

PENNSYLVANIA HUNTING & TRAPPING DIGEST



UPDATES

PAGE 3

**THREE NEW SUNDAY
HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES**

**ARCHERY SEASON EXTENDED
DEEPER INTO THE RUT**

**CWD BRINGING ABOUT
CHANGES STATEWIDE**

**EXTENDED BEAR SEASON
NOW OPENS ON MONDAY**

**NEW DUAL-CARRY RULES FOR
MUZZLELOADER, ARCHERY**

SEPTEMBER SQUIRREL OPENER

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Updates

WELCOME TO HUNTING AND TRAPPING IN PENNSYLVANIA

LICENSE BUYERS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TAKING PLACE THIS YEAR.

Pennsylvania's **firearms deer season** once again will open on a Saturday, and the season in 10 Wildlife Management Units will provide concurrent hunting for antlered and antlerless deer throughout the 14-day season. ♦ Three new **Sunday-hunting opportunities** have been approved for the 2020 season: Sunday, Nov. 15 for archery deer hunting; Sunday, Nov. 22 for bear hunting; and Sunday, Nov. 29 for deer hunting. Only those species can be hunted on the designated Sundays, plus foxes, coyotes and crows. ♦ The **statewide archery deer season** has been extended to Nov. 20. ♦ The **statewide general bear season** includes four days of continuous hunting from Saturday to Tuesday. ♦ The **Thanksgiving turkey season** again will be three days in select WMUs. ♦ The **archery bear season** has been extended by a week, overlapping in its first week with the muzzleloader deer and bear seasons. ♦ The **extended bear season** will open Nov. 30, the first Monday of the firearms deer season, in all WMUs where the season is held. ♦ Properly licensed **archery deer hunters can now carry muzzleloaders** afield when an archery deer season overlaps with a muzzleloader bear season. The same rule applies when an archery bear season overlaps with a muzzleloader deer or bear season. ♦ **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 all active DMAs would expand due to newly detected CWD-positive deer. Additionally, by the time this digest is published, the Game Commission likely will have adopted a new **CWD Response Plan** that might influence deer-hunting regulations in some DMAs. Go to www.pgc.pa.gov for the most up-to-date information. General information about CWD can be found in the CWD section near the back of this digest. ♦ Landowners now can use **purple paint** rather than signs to alert others that their lands are private and trespassing isn't permitted. The Game Commission also now has the authority to investigate trespassing complaints and enforce trespassing violations as a primary offense, even if game-law violations aren't alleged. ♦ Hunters now can obtain up to four **Deer Management Assistance Program** (DMAP) permits per DMAP property, an increase from what was a two-permit limit. On game lands, state forest lands and certain other DMAP properties, however, the two-permit limit remains. ♦ The fall turkey season in WMUs 1A, 2A, 4A, 4B, 4D and 4E was extended to two weeks, but the Thanksgiving season was eliminated. ♦ The **mentored hunting program** has been simplified and made more uniform for hunters of all ages. Mentored hunters of all ages can hunt the same species. Mentored hunters 7 and older now are issued their own harvest tags and can apply for their own antlerless deer licenses and DMAP permits, as well as migratory bird licenses and pheasant permits. ♦ The **statewide squirrel season** has been moved ahead to open on Sept. 12. ♦ **Either-sex pheasant hunting** now is permitted statewide outside of Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas. ♦ **Bobcat hunting and trapping seasons** have been expanded to include WMU 2B, and the **river otter trapping season** has been expanded to include WMUs 1A, 1B and 2F. ♦ The **season limit on beavers** has been increased from 40 to 60 in WMUs 1A and 1B. ♦ Statewide, deer hunters with multiple tags now can try to fill them without first tagging a harvested deer, a practice that long has been employed in Special Regulations Areas. ♦ The **extended elk season** held outside of the Elk Management Area has been eliminated. ♦ There no longer is a cutoff date for **manipulation of crops within managed dove fields**, a change that better ensures landowners' investments in creating fields.♦ The **bag limit on scaup** has been changed. During parts of the season, hunters are permitted to take one scaup daily; during other parts of the season, the daily bag limit is two scaup. Dates vary by duck-hunting zone.

