Satellite opener for firearms deer season

The importance of CWD management

Flintlock, late archery seasons lengthened

Hunt bears with firearms in October

Simpler fluorescent orange requirements

Two new elk seasons

Bobcat, Fisher seasons expand to new WMUs
BE RELENTLESS

VX-FREEDOM
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To better assist hunters and residents, the Game Commission has six region field offices. Violations can be reported to region offices.

**Northwest Region**
Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango & Warren counties
P.O. Box 31
Franklin, PA 16323
(814) 432-3187 or (814) 432-3188, (814) 432-3189

**Southwest Region**
Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington & Westmoreland counties
4820 Route 711
Bolivar, PA 15923-2420
(724) 238-9523 or (724) 238-9524, (724) 238-5639

**Northcentral Region**
Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter
1566 South Route 44 Highway
P.O. Box 5038
Jersey Shore, PA 17740-5038
(570) 398-4744 or (570) 398-4745, (570) 398-3423
pgc-ncregion@pa.gov

**Southcentral Region**
Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder & York counties
8627 William Penn Highway
Huntingdon, PA 16652
(814) 643-1831 or (814) 643-9635

**Northeast Region**
3917 Memorial Highway
Dallas, PA 18612
(570) 675-1143 or (570) 675-1144

**Southeast Region**
Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia & Schuylkill counties
253 Snyder Road
Reading, PA 19605-9524
(610) 926-3136 or (610) 926-3137, (610) 926-1966

**Contacting the Harrisburg headquarters** 717-787-4250
PRESS 1 Bureau of Wildlife Management
PRESS 2 Game News, Hunter Education, Bureau of Information & Education
PRESS 4 Hunting licenses, Bureau of Administration
PRESS 5 Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management
PRESS 6 Special permits, Revocations, Bureau of Wildlife Protection
PRESS 7 Bureau of Automated Technology
PRESS 8 Training School and Executive Office
PRESS 0 Operator
Greetings:

As the calendar flips on what will be a historic license year for Pennsylvania’s hunters and trappers, we’d like to thank you for helping support the Commonwealth’s wildlife, habitats and rich outdoors tradition. We are pleased this year to, once again, provide a printed copy of the Hunting & Trapping Digest free of charge to all license buyers. While more hunters and trappers have become accustomed to going online for their information, and many downloaded their free copies of the digest in recent years when printed copies were available for sale, we’ve determined the opportunity to place vital information directly into the hands of every hunter and furtaker is too important to pass up.

These are changing times. The expansion of the firearms deer season to 13 days, including three Saturdays and a Saturday opener is an example of that. And so is Pennsylvania’s battle against Chronic Wasting Disease. The increasing threat CWD poses to the state’s deer and elk played no small part in the decision to again provide the printed digest to all license buyers. With CWD, there’s an enormous amount of misinformation out there. And a new four-page section near the back of this digest provides a clearer picture of CWD in our state and the dire consequences that would result if we allow it to spread.

The digest also serves as a guide for informing license buyers about updates to season frameworks, bag limits and regulatory changes. In the 2019-20 license year, for example, there are significantly expanded bear seasons, new seasons to hunt elk with archery gear or in winter and simpler-but-safe fluorescent orange requirements and recommendations.

The coming seasons promise plenty of excitement, and we’re glad you’ll be experiencing them alongside us. Thanks once again for your support.

Board of Game Commissioners President Timothy S. Layton, left, and Game Commission Executive Director Bryan J. Burhans.

Pennsylvania Game Commission
Greetings:
Timothy S. Layton, left, and Game Commission

CWD

License Information

Elk Season and Regulations

Furtaking Seasons and Regulations

Waterfowl and Migratory Game Birds

Small Game

Special Regulations Areas

DMAP

County Treasurer Addresses

Deer Seasons and Regulations

Wildlife Management Units

Big Game Regulations

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Hunter Recruitment Opportunities

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Fluorescent Orange

Update

Board of Game Commissioners President

Executive Director Bryan J. Burhans.

A safe fluorescent orange requirements and recommendations.

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Commonwealth’s wildlife, habitats and rich outdoors tradition.

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Celebrate the deer hunting tradition by attending an event near you.

~ Travis “T-Bone” Turner
Whitetails Unlimited spokesperson and co-host of Michael Waddell’s Bone Collector TV Show.

For information, please call Pennsylvania field director Clyde DeHart Jr. at (814) 697-7453. www.whitetailsunlimited.com
Welcome to Hunting and Trapping in Pennsylvania

License buyers should be aware of the following changes taking place this year.

For the first time in more than 50 years, Pennsylvania’s firearms deer season will open on a Saturday. With a Saturday opener, the season expands to 13 days, including three Saturdays. Please note the Thanksgiving turkey seasons, as well as small-game seasons, now will end on Friday.  The late archery and flintlock deer seasons have been extended by more than a week and in 2020 will end on a Monday to include the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday.  Several new bear-hunting opportunities are available in 2019. Muzzleloader and special firearms bear seasons will be held statewide in October, followed by a two-week statewide archery bear season. Many of the extended bear seasons that overlap with parts of the firearms deer season also have been expanded from four to seven days.  Fluorescent orange requirements have been simplified. While the use of orange is highly recommended in all seasons, it no longer is required for fall turkey hunters or bowhunters during archery seasons. Most requirements remain unchanged.  Chronic wasting disease (CWD) continues to impact deer and deer hunting in Pennsylvania. While adjustments to Disease Management Area boundaries were not finalized until after the print deadline for this digest, it was clear that DMAs 2 and 3 will expand due to newly detected positives, and the expansion of DMA 3 will reach into the elk range. A more-inclusive CWD section can be found near the back of this digest.  A September elk archery season and January antlerless elk season have been added in 2019-20. All licenses will be awarded by lottery, and those wishing to be considered for each of the three seasons must file a separate application for each. Instructions appear in the elk section of this digest. In total, 142 elk licenses, 32 for bulls, have been allocated. Fifteen licenses (five bulls, 10 cows) are available for the archery season, 98 licenses (27 bulls, 71 cows) are available for the general season, and 29 cow licenses are available for the January season.  Bobcat hunting and trapping seasons have been expanded to include WMU 4B, and the fisher trapping season has been expanded to include WMU 4A.  The season limit on beavers has been increased from 20 to 40 in WMUs 2A and 2B.  The porcupine season has been reduced by about 10 weeks and now will open in October and close Feb 1.  The bag limit on mallards statewide has been reduced from four birds (including two hens) to two birds (including one hen). And the limits on Canada geese in the Atlantic Population Zone have been dropped to two daily, and six in possession.

The Canada goose season also has been shortened in the Atlantic Population Zone. These changes all are in response to population decreases.  The mentored hunting program now is open to all ages. Youth up to 16 years of age can participate in the mentored youth program, and those 17 and older can participate in the mentored adult program. Under the previous framework, there was no opportunity for those 12 to 17 to participate in a mentored program. Limits on the number of consecutive years individuals can participate remain in place.  Leashed tracking dogs now can be used to recover deer, bears and elk that have been shot. Requirements for hunters and trackers can be found in the General Hunting Regulations section. The tracking-dog law became effective last year, ahead of the deer seasons, but after publication of the 2018-19 digest.  Changes to Wild Pheasant Recovery Area boundaries could be coming in 2019-20. The Board of Game Commissioners in April gave preliminary approval to boundary reductions, which would open previously closed areas to pheasant stocking and hunting. The proposal also would lift dog-training restrictions within WPRAs. Check the Game Commission’s website for an update.  A regulatory amendment has allowed resident disabled-veteran hunters to continue to be eligible for special disabled-veteran goose hunts at Middle Creek and Pymatuning wildlife management areas, even after they give up their disabled-veteran licenses for senior lifetime licenses. Qualifying hunters must provide documentation proving they are eligible for resident disabled-veteran licenses or reduced fee disabled-veteran licenses.
### Deer

**Regular Firearms** Nov. 30-Dec. 14

The Regular Firearms season is a statewide season. In most of the state, antlerless deer may be taken only during the second part of the season.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WMUs 2B, 5C &amp; 5D</th>
<th>All Other WMUs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Antlered &amp; Antlerless</strong> - Nov. 30-Dec. 14</td>
<td><strong>Antlered ONLY</strong> - Nov. 30-Dec. 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Antlered &amp; Antlerless</strong> - Dec. 26-Jan. 20</td>
<td><strong>Antler &amp; Antlerless</strong> - Dec. 7-14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other deer seasons**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Archery</th>
<th>Muzzleloader</th>
<th>Special Firearms</th>
<th>Flintlock</th>
<th>Extended Firearms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antlered &amp; Antlerless</td>
<td>Antlerless Only</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Statewide</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Statewide</strong></td>
<td><strong>Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery &amp; Philadelphia Counties</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMUs 2B, 5C &amp; 5D</td>
<td>WMUs 2B, 5C &amp; 5D</td>
<td>WMUs 2B, 5C &amp; 5D</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 21-Nov. 29</td>
<td>Dec. 26-Jan. 25</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Turkey**

One fall turkey per license year, plus up to two bearded birds in the spring season (one per day) for properly licensed hunters.

### Turkey

**Fall Season**

Hunters during the fall season may take a bearded or unbearded bird. Fall season is closed in WMUs 5C & 5D. Season lengths and arms vary by WMU.

- **Nov. 2-9**
  - WMU 18
  - WMUs 1A, 2A, 4A & 4B
- **Nov. 2-9 & Nov. 28-29**
  - WMUs 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4D & 4E
- **Nov. 2-16 & Nov. 28-29**
  - WMUs 2B & 2C
- **Nov. 2-22 & Nov. 28-29**
  - WMU 5B
- **Nov. 5-7**
  - WMU 5B
- **Nov. 7-9**
  - WMU 5A

### Spring Season

Bearded birds only.

- **Youth Hunt**
  - April 25, 2020
- **Statewide**
  - May 2-30, 2020

Hunting hours vary.

### Bear

**Regular Firearms** Statewide

**Nov. 23 & Nov. 25-27**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Archery</th>
<th>Muzzleloader</th>
<th>Special Firearms</th>
<th>Extended Season</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Includes Crossbow</td>
<td><strong>Statewide</strong></td>
<td><strong>Statewide</strong></td>
<td><strong>WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C &amp; 5D</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Statewide</strong></td>
<td><strong>Statewide</strong></td>
<td><strong>Statewide</strong></td>
<td>Nov. 30-Dec. 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 28-Nov. 9</td>
<td>Oct. 19-26</td>
<td>Oct. 24-26</td>
<td>WMUs 1B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E &amp; 5A</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMUs 2B, 5C &amp; 5D</td>
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<td>Nov. 30-Dec. 14</td>
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<td>Sept. 21-Nov. 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMU 5B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 5-Nov. 16</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Hunters during the fall season may take a bearded or unbearded bird. Fall season is closed in WMUs 5C & 5D. Season lengths and arms vary by WMU.
Squirrel
6 daily, 18 possession
Combined Species
JUNIOR HUNT
Oct. 5-19
STATEWIDE
Oct. 19-Nov. 29
Dec. 16-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 29

Pheasant
2 daily, 6 possession
Cocks only in WMUs 4E & 5A
JUNIOR HUNT
Oct. 12-19
STATEWIDE
Oct. 26-Nov. 29
Dec. 16-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 29

Rabbit
4 daily, 12 possession
JUNIOR HUNT
Oct. 5-19
STATEWIDE
Oct. 19-Nov. 29
Dec. 16-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 29

Grouse
2 daily, 6 possession
STATEWIDE
Oct. 19-Nov. 29
Dec. 16-24

Bobwhite Quail
8 daily, 24 possession
STATEWIDE
Oct. 19-Nov. 29
Dec. 16-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 29

Woodchuck
No Limit
STATEWIDE
No closed season, except during regular firearms deer seasons. Hunting on Sundays prohibited.

Crow
No Limit
STATEWIDE
July 5-April 12
Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays only

Snowshoe Hare
1 daily, 3 possession
STATEWIDE
Dec. 26-Jan. 1

Hunting

Raccoons & Foxes
No Limit
Oct. 26-Feb. 22

Coyotes, Opossums, Striped Skunks & Weasels
No Limit
No closed season, with certain exceptions during big-game seasons

Bobcats
1 per license year, permit required
Jan. 11-Feb. 5
WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

Porcupine
3 daily, 10 season
Oct. 12-Feb. 1

Trapping

Foxes & Coyotes
No Limit
GENERAL
Oct. 27-Feb. 23
CABLE RESTRAINTS
Dec. 26-Feb. 23

Raccoons, Opossums, Striped Skunks & Weasels
No Limit
Oct. 27-Feb. 23

Minks & Muskrats
No Limit
Nov. 23-Jan. 12

Fishers
1 per license year with permit
Dec. 21-Jan. 5
WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

Beavers
Limits vary by WMU
Dec. 26-March 31

River Otters
1 per license year with permit
Feb. 15-22
WMUs 3C & 3D

Furtaking

The porcupine is classified as a furbearer, but, like the coyote, it can be hunted with either a hunting or furtaker license.

Furtaking

32 antlered, 110 antlerless over three seasons.
Licenses awarded by lottery. Separate applications due July 31.

Elk

Archery Season
Sept. 14-28

General Season
Nov. 4-9

Extended Season
Nov. 11-16

Late Antlerless Season
Jan. 4-11, 2020

2019-20 PA Hunting & Trapping Digest
Fluorescent Orange Requirements

Woodchuck Hunting
A hat made of solid fluorescent orange, visible 360 degrees.

All Small Game Seasons
A minimum 250 square inches, on head, chest and back combined, visible 360 degrees.

Deer, Bear or Elk Firearms Seasons
A minimum 250 square inches, on head, chest and back combined, visible 360 degrees.

October Muzzleloader Antlerless Deer Seasons
A minimum 250 square inches, on head, chest and back combined, visible 360 degrees.

Blinds
A minimum of 100 square inches of fluorescent orange material (orange alert band) must be displayed within 15 feet of a blind and visible 360 degrees during the firearms deer, bear and elk seasons. This is in addition to wearing orange while in the blind. See turkey section for specifics on blind use while turkey hunting.

Wearing Orange
No fluorescent orange is required in archery deer, bear or elk seasons, or when hunting waterfowl, doves, turkeys, crows or furbearers.*

Hunters participating in the after-Christmas flintlock muzzleloader season also are not required to wear fluorescent orange (See Special Regulations Areas section for additional information.)

Even when orange isn't required, the Game Commission highly recommends the use of orange. For example, a fluorescent orange hat is recommended for turkey hunters while moving.

When fluorescent orange is required, the full amount of orange required for that season must be worn while moving from one hour prior to the start of legal hunting hours and for one hour past the closing of legal hunting hours.

* Fluorescent orange is required when hunting coyotes during any big game season, if orange is required during that season, including from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

CAMOUFLAGE FLUORESCENT ORANGE
Camouflage fluorescent orange may satisfy orange regulations when 250 square inches of safety material is required if the orange content is at least 250 square inches. When a hat containing 100 square inches of orange is specified, the cap must be solid fluorescent orange.
Fluorescent Orange Requirements required during that season, including from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

* Fluorescent orange is required when hunting coyotes during any big game hunting hours and for one hour past the closing of legal hunting hours.

Wearing Orange that season must be worn while moving from one hour prior to the start of legal turkey hunters while moving.

section for additional information.)

when hunting waterfowl, doves, turkeys, crows or furbearers*

When fluorescent orange is required, the full amount of orange required for even when orange isn’t required, the Game Commission highly recommends

No fluorescent orange is required in

October Muzzleloader Antlerless Deer Seasons

Woodchuck Hunting

Blinds

See turkey section for specifics on blind use while turkey hunting.

A minimum of 100 square inches of fluorescent orange material visible 360 degrees.

on head, chest and back combined,

A minimum 250 square inches, visible 360 degrees.

A hat made of solid fluorescent orange,

on head, chest and back combined,

250 square inches. When a material is required if the regulations when 250 orange may satisfy orange

Fluorescent Orange worn at all times

1 – During the Regular Firearms Deer Season, it is unlawful to take or attempt to take other wild birds or mammals, except game birds on regulated hunting grounds, migratory waterfowl, coyotes, feral swine, wild boar and bears.

2 – Raccoons, foxes, coyotes*, bobcats, striped skunks, opossums and weasels may be hunted any hour, day or night, except during restricted periods noted in Exception 1 (see furtaking section for more detail).

3 – Hunting hours during Spring Gobbler Season are from one-half hour before sunrise until noon during the youth hunt, and from the opening day of the statewide season through the third Saturday. Beginning May 18, hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

4 – Migratory birds (waterfowl, doves, woodcock, snipe, rails and gallinules) may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset, except during the September Resident Canada Goose Season and the Snow Goose Conservation Season, when geese may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

5 – Hunting hours for mourning doves are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset during every segment of dove season. Doves are migratory birds. Do not reference the hunting hours table here for the quitting times for migratory birds; check the migratory game birds hunting hours table elsewhere in this digest.

* Note: Outside of any big game season (deer, bear, elk or turkey), coyotes may be taken with a hunting or furtaker license, and without wearing orange. During any big game season, coyotes may be taken while lawfully hunting big game (must follow orange requirements), or with a furtaker license.

**Pennsylvania Meridian Map** Hunting hours begin and end 4 minutes later for each meridian west of the 75th.

Daylight Saving Time Begins* Ends**

BEGIN A.M. END P.M.

June 30 - July 6 5:08 9:02
July 7 - 13 5:13 8:59
July 14 - 20 5:18 8:55
July 21 - 27 5:24 8:49
July 28 - Aug. 3 5:31 8:42
Aug. 4 - 10 5:37 8:34
Aug. 11 - 17 5:44 8:25
Aug. 18 - 24 5:51 8:15
Aug. 25 - 31 5:57 8:04
Sept. 1 - 7 6:04 7:53
Sept. 8 - 14 6:10 7:41
Sept. 15 - 21 6:17 7:30
Sept. 22 - 28 6:24 7:18
Sept. 29 - Oct. 5 6:31 7:07
Oct. 6 - 12 6:38 6:56
Oct. 13 - 19 6:45 6:46
Oct. 20 - 26 6:53 6:36
Oct. 27 - Nov. 2 7:00 6:27

Nov. 3 - 9** 6:08 5:20
Nov. 10 - 16 6:16 5:14
Nov. 17 - 23 6:24 5:09
Nov. 24 - 30 6:32 5:06
Dec. 1 - 7 6:39 5:05
Dec. 8 - 14 6:44 5:05
Dec. 15 - 21 6:49 5:06
Dec. 22 - 28 6:51 5:09
Dec. 29 - Jan. 4 6:53 5:19
Jan. 5 - 11 6:53 5:25
Jan. 12 - 18 6:52 5:26
Jan. 19 - 25 6:49 5:34
Jan. 26 - Feb. 1 6:44 5:42
Feb. 2 - 8 6:38 5:51
Feb. 9 - 15 6:31 5:59
Feb. 16 - 22 6:23 6:07
Feb. 23 - 29 6:13 6:15
Mar. 1 - Mar. 7 6:03 6:23
Mar. 8 - 14* 6:52 7:31
Mar. 15 - 21 6:41 7:38
Mar. 22 - 28 6:30 7:45
Mar. 29 - Apr. 4 6:19 7:52
Apr. 5 - 11 6:07 7:59
Apr. 12 - 18 5:57 8:07
Apr. 19 - 25 5:46 8:14
Apr. 26 - May 2 5:37 8:21
May 3 - 9 5:28 8:28
May 10 - 16 5:20 8:35
May 17 - 23 5:13 8:41
May 24 - 30 5:08 8:47
May 31 - June 6 5:04 8:53
June 7 - 13 5:02 8:57
June 14 - 20 5:02 9:01
June 21 - 27 5:04 9:03
June 28 - July 4 5:08 9:03
The Mentored Youth Hunting Program is designed to allow youngsters up to 16 years of age to gain hunting experience and learn at an early age about Pennsylvania's rich hunting heritage. It gives unlicensed youngsters the opportunity to receive one-on-one, hands-on experience and training in the field on ethics, safety, responsibility, enjoyment and all other aspects of the hunting experience by adult mentors who are dedicated to this pursuit. Participating youngsters are not required to take a Hunter-Trapper Education (HTE) class to be eligible for the Mentored Youth Program. All mentored hunters ages 12 or older may participate in a mentored program for a maximum of three, unbroken license years. After that period, or following any year they lapse from the program, they’ll be required to obtain a license if they want to continue hunting. Youngsters who participate in the mentored youth program for at least three years before turning 12 would be required to get a license at 12, rather than continuing as a mentored hunter. When mentored hunters are required to get a license, they also will be required to successfully complete an HTE course before obtaining a junior license.

General Information

- A mentor (licensed person 21 years or older) who is serving as a guide to a mentored youth must secure a valid, current hunting license or otherwise qualify for a license and fee exemptions prior to engaging in any mentored youth hunting activities.
- A mentored youth planning to participate in the Mentored Youth Hunting Program must obtain a permit, and each youngster will be issued his or her CID number (each youngster will need a Social Security number to receive a CID number). The permit can be obtained from any issuing agent and online at the Game Commission’s “The Outdoor Shop.” The Mentored Youth Hunting Program permit includes big game harvest tags for antlered deer and spring turkey. No big-game harvest tags will be issued to mentored youth applicants who are under 7 years of age at the time of application. Permit fees are $2.90 for resident and nonresident applicants under 12; $6.90 for resident applicants 12 or older but under 17; $41.90 for nonresident applicants 12 or older but under 17. Antlered deer or turkey harvests must be reported within five days by using the harvest report cards obtained online at www.pgc.pa.gov, or by phone by calling 1-855-724-8681. To hunt doves, mentored youth also need a migratory game bird license.
- A mentored youth who participates in any hunting party shall count as a member of the hunting party for maximum allowed numbers.

