4,021	10.0
Marshall	17	374	0.7	380	143	3,230	0.6	3,285	8.6
Meade	3	66	0.1	67	37	836	0.2	850	12.7
Mellette	2	44	0.1	45	12	271	0.1	276	6.2
Miner	72	1,582	3.1	1,608	1,084	24,488	4.6	24,905	15.5
Moody	39	857	1.7	871	295	6,664	1.2	6,778	7.8
Perkins	42	923	1.8	938	291	6,574	1.2	6,686	7.1
Potter	35	769	1.5	782	305	6,890	1.3	7,007	9.0
Roberts	26	571	1.1	581	211	4,767	0.9	4,848	8.3
Sanborn	47	1,033	2.0	1,050	622	14,051	2.6	14,290	13.6
Spink	62	1,362	2.7	1,385	900	20,331	3.8	20,678	14.9
Stanley	29	637	1.2	648	485	10,956	2.0	11,143	17.2
Sully	39	857	1.7	871	410	9,262	1.7	9,420	10.8
Tripp	31	681	1.3	693	467	10,550	2.0	10,729	15.5
Turner	29	637	1.2	648	240	5,422	1.0	5,514	8.5
Union	26	571	1.1	581	121	2,733	0.5	2,780	4.8
Walworth	27	593	1.2	603	168	3,795	0.7	3,860	6.4
Ziebach	10	220	0.4	223	133	3,005	0.6	3,056	13.7
Oglala Lakota	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Todd	2	44	0.1	45	12	271	0.1	276	6.2
Unk/Unreported	39	857	-	-	403	9,104	-		10.6
TOTALS:	***2,368***	***52,028***	***100%***	***52,028***	***24,074***	***543,842***	***100%***	***543,842***	***10.45***

