use any choke in any modern shotgun, just as you would with lead. The pellets deform when they hit tissue. The pellet manufacturing process not only ensures pellets of equal size and weight, but also ensures uniform weight distribution throughout each pellet. The result is that it is usual to get 90 percent of the pellets in a 30-inch circle at 40 yards. “Unsurpassed resilience and malleability” are claimed by the manufacturer, Kent Cartridge Company. In addition to their waterfowl line, Kent’s IMPACT Pheasant/Game loads will be of special interest to upland hunters going into a nontoxic ammunition environment. Kent has a surprisingly large offering of 16 gauge loads, as well as 12s and 20s. Visit their web page at www.kentgamebore.com for additional information. IMPACT Tungsten Matrix is sold by mail-order specialty houses.

BISMUTH - Given the limitations of steel-like shot, upland bird hunters and especially those addicted to smaller gauges welcomed Bismuth Cartridge Company’s NO-TOX ammunition, which gives lead-like shot performance that: 1) exceeds steel shot performance; 2) can be used with any chokes in any modern shotgun; and 3) is available in all gauges including 28 and .410. Like lead shot, bismuth puts more pellets and transfers more energy to the target than steel shot. And Bismuth’s NO-TOX ECO AMMO combines the environmental virtues of lacquered paper hulls, fiber wads and a brass-plated steel head with a soft, lead-like payload that delivers more energy to the target at longer ranges. Bismuth NO-TOX is offered in more than 50 loads. It is the closest you can get to lead-like performance. Scope out their web page at www.bismuth-notox.com, then see your dealer.

It’s good to see responsible manufacturers reintroducing cardboard hulls and fiber wads to their sporting shell lines. It makes you feel like you’re not alone in your concern for the environment when you’re out there picking up spent hulls - your own and those left by others.

Heck, it’s good exercise and good stewardship to boot.

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