

DKGNA Beretta Over/Under Winner

by John Kreuzer



I was excited to win the DKGNA raffle for the Beretta 686 shotgun. I was also excited to have sold the first prize ticket, Hunt Oregon Raffle on Cunningham Sheep Ranch. Look for a later article how you can also sell 26 raffle tickets.

I wanted to start hunting with the new Beretta over/under when it came, but this has been an unusual season. What would I expect? First, pheasant numbers are significantly down. Farmers didn't report many pheasants during harvest. Game and Parks estimated 60% lower pheasant population in Central Nebraska. Central Nebraska is in a drought. No rain since July so scenting conditions are difficult. Temperatures have been much higher than normal. Many days this season have exceeded 70

degrees. Coyote population has increased, and I speculate that has made skittish pheasants. Because the hatch was smaller, many roosters are second year birds that are smarter.

I decided to continue hunting with my 12-gauge Benelli until snow. Pheasants should hold for points after snow and normal Nebraska winter temperatures.

Snow finally came just before Christmas. Temperature was a wonderful 26 degrees. Light breeze from the north. Christmas Day was bright and sunny. Now I could use my Beretta over/under.

Darr vom Spiedel got the morning hunt draw. Zeke vom Spiedel would hunt after dinner.

I picked a large grass field for the morning hunt. We hunted north into the wind. There were some skittish birds in one location. Darr's search was at the top of his game.

On the way back to the pickup, we were hunting with the wind. Darr came around on a search and locked up a point into the wind. I kicked the grass but didn't produce a bird. Darr back on search. Darr went on point in about 100 yards. I stomped the grass and nothing. Darr didn't leave the point. I kicked at grass again. Darr refused to leave his point. I stomped further up wind. Darr moved forward and back on point. I repeated stomping the cover and Darr wasn't

moving. I kicked out more area. At this point, I considering getting out the camera for a picture. Good thing that I didn't because my next stomp was on the tail feathers.

I guarantee that a 28 gauge on pointed birds is very effective. B&P Upland Game is an excellent 1 oz load for pheasants. I use improved cylinder/modified. The rooster had the long spurs of an older bird.

Hunting with a Deutsch Kurzhaar is the most wonderful experience. Hunting this COVID Christmas with the DKGNA Beretta shotgun was exceptionally rewarding.