Contents

Greetings	4	County Treasurer Addresses	29
Game Commission Directory	7	DMAP	30
Fluorescent Orange	10	Special Regulations Areas	31
Wildlife Management Units	11	Turkey Seasons and Regulations	32
Hunting Hours Table	13	Bear Seasons, Check Stations and Regulations	36
Mentored Hunting Program	14	Small Game Seasons and Regulations	41
General Hunting Regulations	16	Waterfowl and Migratory Game Birds	43
Dog Training Regulations	18	Furtaking Seasons and Regulations	48
Public & Private Lands, Purple Paint	19	Elk Season and Regulations	53
Big Game Regulations	20	License Information	58
Elk License Drawing	23	CWD	61
Deer Seasons and Regulations	24	Index	66

Greetings:



Game Commission Executive Director
Bryan J. Burbans, left, and Board of Game
Commissioners President Charles E. Fox.

THE YEAR 2020 marks the Pennsylvania Game Commission's 125th anniversary, and at no other point in that span has hunting opportunity in the Commonwealth been greater. From a longer archery deer season that enables hunters to experience more of the whitetail rut to an earlier-starting squirrel season that gives hunters young and old new incentive to enjoy Penn's Woods in September; from expanded bobcat and river-otter trapping opportunities to the first regulated Sunday big-game hunting in Pennsylvania since the 1800s – even the new opportunity for many mentored hunters to apply for their own antlerless tags – there has never been a time like the present for Pennsylvania's hunters and trappers.

It's impossible, however, to appreciate how far we've come without understanding where we've been. When the Game Commission was established in 1895, the state's wildlife populations – from black bears to beavers to bluebirds – were badly depleted. So few deer remained, they eventually would be reintroduced. There were laws to protect wildlife, but no one to enforce them. And wildlife habitat was becoming increasingly degraded by deforestation and pollution.

Today, when the state's deer harvest regularly exceeds 350,000, when record numbers of bear hunters are enjoying record success, when Pennsylvanians don't need to leave home to enjoy some of the best elk-hunting in the nation, and when the Keystone State is becoming an increasingly popular destination for small-game hunting, it's hard to imagine such tough times.

Hunters and trappers, who fund wildlife conservation through the annual purchase of their licenses, all can take pride in these accomplishments. On behalf of the Game Commission, thank you for all you contribute, and for setting the stage for another 125 years of conservation success.

2020-21 HUNTING & TRAPPING DIGEST

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Maps

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Maps

COVER PHOTO:
Steve Hetrick, of Renfrew, with
his Armstrong County buck

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This digest is not the Game & Wildlife Code or its attendant regulations, and should not be considered final on legal interpretation. Questions about laws can be directed to your nearest Game Commission office.

Wildlife Classifications

The Game and Wildlife Code protects all of Pennsylvania's wildlife.
The code classifies wildlife as follows:

Game Animals

Black bear, cottontail rabbit, elk, squirrel (red, gray, black and fox), snowshoe hare, white-tailed deer and woodchuck (groundhog)

Game Birds

Brant, bobwhite quail, coot, gallinule, geese, grouse, merganser, mourning and Eurasian collared dove, pheasant, rail, snipe, swan, wild ducks, wild turkey and woodcock

Big Game

Bear, elk, white-tailed deer and wild turkey

Small Game

Game birds and game animals not classified as big game

Furbearers:

Badger, beaver, bobcat, coyote, fisher, mink, muskrat, opossum, otter, pine marten, raccoon, red and gray fox, striped skunk, weasel and porcupine

Protected Mammals

Wild mammals not classified furbearers or game animals (For example, chipmunks are protected)

Protected Birds

Wild birds not classified game birds

Protection is removed from wildlife, except migratory birds, big game and threatened or endangered species, when personal property, other than an agricultural crop, is being destroyed or damaged. Wildlife may be taken only by the owner or person in charge of the personal property affected. Wildlife taken to protect personal property must be surrendered to a Game Commission representative.



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PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION 125TH ANNIVERSARY

2020 MARKS THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION'S **125TH YEAR** OF MANAGING THE STATE'S WILDLIFE FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS!



Thank you to all hunters, wildlife conservationists and volunteers who have supported our agency's efforts since 1895.

We remain as committed and as passionate as ever to serving Pennsylvania's residents – both humans and wildlife.

STATE GAME LAND SYSTEM 100TH ANNIVERSARY



PENNSYLVANIA'S STATE GAME LAND SYSTEM TURNS 100!

