



## Guide to Hunting in Germany

### 08j – FEATHERED GAME (*FEDERWILD*)

#### (1) Pheasant (*Fasan*)



*Männlicher Fasan / Hahn* (Male Pheasant)

Breeding season ( <i>Balzzeit</i> ):	Late Winter – Early Spring
Eggs per nest	10-15, dirty green color
Male Pheasant	<i>Hahn</i>
Female Pheasant	<i>Henne</i>
Flock:	<i>Gesperre</i>

The male Pheasant (*Hahn*) is a large and strikingly colored bird with a long sweeping tail, red-brown breast feathers, bright green head, and, frequently, a white ring around the neck.

Female Pheasant (*Henne*) is less conspicuous, having a uniform light brown color and short tail.

The average weight of a mature male Pheasant is 3 to 4 pounds.



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Female Pheasants are about ½ to a full pound lighter than males.

Old males can be distinguished from the young males by the long, well developed spurs on their legs.

Pheasants prefer farmlands adjoining swampy areas that are covered with high marsh grasses during the entire year (for example, river beds, and marsh areas around lakes). When these areas aren't available, Pheasants move to farmlands and adjoining woodlots and thickets.

Pheasants feed in fields, moving back to the grassy areas to roost.

During summer season, it is not unusual for Pheasants to remain in hay and grain fields while cover exists.

Pheasants travel in family groups during summer and fall. In winter, Pheasants may gather into larger flocks (*Gesperre*).



*Weiblich Fasan / Henne* (Female Pheasant)



## U.S. Forces Europe Hunting, Fishing, and Sport Shooting Program

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Pheasants eat insects, worms, seed of all kinds, fruit, green grass, and small rodents. Grit is necessary to the Pheasant's diet.

Pheasants are polygamous, one male usually mating with several females. Pheasant *Gesperre* consist of four to six hens. Mating season begins in late winter or early spring.

Usually in May a *Henne* lays 10 to 15 dirty-green colored eggs that hatch in about 24 days. Because nests are made in the ground in hayfields, grain fields, and similar fields, farming activities account for many destroyed nests and fatalities among nesting birds.

If the nest is destroyed, the hen will attempt to hatch a second set of eggs. Chicks are led away from the nest shortly after hatching and remain with the mother for 6 to 8 weeks.

Pheasants rarely move great distances from the original nesting area if food and cover are available.

Pheasants are best hunted with dogs that point or flush the game as well as retrieve killed or wounded birds.

Shotguns with shot size 4, 5 or 6 are used. Generally, only the *Hahn* is hunted, although some states offer a curtailed season for the hen as well.

Pheasants are only shot in flight, but cripples may be shot on the ground.



*Männlicher Fasan / Hahn* (Male Pheasant) in flight