Species, Seasons & Bag Limits

- A mentored youth can hunt only squirrels, rabbits (cottontails), doves, woodchucks, coyotes, deer, and turkeys in any of their respective seasons, and must follow daily and field possession bag limits for each species (one antlered deer and one bearded turkey in the spring, per license year). Mentored youth permit holders may follow the same antler restrictions as junior license holders, which is one antler of three or more inches in length or one antler with at least two points.
- A mentor can transfer one valid antlered deer harvest tag to a mentored youth who was under the age of 7 at the time of application. The transfer of the antlered deer harvest tag may not occur until after the mentored youth has harvested the antlered deer, but before tagging the carcass. At that time, the harvest tag is to be transferred to the youngster to complete the tag information and to attach the tag to the ear of the deer. The mentor must report the deer and check the “taken by mentored youth” box on the harvest report card. A mentored youth may not receive by transfer more than one antlered deer harvest tag each license year.
- A mentor can transfer one spring turkey harvest tag to a mentored youth who was under the age of 7 at the time of application. The transfer of the spring harvest tag may not occur until after the mentored youth has harvested the spring turkey, but before tagging the carcass. At that time, the harvest tag is to be transferred to the youngster to complete the tag information and to attach the tag to the leg of the bird. The mentor must report the turkey and check the “taken by mentored youth” box on the harvest report card. A mentored youth may not receive by transfer more than one spring turkey harvest tag each license year.
- A mentor can transfer one fall turkey tag to a mentored youth if the youngster harvests a fall turkey. The harvest information and tag must be attached to the leg of the bird, and the mentor needs to check the “taken by mentored youth” box on the harvest report card.
- A mentor can transfer one valid antlerless deer license and/or one Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permit to a mentored youth. Antlerless licenses are valid within the wildlife management unit (WMU) for which they were issued, and DMAP permits are valid on the specific properties for which they were issued. The transfer of the antlerless license and/or DMAP permit may not occur until after the mentored youth has harvested the antlerless deer, but before tagging the carcass. At that time, the license is to be transferred to the mentored youth to complete the tag information and to attach the tag to the ear of the deer. The mentor must report the deer and check the “taken by mentored youth” box on the harvest report card. A mentored youth may not receive by transfer more than one antlerless deer license and/or one DMAP permit each license year, and is ineligible to make direct application for an antlerless license and/or a DMAP permit.
- A mentored youth is eligible to hunt during any special youth hunting seasons that apply to eligible mentored youth hunt species. This includes the Special Antlerless Deer Only Firearms October season for junior and senior license holders.

Safety & Liability

- A mentored youth must be stationary (the state or condition where a person is still, fixed in place or static, indicated by a cessation of all forward, backward or lateral movement, whether in the standing, kneeling, sitting or prone position) while in any of their respective seasons, and used to harvest the particular species) while engaged in hunting or related activities.
- A mentor may not accompany more than one youngster at any given time while participating in the Mentored Youth Hunting Program. For example, a mentor cannot accompany a mentored youth and a licensed junior hunter at the same time. (A supervising adult can accompany any number of junior hunters outside of the Mentored Youth Hunting Program.)
- A mentor and mentored youth may not possess collectively more than one lawful hunting device at any given time while engaged in hunting or related activities. The mentor must carry the lawful device in transit to and from the spot.
- A mentor and mentored youth must be in compliance with fluorescent orange requirements for the species they are hunting.
- A mentor is responsible and accountable for all actions of the mentored youth occurring while engaged in hunting or related activities. A mentor who causes or allows a mentored youth to engage in an unlawful act shall be punishable as the principal offender.
### General Information
- A mentor (licensed person 21 years or older) who is serving as a guide to a mentored adult must secure a valid, current hunting license or otherwise qualify for a license and fee exemptions prior to engaging in any mentored adult hunting activities.
- A mentored adult planning to participate in the Mentored Adult Hunting Program must obtain a permit. Each mentored adult will be issued his or her CND number (each adult will need a Social Security number to receive a CND number). The permit ($20.90 for residents and $101.90 for nonresidents) can be obtained from any issuing agent and online at the Game Commission’s “The Outdoor Shop.”
- The Mentored Adult Hunting Program permit includes a big game tag for spring gobbler. Turkey harvests must be reported within five days by using the harvest report cards obtained online at www.pgc.pa.gov or by phone by calling 1-855-724-8681. Mentored adult hunting permits are available for a total of three consecutive, unbroken, license years, including years when under 17, after which the mentored adult will be required to successfully complete an HTE course before obtaining an applicable adult hunting license.
- A mentored adult who participates in any hunting party shall count as a member of the hunting party for maximum allowed numbers.

### Species, Seasons & Bag Limits
- A mentored adult can hunt only *squirrels, ruffed grouse, rabbits (cottontails), pheasants (pheasant permit required), bobwhite quail, hares, porcupines, woodchucks, crows, coyotes, antlerless deer and wild turkeys.* Species must be hunted in any of their respective seasons, and daily and field possession bag limits for each species must be followed.
- A mentor can transfer one valid antlerless deer license and/or one Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permit to a mentored adult. Antlerless licenses are valid within the wildlife management unit (WMU) for which they were issued, and DMAP permits are valid on the specific properties for which they were issued. The transfer of the antlerless license and/or DMAP permit may not occur until after the mentored adult has harvested the antlerless deer, but before tagging the carcass. At that time, the license is to be transferred to the mentored adult to complete the tag information and to attach the tag to the ear of the deer. The mentor must report the deer and check the “taken by mentored adult” box on the harvest report card. A mentored adult may not receive by transfer more than one antlerless deer license and/or one DMAP permit each license year, and is ineligible to make direct application for an antlerless license and/or a DMAP permit.
- A mentor can transfer one fall turkey tag to a mentored adult. The transfer of the fall turkey tag may not occur until after the mentored adult has harvested the fall turkey, but before tagging the carcass. At that time, the tag is to be transferred to the mentored adult to complete the tag information and to attach the tag to the leg of the bird. The mentor must report the turkey and check the “taken by mentored adult” box on the harvest report card. A mentored adult may not receive by transfer more than one fall turkey tag each license year.

### Safety & Liability
- A mentored adult must hunt within eyesight of his or her adult mentor, and at a proximity close enough for verbal instruction and guidance to be easily understood without the aid of electronic communication devices or sound amplification devices.
- A mentor may not accompany more than one mentored adult at any given time while participating in the Mentored Adult Hunting Program. A mentor may not accompany a junior hunter or a mentored youth hunter in addition to a mentored adult.
- A mentor and mentored adult must be in compliance with fluorescent orange requirements for the species they are hunting.
- A mentor is responsible and accountable for all actions of the mentored adult while engaged in hunting or related activities. A mentor who causes or allows a mentored adult to engage in an unlawful act shall be punishable as the principal offender.

### Youth Hunting Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Squirrel Season</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 5-19 (12-16 years old without a license; and junior license holders, who must have successfully completed an HTE course)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Junior Cottontail Rabbit Season</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 5-19 (12-16 years old without a license; and junior license holders, who must have successfully completed an HTE course)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Junior Pheasant Season</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 12-19 (12-16 years old without a license; and junior license holders, who must have successfully completed an HTE course)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bear</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 24-26 (junior license holders)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 12- to 16-year-olds or Junior License holders
- **Deer**: Oct. 24-26 (Antlerless only; junior license holders with required antlerless license; statewide)
- **Youth Waterfowl Hunt Days**: (*Junior License holders 12-16; 16-year-olds need a federal duck stamp). One shooting day at Middle Creek and Pymatuning to be designated as a youth-only day, in addition to two statewide or duck-zone specific youth waterfowl hunting days held each year.
- **Youth Turkey Hunt**: April 25, 2020 (Spring gobbler; junior license holders with required license; statewide)
General Hunting Regulations

Baiting
Baiting is allowed conditionally on private property in the Southeast Special Regulations Area. See detailed information on the Special Regulations Areas page in this digest. Elsewhere in the state, it is unlawful to hunt in or around any area where artificial or natural bait, food, hay, grain, fruit, nuts, salt, chemicals or minerals, including their residues, are used, or have been used within the past 30 days, as an enticement to lure game or wildlife regardless of the type or quantity. Hunters are responsible for ensuring that the hunting area has not been baited before they begin hunting. They should physically inspect the area and question landowners, guides and caretakers. This section does not pertain to hunting near areas where accepted farming or habitat-management practices are taking place (example: hunting near food plots on game lands is legal). Any natural or man-made nonliving bait can be used to attract coyotes for hunting or trapping.

Cultivated Lands
It is unlawful to 1) hunt in unharvested buckwheat, corn, sorghum or soybean fields without permission from the owner or caretaker; 2) operate a motor vehicle on any cleared field or private property without the landowner’s permission; 3) block lanes to cultivated fields, mailboxes or private property; 4) leave gates open; 5) damage real or personal property; 6) break down or damage fences, or 7) harass or injure livestock.

Decoys
Decoys simulating food – such as artificial corn to attract turkeys or waterfowl – are considered artificial bait and are illegal. The use of living decoys is prohibited for all hunting and trapping. Electronic decoys can be used for hunting crows, waterfowl and doves.

Disturbance of Game or Wildlife
It is unlawful for any person to drive or disturb game or wildlife except while engaged in lawful hunting or trapping. It is unlawful to dig out or take any wild bird or animal from its den or place of refuge.

Drugs & Alcohol
It is unlawful to hunt wildlife while under the influence of controlled substances or alcohol.

Electronic Devices
It is unlawful to hunt with any electronic contrivance or device, but following are exceptions: Electronic callers to hunt bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons and crows, and snow geese in the conservation season can be used. Lighted pins on bow sights and scopes with lighted reticles may be used as long as they don’t cast a beam. Any device used as a sight or scope on any firearm, bow or crossbow that projects a light beam of any kind onto the target is unlawful. Electronic illuminating devices that are affixed at the aft end of a bolt or arrow and used solely for the purpose of locating or tracking bolt or arrow flight after being launched from a crossbow or bow can be used. Portable, two-way radios and cellphones may be used for general communications with another hunter, but may not be used to direct or alert another hunter of the presence or location of live game or wildlife. The use of electronic communication devices to alert hunters to live game not only is a violation of the Game & Wildlife Code, but violates the concept of fair chase. The use of portable radios does not satisfy the legal requirement of accompanying a junior hunter. The accompanying adult must be close enough to give verbal instructions without the aid of an electronic device. Electronic sound amplification devices that are incorporated into hearing-protection devices and completely contained in or on the hunter’s ear may be used to hunt or take wildlife. Any manually operated firearm that uses an electronic impulse to detonate the primer or main powder charge of the ammunition, unless such firearms are specifically prohibited devices can be used. Electronic rangefinders, including handheld devices and those contained within a scope or archery sight can be used. This authorization may not be construed to permit a device that emits any light beam, infrared beam, ultraviolet light beam, radio beam, thermal beam, ultrasonic beam, particle beam or other beam that is visible outside of the device or on the target. Electronic devices used for locating dogs while training and hunting are permitted. Electronically heated scent or lure dispensers, and electronic devices that distribute ozone gas for scent-control purposes can now be used.

Field Possession Limits
It is unlawful on the opening day of a hunting season to 1) possess more than the daily limit; 2) after the second day possess more game than may be legally taken in three days. A Field Possession Limit is the maximum number of legally taken wildlife of a species that a person may legally possess or transport between the place of taking and the person’s permanent place of residence.

Firearms — Handguns
A Sportsman’s Firearms Permit or a License to Carry Firearms permit is required to carry a handgun, or have it in a motor vehicle. Licenses to Carry Firearms permits are issued by county sheriffs or the Philadelphia Chief of Police. The License to Carry Firearms permit only entitles bowhunters or spotlighters, for instance, to carry firearms that fall within this classification. County treasurers issue Sportsman’s Firearms Permits. A person holding a Sportsman’s Firearms Permit may not carry a concealed handgun or a loaded handgun in a vehicle, and may not carry a handgun while bowhunting or spotlighting.

Firearms — Loaded in Vehicles
A firearm is considered loaded when there is live ammunition in either the chamber or attached magazine. It is unlawful to 1) have a loaded firearm in, on or against any motor vehicle (or any attachments to the vehicle), regardless of whether the vehicle is moving or stationary; and 2) have a loaded firearm in watercraft under power, or shoot from a powered watercraft until the motor has been shut off and the craft has come to a complete stop. Holders of License to Carry Firearms permit are exempt, but keep in mind that most sporting firearms are not authorized by the permit. It is prohibited to have any muzzleloading firearm that has a live charge of ammunition in its firing chamber and a primer, flash powder or a battery, whichever is applicable, properly positioned in the firing mechanism of the firearm rendering it capable of discharge, in, on or against any conveyance propelled by mechanical power. Any crossbow that has been cocked and has a bolt affixed onto the string or positioned into the firing mechanism of the device is prohibited in, on or against any conveyance propelled by mechanical power. For safety, a loaded muzzleloader or crossbow should be fired into soft ground before those devices are transported in a vehicle.

Firearms — Magazine Capacity
Manual or autoloading shotguns to hunt small game, furbearers, turkeys, waterfowl or crows must be limited to a 3-shell capacity in the chamber and magazine combined. A plug must be a one-piece filler installed so it cannot be removed without disassembling the gun or magazine. There is no restriction on magazine capacity for semiautomatic rifles used to hunt small game and furbearers.
**General Hunting Regulations**

**Firearms & Devices — Unlawful & Permitted**

It is unlawful to hunt with automatic firearms. Semiautomatic (autoloaded) rifles, and air- or gas-operated rifles and manually operated handguns may be used for hunting small game and furbearers. Semiautomatic rifles may not be used for hunting deer, bear, turkey or elk. Hunting with semiautomatic handguns is prohibited. Semiautomatic centerfire shotguns that propel single-projectile ammunition can now be used while hunting deer, bear and elk.

**Injury Reports**

If you are involved in an incident resulting in injury by a firearm or bow and arrow, either as a victim or the person causing injury (including self-inflicted), you must report the incident to the Game Commission within 72 hours. Obtain the proper forms from a game warden, complete in duplicate and return them to the warden, or mail to the Game Commission’s Harrisburg Headquarters. It is unlawful not to submit this report, or to flee, fail or refuse to render immediate and full assistance to an injured person.

**License Information**

It is unlawful to hunt or trap wildlife without first obtaining the required hunting or furtaker licenses. All hunters should be sure they have the proper and applicable licenses and tags in their possession for the seasons and species they intend to hunt or trap before heading afield. It’s unlawful to carry the license of another person while hunting, or in transit to or from hunting. The possession of expired, fulfilled, revoked, suspended or invalid licenses or harvest tags while hunting or trapping also is unlawful. While afield, in addition to their licenses, hunters are required to have in their possession additional cards or papers that must be shown to a game warden or landowner upon request to confirm identification.

**Littering**

It is unlawful while hunting or trapping to leave or deposit any garbage, bottles, cartons, containers, glass, paper or debris, except in a receptacle for that purpose.

**Lures & Scents**

Except in CWD Disease Management Areas, estrous scents and lures, or other non-food source cover scents are legal for deer. Scents and lures that contain any form of natural or artificial food stuff, including, but not limited to, corn, apple and acorns are not legal. Use of drip devices is legal, as well as electronically heated scent or lure dispensers, with legal scents and lures, and electronic devices that distribute ozone gas for scent-control purposes. The use of scents or lures while hunting bears is prohibited.

**Mistake Kill**

Any person who kills any wildlife while hunting or trapping by accident or mistake shall immediately field-dress any edible game and deliver the carcass to a game warden in the county where it was killed. Big game killed by accident or mistake must be tagged with the appropriate big-game tag that is attached to the license before moving the carcass from the kill location. Use the tag you would have used for the animal you are legally licensed to take. Examples: An antlerless deer killed in mistake for an antlered deer must be tagged with the antlered deer tag; an antlered deer killed in mistake for an antlerless deer must be tagged with an antlerless deer tag; a hen turkey killed by mistake during the spring gobbler season must be tagged with a spring gobbler tag. Antlered deer that are killed by mistake and do not meet the minimum points requirements must be tagged with an antlered deer tag. (See the big-game regulations section for more details on how to handle a mistake deer kill.) If you have previously used a tag for a prior legal kill and need that tag for a mistake kill, use the tag you have remaining that entitled you to hunt legally.

**Recovering Dead or Injured Wildlife**

It is unlawful to refuse or neglect to make a reasonable effort to retrieve any killed or injured game or wildlife. Hunters attempting to recover wildlife are not permitted to enter private property without permission. A hunting license does not give you the right to trespass on private property. In fact, a game warden can issue a citation for trespassing on private property to hunters in violation of the Game & Wildlife Code or regulations.

**Road-killed Deer/Possessing Wildlife**

It is unlawful at any time to possess live wildlife, except foxes for which a permit has been issued, or animals, or parts of animals, killed on highways. Pennsylvania residents may possess deer or turkeys killed by a motor vehicle for personal consumption only if they secure a permit number from the Game Commission within 24 hours after taking the deer or turkey; call the appropriate region office. It is not legal to kill or “put out of its misery” any injured wildlife; again, call the region office. It is unlawful to give to another person the whole or edible parts of a deer killed on a highway. It is not lawful to keep, for example, antlers from road-killed deer or the beard or spurs from a road-killed turkey. It is unlawful to sell inedible parts from game or wildlife lawfully taken (including taxidermy mounts), unless such parts are disposed of by the original owner within 90 days after the close of the season in which the game or wildlife was taken. It is unlawful to take a road-killed deer into possession to be used to bait coyotes. Holders of a valid furtaker license may possess a furbearer killed on a highway, except for bobcats, fishers or river otters. Persons taking possession of any furbearer killed on a highway during the closed season for taking that furbearer shall within 24 hours contact any Game Commission region office to make notification of said possession. A fee will be charged to possess a road-killed furbearer picked up during the closed season.

**Road Hunting**

It is unlawful to 1) hunt from a vehicle; 2) aid or assist another while hunting from a vehicle; 3) shoot at wildlife on a public road or right-of-way open to public travel; 4) shoot across a road unless the line of fire is high enough to preclude any danger to road users; and 5) alight from a vehicle and shoot at any wildlife until the shooter is at least 25 yards from the traveled portion of the roadway. **NOTE:** These provisions do not prevent an individual, who may not qualify for a Disabled Person’s Permit, but who has health concerns or problems to sit in or near a legally “parked” vehicle and watch for game. Loaded firearms may never be placed in, on or against any motor vehicle, its trailer or other attachments, at any time.
Safety Zones

It is unlawful to hunt for, shoot at, trap, take, chase or disturb wildlife within 150 yards of any occupied residence, camp, industrial or commercial building, farmhouse or farm building, or school or playground without the permission of the occupants. It is unlawful to shoot into a safety zone, even if you are outside of the zone. Driving game, even without a firearm or bow, within a safety zone without permission is unlawful. For comparison, think of a safety zone as about one and a half football fields. Hunting on hospital and institutional grounds, and in cemeteries, also is prohibited. It is unlawful to discharge a firearm within 150 yards of a Game Commission vehicle if its occupants are releasing pheasants. The safety zone for archery hunters statewide, including those using crossbows, is 50 yards. Archery hunters carrying muzzleloaders during any muzzleloader season must abide by the 150-yard safety zone regulation. Around playgrounds, schools, nursery schools or day-care centers, the safety zone remains 150 yards.

Spotlighting Wildlife

It is unlawful to 1) spotlight wildlife while in possession of a firearm, bow and arrow, or other device capable of killing wildlife. Individuals who have a License to Carry Firearms permit are excepted, but only regarding their carrying of firearms authorized by the permit. Most sporting arms are not authorized. 2) spotlight wildlife during the regular firearms deer seasons, including those days separating the seasons, as well as any late extended firearms deer seasons in the Special Regulations Area counties; and 3) cast an artificial light upon any building, farm animal or photoelectric cell. Recreational spotlighting is lawful between sunrise and 11 p.m., except as previously noted. Spotlighting includes handheld lights, accessory spotlights on vehicles and vehicle headlights when intentionally used to locate or view wildlife. A person hunting raccoons, skunks, opossums, bobcats, weasels, foxes and coyotes on foot may use a handheld light, including a gun-mounted light. Furbearer hunters may not use a flashlight or spotlight that projects a laser light beam.

Sunday Hunting

It is unlawful to hunt wildlife, except foxes, crows and coyotes, on Sundays.

Tracking Dogs

Dogs are not permitted to hunt big game, except for turkeys during the fall. Leashed tracking dogs can be used to track a white-tailed deer, bear or elk to recover an animal that has been legally killed or wounded during any open season for deer, bear or elk. No permit is required. The tracker cannot dispatch game that was wounded and will be tagged by another hunter. The tracker must be properly licensed for the animal being tracked. The tracker must abide by hunting hours and wear the required amount of fluorescent orange clothing for the season. All laws pertaining to the taking of game apply. Trackers cannot charge for their services on state game lands. Permission is needed before entering private property.

Additional Regulations & Restrictions

Many landowners (federal, state and local governments) open areas to hunting and trapping, but apply more restrictive regulations. An example is the Erie National Wildlife Refuge in Crawford County, where the use or possession of toxic shot is prohibited for shotgun hunting for all species, except turkeys and deer. Hunters and trappers are responsible for knowing rules and regulations on lands they intend to hunt or trap.

Dog Training Regulations

All State Game Lands are closed to all dog-training activities from the Monday prior to the start of the youth pheasant season until the opening day of the statewide pheasant season. On Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas, dog training is prohibited from March 1 through July 31, although there is a proposal to remove the dog training restriction on WPRAs. Check the Game Commission website.

- There is no closed season for training dogs, see exceptions above.
- A hunting or furtaker license is not required for dog training.
- Dogs may not be trained on private land on Sunday without the landowner’s permission.
- A person may not carry a rifle, shotgun or bow and arrows while training dogs.
- Dogs are not permitted to injure or kill wildlife. Owners are liable for any wildlife killed or injured by dogs. When training dogs, hunters need to be aware of and avoid areas, especially wetlands, where birds are nesting.
- All hunters are urged to respect dog owners and their sport. Dogs can be attracted by electronic calling devices, as well as turkey calls. Be sure of your target. While the law requires dogs to be under the control of their owner or handler at all times, dogs often are not within sight of their handler while tracking game. Dogs cannot read no-trespassing signs and do not heed fences. If you see a hunting dog running or barking, its handler probably isn’t far behind. It is unlawful for dogs to chase or pursue big game, however, the Game Commission recommends that dogs not be shot unless they are actually in the act of attacking a big-game animal and there is no other option. If you see a dog or dogs chasing any deer, bear, elk or turkey (dogs are permitted for hunting turkeys in the fall), please contact the Game Commission and report the violation. Hunting-dog owners have significant amounts of time and money invested in their dogs, and they consider their dogs hunting partners and friends. Please do not shoot hunting dogs just because you do not immediately see their handler.
- There are appropriate penalties in the Game and Wildlife Code to deter owners from permitting their dogs to chase big game. If you shoot a dog that is not attacking a big-game animal you could be subject to prosecution under the Crimes Code as a misdemeanor offense, with penalties of up to $5,000 and two years imprisonment, as well as civil liability for the restitution of the dog. Any person who destroys a dog (licensed or unlicensed) attacking a big-game animal must report the incident to the dog’s owner or a game warden within 48 hours, as required by law.
- Electronic devices may be used for locating dogs while training or hunting, including such devices as e-collars, radio-telemetry dog tracking systems and beeper collars.
- In areas that are identified as woodcock habitat management areas, dogs are prohibited for any reason from April 1 to July 15.

