



By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

Some Perkins County youth are all trained up and ready for pheasant season's opening day this Saturday.

Fifteen youth matched with adult mentors spent much of the day last Saturday at the Grant Trap Range receiving training and safety tips, followed by a live hunt to give them a dose of experience.

"We're getting better as a chapter," said Tom Olson, president of Perkins County's Pheasants Forever chapter which hosted the annual event. "We couldn't have been happier—we had a great time, better than last year."

Olson said the chapter was especially happy to have the event in one location where the youth could be educated and trained, then taken to an adjacent field for a live hunt. Frenchman Valley Coop graciously offered their property to let the young hunters try their newly honed skill.

The youth and their mentors with dogs were greeted by a beautiful fall day with temperatures that began in the low 40s in the morning, climbing to mid- to upper-60s in the afternoon.

In groups of four, the participants were presented gun range safety tips by Craig Clough. Youth were then able to shoot both stationary and moving targets, then walk and shoot hand-thrown targets.

At a second station, Clint White presented gun safety instructions and held safety demonstrations. The young hunters were also taught to pattern their shotguns.

At a third location, live birds provided a real-life hunt with dogs for the young participants.

The event wrapped up around 1 p.m. following lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, brats and chips provided by the Pheasants Forever chapter.

The Perkins County chapter was recently presented a plaque by Pheasants Forever regional biologist Drew Larsen for having the highest gross-to-net percentage in the state of Nebraska. Perkins County Chapter

The Pheasants Forever chapter in Perkins County was established in early 2009 to promote youth involvement with the outdoors, which will help build character and give them an understanding of the importance of conservation.

The Perkins County chapter is a strong advocate of the federal Conservation Reserve Program and is working to improve CRP management.

About Pheasants Forever

Established in 1982, Pheasants Forever is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of pheasant and other wildlife populations in North America through habitat improvement, land management, public awareness and education.

Such efforts benefit landowners and wildlife alike.

Pheasants Forever's unique system of county chapters allows 100 percent of net funds raised

by its chapters to remain at the chapter level for local habitat projects.

Headquartered in St. Paul, Minn., Pheasants Forever has more than 120,000 members in over 600 local chapters across the United States and Canada.

