



WI Dept. of Natural Resources Day-old Chick Program Application

Section 23.09(1) and (2), Wis. Stats
Form 2300-14 Rev. 1/09

The State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides a cooperative day-old chick (DOC) ring-necked pheasant rearing program between the Department and conservation clubs. The DOC program increases the public's interest in pheasant husbandry, pheasant hunting, and pheasant habitat management. It also provides pheasant hunting opportunities on private lands. This application describes 2 options for cooperating clubs to choose from: Public Hunting Option or Cost-share Option.

General Program Regulations (applies to both Public Hunting and Cost-share options)

1. The Club agrees to assume all costs related to rearing, feeding, maintaining and properly caring for pheasant chicks for a period of not less than 8 weeks after receiving them from the Department. At its option, the Club may continue to feed, maintain and care for the pheasants for any additional period of time up to the opening day of the pheasant hunting season in Wisconsin. Clubs choosing to keep pheasants after the pheasant hunting season must get approval from the local wildlife manager.
2. The number of chicks allocated to each club will be based on the following pen space requirements:
30 sq. ft. per chick without anti-pecking devices (blindens, specs, etc.)
20 sq. ft. per chick with anti-pecking devices (blindens, specs, etc.)
3. Local wildlife managers will conduct site visits and pen inspections every 5 years. Pen inspections will be made using a checklist developed by the State Game Farm that will be available to the club prior to the scheduled inspection. The Department shall have ingress and egress on the premises of the rearing facilities at all times for purposes of this agreement.
4. Clubs will report the landowner name, street address, approximate number of pheasants released, and the size of properties that receive DOC birds to the local wildlife manager by October 1. The State Game Farm will mail the clubs a release location report form and rearing report form in August. In addition, clubs shall notify the local wildlife manager at least 7 days prior to the intended release date. The local wildlife manager may choose to be present at the time of release and may prohibit the stocking of pheasants on lands if they do not meet the minimum permanent cover requirement of 10 acres.
5. Cooperating clubs agree to submit required paperwork to the local wildlife biologist by the following deadlines:
March 5 – DOC application
October 1 – Release location report (mailed to clubs in August)
December 15 – Rearing report (mailed to clubs in August)
6. **Future Farmers of America (FFA) Clubs** - Each FFA club member will submit a DOC application, release location report, and final brood-rearing report to the FFA advisor. The FFA advisor is responsible for collecting all required paperwork for all club members and returning them to the local wildlife biologist on or before the stated deadlines. Failure by the FFA advisor to comply will subject all FFA club members to the disciplinary process.
7. The Club is an independent contractor and shall not be deemed an employee or agent of the Department for any purpose including Worker's Compensation.

8. This agreement is expressly contingent upon the availability of pheasant chicks and approval by the Department of the Club's rearing facilities.
9. The Club agrees that if it purchases or obtains additional pheasants from another source (other than the Department) and if those pheasants are confined, kept or reared with the Department's birds the additional pheasants shall become Department pheasants subject to all terms and conditions of this agreement. These additional pheasants shall be reared, released and accounted for as specified in this agreement, including the source of and the number of birds identified in the Club's reports to the Department.
10. The Department will implement the following disciplinary process if any program regulations are not followed:
 - 1st offense = verbal warning
 - 2nd offense = written warning and reduction in birds the following year
 - 3rd offense = removal from the DOC program

Disciplinary actions will be documented and kept on file at the State Game Farm. Club records will be cleared 5 years following the date of the last offense. The Department shall have authority to enter the premises and rearing facilities at any time to regain possession of pheasants if the agreement is breached.

Public Hunting Option Regulations

1. Landowner notification of intent to hunt is required; however, a landowner cannot deny access for pheasant hunting. It is the cooperating clubs responsibility to make sure the landowner is aware of the DOC program regulations and that their land will be open to the public for pheasant hunting.
2. Pheasant chicks delivered to the Club for rearing and release remain the property of the Department until legally harvested.
3. At least 1 pheasant release must occur prior to the Wisconsin pheasant season opener.
4. The Club agrees that no pheasants will be released in groups of less than 15 and no more than 1 bird/acre at each release location in one day. Release locations must be at least 20 acres in size, including at least 10 acres of permanent cover (grass, cattail, shrubs, marsh, wetland).

Cost-share Option Regulations

1. The Club shall return a percentage of the pheasants to the Department dependent upon the period of time the chicks are kept by the Club pursuant to the attached schedule. The determination of the number of weeks the pheasants have been kept by the Club shall be the smaller number of full weeks. Partial withdrawals of pheasants for release will be permitted with a corresponding assignment of birds to the Department, in an amount as determined by the attached schedule.
2. The allocation of birds between the Club and the Department shall be by random selection, unless a nearby public hunting ground allows hens to be harvested. If a nearby public hunting ground allows hens to be harvested, the Department will take the maximum number of hens allowable under its allocation according to the schedule. The definition of "nearby" is at the discretion of the local wildlife manager.
3. The Club may release the pheasants allocated to them on land of their choice, except that no birds are to be released on private shooting preserves or private game farms.

Cost-share Option Return Schedule

<u>Pheasant Age @ Release (weeks)</u>	<u>Dept. Share of Pheasants (%)</u>	<u>Club's Share of Pheasants (%)</u>
8.....	39.....	61
9.....	37.....	63
10.....	33.....	67
11.....	31.....	69
12.....	29.....	71
13.....	27.....	73
14.....	25.....	75
15.....	24.....	76
16.....	23.....	77
17.....	22.....	78
18.....	21.....	79
19.....	20.....	80
20.....	19.....	81
21.....	18.....	82
22.....	17.....	83
23.....	16.....	84
24.....	15.....	85

County Wildlife Manager Contact List

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