Dogs should be handled in a safe and humane manner, with adequate consideration to temperature and ventilation in transportation cages and compartments.
STATE GAME LANDS

Lawful hunting and trapping are permitted on State Game Lands during open seasons, and all Game Lands users are required to adhere to a number of rules that enable the Game Commission to effectively manage and protect these invaluable land holdings.

A complete list of regulations can be found at www.pgc.pa.gov.

A list of state game lands with shooting ranges also can be found online.

Game Lands shooting ranges are for use by hunting or furtaker license holders, and those who possess valid shooting range permits. Range permits, which are effective from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 can be purchased online at The Outdoor Shop. Range permits are not needed when using archery ranges on Game Lands.

Archery ranges are open from dawn to dusk. Rifle and handgun ranges are open from 8 a.m. until sunset, Monday through Saturday, and from noon until sunset Sundays, unless otherwise posted. On Sundays immediately preceding or within regular deer and bear firearms seasons, hours are from 8 a.m. to sunset.

A complete list of shooting range rules can be found online.

Appalachian Trail & Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area

Hunters are reminded that hunting or discharging firearms, and use of off-road vehicles, including ATVs, are prohibited on National Park Service (NPS) lands acquired for the protection of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

Individuals can now possess firearms on national park or refuge lands if they are legally permitted to carry a firearm in the state and municipality where they are located.

Sections of the Appalachian Trail that run through State Game Lands are not subject to the listed regulations.

Please be advised that State Game Lands regulations require any group consisting of 10 or more people using the game lands, including trails, to obtain a Special Use Permit.

Maps that show NPS lands where hunting is prohibited can be viewed at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Regional Office in Boiling Springs, Pa. (717-258-5771).

Small open fires for cooking or warming purposes may be kindled, used and maintained by persons exercising the privileges of a valid hunting, furtaker or fishing license and through-hikers within the corridor of the Appalachian Trail.

This exception to the prohibition on fires is applicable only where the small fires are located at places where adequate precautions are taken to prevent the spread of fire, and the index rating used by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is not High, Very High or Extreme for that area.

The Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area (DEWA) is a unit of the NPS. Trapping, hunting over bait, hunting in standing unharvested crops, Sunday hunting and spotlighting are prohibited. Only portable tree stands can be used and must be removed each day. A PA hunting license is required to hunt in the PA portion of the park. A NJ license is required to hunt in the NJ portion of the park.

Most areas of the DEWA are open to hunting. Check the Compendium of Regulations for any closures at www.nps.gov/dewa/learn/management/compendium.htm.

Each year in Pennsylvania, countless hunters are injured or die in tree stand falls. If each hunter wore a full-body harness, and made sure to attach it to the tree at all times while climbing or hunting, 100 percent of severe falls to the ground could be eliminated. So when you head afield this year, hunt safely, wear a harness every time you hunt from a tree stand. And return home safely to share the stories of every hunt.

Green Means Go

On State Game Lands, recreational riding of horses and bicycles is allowed only on designated trails, marked by the GREEN signs above. Trails that are closed are marked with YELLOW signs. Recreational off-trail riding is not permitted.
Lawful Arms & Ammunition

**DEER AND BEAR, REGULAR SEASONS**
- Manually operated (pump, lever, bolt actions, single-shot) centerfire rifles, and handguns (revolvers or single-shots) with all-lead bullet or ball, or bullet designed to expand on impact;
- Manually operated or semiautomatic centerfire shotguns (shotguns do not have to be plugged) that propel single-projectile ammunition.
- Muzzleloading long guns of any type, 44 caliber or larger, or a muzzleloading handgun 50 caliber or larger, and;
- Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds) or crossbows (minimum 125-pound draw weight), with a broadhead that has an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch and may not exceed 3.25 inches in length. The use of buckshot is not legal, except in the Southeast Special Regulations Area.

**BEAR ARCHERY SEASON**
- Long, recurve and compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds), or crossbows, with a legal broadhead (see broadhead stipulations for deer below).

**DEER ARCHERY SEASONS**
- Long, recurve and compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds), and crossbows, and legal broadheads (an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch and may not exceed 3.25 inches in length). Magnifying scopes and sights such as red dot on crossbows can be used. Persons hunting deer in the archery seasons may not possess a firearm, except those individuals who have a License to Carry Firearms permit, and then only those firearms authorized by the permit (most sporting arms are not authorized). Muzzleloading firearms also can be carried by bowhunters during any muzzleloading season, providing the hunter has an archery license and a muzzleloader license and meets the fluorescent orange requirements of the muzzleloader season.

**BOW & ARROW EQUIPMENT DEFINITIONS**

**Arrow** - A projectile shot from a bow with an overall length exceeding the brace height of the bow with fletching designed only for guidance at the aft end and a broadhead mounted on the fore-end. No electronic tracking device shall be part of or attached to the arrow. No device, material or system capable of causing damage or injury to the animal in excess of that inflicted by the cutting edges of the broadhead shall be part of or attached to any arrow. A projectile for a crossbow is known as a bolt.

**Bow** - A device for launching an arrow, which derives its propulsive energy solely from the bending and recovery of two limbs. The energy used to propel the arrow may not be derived from another source. These limitations shall not exclude the mechanical leverage advantage provided by eccentric wheels or cams so long as the energy stored in the bent limbs of the bow is the sole result of a single, continuous and direct pulling effort by the shooter. The bowstring must be drawn and released as a direct and conscious action by the shooter. Release shall be accomplished by either relaxing the tension of the fingers or triggering the release action of a manually operated release aid.

**Broadhead** - Must have a fixed or mechanical tip having sharpened cutting edges consisting of metal or naturally occurring stone. The broadhead must have an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch, and the length may not exceed 3.25 inches.

**Crossbow** - Must have a draw weight not less than 125 pounds.

**MUSCLELOADDER DEER & BEAR SEASONS**

**October Antlerless Deer Season & Bear Season** - Any single-barrel muzzleloading long gun with flintlock, in-line or percussion ignition 44 caliber or larger, or 50 caliber or larger handgun. Scope sights permitted.

**Flintlock Season** - Flintlock-ignition, single-barrel long guns manufactured prior to 1800, or a similar reproduction of an original muzzleloading single-barrel long gun 44 caliber or larger, or 50 caliber or larger handgun, using a single projectile. It is unlawful to use telescopic sights. Late-season flintlock hunters are permitted to take an antlered deer or an antlerless deer anywhere in the state with their unused antlered deer tag.

**FALL TURKEY SEASON**
- Manually operated rifles and handguns, including rimfires;
- Manually operated and semiautomatic shotguns limited to no more than three shells in the chamber and magazine combined;
- Muzzleloading shotguns, rifles and handguns, and;
- Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds) or crossbows with legal broadheads (see deer and bear section to the left). Single-projectile ammunition or shotshell pellets no larger than No. 4 lead, No. 2 steel or No. 4 of any other composition or alloy of nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- During any fall season in WMU 2B, as well as in Special Regulations Area county, Allegheny, only shotguns and long, recurve, compound bows or crossbows with broadheads of cutting-edge design are permitted.

**SPRING GOBBLER SEASON**
- Manually operated and semiautomatic shotguns limited to no more than three rounds in the chamber and magazine combined;
- Muzzleloading shotguns of all types and gauges; and
- Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds) or crossbows with legal broadheads (see deer and bear section). Shotgun fine shot pellets only, no larger than No. 4 lead, No. 2 steel or No. 4 of any other composition or alloy of nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Rifle/shotgun combinations may be used if ammunition is confined to shotgun shells. Possessing or using single-projectile ammunition, rifles, handguns, dogs, electronic callers or live decoys is unlawful. It is unlawful to conduct drives for turkeys. Hunting by calling only. Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until noon from the opening day through the third Saturday (including the Youth Spring Turkey Hunt), and then to one-half hour after sunset for the remainder of the season. Hunters are asked to be out of the woods by 1 p.m. when closing time is noon.
ELK SEASON

- Manually operated centerfire rifles and handguns at least 27 caliber using all-lead projectiles or bullets of at least 130 grains designed to expand on impact;
- Manually operated or semiautomatic centerfire shotguns (shotguns do not have to be plugged) that propel single-projectile ammunition. Shotguns must be at least 12-gauge;
- Muzzleloading firearms (including handguns) at least 50 caliber propelling a single projectile weighing at least 210 grains;
- Bow with a minimum draw weight of 45 pounds;
- Crossbows with a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds
- Any arrow or crossbow bolt with a broadhead that has an outside diameter or width of at least 1 inch, and the length may not exceed 3.25 inches.

Restrictions

BEAR SEASON

It is unlawful to 1) kill a bear in a den; 2) use a radio to locate a bear to which a radio transmitter has been attached 3) use scents or lures.

BLINDS

Blinds can be used for big game (see turkey section for specifics for blinds while turkey hunting), however, a minimum of 100 square inches of fluorescent orange material (orange alert band will suffice) must be displayed within 15 feet of the blind and visible in a 360-degree arc during the firearms deer, bear and elk seasons. This is in addition to wearing orange while in the blind.

DOGS

It is unlawful to use dogs to hunt elk, bears, deer or spring turkey.

ORGANIZED DRIVES

It is unlawful to drive or herd elk, or drive turkeys. For deer and bear, an unlicensed person who has never held a hunting license in Pennsylvania or any other state may participate in a drive for a properly licensed hunter providing the following requirements are met: The person remains in sight and close to a hunter at least 18 years of age; the unlicensed person does not possess any firearm, bow or other hunting device; and the person complies with requirements for wearing fluorescent orange. The ratio of licensed hunters to non-licensed hunters must not exceed 1:1.

HUNTING PARTIES

It is unlawful to hunt deer, elk or bears in a party of more than 25 persons.

TREE STANDS & BLINDS

It is unlawful while hunting or preparing to hunt to 1) damage any tree on public or private property by constructing a tree stand or using a portable tree stand or device to climb a tree; 2) use or occupy a tree stand that, when constructed, damages a tree. This does not apply to landowners constructing stands on their own property, or persons who have received written permission from a landowner to build or use a tree stand; 3) tree stands on state land can be placed out not more than two weeks before the first and must be removed no later than two weeks after the final deer season in that area. Placing a tree stand does not reserve the area for its owner; other hunters can hunt there. Tree stands and portable hunting blinds left on state game lands and other Hunter Access properties under the Game Commission’s management now need to be conspicuously marked with a durable and legible identification tag that includes the owner’s first and last name and legal home address, or bears the CID number that appears on the owner’s hunting license or a number issued by the Game Commission to the stand or blind owner. Identification numbers can be obtained at The Outdoor Shop on the Game Commission’s website.

SHOOTING AT RANDOM

During the open seasons for deer and bears, it is unlawful to shoot at any target other than legal game. Target shooting is lawful only when done: 1) on property owned by the shooter or by a guest of the property owner; 2) within 200 yards of a camp or headquarters where the shooter is either quartered or an invited guest; 3) at an established shooting range. The target must be protected by a natural or artificial barrier so that the bullet or arrow cannot travel more than 15 yards beyond it.

Reporting Big Game Harvests

Each hunter who harvests a deer or turkey must report it to the Game Commission within 10 days (five days for turkeys or deer taken by mentored hunters, or persons required to make a homemade tag) by sending in a postage-paid report card received with this digest, or making a report online or over the phone. Be sure to read report cards thoroughly before filling out. Use one report card per animal harvested. For second-license turkey and DMAP antlerless deer, where reporting is required regardless of harvest success, be sure to check the “no harvest” box if no game is harvested. Hunters also can report their big-game harvests online at the agency’s website: www.pgc.pa.gov by following instructions given there. Hunters and trappers also can report their deer, turkey, bobcat, fisher and otter harvests over the telephone through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system by calling 1-855-PAHUNT1 (1-855-724-8681). Hunters will need to have their license and their copy of the carcass tags attached to harvested animals available to complete the call; also, with the data captured for particular animals, such as number of points or beard length.

Hunters should record the confirmation number supplied by the IVR system for each animal reported. Harvests submitted through the IVR system will be available for review on the Game Commission’s Internet harvest reporting site; go to www.pgc.pa.gov and follow the link labeled “Report Your Harvest.” Online harvests also can be reviewed on the website. Within 24 hours, each person who harvests a bear or elk must take the animal, along with hunting license and bear or elk license, to a Game Commission check station for examination. Bear check stations are maintained at Game Commission offices and at other locations listed elsewhere in this digest. The Elk Check Station is located at the Elk Country Visitor Center, 950 Winslow Hill Road, Benezette. The GPS coordinates are 41.3231 N and 78.3695 W. Check station hours are Monday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Transporting Big Game

Deer, bear, elk and turkey under transport, including those taken outside of Pennsylvania, must have an appropriate tag completed and attached. Unmarked parts of a big-game carcass taken in Pennsylvania may be transported. Upon request of any Game Commission law-enforcement officer, the name and address of the person who killed the animal must be furnished, along with other information necessary to properly establish legal possession.
Mistake Kill

Any person who by accident or mistake kills any deer (an antlerless deer in mistake for an antlered deer, an antlered deer in mistake for an antlerless deer, or an antlered deer that does not meet required antler restrictions) shall immediately, but no later than 24 hours after the kill, deliver and surrender the entire carcass, less entrails, to any game warden in the county in which it is killed and make a written, sworn statement explaining when, where and how the accident or mistake occurred. Each licensed person who kills any deer shall immediately, and before moving the carcass, fully complete the proper tag in compliance with printed instructions and attach only the tag to the deer’s ear. The deer will be turned in to the game warden, restitution of $25 for each mistake deer shall be paid, and the hunter will be issued another tag to pursue another deer. Failure to report and deliver a deer killed by accident or mistake is punishable with a fine up to $1,500 and license revocation. For information on where to deliver a deer killed by accident or mistake, contact the Game Commission region office servicing the area.

Tagging Big Game

Hunters who harvest a deer, bear, elk or turkey must follow instructions printed on tags supplied with licenses. Big game must be tagged immediately after harvest and before carcass is moved. The tag must be attached to the ear of a deer or bear, or the body of an elk and remain attached until the animal is processed for consumption or prepared for mounting. Turkey tags must be attached to the bird’s leg.

When multiple harvests of deer per day are authorized, only one deer at a time may be taken. Before attempting to take an additional deer, the first deer shall be lawfully tagged. (This doesn’t apply in the Special Regulations Areas.)

Tagging requirements for persons authorized to hunt without a license are identical, except that a homemade tag must be used listing the hunter’s name, address, game harvested and date, time, WMU, county and township where it was taken.

It is unlawful to possess an expired, fulfilled, revoked, suspended or invalid big-game harvest tag or hunting license while engaged in hunting or trapping activities.

Unfit for Consumption

Any person who legally harvests any big-game animal and discovers the flesh is unfit for human consumption at the time of harvest shall, within 12 hours following the discovery, deliver the entire carcass, less entrails, but including the head and hide, to any Game Commission game warden who, being satisfied that the game was unfit for human consumption at the time of harvest, shall issue written authorization to the person to harvest a second animal or bird of the same species during the unexpired portion of the season for that species.

Feral Swine

Feral swine have no place in Pennsylvania. They damage wildlife habitats, will kill birds and young mammals, and transmit a host of dangerous diseases. Because feral swine have no natural predators, they can live anywhere, and reproduce rapidly, and are difficult to control in the best circumstances.

In some areas of the state, protection may be removed from feral swine by an executive order of the director; however, to increase the efficiency of eradication efforts, protection may be applied to townsships or counties where eradication trapping operations actively are being conducted. If you think you may encounter feral swine, refer to www.pgc.pa.gov, for specific details on townships or counties that may have restrictions on incidental shooting of feral swine.

Feral swine may be hunted during lawful daylight hunting hours, except Sundays, with a hunting or furtaker license. However, feral swine may be taken from the first day to the last day inclusive of any big-game season only by persons who have a valid tag and are lawfully engaged in hunting big game. Those hunting feral swine with a firearm are required at all times to wear 250 square inches of fluorescent orange material on the head, chest and back combined.

Firearm and archery equipment is restricted to lawful arms and ammunition identified in the Game & Wildlife Code Sec. 2308. Those killing feral swine, must contact the nearest Game Commission region office within 24 hours, so samples can be collected for disease testing.

STATE FORESTS & STATE PARKS

Firearms and archery equipment may be uncased only in designated hunting areas during the seasons state recreation areas are open to hunting.

In park areas not open to hunting, or during closed hunting seasons, firearms and archery equipment must be kept in the owner’s car, trailer or camp. Hunting, trapping, pursuing or intentionally disturbing wildlife in state parks is prohibited, except that hunting and trapping by licensed hunters and furtakers is permitted in designated areas in compliance with Game Commission regulations. Trapping may be permitted in areas not designated for hunting, but only upon written approval, which is granted only when effective wildlife administration of the area requires trapping.

Dog training is permitted from the day following Labor Day through March 31 in designated hunting areas. Groundhog hunting is prohibited in state parks.

The Bureau of Forestry welcomes hunters and trappers to more than 2 million acres of state forests. Only small areas around occupied buildings are posted. Overnight camping is permitted only in areas designated by the district forester. Required permits are available from local forestry offices. For more information about hunting on state parks, contact the Bureau of State Parks, 8th Floor, P.O. Box 8551, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8551, or your nearest state park.

For more information or maps concerning hunting and recreational activities on state forests, contact the Bureau of Forestry, 6th Floor, P.O. Box 8552, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552. Phone: 717-783-7941, or your nearest forestry office.
Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) are designed to improve wildlife management and, at the same time, simplify hunting and trapping regulations. Pennsylvania uses WMUs to manage all game, except elk, waterfowl and other migratory game birds. When using the Hunting & Trapping Digest, refer to this section whenever an unfamiliar WMU is referenced. See [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov) for larger WMU maps and turn-by-turn descriptions of their boundaries.
**Deer**

**Hunters are limited to 1 antlered deer per license year, and 1 antlerless deer for each antlerless license or permit.**

### Regular Firearms  Nov. 30-Dec. 14

The Regular Firearms season is a statewide season. In most of the state, antlerless deer may be taken only during the second part the season.

**WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D**

- **Antlered & Antlerless** - Nov. 30-Dec. 14

**All Other WMUs**

- **Antlered Only** - Nov. 30-Dec. 6
- **Antlered & Antlerless** - Dec. 7-Dec. 14

### Other deer seasons

#### Archery

- **Antlered & Antlerless**
  - **Statewide**
    - Oct. 5-Nov. 16
    - Dec. 26-Jan. 20
- **WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D**
  - Sept. 21-Nov. 29
  - Dec. 26-Jan. 25

#### Muzzleloader

- **Antlerless Only**
  - **Statewide**
    - Oct. 19-26

#### Special Firearms

- **Antlerless Only**
  - **Statewide**
    - Oct. 24-26
  - **Junior & Senior license holders, Mentored Youth, active-duty military and certain disabled persons**

#### Flintlock

- **Antlered & Antlerless**
  - **Statewide**
    - Dec. 26-Jan. 20

#### Extended Firearms

- **Antlerless Only**
  - **Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery & Philadelphia Counties**
    - Dec. 26-Jan. 25

### License Requirements

A general hunting license is required to hunt in any season. One antlered deer per license year can be taken with a general hunting license.

An unused, antlered deer harvest tag from a general hunting license can be used to take an antlerless deer during the after-Christmas flintlock muzzleloader season.

This is the only season in which the antlered tag can be used for antlerless deer, and each participant in the flintlock muzzleloader season must have a muzzleloader license in addition to a general license.

A muzzleloader license also is needed to participate in the October muzzleloader season for antlerless deer.

With the lone exception of the flintlock muzzleloader season, each hunter must possess an antlerless deer license or DMAP permit in order to hunt or harvest antlerless deer. One antlerless deer may be taken with each valid license or permit.

Each hunter is limited to a maximum of three antlerless licenses in total, however, there is no limit on the number of licenses that can be obtained for WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D. For any WMU, sales of antlerless licenses end when the total number of licenses allocated for that WMU is expended.

The Special Firearms season for antlerless deer is open to junior and senior license holders, mentored youth, active-duty military and certain disabled persons. Resident and nonresident hunters who hold a valid hunting license or qualify for fee exemptions, and who are 65 or will reach their 65th birthday in the year of the license application, are eligible to hunt in the season.

Participants in any archery deer season must possess an archery license in addition to a general license.
Deer Hunting Regulations

Arms & Ammunition

Archery Deer Seasons

- Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds), and crossbows with broadheads of cutting-edge design. An arrow and crossbow bolt must be equipped with a broadhead.
- Magnifying scopes and red-dot sights can be used on crossbows.
- A broadhead is a fixed or mechanical tip affixed to the fore end of an arrow or bolt having sharpened cutting edges consisting of metal or naturally occurring stone. The broadhead must have an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch, and the length may not exceed 3.25 inches.
- Persons hunting deer in the archery seasons may not possess a firearm, except those individuals who have a License to Carry Firearms permit, and then only those firearms authorized by the permit (most sporting arms are not authorized). Muzzleloading firearms also can be carried by bowhunters during any muzzleloading season, providing the hunter has an archery license and a muzzleloader license and meets the fluorescent orange requirements of the muzzleloader season.

Firearms Deer Seasons

- Manually operated centerfire rifles, handguns and shotguns with all-lead bullet or ball, or a bullet designed to expand on impact
- Semiautomatic centerfire shotguns that propel single-projectile ammunition.
- Muzzleloading long guns of any type, 44 caliber or larger, or a muzzleloading handgun 50 caliber or larger; and
- Long, recurve or compound bows and crossbows with broadheads of cutting-edge design.

See Special Regulations Areas section for restrictions that apply there.

