

reminds all hunters and landowners of federal waterfowl hunting regulations concerning crop manipulation (baiting). Farm producers who use their land for hunting or lease the hunting rights on their land need to make sure they are following federal waterfowl hunting regulations concerning baiting.

“With the drought and heat conditions in Kansas this year and the failed corn crops in parts of Kansas, farmers are looking to manipulate some crops to prepare the fields for next year,” says Kenny Kessler, USFWS special agent.

“As a waterfowl hunter or land manager, it is your responsibility to know and obey all federal and state laws that govern the sport. While it is permissible to manipulate a crop for dove hunting, the only legal hunting that can occur for waterfowl is if, under these circumstances, the crop is ‘normally’ harvested,” Kessler explains. “Rotary mowing of a corn crop, for example, would not be a ‘normal’ harvest, and therefore, hunting waterfowl would not be allowed on or near the areas manipulated.”

Hunters should avoid hunting waterfowl over unharvested crops that have been trampled by livestock or subjected to other types of manipulations, such as disked down crops where grain has better scattered or exposed. Areas where grain is present and stored, such as grain elevators and grain bins, are illegal to hunt waterfowl

over, as are areas where grain is present for the purpose of feeding livestock. Additionally, hunting over freshly planted wildlife food plots that contain exposed grain is illegal. Finally, it’s illegal to hunt croplands where a crop has been harvested and the removed grain is redistributed or “added back” onto the area where grown.

On the other hand, waterfowl hunting is allowed in fields of unharvested standing crops, including over standing crops that have been flooded. It’s also permissible to flood fields after crops are harvested and use these areas for waterfowl hunting. It’s advisable for landowners to follow normal harvesting timelines if corn fields are planned to be used for hunting waterfowl.

For additional information, see Waterfowl Hunting and Baiting, and Dove Hunting and Baiting on the USFWS website, www.fws.gov or contact Kessler at 785-232-5149 or Wichita, KS, at 316-788-4474.

MICHIGAN DNR Offers Fall Pheasant Hunt for Women in Metamora Oct. 15

The Department of Natural Resources is offering a guided fall pheasant hunt designed for women through the department’s Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program (BOW). Hunters Creek Club in Metamora will host the hunt, on Saturday, Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Beginners are welcome for this three-bird-limit hunt. The day will start with safety orientation, then target practice with one-on-one instruction and extra attention and instruction for those who have never bird-hunted before.

After lunch, participants will break up into small groups and head out to the field for a guided, walk-up hunt with dogs. Birds will be cleaned by Hunters Creek staff.

For this hunt, participants will need a small game license or apprentice license. For license information, visit www.mdnr-elicence.com. Hunter orange as the outermost clothing layer is required by law.

Several 20-gauge shotguns, hunter orange vests, and eye and ear protection for target practice will be available for participants’ use. Target ammunition, donated by Federal Ammunition, also will be provided.

Attendees should bring one box of shotgun shells - field load - for the hunt in the afternoon. Ammunition is available for purchase at the Hunters Creek Pro Shop.

The \$150-per-person cost includes target practice, the guided hunt and lunch with participants’ menu choice in the Hunters Creek dining room. Hunting license and guide gratuities are not included in the registration fee. The registration deadline is Oct. 6.

Hunters Creek Club is located at 675 E. Sutton Rd. in Metamo-