

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

***For Immediate Release***  
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### **Boone County Pheasants Forever President Named PF Hero of the Month**

*Albion's, Lonnie Smith named the 16<sup>th</sup> PF Hero of the Month.*

Albion, Nebr. – September 25, 2007 – Pheasants Forever (PF) is proud to announce that Lonnie Smith of Albion has been named the September PF Hero of the Month. The Hero of the Month is an honor given to PF volunteers and supporters, who through their dedication and promotion of the mission of PF, have helped the organization prosper in their communities or statewide. Smith's involvement with the Boone County PF chapter made him an excellent candidate for this honor. The PF Hero of the Month is a feature on the [www.NebraskaPF.com](http://www.NebraskaPF.com) website and Smith will also be recognized at the Boone County PF Annual Banquet planned for March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Albion.

Lonnie Smith grew up in Boone County, Nebraska where he was introduced to hunting by his father in the late '50's and early '60's. Those were the days of the Soil Bank programs and pheasants and quail were very abundant throughout the state. As time went on, bird numbers began to decline. Smith has a passion for all hunting, but especially pheasant hunting. In 1991, Smith decided he needed to do something to help out pheasants and all wildlife by volunteering to be part of the new Boone County PF chapter. Sixteen years later, Lonnie is still leading the charge for wildlife habitat and introducing young people to the great sport of hunting.

Smith is a dedicated chapter volunteer who is a vital part of the success of the Boone County PF chapter. Smith doesn't do it alone, he has a strong group of people on the chapter committee and all of their combined efforts have made the chapter the habitat and education powerhouse that it is today. Smith believes in Pheasants Forever because of the "local impact chapters have on habitat in their area because they control the funds the chapters raise."

Lonnie Smith's leadership, dedication and passion for habitat, youth hunting, and Pheasants Forever truly make him a PF Habitat Hero.

Boone County PF chapter accomplishments since 1991:

- The chapter has raised and spent over \$340,000 on habitat, equipment, and education.
- They have worked on over 1,400 project impacting over 38,000 acres of habitat in Boone County and the surrounding area.
- They have hosted five Youth Mentor Hunt events where they have introduced 59 area boys and girls to hunting. Their sixth Youth Mentor Hunt was held on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007.
- They own a no-till grass drill that is available to area landowners for habitat projects. These drills are a vital piece of equipment needed to establish the best wildlife habitat possible. To date, local landowners have improved 1,180 acres of habitat with the use of the drill.
- The chapter supports statewide programs like CRP-MAP, Corners For Wildlife, and the Legislative Action Fund among many others.
- The chapter continuously works to find innovative and unique ways to deliver the mission of Pheasants Forever.