October Antlerless Muzzleloader Season

- Any single-barrel muzzleloader long gun with flintlock, percussion or in-line ignition, 44 cal. or larger, or 50 cal. or larger handgun. Scope sights permitted.

Special Antlerless Deer Only Firearms

- Arrows and ammunition permitted during the Regular Firearms Deer Seasons can be used in this season.

Flintlock Muzzleloader Season

- Flintlock ignition, single-barrel long gun, 44 caliber or larger, or 50 caliber or larger handgun, using single-projectile ammunition. It is unlawful to use telescopic sights. Peep sights are permitted.

Fluorescent Orange Requirements

Antlered & Antlerless

- During the regular and special deer seasons, and any extensions of these seasons, all hunters must wear at least 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined (example: orange cap and coat/vest visible 360 degrees). Camouflage fluorescent orange may satisfy this regulation if the total orange content is at least 250 square inches.

Archers

- Fluorescent orange is no longer required while archery hunting for deer. The requirement to wear fluorescent orange during all overlap periods when archery hunters were required to wear varying amounts of orange while moving or post orange while in a fixed position has been eliminated. The use of fluorescent orange, though, is highly recommended for all seasons, whether required or not.

Muzzleloader Deer

- During the late flintlock deer season, muzzleloader hunters are not required to wear or display fluorescent orange. However, during the October antlerless muzzleloader deer season, hunters are required to wear the same 250 square inches of fluorescent orange required of all big-game season hunters. See the Special Regulation Areas section for more details.

Tagging Deer

After harvesting a deer, a hunter must detach the deer harvest tag from his or her license, fill it out using a ballpoint pen and attach it to the ear of the animal. Be sure to use the correct tag and be careful not to attach the actual hunting license. The harvest tags have animal icons on them. There are two holes in the center of the tag that can be punched to insert a string, twist tie or safety pin to attach it to the animal. A safety pin is a good option when a deer is to be mounted. Big game must be tagged immediately after harvest and before the carcass is moved. The tag must remain attached until the animal is processed for consumption or prepared for mounting. The bar code on the right edge of the tag should positioned near the ear tip, unobstructed, so Game Commission personnel can scan it.

CWD UPDATE

Information on Chronic Wasting Disease in Pennsylvania, restrictions that apply within Pennsylvania’s Disease Management Areas and the Game Commission’s management of the disease can be found in the purple section, near the end of this digest. Updated DMA maps are available at:

www.pgc.pa.gov
STATEWIDE, junior license holders, mentored youth, disabled hunters with a permit to use a vehicle, and resident active duty U.S. Armed Services personnel, can harvest antlered deer with two or more points on one antler, or a spike three or more inches in length.

All other hunters must abide by additional antler restrictions

Senior license holders must abide by antler restrictions, as well.

- A point is defined as any antler projection (including the brow tine) at least one inch in length from base to tip. The brow tine is the point immediately above the antler burr.
- The main beam tip shall be counted as a point regardless of length.
- An antlerless deer will remain defined as a deer without antlers, or a deer with antlers, both of which are less than 3 inches in length. A protected deer is one not defined as an antlered deer or an antlerless deer.

In most of the state

hunters are required to abide by three points on one side.

In WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B & 2D

hunters are required to abide by “three up”; three points, including the main beam counted as one of the points, on one side, excluding the brow tine (the point immediately above the antler burr).
Antler Restrictions

Armed Services personnel, can harvest antlered deer with two or more points on one antler, or a spike three or more inches in length. Statewide, junior license holders, mentored youth, disabled hunters with a permit to use a vehicle, and resident active duty U.S. hunters are required to abide by three points on one side. All other hunters must abide by additional antler restrictions. Senior license holders must abide by antler restrictions, as well.

• A protected deer is one not defined as an antlered deer or an antlerless deer. A deer with antlers, both of which are less than 3 inches in length. An antlerless deer will remain defined as a deer without antlers, or the brow tine (the point immediately above the antler burr).

• The main beam tip shall be counted as a point regardless of length. A point is defined as any antler projection (including the brow tine) at least one inch in length from base to tip. The brow tine is the point immediately above the antler burr.

• In most of the state, In WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B & 2D, the brow tine (the point immediately above the antler burr).

Application Schedule

July 8  Residents
July 15  Nonresidents
Aug. 5  Unsold, 1st round
Aug. 19  Unsold, 2nd round
Aug. 26  Over-the-counter sales
          WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D
Oct. 7  Over-the-counter sales
        All other WMUs

• By mail only, until over-the-counter sales begin.
• One application per hunter per round, except beginning Aug. 5 in WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D. Up to two applications per hunter in the unsold, first round, if hunter did not receive license in the regular first round. Up to three applications per hunter in second round unsold, if hunter did not receive license in the previous rounds.
• Over-the-counter sales are sold only at county treasurer offices.

Application Instructions

• Application forms can be obtained on:
  • The yellow panel issued with the license;
  • The Game Commission website;
  • Attached with the harvest report cards in this digest.

• Cost for each antlerless license is $6.90 for residents and $26.90 for nonresidents.

• On the application form, the hunter must enter at least one Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) preference.

• The hunter may select up to three WMU preferences. If the first is sold out, a license will be issued for the second, or if necessary, the third preference based on license availability.

• A guide to WMUs, including boundary maps, is found elsewhere in this digest.

• Please print plainly and remember to sign and date your application.

• Include a check or money order, which must be in U.S. dollars and payable to “County Treasurer.”

• The completed antlerless deer license applications and check or money order must be placed in the official pink envelope described above and mailed directly to any County Treasurer of your choice (addresses listed in this section).

• Do not mail applications to the Game Commission.

Group Applications

• If you apply with others as a group (limit of three individual applications per envelope), for the same WMU preferences, submit one check or money order for all applications.

• If two or three applicants apply together in the same envelope, and one or more of the applications is not complete, all of the applications may be rejected and returned.

• If each of the applicants selects different WMU preferences, a separate check or money order for each application is strongly recommended.

• All applications could be rejected if one cannot be processed because a selected WMU sold out.

Application Status

• County Treasurers will accept applications on a first-come, first-served basis. No drawings will be held.

• Successful applicants will receive their antlerless deer licenses after the 2nd Monday in September.

• Hunters can check on the status of an antlerless deer license application by visiting www.pgc.pa.gov, clicking on Buy a License, then (PALS) and selecting the first option, which includes checking on application status.

• If the license allocations for all WMU preferences are sold out, the application will be returned to the hunter. The hunter may apply to another WMU where licenses are available by using a new pink envelope.
Antlerless Licenses

Incomplete Application
- If an application is not complete and/or proper remittance is not enclosed, it will be rejected and returned to the applicant.

Insufficient Postage
- If the applicant failed to provide return postage, no license will be issued and the envelope will be placed in a dead letter file in the County Treasurer’s office. Hunters can retrieve their dead letters by contacting the County Treasurer for instructions.

Antlerless Deer License Regulations
- Antlerless deer licenses are WMU-specific. An antlerless deer license is valid only in the WMU for which it is issued. The use or attempted use of an antlerless license in another WMU is a violation of the law. County Treasurers may issue licenses for any WMU, not just units within their county.
- Applications are limited to no more than three per envelope.
- Applications will not be accepted by County Treasurers prior to the start of the application period. Applications will be rejected and returned.
- A person may apply for and receive no more than three antlerless licenses in a license year (1 regular antlerless license and 2 unsold antlerless licenses), with the exception of WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D. Elsewhere in the state, obtaining more than three licenses is against the law and carries a $100 fine.
- All hunters must have a valid antlerless deer license or permit to harvest an antlerless deer. Exception: During the after-Christmas flintlock season, a properly licensed flintlock hunter may use his or her unused antlered tag to harvest an antlerless deer anywhere in the state. A WMU-specific antlerless license, or valid DMAP permit, is required for each additional antlerless deer harvested.
- Archers must have a valid antlerless deer license or permit to harvest an antlerless deer. Muzzleloader hunters must have a valid antlerless deer license or permit to participate in the antlerless-only muzzleloader deer season (Oct. 19-26).
- Junior and Senior license holders, Disabled Person Permit (to use a vehicle) holders and Pennsylvania residents serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces must have a valid antlerless deer license or permit to participate in the Special Antlerless Only Firearms season (Oct. 24-26).
- Once obtained, a properly licensed hunter may use an antlerless deer license in any season in which it is legal to harvest an antlerless deer.
- Each antlerless deer license includes its own ear tag.

Landowner Antlerless Deer Licenses

Qualified resident and nonresident applicants for landowner antlerless deer licenses (see license section in the back of this digest for qualifications) must apply directly to the County Treasurer of the county where the qualifying acreage is located.
- These licenses must be applied for prior to the start of the regular application period, which begins the second Monday in July. If the qualifying acreage is located within a county with two or more WMUs, the applicant selects the WMU he or she desires.
- If the applicant or his or her agent cannot apply in person, the applicant should mail his or her antlerless deer license application, proper remittance ($6.90 for residents, $26.90 for nonresidents), proof of ownership and a Landowner Antlerless Deer License Application/Affidavit (available from Treasurers, Game Commission offices, or the agency’s website) to the Treasurer in a plain envelope marked “Landowner Antlerless Application.”
- Applicants who apply by mail must include a self-addressed, stamped return envelope. Do not use the pink Official Antlerless Deer License Application Envelope or mail the material to the Game Commission.

Disabled Veteran Antlerless Deer Licenses

Qualified resident applicants who have a service-incurred 100% disability, or the loss of use of one or more limbs, may apply to any County Treasurer for the WMU in which they desire to hunt. Regardless of allocations or application deadlines, only one antlerless deer tag is guaranteed.
- If an applicant or his or her agent cannot apply in person, the applicant should mail the antlerless deer license application, $6.90 remittance and supporting documents (Veterans Administration form letter) directly to a County Treasurer in a plain envelope marked “Disabled Veteran Antlerless Application.”
- Applicants who apply by mail must include a self-addressed, stamped return envelope. Do not use the pink Official Antlerless Deer License Application Envelope or mail the material to the Game Commission. Application for these licenses may occur at any time during the license year. Resident disabled war veterans with a service-incurred disability rating between 60% and 99%, do not qualify for this license.

Armed Forces Antlerless Deer Licenses

Qualified residents serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, or within 60 days from honorable discharge, may apply to any County Treasurer for the WMU in which they desire to hunt. Regardless of allocations or application deadlines, only one antlerless deer license is guaranteed.
- If the applicant or his or her agent cannot apply in person, the antlerless deer license application, $6.90 remittance and supporting documentation (official orders) may be mailed to a County Treasurer using a plain envelope marked “Armed Forces Antlerless Application.”
- Applicants who apply by mail must include a self-addressed, stamped return envelope. Do not use the pink Official Antlerless Deer License Application Envelope or mail the material to the Game Commission. Application for these licenses may occur at any time during the license year.

Replacement Antlerless Deer Licenses

Applicants who lose their antlerless deer license may obtain a replacement by applying to any County Treasurer.
- If the applicant or his or her agent cannot apply in person, their completed, mail-order Application/Affidavit for Replacement of a Lost Antlerless Deer License (form available on the Game Commission’s website) and $6.90 remittance may be mailed to a County Treasurer using a plain envelope marked “Replacement Antlerless Application.” Applicants must include a self-addressed, stamped return envelope.
- Do not use the pink Official Antlerless Deer License Application Envelope or mail the material to the Game Commission.
Antlerless Licenses

The Treasurer of the county where the qualifying acreage is located.

Antlerless deer licenses (see license section in the back of this digest).

- **Firearms season (Oct. 24-26).**
  - Junior and Senior license holders, Disabled Person Permit (to harvest an antlerless deer. Muzzleloader hunters must have an antlerless license, or valid DMAP permit, is required for each antlerless tag.)

Antlerless deer licenses are WMU-specific. An antlerless deer tag is guaranteed.

- **Only Firearms season (Oct. 24-26).**
  - Applicants who apply by mail must include a self-addressed, stamped return envelope. Do not use the pink Official Antlerless Deer License Application.

**Antlerless Application.** Applicants must include a self-addressed, stamped return envelope. Do not use the pink Official Antlerless Deer License Application.

**Replacement Antlerless Deer Licenses**

If an application is not complete and/or proper remittance is not received, the application will be placed in a dead letter file in the Game Commission’s offices.

If the applicant failed to provide return postage, no license will be issued and the envelope will be placed in a dead letter file in the Game Commission’s offices.

- **This year’s allocation, the increase or decrease from last year, and 2018 sell-out date provided.**

2019-20 ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSE ALLOCATION

This year’s allocation, the increase or decrease from last year, and 2018 sell-out date provided.

| WMU 1A | 49,000 (+1,000) | 10/31 | WMU 2G | 26,000 (-4,000) | 8/9 |
| WMU 1B | 35,000 (-2,000) | 8/9 | WMU 2H | 6,000 (+/- 0) | 7/16 |
| WMU 2A | 46,000 (-3,000) | N/A | WMU 3A | 20,000 (-2,000) | 8/21 |
| WMU 2B | 54,000 (-4,000) | N/A | WMU 3B | 38,000 (+9,000) | 8/9 |
| WMU 2C | 52,000 (+8,000) | 8/22 | WMU 3C | 46,000 (+8,000) | 8/20 |
| WMU 2D | 66,000 (+3,000) | 8/22 | WMU 3D | 25,000 (+/- 0) | 8/9 |
| WMU 2E | 32,000 (-5,000) | 8/20 | WMU 4A | 41,000 (+3,000) | N/A |
| WMU 2F | 31,000 (+8,000) | 7/16 | WMU 4B | 32,000 (+6,000) | 8/6 |
| WMU 4C | 36,000 (+6,000) | 8/9 |
| WMU 4D | 46,000 (+12,000) | 8/6 |
| WMU 4E | 34,000 (+2,000) | 8/8 |
| WMU 5A | 22,000 (-1,000) | 9/25 |
| WMU 5B | 67,000 (+9,000) | 9/10 |
| WMU 5C | 70,000 (+/- 0) | 8/27 |
| WMU 5D | 29,000 (+1,000) | 8/27 |

**ANTLERLESS LICENSE APPLICATIONS**

Can be found on the Game Commission’s website & supplied with harvest report cards.
**Pennsylvania Game Commission**

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**Deer Management Assistance Program**

**DMAP allows hunters to assist landowners achieve deer-management goals**

**For Landowners:**

Public landowners, political subdivisions, government agencies, private landowners or lessees where no fee is charged for hunting, and any defined hunting club are eligible for the program.

A hunting club is defined as a corporation or legal cooperative that owns its enrolled acres in fee title, was established prior to January 1, 2000, and has provided its club charter and list of current members to the Game Commission.

Landowners can download applications and instructions from the Game Commission’s website at www.pgc.pa.gov.

Applications must be submitted to local Game Commission region offices and postmarked by May 1.

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**Finding Landowner Information**

Contact information for public lands and some private lands enrolled in DMAP will be posted on the Game Commission website (www.pgc.pa.gov).

For more information on the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources’ (DCNR) bureaus of Forestry and State Parks participation in the DMAP program, visit DCNR’s website at www.dcnr.pa.gov.

Contact information for private landowners enrolled in DMAP will be posted on the Game Commission’s website only with permission of the landowner. Hunters without access to the Internet can obtain listings of eligible DMAP properties by mailing a self-addressed, stamped envelope, along with a letter indicating their county of interest, to the Game Commission region office responsible for that particular county.

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**For Hunters:**

Hunters can get up to two DMAP harvest permits per property. Hunters can apply for DMAP antlerless harvest permits as soon as landowner applications are approved and landowners are notified by the Game Commission.

For DMAP participating hunters, DMAP coupon redemption will be done at any license issuing agent or over the Game Commission website.

For landowners receiving coupons, they must distribute them to hunters and then the hunters must take their coupon to any license issuing agent or access the Game Commission website to acquire the antlerless deer harvest permits.

For landowners choosing the “no coupon” option, hunters will need to contact the landowner (or visit the Game Commission’s website, if the landowner chose to make a property available for public hunting) to get the DMAP unit number for the area, then they must go to any license issuing agent or the Game Commission website to get an antlerless deer permit for this DMAP property.

A DMAP harvest permit costs $10.90 for a resident, and $35.90 for a nonresident. Each DMAP harvest permit is good for taking one antlerless deer on the property for which the DMAP harvest permit was issued.

Hunting may take place during all seasons for the taking of antlerless deer by using the sporting arm and/or implement allowed during that season. The hunter must be properly licensed for the season; for example, archery or muzzleloader licenses are required during those seasons.

In WMUs where the firearms deer season is antlered-only from Nov. 30-Dec. 6, DMAP permit holders may harvest antlerless deer on DMAP properties from Nov. 30-Dec. 6.

A mentor can transfer one DMAP harvest permit issued to him or her to an eligible mentored youth or mentored adult (see Mentored Hunting Programs elsewhere in this digest). The DMAP permit shall be valid and in the possession of the mentor at all times while hunting antlerless deer. The transfer of the DMAP permit may not occur until after the mentored youth or mentored adult has harvested the antlerless deer, but before tagging the carcass. A mentored youth or mentored adult is ineligible to make direct application for a DMAP harvest permit.

Reporting is mandatory for all DMAP harvest permits issued, regardless of harvest success.

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**Hunters: Help Us Detect Tuberculosis**

We want to prevent TB from being introduced into the wild white-tailed deer and elk herds in Pennsylvania. The bacteria known as Mycobacterium bovis can cause infection in most mammal species. Some wildlife species susceptible to bovine TB include: white-tailed deer, elk, bison, mule deer, black bears, bobcats, coyotes, opossums, raccoons and foxes. We are asking hunters who observe anything that resembles this photo to contact the Game Commission immediately. These abscesses may be found in tissues throughout the body, as well as in the tonsils and lymph nodes. When cut open, these nodules contain yellow-green or tan pus. Tan or yellow lumps may be found throughout the chest cavity and in the lungs. The lungs also may develop dark and firm areas. Read more about TB on the Game Commission’s website at www.pgc.pa.gov.
Deer

All Special Regulations Area counties are now contained within the Wildlife Management Unit system. Seasons and antler restriction requirements are based mostly on these units and general deer seasons. However, certain laws and regulations in regards to arms and ammunition still apply to specific counties in Special Regulations Areas. Also, the regulation: when multiple harvests of deer per day are authorized, only one deer at a time may be taken; before attempting to take an additional deer, the first deer shall be lawfully tagged, does not apply when hunting in Special Regulations Areas.

Deer & Bear Season, Arms & Ammunition

- Allegheny County – Muzzleloading long guns 44 caliber or larger, bows and arrows, crosbows, manual or semiautomatic shotguns, .410 or larger using slugs. Buckshot is not permitted.
- Philadelphia County – Only bows and arrows, including crossbows.
- Remaining Counties – Muzzleloading long guns, 44 caliber or larger, manual or semiautomatic shotguns, .410 or larger, using slugs; 20-gauge or larger, using buckshot, bows and crosbows. Crossbows must have a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds. Ridley Creek and Tyler state parks – Manual or semiautomatic shotguns 20-gauge or larger using buckshot during special regulated deer hunts only, bows and arrows and crosbows.

Small Game, Furbearers & Crows, Arms & Ammunition

Manually operated or semiautomatic shotguns plugged to a 3-shell capacity; manually operated or semiautomatic 22-caliber or less rimfire rifles and manually operated 22-caliber or less rimfire shotguns; and bows and crosbows. Buckshot is not permitted. A manually operated or semiautomatic air rifle or manually operated air handgun that propel a single-projectile pellet or bullet for small game in calibers from .177 to .22. Woodchucks and furbearers, air guns must be 22-caliber. BB ammunition cannot be used.

Lawful While Trapping

Manually operated or semiautomatic 22-caliber or less rimfire rifles and manually operated 22-caliber or less rimfire handguns. A manually operated or semiautomatic air rifle or manually operated air handgun in calibers from .177 to .22 that propel a single-projectile pellet or bullet. BB ammunition cannot be used.

Fluorescent Orange Requirements

**OCTOBER MUZZLELOADER ANTLERLESS SEASON**
Oct. 19-26
- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, and visible from 360 degrees, is required at all times.

**SPECIAL FIREARMS ANTLERLESS SEASON (STATEWIDE)**
Oct. 24-26
Junior, senior license holders, disabled person permit holders and PA residents serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces
- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, and visible from 360 degrees, is required at all times.

**DEER FIREARMS SEASON (ANTLERED AND ANTLERLESS, STATEWIDE)**
Nov. 30-Dec. 14
- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, and visible from 360 degrees, is required at all times.

**FLINTLOCK SEASON (ANTLERED AND ANTLERLESS)**
WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D: Dec. 26-Jan. 25; Other WMUs Dec. 26-Jan. 20
- Fluorescent orange is not required, but keep in mind a firearms deer season is open and it is suggested that orange be worn.

**EXTENDED ANTLERLESS FIREARMS SEASON**
Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties: Dec. 26-Jan. 25
- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, and visible from 360 degrees, is required at all times.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS AREAS INCLUDE:**

- In western Pennsylvania, all of Allegheny County.
- In southeastern Pennsylvania, all of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties, and also during special controlled hunts at Ridley Creek and Tyler state parks.

**PRIVATE PROPERTY DEER BAITING**

A baiting permit no longer is needed when using bait to hunt deer on private property in the Southeast Special Regualtions Area. However, other requirements remain. Bait used within the Southeast Special Regulations Area must be shelled corn or protein-pellet supplements; bait accumulation must not exceed 5 gallons at any time; bait only can be used from two weeks before the opening of the first deer season to the close of the last deer season; automatic mechanical feeders must be used; and feeders must distribute bait during hunting hours, no more than three times a day. Landowners and hunters need to ensure bait sites comply with regulations. While the use of bait while hunting is prohibited broadly in Pennsylvania, it is allowed conditionally on private property within the Southeast Special Regulations Area, where traditional hunting and deer-control methods have proven ineffective.
Fall season 1 bird, either sex

Nov. 2-9
- WMU 1B

Nov. 2-9; Nov. 28-29
- WMUs 1A, 2A, 4A & 4B

Nov. 2-16; Nov. 28-29
- WMUs 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4D & 4E

Nov. 2-22; Nov. 28-29
- WMUs 2B & 2C

Nov. 7-9
- WMU 5A

Nov. 5-7
- WMU 5B

Closed to fall hunting
- WMUs 5C & 5D

Arms & Ammunition
1) Manually operated rifles and handguns, including rimfires; 2) Manually operated and semiautomatic shotguns limited to a three-shell capacity in the chamber and magazine combined; 3) Muzzleloading shotguns, rifles and handguns; and 4) Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds) or crossbows with a broadhead that has a fixed or mechanical tip affixed to the fore end of an arrow or bolt having sharpened cutting edges consisting of metal or naturally occurring stone. The broadhead must have an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch, and the length may not exceed 3.25 inches. Single-projectile ammunition or shot no larger than No. 4 lead, No. 2 steel or No. 4 of any other U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service-approved nontoxic shot. The fall seasons in WMU 2B (and the Allegheny County portion of 2A) are limited to shotguns and long, recurve, or compound bows or crossbows.

