



Cody Stomp of Quill Lake, Saskatchewan, with the big whitetail he took in 2011. It was a tough year of hunting whitetails in the central regions, but Cody ended up with this great specimen. It should be pointed out that Cody was only 12 years old when he took this buck. It grossed 169 3/8, and after a number of deductions it netted 151 typical points.

A YOUNG HUNTER'S DREAM

BY CODY STOMP

The days of November were quickly fading as I got ready for another day of whitetail hunting. That morning as Dad and I walked over to the truck, it was cold, but the skies were clear. This was my first year of hunting for these elusive whitetails, and I hoped to get a chance. It was already November 27, and the 2011 season was sure going by fast. While hunting near St. Brioux the day before, we had seen a real nice 5x5 buck. He was standing right near an old road but soon started running the other way. Dad told me to grab some shells and get out. We both ran through the field and over the hill to see if an opportunity might present itself. There he was, running for cover, and it wouldn't be long before he would disappear. We both shot three times, but to our regret none of the bullets connected. In mere seconds the buck was gone and both of us could only stare at the spot where he had escaped.

There we stood with sad faces and now-empty rifles. I was really disappointed, but Dad said, "Don't worry, there will be more." Soon another day was over, and we headed home in order to get an early start the next day.

The following morning we decided to try another area. We eventually ended up near my grandfather's yard just north of Humboldt, and decided to go in to ask to hunt on his land. Being his grandson, he immediately gave me permission, and we set off to look for deer. With us were with my uncle and cousin who had seen a very large buck that same morning. The decision was made to push the bush where the big deer had been seen.

On the way over there, we saw a couple of does and figured for sure that there had to be some bucks around. We arrived at the location and watched carefully as Dad pushed the bush. As he approached the end, the buck ran out across the road into a little bluff in a field. Heading over to that bush, my cousin and uncle pushed one side while my dad and I pushed the other. Slowly we walked along each side of the bush making noise until all of a sudden he jumped out



Cody stands beside the finished mount of his 2011 whitetail.

right behind us! That smart buck had waited until we had passed right by him.

Running as fast as we could to the hill he had crested, I noticed him running broadside to me. I quickly loaded my .308, took aim, and fired. I was so excited I thought for sure I had missed, but the deer suddenly fell over and I knew it wasn't getting away. I quickly ran up to him and delivered a finishing shot so he wouldn't suffer.

Everyone came running over, congratulating me and telling me how lucky I was. I was so excited! Everyone was genuinely happy for me and it felt great! It was one of the happiest moments of my life.

We later took the buck to get scored and I was sure pleased with the final outcome. It grossed 169 3/8, and with many deductions still netted 151 typical points. I knew this may be a once-in-a-lifetime event and realized he was truly a great deer.

A happy group of hunters gather around Cody's very first whitetail. Many veteran hunters from across North America have never taken a bigger buck than this fine farmland trophy.

