

THE SHIAWASSEE SPORTSMAN

NEWSLETTER #85 SUMMER 2009

SRSGA 2009 Summer Field conditions

2009 marked the worst flooding and dike damage at Shiawassee since 1986. Sustained flood conditions were present from early January until mid-May except for a 3 week period in early April. As a result, 6 major dike breaches and scores of smaller leaks occurred affecting every farm unit. Vic managed to do temporary repairs on the major breaches in April, only to be hit with the biggest flood in early May which topped every dike and flooded the entire area

with 8-12 feet of water. An outstanding recovery effort by the MDNR staff managed allowed sharecroppers to begin planting on May 24th and complete our corn strips on June 7th.

On June 8th, the area was hit with 2+ inches of rain which left standing water in all fields for 3 days. However, that wasn't the end of the rain, on June 16th SRSGA was hit with another 2+ inches. Amazingly, while there will be some long term impact

from the stress this year (you should expect corn in the 5-6 foot range rather than the 8 foot range we had last year so be mindful of it when you are hiding your boats this fall), the only field that has been wiped out is South Prior which will be planted with sorghum for cover.

All share croppers shares were changed to soybeans due to the extremely late planting dates. Field by field conditions are as follows:

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2009 SFCHA BANQUET AND WORK DAY INFORMATION

BANQUET - Attached to this newsletter is the flyer for this years SFCHA banquet. It will be held on **Thursday, September 10th** at the Albee Township Community Center. One of the things that always makes our banquet so successful is the quality and quantity of prizes at the raffle tables. If you would like to donate anything to this years banquet you can contact Dean Gross at 989-845-5329. All donors will be given a receipt for the cash value of their contribution and be recognized in the dinner pamphlet.



Work Day - After the annual meeting on April 18th, SFCHA members performed a bunch of work on the pull-overs by filling a holes and ruts with large limestone, the repaired areas will be covered with dirt shortly. If you are interested in helping out in this year's work day being held some time in August (date not officially set at this time) feel free to contact on of the trustees for further info

End of Article

SRSGA 2009 Summer Field Conditions continued...

Unit 1-5

- No-till planted on 5/24/09, both corn and beans show complete germination and good early growth. The corn strips were moved to the east, which places the 1-3 strip in the center of the field and the 4-5 very close to the east dike.

Unit 6-14

- No-till planted on 5/24/09 by the same farmer (Oaks) with the same results. Again, the strips were moved to the east, which places 12-14 very close to the east dike. Wind direction will be a major factor when selecting zones in 1-5 and 6-14.

Marsh unit 23-28

- Began a planned draw down on June 9th with Japanese millet planting on June 14th. Several rains caused the river to backfill the marsh after the initial planting, however 1000 lbs of Japanese millet seed was hand broadcast on 7/3/09 once the water levels receded to optimal planting

conditions.

Unit 30-38

No-till planted on 6/1/09 (Walker). Good germination in both corn and beans. Strips moved to West which is the central location in the field.

Unit 39-48

- Conventional tilled corn planted on 6/7/09 (Walker). No visible germination as of 6/14/09, but expect good results. Strips moved to West which is the central location in the field. Buckwheat planting will be done in late June.

Unit 55-60

Conventional tilled corn and soybean planting done on 5/29/09 (Walker). Good germination with corn strips moved to the West which is the central location in the field.

Unit 61-66

- No-till corn planted on 6/7/09 (Oaks). There was no germination as of 6/16/09, when the second

2+ inch rain hit, although some corn is beginning to grow as of 7/3/09 it does not appear as though it will be enough to make a hunt. As a result sorghum will be planted for cover. Corn strips move to North, which is the central location in the field. Buckwheat planting will be done in late June.

Because of the extremely late planting dates, crop maturity is a major concern. We need extended periods of hot weather going forward to provide the degree-days necessary for the plants to produce seed. While we expect good cover, we will assess each field on July first to determine whether sorghum cover strips are necessary. At this point, everyone should be prepared for delayed flooding due to late harvest. Both farmers planted soybeans for their shares in order to provide the earliest possible harvest date.

End of Article

2009 YOUTH HUNT DAY ACTIVITIES

Join us for a day of fun activities, open to all youths/parents who would like to learn more about waterfowl and/or waterfowl hunting, or those who are new to it. Do not need to be participating in the youth waterfowl hunt to attend.

For more information, contact Dan Dykstra at (517) 331-0412 or justducky@dishmail.net, or the DNR St. Charles office at (989) 865-6211

September 19, 2009

Shiawassee River State Game Area
Youth Waterfowl Activity Day

Schedule of Events

9:00 – 9:30	Waterfowl management in Michigan (DNR staff)
9:30 – 10:00	Tips and Tactics (SFCHA volunteers)
10:00 – 10:30	Hunting Dog Retriever Demonstration (Mi Hunting Retrievers)
10:30 – 11:00	Basic Waterfowl Identification (DNR staff)
11:00 – 11:30	Distance judging contest

BBQ LUNCH (provided by SFCHA)

1:00 – 1:30	Hunting Dog Retriever Demonstration (Mi Hunting Retrievers)
1:30 – 2:00	Tips and Tactics (SFCHA volunteers)
2:00 – 2:30	Waterfowl management in Michigan (DNR staff)
2:30 – 3:00	Basic Waterfowl Identification (DNR staff)
3:00 – 3:30	Distance judging contest



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SFCHA - SHIAWASSEE FLATS
CITIZENS AND HUNTERS ASSOC.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.SHIAWASSEEFLATS.COM

INCREASING HUNTERS ACCESS DAILY.

2009 MAY BREEDING REPORT

The table below was posted on a Ducks Unlimited press release. As tough as all the water has been on the crop planting and dikes on the SRSGA, it sure helped the breeding season by keeping the “duck factory” pot-holes fully charged

2009 Estimates of May Ponds and Breeding Ducks (in millions)

Species	2008	2009	% Change From 2008	% Change from Long-term Avg.
May Ponds (U.S. & CAN)	4.431	6.434	+45	+31
Total Ducks	37.276	42.005	+13	+25
Mallard	7.724	8.512	+10	+13
Gadwall	2.728	3.054	+12	+73
American wigeon	2.487	2.469	-1	-5
Green-winged teal	2.980	3.444	+16	+79
Blue-winged teal	6.640	7.384	+11	+60
Northern shoveler	3.508	4.376	+25	+92
Northern pintail	2.613	3.225	+23	-20
Redhead	1.056	1.044	-1	+62
Canvasback	0.489	0.662	+35	+16
Scaup	3.738	4.172	+12	-18