Fluorescent Orange
Turkey hunters are no longer required to wear fluorescent orange material, although it is strongly recommended that they do so.

Mentored Hunters
Mentored Youth and Mentored Adult hunters may participate. Birds taken by any mentored hunter must be tagged with harvest tag transferred from his or her mentor.

Dogs
Dogs may be used during the fall season.

Spring season Up to 2 bearded birds, (1 per day) with proper licenses.

SPRING TURKEY HUNTING IS OPEN STATEWIDE

YOUTH HUNT
April 25, 2020

STATEWIDE SEASON
May 2-30, 2020

Hunting Hours
Hunting hours during the April 25 youth hunt, and from May 2 to May 16 of the statewide season begin one-half hour before sunrise and end at noon. Hunters are asked to be out of the woods by 1 p.m. during those periods. From May 18 to May 30, hunting hours begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset.

Arms & Ammunition
1) Manually operated and semiautomatic shotguns limited to a three-shell capacity in the chamber and magazine combined; 2) Muzzleloading shotguns of all types and gauges; 3) Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds) or crossbows with legal broadheads (see broadhead requirements in fall season section);

Fine shot no larger than No. 4 lead, No. 2 steel or No. 4 of any other approved nontoxic shot. Rifle/shotgun combination guns may be used if ammunition is limited to shotgun shells. Carrying or using single-projectile ammunition, rifles or handguns is unlawful.

Mentored Hunters
Mentored Youth and Mentored Adult hunters may participate. Harvest tags are provided to Mentored Adults and Mentored Youth older than 7. Birds taken by Mentored Youth younger than 7 must be tagged with a harvest tag transferred from the youth’s mentor. Each mentored hunter may take only one turkey during the spring.

Youth Hunt
Only licensed junior hunters and properly permitted Mentored Youth may participate, and must be accompanied by an adult as required by law (see License Information section). Each hunter may harvest only one bearded bird during the Youth Hunt. Birds harvested by Mentored Youth under age 7 must be tagged with a harvest tag transferred from the Youth’s mentor.

No Stalking
Hunting by calling only.

Bearded Birds
Only turkeys with visible beards are legal. It is suggested, though, that hunters refrain from knowingly harvesting bearded hens because they nest and raise broods.

Dogs
Dogs may not be used during the spring season.
**Blinds**

The use of turkey blinds is legal under the following definition: Any artificial or manufactured turkey blind consisting of all manmade materials of sufficient density to block the detection of movement within the blind from an observer outside the blind.

Artificial or manufactured turkey blinds consisting of all manmade materials means blinds must be constructed of plastic, nylon, canvas, cotton cloth, plywood or other manmade materials.

Blinds made by piling rocks, logs, branches, etc. are unlawful. The blind must completely enclose the hunter on all four sides and from above to block the detection of movement within the blind.

Turkey-hunting blinds that represent the fanned tails of gobblers are illegal to use in Pennsylvania because they do not hide all hunter movement from behind or within.

Portable hunting blinds left on state game lands and other Hunter Access properties under the Game Commission’s management now need to be conspicuously marked with a durable and legible identification tag that includes the owner’s first and last name and legal home address, or bears the CID number that appears on the owner’s hunting license or a number issued by the Game Commission to the blind owner. Identification numbers can be obtained at The Outdoor Shop on the Game Commission’s website.

**Tagging, Reporting Requirements**

Successful turkey hunters must follow all instructions printed on tags supplied with licenses.

Separate tags are provided for fall and spring seasons. The turkey must be tagged immediately after harvest and before the carcass is moved. The tag must be securely attached to a leg until the bird is prepared for consumption or mounting. Once you have used your tag, it is unlawful to possess it in the field. Also, please remember to remove your old hunting license from your possession while in the field. It is unlawful to possess old licenses while hunting.

Within 10 days of harvest (five days for mentored hunters), turkey hunters must report harvests to the Game Commission, either by going online to the Game Commission’s website, www.pgc.pa.gov, or calling toll-free.

Hunters reporting their turkey harvests over the telephone through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system can call 1-855-PAHUNT1 (1-855-724-8681). Hunters will need to have their license and their copy of the carcass tag attached to the harvested turkey available to complete the call.

Hunters should record the confirmation number supplied by the IVR system for the turkey reported.

All hunters reporting harvests are asked to identify the WMU, county and township where the bird was taken.

Hunters who purchase a second spring gobbler license have a mandatory reporting requirement, regardless of whether they harvest a bird using this special license. For more details, see the “Tagging, Transporting & Reporting” section under “Big Game Regulations” in this digest.

**Live Decoys, Drives and Electronic Calls**

In both spring and fall turkey seasons, it is unlawful to possess or use live turkeys as decoys, or conduct drives for turkeys or use electronic callers or devices.

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**Bald Eagles & Lead**

Lead in the environment is dangerous to eagles. You can help.

- Choose to use non-lead ammunition and tackle to prevent lead from entering the environment.
- Bury the carcass or gut pile to prevent scavengers from accessing lead fragments.

Learn more at www.pgc.pa.gov
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It is unlawful to “intentionally lay or place food, fruit, hay, grain, chemicals, salt or other minerals that may cause bears to congregate or habituate in an area.” In addition, if nuisance bears are being attracted to an area by any other wildlife feeding, game wardens can issue written notice to temporarily halt the activity.

**Bear Feeding Ban**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hunters are limited to harvesting 1 bear per license year.</th>
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**Archery**
- **WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D**
  - **Statewide**
  - **Nov. 21-Dec. 29**
  - **WMU 5B**
  - **Oct. 5-Nov. 16**

**Muzzleloader**
- **Statewide**
  - **Nov. 19-26**
  - **WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D**
  - **Nov. 30-Dec. 14**

**Special Firearms**
- **Statewide**
  - **Nov. 23 & Nov. 25-27**

**Extended Season**
- **WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D**
  - **Nov. 30-Dec. 14**
- **WMUs 1B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E & 5A**
  - **Nov. 30-Dec. 7**

**Statewide**
- **Oct. 19-26**
- **Oct. 24-26**

**Archery**
- **Includes Crossbow**

**Arms & Ammunition**
1) Manually operated centerfire rifles, handguns and shotguns with all-lead bullet or ball, or a bullet designed to expand on impact (buckshot is illegal); 2) semiautomatic centerfire shotgun that propels single-projectile ammunition; 3) muzzleloading long guns of any type, 44 caliber or larger, or a muzzleloading handgun 50 caliber or larger; and 4) long, recurve or compound bows (draw weights at least 35 pounds), or crossbows with weight minimum of 125 pounds. A broadhead is a fixed or mechanical tip affixed to the fore end of an arrow or bolt having sharpened cutting edges consisting of metal or naturally occurring stone. The broadhead must have an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch, and the length may not exceed 3.25 inches.

**Tagging & Reporting**
A successful bear hunter must complete all information on the tag and attach it to the bear’s ear immediately after harvest, and before the carcass is moved. In addition, within 24 hours, each hunter who harvests a bear must take the animal, along with his or her hunting license and bear license, to a Game Commission check station for examination. Bear check stations are listed in this section. Bears should be field-dressed before being brought to a check station, as Game Commission personnel do not need to examine reproductive tracts. Check stations are open on each day of the regular firearms bear season, and on select days of the extended seasons. Hunters harvesting bears during the statewide archery, muzzleloader or special firearms bear seasons, or during any early season in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D, should contact the appropriate Game Commission region office for instructions to have the animals checked. Hunters with bears to be checked after check stations close on Nov. 27, or Dec. 9-14 in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D, should contact the appropriate region office. Once you have used your tag, it is unlawful to possess it in the field. Keep in mind that if you purchase a bear license through PALS online, you cannot hunt for bear until the physical license is delivered to you with a harvest tag.

**Licenses**
A general hunting license is required to hunt in any season. Bear hunters must have a bear license in addition to a general license. A bear license allows hunters to participate in the bear archery and bear muzzleloader season. There no longer is a split schedule for bear-license sales. Bear licenses are available to purchase from the time general hunting licenses go on sale through the Dec. 14 close of the last extended seasons.

**Fluorescent Orange**
Bear hunters during firearms seasons, including the muzzleloader season, must wear at least 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, visible from 360 degrees. Camouflage fluorescent orange will satisfy this regulation if the total orange content is at least 250 square inches. No fluorescent orange is required for hunting during the archery season.

**Restrictions**
It is unlawful to:
- Kill a bear in a den;
- Use a radio to locate a bear to which a radio transmitter has been attached;
- Hunt on areas where artificial or natural bait, hay, grain, fruit, nuts, salt, chemicals, minerals or other foods – including residue – are used, or have been used as an enticement to lure wildlife within the past 30 days;
- Use scents or lures;
- Hunt bears in a party of more than 25 persons.
**Check stations statewide are open each day through the regular firearms bear season. Hours are:**

- **Saturday, Nov. 23** – 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **Sunday, Nov. 24** – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **Monday, Nov. 25** – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 26** – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Nov. 27** – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**NORTHWEST REGION**

- **Forest County** – Allegheny National Forest, Marienville Ranger Station, Rt. 66 approx. 1.5 miles north of Marienville– 41.48806 N, 79.1025 W
- **Jefferson County** – Friendship Hose Company #1, Interstate 80, Exit 97, Rt. 830 W (Slab Run Road/First Street), right on 1st Street in Falls Creek, then 600 feet on right– 41.1458166 N, 78.7985611 W
- **Venango County** – Northwest Region Office, 1509 Pittsburgh Road, Franklin– 41.36734 N, 79.859747 W
- **Warren County** – Tidoute Borough Fire Hall, 228 Main Street, Tidoute– 41.68278 N, 79.40444 W

**SOUTHWEST REGION**

- **Indiana County** – Homer City Fire Department, 25 West Church Street in Homer City– 40.54189 N, 79.16193 W
- **Somerset County** – New Centerville Rural Fire Dept., on Rt. 281 in New Centerville– 39.9420 N, 79.1950 W
- **Westmoreland County** – Southwest Region Office, Rt. 711, 7 miles north of Ligonier– 40.3140 N, 79.1480 W

**NORTHCENTRAL REGION**

- **Clearfield County** – PGC Maintenance Building along the Quehanna Highway, about 3.5 miles south of the intersection with Wykoff Run Road about 4.5 miles north of Karthaus– 41.1901 N, 78.14594 W
- **Clinton County** – Chapman Twp. Fire Hall, four miles south of Renovo on Rt. 120 in North Bend– 41.34861 N, 77.70038 W
- **Lycoming County** – Antes Fort Fire Hall, 1/4 mile south of NC Region Office on Rt. 44– 41.1909 N, 77.22612 W
- **Lycoming County** – Trout Run Fire Hall, Rt. 14– 41.38587 N, 77.05572 W
- **McKean County** – Mt. Jewett Fire Hall on U.S. Rt. 6– 41.7241 N, 78.64347 W
- **Potter County** – Coudersport Fire Hall on U.S. Rt. 6, west of town– 41.76788 N, 78.02842 W
- **Tioga County** – Wellsboro Fire Company Social Building, U.S. Rt. 6 in center of town– 41.7495961 N, 77.2967266 W

**SOUTHCENTRAL REGION**

- **Fulton County** – Buchanan State Forest Bldg., 5 miles east of Breezewood on Rt. 30 – 40.0172 N, 78.1505 W
- **Huntingdon County** – Huntingdon Nat’l Guard Armory, 10034 Raystown Rd., Huntingdon– 40.4885 N, 78.0480 W
- **Snyder County** – Beavertown Hose Company, 222 S. Sassafras Street, Beaverton– 40.7529 N, 77.166542 W

**NORTHEAST REGION**

- **Carbon County** – Beltzville State Park Main. Bldg., 2950 Pohopoco Dr., just east of Exit 74 PA Turnpike NE Ext. (I-476) – 40.863781 N, 75.628489 W
- **Lackawanna County** – Lackawanna State Park Maintenance Bldg., behind park office on Rt. 524; from I-81 take Exit 199 and go 3 miles west on 524– 41.5655 N, 75.7026 W
- **Luzerne** – Northeast Region Office, 3917 Memorial Highway, Dallas– 41.342975 N, 75.991387 W
- **Monroe County** – SGL 127 Bldg., Rt. 423, 2 miles south of Tobyhanna– 41.168317 N, 75.439614 W
- **Pike County** – SGL 180 Shohola Bldg., Rt. 6 at Shohola Falls, 13 miles south of Hawley– 41.3862 N, 74.9758 W
- **Sullivan County** – DCNR Loyalsock State Forest Resource Management Center, 6735 Rt. 220, 7 miles south of Dushore– 41.439228 N, 76.4646 W

**SOUTHEAST REGION**

- **Berks County** – Southeast Region Office, 253 Snyder Road, 7 miles north of Reading– 40.440840 N, 75.911236 W
- **Dauphin County** – PGC Headquarters, 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg– 40.2934 N, 76.8553 W

Hunters harvesting bears anywhere during the statewide archery, muzzleloader, or special firearms bear seasons, or during any early season in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D, should contact the appropriate region office for instructions to have the animals checked.
Bear Check Stations

Check stations are open in select WMUs during the extended bear season. Dates and hours of operation vary.

See preceding page for specific location information if not provided.

NORTHWEST REGION

Venango County – Northwest Region Office
Saturdays 11/30 & 12/7, Noon- 7 p.m.
Sunday 12/1, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Monday through Friday 12/2-12/6, 8 a.m- 7 p.m.

Warren County – State Game Lands 143 Building
375 Moore Lane, Pittsfield - 41.823172 N, 079.435473 W
Saturdays 11/30 & 12/7, Noon- 7 p.m.

SOUTHWEST REGION

Westmoreland County – Southwest Region Office
Saturdays 11/30 & 12/7, Noon- 7 p.m.
Sunday 12/1, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Monday through Friday 12/2-12/6, 8 a.m- 7 p.m.

Somerset County – New Centerville Rural Fire Dept.
Saturdays 11/30 & 12/7, Noon- 7 p.m.
Sunday 12/1, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.
Monday 12/2, Noon- 7 p.m

NORTHCENTRAL REGION

Lycoming County – Northcentral Region Office, 1566 S. Rt.
44 Hwy., P.O. 5038, Jersey Shore -41.1911 N, 77.2315 W
Saturdays 11/30 & 12/7, Noon- 7 p.m.
Sunday 12/1, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Monday through Friday 12/2-12/6, 8 a.m- 7 p.m.

Potter County – Coudersport Fire Hall
Saturdays 11/30 & 12/7, Noon- 7 p.m.
Sunday 12/1, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Monday through Friday 12/2-12/6, Noon- 7 p.m.

Tioga County – DCNR Wilson Point Maintenance
Headquarters, Ansonia, a half-mile south of Rt. 6 on Colton Road -41.73934 N, 77.43323 W
Saturdays 11/30 & 12/7, Noon- 7 p.m.
Sunday 12/1, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Monday 12/2 & Tuesday 12/3, Noon- 7 p.m.

SOUTHEAST REGION

Fulton County – Buchanan State Forest Building, 5 miles east of Breezewood on Rt. 30-40.0172 N, 78.1505 W
Saturdays 11/30 & 12/7, Noon- 7 p.m.
Sunday 12/1, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Wednesday 12/4, Noon- 7 p.m.

Huntingdon County – Southcentral Region Office, Rt. 22, 1.1 miles west of Huntingdon-40.4944 N, 78.0450 W
Saturdays 11/30 & 12/7, Noon- 7 p.m.
Sunday 12/1, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Monday through Friday 12/2-12/6, 8 a.m.- 7 p.m.

Snyder County – Beavertown Hose Company, 222 S.
Sassafras Street, Beavertown-40.7529 N, 77.166542 W
Saturdays 11/30 & 12/7, Noon- 7 p.m.
Sunday 12/1, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.
Wednesday 12/4, Noon- 7 p.m.

NORTHEAST REGION

Carbon County – Beltzville State Park Maintenance Bldg.
Saturdays 11/30 & 12/7, Noon- 7 p.m.
Sunday 12/1, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Monday through Friday 12/2-12/6, Noon- 7 p.m.

Lackawanna County – Lackawanna State Park:
Saturdays 11/30 & 12/7, Noon- 7 p.m.
Sunday 12/1, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.
Monday through Friday 12/2-12/6, Noon- 7 p.m.

Luzerne – Northeast Region Office, 3917 Memorial Highway, Dallas–41.342975 N, 75.991387 W
Saturdays 11/30 & 12/7, Noon- 7 p.m.
Sunday 12/1, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.
Monday through Friday 12/2-12/6, 8 a.m.- 7 p.m.

Monroe County – State Game Lands 127 Building
Saturdays 11/30 & 12/7, Noon- 7 p.m.
Sunday 12/1, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.
Monday 12/2 & Tuesday 12/3, Noon- 7 p.m.

Pike County – State Game Lands 180 Shohola Building
Saturdays 11/30 & 12/7, Noon- 7 p.m.
Sunday 12/1, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.
Monday 12/2 & Tuesday 12/3, Noon- 7 p.m.

Sullivan County – DCNR Loyalsock State Forest Resource Management Center
Saturdays 11/30 & 12/7, Noon- 7 p.m.
Sunday 12/1, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.
Monday 12/2 & Tuesday 12/3, Noon- 7 p.m.

Berks County – Southeast Region Office
Saturdays 11/30 & 12/7, Noon- 7 p.m.
Sunday 12/1, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.
Monday through Friday 12/2-12/6, 8 a.m.- 7 p.m.

Dauphin County – Game Commission Headquarters
Saturdays 11/30 & 12/7, Noon- 7 p.m.
Sunday 12/1, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.
Monday through Friday 12/2-12/6, 8 a.m.- 7 p.m.
Small Game

Arms & Ammunition
1) Manually operated and semiautomatic 10-gauge or less shotguns with a capacity of no more than 3 shells in the chamber and magazine combined; 2) Manually operated and semiautomatic rifles and manually operated handguns 22-caliber rimfire or less; 3) Air-guns for small game in calibers from .177 to .22, for woodchucks at least 22-caliber, that propel a single-projectile or bullet. BB ammunition is prohibited. 4) Muzzle-loading rifles and handguns 40-caliber or less, and shotguns 10-gauge or less; and 5) Long, recurve and compound bows and arrows, and crossbows. Single-projectile ammunition, or fine shot pellets no larger than No. 4 lead, bismuth-tin, or tungsten-iron, or other approved non-toxic shot or No. 2 steel. There is no restriction on magazine capacity for semiautomatic rifles used to hunt small game.

Note: Rifle and handgun caliber restrictions (except air-guns) do not apply when hunting woodchucks.

Fluorescent Orange
Small game and porcupine hunters must wear at least 250 square inches of fluorescent orange at all times on the head, chest and back combined. Woodchuck hunters must wear a solid fluorescent orange cap on the head. Orange must be visible 360 degrees. No orange is required for crow hunters.

Pheasant Stocking
It is unlawful to discharge a firearm within 150 yards of a Game Commission vehicle if its occupants are releasing pheasants.

Pheasant Hunting

Only cock pheasants may be hunted in WMUs 4E & 5A. Cocks or hens may be taken in all other WMUs.

There is no open season for the taking of pheasants in any Wild Pheasant Recovery Area, except as authorized by executive order. See the Game Commission website for Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas.

No open season
Pine martens & sharp-tailed grouse.

No closed season
English sparrows and European starlings. No limit, but cannot be hunted during the regular firearms deer seasons.

Hunting Parties
It is unlawful to hunt small game in a party of more than six persons. This does not apply to waterfowl or dove hunters when hunting from a blind or other stationary positions.

Transporting Small Game
Small game may be transported untagged by the owner. Small game unaccompanied by the owner must be labeled with the name, address, CID number and signature of the owner.

Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas
There is no open season for the taking of pheasants in any Wild Pheasant Recovery Area, except as authorized by executive order. All other small game species, except pheasants, when in season, can be hunted in WPRAs. Dog training is prohibited from March 1 through July 31 in WPRAs, although there is a proposal to remove the dog training restriction on WPRAs. Check the Game Commission website at www.pgc.pa.gov.

PHEASANT PERMIT REQUIRED
All adult hunters and some senior hunters who pursue pheasants in Pennsylvania are required to purchase a pheasant permit in addition to a general hunting license. The permit costs $26.90 and must be signed and carried while hunting pheasants. Senior lifetime resident hunting or senior lifetime resident combination license holders who acquired their licenses prior to May 13, 2017 are exempt from needing a pheasant permit. Junior hunters pursuing pheasants now need a FREE permit.
JUNIOR HUNTERS HAVE EARLY CHANCES TO PURSUE SQUIRRELS, PHEASANTS AND RABBITS.

The Junior rabbit and squirrel seasons run from Oct. 5-19, and Mentored Youth may participate. The Junior pheasant season runs from Oct. 12-19.

- Junior hunters may participate and must be accompanied by an adult as required by law.
- A hunting license is not required, but youngsters must have successfully completed a Hunter-Trapper Education course.
- Hunters must abide by the same bag limits and regulations governing “Male-Only Pheasant Wildlife Management Units” during the regular season.
- Note that pheasants are not included in the species that can be hunted by youngsters under 17 who participate in the Mentored Youth Hunting Program.
- Resident and nonresident junior hunting license holders to hunt pheasants now must obtain a free junior pheasant hunting permit.
- Junior pheasant hunt stocking locations are listed on the Game Commission website at www.pgc.pa.gov, or contact the appropriate region office. Although pheasants may be hunted statewide (except in WPRAs) during the Junior Pheasant Hunt, birds will be stocked at specific locations throughout the commonwealth prior to the hunt. About 15,000 pheasants are stocked statewide for the junior pheasant hunt.

Have you heard about the HUNTER ACCESS PROGRAM?

