

Tim's Hunting Tips

A Successful Pheasant Hunt is a Safe Hunt!

- Treat every shotgun like a loaded shotgun.
- Keep the safety on until just before the shot.
- Keep shooting finger off the trigger, rest it outside the trigger guard and protect the trigger until ready to fire.
- Be sure of target; be aware of location of blockers and walkers.
- Don't shoot at low flying birds.
- Know the range of the shotgun, (lead can travel more than 300 yards).
- Wear fluorescent orange on head or upper body.
- Safety and hunting ethics requires group participation.
- Have Fun, Good Luck and Come Again!

Shooting Tips

A common mistake inexperienced hunters make after they get over the surprise of a cackling rooster jumping up right in front of them is to quickly point their shotgun at the rooster and shoot. I can not help you with the adrenaline rush of the surprise but to increase your chances of bagging the bird one must relax, bring the gun to the shoulder, release the safety, and have your aim follow through the bird flying, not point at where it presently is located. By following through you are shooting where the shot will meet the bird. The distance you lead depends on the distance the bird is away, shotgun gauge, ammunition load, wind speed and direction. (It does get windy in South Dakota. No pun intended.)

Walking Tips

There is more to it than putting one foot in front of the other. When walking the fields while hunting in groups remember it is not a race. Go slow, hoot and holler, make noise in order to drive the birds to the end. Zigzag through the rows, crossing over and back again. Do not get too far ahead or too far behind the other walkers. As you get closer to the end rows it is even more important for all walkers to walk slowly, make noise and cross rows. Call out the blockers positions. Stop a few times to make the birds nervous and see if a bird is ready to launch. Yell out to the walkers beside you if one is crossing over to their direction. Call out "rooster" or "hen" when

they get up. Make sure you only shoot when the rooster is in a safe zone.
Overall remember no pheasant is worth the life of a human.