

Personal Page

I got my first start at my business shortly after moving out to the lake, away from the crowded, city atmosphere. After about a year of living at the lake I decided I wanted to start raising quail. I spent time at almost every bird auction around and I finally made the decision to purchase a dozen breeding, adult Bobwhite Quail. My first idea was that I would let them breed and lay the eggs that I would then incubate. I would then brood the chicks and end up with them in the flight pens we had built over the previous summer. This seemed to be ok for the first year and things went well with the production of around 100 quail. I then deciding to push my business farther and soon I was on the internet searching for large scale breeders that I could buy quail eggs from in bulk. My second year of production I ordered 500 Bobwhite quail eggs for the hunting season, and I also purchased my first small flock of waterfowl, which consisted of Grey Call Ducks and a pair of Giant Canadian Geese. That career turned out to be one of the first big steps in my future business career.

During the game bird raising process I found that I was on the road to yet another prosperous career. For several summers I helped Mark Corner, a family friend, take care of raising his pheasants and in the fall, helping him with his guiding service. Sorry to say that the following year Mark decided he was going to move to Billings, Montana where he could be closer to Elk Hunting (his favorite hobby.) This move opened up a new window of opportunity for me that allowed me to get to know the owners of Hunter's Pointe. Over the next few months before fall I made the final arrangements to become the full time operator of the Guide Service that Mark had run for the previous few years. The first year went amazingly well and I later expanded the Guide Service to make it a preserve which allowed our customers to hunt Pheasants from September 1st through March 31st. This move greatly increased our business, producing more customers which required us to release more birds, resulting in a much larger bird population. With the Game Preserve increasing in demand I will soon be raising more game birds for not only other shooting preserves but also for release on Hunter's Pointe.

This past year of bird raising turned out to be both profitable in some areas and disastrous in others. I had increased my waterfowl numbers nearly triple what they had been the previous year due to successful egg production as well as auction purchases. The ducks never seemed to stop laying and my Canadian breeding pair produced eight new goslings to add to the flock. Early on, the successful numbers of birds were promising, and I thought I was in for a great year in the bird raising business. Then I ran into serious problems. I had purchased 1000 quail eggs from Georgia Quail Farms that I carefully incubated and got close to a 90% hatch rate. It was very promising. However over a short period of time, as the 850-900 quail reached about 6 weeks of age an unknown disease hit them with devastating results. By the end of the outbreak nearly 800 of the once lively, growing Bobwhites had died, leaving me with only a few remaining for Shooting Preserves.

I have encountered many obstacles throughout my four and a half years of operation. One of the most difficult of these obstacles besides disease, that I was forced to overcome was the problem with predators getting into my pens and killing my adult birds, primarily the waterfowl. Through trapping and various other methods I have managed to take care of most of the problems with the ever persistent predator attacks.

Throughout my many accomplishments as well as mistakes, I have learned many

things that will help me in the days to come. I have enjoyed every second of my game bird business and will continue to do so for the rest of my life if all goes as planned. I have also enjoyed every moment of the many opportunities I have had to go out and guide hunters on the preserve and help them in their goal to have a successful hunt. You have no idea how many young hunters I've seen shoot their first bird on the preserve and how rewarding it truly is to see the smile on their face after the hunt.

FFA Chapter	West Central
FFA Accomplishments	-State Proficiency Finalist 2004 -Natural Resource CDE's -Greenhand Chapter Award
School Awards	B+ Honor Roll Aces Program Presidential Physical Fitness Award
Other Accomplishments	-01-02 1 st Place City Employees Fishing Tournament (Child/Guardian) -1 st Place Bon Homme Wrestling Tournament -2 nd Place Madison Wrestling Tournament -17 th Place in a National Paintball Tournament St. Cloud, Minnesota out of 108 teams
Education	11 th Grade West Central High School
Career Objective	Hunting Guide, Federal Game Warden
Extracurricular activities	-Wrestling, Y-Ball, Track, Golf, Football, Weightlifting
Community activities	Church Volunteer Work FCS Volunteer Banquet Volunteer Campaign-Election Volunteer
Professional memberships	SD Trappers Association Ducks Unlimited Pheasants Forever Wild Turkey Foundation Quail Unlimited
References	Senator Tom Dempster Francis Phillips Duane Miles