For more than 80 years, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has been working with private landowners to increase wildlife populations, hunting territory, and improve habitat on private lands. The Hunter Access Program has evolved into a statewide cooperative with over 13,000 private land parcels enrolled.

Landowners are required to provide reasonable access for hunting and trapping and retain the right to regulate hunter and season access. In exchange for access, cooperating landowners receive a variety of benefits including: increased law enforcement presence; free seedlings for wildlife food and habitat; free habitat management plans and improvement; free Game News; and liability protection through the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act.

Learn more about the Hunter Access Program and use the PGC Mapping Center to find a local cooperator.

www.pgc.pa.gov
Junior Hunts Beginning Oct. 5

- Junior pheasant hunt stocking locations are listed on the Game Commission website.
- Resident and nonresident junior hunting license holders must hunt pheasants now.
- Note that pheasants are not included in the species that can be hunted by youngster hunters.
- Hunters must abide by the same regulations as those for regular season hunting.
- A hunting license is not required, but youngsters must have successfully completed a Hunter-Trapper Education course.
- 15,000 pheasants are stocked statewide for the junior pheasant hunt.
- Stocking locations are listed on the Game Commission's website, www.pgc.pa.gov, or by contacting the appropriate region office. Although pheasants may be hunted statewide (except in WPRAs), birds will be stocked at specific locations throughout the commonwealth prior to the hunt.
- About 1,000 pheasants are stocked in the “Male-Only Pheasant Wildlife Management Units” during the regular season.

Arms & Ammunition

1) Manual and semiautomatic shotguns no larger than 10-gauge with a capacity limited to no more than three shells in the chamber and magazine combined; 2) Long, recurve and compound bows and arrows; and crossbows. Only non-toxic fine shot up to and including size T (.20 inches) is lawful for waterfowl. It is unlawful to hunt waterfowl with lead shot.

Fluorescent Orange

Not required for waterfowl and dove hunters.

License Requirements

A general hunting license is required in all seasons.

To hunt waterfowl, persons 16 and older are required to have a federal duck stamp, and it must be signed across the face and carried by the hunter. Mentored youth need a migratory game bird license to hunt ducks, geese, doves, woodcock, brant, coots, gallinules, rails and snipe. This license may be obtained from any license issuing agent, or through the Game Commission’s website.

When hunting light geese in the conservation season, hunters also need a free permit and harvest report card, which can be obtained online at the Game Commission’s website, www.pgc.pa.gov, or by calling the Harrisburg Headquarters at 717-787-4250.

Restrictions

**NO PERSON SHALL TAKE MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS:**

- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- From a sink box (a low-floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- From or with the aid of use or of a car or other motor-driven conveyance, or any aircraft.
- From or by means of any motorboat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use of aid of live decoys. By using records or tapes of migratory bird calls or sounds, or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in range of hunters.
- By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on or over any baited area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 30 days after the removal of the bait.

Decoys

Electronic decoys can be used to hunt waterfowl, doves and crows.

Hunting Parties

Waterfowl and dove hunters can hunt in a party of more than six persons as long as they are hunting from a blind or stationary position.

**LEGAL HUNTING HOURS**

Hunting hours for the entire dove season are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset. Hunting hours during the September Canada goose season, and the light-goose conservation season, are from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset. However, hunting hours for all waterfowl end at sunset on Youth Waterfowl Days. Hours for all other migratory bird seasons are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

**MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING HOURS TABLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Begin A.M.</th>
<th>End P.M.</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Begin A.M.</th>
<th>End P.M.</th>
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<tr>
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<td>8:32</td>
<td>Jan. 5 - 11</td>
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<td>July 28 - Aug. 3</td>
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<td>8:12</td>
<td>Feb. 2 - 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 4 - 10</td>
<td>5:37</td>
<td>8:04</td>
<td>Feb. 9 - 15</td>
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<td>5:29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 11 - 17</td>
<td>5:44</td>
<td>7:55</td>
<td>Feb. 16 - 22</td>
<td>6:23</td>
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<td>Aug. 18 - 24</td>
<td>5:51</td>
<td>7:45</td>
<td>Feb. 23 - 29</td>
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<td>Aug. 25 - 31</td>
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<td>March 1 - 7</td>
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<td>March 22 - 28</td>
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<td>April 5 - 11</td>
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<td>Oct. 6 - 12</td>
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<td>April 12 - 18</td>
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<td>April 26 - May 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 27 - Nov. 2</td>
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<td>5:57</td>
<td>May 3 - 9</td>
<td>5:28</td>
<td>7:58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 3 - 9 **</td>
<td>6:08</td>
<td>4:50</td>
<td>May 10 - 16</td>
<td>5:20</td>
<td>8:05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 10 - 16</td>
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<td>4:44</td>
<td>May 17 - 23</td>
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<td>8:11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 17 - 23</td>
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<td>4:39</td>
<td>May 24 - 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 24 - 30</td>
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<td>4:36</td>
<td>May 31 - June 6</td>
<td>5:04</td>
<td>8:23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 1 - 7</td>
<td>6:39</td>
<td>4:35</td>
<td>June 7 - 13</td>
<td>5:02</td>
<td>8:27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 8 - 14</td>
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<td>4:35</td>
<td>June 14 - 20</td>
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<td>8:31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 22 - 28</td>
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<td>4:39</td>
<td>June 28 - July 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 29 - Jan. 4</td>
<td>6:53</td>
<td>4:49</td>
<td><strong>Daylight Saving Time Begins</strong></td>
<td>Ends **</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Add the minutes from the Meridian Map to the begin/end times on this table.
Ducks, Mergansers & Coots

The daily bag limit of six ducks or sea ducks is combined for any species with an open season, except for the following restrictions:

Daily limit may not include more than:

- 2 mallards
- 2 scaup
- 2 black ducks
- 3 wood ducks
- 2 redheads
- 4 eiders
- 2 canvasbacks
- 1 pintail
- 1 mottled duck
- 1 fulvous whistling duck
- 4 scoters
- 4 long-tailed ducks

Possession limits are triple the daily limits.

There is no open season for Harlequin Ducks.

Ducks & Sea Ducks
6 daily, 18 in possession

Mergansers
5 daily, 15 in possession

Coots
15 daily, 45 in possession

Not more than 2 hooded mergansers daily, 6 hooded in possession.

DUCK ZONE BOUNDARIES

Lake Erie Zone
Lake Erie, Presque Isle and the area within 150 yards of the Lake Erie shoreline.

Northwest Zone
The area bounded on the north by the Lake Erie Zone and including all of Erie and Crawford counties and all of Mercer and Venango counties north of I-80.

North Zone
The area east of the Northwest Zone and north of I-80 to Route 220, north from I-80 to I-180, north and east of I-180 from Route 220 to I-80, north of I-80 from I-180 to the Delaware River.

South Zone
All of state not in the Lake Erie, Northwest and North Zones.
Canada Goose hunting is open statewide, but season lengths and bag limits vary by zone. Seasons for Canada geese include white-fronted geese.

Southern James Bay Population Zone

Sept. 2-25*
1 daily, 3 possession

Oct. 12-Nov. 29
8 daily, 24 possession

Dec. 16-Jan. 25
3 daily, 9 possession

* In western Crawford County, the season runs from Sept. 2-14

Resident Population Zone

Sept. 2-25
8 daily, 24 possession

Oct. 26-Nov. 29
5 daily, 15 possession

Dec. 16-Jan. 18

Jan. 31-Feb. 22

Atlantic Population Zone

Sept. 2-25
8 daily, 24 possession

Nov. 19-29

Dec. 27-Jan. 18
2 daily, 6 possession

EXCEPTIONS

September Season Detailed maps of described areas available at www.pgc.pa.gov

1.) In the area south of SR 198 from the Ohio state line to intersection of SR 18, SR 18 south to SR 618, SR 618 south to US Route 6, US Route 6 east to US Route 322/SR 18, US Route 322/SR 18 west to intersection of SR 3013, SR 3013 south to the Crawford/Mercer County line. The season is Sept. 2-14. The daily bag limit is 1, possession limit 3; except on SGL 214 where the season is closed to September goose hunting.

2.) In the area of Lancaster and Lebanon counties north of the Pennsylvania Turnpike I-76, east of SR 501 to SR 419, south of SR 419 to Lebanon-Berks county line, west of Lebanon-Berks county line and the Lancaster-Berks county line to SR 1053 (also known as Peartown Road and Greenville Road), west of SR 1053 to Pennsylvania Turnpike I-76, the daily bag limit is 1, possession limit 3; except on SGL 46 (Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area) where the season is closed.

Note: These exceptions do not apply to youth participation on youth waterfowl days, when regular season regulations apply. Hunting hours for all migratory birds, including Canada goose, close at sunset on youth waterfowl days.

Regular Season

Areas outside of the controlled goose hunting areas at the Middle Creek WMA and SGL 46 in Lebanon- Lancaster counties have a daily limit of one, and a possession limit of three during the regular Canada goose season. Areas inside the goose hunting areas at the Middle Creek WMA and SGL 46 have a season limit of one.

GOOSE ZONE BOUNDARIES

Southern James Bay Population Zone

The area north of I-80 and west of I-79 including in the city of Erie west of Bay Front Parkway to and including the Lake Erie Duck zone (Lake Erie, Presque Isle and the area within 150 yards of Lake Erie Shoreline). The SJBP is no longer separately monitored and managed. However, the zone remains in place to help meet resident Canada goose management objectives in northwest Pennsylvania and to retain greater overlap of duck and goose season than would be available under federal frameworks for other goose zones.

Atlantic Population Zone

The area east of SR 97 from Maryland State Line to the intersection of SR 194, east of SR 194 to intersection of US Route 30, south of US Route 30 to SR 441, east of SR 441 to SR 743, east of SR 743 to intersection of I-81, east of I-81 to intersection of I-80, south of I-80 to New Jersey state line.

Resident Population Zone

All of Pennsylvania except for the Southern James Bay Population and the Atlantic Population zones.
# Light Geese, Brant & Webless Birds

## Light Geese (Snow Geese & Ross’ Geese)

**Southern James Bay Population Zone**
- **Regular Season**
  - Oct. 1-Jan. 25
- **Conservation Season**
  - Jan. 27-April 24

**Resident Population Zone**
- **Regular Season**
  - Oct. 19-Nov. 29
- **Conservation Season**
  - Dec. 16-24

**Atlantic Population Zone**
- **Regular Season**
  - Oct. 1-Jan. 25
- **Conservation Season**
  - Jan. 27-April 24

**Webless Birds & Brant**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Daily Limit</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
<th>Season Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brant</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Oct. 26-Nov. 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Woodcock</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Oct. 19-Nov. 29, Dec. 16-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gallinules</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Oct. 19-Nov. 29, Dec. 16-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Common Snipe</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Oct. 19-Nov. 29, Dec. 16-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Doves</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Sept. 2-Nov. 29, Dec. 21-Jan. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Virginia &amp; Sora Rails</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sept. 2-Nov. 29, Dec. 21-Jan. 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Life Jackets Required By Law**

All boaters, including waterfowl hunters, must wear life jackets on boats less than 16 feet in length, or on any canoe or kayak during the cold-weather period from Nov. 1 through April 30.

Recreational boating fatalities that occur in Pennsylvania from November through April are primarily caused by the effects of cold-water immersion. When water temperatures are less than 70 degrees Fahrenheit, cold-water shock is a major factor in boating fatalities.

Victims who wear a life jacket when exposed to cold water have potentially life-saving advantages, such as insulation from the cold, buoyancy for victims who are unable to tread water and reduced risk of aspiration of water.

In an effort to reduce the number of fatalities related to cold-water immersion, the Fish & Boat Commission has amended regulations to require life jackets to be worn on small and unstable boats during the period most noted for cold-water temperatures.

For other times of the year and on other types and sizes of boats, all boaters are required to have properly fitted personal flotation devices readily accessible. For more information on boating laws and safety, visit [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com).

**Youth Waterfowl Days**

Licensed junior hunters ages 12-16 can hunt ducks, mergansers, Canada geese, coots and gallinules during a series of Youth Waterfowl Days. Sixteen-year-olds need a federal duck stamp to participate. Regular season bag limits and other restrictions apply. Check the Game Commission website for more details. This season, Youth Waterfowl Days will be held:

- **Statewide**
  - Sept. 14
- **North Zone**
  - Jan. 18
- **Northwest Zone**
  - Dec. 21
- **Lake Erie Zone**
  - Oct. 19
- **South Zone**
  - Jan. 25
**Mute Swans**

Mute swans are non-native and not protected under state or federal law. Hunters may harvest mute swans and they do not count as part of the daily bag. Taking mute swans on private property requires landowner permission. Mute swans have an orange bill with a black fleshy knob on top at the feather line. Mute swans do not feed in fields and are encountered only in wetlands. Native tundra and trumpeter swans are protected. They have a black bill and commonly are found in fields and wetlands. Sandhill cranes are likely to be present in certain areas and are protected.
Furtaking

Hunting

Raccoons & Foxes
No Limit
Oct. 26-Feb. 22

Coyotes, Opossums, Striped Skunks & Weasels
No Limit
No closed season, with certain exceptions during big-game seasons

Bobcats
1 per license year, permit required
Jan. 11-Feb. 5
WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

Porcupine
3 daily, 10 season
Oct. 12-Feb. 1

Trapping

Foxes & Coyotes
No Limit
Oct. 27-Feb. 23

Cable Restraints
Dec. 26-Feb. 23

Raccoons, Opossums Striped Skunks & Weasels
No Limit
Oct. 27-Feb. 23

Bobcats
1 per license year with permit
Dec. 21-Jan. 12
WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

Fishers
1 per license year with permit
Dec. 21-Jan. 5
WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

Beavers
Limits vary by WMU
Dec. 26-March 31

River Otters
1 per license year with permit
Feb. 15-22
WMUs 3C & 3D

A furtaker license is not required to hunt coyotes, but is required to trap them. Porcupines also may be hunted with a hunting license. A furtaker license is required to take any other furbearer by hunting or trapping. In addition to a furtaker license, permits are required for bobcat, fisher and otter.

Firearms While Trapping

- To dispatch trapped animals during deer season, trappers are limited to semiautomatic or manually operated 22-caliber rimfire or smaller rifles, manually operated 22-caliber or smaller rimfire handguns, or manually operated or semiautomatic air- or gas-operated rifles, manually operated handguns, that are 177- to 22-caliber. Persons under 12 may use a 22-caliber or smaller rimfire rifle, but only when accompanied by an adult.

Firearms for Hunting Furbearers

- It is unlawful to take furbearers, including bobcats, with shotguns using shot larger than size No. 4 buckshot, or implements that are not lawful firearms, bows or crossbows. Semiautomatic and manually operated rifles, manually operated handguns of any caliber, manual or semiautomatic shotguns and, bows and crossbows can be used. Muzzleloading rifles or handgun that propel single-projectile ammunition can be used. Air- or gas-operated firearms of at least 22-caliber and propel a single-projectile pellet or bullet can be used. Persons hunting furbearers, including coyotes, foxes, bobcats, raccoons, striped skunks, opossums and weasels, may use gun-mounted lights that do not project a laser-light beam.

Coyotes

While there is no closed season for the hunting of coyotes, and coyotes may be hunted on Sundays, there are additional requirements for hunting coyotes during big-game seasons.

Outside of Any Big Game Season

- Coyotes may be taken with a hunting license or a furtaker license and without wearing orange.

During Any Big Game Season

- Coyotes may be taken while lawfully hunting big game (big-game orange requirements must be followed) or with a furtaker license.

Bait and Devices

- Natural or manmade nonliving bait and any electronic or mechanical device can be used to attract coyotes for hunting or trapping.

Bait Visible from the Air

- The law allowing trappers to use any natural or manmade nonliving bait to attract coyotes does not permit the bait to be visible from the air. It is unlawful to bait a trap with meat, animal products or their facsimiles if the bait is visible from the air. Those hunting coyotes, however, may hunt over bait visible from the air.

Dogs

Dogs are permitted to hunt furbearers.

Sunday Hunting

Coyotes and foxes may be hunted on Sundays during open seasons, but other furbearers may not.
Setting Traps
It is unlawful to 1) stake or set traps prior to 7 a.m. on the first day; 2) set traps within 5 feet of a hole or den, except for underwater sets; 3) use pole traps, jaw-toothed traps, deadfalls, poison, explosives, chemicals, or traps with a jaw-spread exceeding 6½ inches as measured to the outside of the jaw; 4) set body-gripping traps outside a watercourse, waterway, marsh, pond or dam; 5) set a trap not marked with one durable identification tag attached to either the trap or chain showing the first and last name and address of the trapper, or a number issued by the Game Commission; 6) set a trap with bait visible from the air; 7) smoke or dig out a den or house or cut den trees; 8) disturb traps or remove any wildlife from the traps of another without specific permission; and 9) on the closing day, fail to remove traps by sunset.

Possession
It is unlawful to 1) possess green pelts (not dried, cured or tanned), except during open season and for 10 days thereafter; 2) possess live, wild furbears, except foxes, for which a permit must be issued by the Game Commission; and 3) buy, sell or possess furbears or parts unlawfully taken, transported, imported, exported or improperly tagged.

Tending Traps
Traps must be visited by the owner once every 36 hours, and each animal removed or released.

Exporting Furs
It is unlawful to ship furs or harvested furbearers outside the state unless an official “Shipping Tag” is properly attached. Tags are available from Game Commission offices and licensed fur dealers.

Importing Furs
Furs and furbears taken outside of Pennsylvania must be tagged according to laws of the state or country where harvested.

Cable Restraint Captures
Trappers eligible to use cable restraints for foxes and coyotes can keep non-target furbearers that are incidentally captured in a cable restraint if there is an open trapping season in which those furbearers are legal for harvest, and the trapper has license or permit for that furbearer.

CABLE RESTRAINTS
A cable restraint is a highly specialized trapping device designed to restrain foxes and coyotes without injury. Cable restraints employ modern modifications, such as flexible multi-strand cable, relaxing locks, and breakaway stops and hooks to restrain animals in winter conditions where traditional trapping methods are less effective. Trappers use cable restraints to capture foxes and coyotes by suspending the loop within a pathway used by the species of interest. The loop is usually held in place by a piece of light wire.

As the animal enters the device, its own forward progress draws the loop tight around the body. The animal is then held alive until the trapper arrives to check the set.

The legalization of cable restraints in Pennsylvania was based on data collected during one of the most ambitious trap research projects in the history of wildlife management—the development of Best Management Practices for Trapping (BMPs) in the United States.

Trapping BMPs identify techniques, traps and cable restraints that maximize the welfare of trapped animals and allow for the efficient, selective, safe and practical capture of furbearers. Cable restraints have been field tested by experienced trappers during legal land trapping seasons throughout North America. Animals harvested during these studies were sent to wildlife veterinarians who used international guidelines to examine and evaluate them for capture-related injuries. The animal welfare performance of cable restraints was outstanding.

TRAPPERS MUST BECOME CERTIFIED TO USE CABLE RESTRAINTS
Cable Restraints

Cable Restraint Regulations

The use of cable restraints by certified trappers in Pennsylvania is highly regulated.

Cable restraints are permitted only for foxes and coyotes during late winter periods (Dec. 26-Feb. 23), when freezing conditions render traditional methods ineffective.

Everyone who traps in Pennsylvania must follow strict guidelines established and enforced by the Game Commission.

Regulations dictating the species that may be harvested, seasons, trap types and where traps can be placed are reviewed annually by Game Commission biologists and law-enforcement personnel. In addition to general trapping regulations, these specific regulations have been instituted for using cable restraints in Pennsylvania.

Cable restraints must be made of a galvanized stranded steel cable with a diameter of not less than 3/32 of an inch. The cable must be constructed of 7 bundles of 7 wires per bundle (7x7), 7 bundles of 19 wires per bundle (7x19), or 1 bundle comprised of 19 wires (1x19). The cable may not exceed 7 feet in length from the anchor point to the lock contacting the fully closed loop stop, must be equipped with at least one swivel device (which allows for 360-degree rotation) between the loop and the anchor, and must have stops affixed to the cable to ensure that the circumference of the cable that makes up the loop may not be greater than 38 inches when fully open, or less than 8 inches when fully closed. Cable restraint loops must be set so that the bottom of the loop is no less than 6 and no greater than 12 inches above the first surface beneath the cable restraint. Cable restraints must be equipped with an approved lock, and the lock may not be constructed with moving parts.

A cable restraint must include a breakaway device affixed between the lock and cable or at the end of the cable that is rated at 375 pounds or less. The cable must be maintained in good condition so that all components operate properly.

Approved Cable Restraint Locks Include:

- Reichart 180-Degree Reverse Bend Washer
- Kaatz “Relax-a-Lock”
- Berkshire 90-Degree Bend Washer
- Micro Lock
- BMI Slide Free Lock
- Penny Lock

Cable Restraint Certification

To use cable restraints, trappers must first complete a certified cable restraint training course.

To view course schedules, check the Game Commission’s website at www.pgc.pa.gov, or contact the agency’s Hunter-Trapper Education Division at 717-787-7015.

Trappers shall keep the certificate from the training course in possession while setting or checking sets using cable restraints, and present the certificate upon the request of a game warden.

In addition to the certificate, those using cable restraints must possess a valid fur tax license, qualify for license and fee exemptions under section 2706 of the act relating to resident license and fee exemptions, or qualify for trapping exceptions under section 2363 of the act relating to trapping exceptions for certain persons.

A cable restraint must be anchored to prevent the animal from moving the restraint from place of capture. Cable restraint may not be set where entanglement may occur or where the animal may become suspended.

Trappers eligible to use cable restraints for foxes and coyotes can keep non-target furbearers that are incidentally captured in a cable restraint if there is an open trapping season in which those furbearers are legal for harvest, and the trapper has a license or permit for that furbearer.

