



SOUTH DAKOTA FARM BUREAU[®]

August 20, 2020

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission
523 E. Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Proposed change to 2020 pheasant hunting season

Dear Game, Fish and Parks Commission members,

South Dakota Farm Bureau (SDFB) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission's proposed change to change to lengthen the 2020 pheasant hunting season and requests that the Commission not move forward with the proposal.

SDFB policy, written and passed by our statewide grassroots members, states, "We oppose extending the pheasant hunting season beyond December 1."

While we certainly commend the Commission and the Department for their dedication to improving communication and relationships between hunters and landowners, there are still too many incidents of hunters trespassing on private property, leaving gates open so livestock are able to get out, or other harmful activities. Expanding the hunting season into the beginning of calving season could be especially detrimental should a gate be left open or a fence knocked down.

Rather than expand the current pheasant season, we would request that the Commission and the Department continue to focus on work, like the "Recreation and Respect" campaign, to ensure positive experiences for both hunters and landowners.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Scott VanderWal, President
South Dakota Farm Bureau



Krystil Smit, Executive Director
South Dakota Farm Bureau