

Fennville Farm Unit Manager's Update 2016 Season - Week ending 02/12/2017



Weather

Last week temps were in the 20s most of the week with a spike into the 30s mid-week. Winds were NW most of the week and strong by the end of the week. We received some snow early last week but it has since melted off.

Waterfowl Abundance

Geese have moved back in with the cooler temperatures. We are still much below what we would expect this time of year.

Hunting Conditions

Some of the hunting zones have had bad wind and snow damage with the heavy, wet snow we received (damaged zones include 2A, 2M-R, and almost all of zone 8 next to the refuge (8A-N). If you plan on hunting zones with damage or short corn plan to bring a layout or blind of some sort. Zones 8, posts A-I are very short due to the drought experienced over the summer and the sandy soil in that area. We were afraid we would lose all our corn at one time but it pulled through and matured well. Smart weed and beggars tick (both great duck food), grew very well in our flooded impoundments. We will not be flooding the DU impoundment on the north side of 120th Ave. this year due to ongoing ditch dredging and habitat work. This area has been planted to Rye and the ducks and geese are using it, especially when it rains and there is a little sheet water there. Corn strips in this area look good as well. Hunters need to be reminded to always carry gear through the cuts provided in the corn strips and not to knock down the corn in the middle of the zones. Some corn has been knocked down from the heavy winds but there is still good cover.

Hunter Numbers

Hunter numbers have been low. Weekends are running 25 to 35 parties/day with some weekdays drawing single digit party numbers.

Waterfowl Harvest

Harvest has been hit or miss. Some zero kill days have been reported with every other day harvesting 10-15 birds or so.

What To Expect This Week

Temperatures will be warm early this week with temps in the 40s with a severe drop in temp's mid-week with temps in the 20s, followed by warm temps again to finish out the week. Rain is possible early in the week as well as a chance of rain showers at the end of the week. Winds will pick up mid-week from the west and taper off by the end of the week.

Upcoming Events

Goose season in the Allegan GMU closes Feb. 12th.

Other Comments

N/A