Bobcats may not be taken in cable restraints during the bobcat hunting season. Other wildlife mistakenly killed with cable restraints must be reported to any game warden in the county where the kill occurred. Call the appropriate region office to have a game warden respond.
Cable Restraints

Approved Cable Restraint Locks Include:

- condition so that all components operate properly.
- at 375 pounds or less. The cable must be maintained in good
- beneath the cable restraint. Cable restraints must be equipped
- no less than 6 and no greater than 12 inches above the first surface
- inches when fully open, or less than 8 inches when fully closed.
- rotation) between the loop and the anchor, and must
- the anchor point to the lock contacting the fully closed loop stop,
- have been instituted for using cable restraints in Pennsylvania.
- addition to general trapping regulations, these specific regulations
- late winter periods (Dec. 26-Feb. 23), when freezing conditions
- everyone who traps in Pennsylvania must follow strict guidelines
- restraints must be reported to any game warden in the county
- furbears are legal for harvest, and the trapper has a license or
- or where the animal may become suspended.
- moving the restraint from place of capture.
- Bobcats may not be taken in cable restraints during the bobcat
- A cable restraint must be anchored to prevent the animal from
- to resident license and fee exemptions, or qualify for
- Hunter-Trapper Education Division at 717-787-7015.

Cable Restraint CertifiCation

To use cable restraints, trappers must first complete a
- course in possession while setting or checking sets using
- to the training
- must be constructed of 7 bundles of 7 wires per bundle (7x7), 7

Bobcats, Fishers, Beavers & Otters

Season length is used to regulate bobcat taking in specified WMUs in the state. Because fisher populations have increased dramatically in many areas of the state, the Game Commission has adopted a fisher trapping season in select WMUs. To assess interest, effort, and harvest success rates during these seasons, the Game Commission requires that hunters and trappers possess bobcat and/or fisher permits to pursue these species. All furtakers may purchase one permit for each species during the 2019-20 season, and successful permit holders must report their harvest.

Who Can Attempt to Harvest A Bobcat?

Licensed furtakers (hunters and trappers) who possess a valid bobcat permit can harvest one bobcat per license year in WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D or 4E (combined) from Jan. 11-Feb. 5, 2020, by hunting only, or Dec. 21-Jan. 12, 2020, by trapping only, using lawful devices and methods.

Who Can Attempt to Harvest A Fisher?

Licensed furtakers who possess a valid fisher permit can harvest, by trapping, one fisher per license year in WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D or 4E (combined) from Dec. 21-Jan. 5 using lawful devices and methods during the trapping season.

If You Harvest a Bobcat or Fisher

A permitted person taking a bobcat or fisher shall, immediately before removing the animal from the location of the taking, fully complete and attach to the animal the carcass tag furnished with the permit. The tag shall remain attached to the animal until it is mounted, tanned, made into a commercial fur or prepared for consumption. A CITES tag automatically will be issued for bobcats that may be exported or sold. A CITES tag is not required for a fisher pelt. A permitted person taking a bobcat or fisher shall report the harvest to the Game Commission within 48 hours of the taking by using the agency website (www.pgc.pa.gov), by using the Interactive Voice Response system by calling 1-855-PAHUNT1 (1-855-724-8681), or calling the nearest region office (phone numbers for region offices are listed in the front of this digest).

Purchasing Bobcat, Fisher or Otter Permits

Bobcats, fishers and river otters can only be taken by furtakers holding valid permits.

Bobcat permits, fisher permits and otter permits are available through any license issuing agent and through the “Outdoor Shop” on the Game Commission’s website, www.pgc.pa.gov.

Furtakers may purchase one bobcat permit, one fisher permit and one otter permit per license year, and they may take no more than one animal with each permit.

Each permit costs $6.90.

Bobcat, fisher and otter permits must be purchased before the start of each respective season.

Bobcat and fisher permits must be purchased before Dec. 21.
Otter permits must be purchased before Feb. 15.

Beavers & Otters

Beavers

Dec. 26-March 31

WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B & 3C
(Combined) 20 daily, 40 per season

WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 5C & 5D
(Combined) 20 daily, 20 per season

WMUs 2G, 2H, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A & 5B
(Combined), 5 daily, 5 per season

Special Otter Regulations

Licensed furtakers must purchase a river otter permit to participate in the season. Before removing an otter from the location where it was caught, successful permit holders must immediately complete and attach to the otter the carcass tag furnished with the permit, and report their harvest within 24 hours to the Game Commission’s Northeast Region Office by calling 570-675-1143. The harvest tag must remain attached to the otter until a plastic Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) tag is attached, if applicable, or the animal is mounted, tanned, made into a commercial fur or prepared for consumption. For research purposes, the Game Commission may ask some successful otter trappers to surrender the carcass of their otter within 30 days.

In addition to general trapping regulations, it is unlawful to: 1) destroy, disturb or interfere with a beaver dam or house; 2) use other than raw, native wood and stone materials to direct the travel of beavers or otters (manmade materials may be used only to support traps or snares); 3) place, check, reset or tend a trap or snare on an established beaver dam or beaver house, or within 15 feet of either a dam or a house. Measurement shall be from directly above the trap or snare, across the water, ice or land to the nearest point of the structure; 4) check or maintain a beaver or otter trap, or remove a beaver or otter unless the person who owns the trap is present; 5) set body-gripping traps larger than 10 inches tall by 12 inches wide.

River Otters

Feb. 15-22, 2020

WMUs 3C & 3D
1 per year with permit
Beavers & Otters

Trapping Device Limitations
The number of trapping devices allowed for beaver and otter trapping differs depending on furbearer species, WMU trapped, and beaver/otter season overlap.

OTTER TRAPPING
• It is unlawful for otter trappers to set, tend or operate more than a combined total of five traps or snares, no more than two of which may be body-gripping traps.

BEAVER TRAPPING DURING OTTER SEASON - WMUs 3C & 3D
• Where beaver season overlaps with otter season by calendar date within WMUs 3C & 3D, it is unlawful for beaver trappers to set, tend or operate more than a combined total of five traps or snares, no more than two of which may be body-gripping traps.

Avoiding Accidental Otter Captures
Trappers are urged to learn to identify otter sign and, where otters exist, to adopt the following recommendations to avoid the accidental capture of otters while trapping beavers:
• When using snares, set snare loops at 10 to 12 inches in diameter.
• Use baited sets for beavers where feasible.
• Avoid main channels in ponds and primary crossings where otter sign is present.

If an otter is captured accidentally, report it to your local game warden by contacting your Game Commission region office.

Beaver Season Limit
Trappers may legally take up to 65 beavers with the combined harvest in multiple Wildlife Management Units in a season. When trapping in multiple WMUs, a trapper may set or tend up to 10 traps, up to 20 snares, and not more than a total of 20 devices statewide. Beavers or pelts do not need to be tagged.

Pennsylvania’s Big Game Scoring Program
Each year, deer, bear and elk that are among the largest ever to be harvested in Pennsylvania are added to the Pennsylvania Big Game Records book.
Now those hunters and trophy owners who have a listing in the record book also may purchase an Exclusive Member Big Game Records patch.
Patches are $9.43, plus $2.95 shipping, plus sales tax. Funds from the sale of these patches are used to support the state’s Big Game Scoring Program.
To order, call 1-888-888-3459.
The 2018 records book becomes available in October, and costs $10, plus $2.95 shipping, plus 6 percent sales tax.
To enter a big game animal, or for more information about the Game Commission’s Big Game Scoring Program, contact Boone & Crockett Club certified scorer and coordinator of Pennsylvania’s program Bob D’Angelo at rdangelo@pa.gov or call the Game Commission Harrisburg Headquarters.
Trapping Device Limitations and beaver/otter season overlap. Trapping differs depending on furbearer species, WMU trapped, to equip snares with a spring-activating mechanism or any equipped with a mechanical sliding metal release lock. A metal Beavers & Otters

- **Beaver Trapping**
  - **•** Beavers or pelts do not need to be tagged.
  - **•** Trappers may legally take up to 65 beavers with the combined statewide total of 20 traps or snares, no more for beaver trappers to set, tend or operate more than a combined total of five traps or snares, no more.
  - **•** Regulations remain as they have in the past. It is unlawful for otter trappers to set, tend or operate more than a combined total of five traps or snares, no more.

- **Avoiding Accidental Otter Captures**
  - **•** Trappers are urged to learn to identify otter sign and, where
  - **•** Use baited sets for beavers where feasible.

**Driving & Feeding Elk**

- It is unlawful to drive or herd elk. It is unlawful to feed elk at any time of year.

- **Fluorescent Orange Requirements**
  - All elk hunters (except during the Sept. archery season) and those accompanying them must wear at least 250 square inches of fluorescent orange, visible 360 degrees, on the head, chest and back combined. Camouflage-fluorescent orange may satisfy this regulation if the total orange content is at least 250 square inches.

Tagging, Reporting Requirements

- A successful hunter must attach the tag to the ear of an elk immediately after harvest and before the carcass is moved. In addition, within 24 hours, each hunter who harvests an elk must take it, along with his or her hunting license and elk license, to a Game Commission check station for examination.

Elk Guides

- Elk guides are an optional service available to licensed elk hunters. Elk guides are regulated by the Game Commission and the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and offer various services to the hunter.

**2019 Elk License Allocation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hunt Zone</th>
<th>Archery Antlered</th>
<th>Archery Antlerless</th>
<th>General Antlered</th>
<th>General Antlerless</th>
<th>Late Antlerless</th>
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</table>

**Apply for an Elk License**

**AN ELK LICENSE IS REQUIRED TO HUNT ELK.**

There are 14 established Elk Hunt Zones for which antlered and antlerless elk licenses may be allocated each year. Licenses are awarded by lottery.

- **There are now three elk seasons with three separate drawings and “bucket” of bonus points. Available to residents and nonresidents, with or without a current hunting or combination license, who wish to be entered into one, two or all three drawings for elk licenses, or would like to continue to accumulate points for later drawings.**

- **Only one elk license application per elk season may be submitted each license year for a total of three applications eligible for license purchase in each license year. Those who obtain an elk license are permitted to participate in the drawn season, within a designated Elk Hunt Zone. EHZ 1 is open to all hunters. Hunters are limited to harvesting one antlered or one antlerless elk, depending on the license they obtain, during the hunting license year.**

- **Hunters who do not harvest an elk during the regular season may participate in the extended season, in which they are permitted to take either an antlered or antlerless elk outside the state’s Elk Management Area.**

**HOW TO APPLY:**

1) To apply for an elk license online, go to www.pgc.pa.gov, click on “Buy a License” icon. Applications on the e-commerce site will be accepted through midnight July 31, 2019. It costs $11.90 to apply, and application fees are nonrefundable. Hunters also can use the website to check on the status of an elk application and review their bonus points.

2) Application also may be made at Point of Sale (POS) locations through the PALS system.

- Nonresidents have an equal opportunity in the drawing. If drawn, a Pennsylvania resident may purchase an elk license for $25; nonresidents $250. Individuals drawn for an antlered license are not eligible to apply again for five license years; individuals drawn for an antlerless license can continue to apply. Successful applicants must obtain a Pennsylvania general hunting license for the appropriate license year. Unsuccessful applicants earn bonus points for future drawings. Licenses are assigned according to the drawn hunter’s selected antlered/antlerless preferences. If a hunter selected the “either sex” field and is drawn after all antlered licenses have been assigned, he or she will be assigned an antlerless license. Maps of the elk hunt zones can be found on the website. If a hunter is drawn and his or her preferred elk hunt zone already is filled, he or she will be assigned to another elk hunt zone. Hunters should enter NP (no preference) if he or she does not desire a specific hunt zone. If a person submits more than one application, all of his or her applications will become ineligible, and he or she will be subject to prosecution. This year’s elk license drawing is on Aug. 17 at the Elk Country Visitor Center near Winslow Hill in Benezette Township.

Elk Management Area map, Elk Hunt Zone descriptions and check station information can be found on the Game Commission website at www.pgc.pa.gov
Pennsylvania is home to some of the largest-antlered, big bodied elk in the Nation

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS JULY 31, 2019

2019 Pennsylvania Elk Hunting Seasons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Application Fee</th>
<th>Drawing Type</th>
<th>Bonus Points per Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Archery (Bull &amp; Cow)</td>
<td>Sept. 14 – 28</td>
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<td>Exclusive Drawing</td>
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<td>General (Bull &amp; Cow)</td>
<td>Nov. 4 – 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late (Cow Only)</td>
<td>Jan. 4 – 11</td>
<td>$11.90</td>
<td>Exclusive Drawing</td>
<td>1 Bonus Point/Year</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

$35.70 to apply for all seasons, but individuals can only be drawn for one license/season per year.

Bonus points are season specific and reset to 0, if drawn for a specific season. Points for alternate seasons remain.

DON’T MISS OUT ON THIS SPECIAL CHANCE TO HUNT THESE IMPRESSIVE BIG GAME ANIMALS

All application funds go toward the elk management program to improve the habitat and health of the herd.
The Pennsylvania Automated License System (PALS) allows hunters and trappers to purchase licenses online, but provides a number of other services, as well.

**First ...**

If you have already purchased a hunting or fishing license through PALS, you were assigned a Customer Identification Number (CID) that is printed on your license. Use this number to access the following information on our website.

Select the option that will provide the information you’re looking for. More details at right.

**Then ...**

Click the **Purchase** option and use your CID to make purchase, update your info, or check on applications.

- **Purchase a License, Permit, Application or Reprint an Add-on:** Purchase your license online and it will be mailed to you within seven to 10 business days. All sales are final. You can print your archery, muzzleloader, and migratory game bird add-on licenses immediately and they can be reprinted at no extra cost (online purchases only; must be used in conjunction with a valid hunting license). Purchase your Federal Duck Stamp online and it will be mailed to you within 45 business days. You can print a temporary electronic duck stamp (eDuck) immediately. The eDuck stamp can be reprinted at no extra cost up to 45 days from purchase (online purchases only).

- **Update Address and Personal Information:** Update your personal information at any time. Make sure your address is current and correct. You do not need to make a purchase to update your address. (Note: Name, date of birth, and driver’s license number cannot be updated online. Call the License Division at 717-787-2084 to change this information.)

- **Check on Antlerless Deer or Elk status:** You can view successful antlerless applications because PALS updates this page as soon as your application is processed and your license is issued. You also can view your current elk preference points and see if you’ve been awarded an elk license in the lottery.

**Automated Revocations**

Another feature of the electronic license sales system is that persons who have had their hunting and furtaking license privileges revoked are automatically prohibited from buying a license.

License revocation can occur for the following reasons: failure to respond to a citation issued for a violation of the Game and Wildlife Code; failure to pay fines assessed by a court within 180 days of adjudication of the charges; revocation ordered by the court for Game and Wildlife Code violations; failure to pay child support or for other lawful purposes; revocation ordered by the Game Commission for certain Game and Wildlife Code violations; revocation mandated by the Game and Wildlife Code; and failure to complete a remedial HTE course, if mandated.

Anyone who may be affected by one or more of these situations may contact the Game Commission’s Bureau of Wildlife Protection at 717-787-4024 to verify the status of his or her hunting privileges.
License Information

License Required
A current hunting license is required and must be in possession to hunt, take or kill any wildlife in Pennsylvania not classified as a furbearer. A current furtaker license is required to hunt, trap, take or kill any furbearer (coyotes are the exception). A license is valid July 1 to the following June 30. Licenses are not required to be displayed on an outer garment.

Proof of Residency
Proof of Pennsylvania residency must be shown to obtain a resident hunting of furtaker license. Persons must be domiciled in Pennsylvania at least 30 consecutive days prior to application. Valid Pennsylvania driver’s license, certain Pennsylvania and local tax receipts, and other positive means indicating residency may be used.

Validity of Licenses
Only one hunting or furtaker license shall be valid during any license year. Any replacement license, or purchase of a second or subsequent license shall immediately invalidate any license of the same kind that had been previously issued.

Uncollectible Checks
If a check issued in payment of any fee or fine is returned uncollectible, the person who makes, issues or presents it will be charged a $25 fee. This fee is in addition to any costs of prosecution or penalties assessed as a result of the collectible check. Any license, permit or privilege granted by an uncollectible check shall be invalid until all applicable fees are paid.

License Transfers
Hunting and furtaker licenses are nontransferable and nonrefundable. It is unlawful to possess another’s hunting license or big game tags.

Training Certificate – Hunting
Persons who have not held a hunting license issued in Pennsylvania or another state or nation, or do not possess a training certificate, are required to attain certification in an accredited hunter-trapper education program before applying for a hunting license. These provisions do not apply to a person presenting 1) evidence of service in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Coast Guard and discharge or separation under honorable conditions within six months of application, or 2) evidence that the person is currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or U.S. Coast Guard.

Training Certificate – Trapping
Persons applying for a furtaker license must present to the issuing agent one of the following: 1) evidence that the applicant has held a trapping or furtaker license issued in Pennsylvania or another state or nation; 2) a certificate of training; 3) an affidavit that applicant completed a voluntary trapping course sanctioned by the Game Commission, or 4) the applicant has previously hunted or trapped furbers within the last five years. These provisions do not apply to persons under 12 who trap furbers under direct supervision of a licensed adult furtaker at least 18 years old.

Replacement Training Certificate
Information about obtaining a replacement Hunter Education Training Certificate, can be found online at www.pgc.pa.gov or www.ilostmycard.com.

Unlicensed Persons
An unlicensed person may accompany a properly licensed hunter or trapper provided that the unlicensed person acts as only an observer and does not, in any manner, participate in hunting or trapping. Any unlicensed person accompanying a licensed hunter must wear the required amount of fluorescent orange. An unlicensed person who has never held a hunting license in Pennsylvania or any other state may accompany a properly licensed hunter or trapper and participate in these activities providing the following requirements are met: The unlicensed person remains in sight and close to a hunter at least 18 years of age; the unlicensed person does not possess a firearm, bow, or other hunting device; the unlicensed person complies with fluorescent orange requirements; and the unlicensed person who accompanies any hunting party shall be counted as a member of the hunting party for maximum allowed members. The ratio of licensed hunters to non-licensed persons must not exceed 1:1.

Identification Required When Hunting
While afield, in addition to his or her hunting or furtaker license, hunters or furtakers are required to have cards or papers that must be shown to a game warden or landowner upon request to confirm identification and residency.

Purchasing Licenses Online
Individuals may apply for most licenses online, with the exceptions of antlerless deer licenses and military licenses. Visit online at www.pgc.pa.gov and click on “Buy a License.” Licenses are not valid until they are received and signed by the license holder. Each general license is mailed with a Hunting & Trapping Digest, antlerless license applications and two antlerless deer application envelopes (additional envelopes are available at any issuing agent). Add-on privileges purchased online, such as archery, muzzleloader and migratory game bird licenses, can be printed by the applicant. These add-on privileges (images if printed by applicant) are not valid unless the applicant has his or her general license in hand.

Junior Licenses and Hunters
Persons under 17 years of age must have their parent or legal guardian’s approval to purchase a general hunting, combination or furtaker license. Junior hunters who wish to hunt in the archery and/or muzzleloader seasons, must purchase a combination license. These add-on licenses may not be added to a general junior hunting license. Eleven-year-olds who have successfully completed a required Hunter-Trapper Education course may apply for a Junior License if they will be 12 years old by June 30 of the license year. They may not lawfully hunt with the license prior to their 12th birthday. Persons 12 and 13 must be accompanied by an adult member of the family (at least 18), or by an adult serving in place of a parent. Persons 14 and 15 must be accompanied by any adult 18 or older. Sixteen-year-olds may hunt alone. Persons who turn 17 after purchasing a junior license can still hunt that year with the Junior License. It is unlawful while accompanying junior hunters under 16 to be out of sight of or unable to physically or verbally control the junior hunter or fail to comply with the fluorescent orange requirements. Verbal instructions given through the use of an electronic or other sound amplification device does not meet this requirement.
Senior Lifetime License Holders

Lifetime licenses must be renewed each year. If you have not purchased or renewed your Senior Lifetime License through PALs, you will need to provide your SSN when applying. This is a one-time only requirement, and will not be needed again unless you do not have or cannot remember your CID. All Senior Lifetime and Senior Lifetime Combination License holders who purchased prior to May 13, 2017 are exempt from the Pheasant Permit. The original purchase date can be located on the bottom panel of the license. You will need to provide proof of residency when renewing your license, usually through a valid Pennsylvania driver’s license.

Resident Landowner Antlerless Deer License

An eligible landowner who owns 80 or more contiguous acres open to public hunting in a Cooperative Hunter Access Program, or a designated immediate family member living in the same household, is entitled to a Landowner antlerless license. Applicants must have their PGC Cooperative Hunter Access Program agreement number when applying.

Resident Military Personnel License

To qualify for a general hunting license for $2.90 applicants must meet all of the following requirements: 1) be a resident of Pennsylvania; 2) be on active and full-time duty in the U.S. Armed Forces or the U.S. Coast Guard; 3) be currently assigned to a facility outside Pennsylvania; and 4) be on temporary leave in Pennsylvania.

Resident National Guard/Reserves

Reduced fee $2.90 general hunting licenses are available to residents serving in the Pennsylvania National Guard and the Reserves who, within the previous 24 months, were deployed overseas for a period of 60 consecutive days or more, or were released early from such service because of an injury or disease incurred in the line of duty. Only one reduced-fee license may be issued for each qualifying deployment.

Resident Prisoners of War

Reduced fee $2.90 general hunting licenses also are available to residents who are former Prisoners of War imprisoned by enemy forces while in the service of the armed forces of the U.S. as certified by the appropriate branch of the armed forces of the U.S.

Required Armed Services Personnel Documentation

Residents applying for any of the Armed Services licenses must provide official documentation, from the branch in which they serve, to prove eligibility in the form of orders, leave documents, military ID, and in the case of POWs, a DD214. All of these licenses, except for the POWs (county treasurers and PGC offices sell POWs), are available from any issuing agent. If the applicant cannot apply in person, he or she may submit to the Game Commission office or county treasurer a written request, including full name, legal address, telephone number, date of birth, height, eye color and documentation verifying Pennsylvania residency and military orders and, for the POW license, a copy of DD214 stating prisoner of war status. Applicant must include a self-addressed, stamped, return envelope with the request.

Disabled War Veterans

Resident disabled war veterans with service-incurred 100 percent disability, or the loss of use of one or more limbs, may qualify for free hunting and furtraker licenses. Resident disabled war veterans with a service-incurred disability rating between 60 percent and 99 percent may qualify for a reduced fee $2.90 hunting and furtraker license. Applicants must provide documentation from the Veterans Administration. Call your county treasurer.

Migratory Game Bird Licenses

All persons are required to have a Migratory Game Bird License to hunt waterfowl and migratory birds including doves, woodcock, brant, coots, gallinules, rails and snipe. The license must be signed in ink and carried by the hunter.

