

One Lazy J Ranch Hunting Testimonials

#1 In late April of 2009, our hunting party decided to make a trip to Northwest Nebraska to hunt Merriam's Turkey. We happened on the Lazy J Ranch owned by Tony and Deanna Johnson and couldn't have had a better experience. Everything about the trip exceeded my expectations. The hunting was as phenomenal as the setting in the middle of the Pine Ridge area. Tony and his sons also helped us feel right at home.

We arrived at the ranch on Wednesday afternoon where Tony was kind enough to give us the lay of the land and told us as much as he could about where he had been seen turkeys traveling around the property. On a short trip in the car we had the opportunity to see antelope, deer, a burrowing owl, hawks, and plenty of gobblers. Scouting from a distance, we saw multiple strutters and the silhouettes of two flocks flying up to roost. The following morning, we each filled out and had three beautiful toms in the freezer before 10:00 am. It was at that point in time, we each decided another permit was in order.

The rest of the trip, we hunted a more remote area in the middle of the Black Hills that was thick with pine trees and ridges. While the turkeys were very vocal, none of them seemed to have any interest in coming to our calls. Although we only bagged one more bird on the trip, it was still one of the best hunting experiences I've had and can't wait to get back. Tony has done an excellent job at managing his property and only allows a select number of birds and deer to be taken each year which will ensure quality game will be around for years to come. Hopefully more people can have similar experiences to my own.

If you have any questions or would like to speak to me personally, I would be happy to tell you more or send you pictures.

Joel Beadles - Chanhassen, MN

#2 The **Accommodations** were very nicely decorated, recently remodeled and equipped for several hunters. Two baths with showers and two roomy bedrooms with a futon as well. Fully equipped kitchen and freezer provided for all our needs. The building is an old, one-room school house with a nice deck overlooking the ranch. Very nice and roomy.

Land - We enjoyed both river/creek bottoms on the ranch and the nearby ponderosa pine hill country near Glen. Lots of turkeys, deer and birds. We were able to roost birds and view them from a distance -- this gave us a real advantage. Lots of room to roam and not interfere with other hunters; we never saw another hunter.

Tony was very accommodating and gave us the local flavor and insight. He went out of his way to make sure our stay was enjoyable, comfortable and made us feel welcome.

Hunt - We enjoyed plentiful turkeys that were not pressured. We all bagged quality toms the first morning. We were semi-guided, as we were shown around by Tony and viewed likely spots. He kept in touch with us throughout our stay despite other demands on his time. Hunt either archery or gun -- a blind was a bonus, but not required.

Beautiful country with very friendly folks and we could not have asked for more.

-- Neil Bottemiller, Prior Lake, MN

#3

I had been anticipating my Merriam's hunt for quite some time, not knowing fully what to expect. We found Tony and One Lazy J on the Internet and booking was a breeze. While we were there, Tony set us up proper. We were shown around the area and likely spots to set up. On the very first night we were able to put the birds to sleep and watch them fly up to their roost. We were all successful on the first morning while hunting the creek-bottom area. We proceeded to hunt the beautiful ponderosa pines and another bird was taken there.

Tony Johnson was the perfect host for completing the Merriam's portion of our grand slam. Beyond giving us everything he promised and more, Tony is a true steward of his land by actively managing his deer and turkeys so that there will be a healthy population for years of successful, low-pressure hunting.

-- Josh Dahlke, St. Paul, MN