

Delta Waterfowl

The Future of Waterfowl and Waterfowl Hunting



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The Hen House Program

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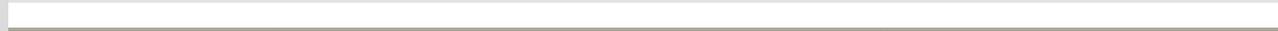
How to Build a Hen House:

[Find out how easy it is to build your own Hen House](#)

Introduction to Hen Houses
1:33 min

Send Us Your Hen House Stories
1:08 min

MN Hen House Project Update
3:09 min



Across North America the mallard is number one. It is the most numerous and most popular duck species, both in the field and on the table. Through the Delta Duck Production program you can directly help to increase mallard production by supporting the Hen House program.

Hen House program sites can be considered "Mallard Factories". Similar in concept to wood duck boxes, Hen Houses are artificial nesting structures designed to provide mallards with a safe place to nest. Delta's student research program has studied Hen Houses since 1991 and the findings are impressive. Mallards using Hen House nesting structures experience an average nest success of 80%. Use of Hen House nesting structures increases with time and typically levels out at 80% occupancy, making the Hen House program an extremely cost effective way to increase mallard productivity.



Delta Waterfowl's plan to get more local programs across the breeding grounds is twofold. First, Delta recognizes the role that individuals, clubs and wildlife managers can play in constructing and erecting Hen House nesting structures in local areas. [Delta provides information on this web site on how to build, install, and maintain Hen Houses to make it easy for other entities to enhance mallard production.](#) A couple of great examples include a group in western New York that has employed a modified tripod support system with great success over the past many years and a group in central Minnesota that has used a "double barrel" design.

The second way that Delta will get more Hen Houses on the breeding grounds is through the Delta Duck Production program. [The program accepts and applies donations towards a professionally delivered Hen House program.](#) Delta continues to partner with other wildlife agencies and organizations to deliver "super sites" of 100 Hen Houses in appropriate breeding areas. Delta raises enough money to build, install and maintain these super sites for a ten year period. Breeding grounds experiencing poor nest success will be targeted and Hen Houses will be deployed in densities in accordance with the breeding population of mallards.

Delta and its partners have installed Hen Houses in Manitoba, Alberta, Ontario, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Colorado and Utah in past years. We are also a part of new projects in Minnesota, Iowa and Saskatchewan. With these existing Hen Houses, we have some 3,600 out to date as part of Delta's efforts with partners in each jurisdiction with an anticipated 1,300 new ones this winter (07-08).