Federal Duck Stamp

All persons 16 and older are required to have a federal duck stamp to hunt waterfowl. It must be signed in ink across the face and carried by the hunter. It is not necessary to display the stamp. These stamps can be purchased at any issuing agent, or by visiting www.pgc.pa.gov and clicking “Buy a License.” You will receive a stamp in the mail, but you can hunt with the temporary license issued at the time of purchase.

Bear Licenses

Hunters may purchase this license online or over-the-counter at any issuing agent from the start of the license sales (approximately mid-June) through the end of bear season.

Special Second Spring Gobbler License

Hunters may purchase this license online or over-the-counter at any issuing agent from the start of the license sales (approximately mid-June) until the day before (May 1) the spring gobbler season.

Replacement Licenses

If a hunting or furtraker license has been lost or destroyed, a replacement license may be purchased for $6.90, per privilege, over-the-counter at any issuing agent or online at www.pgc.pa.gov by clicking on “Buy a License.” A lost or destroyed antlerless license can only be replaced through a county treasurer. County treasurers can issue replacement antlerless deer licenses for any WMU.

Elk License Application

Hunters may apply to enter the drawings for an elk license one time per license year, either online or at an issuing agent. The elk application can be purchased from the start of the license sales (approximately mid-June) until the application deadline. Refer to the “Elk Section” in this Digest for detailed information.
The following licenses, permits and special-draw applications are available from all issuing agents including county treasurers, Game Commission offices and online.

**Licenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License Type</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resident Mentored Youth (Ages under 7, No Tags)</td>
<td>$2.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Mentored Youth (Ages under 12)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Mentored Youth (Ages 12 or older but under 17)</td>
<td>$6.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Mentored Adult</td>
<td>$20.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Junior Hunting (Ages 12 through 16)</td>
<td>$6.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Junior Furtaker (Ages 12 through 16)</td>
<td>$6.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Junior Combination (Ages 12 through 16)</td>
<td>$9.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Landowner Hunting (Ages 12 &amp; older)</td>
<td>$4.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Adult Hunting (Ages 17 and older)</td>
<td>$20.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Adult Furtaker (Ages 17 and older)</td>
<td>$20.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Senior Hunting (Ages 65 &amp; older)</td>
<td>$13.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resident Senior Lifetime Hunting (Ages 65 &amp; older)</td>
<td>$51.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Must be renewed each license year at no additional cost)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resident Senior Lifetime Combo (Ages 65 &amp; older)</td>
<td>$101.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resident Senior Lifetime Combo Upgrade</td>
<td>$51.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>(See Lifetime Combination)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>(Must be renewed each license year at no additional cost)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Military Personnel, National Guard,</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves and POW Hunting Licenses</td>
<td>$2.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonresident Mentored Youth (Ages under 7, No Tags)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonresident Mentored Youth (Ages 12 or older but &lt; 17)</td>
<td>$41.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresident Mentored Adult</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresident 7-Day Small Game *</td>
<td>$31.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresident Special Spring Turkey License</td>
<td>$21.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonresident Special Turkey License</td>
<td>$41.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resident DMAP Harvest Permits</td>
<td>$10.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonresident DMAP Harvest Permits</td>
<td>$35.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elk License Drawings (See elk section in this Digest)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Pheasant Permit</td>
<td>$26.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Pheasant Permit</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shooting Range Permit (See PGC website for more info)</td>
<td>$31.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sold Only by County Treasurers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License Type</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resident Antlerless Deer License</td>
<td>$6.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resident Landowner Antlerless Deer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resident Disabled Veteran Antlerless License</td>
<td>$6.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Armed Forces Antlerless License</td>
<td>$6.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonresident Antlerless License</td>
<td>$26.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonresident Landowner Antlerless Deer</td>
<td>$26.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Hunting License</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting License (if qualified)</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furtaker License (if qualified)</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sold by County Treasurers & Game Commission Offices**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resident Reduced Disabled Veteran Hunting License</td>
<td>$2.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Reduced Disabled Veteran Furtaker License</td>
<td>$2.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Disabled Veteran Annual Hunting License</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Must be renewed annually</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional information about licenses and permits can be obtained from the Pennsylvania Game Commission website or by calling 717-787-2084.

**Add-on Licenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resident Archery</td>
<td>$16.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresident Archery</td>
<td>$26.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resident Muzzleloader *</td>
<td>$11.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonresident Muzzleloader *</td>
<td>$21.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Migratory Game Bird License</td>
<td>$3.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Duck Stamp</td>
<td>$28.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresident Migratory Game Bird License</td>
<td>$6.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Bear License</td>
<td>$16.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresident Bear License</td>
<td>$36.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Special Spring Turkey License</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Pheasant Permit</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Questions about licenses should be directed to the License Division 717-787-2084**

**Firearms Regulations for Non-Immigrant Aliens**

Since the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has enacted new permit requirements for bringing firearms and ammunition across the U.S. border. Any resident of another country who intends to import a firearm and ammunition into the U.S. for the purpose of hunting or recreational target shooting should contact the ATF’s Firearms and Explosives Imports Branch. Provide yourself ample time for the processing of the import permit application. It could take six weeks or more to receive the required permit. The ATF can be contacted at 304-616-4550. Visit the ATF website at http://www.atf.gov. An application for the Permit for Importation of Firearms can be found at ATF F6 NIA (5330.3D).
Questions about licenses should be referred to the Shooting Range Permit (See PGC website for more info).

- **Adult Pheasant Permit**: $26.90
- **River Otter Permit**: $6.90 (See otter section in this Digest)
- **Fisher Permit**: $6.90 (See fisher section in this Digest)
- **Elk License Drawings**: $11.90 (See elk section in this Digest)
- **Nonresident Special Spring Turkey License**: $41.90
- **Resident Special Spring Turkey License**: $21.90
- **Nonresident Bear License**: $36.90
- **Resident Bear License**: $16.90
- **Nonresident Migratory Game Bird License**: $6.90
- **Resident Migratory Game Bird License**: $3.90
- **Nonresident Muzzleloader and Archery**: $26.90 and $26.90, respectively
- **Resident Muzzleloader**: $11.90
- **Resident Archery**: $16.90

**Add-on Licenses**

- **Nonresident 7-Day Small Game**: $31.90
- **Nonresident Junior Furtaker (Ages 12 through 16)**: $41.90
- **Nonresident Junior Combination (Ages 12 through 16)**: $51.90
- **Nonresident Junior Hunting (Ages 12 through 16)**: $41.90
- **Nonresident Adult Hunting (Ages 17 & older)**: $101.90
- **Nonresident Mentored Adult**: $101.90
- **Nonresident Mentored Youth (Ages 12 or older but < 17)**: $41.90
- **Nonresident Mentored Youth (Ages under 12)**: $2.90
- **Reserves and POW Hunting Licenses**: $2.90
- **Resident Military Personnel, National Guard, ??Hunting License***
- **Resident Senior Lifetime Furtaker (Age 65 & older)**: $51.90
- **Resident Senior Lifetime Hunting (Ages 65 & older)**: $51.90
- **Resident Senior Hunting (Ages 65 & older)**: $13.90
- **Resident Adult Furtaker (Ages 17 and older)**: $20.90
- **Resident Landowner Hunting (Ages 12 & older)**: $4.90
- **Resident Junior Combination (Ages 12 through 16)**: $9.90
- **Resident Junior Hunting (Ages 12 through 16)**: $6.90
- **Resident Disabled Veteran Antlerless License**: $6.90
- **Resident Landowner Antlerless Deer**: $6.90
- **Resident Reduced Disabled Veteran Hunting License**: $2.90
- **Resident Reduced Disabled Veteran Furtaker License**: $2.90
- **Resident Disable Veteran Annual Furtaker License**: Free
- **Resident Landowner Antlerless Deer**: $6.90
- **Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Hunting**: $51.90
- **Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Furtaker**: $51.90
- **Nonresident Landowner Antlerless Deer**: $26.90
- **Resident Antlerless and Unsold Antlerless Deer License**: $6.90

*Must be renewed annually

**License Availability**

- **Firearms Regulations** For non-immigrant aliens bringing firearms and ammunition into the U.S. for the purpose of hunting or recreational target shooting should contact the ATF's Firearms and Explosives Import Branch.
- **Import Permit Application**
  - Import permit application. It could take six weeks or more to receive a license. Be aware it is a process.
  - 717-787-2084
  - 1-800-380-0003
  - http://www.atf.gov

**Tobacco and Firearms** has enacted new permit requirements for importation of firearms. For more information, see ATF F6 NIA (5330.3D).

**IT'S FEDERAL SEASON**

**THIS HUNTING SEASON, JOIN SPORTSMEN ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA AND REACH FOR THE ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY IN AMMUNITION.**

**GET YOUR DEAL TODAY AT FEDERALPREMIUM.COM/PENNLSYLVANIA**
JOIN THE NMLRA
MEMBER BENEFITS

MUZZLE BLASTS
Members of the NMLRA receive Muzzle Blasts, our monthly membership publication devoted to all aspects of the muzzleloading sport.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
The NMLRA sponsors a scholarship program for its members and their dependents.

NATIONAL COMPETITIONS
With your NMLRA membership card, you have the opportunity to attend two national championship matches in centrally located Friendship, Indiana.

MUZZLELOADING EDUCATION
Members of the NMLRA can take advantage of the Association’s Muzzleloading Education Program.

CHARTER CLUBS
The NMLRA has over three hundred muzzleloading charter clubs across the country, each with its own schedule of events and range times.

NATIONAL RANGE
The Walter Cline National Range in Friendship, Indiana, is open to NMLRA members who wish to shoot—whether it be for a day or a weekend—camping facilities are available at the range.

TERRITORIAL COMPETITIONS
NMLRA-sponsored territorial matches are held throughout the United States, and your NMLRA membership card allows you to participate in these events.

The National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association
Big Game Records Program

Formed in 1988 by the NMLRA to promote muzzleloading hunting throughout North America. It brings deserved recognition to hunters who have chosen to pursue North American big game with the type of firearms used by their forefathers.

The Longhunter Society publishes The Longhunter Society Muzzleloading Big Game Record Book which provides a permanent archive of trophy-class big game animals taken with muzzleloading firearms.

The Longhunter Society Pin Program is also available so successful hunters can proudly display a detailed commemorative lapel or hat pin representing the species they have taken.

National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association
PO Box 67, Friendship, IN 47021
call 812.667.5131 or 800.745.1493
Sign up online at: www.nmlra.org

A WIDE RANGE OF CROSSBOWS TO FIT ANY BUDGET, TEAMED WITH TOP LEVEL PERFORMANCE & THE QUALITY YOU DEMAND. SA SPORTS OUTDOORS...
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CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) HAS BEEN DETECTED IN PENNSYLVANIA IN CAPTIVE AND FREE-RANGING DEER.

What is Chronic Wasting Disease?

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal brain disease that affects cervids, including deer and elk. CWD belongs to a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). Other diseases in this family include mad cow disease and scrapie. CWD was first detected in Colorado in 1967 and has spread to 26 states and three Canadian provinces.

What causes CWD?

TSE diseases, including CWD, are believed to be caused by a misfolded protein, or prion. Prions are concentrated in the brain, nervous system and lymphoid tissues of infected animals. The disease causes death of brain cells resulting in microscopic holes in the brain tissue. Prions are hearty proteins found to withstand extreme heat and freezing and thawing.

How does CWD spread?

CWD can be spread directly through deer-to-deer contact or indirectly through contact with a prion contaminated environment. Prions are shed onto the environment through saliva, urine, and feces. Once in the environment, studies show prions can remain infectious for several years.

What should I do if I see a deer with CWD symptoms?

First, accurately document the location of the animal and immediately contact your local Game Commission Region Office. Do not attempt to disturb, kill, or remove the animal.

Can humans get CWD?

While there are no known cases of CWD infecting humans the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization recommend people avoid consuming CWD-infected meat. The CDC reports, “some animal studies suggest CWD poses a risk to certain types of non-human primates, like monkeys, that eat meat from CWD-infected animals or come in contact with brain or body fluids from infected deer or elk. These studies raise concerns that there may also be a risk to people.”

Where has CWD been found?

CWD has been detected in captive or free-ranging animals in the following states or provinces: Alberta, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Quebec, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. For an updated map on CWD positive states, please visit www.usgs.gov and search “CWD.”

DISEASE MANAGEMENT AREAS

When a new CWD-positive animal is detected in Pennsylvania, a 10-mile buffer is established around it. In areas where CWD had not been detected previously, a new Disease Management Area (DMA) is established. But new CWD detections near the boundaries of existing DMAs typically result in the boundary expanding to encompass the new buffer. Within DMAs, specific regulations exist within DMAs to help prevent the spread of CWD. Enhanced CWD monitoring also occurs within DMAs to better understand the disease’s impact.

Because deer and elk are tested for CWD throughout the year, new DMAs might be established or expanded at any time. At the publication deadline for this digest, the DMA expansions resulting from new CWD-positives harvested in the 2018-19 hunting seasons were not yet final, although it was clear that a newly detected CWD-positive captive deer would require DMA 3 to expand into Pennsylvania’s elk range.

Hunters should always regularly check the most up-to-date DMA maps on the Chronic Wasting Disease page at www.pgc.pa.gov.

As of last season, DMAs encompass all or parts of the following counties: Adams, Armstrong, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cambria, Clarion, Clearfield, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana, Juniata, Jefferson, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and Somerset counties.
**Disposing of Deer Parts**

**Within Disease Management Areas**

**IT IS UNLAWFUL TO:**

- Remove or export high-risk deer or elk parts
- Use or possess natural urine-based attractants
- Feed wild, free-ranging cervids
- Rehabilitate wild, free-ranging cervids

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**Free CWD-testing available in DMAs**

To increase CWD surveillance, the Game Commission offers free CWD testing within DMAs. Hunters may get their harvested deer tested by placing the deer’s head in any CWD head-collection container provided by the Game Commission. The completed harvest tag should remain attached to the deer’s ear. Deer heads should be double-bagged in plastic before being placed in a head collection container.

Other high-risk parts can be discarded in separate high-risk parts disposal containers.

All container locations are listed at www.pgc.pa.gov. Hunters are notified of test results when they become available, usually in four to six weeks.

Outside of the DMA, you may have your deer tested at the Pennsylvania Veterinary Laboratory in Harrisburg for a fee. More information on that can be found on the state Department of Agriculture’s website, www.padls.org.

**High-risk deer parts can’t be imported**

To help prevent the spread of CWD, the Game Commission has banned the importation of high-risk cervid parts from states and provinces where CWD has been detected, as well as Pennsylvania’s own Disease Management Areas (DMAs).

Before hunting deer, elk or moose out of state, hunters should visit www.pgc.pa.gov to see which states and provinces are currently affected by CWD. Check frequently, as the list does change. Hunters heading to a state with a history of CWD should become familiar with that state’s wildlife regulations and guidelines for CWD, along with the Game Commission’s high-risk parts ban.

Hunters may not bring **high-risk cervid parts** into Pennsylvania. These include: the head (more specifically the brain, tonsils, eyes, and retropharyngeal lymph nodes); spinal cord/backbone; spleen; skull plate with attached antlers, if visible brain or spinal cord matter is present; upper canine teeth, if root structure or other soft material is present; any object or article containing visible brain or spinal cord material; unfinished taxidermy mounts; or brain-tanned hides. These same high-risk parts may not be exported from DMAs.

Once the high-risk parts are removed, the following items can be brought into Pennsylvania, or exported from a DMA: the remaining meat, on or off the bone; skull plate with antlers attached, if no brain or spinal cord material is present; cleaned capes with no visible brain or spinal cord material present; tanned or raw hide with no visible brain or spinal cord material present; upper canine teeth, if no root structure or soft material is present; and finished taxidermy mounts.

It is strongly recommended that hunters get their animals tested if hunting in a CWD-positive state. If, after returning to Pennsylvania, a hunter is notified by another wildlife agency that a harvested animal was CWD-positive, the hunter is directed to contact the Game Commission for further instructions. For more information on CWD, please visit the Game Commission website at www.pgc.pa.gov and click on “Chronic Wasting Disease” under “Quick Clicks.”
EXTENSIVE SURVEILLANCE

The Game Commission began monitoring CWD in 2002, 10 years prior to the state’s first CWD detection. As of March 2019, nearly 80,000 deer had been tested for CWD in Pennsylvania.

Surveillance efforts include testing road-killed deer, hunter-harvested deer, escaped captive deer, and deer showing clinical signs of CWD. In addition, all hunter-harvested elk are tested for CWD.

As of March 2019, a total of 200 free-ranging deer had tested positive for CWD in Pennsylvania. One-hundred ninety-seven of these positives were detected in DMA 2, with the remaining three positives detected in DMA 3. A CWD-positive by township map can be found at www.pgc.pa.gov.

MANAGING DISEASE

Hunters First

Within DMAs, hunters can apply for Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permits to harvest additional antlerless deer during any established deer season, including the antlered-only season. DMAP permits can be used only within the unit for which they’re issued. Hunters can obtain up to two DMAP permits for each unit. Each permit can be used to harvest one antlerless deer.

The Game Commission created DMAP units within DMAs to increase surveillance and hunter effort in areas where CWD-positive deer have been found. Several DMAP units have been established within DMAs. These units contain a mix of public and private land. Hunters need landowner permission to hunt on private land.

Hunters can apply for DMAP permits through issuing agents or by visiting https://www.pa.wildlifelicense.com/start.php.

Targeted Removal

Targeted removal, or selective culling, is a disease-management strategy used to reduce a wild animal population.

Experiences from other states suggest, without action, CWD in Pennsylvania will continue to increase and spread to new areas every year. But through strategic, small-scale targeted removal operations, low disease prevalence rates likely can be maintained.

Studies indicate that selective culling currently is the best management strategy to reduce or stabilize the spread of CWD.

Small Scale

Targeted removals are small-scale operations, that do not occur on a statewide or county-wide level. On average, targeted removals occur within 1 to 2 miles of a new CWD detection.

After hunting seasons, surveys are conducted to determine the deer density in the area where a new CWD-positive is found.

The number of deer removed depends on the deer density in the area. The objective is to sample enough deer to have a 90 percent chance of detecting CWD if one in 100 deer are infected. On average, approximately 100 to 200 deer are taken in targeted-removal operations.

The graph above demonstrates the effectiveness of CWD-management strategies other states have used in the 15 or fewer years that CWD has been present in that state. Illinois, which in addition to hunter harvest has used selective culling of deer to confront CWD, has maintained a low prevalence of CWD in its deer herd — about 2 percent. In contrast, Wisconsin, which abandoned culling in the wake of public pressure, and West Virginia, which has relied exclusively on hunter harvest for CWD management, have seen prevalence rates skyrocket. In core CWD areas in those states, as many as 50 percent of all bucks are infected with CWD. More than six years after CWD first was detected in Pennsylvania, prevalence is climbing. The success Illinois has achieved through a management strategy that includes targeted removal provides optimism that Pennsylvania can maintain low CWD prevalence, while continuing to limit the disease’s spread and protect as much of the state’s deer herd as possible from CWD. But by relying on only hunter harvest, the problem seems certain to grow.
Benefits of Targeted Removal

There are limited options when it comes to managing CWD. Where success has occurred, wildlife agencies used a combination of hunter-harvest and culling to reduce deer populations. Over the past couple years, the Pennsylvania Game Commission conducted small-scale targeted removals around new or recent CWD detections to lower the probability of CWD becoming established in new areas. Reducing deer numbers in an area reduces the probability of deer encountering one another, and as a result reduces disease transmission. Reducing deer numbers also minimizes the accumulation of prions in the local environment.

Targeted removals help guide the Game Commission in making future management decisions by testing additional deer in areas where CWD has been found. Increasing the number of samples taken around new or isolated CWD detections provides the Game Commission with more information about the extent of CWD in the local area.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why not allow hunters to reduce deer populations?

Hunting is an important component of Pennsylvania’s CWD management. All targeted-removal operations occur after the close of hunting seasons, to provide hunters with the first opportunity to remove deer. Hunters can help reduce deer numbers with their antlered, antlerless and DMAP harvests, and can increase surveillance by depositing the heads from deer harvested in DMAs in head collection containers provided by the Game Commission.

The Game Commission is currently working on ways to further increase hunter opportunity to reduce deer around new or isolated cases of CWD.

If CWD prions remain infectious in the soil for several years, how do targeted removals prevent new deer from becoming infected?

Deer infected with CWD can shed prions through bodily fluids for months, or even years, before showing signs of disease. Studies show that, once in the environment, prions can remain infectious for several years. Reducing deer populations helps minimize the buildup of prions in the environment and limits exposure for deer remaining in the area. Since reducing deer populations will not remove prions already in the environment, targeted removals are most effective if conducted quickly after the discovery of a new CWD-positive.

Why use bait when conducting targeted removals?

CWD can be transmitted directly through animal-to-animal contact or indirectly through contaminated environments. Prions, or misfolded proteins, can be shed through bodily fluids and, once in the environment, can remain infectious for several years. Therefore, congregating deer can increase the risk of spreading this disease. Due to this increased risk, it is unlawful to feed wild deer within Disease Management Areas.

Some question why, then, bait is used for targeted removal operations. While using bait increases the risk of spreading CWD, the benefits outweigh the risk. Targeted removals generally are performed at night by USDA Wildlife Services sharpshooters. Using bait sites allows USDA sharpshooters to position deer for safe shots. And because targeted removals typically are conducted multiple nights a week for a couple months, most deer visiting bait sites will be harvested through targeted removals. After targeted removals are completed, bait is removed from each site and disposed of properly.

ADDITIONAL DMA RULES

Additionally, the possession and removal of any vehicular-killed cervids, and/or cervid parts, from within DMAs to locations outside the DMAs, except to sites as approved by the Game Commission, are prohibited. Further, the issuance of any new Game Commission permits to possess or transport live cervids is prohibited in the DMAs.

All cervids killed within the DMAs are subject to CWD testing. This testing may require hunters to present cervids, or cervid parts, for examination and sampling at prescribed locations pursuant to conditions announced in advance of or during the hunting season. This process will be announced through press releases, website notices and other means to reach the widest possible audience. The cost of any such testing and reporting to the hunter will be borne by the Game Commission.

Because new Disease Management Areas are established when new cases of CWD are detected in new areas, and the boundaries of existing DMAs might be adjusted as well, all people affected by DMA requirements are asked to go to www.pgc.pa.gov for the most-up-to-date DMA maps.
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