Last Revised: 24 March 2026

** 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 Pheasant Harvest Distribution by County 2025

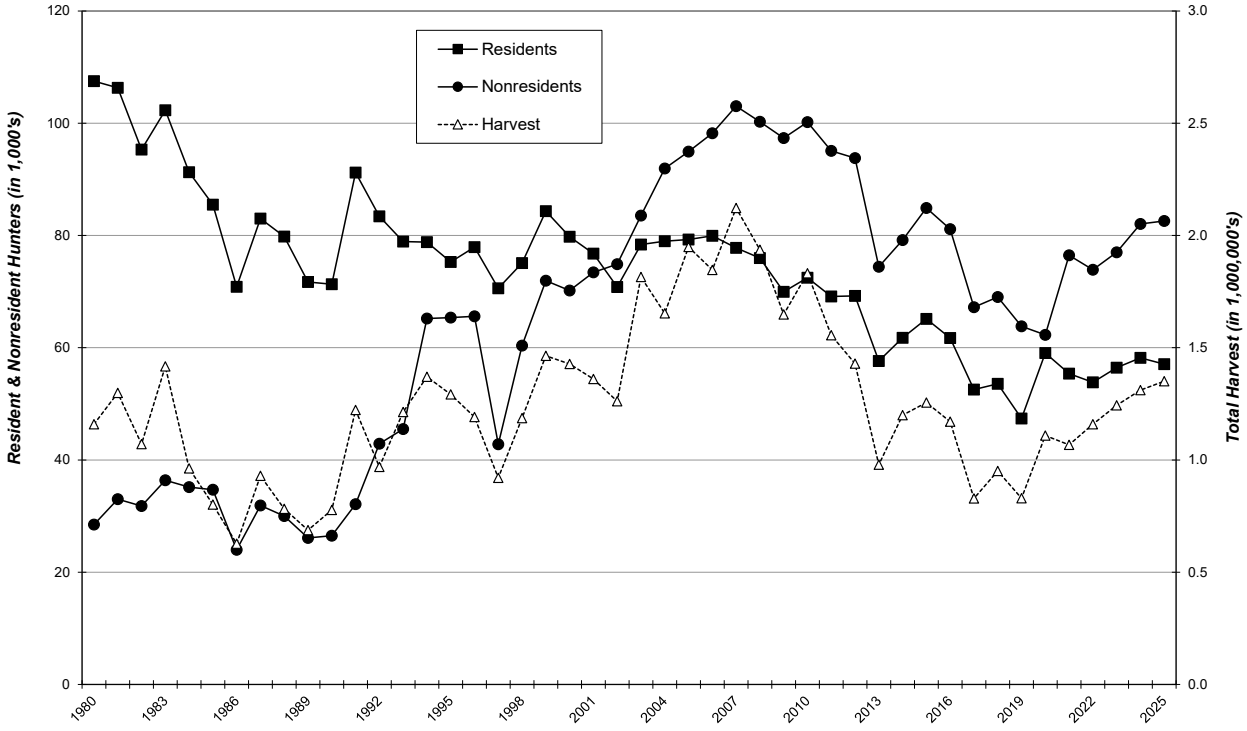
COUNTY	HUNTER DISTRIBUTION # Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	HARVEST DISTRIBUTION # Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	Birds/Hunter **
Minnehaha	13	243	0.3	260	95	1,752	0.2	1,862	7.2
Pennington	3	56	0.1	60	13	240	0.0	255	4.3
Brown	296	5,537	7.2	5,931	2,536	46,757	6.5	49,701	8.4
Beadle	202	3,779	4.9	4,048	2,196	40,488	5.6	43,038	10.7
Codington	37	692	0.9	741	312	5,752	0.8	6,115	8.3
Brookings	63	1,179	1.5	1,262	539	9,938	1.4	10,563	8.4
Yankton	25	468	0.6	501	164	3,024	0.4	3,214	6.5
Davison	109	2,039	2.6	2,184	944	17,405	2.4	18,501	8.5
Lawrence	2	37	0.0	40	22	406	0.1	431	10.8
Aurora	142	2,656	3.4	2,845	1,581	29,149	4.0	30,985	11.0
Bennett	24	449	0.6	481	132	2,434	0.3	2,587	5.4
Bon Homme	21	393	0.5	421	164	3,024	0.4	3,214	7.7
Brule	230	4,303	5.6	4,609	2,302	42,442	5.9	45,115	9.9
Buffalo	17	318	0.4	341	156	2,876	0.4	3,057	9.0
Butte	10	187	0.2	200	65	1,198	0.2	1,274	6.4
Campbell	46	861	1.1	922	432	7,965	1.1	8,466	9.3
Charles Mix	109	2,039	2.6	2,184	1,108	20,428	2.8	21,715	10.0
Clark	89	1,665	2.2	1,783	713	13,146	1.8	13,974	7.9
Clay	11	206	0.3	220	69	1,272	0.2	1,352	6.2
Corson	27	505	0.7	541	289	5,328	0.7	5,664	10.5
Custer	5	94	0.1	100	34	627	0.1	666	6.7
Day	103	1,927	2.5	2,064	695	12,814	1.8	13,621	6.7
Deuel	15	281	0.4	301	131	2,415	0.3	2,567	8.6
Dewey	43	804	1.0	862	368	6,785	0.9	7,212	8.4
Douglas	53	991	1.3	1,062	560	10,325	1.4	10,975	10.4
Edmunds	97	1,815	2.4	1,944	1,080	19,912	2.8	21,166	11.0
Fall River	3	56	0.1	60	17	313	0.0	333	5.6
Faulk	151	2,825	3.7	3,026	1,497	27,600	3.8	29,338	9.8
Grant	14	262	0.3	281	127	2,342	0.3	2,489	8.9
Gregory	127	2,376	3.1	2,545	1,287	23,729	3.3	25,223	10.0
Haakon	17	318	0.4	341	119	2,194	0.3	2,332	6.9