Pennsylvania's first game land was created in 1920. Today, more than 1.5 million acres of game lands are managed by the Game Commission for the primary purpose of conserving and preserving Pennsylvania wildlife!

We remain grateful to our agency's forefathers for their vision to dedicate public land for wildlife, hunting, trapping, wildlife watching and outdoor recreation.



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Tom Wolf, Governor

Pennsylvania Game Commission

Bryan J. Burhans, Executive Director

Richard Palmer, Deputy Executive Director

Thomas P. Grohol, Deputy Executive Director

Board of Game Commissioners

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District 1: Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren.

District 2: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington, Westmoreland.

District 3: Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter.

District 4: Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, Somerset.

District 5: Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Sullivan, Tioga, Union.

District 6: Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, York.

District 7: Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming.

District 8: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill.

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
1509 Pittsburgh Road
Franklin, PA 16323
(814) 432-3187

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

Southwest Region

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

Northeast Region

Bradford, Carbon, Columbia,
Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe,
Montour, Northumberland, Pike,
Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne
& Wyoming counties
3917 Memorial Highway
Dallas, PA 18612
(570) 675-1143

Northcentral Region

Cameron, Centre, Clearfield,
Clinton, Elk, Lycoming, McKean,
Potter, Tioga & Union counties
1566 South Route 44 Highway,
P.O. Box 5038
Jersey Shore, PA 17740-5038
(570) 398-4744
pgc-ncregion@pa.gov

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

Contacting the Harrisburg headquarters **717-787-4250**

PRESS 1 Wildlife emergency or road-killed deer

PRESS 2 Licensing and special permits

PRESS 3 Wildlife information and education

PRESS 4 Law enforcement

PRESS 5 Land management

PRESS 6 To place a merchandise order and all other inquiries

2001 Elmerton Ave. Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797 www.pgc.pa.gov

Deer

One antlered deer per license year,
and an antlerless deer with each required license or permit

Regular Firearms Nov. 28, Sunday, Nov. 29, Nov. 30-Dec. 12

The season is statewide. In many WMUs, antlerless deer may be taken only during the second part of the season.

**WMUs 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 4A,
4B, 4D, 5A, 5C & 5D**

ANTLERED & ANTLERLESS - Nov. 28,
Sunday, Nov. 29, Nov. 30-Dec. 12

**WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A,
3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4E & 5B**

ANTLERED ONLY - Nov. 28, Sunday, Nov. 29, Nov. 30-Dec. 4
ANTLERED & ANTLERLESS - Dec. 5-12

Other deer seasons

Archery

Antlered & Antlerless

STATEWIDE

Oct. 3-Nov. 14, Sunday, Nov. 15,
Nov. 16-20, Dec. 26-Jan. 18

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D

Sept. 19-Nov. 14, Sunday, Nov. 15
Nov. 16-27
Dec. 26-Jan. 23

Muzzleloader

Antlerless Only

STATEWIDE

Oct. 17-24

Special Firearms

Antlerless Only

STATEWIDE

Oct. 22-24

*Junior & Senior license holders,
Mentored Youth, active-duty
military and certain disabled
persons' permit holders*

Flintlock

Antlered & Antlerless

STATEWIDE

Dec. 26-Jan. 18

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D

Dec. 26-Jan. 23

Extended Firearms

Antlerless Only

**ALLEGHENY, BUCKS, CHESTER,
DELAWARE, MONTGOMERY
& PHILADELPHIA COUNTIES**

Dec. 26-Jan. 23

Turkey

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

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.

Oct. 31-Nov. 7

WMU 1B

Oct. 31-Nov. 14

WMUs 1A, 2A,
4A, 4B, 4D & 4E

Oct. 31-Nov. 14

& Nov. 25-27

WMUs 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G,
2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D & 4C

Oct. 31-Nov. 20

& Nov. 25-27

WMUs 2B & 2C

Nov. 3-5

WMU 5B

Nov. 5-7

WMU 5A

Spring Season

Bearded birds only.

