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## *Dead Man's Pass Ranch, LLC*



### *Newsletter September, 2011*

Ranch Location: Comstock, Texas

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Dear Sportsman,

While the weather might not show it, fall is just around the corner. Hunters have been patiently waiting for dove season which opened on September 1<sup>st</sup> and have been very anxious to get back out in the field to test out new gear and brush up on their shooting skills that may have gotten a little rusty during the off-season. So grab your gun, shells, hunting license and Migratory Bird Permit and have a great dove season! There's nothing quite like birds and lead flying!

Here are a few tips to help you during the season:

Many dove hunters prefer autoloaders, which allow three quick shots. Stick with smaller shot sizes since it only takes a few small pellets to down a bird. The proper load of your shells for hunting doves is between 7-1/2 and 9. There are more pellets per load on smaller shot sizes. Take plenty of shells! Doves are not easy to hit and you will go through quite a few boxes of shells. Prior target practice such as skeet shooting is recommended.

Wear CAMO! Doves have very sharp eyes when it comes to spotting hunters. You may also want to camouflage your gun with camo tape and either wear a camo net or put paint on your face.

Doves are migratory birds with very predictable daily routines. Understanding their patterns is very important when it comes to finding and harvesting more birds. Doves prefer a variety of open and semi open habitats that are surrounded by trees and shrubs. Since they are essentially known as ground feeders, they will usually perch in a tree or on a power line to look for potential predators prior to flying down to feed. Their diet consists almost entirely of seeds and grain and they will travel an average of two to eight miles for food. They feed on sunflowers, corn and many types

of weed seeds. They prefer eating on the ground because their legs and feet aren't strong enough to scratch for food through ground covers or plants.

At dawn, the birds usually leave their roost and head straight to a watering source before heading to the fields to feed where they will stay until midday. If you are going to hunt over water, it is recommended that you purchase a set of decoys. It is a good idea to set them up high, perched on branches in a nearby tree, fence or anything that overlooks a watering hole or on open ground. Face all decoys into the wind since doves take off and land in the wind.

When out hunting dove, begin by scanning a likely sight with binoculars. The best scouting occurs before 9 a.m. and after 3 p.m. Look for doves passing high over a field as they will often drop down and come into range. You will also find them along trees, power lines and graveling sites. As mentioned earlier, doves have very good eyesight so when they are approaching, stand or sit still. If you move before the bird comes into range you'll cause it to flare, and the dove will present a more difficult shot.

Don't lose your doves! It is very easy to lose a dove after you've shot it. If you don't have a retrieving dog, the best way to handle it is to keep your eyes on the first dove you shot. Watch where it falls and keep your eyes on it no matter how many dove are flying in the air. If you have a retriever, then by all means let him go get it.

#### **DOVE HUNTING SAFETY**

- *Always treat your gun as loaded and never have a gun loaded unless you are hunting.*
- *Carry your gun where you can control the direction of the muzzle.*
- *Keep the safety on until the gun is brought to your shoulder*
- *Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.*
- *Make sure the barrel and action are clear of any obstructions.*
- *Shoot only to the front and the sides.*
- *Wear some type of "hunter orange" clothing (along with camo clothing) and shooting glasses.*
- *Always know where members of your hunting party are.*
- *Never leave ammunition within the reach of children or careless adults.*
- *Never climb trees or fences with a loaded gun.*
- *Never drink alcohol or take mood-altering drugs before or during a hunt.*

**\*\*\* BEWARE\*\*\***

***Lots of good dove hunting areas are good rattler areas too. It is a good idea to wear snake guards or chaps and watch where you stick your legs and hands!***

***After bagging your limit....enjoy the recipe below!***

#### **GRILLED DOVE**

**Ingredients:**

- Dove breasts, skinned
- Onions (cut into wedges)
- Bacon
- Sliced jalapeno peppers (optional)

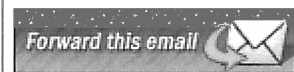
**Marinade:**  
1/4 cup olive oil  
1/4 cup lemon juice  
Minced garlic

**Salt & Pepper**

**Soak the breasts in saltwater overnight.**

**Remove the meat and drain. Place meat in a large Ziploc bag and add the olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, salt & pepper. Seal and refrigerate for at least an hour. The longer you marinate it, the more flavor it will have.**

**Remove the meat and lay a wedge of onion on it, and wrap the entire thing with 1/2 slice of bacon. You may also add a slice of jalapeno. Secure with a toothpick. Place bone side down and grill over medium-high heat until the bacon is fully cooked. Remove from heat and let stand about 5 minutes before serving.**



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*Call us today...*

*We still have a few weekends available for white-tail hunting. Keep in mind our hunting season doesn't end until February 29th. We also have weekends available for quail hunting.*

*So, if you love the outdoors, love to be around awesome people and want to have a great time, give us a call.*

*Dead Man's Pass Ranch is family oriented and we can customize your hunting package to accommodate hunters of all ages. Payment plans are available. Guests of all ages are always welcome at the ranch!*

*Sincerely,  
Mike McGee*

*Dead Man's Pass Ranch.....  
where dreams really do come true!*



[www.deadmanspassranch.com](http://www.deadmanspassranch.com)

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