

Northwest Kansas sports several hunting lodges

By Karen Krien

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Northwest Kansas is rich with wild game and birds, and to help accommodate hunters who come from as far as the east and west coasts and everywhere in-between, a crop of hunting lodges has sprung up.

Among the counties with hunting lodges are Cheyenne, Sherman, Rawlins, Decatur and Norton. They are different from the average bed and breakfast, as they offer hunting services and land with the prospect of getting your bag limit. Most are run by avid outdoorsmen — and women.

Jared Douthit, St. Francis, owner of Corner Post Hunting Lodge, said he had his dream come true when he established the lodge.

Lodges can be remodeled houses and barns, cabins or rooms in the owner's home. One lodge even offers a camper hookup.

Lodges in this area include Beaver Creek Ranch and Lodge, Atwood; Bed and Breakfast for Hunters, Bird City; Corner Post Hunting Lodge, St. Francis; Kuhrt Ranch, Edson; Ringneck Country, Goodland; Sappa Creek Lodge, Oberlin; and Shaps Beaver Creek Ranch, Goodland.

Beaver Creek Ranch and Lodge

Beaver Creek Ranch and Lodge is just outside of Atwood in the Beaver Valley. Owned by Jeff and Alice Hill, it's a 2,500-acre working ranch with plant cover and feed plots. These areas draw

an abundance of wildlife to the land and provide for excellent hunting. The ranch specializes in pheasant and quail as well as deer, wild turkey and dove.

Meals include breakfast, lunch and supper. Much of the food is home grown and includes farm fresh eggs, poultry, vegetables and steaks. After a long day in the field, there is a hot tub to relax in.

For information, call (785) 626-2363 or go to www.beavercreekranch.org.

Bed and Breakfast for Hunters

Bed and Breakfast for Hunters, owned by Chuck and Diane Kribs, is six miles north of Bird City and one mile east.

They are open from September to January and, besides organizing hunts for pheasant, Chuck leads hunters in pursuit of deer and wild turkey.

If the hunter wants a little practice shooting, there are several fields with prairie dogs that the farmer wants to thin out.

Rooms and breakfast are provided, and if a hunter wants to eat dinner, it is available.

Chuck is the main chef, serving up breakfast casserole with all the trimmings. Diane adds some hors d'oeuvres and breads, depending on the meal and menu. Mostly, she says, she is the "bottle washer and cleanup girl."

Tired of hunting? There is history surrounding the area, with George Custer's old camp just two miles north on the Big Timber Creek. Indian artifacts are found in the fields.

For more information, call the Kribs at (785) 734-2298 or go to www.huntersbb.com.

Corner Post Hunting Lodge

Corner Post Hunting Lodge was started in 2003 by Jared and Candi Douthit six miles north of Wheeler. The owners say it offers people an opportunity to experience a real hunt.

"Our clients come from all over the United States to hunt deer, pheasant, turkey, quail, dove and even prairie dogs," Jared said.

He said the lodge considers its hunts to be "real" because hunters must use their skill and perseverance to kill game, as the animals roam in their undisturbed environment.

"It is not the game which enters the hunters' playing field," he said, "but the hunters who venture into nature in hopes of finding the game."

After a day of hunting, the hunter can relax at the lodge with a warm meal. The lodge offers private or shared accommodations. There are four large bedrooms with two full baths. There is a kitchen available but meals are served.

For information, call (785) 332-0124 or 332-3612 or e-mail jareddouthit@hotmail.com.

Kuhrt Ranch

The Kuhrt Ranch, north of Edson, is family owned and operated by the Brent and Diana Flanders, Jim and Jan Flanders (Brent's parents) and the fifth generation, Paul Kuhrt Flanders and Sarah Jane Flanders. The ranch began as a one-room sod house on the townsite known as Shermanville in the 1880s. Today, it is historic landmark along the south fork of the Beaver Creek.

The ranch is a resort and working farm with acres of privately owned natural wildlife habitat, grading land, farm land and Conservation Reserve land.

The Prairie Castle Guest House is the lodge but certain parts of the castle also have rooms reserved for hunters and guests.

Meals are a special treat with family recipes. A farm-fresh breakfast or continental breakfasts are served.

For information, go to the web at www.kuhrt-ranch.com

Ringneck Country

Ringneck Country is in the northwest corner of Kansas, just 20 miles from the Colorado line and 20 miles from Nebraska. Owned and operated by Rex and Sandy Murray with the help of

their children, Ryan and Crystal, it has on-site lodging in bunkhouses. Each bunkhouse has a full kitchen, bathroom with shower and satellite television. These can accommodate between eight and 10 people. There are also recreational vehicle and trailer hookups available.

The Murrays offer some of the best upland bird hunting, with over 7,000 acre just right for habitat. Hunters can hunt for pheasant, quail and chucker.

For information, call (785) 899-5882 or go to www.ringneckcountry.com.

Sappa Creek Lodge

Sappa Creek Lodge near Oberlin is owned and operated by Richard and Maureen Anderson. The four-bedroom lodge was built in the 1920s. There is a kitchen and dining area along with a large family room.

A complimentary breakfast is served and there is a washer and dryer.

The lodge is on over 4,000 acres of land, just right for hunting, with fields of wheat, corn, milo, sunflowers, sorghum and grass.

Hunters can practice shooting with a trap machine and there are prairie dogs for hunters to take a shoot at.

Near the farm is the site of Indian raids and there is a paleontological site where digs revealing fossilized rhinoceroses that date back millions of years.

Other activities will keep families busy while the hunter is in the field. There is a fishing hole or people can bring their bikes for a 12-mile trip into Oberlin. If they want to bring a horse, there is a barn and pastures to ride in.

For information, call (785) 475-3720 or go to www.SappaCreekLodge.com

Shaps Beaver Creek Ranch

Shaps Beaver Creek Ranch, owned and operated by Shad and Penny Sheldon, Goodland, is a hunting lodge as well as a bed and breakfast. It is a place where hunters can "step back into time, where life is simple and peaceful."

The area is full of history, as the Kidder Massacre took place nearby. There are mule and white-tail deer, pheasant, quail, turkey, coyotes and bobcats.

The lodge has cell phone service but no television. There is a stove, shower and four beds.

For information, call (785) 899-5942 or go to www.shapsranch.com.



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