

# News & Notes

## South Eastern Game Breeders and Hunting Preserve Association

No. 1, 2010

### From the Editor

I hope that everyone had a happy holiday season. May the New Year bring happiness to all.

To date, we have over 90 members listed in the SEGB&HPA. Some memberships are honorary; and some are paying members (meaning yearly dues). However, most are non-paying members, and in addition, most members do not attend our yearly meeting.

The costs of the yearly meeting are substantial. The association usually pays for the costs of the meeting room, equipment and supplies, and the meals for at least one day. Registration fees generate money for these costs.

Due to the state of the economy and the costs we incur by sending out a quarterly newsletter, **beginning April 15, 2010, if members have not paid their yearly dues they will be excluded from our mailing list and they will not be listed in the SEGB&HPA directory which will be sent out later this year. A membership renewal form is enclosed in this newsletter.**

### 2010 Conference Site and Dates Set

This year's conference will be held April 8 to 10 at The Inn at Wildwood just south of Tallahassee, FL. The address is 3896 Coastal Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327, reservations' phone number is 1-800-878-1546, and the website is [reservations@innatwildwood.com](mailto:reservations@innatwildwood.com). Each



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#### Inside This Issue

Diseases Fester

Wild Turkey Season

Lead Bullets

Benefit Tower Shoot

Food Corner

Membership Form

Conference Registration

Conference Schedule

room has a queen size bed, and the room rate is \$69 per night. Please make your own reservations. There will be a continental breakfast for attendees and on Friday and Saturday, one can eat lunch and/or breakfast in the Resort restaurant. There will be a dinner/auction on Friday night. There are several seafood restaurants located near the resort for dinner on you own Thursday, the night of April 8<sup>th</sup>, after the Board meeting which begins in the Resort at 5:30 pm. Golf, tennis, swimming, nature tours, and glass bottom boat tours will available to attendees. A registration form is enclosed. Please bring an item(s) to donate for the auction. The black snake is required.

**Diseases Fester on Farms - Are Antibiotics in Animal Production on Their Way Out**

Margie Mason, Martha Mendoza, and Dr. Gary S. Davis

The mystery started the day farmer Russ Kremer got between a jealous boar and a sow in heat. The boar gored Kremer in the knee. The burly pig farmer shrugged it off. But Kremer's leg ballooned to double its size. A strep infection spread, threatening his life and baffling doctors. Two months of antibiotics did virtually nothing.

The answer was flowing in the veins of the boar. The animal had been fed low doses of penicillin, spawning a strain of strep that was resistant to other antibiotics. That drug resistant germ passed to Kremer.

Like Kremer, more and more Americans – many of them living far from barns and pastures – are at risk from the widespread practice of feeding livestock antibiotics.

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In a nation that used about 35 million pounds of antibiotics last year, 70% of the drugs – 28 million pounds – went to pigs, chickens, game birds, and cows. Worldwide, it's 50%.

Researchers say the overuse of antibiotics in humans and animals has led to a plague of drug resistant infections that killed more than 65,000 people in the US last year – more than prostate and breast cancer combined.

This is a living, breathing problem. It's the big bad wolf and "it's knocking at our doors", said Dr. Vance Fowler, an

infectious disease specialist at Duke University.

Pressure against the use of antibiotics in agriculture is rising. The World Health Organization concluded this year that surging antibiotic resistance is one of the leading threats to human health, and the White House reported last month that the problem is urgent. “If we’re not careful with antibiotics and programs to administer them, we’re going to be in a post-antibiotic era,” said Dr. Thomas Frieden, who was tapped to lead the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this year.

Farm groups and pharmaceutical companies argue that drugs keep animals healthy and meat costs low, and they have defeated a series of proposed limits on their use.

America’s farmers give their pigs, cows, chickens, and game birds about 8% more antibiotics each year, usually to heal lung, skin, or blood infections. However, 13% of the antibiotics administered on farms were fed to healthy animals to make them live and grow faster. Antibiotics also save as much as 30% in feed costs among young swine.

However, these animals can develop germs that are immune to the antibiotics. The germs then rub into scratches on farm worker’s arms, causing oozing infections. They blow into neighboring communities in dust clouds, run off into lakes and rivers during heavy rains, and sliced into roasts, chops, hocks, or processed carcasses and sent to our dinner tables.

“Antibiotic resistant micro-organisms generated in the guts of pigs in the Iowa countryside don’t stay on the farm,” said

Union of Concerned Scientists Food and Environment director Margaret Mellon.

Some US lawmakers are fighting for a new law that would ban farmers from feeding antibiotics to their animals unless they are sick. “If you mixed an antibiotic in your child’s cereal, people would think you’re crazy,” said Rep. Louise M. Slaughter, a New York Democrat.

