



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2006

This is the first of my Newsletters on a number of subjects that I have been queried on or are of interest to many of you. Since many of you are busy and don't need anything else to read I will make the letter short - - limited to one page.

CHOOSING HUNTING AMMO – Regular or Premium? Most of the time you want to know what is best for the weapon you want to use. There are many types of ammo that claim to be the best, how can that be?

Many ammo makers lead you to believe that you need ammo which will provide you with an inch of drop at 100 yards, (1 Minute of Angle), the fact of the matter is that not too many rifles in common hunting calibers come from the factory that accurate. Further, not too many hunters are either when shooting from typical field positions.

Eight inches is an often used number for the vital area of most big game in North America. This assumes a perfect world where there is no wind and the hunter has the rifle adequately sighted in for that range.

If adequate penetration is your primary concern bullet construction and weight retention need to be considered. A softpoint with a lead core inserted into the jacket is bound to shed some weight and; even the famed Nosler Partition, the most respected game bullet ever, loses some. This is why you see bonded cores, solid copper bullets by Barnes, and blended technology such as Winchester Fail Safe. In terms of weight retention these designs often achieve 100 percent.

I have not mentioned cartridges because I don't think there is a best one of these either. Face it; a 30-30 will kill almost any game animal East of the Mississippi. You hear a lot about Magnum cartridges - - how did we ever manage to cope before they came along.

If you are looking at a new hunting rifle, consider looking at something middle-of-the-road without the magnum in name unless you really need or want it. If you just need a couple of boxes of ammo, you might try one of the bonded bullets, one of the partition styles, or something loaded with the new Barnes Triple Shock. (Excerpts from August 2006 Issue of Guns Magazine).