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# Keep Hunting Safe — Be Courteous

Two very important ingredients that every sportsman should take hunting are common sense and courtesy. These will go a long way toward keeping hunting a safe sport and creating good relations between the hunter and landowner.

Hunting is actually an important form of outdoor recreation in Iowa—a vital part of our heritage, economy, and recreation. Fortunately the majority of men who take to the fields in search of game are safe hunters and sportsmen.

For instance, in 1967 there were 417,811 people hunting in Iowa. And only 1/32 of one percent were involved in firearm accidents. In other words there were 417,667 hunters in Iowa who did not have firearm accidents.

The State Conservation Commission has played an important part in making hunting safe. In 1960 the Conservation Commission, in cooperation with the National Rifle Association, initiated the Iowa Hunter Safety Program. Since that time 41,107 people have completed the course. It's not strictly a "man's subject" either. There were 6,472 girls who took the course.

The basic purpose of the program is to make better hunters and citizens by providing firearm safety lessons. Key men in this program are the conservation officers and volunteer instructors. Officers are qualified instructors and teach each class for volunteers who in turn set up and teach classes.

Hunting and firearms have played a big part in the history of the midwest. To trappers and other pioneers a rifle or shotgun was an integral part of their life. In addition guns were a means of protection. There was a time when hunting provided a varied menu to supplement a scarce food supply.

Naturally, the role of the hunter has changed since those early days. However, the right to hunt with a rifle, shotgun or muzzle loader is still important in our society. It is a form of outdoor recreation. A state like Iowa can provide thousands of hunters with the opportunity for good outdoor recreation.

The hunter has certain responsibilities that he must be aware of. In the

first place, hunting is a privilege, not a right. He must share the responsibility for preserving the privilege to hunt, for making this state a safe and more pleasant place to hunt. A license does not make him a hunter, sportsman or conservationist. However, it is hoped that through this privilege he will become a hunter, sportsman, and conservationist.

A sportsman must follow the rules of hunting—the game laws which are established to provide a chance at a good bag, not only for the present, but future years as well.

The majority of hunting in Iowa is done on private land. Good hunter-landowner relationship is important if hunting is to continue. Common sense and courtesy are an important part of the hunter's behavior in the field.

It's a wise hunter who asks the landowner for permission to hunt on his

property even though the land is not posted. The hunter's request is appreciated for it is the most natural thing in the world for someone to want to know who is on his land and for what reason.

Sportsmen shouldn't impose on the landowner's hospitality by hunting in a large group. Anyone would probably resent an "army" of hunters tramping through his fields. Firearms and dogs should be kept in the car until permission has been obtained and everyone is ready to hunt. Many hunters ask landowners to join the group.

A few other suggestions for making a pleasant hunt follow: Determine the location of livestock and find out exactly where you are not to hunt and stay out of that area.

Park your car in a location designated by the landowner. Don't park in front

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CIRCULATION ..... 62,129

**COMMISSION MINUTES**

State Conservation Commission  
Meeting Held in Des Moines, Iowa  
September 4 and 5, 1968

The Rehabilitation Plan for the Hull Recreational Site in Mahaska County was approved.

The Commission approved an increase of \$80,000 in the authorized participation cost of the Conservation Commission on the Badger Creek Watershed Project.

The following projects were approved for submission to the B.O.R. for federal cost sharing under the Lands and Waters Conservation Fund Program:

Monroe County Conservation Board—  
Lake Miami County Park-Development—  
Total estimated cost of development—  
\$31,400.

Union County Conservation Board—  
Mount Pisgah—Acquisition and develop-  
ment—\$2,000.

The following land acquisition projects were approved:

Carroll County Conservation Board—  
Middle Raccoon River Access and Forest  
—40 acres.

Dubuque County Conservation Board—  
New Wine Township Park—41 acres.

Pocahontas County Conservation Board  
—Northwest Recreation Area—16 acres.

Worth County Conservation Board—  
Hartland Forest—40 acres.

The following management agreement was approved:

Monroe County Conservation Board—Manage-  
ment Agreement—Miami Lake Fishing Area—  
49.76 acres.

The following development plans were approved:

Des Moines County Conservation Board—Hunt  
Forest Area.

Monroe County Conservation Board—Miami  
Lake Park Revision.

Wright County Conservation Board—Lake  
Cornelia Park Revision.

The following options, submitted by the Divi-  
sion of Fish and Game, were approved:

Riverton Area, Fremont Co. (Swanson)—865  
acres.

Otter Creek Area, Tama Co. (Jones)—six  
acres.

The State Attorney General's office was re-  
quested to file a lawsuit for damages against the  
Nutra Flo Company based on a claim of \$542.  
For loss of fish caused by discharge in the Floyd  
River.

Approved the purchase of one additional tree  
moving machine which will be assigned to the  
Yellow River Forest Area.



Three "clean stream awards" were presented at the Iowa Division of the Izaak Walton League of America convention in Algona this year. Co-sponsored by the Ikes and the Sears-Roebuck Foundation, the awards are large, attractive trophies.