Hamlin	40	748	1.0	801	333	6,140	0.8	6,526	8.2
Hand	94	1,758	2.3	1,884	861	15,874	2.2	16,874	9.0
Hanson	41	767	1.0	822	331	6,103	0.8	6,487	8.0
Harding	15	281	0.4	301	123	2,268	0.3	2,411	8.1
Hughes	157	2,937	3.8	3,146	1,470	27,103	3.8	28,809	9.2
Hutchinson	65	1,216	1.6	1,302	585	10,786	1.5	11,465	8.9
Hyde	35	655	0.8	701	337	6,213	0.9	6,605	9.5
Jackson	2	37	0.0	40	10	184	0.0	196	4.9
Jerauld	58	1,085	1.4	1,162	664	12,242	1.7	13,013	11.3
Jones	48	898	1.2	962	417	7,688	1.1	8,172	8.6
Kingsbury	75	1,403	1.8	1,503	721	13,293	1.8	14,130	9.5
Lake	28	524	0.7	561	240	4,425	0.6	4,704	8.4
Lincoln	10	187	0.2	200	54	996	0.1	1,058	5.3
Lyman	193	3,611	4.7	3,867	1,876	34,588	4.8	36,766	9.6
McCook	32	599	0.8	641	273	5,033	0.7	5,350	8.4
McPherson	81	1,515	2.0	1,623	799	14,731	2.0	15,659	9.7
Marshall	33	617	0.8	661	222	4,093	0.6	4,351	6.6
Meade	15	281	0.4	301	93	1,715	0.2	1,823	6.1
Mellette	8	150	0.2	160	63	1,162	0.2	1,235	7.8
Miner	86	1,609	2.1	1,723	982	18,105	2.5	19,245	11.3
Moody	7	131	0.2	140	42	774	0.1	823	5.9
Perkins	73	1,366	1.8	1,463	550	10,140	1.4	10,779	7.4
Potter	92	1,721	2.2	1,843	946	17,442	2.4	18,540	10.1
Roberts	20	374	0.5	401	142	2,618	0.4	2,783	7.0
Sanborn	81	1,515	2.0	1,623	855	15,764	2.2	16,756	10.4
Spink	202	3,779	4.9	4,048	2,251	41,502	5.7	44,116	11.0
Stanley	32	599	0.8	641	250	4,609	0.6	4,900	7.7
Sully	70	1,310	1.7	1,403	863	15,911	2.2	16,913	12.2
Tripp	206	3,854	5.0	4,128	2,106	38,829	5.4	41,274	10.1
Turner	7	131	0.2	140	54	996	0.1	1,058	7.6
Union	6	112	0.1	120	30	553	0.1	588	4.9
Walworth	87	1,628	2.1	1,743	724	13,348	1.8	14,189	8.2
Ziebach	13	243	0.3	260	125	2,305	0.3	2,450	9.5
Oglala Lakota	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Todd	5	94	0.1	100	51	940	0.1	1,000	10.1
Unk/Unreported	293	5,481	-	-	2,468	45,503	-	-	8.3
TOTALS	***4,414***	***82,574***	***100%***	***82,574***	***41,658***	***768,053***	***100%***	***768,053***	***9.30***

