



Fish Point Wildlife Area Summer Report - 2020

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Upcoming Changes

- Water levels in the west refuge will stay at one to two feet deep throughout the waterfowl season.
- Water levels in Zone 4 and zones 6-8 will be added in small increments to entice waterfowl throughout the season. Water levels will vary from two to 16 inches.
- A 60-foot wide decoy opening will be located on each side of most hunting zones.

Growing Season Conditions

Due to Covid-19 staff were unable to work on the area until the beginning of June. Corn planting was completed on June 10. Small grain planting started June 11 and was finished by mid-July.

Managed Zones (Planted Fields)

Zones 1-3

Hunting zones 1-3 currently have 7-8' tall corn. Hunting cover and food in these zones will be exceptional for waterfowl season. These zones also have buckwheat, barley, winter wheat and moist soil plants on either side of the corn strips. This will provide beneficial food for various duck species throughout the waterfowl season.

Zones 9-13

The corn height in zones 9-13 varies between 6-8' tall and should provide ample food for migrating waterfowl and adequate cover for hunters. The hunting zones have barley, buckwheat, and winter wheat planted around them, and should provide good waterfowl food this season.

Zones 14-19

Corn heights vary from 3.5-6.5'. By the end of September, hunting cover should reach 4.5-7'tall with the proper weather conditions. The corn should provide good cover for hunters this fall but corn yields will be low. These zones have buckwheat, barley, winter wheat and moist soil plants close to each zone and will provide a good early season food source.

Zones 20-32

The corn in zones 20-32 varies in height from 2.5-4.5'. These zones should have hunting cover that reaches 4-6'. Small areas in zones 26 and 29 were too wet to plant in early June but these low areas dried out and were planted in late June. Currently this corn is one foot tall. Buckwheat, barley, winter wheat and moist soil plants are around these hunting zones and will provide a food source for waterfowl throughout the hunting season.

Zones 45-49

Currently, the corn in zones 45-49 is 3-5.5' tall. With optimal growing conditions during the late summer, the cover should reach 4-6.5'. These fields should provide cover for hunting by late September. A large section of Zone 49 was replanted due to deer damage and this corn varies in height from 1-1.5' tall.

Buckwheat, barley, and moist soil strips were planted next to all the zones in the 40s. These food sources should produce great food throughout the waterfowl season.

Zones 50-56

The corn in zones 50-56 is 2.5-7.5' tall. These areas will produce adequate cover and food for waterfowl hunting if we receive regular rain and warm temperatures through September. Buckwheat and barley were planted around the corn strips in zone 50-56 corn. The buckwheat and barley should produce a good early season food source for the waterfowl.

Zones 58-63

The corn cover in 58-63 has reached 5.5-7' tall. These zones should provide great food and cover for hunting if rain and heat remain in the forecast. Buckwheat or barley strips were planted next to zones 58-63. The seed produced by these small grains will provide ideal food for waterfowl.

Zones 64-69

Currently, corn heights vary from 3.5-7' tall. Most of the hunting strips that were not flooded will reach 4.5-7.5' tall. Buckwheat and barley were planted next to the corn strips in zones 64-69 and should produce good early season food for waterfowl.

Zones 70-77

The corn is 7-8' tall and should produce good cover and food for migrating waterfowl this fall. There will be one 30-foot strip and two 60-foot strips of corn that will extend the length of the field. These strips will provide hunters with plenty of cover and ample food for waterfowl throughout the season. Winter wheat was harvested three weeks ago, and clover was planted to provide green browse for early goose season. Additional winter wheat will be planted after the soybeans are harvested later this fall.

Wetland Wonders

During the waterfowl season hunters can find information on waterfowl refuge counts, area conditions, and harvest information for the managed waterfowl hunt areas by visiting www.michigan.gov/wetlandwonders.