Youth Hunt

April 24, 2021

Statewide

May 1-31, 2021

Hunting hours vary

Bear

One bear per license year, with bear license

Regular Firearms

STATEWIDE

Nov. 21,

Sunday Nov. 22,

Nov. 23-24

Archery

Includes Crossbow

STATEWIDE

Oct. 17-Nov. 7

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D

Sept. 19-Nov. 27

WMU 5B

Oct. 3-Nov. 14

Muzzleloader

STATEWIDE

Oct. 17-24

Special Firearms

STATEWIDE

Oct. 22-24

*Junior & Senior license
holders, active-duty military
and certain disabled persons'
permit holders*

Extended Season

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

Nov. 30-Dec. 12

**WMUs 1B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D,
4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E & 5A**

Nov. 30-Dec. 5

Small Game

A pheasant permit is required for most pheasant hunters.
See small game section for more details.

Squirrel

6 daily, 18 possession
Combined Species

JUNIOR HUNT
Sept. 12-26

STATEWIDE
Sept. 12-Nov. 27
Dec. 14-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 27

Pheasant

2 daily, 6 possession

JUNIOR HUNT
Oct. 10-17

STATEWIDE
Oct. 24-Nov. 27
Dec. 14-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 27

Rabbit

4 daily, 12 possession

JUNIOR HUNT
Oct. 3-17

STATEWIDE
Oct. 17-Nov. 27
Dec. 14-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 27

Grouse

2 daily, 6 possession

STATEWIDE
Oct. 17-Nov. 27
Dec. 14-24

Bobwhite Quail

8 daily, 24 possession

STATEWIDE
Oct. 17-Nov. 27
Dec. 14-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 27

Woodchuck

No Limit

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

Crow

No Limit

STATEWIDE
July 3-April 11
Fridays, Saturdays,
Sundays only

Snowshoe Hare

1 daily, 3 possession

STATEWIDE
Dec. 26-Jan. 1

Furtaking

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

Hunting

Raccoons & Foxes

No Limit
Oct. 24-Feb. 20

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. 9-Feb. 3
WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

Porcupine

3 daily, 10 season
Oct. 10-Jan. 30

Trapping

Foxes & Coyotes

No Limit
GENERAL
Oct. 25-Feb. 21

CABLE RESTRAINTS
Dec. 26-Feb. 21

Raccoons, Opossums Striped Skunks & Weasels

No Limit
Oct. 25-Feb. 21

Bobcats

1 per license year with permit
Dec. 19-Jan. 10
WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

Minks & Muskrats

No Limit
Nov. 21-Jan. 10

Fishers

1 per license year with permit
Dec. 19-Jan. 3
WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

Beavers

Limits vary by WMU
Dec. 19-March 31

River Otters

1 per license year with permit
Feb. 13-20
WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3C & 3D



36 antlered, 128 antlerless over three seasons.
Licenses awarded by lottery. Separate applications due July 31.

Archery Season

Sept. 12-26

General Season

Nov. 2-7

Late Season

Jan. 2-9, 2021

Fluorescent Orange Requirements

Woodchuck Hunting

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



WORN AT ALL TIMES

All Small Game Seasons

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



WORN AT ALL TIMES

Deer, Bear or Elk Firearms Seasons

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



WORN AT ALL TIMES

October Muzzleloader Antlerless Deer & Bear Seasons

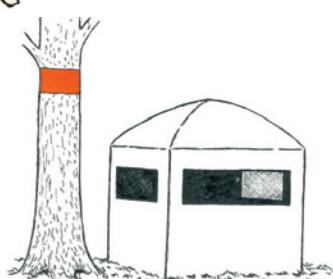
A minimum 250 square inches, on head, chest and back combined, visible 360 degrees.



WORN AT ALL TIMES

Blinds & Enclosed Tree Stands

A minimum of 100 square inches of fluorescent orange material (orange alert band) must be displayed within 15 feet of a blind or enclosed tree stand 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 while **archery hunting for deer, bear or elk**, 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.