Pictured above after receiving the trophies are, left to right: Calvin McReynolds, plant manager for Wilson Company; Gilbert Clow, representing Cherokee, Iowa; Don Allen, superintendent of feedlot operations for Oakland Feeding Corporation; and Bud Anderson, president, Algona Chamber of Commerce, representing North Liberty.

The award was presented to Wilson Company, Inc., for cooperating with the city of Cherokee in establishing an industrial waste water treatment plant to protect the Little Sioux River.

The award went to the Oakland Feeding Corporation, feedlot division, for pioneering efforts in its cattle feedlot runoff handling system and as a result contributing to the water pollution abatement in the West Nishnabotna River watershed.

The award to North Liberty was for establishing a municipal sewage treatment plant and contributing to the abatement of water pollution in Muddy Creek and the Iowa River.

Dear Santa,

Please renew my  
subscription to the  
Iowa Conservationist  
and send a  
gift subscription to  
my friend  
Rudolph. He has  
a nose for news  
... well read,  
indeed.



Take a tip from a  
"deer" friend ... give  
a gift subscription to the  
**IOWA CONSERVATIONIST.**  
It's only a buck!





## EDITORIAL

Daily we read in the newspapers and hear on the televisions about the world's problems—the war in Vietnam, overpopulation, nuclear weapons, the space program, and on and on.

In our schools many of the curricula have been annotated, and fantastic educational programs have been set up to meet the demands of the social pressure, problems, and situations. Political science classes, world history and current world events courses, biology, physics, and all the natural science programs have been revamped to cope with most of the "really new" world.

But daily we also read about water, air, and land pollution, about a diminishing wildlife population, and a disappearing "Americana." Why, then, don't our schools meet these demands (that essentially are in our own backyards) as well as meeting the demands of the more world-wide topics?

Perhaps it's because *Conservation Education*, the label for these subjects, is a pretty nebulous topic. Where, or in what department does it fall? It can be a subject under the physical sciences, and at the same time, part of the humanities, specifically political science or government.

So then, how does an individual instructor begin to teach this tremendously large field in its proper category and with the proper slant?

Simply, he can't, at least not by himself. Conservation Education must begin with an *attitude*, and it must begin on the elementary level and extend through the senior high grades.

Then, couple that attitude with an *awareness*—a simple knowledge of the complex world of nature, which would develop into a more complete study of all the intervening variables of natural resource management.

To set up a series of studies right now, ranging from the elementary to senior grades, would be feasible and, to some people, essential. However, certain steps must precede an arrangement of this sort, this actual workbook or "study guide" approach.

First, community and regional concern must support a program of conservation education. Public and parental awareness and concern can spur the student to a better attitude and higher interest. From this general concern, our colleges and universities must prepare the teachers in many departments to effectively teach conservation and all its aspects.

Without public empathy to programs of conservation education, an individual teacher cannot possibly hope to succeed on a large or small scale; a few instructors together will find the going rather difficult.

When the current curricula in our classrooms accentuate a world of turmoil, with no apparent solution for it, one begins to question why that same school just barely introduces the problems and possible solutions that directly affect each individual. The few teachers, parents, organizations, and interested citizens who now support conservation education are doing a commendable job. They can be the spark behind a *total* effort—an awareness attitude, to begin to solve problems that exist in our own backyards.

The difficulty in beginning the concrete, classroom approach can be solved somewhat by simple interest. When educators know that there is a real concern on the part of the majority of the citizenry, their responsibility to the future generation of leaders will be emphasized and they will know that their efforts will be worthwhile.

It takes so little from each individual—a comment to a teacher organization, an informal discussion with sportsmen, a "nature activity" to spark a child's interest and curiosity. These become the beginning, the idea behind action, for a regional and then, statewide movement for proper, concrete and current conservation education.

When it takes this small an effort, why must so few be the only ones to be vitally concerned about the future of our natural resource heritage that so desperately needs a total, concerned public—right here, right now? ke

## Keep Hunting Safe...

(from page 81)

of a gate. This may prevent the landowner from entering with a tractor.

Always leave gates as you find them unless told otherwise. Don't leave the gate open because you intend to return a little later. Livestock soon find open gates and the farmer does not like to roundup his cattle from neighboring fields and roads.

Don't shoot in the direction of buildings or livestock. Firearms should be unloaded and pointed in a safe direction when in the immediate vicinity of buildings, people or livestock.

Report to the landowner any damage to property or livestock regardless of how distasteful the task may be.

Always thank the landowner after the hunt. Many hunters offer to share their game with the landowner.

Iowa hunters are basically a safe and sane group of citizens. However, we must always try and improve on the hunter safety record for the state. Progress has been made as noted in the decrease in accidents from 140 in 1966 to 114 in 1967. Common sense and courtesy when handling guns and hunting will go a long way toward lowering the accident rate.