Farmers and drug makers are battling back. Pharmaceutical companies have spent \$135 million lobbying so far this year, and agribusiness companies another \$70 millions, on a handful of issues including fighting the proposed new limits. Opponents, many from farm states, say Slaughter’s law is misguided.

“Chaos will ensue,” said Kansas Republican Congressman Jerry Moran. “The cultivation of crops and the production of food animals is an immensely complex endeavor involving a vast range of process. We raise a multitude of crops and livestock in numerous regions, using various production methods. Imagine if the government is allowed to dictate how all of that is done.”

The FDA says without new laws its options are limited. The agency approved antibiotic use in animals in 1951, before concerns about drug resistance were recognized. The only way to withdraw that approval is through a drug-by-drug process that can take years of study, review, and comment.

Dr. Gary Davis asked, “then what is the alternative? The use of probiotics in game bird production is highly recommended. Research with the probiotic, PrimaLac, has shown improved livability and growth parameters in upland wild game birds.” For further details, contact Bob Adams

of Star Labs at 1-570-482-2451 or email him at bobadams@epix.net

### **Wild Turkey Hunting Season Is At Hand**

Alex Webb, Javier Serna, Mike Zlotnicki, and Dr. Gary S. Davis

Soon, tens of thousands of hunters across the south will be opening the spring season of wild turkey season. Of all outdoor pursuits, turkey hunting is unique, from the gear used, to the pursuit of the bird. Test your knowledge of this magnificent game bird.

1. Do hens grow beards? a. Never b. Occasionally c. Only at the State Fair d. Only in the spring
2. Why can rain aide in hunting turkeys?
  - a. Turkeys, like many animals, enjoy bathing
  - b. Turkeys prefer open fields when it's raining
  - c. It allows hunters to move quietly
  - d. It allows hunters more time to sleep before going afield
3. What is the snood? a. A character in a Dr. Seuss book b. Where turkeys sleep when not roosted in trees c. A mating dance performed by mates d. Flesh skin hanging from above the beak
4. What are the major caruncles?
  - a. Male relatives in a turkey's family tree
  - b. Large fleshy bulbs below the head that engorge with blood and turn bright red when the turkey is excited
  - c. Wavy skin flaps on a turkey's feet
  - d. A mountain range in western North Carolina
5. How old does a gobbler have to be to get a 10-inch beard? a. 3 years b. 4

years c. 5 years d. Gobblers don't get 10-inch beards

6. What is the average weight of adult male turkeys? a. 10-12 lbs b. 8-10 lbs c. 17-21 lbs d. It varies widely
7. How many subspecies of wild turkey are there in the US? a. 5 b. 3 c. 4 d. 6
8. How fast can wild turkeys fly? a. Wild turkeys cannot fly b. 25 mph c. 45 mph d. 55 mph
9. How fast can wild turkeys run? a. Up to 25 mph b. Up to 35 mph c. Up to 10 mph
10. How many counties in NC have wild turkeys and a spring season? a. 25 b. 50 c. 75 d. 100
11. What does the diet of the wild turkey consist of? a. Captain's crunch b. A wide variety of food sources c. Cheeseburgers d. Jenny Craig
12. What is the largest of the subspecies? a. Eastern b. Rio Grande c. Merriam d. Gould's e. Osceola
13. What was the total 2009 harvest of wild turkeys in NC? a. About 9,000 b. About 10,000 c. About 6,000 d. About 11,000



14. What was the total 1979 harvest of wild turkeys in NC? a. 144 b. 155 c. 166 d. 0

15. Approximately how many hunters pursue wild turkeys in NC? a. 75,000 b. 45,000 c. 90,000 d. 100,000

16. Who first domesticated wild turkeys? a. The British b. Native Americans c. Leif Ericson d. Spanish explorers

17. What is chufa? a. A plant with tubers that turkeys feed on b. A type of smokeless tobacco c. A character from Star Wars d. An irritation on the inner thigh of turkey hunters

18. What are drag marks? a. Trails left by EMS workers after rescuing turkey hunters b. Marks in dirt caused by strutting toms c. Marks in dirt caused by disinterested hens d. Trail markers used for orientation

19. What is a friction call? a. A brief cell phone conversation b. A device that uses friction to make turkey sounds c. A hunter's call after losing his way d. The sound a hunter makes after sitting on a copperhead

20. What are purrs, putts, and yelps? a. Turkey vocalizations b. Pet names for turkey toms c. Stomach noises after a bad tailgate lunch d. None of the above

Answers are at the end of the Newsletter.

