

Valley Waterfowl 2011-2012 Hunting Information

By Ron Tobeck

Valley Waterfowl Board Member/Blind Coordinator

Once again it is time to prepare for the upcoming waterfowl season. Last year many of you were able to take advantage of the fine hunting opportunities provided by our organization. Although it was a frustrating season for many, it is hoped this season will be more consistent. Due to a substantial drop in revenue from our annual dinner we will only have three blinds next season instead of four. We have decided to drop McCrea West since it has not been planted with rice the last two years and has shot so poorly. We will keep both Harbison blinds and McCrea East. Once again this year I will be the coordinator of our hunting program. As such, I will manage all hunting applications, storm day requests, and will be the contact person for all information pertaining to Valley Waterfowl blinds.

All of our blinds are 4 man pit blinds which are located in rice. The first blind is the McRae East which is located in the Richvale area, northwest of Gridley. This is the same blind that we have hunted the last 4 years. This property is located on approximately 300 acres and there are only 3 blinds total on the property.

The second blind is the Harbison Road South Blind located approx. 2 miles South of Delevan Refuge. This is our third year for this blind and overall it has been our most consistent shooter the last two years.

The third blind is the Harbison Road North Blind which is located in the check directly north of the South Blind. This was our first year for this blind and it was our best shooter last year.

Exact directions to these blinds will be available in the weeks ahead, and as I did last year, I will email directions to all hunting members prior to opening of the blinds.

Our draw hunts will be conducted similar to last year. Every hunter who is interested in hunting on one of the Valley Waterfowl properties MUST complete and return a draw hunt application and a signed release of liability waiver for each individual hunter. Please make sure your writing is legible and include an email address if you have one. In addition all adult hunters 16 years and older will be required to pay a \$35 hunt fee in addition to their yearly membership fee. This fee should be submitted with the hunt application. Both the hunt application and the release of liability form are attached to this news letter and will be available on our web site. Hunt days will consist of Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays throughout the season as well as foul weather days. If there is a rain storm forecasted for a non hunt day (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday) any member can call Valley Waterfowl's hunting line and request to hunt on that storm day. The storm must be forecasted two days in advance and a request to hunt must be made no sooner than two days prior to the requested hunt day. Please try to make your calls between 9am and 5pm. A second requirement for those who wish to hunt the storm days is that they have a release of liability on file. If there is no 2011-2012 release of liability

waiver on file for the member they will not be permitted to hunt or access the Valley Waterfowl properties.

Due to factors related to the rice crop and water availability, etc., it is uncertain when our properties will be open for hunting. Information regarding the opening dates of our blinds will be published on our web site as soon as it is available. We suggest that you complete and return both the hunt application and liability waiver as soon as possible. Each application allows a selected member to bring a guest, however, that guest is also required to be a Valley Waterfowl member who has paid his membership and hunting fee and submitted a release of liability waiver. Any hunters who are currently not Valley Waterfowl members can print a membership form from our web site and submit that form with the \$35 membership fee. This can be included with the hunt application.

The 2011-2012 hunt application and waiver will contain a phone number for our hunting line. This number should be used for questions regarding hunting and to request storm day hunts. Please note that waivers MUST also be completed for the guest that is listed on each application. It is required that applications and waivers be received by Valley Waterfowl at least fourteen days prior to the requested hunt days. For more information please visit our web site at www.valleywaterfowl.org.

As I did last year, I will notify you via email or phone of a hunt date and blind. If you decide to cancel this date, you must notify me via email or phone no later than 48 hrs. Prior to the hunt date. Failure to comply with this requirement will severely lessen your opportunity for future hunts.

In addition you are required to notify me within 48 hours after you hunt with the results of your hunt. Let me know how many hunters shot how many ducks and or geese. It is preferable that this be done via email to limit the number of calls to our hunt line. The email address is lizon@comcast.net. If I am not available via phone and you do not have access to a computer, please leave the hunt results on my voice mail. It is important that we have this information for our hunters during the course of the season and this information is critical to our decision on whether to lease a particular blind the following year.

We at Valley Waterfowl strive to provide a quality hunting experience for our members, and it is hoped that we will continue to provide quality hunting opportunities.

Ron Tobeck
VW Hunt Coordinator