One of the best ways to insure a safe hunting trip is to follow the ten commandments of shooting safety:

1. TREAT EVERY GUN WITH THE RESPECT DUE A LOADED GUN.
2. WATCH THAT MUZZLE! Carry your gun safely; keep safety on until ready to shoot.
3. UNLOAD GUNS WHEN NOT IN USE, take down or have actions open; guns should be carried in cases to shooting area.
4. BE SURE BARREL IS CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTIONS, and that you have ammunition only of the proper size for the gun you carry.
5. BE SURE OF TARGET BEFORE YOU PULL TRIGGER; know identifying features of game you hunt.
6. NEVER POINT A GUN AT ANYTHING YOU DO NOT WANT TO SHOOT; avoid all horseplay.
7. NEVER CLIMB A TREE OR FENCE OR JUMP A DITCH WITH A LOADED GUN; never pull a gun toward you by the muzzle.
8. NEVER SHOOT A BULLET AT A FLAT, HARD SURFACE OR WATER; at target practice be sure your backstop is adequate.
9. STORE GUNS AND AMMUNITION SEPARATELY, beyond reach of children.
10. AVOID ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES before or during shooting.

### IOWA CONSERVATIONIST SUBSCRIPTION FORM

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_



## "What Do I Do Now?"

Going deer hunting this fall?

Don't put yourself in the position of the novice hunter who killed his first deer, rushed up to the fallen animal and then realized: "Gosh, I killed it, but what do I do now?"

Hunters should know exactly what to do after bagging their game. Meat can spoil and pounds of venison may be wasted if not handled correctly—and immediately. Prompt field care of game will help insure tasty meals later in the year.

Field dressing a deer is not difficult, if done properly. There are several important things to keep in mind when field dressing a deer or any other big game. First of all, it's essential that the animal be dressed out as soon as possible after it has been killed. Prompt, clean removal of the insides will speed the cooling out process, help prevent spoiling and improve the taste.

The first step in field dressing a deer is to bleed it, if the slug or arrow hasn't already accomplished this. The head should be downhill to help drainage of blood. Insert your hunting knife in front of the breast bone and sever the major arteries leading from the heart to the neck. If the head is to be saved for trophy mounting, skip this step.

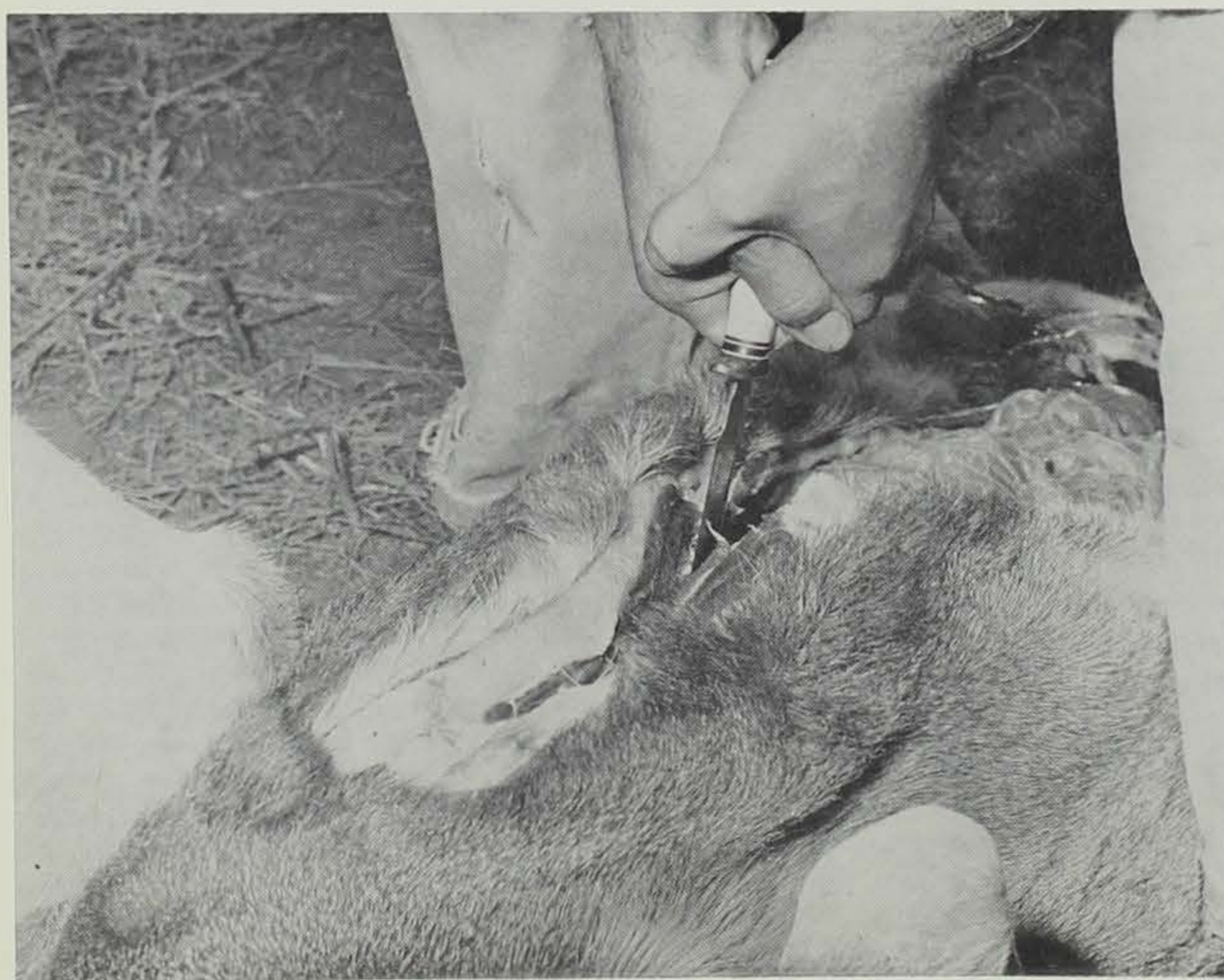
When you cut the deer open don't just start slashing away with your knife. Take it easy. It's important to do the job right. First make a small slit in the