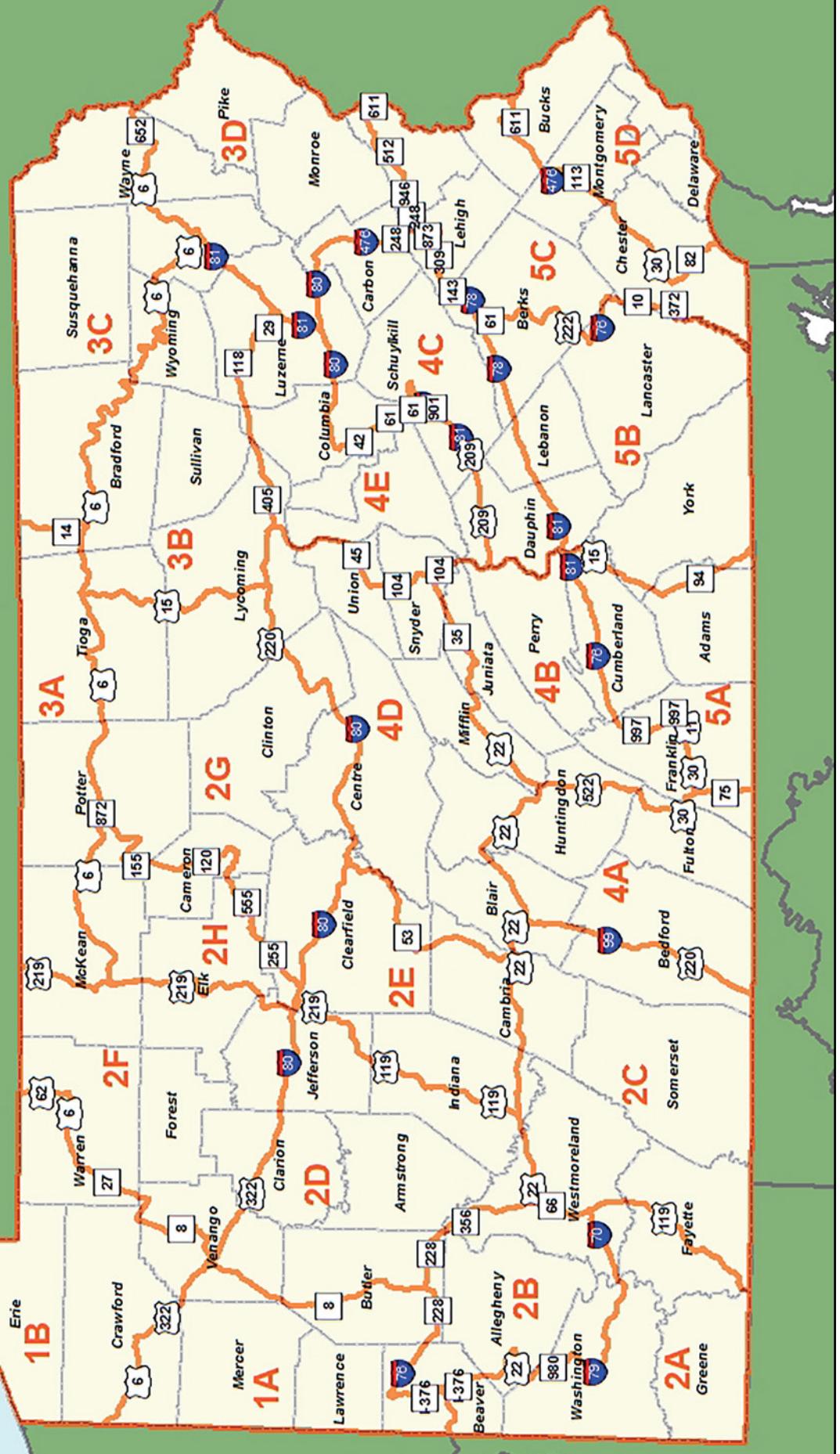
* Fluorescent orange is required when hunting coyotes during any big game season, if orange is required during that season, including from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

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.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNITS



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 for larger WMU maps and turn-by-turn descriptions of their boundaries.

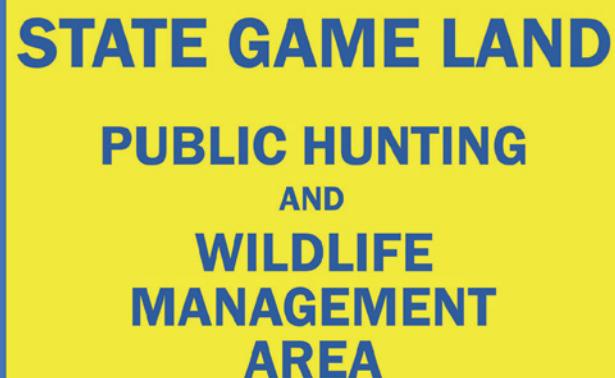
STATE GAME LANDS

PUBLIC HUNTING AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

**GAME LANDS PROVIDE MORE THAN
1.5 MILLION ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND ACCESS
(SIZE OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE)**



- 308 Separate Game Lands/Wildlife Managements Areas.
- Game Lands Access is Available in 65 of Pennsylvania's 67 Counties.
- Active Management on Thousands of Acres of Game Lands Each Year Creates Better Habitat for All Wildlife (Both Game and Non-Game).
- This Great Access Was Made Possible by Early Visionaries and their Forward-Thinking Decisions to Dedicate Public Lands for Wildlife, Hunting and Trapping.



