

Relatively warm, dry weather is forecast for this week and, if the forecast holds, it should remain that way for the Oklahoma youth deer gun season Friday through Sunday. The youth season is a great opportunity to get young hunters out in the field when a parent or mentor can devote all his attention to the young person and getting him or her off to a good start. It is a fantastic experience for both adult and child. The standard old stand at a corn feeder may or may not be the best option this year with agriculture fields and acorns dropping now to attract deer to more natural food sources. A portable box blind set on a good green food plot, winter wheat fields, soybean field, corn field or oak flat may be the better option. With just three days to hunt, it's a good idea to use trail cameras to chart the pattern of those deer in the days to come to figure out the best time to be in the field. If a trail camera isn't an option, I can say from personal observation that on these warmer days the deer seem to be more active in the early morning hours until about 9 or 10 a.m., with a narrower window when they emerge before sunset in the evening. Deer don't seem to be moving long distances. It's likely they are bedded not far from their best food sources. If you find a productive oak with plenty of deer sign it can be a good place to put up a ground blind and settle in for several hours and could be a good shady spot to find a mid-day deer for a young hunter. Jack Morris is a professional guide with nearly 30 years' experience. Contact him at 918-691-3840, jackswildlife@cox.net or jackswildlifeoutdoors.com