belly with the knife, being careful not to cut any internal organs. Work your fingers through this hole and press the paunch or intestines away. Cut through the hide along the center line of the belly from brisket to vent. As you cut, use your fingers as a guide to prevent the blade from cutting the intestines.

Cut deeply around the anus and free organs in the pelvic cavity. They can be removed with the intestines. Separate the hind quarters by splitting the pelvic bone with a knife, hand axe or saw. If necessary to use a knife, a few taps with a rock on the back of the blade will help split the pelvis.

Open the chest cavity from front to back through the breast bone. Cut muscles of the diaphragm around its circumference separating the chest from the stomach cavity. It's a good idea to maneuver the carcass around so the entrails will roll out downhill.

Use one hand to press the lungs out of the way. With your knife in the other hand, reach into the chest cavity and sever the windpipe and gullet where they enter the chest from the neck. Pull out the heart, liver, lungs, paunch and intestines. It will be necessary to reach right into the carcass with your arms to drag out the mess so don't be squeamish. You may have to loosen some entrails from the back with your knife, but usually just about everything can be pulled away without too much trouble.



All blood and hair should be cleaned from the body cavity. Many hunters carry a clean cloth to wipe out the insides. It's very important that the carcass be properly cooled before it's transported. Prop the body cavity open and hang the deer in an airy, shady place. Hanging the deer will assure a good circulation of air to remove body heat.

If it's not possible to hang the deer in the air, drape it over a log or pile of rocks belly side up—anything to get it off the ground. The important thing is to get the meat cooled so it won't spoil. If you save the heart and liver, put them in a clean cloth or sack and keep them cool.

A word of caution about the musk or scent glands on the lower hind legs. Avoid touching them while handling the carcass. The scent will cling to your hands and may taint the meat when you handle it. If you wish you can remove these glands by peeling or slicing off the entire skin surrounding them. If you touch these glands, be sure to clean off your hands.

The carcass should cool while taking it home or to the locker plant. Don't put the carcass over the car's hood or fender where it will receive heat from the engine and don't put it in the trunk and close the lid. Car-top carriers are very good for hauling game.

Obviously, the most important tool in field dressing a deer is the knife. And it doesn't have to be the size of a Japanese samurai sword. A good six-inch blade will be satisfactory. Carry a small whetstone because dressing out a deer may dull the edge. Some other items that will be of assistance include a small hand axe or saw as previously mentioned. A nylon cord takes up little room and can be used to hang a deer from a tree so the carcass will cool quicker. It can also be used to drag a deer out of the woods.

Before going in a public locker plant, deer carcasses should be skinned and the head removed. Often the meat can be placed in a clean porous cotton bag after skinning. To skin a deer it should be hung above the ground, and the skin



eeled off carefully with a sharp knife. As with most other aspects of hunting, sportsmen have their own special methods when it comes to field dressing big game. These are just a few general suggestions to help care for venison. Don't let an otherwise successful hunt be ruined by improper field care of meat.

### How Much Did It Weigh?

If you killed a deer that weighed 130 pounds field dressed—how much did it weigh on the hoof or while in was still live?

Each year many sportsmen ask these questions when they want to figure out the live weight of their deer.

Below are two columns of figures that will supply an approximate answer if the hunter knows the dressed weight of his deer. Locate the dressed weight of the deer in the left column and approximate live weight will appear opposite in the right column. Although they are approximate weights, they do provide a good estimate.

Dressed Weight Pounds	Live Weight Pounds
100	130
110	140
120	155
130	165
140	180
150	190
160	205
170	215
180	215
190	240
200	255
210	265

# The Realm of "Limit Psychology"

By David Evans

Superintendent Public Relations

"Well, I've got my limit," shouts a proud pheasant hunter holding up three ringnecks. "How did you do, Joe?"

"Ah, heck," says Joe, "I was in a poor area and there was too much cover. I only got two, one short of the limit."

Joe was mighty discouraged by his showing during a day of pheasant hunting and he actually hated to return home. He felt ashamed that he didn't get his limit.

But should he have felt ashamed because he did not kill his limit of birds? The answer to this intriguing question can probably be found somewhere in the realm of what is called "limit psychology."

