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**(S.D.)- SD Hunters Aren't Fazed By Low Pheasant Numbers**

By: Brady McDaniel Posted at: 09/15/2013 05:50 PM

(Associated Press)

Hunting enthusiasts attending an annual fundraising banquet in southwestern South Dakota say they are not worried about a sharp drop in pheasant numbers.

The Rapid City Journal reports that a brood count survey released by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department two weeks ago estimated a 64 percent drop in the pheasant population.

Some speculate those numbers could change plans of thousands of hunters who visit every year and contribute to South Dakota's economy.

However, many pheasant enthusiasts at the Black Hills chapter of Pheasants Forever banquet Saturday said the event is more about tradition and fun than numbers.

The season Oct. 19 and runs through Jan. 5.

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