

# SPONSORED PHEASANT HUNTS



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

## Pheasants Available for Registered Hunts

DEC distributes up to 6,000 mature pheasants annually to various groups, clubs, individuals, and organizations who hold supervised pheasant hunts to help youth, women, novice hunters, underrepresented communities, peoples with disabilities, and veterans participate in and enjoy the tradition of pheasant hunting and shooting sports across New York State.

**Sponsored pheasant hunts provide a unique opportunity for beginner hunters to learn in an instructional and supervised setting that helps hunters build skills and put into practice skills learned during a hunter education course.**

**Who can hold a Sponsored Pheasant Hunt?** Any group, club, organization, or individual that submits an application and meets the criteria. DEC sponsored pheasant hunts must meet the following conditions:

- Free of charge to participants
- Open to the public
- Designed to introduce and expose new hunters to the traditions and excitement of pheasant hunting.
- Registration for the hunt must occur solely through the DEC mentored hunt portal to ensure equitable access to the opportunity: [Upcoming Events - Mentored Hunts \(register-ed.com\)](#)
- Hunts can be held during the regular hunting season or for youth during the Youth Pheasant Days the last full weekend prior to the regular pheasant season in all WMUs.
- Only Sponsored Hunt participants may carry firearms while hunting pheasants the day of the event.
- All state-reared pheasants are to be released either the day/night before or the morning of the event and are to be hunted in a natural manner (i.e., no controlled releases, tower shoots, or tip ups).

**Where can you hold the hunts?** DEC sponsored pheasant hunts can be held on any lands, private or public, with property-owner permissions. Hunts may even be held on licensed shooting preserve properties.

**Who can participate?** These hunts have been primarily held for the benefit of novice hunters, youth, women, peoples with disabilities, and veterans. Other categories of user groups may be considered. All participants must have completed a NYS approved hunter education course and hold a valid NYS hunting license.

**How many pheasants can a hunt receive?** A typical hunt will receive a maximum of two pheasants per registered hunter. Pheasants are free and allocated on a first come first serve basis, so be sure to apply early.

**Do I need a Temporary Revocable Permit?** You may need a temporary revocable permit to hold a sponsored pheasant hunt on State Lands and Conservation Easement lands: [Temporary Revocable Permit Policy](#).

**Do I need a License to Liberate Wildlife?** A license to liberate wildlife is not required to release state-reared pheasants.

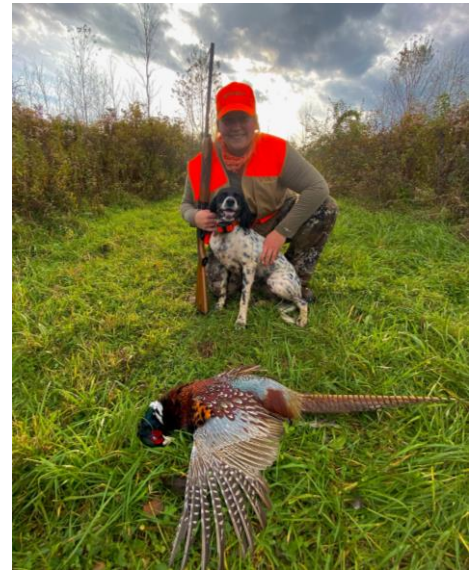
## Apply to Host Sponsored Pheasant Hunt

**Apply online:** [on.ny.gov/learntohunt](https://on.ny.gov/learntohunt) → Applications will be accepted June 15<sup>th</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup> each calendar year. Applications must be completed at least 45 days prior to the event date.

**What to expect after applying?** DEC staff will notify you by email/phone within 15 business days of the approval or to request additional information. Approved organizers must coordinate the delivery or pick-up of pheasants with staff at DEC Reynolds Game Farm located in Ithaca, NY.

**All registered sponsored pheasant hunts will be listed online:** [on.ny.gov/mentoredhunts](https://on.ny.gov/mentoredhunts) Where interested participants can register and hunt organizers can easily track attendees.

**Contact Us!** Call DEC Reynolds Game Farm (607) 273-2768 or e-mail [wildlife@dec.ny.gov](mailto:wildlife@dec.ny.gov) Subject Line: Sponsored Pheasant Hunts with any questions



### DON'T FORGET!

- Hunts must be **free of charge & open to the public**.
- Participants must have **valid NYS hunting license**.
- A Maximum of **two pheasants per participant** will be provided.
- You must **coordinate delivery/pick up of your pheasants** with Reynolds Game Farm.