For some reason or other, sportsmen generally feel that attaining a limit of game or fish is a personal challenge—a way to prove their superiority over nature or fellow men. It's quite obvious that simply attaining the limit, not the number taken, is the stimulus.

Many hunters have the mistaken idea that the "limit" is simply the maximum they are allowed to attain. And there is a big difference.

It should be obvious that a game license does not guarantee a "limit." If a license guaranteed a limit, the State Conservation Commission could, when the occasion demanded, simply give each hunter a limit of frozen birds.

All a license does is legally entitle its owner to acquire a limit. Obviously, the game must be first located and then reduced by shooting to the bag. It's taking advantage of the opportunity to hunt, seeking out the game, and making or missing the good shot that is the real sport. It's not necessarily achieving the limit.

There is nothing personal implied when a limit is set on a certain species insofar as a goal the hunter is expected to achieve. Nor should the hunter be disappointed or discouraged just because he fails to come up with a limit of birds or fish.

Unfortunately almost no research has been carried out in the areas of limit psychology. It's not known why some hunters feel their day in the field has been a failure if they don't get a limit of birds. Psychologists contacted agree that the subject should be studied.

It's possible that the continued trend toward the compulsion on the part of some hunters, that they must bag a limit, could result in the deterioration of true sportsmanship.

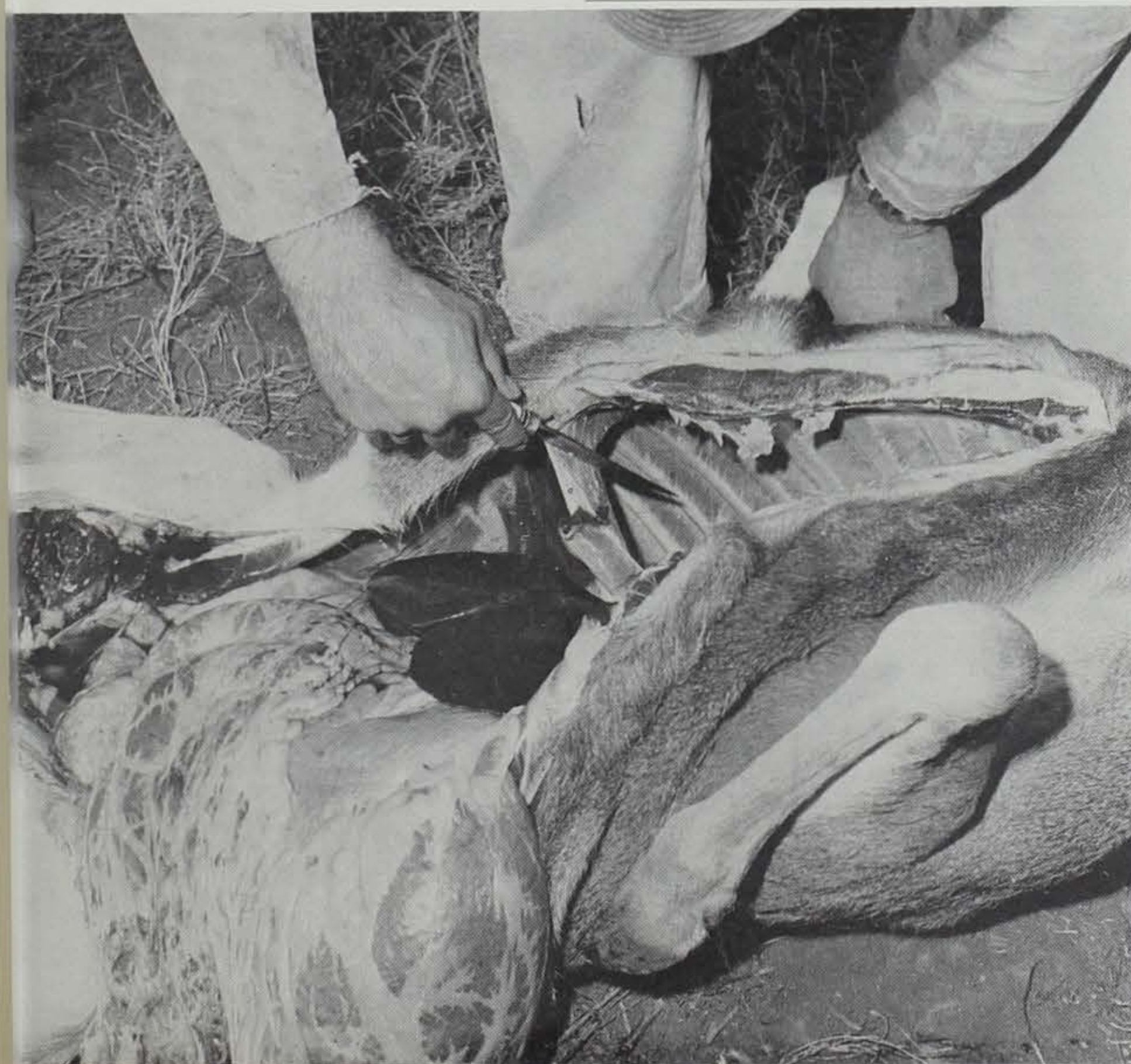
Why are hunters limit conscious? One reason is that we live in a highly competitive society. It's important to us that we become successful whether we are bank presidents or ditch diggers. We feel that to survive we must compete and win. But should this attitude carry over to an afternoon of pheasant hunting? Not really. However, there will always be some group pressure from fellow hunters on those who don't kill a limit.

