

A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF PHEASANT  
FEE HUNTING OPERATIONS IN WISCONSIN

An Abstract of  
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by  
Thomas C. Jeffery  
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## ABSTRACT

Pheasant fee hunting is defined as the opportunity to hunt pen-reared and released pheasants on privately owned land. There were 108 pheasant fee hunting operations located in the state of Wisconsin in 1994. Previous studies have indicated a relationship between the success of fee hunting clubs and their proximity to urban areas. In addition, studies have been conducted that reveal a relationship between the success of fee hunting operations and their proximity to public hunting areas. The primary intent of this thesis was to examine the distribution of fee hunting operations in Wisconsin and determine what factors were most important in selecting the fee hunting site.

Information gathered from the 74 survey responses was used to divide the respondents into the categories of more successful (56) and less successful (18). Classification was based on responses to survey questions concerning the club's profitability and the owner's determination of success. The survey responses provided information in addition to profitability that can be used to characterize pheasant fee hunting clubs in Wisconsin.

The four categories of information obtained by the questionnaire were customer information, business information, land information, and general information. The survey responses indicated that there is a wide range in the size and number of customers served by fee hunting clubs. The average club has been in business approximately 10 years and serves just under 300 customers per season. The top 5 clubs however, served over 75% of the total customers. The typical fee hunting customer lives in an urban area in Wisconsin and is likely to visit a fee hunting club more than once. Most of the

owner/operators claimed to generate little or no profit from the club, but contend that they will remain in business because of non-monetary benefits.

There were two hypotheses formulated for this thesis. The primary hypothesis stated that the more successful fee hunting operations would be located closer to urban areas. The first hypothesis was rejected after the point-biserial correlation coefficient revealed a lack of a statistically significant relationship between the success of a fee hunting club and its distance from an urban area.

The secondary hypothesis stated that the more successful fee hunting operations would be located farther from public hunting grounds. Based on the results of the point-biserial correlation coefficient, the second hypothesis was rejected, as it revealed a lack of a statistically significant relationship between the success of a fee hunting club and its distance from public hunting areas.