Last Revised: 24 March 2026

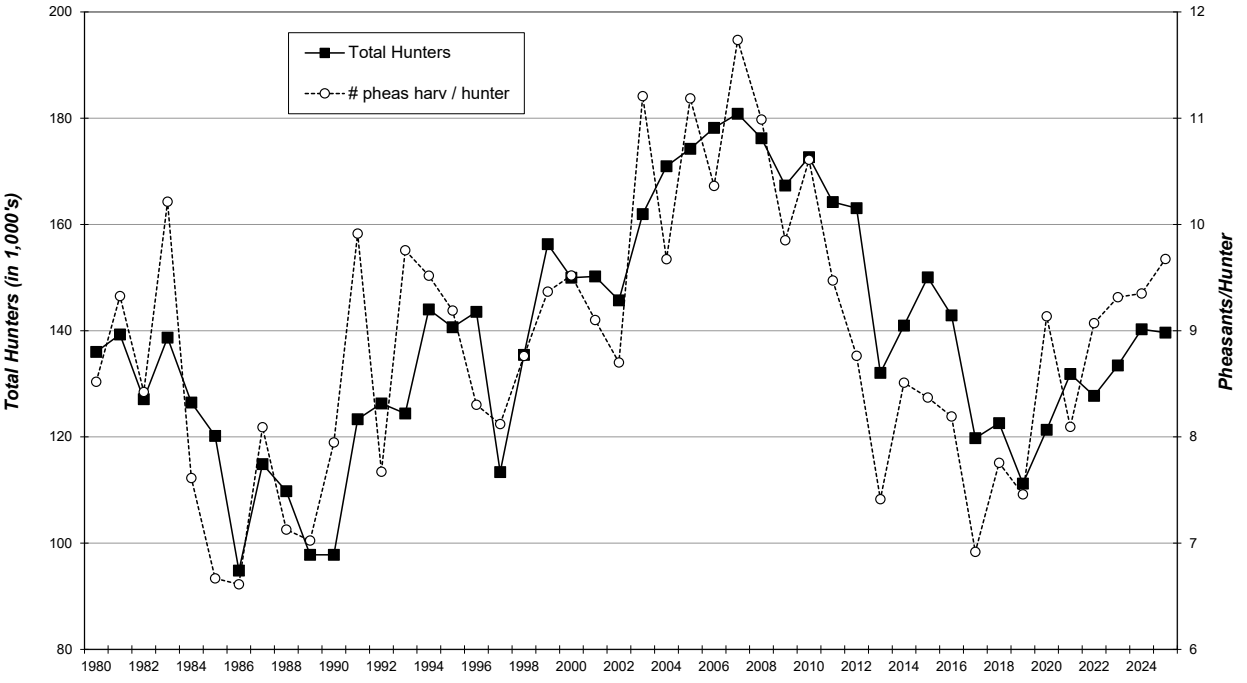
** Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.*