Pride could be a factor. Pride of hunting skill dates back to the dawn of history when a shaggy Neanderthal swaggered back to the cave to exhibit before his equally shaggy wife a battered bison. Even today we mount the trophy heads of big game. And who is not just a little bit proud of a well-filled game bag?

Achieving a limit in the field or stream can be a great equalizer. The young farm boy in patched overalls, single-shot shotgun and few shells will often outshoot the well-dressed and even better equipped hunter from the big city. Some people feel that by getting a limit of birds they are equal to anybody in the field—regardless of position in society.

So there is a very definite motivation

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## A Break in Traditional Education—

# A Three-Day Camp Classroom

By Russell Nelson

That certain fall feeling is in the air, but "back to school" doesn't necessarily mean returning to the old familiar indoor classroom. "Back to school" can mean an educational, fun-packed, three-day session at the Wapsie Y-Camp, just north of Central City in southern Linn County. This special schooling, sponsored by the College Community Schools (CCS), is called the College Community Schools Outdoor Education Program.

Seventh and eighth grade students from the Ely, Shueyville, Fairfax, Walford and Swisher areas have enjoyed this stimulating and eye-opening program for the last nine years. This outdoor classroom is in operation twice each year and offers two three-day sessions each spring and fall. Last spring about 220 eighth graders attended the two three-day camps.

Approximately 230 seventh graders, representing nearly 100 percent of the seventh graders in the College Community School system, attended the recent fall outdoor classroom from September 23-28.

Outdoor classroom days are action packed with the group up at seven, classes from 9:00 to 12:30, and again from 2:00 to 4:30. After dinner their day winds up around 10 after an evening of social dancing and a program with either a film or talk on varied aspects of conservation education.

Kenneth Marsh is the able and experienced director of the program. His very competent staff consists of educators from the CCS district. Mr. Marsh's fall staff conducted organized classes in



science, boating, canoeing, language arts, music, social problems and family living, first aid, and gun safety and hunting.

Students in the science classes took a closer look at the outdoor world surrounding the Y-Camp, by studying a wide variety of netted specimens from adjacent trout pond and lake areas.

Campers are instructed in the necessary outdoor skills of proper boat and canoe handling, experience invaluable for an active outdoorsman.

In language arts classes, campers reflect upon the outdoor world and then let their feeling and expressions take shape in the form of creative poetic writing, as their mood moves them.

An interesting musical twist was given to the outdoor class. Students

were asked to write a short story while listening to a piece of music. A correlation between musical motivation and mood expression was noted as a result of this session. New group camp songs as well as round singing kept the campers even more occupied.

Individual thinking and expression is cultivated in the class of social problems and family living. Here students are offered an opportunity to discuss personal ideas and questions and interact with persons their own age.

The camp's full-time registered nurse stresses the importance of playing and working safely out-of-doors as well as at home. In this class campers learned how to splint a leg, how to give artificial respiration, how to handle shock and how to treat burns.

Popular with boys and girls is a hunting and gun safety class. Several calibers of the common shotgun and rifles are used to acquaint these future sportsmen with basic types of gun construction and, most important, with gun safety. A demonstration is given on how to use game calls, a hand trap, and how to reload ammunition.

Educational value and importance of the outdoor educational program is whole-heartedly expressed by the College Community Schools, as well as by the seventh and eighth graders themselves. From the early grades, students in this school system talk about and eagerly look forward to attending the camp's two sessions.

College Community Schools officials plan for this very important portion of their students' education by budgeting funds annually to cover camp costs. This figure is a nominal \$2.50 per student per three-day session. Students pay for their meals through the school's regular lunch program, with a cost of 35 cents per meal.





Students of the College Community schools area are indeed very fortunate. They eagerly take advantage of an excellent opportunity for a learning experience, the effect of which cannot be obtained in an indoor classroom. This brief portion of their schooling experience is one more solid rung gained on their educational ladder.

Children of this school district do have a rather exclusive educational outdoor program, but this type of experience could be had by nearly all of Iowa's school children. Potential for such outdoor education campsites exists all over Iowa. Whenever the elements of an interested school district and basic camp facilities exist you have the makings for an educational system extraordinaire.

Similar programs are held elsewhere in the state, some of which limit the outdoor classrooms almost entirely to science and conservation. The State Conservation Commission assists in most of these programs by providing both facilities and personnel.

Yes, there is something in the fall air. Can you feel it? If not, just ask seventh graders of the College Community schools. They can tell you what it's all about.