**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
PENNSYLVANIA WILDLIFE WITH YOUR
PURCHASE OF A HUNTING LICENSE!**

2020-21 Hunting Hours Table

LEGAL HUNTING HOURS

for all small and big game are from

ONE-HALF HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE
TO ONE-HALF HOUR AFTER SUNSET.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:

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 17, 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.

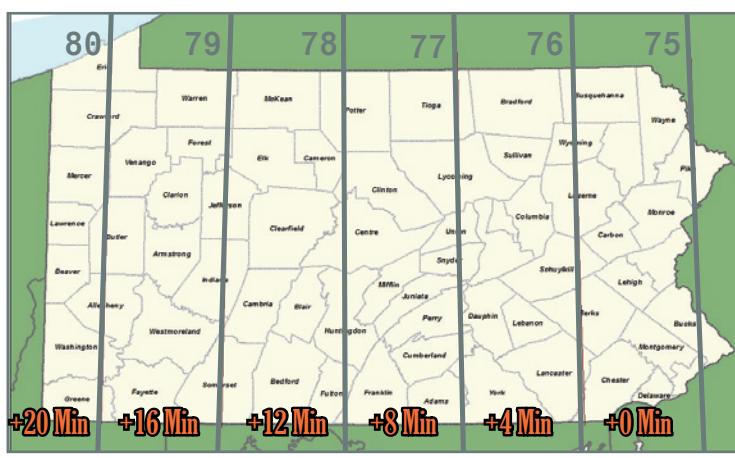
5 – Hunting hours for mourning doves are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset during every segment of dove season. Doves are migratory birds. Do not reference the hunting hours table here for the quitting times for migratory birds; check the migratory game birds hunting hours table elsewhere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

HUNTING HOURS TABLE FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS APPEARS ELSEWHERE IN THIS DIGEST.

PENNSYLVANIA MERIDIAN MAP

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



	BEGIN A.M.	END P.M.
June 28 - July 4	5:08	9:03
July 5 - 11	5:12	9:00
July 12 - 18	5:17	8:56
July 19 - 25	5:23	8:50
July 26 - Aug. 1	5:30	8:44
Aug. 2 - 8	5:38	8:36
Aug. 9 - 15	5:43	8:26
Aug. 16 - 22	5:49	8:16
Aug. 23 - 29	5:56	8:06
Aug. 30 - Sept. 5	6:03	7:55
Sept. 6 - 12	6:09	7:43
Sept. 13 - 19	6:16	7:32
Sept. 20 - 26	6:23	7:20
Sept. 27 - Oct. 3	6:29	7:09
Oct. 4 - 10	6:36	6:58
Oct. 11 - 17	6:44	6:47
Oct. 18 - 24	6:51	6:38
Oct. 25 - 31	6:59	6:29
Nov. 1 - 7**	6:07	5:21
Nov. 8 - 14	6:15	5:15
Nov. 15 - 21	6:23	5:10
Nov. 22 - 28	6:31	5:07
Nov. 29 - Dec. 5	6:37	5:05
Dec. 6 - 12	6:43	5:06
Dec. 13 - 19	6:48	5:08
Dec. 20 - 26	6:51	5:09
Dec. 27 - Jan. 2	6:52	5:17
Jan. 3 - 9	6:53	5:24
Jan. 10 - 16	6:52	5:25
Jan. 17 - 23	6:49	5:33
Jan. 24 - 30	6:45	5:41
Jan. 31 - Feb. 6	6:40	5:49
Feb. 7 - 13	6:33	5:57
Feb. 14 - 20	6:24	6:06
Feb. 21 - 27	6:15	6:14
Feb. 28 - Mar. 6	6:06	6:22
Mar. 7 - 13	5:54	7:29
Mar. 14 - 20*	6:43	7:37
Mar. 21 - 27	6:32	7:44
Mar. 28 - Apr. 3	6:21	7:51
Apr. 4 - 10	6:09	7:58
Apr. 11 - 17	5:58	8:05
Apr. 18 - 24	5:48	8:12
Apr. 25 - May 1	5:38	8:19
May 2 - 8	5:29	8:27
May 9 - 15	5:21	8:33
May 16 - 22	5:14	8:40
May 23 - 29	5:09	8:46
May 30 - June 5	5:05	8:52
June 6 - 12	5:02	8:57
June 13 - 19	5:02	9:00
June 20 - 26	5:04	9:03
June 27 - July 3	5:07	9:03

