

# Prairie Chicken Harvest Report (2000)

Forty-seven individuals drew permits for the 2000 greater prairie chicken season. Three of these were falconry permits and forty-four were shotgun/archery permits.

Of the 46 hunters contacted for a post-season harvest survey, 11 (24%) did not hunt. Of the 35 permittees who hunted, 8 responded to the survey by email. The remaining 27 were contacted by phone.

*The reported harvest for the 35 hunters was 19 birds.* Potentially, the harvest may have been as high as 24 birds (given that 1 hunter was not contacted and 3 birds were reported to have been hit but not recovered). Fourteen hunters harvested prairie chickens. Nine hunters harvested 1 bird and 5 hunters harvested a legal limit of 2 birds. The remaining 21 hunters were unsuccessful. Hunter success rate was 40% or 0.5 bird/hunter.

## Hunter comments (in order of frequency):

1. The season could be later; temps were high, rattlesnakes were active, birds weren't grouped, farmers were harvesting crops and unable to get out to hunt.  
(Very hot opening weekend, but snow the second weekend.)
2. It was a well managed hunt; want to see it continue; a learning experience.
3. More information on how to hunt prairie chickens would be appreciated.
4. Landowner approval made things more difficult.

## Season Rules and Regulations:

1. All hunting for the year 2000 is limited. Hunters must obtain a permit to hunt greater prairie chicken. The permit is available only by application and drawing. The deadline to apply for a greater prairie chicken permit is June 30. Applications can be obtained from any DOW office as well as a list of landowners who will NOT allow hunting on their property.
2. Permits are valid only in those portions of units 98,101 and 102 that are in Yuma County and are north of US 36.
3. Permits are valid only for the time period and area specified.
4. The season runs from September 15-30 for shotguns and archery and September 15-October 31 for falconry. The daily bag and annual possession limit is 2 birds of either sex.