

Perche Creek Farm

Perche Creek Farm (PCF) is a waterfowl hunting facility located in the Missouri River bottom of Boone County, MO. The row crop farm was acquired in 2001 because of the location adjacent to both the Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area (EBCA) and the Columbia Wetland Project. It was designed as a premium quality waterfowl hunting facility by a collaborative effort of waterfowl biologists from the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Ducks Unlimited. The facility is privately owned and managed for quality waterfowl hunting. The 240 acres borders the EBCA on the south, west, and north sides. The property is bordered on the east side by the Columbia Wetlands Project for a natural water filtration facility that also provides year-round waterfowl habitat.

The caliber of waterfowl hunting at PCF is world class and rivals the quality of both North and South America's best waterfowl destinations. This premium quality is produced by circumstances that are unique to PCF principally that the facility is surrounded by waterfowl habitat of more than 4200 acres. The facility is also protected by a federal levee system that permits a crop to be produced for both income and waterfowl food despite frequently high Missouri River levels. The property sits atop an aquifer and includes complete water rights so there is no cost for water or limitation on the amount that can be pumped. An engineered impoundment provides habitat where birds are not pressured and can roost on open water with a high protein food source. Two deep water wells can provide a constant source of 56-degree water so open water conditions can be maintained when all surrounding habitat is frozen. When this occurs, PCF becomes the refuge within the refuge. The ability to be protected from floods ensures the annual production of a crop, and the unlimited well water supply ensures the ability to pump the impoundments despite drought. These assets provide an annual hunting capability irrespective of circumstances that would otherwise limit the ability to hunt.

The waterfowl impoundment covers an estimated 70 acres of land depending upon the pumped water level that is controlled by times and control gates installed in the levees. The 145 acres of non-developed ground can be built into waterfowl habitat if desired. Hunting is done from three below ground 4-man blinds that provide dry wind protected concealment. The blinds are hidden by standing corn rows and are reachable by no more than a 100-yard walk from dry ground. Hunting is traditionally done in the late afternoon as the waterfowl arrive back from the EBCA to roost. There is no public hunting permitted after 12:00pm on EBCA so the hunting at PCF is free of any competitive duck calling or shooting that at other hunting facilities is unavoidable, frustrating, and the biggest obstacle to quality duck hunting. The ability to work waterfowl without disruption is a circumstance unique to PCF. The impoundments have been designed to include varying elevations that provide waterfowl with both open water and dry land and waterfowl have been attracted to them since construction. PCF holds multiple species of waterfowl but is dominated by Green Wing Teal and Mallard, two of the most sought-after species. The 21-year history of hunting has produced nearly a 95% success level of mallard bag limits of 4 per hunter and a nearly 80% success level of 6 bird bag limits per hunter. The average duration of a hunt is 90 minutes. This caliber of hunting at PCF is almost certain to continue in the future as there is no private land available for development of a competitive hunting facility and the EBCA is a permanent waterfowl facility that cannot be privatized or developed. This future protection is a tremendous benefit to PCF.

In summary, PCF provides world class waterfowl hunting on private land surrounded by 4,000+ acres of waterfowl habitat and refuge. The facility location and benefit of no competitive hunting pressure produce a quality waterfowl experience that is unbeatable. Complete water rights, flood protection, commercial utility rates, zero development risk, and a 15-minute proximity to Columbia, MO make this a quality waterfowl facility that can be enjoyed for years to come.