

Project No: W-15-R**Job No:** E2**Title of Job:** 2009 Prairie Grouse Cooperator Survey

Dr. Jeffrey J. Lusk
Upland Game Program Manager
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We received 126 envelopes containing 319 wings from 70 cooperating hunters statewide in 2009. Hunters reported harvesting 397 prairie grouse during the 2009 season (12 September-31 December), for an average of 1.41 grouse harvested per hunter-day. The sample contained 141 sharp-tailed grouse wings (59.6% of which were juveniles) and 178 greater prairie-chicken wings (44.9% of which were juveniles). Statewide, there were 1.47 juvenile sharptails and 0.82 juvenile prairie chickens per adult.

We received 63 envelopes containing 86 prairie chicken wings from 49 East Zone permit holders (41.8% of which were juveniles). Reported harvest in the East Zone was 157 prairie chickens. The East Zone age ratio was 0.72 juveniles/adult. We received 63 envelopes containing 233 wings from the West Zone from 21 cooperators. Hunters reported harvesting 240 grouse in the West Zone. Of the 92 prairie chicken wings returned, 47.8% were juveniles (0.92 juveniles/adult).

Table 1. Results of the 2009 Grouse Hunter Cooperator Survey (West Zone).

Month	Wings Returned		Hunter-days	Grouse/ Hunter-day ^a
	Sharptails (% juveniles)	Prairie Chicken (% juveniles)		
September	87 (57.5)	66 (51.5)	69	2.30
October	38 (55.3)	24 (41.7)	54	1.17
November	16 (81.3)	2 (0.00)	10	1.80
December	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0	0.00
Total	141 (59.6)	92 (47.8)	133	2.07

^a Based on reported harvest.**Figure 1.** Monthly distribution of harvest based on cooperator reports and annual production estimate based on wing samples (1996-2009).