### **Are Lead Bullets and Pellets On Their Way Out When Hunting or on a Shooting Sports Range**

Dennis Anderson and Dr. Gary S. Davis

Not too long ago, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources were

shooting dead sheep with high-caliber lead bullets, studying to see whether the bullets fragmented upon impact, and how widely any fragments might be found from wounds. Sheep bear similarities to white tailed deer, thus their choice as targets.

The study followed weeks, months and, in California, years of concerns that lead bullets pose hazards not only to people who eat venison, but to large aerial predators such as California condors and bald eagles. The birds often consume bullet fragments when they feast on wounded and unrecovered deer carcasses shot by hunters. In California, lead bullets are prohibited in areas where condors fly.

The Minnesota DNR's study was important because it showed that lead fragments, many too small to be easily seen, travel much farther – up to 18 inches – from wound channels than had been believed.

Long known as a toxin, lead has been banned from gasoline and many other substances. And waterfowl hunters can't use it to shoot ducks and geese.

Still, the possibility that human health is threatened by lead bullet fragments has been met with great skepticism by hunters. Lead has been used in bullets for centuries and no one has been hurt.

The issue is highly charged and, as with all gun-related controversies, laced with many political considerations. The ammunition industry, for example, can't easily shift to producing bullets made of something other than lead. And other than copper, there aren't a lot of "somethings" to choose from to make bullets and pellets.

But if lead bullets were the source of so much hand-wringing a year or two ago, whither the hubbub this fall?

“I think the concern is still there about lead bullets and pellets, but state officials are more comfortable this year with the amount of information than came out in the past few years.” DNR wildlife programs manager Steve Merchant said. “I think the feeling here is that we’ve gotten that information out and hunters can make their own choices.”

Maybe so. But the choice Minnesota Department of Agriculture has made this past fall is to X-ray all donations made by hunters to the state’s venison donation program. Any meat found to have lead in it will be tossed out, said Nichole Neeser, the agency’s program manager for dairy and meat inspection.

The screening is necessary, Neeser said, because lead in meat is potentially harmful, particularly to pregnant women and kids younger than age 6.

Last year, 18,000 pounds of venison were distributed through the program. As many as 35 meat processors statewide will process venison this fall destined for food shelves.

Several other states’ politicians are proposing the use of steel pellets on skeet and clay shooting ranges; and that duck and game bird hunters use steel pellets instead of lead. The major issue to range shooters, duck and game bird hunters is the extra expense of steel shot versus lead. Some politicians fear the potential for lead contamination of lands, ponds, creeks, estuaries, and meat.

### **Benefit Tower Hunt**

Jeffrey Maness, Shady Knoll Game Bird Farm

Shady Knoll Game Bird Farm in Asheboro, NC is having a tower shoot in

the memory of John Maness who passed away October 9. The date for the tower shoot is March 20. There will be a silent auction and items will be donated by Remington Arms. Other donations will be greatly appreciated. The Proceeds will be donated to the Relay for Life. There will be a hay ride to the shooting site and lunch will be provided. There will be a morning and afternoon hunt. Participants will be allowed 10 birds per shooter and the charge will be \$200 per shooter. For further information, please contact Jeffrey Maness at 1-336-8679-3663. Please reserve a space in that there are enough spaces for 24 people. If there is enough interest, an additional shoot will be scheduled.

### **Food Corner**

#### **Pan-Roasted Quail recipe**

#### **Ingredients:**

6 slices of fresh truffles or portabella mushrooms  
 6 shallots, peeled  
 6 whole quail  
 2 teaspoons of salt  
 1 teaspoon of freshly-ground black pepper  
 2 tablespoons of olive oil

#### **Directions:**

Preheat your oven to 400°F (205°C)  
 Place one truffle shaving or sliced portabella mushrooms and one shallot into the cavity of each quail  
 Season the quail with salt and black pepper. In a large heavy-bottomed ovenproof skillet, heat the olive oil over high heat. Place the quail in the skillet, breast side down, and cook until the skin is a golden brown color  
 Turn the quail and cook for 3 more minutes. Place the skillet directly in the oven and cook for about 10 minutes or until done. Allow the quail rest for 5 minutes, then serve.

## Answers to quiz

Page 7

1. b 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. a 6. c 7. a 8. d 9.  
a 10. d 11. b 12. d 13. b 14. a 15. a  
16. b 17. a 18. b 19. b 20. a **Score:**  
17-20 Nice work, you're a boss tom; 13-  
16 Not too bad, you're a jake; 8-12 Time  
to break out the fishing rods



John Maness (sitting) at the 2009 SEGB&HPA auction