

Continued...

A wave of excitement went through us all when we spotted the first deer to enter the field, a little yearling.

I explained that we were not going to shoot this little yearling that showed up early. We were after a big doe or a spike buck. "The big deer come out a little later," I told Alex.

Alex just shrugged, pointed his finger at the little deer and whispered, "Pew... Pew". Alex one, us zero.

Shortly, more deer began coming and going around our stand. The rut was just beginning and the bucks were cruising around chasing does. All the adult deer were walking quickly or running from place to place.

Tom had his rifle out the window two or three times trying to get his sights on various does. But none of the deer would stand still long enough for Tom to get a shot off. Tom desperately wanted to make a clean shot and quick kill, mostly because he is an ethical hunter but also because he wanted Alex to have a good experience.

At long last, a spike entered the field and headed right for the feeder. I ranged the buck at 120 yards. That is no chip shot, especially with a grandson and nephew looking on. But Tom took a breath and squeezed off a shot.

The spike went down in his tracks. I smiled a huge grin, Alex cheered like we scored a touchdown and Tom let out his breath.

All in all, the hunt was a big success for all involved. Alex got to experience his first of hopefully many Mills County deer hunts. Plus Uncle Tom and I got to make a memory we will not soon forget.

Pew.. Pew!



Alex smashes together shed antlers found during the hunt while grandfather Tom Graves looks on in delight.

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