

100
YEARS

TIME FLIES

SOUTH DAKOTA PHEASANT HISTORY

1908

First release of pheasants in Spink County.



1911

Purchased and released pheasants in Spink and Beadle counties.

1913

Purchased nearly 1,800 pheasants and distributed them across the state. In 1914, another 1,400 pheasants were purchased and distributed.

1919

The state purchased an estimated 7,000 pheasants between 1911-1919 at a cost of about \$20,000.

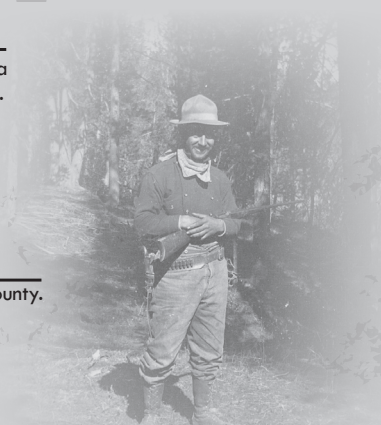
First South Dakota pheasant hunting season, a one-day hunt in Spink County on October 30.

1926

Began trapping pheasants East River and transferring them West River.

1934

Pheasant hunting season was held in every county.



1935

1935 and 1936: South Dakota reached its first pheasant population peak with an estimated population of 12 million birds each year.

1941

1941-1946: South Dakota attained a second pheasant population peak with an estimated population of 11 million birds or more each year.

1943

The pheasant became the official state bird of South Dakota.



1945

The preseason population of pheasants for South Dakota was estimated at 16 million - the highest population ever recorded.

1956

The Soil Bank Program was enacted, producing vast amounts of idle grass, legumes, or grassland-legume habitat.

1975

The South Dakota Pheasant Congress was formed with the purpose of restoring pheasant habitat.



1976

The preseason population of pheasants for South Dakota was estimated at 1.4 million - the lowest recorded since 1924.

1985

The Food Security Act of 1985 authorized the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).



1986

Minnehaha Pheasants Forever chapter was formed, South Dakota's first Pheasant Forever chapter.

1988

South Dakota launched the Pheasants For Everyone Program.

2007

2007 and 2008: South Dakota attained a fourth pheasant population peak with estimated populations of 11.9 million and 10.3 million birds.

2008

South Dakota's Pheasantennial marked the 100th Anniversary of the successful introduction of the pheasant into South Dakota.

2009

The Pheasant Management Plan for South Dakota 2009-2014 was released with the aim to maintain abundant pheasant populations.

The James River Watershed Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) was set in motion to improve pheasant habitat and increase public hunting opportunities.

2013

South Dakota's Walk-In Area Program celebrated 25 years.

The Governor's Pheasant Habitat Summit was held to discuss the future of pheasant habitat and hunting in South Dakota.

2014

Pheasants Forever opened its first regional headquarters office in Brookings to strengthen relationships with federal, state and private groups.

2016

The 2016-2020 Pheasant Management Plan focused on habitat and management necessary to meet the seasonal and spatial requirements of pheasants.

2018

The 100th consecutive South Dakota pheasant hunting season.