## Limit Psychology...

(from page 85)

that drives men to get a limit. But this is not a very practical way to look at a sport. Actually, if bag limits were designed only to leave enough brood stock for adequate reproduction, they could be so high that they would be unattainable for the vast majority of hunters. When one comes right down to it, a few hunters can honestly entertain the idea of being able to consistently bag even the most limited of limits, let alone that which would be a major challenge to an expert. Many factors enter into the possibility of getting a limit. Well-trained dogs, finding enough pheasants and weather conditions greatly influence the chances of bagging a limit of ringnecks. To expect to get your limit consistently is almost wishful thinking.

In discussing these factors, we have been concerned with the sportsman. However, it's necessary to consider some other types. These are the people who expect and even demand enough game to keep their freezer full all year. And they get it legally or illegally. This type can and will kill a limit of birds

nearly every day. They are simply out to beat the butcher. Usually this character is apprehended for shooting out of season, taking hens or going over the limit.

Naturally, lowering the limit—as was necessary with ducks this year—has a depressing effect on hunter interest, especially when only one mallard is allowed per day. However, the mallard population simply cannot stand more than this. The real sportsman is the man who recognizes and accepts the regulations. He is the one who will get his limit of other species and brag about the mallards he passed up.

The situation is changing among the fishing fraternity. Many states have relaxed their fishing laws regarding limits. And today anglers talk about the "big one" they landed, the 15-minute battle or the "nice mess of fish." Seldom does an angler develop ulcers trying for the "limit."

"Limit" motivation for hunters still remains—something like a disease. However, more must be known about the problem before it can be cured.

There is very little sport if getting a limit is the sole, single-minded objective of a man. Enjoyment comes in the chase, the companionship of the hunt. This is an olympic year and perhaps outdoorsmen should be guided by this paraphrase of the Olympic motto: "It's not whether or not you get your limit, but whether you enjoyed the opportunity to hunt and fish."

## NOTICE

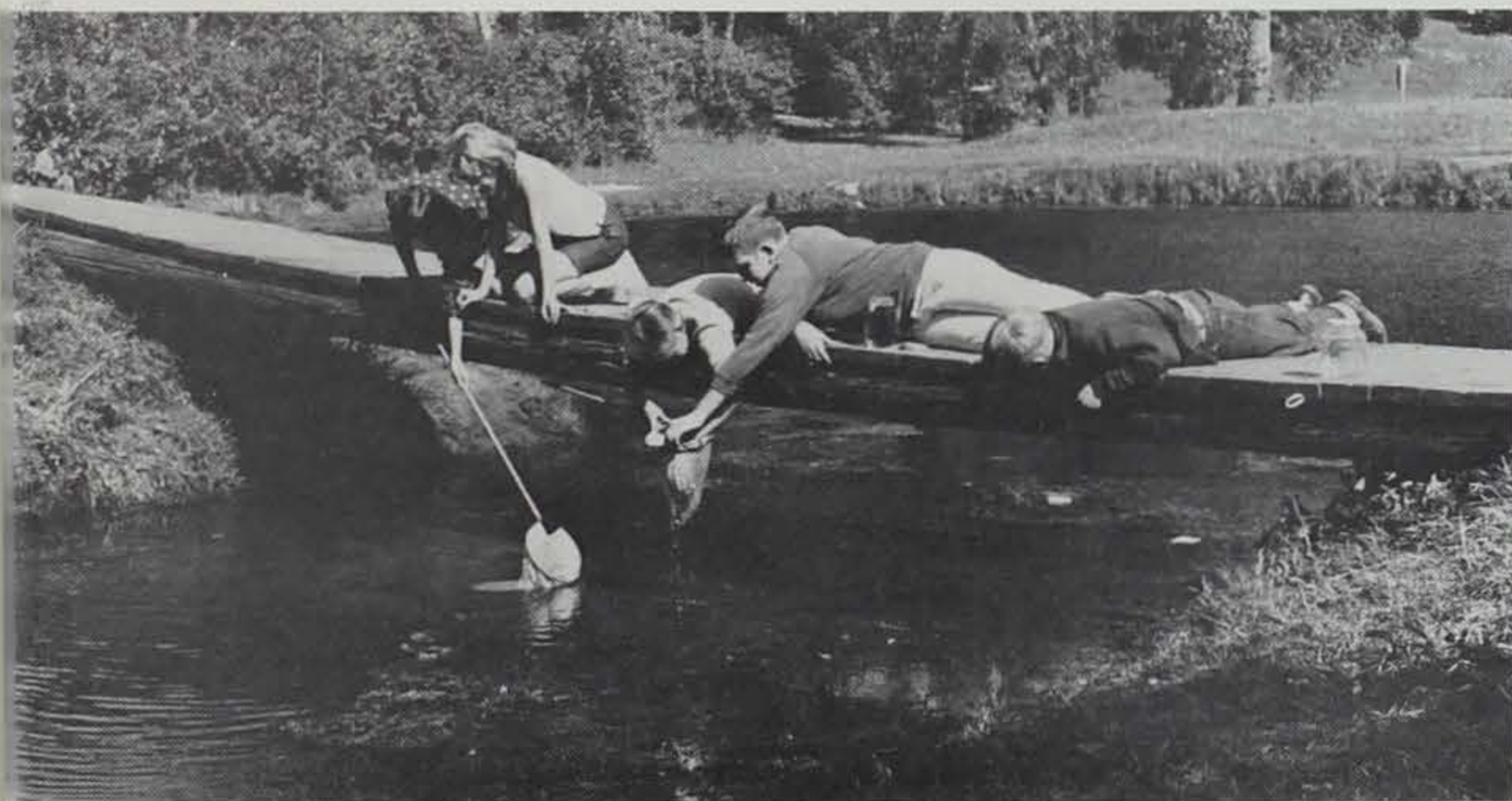
The Internal Revenue Service has asked the cooperation of the State Conservation Commission in notifying its subscribers of new legislation in regard to the registration of certain firearms.