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

SOUTH DAKOTA PHEASANT HARVEST 1980-2025



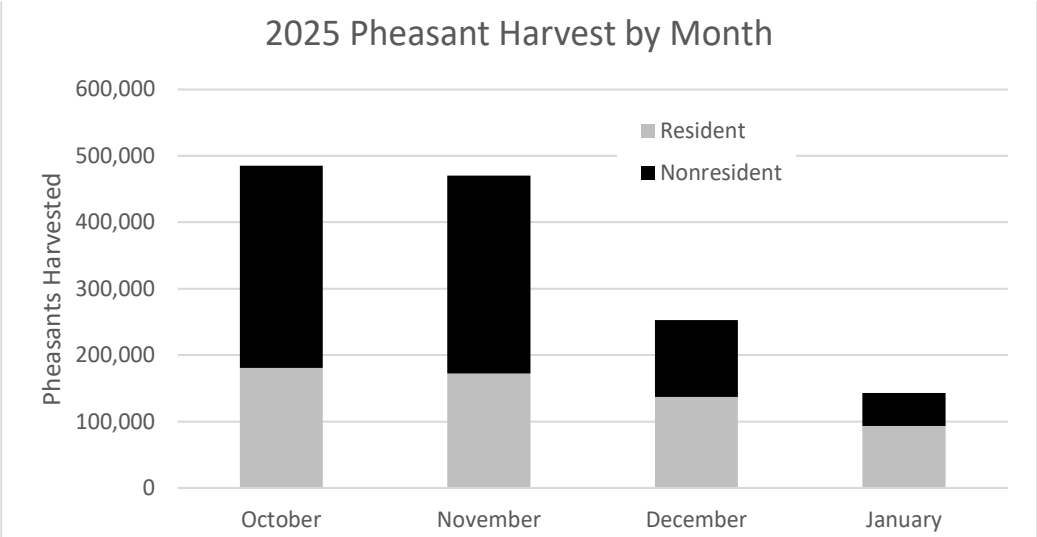
SOUTH DAKOTA PHEASANT HUNTERS AND AVERAGE SEASON HARVEST 1980-2025

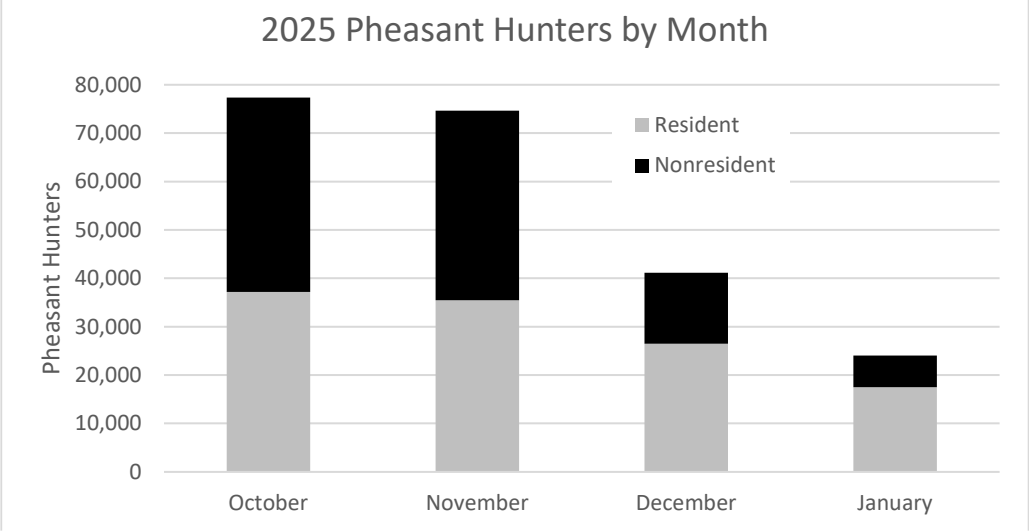


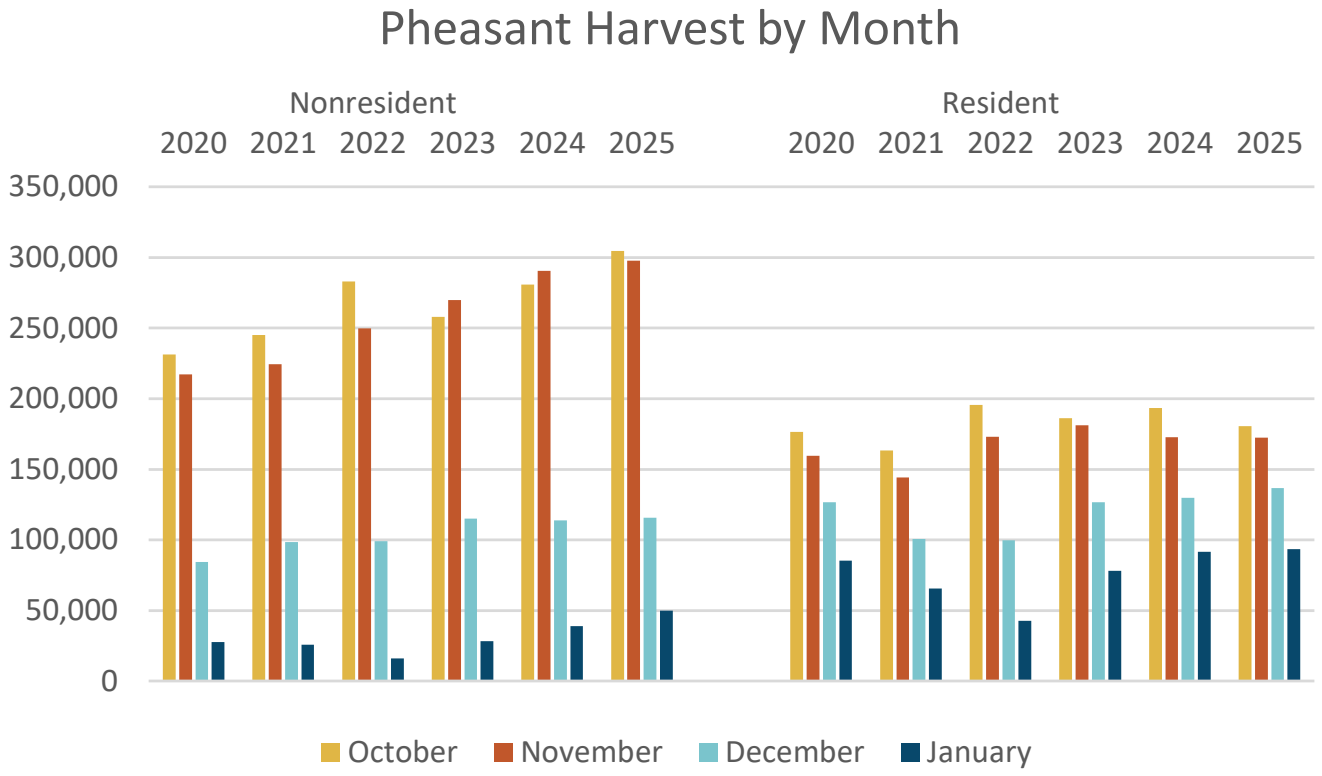
2025 ESTIMATES OF PHEASANT HUNTING BY MONTH

