Did you know…

- The pheasant is native to Asia
- There are approximately 35 different species
The ring-necked pheasant is the most common and one of the most attractive.
Raising Pheasants

- Getting started
  - Brooder House
  - Outdoor Pen
  - Materials
  - Feed/water
Brooder House

Day 1 - Chicks need to be inside

- Critical stage…they are fragile!
- Make sure pen is large enough to avoid crowding
- Heat lamp can be adjusted for height
- Thermometer: 95 F (35 C) ideal temp
- Avoid corners
- Use large wood chips
Shed, barn, garage
- enclosed building helps control temperature
Variations of chick pens

- Circular brood pens eliminate corners where crowding can occur
Feed, water

- Place small rocks in the base of water troughs, prevents chicks from falling in and drowning
- Shallow pie plates make great feeding trays
- Chicks pushed to the outside of heat source indicates the lamp is too low and too hot.

- Chicks crowded directly underneath the lamp indicate it is too high and too cold.
Flight Pens

- Pheasants get moved to outdoor flight pens at 5-6 weeks of age
  - Pheasants need about 2 meters squared per bird – discourages aggression towards each other
- Material for 20m x 20m flight pens - netting
- Posts every 10 ft
- Airline cable or 9 gauge wire for support
- 10 ft 2x4 for center brace, hold up netting
Purpose of structure in pens

- Forage for bugs
- Hiding behaviour
- Decrease aggression between birds
Be Creative!
Peepers

- Are placed on the beaks of the birds soon after they are placed in outside pens – minimize aggression towards other birds

- They can drink and feed, just not see their neighbour clearly – remember to remove the peepers before releasing the birds!
Predators
Foxes, coyotes, skunks, raccoons, hawks, owls, crows
Predator Deterrents

- Wire mesh fence 4 – 5 feet high attached to outside of netting, buried 0.5 – 1.5 feet into the ground at the base
- Discourages predators from digging under the fence
PEN CONSTRUCTION SUGGESTIONS

HEAVY SUPPORT WIRE

TWO INCH MESH

5 FT.

HEAVY SUPPORT WIRE

ELECTRIC FENCE WIRE

ONE INCH MESH
BURRED SIX INCHES

2 FT.

TOP VIEW

MAKE GATE WIDE ENOUGH FOR TRUCK AND OTHER EQUIPMENT

HEAVY SUPPORT WIRE

POST

INSULATOR

GATE

The heavy support wire which is located where the two-inch and one-inch mesh join is necessary to keep the fence from buckling and shorting out the electric fence wire.
Release at approximately 13-14 weeks
Habitat Matters

• Remember that pheasants need homes that provide many different things
  – Find Food
  – Roost (sleep)
  – Hide
  – Stay warm
  – Loaf (hang out)
  – Hide a Nest
  – Raise Chicks

• Agricultural Species
  – Agricultural Diversity
  – Practices make perfect habitat
Summary

Make Sure:

- Pheasant chicks have proper bedding, feed and water.
- Pheasant chicks are not over-crowded and heat lamps provide proper temperature.
- Flight pens provide enough room for the number of birds you have and also have ‘structure’ to promote hiding behaviour.
- Predator control measures are put in place.
Thank You!

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