Within the period of November 2 to December 1, 1968, all machine guns, sawed-off shotguns, short barrel rifles, and other "gangster-type" weapons, must be registered with the Director of the Alcohol and Tax Division, Internal Revenue Service, Washington, D. C. 20224.

The 1968 Federal Gun Control Act also mentions other weapons which would be considered "gangster-type." Any fully automatic guns which are capable of discharging more than one shot by a single function of the trigger, any firearm mufflers or silencers, and any weapons except conventional pistols and rifles capable of being fired and concealable on a person must be reported.

Form No. 4467 must be filed in duplicate with the IRS and can be obtained from any IRS office. Inquiries as to specific weapons should be directed to the Alcohol and Tax Division, Internal Revenue Service.

\* \* \*







## Canine Companion

*A Lat  
Hunter's  
Best  
Friend*

By Gene Hlavka

At one time or another, all of us, especially the outdoorsmen, have heard someone say: "A dog is a man's best friend."

Well, I believe it. While on a teal assignment in northern Iowa over opening weekend last year, I fired one shot and "bagged" three teal. That is, one for me and two for the dog. And this does not include the five additional teal that my little black Labrador retrieved for other hunters.

But the best part was that none of us had to wade knee-deep in muck to get these downed birds. With a decline in duck numbers, the slogan "Make haste to reduce waste" takes on added meaning.

Pheasant biologists tell us that there has never been a time when cock pheasants were over-harvested in Iowa. He also says there are surplus cocks each year whether the population is up or down. Of course, we know that the sole biological function of the cock pheasant is to fertilize eggs. The cock pays no attention to family affairs.

Iowa hunters harvest an average of 65 to 70 percent of the cocks. Up to 90 percent could be bagged without harm to the brood stock. The Minnesota people in "The Rugged Ringneck of Minnesota" say, "that there has never been a shortage of cocks, either after an open season, or a bad winter, or a combination of both." A good dog can prove this.

Remember the years of the soil bank fields? I knew the location of five farms

entirely in grass. My kids would get off the school bus at four. Whenever I happened to be home, I had our gear (and dog) ready. With only 30 minutes remaining to hunt, my older son and I would occasionally bag a rooster. Another 30 minutes would have been "a la mode" to the dog man.

How we enjoyed those grasslands! Not only did they produce pheasants, but equally important, they provided hunting space. Good dog work could be easily observed. The shooting was in the open. And our boots stayed fairly clean. I'll never forget one cock pheasant. He jumped silently into the air to one side of the dog and just seemed to drift by me. Can you imagine my dog's surprise when I converted him to personal possession?

One day we were zigzagging down a steep slope of a hayfield when I jumped a cottontail right under my feet. The Lab was busy below us. That rabbit ran so fast straight for the dog that it could only (you guessed it) jump over the barrier. The Lab never knew what happened.

One of our men was telling me the other day about his German shorthair pointer. It seems the dog came to a point on a clump of grass in a bare pasture. Being an understanding soul, this particular hunter booted the dog into the clump—and right on top of a big, sassy rooster. I suppose the cock got away. Those kind always do. I should quit calling my dogs "knuckleheads." They also "get back" at me in the fall.

I'm the world's worst marker when it comes to falls. Several years ago at a retriever trial I lost hard-earned points because I failed to mark a fall. I could send my yellow Lab anywhere—except to the pigeon. Anyway, the other handlers told me we put on a wonderful show.

Duck hunters used to ring my door bell and ask if I would get my dogs and fetch some ducks for them. Mom would raise her eyebrows at suppertime, but I would sometimes manage to assist. It seems that on one occasion this hunter's partner took off for home—with the boat. This hunter had two ducks on the water. The wind was slackening. And it was getting late. Would I get my dogs and fetch his ducks?

We took both cars to the hunting area. "My gosh!" I exclaimed, "those ducks are in the middle of the lake." This was a job for the older dog. Because I knew she would not see the ducks, I sent her straight out and downwind. She turned a couple of times, but I managed to get her way out with some "get backs." When she was about opposite the first duck, I hit the whistle to change her course. You certainly can tell when a dog catches the scent. The second duck had drifted somewhat closer. Finally, besides two nice mallards there was one happy hunter. He kept telling me about that wonderful dog. I never did finish supper.

It has been said that a man is entitled to one good dog in his lifetime. Time is getting short. Get a good DOG.