Revised:
3/25/2026

	RESIDENT TOTALS BY LICENSE TYPE					NONRESIDENT TOTALS		
	Combo	Senior Combo	Small Game	Youth/Ment Sm Game	Sum Estimates	Nonres Sm Game	Youth/Ment Sm Game	Sum Estimates
Projected Days Pheasant Hunting	**243,314**	**63,420**	**117,462**	**33,291**	**457,487**	**369,802**	**12,133**	**381,934**
Projected No. Pheasant Hunters	**28,790**	**7,037**	**16,201**	**5,048**	**57,076**	**79,423**	**3,151**	**82,574**
Projected Pheasant Bag	**322,280**	**74,088**	**147,475**	**39,186**	**583,028**	**749,572**	**18,481**	**768,053**
			TOTAL PHEASANT HARVEST =			**1,351,081**		
Percent Reporting Pheasant Days October	67%	68%	60%	68%		49%	42%	
Percent Reporting Pheasant Days November	63%	65%	61%	55%		48%	46%	
Percent Reporting Pheasant Days December	50%	48%	42%	38%		18%	19%	
Percent Reporting Pheasant Days January	34%	32%	26%	23%		8%	7%	
Projected Pheasant Hunters October	19,182	4,820	9,755	3,438		38,830	1,317	
Projected Pheasant Hunters November	18,261	4,541	9,855	2,783		37,750	1,458	
Projected Pheasant Hunters December	14,411	3,353	6,794	1,910		14,053	611	
Projected Pheasant Hunters January	9,805	2,281	4,256	1,173		6,298	235	
Percent Pheasant Harvest October	29%	34%	32%	35%		40%	43%	
Percent Pheasant Harvest November	28%	32%	32%	28%		39%	37%	
Percent Pheasant Harvest December	25%	21%	23%	19%		15%	16%	
Percent Pheasant Harvest January	18%	13%	13%	17%		7%	4%	
Projected Pheasant Harvest October	94,957	24,886	46,907	13,827	**180,577**	296,728	7,876	**304,603**
Projected Pheasant Harvest November	90,515	23,917	46,881	11,050	**172,364**	290,976	6,802	**297,778**
Projected Pheasant Harvest December	79,292	15,920	33,950	7,622	**136,783**	112,774	2,998	**115,772**
Projected Pheasant Harvest January	57,515	9,365	19,737	6,687	**93,304**	49,094	805	**49,900**







Private Shooting Preserve Pheasant Harvest, 2016- 2025

Year	Pheasants Released	Released Pheasant Harvest	Wild Pheasant Harvest	Total Harvest
2016-17	438,287	250,029 (89%)	30,507 (11%)	280,536
2017-18	468,668	264,291 (93%)	18,963 (7%)	283,254
2018-19	499,442	279,243 (91%)	26,744 (9%)	305,987
2019-20	499,179	283,988 (92%)	25,316 (8%)	306,430
2020-21	451,662	252,597 (91%)	23,974 (9%)	276,571
2021-22	579,672	330,674 (94%)	21,104 (6%)	350,581
2022-23	597,137	338,488 (94%)	21,047 (6%)	359,535
2023-24	612,857	354,133 (94%)	21,863 (6%)	375,716
2024-25	632,021	357,057 (94%)	23,015 (6%)	380,072
2025-26	642,867	374,573 (94%)	24,922 (6%)	399,495

*Summary of private shooting preserve records