Daylight Saving Time Begins* Ends**

Mentored Hunting Program

Initially open only to youth under 12, the Mentored Hunting Program has expanded incrementally in recent years to offer opportunities to unlicensed hunters of all ages. Mentored hunters are not required to take a Hunter-Trapper Education (HTE) class before obtaining a permit to hunt through the program. Mentored hunters ages 12 or older may participate in the program for a maximum of three license years. After that period, they must obtain a license to hunt. Youngsters who participate in the mentored program for at least three years before turning 12 are required to get a license at 12 rather than continuing as a mentored hunter. License buyers must first successfully complete an HTE course.

General Information

- A mentor (licensed hunter at least 21 years old) who serves as a guide to a mentored hunter must possess a valid, current hunting license or otherwise qualify for a license and fee exemptions.
- A mentored hunter must obtain a permit, which will contain his or her unique Customer Identification number (CID). A Social Security number is needed for a CID number to be issued. A Mentored Hunting Program permit can be obtained from any issuing agent or online at the Game Commission's "The Outdoor Shop." For mentored hunters ages 7 and older, the permit includes antlered deer, fall turkey and spring turkey harvest tags. **No big-game harvest tags will be issued to mentored hunters who are under 7 years old at the time of application.** Mentored hunters ages 7 and older can apply for their own antlerless deer licenses (one antlerless license per mentored permit holder) and DMAP permits. All mentored hunters can purchase migratory bird licenses and pheasant permits. In addition to a Mentored Hunting Program permit, **a mentored hunter needs a migratory game bird license to hunt doves and a pheasant permit to hunt pheasants.** Mentored Hunting Program permit fees are \$2.90 for resident and nonresident applicants under 12; \$6.90 for resident applicants 12 to 16; \$41.90 for nonresident applicants 12 to 16; \$20.90 for residents 17 and older and \$101.90 for nonresidents 17 and older. Antlered deer or turkey harvests by mentored hunters must be reported within five days. Harvests may be reported online at www.pgc.pa.gov, by using the harvest report cards in this digest, or by phone at 1-855-724-8681.
- A mentored hunter 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 hunter can hunt only **squirrels, rabbits, hares, ruffed grouse, bobwhite quail, pheasants, crows, doves, porcupines, woodchucks, coyotes, deer, and turkeys** in any of their respective seasons, and must follow daily and season bag limits for each species (one antlered deer, one fall turkey and one bearded turkey in the spring, per license year). Mentored hunters 16 and under may follow the same deer antler restrictions as junior license holders, which is one antler at least 3 inches long 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 7 years old at the time of application.** The transfer may not occur until the mentored youth has harvested the antlered deer, and must occur before the deer is tagged. The youngster completes the tag information and attaches the tag to the deer's ear. The mentor must report the deer and check the "taken by mentored youth" box on the harvest report card. A mentored youngster may not receive by transfer more than **one** antlered deer harvest tag each license year.
- A mentor can transfer one spring and one fall turkey harvest tag to a mentored youth **who was under 7 years old at the time of application.** Transfer may not occur until the mentored youth has harvested the turkey, and must occur before tagging the turkey. The youngster completes the tag information and attaches the tag to the turkey's leg. The mentor must report the turkey and check the "taken by mentored youth" box on the harvest report card. A mentored youngster may not receive by transfer more than **one** spring and **one** fall turkey harvest tag each license year.
- A mentor can transfer **one** valid antlerless deer license and/or **one** Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permit to a mentored youth **who was under 7 years old at the time of application.** 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 the mentored youth has harvested the antlerless deer, and must occur before tagging the deer. The youngster completes the tag information and attaches the tag to the deer's ear. 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 hunter 16 and under is eligible to hunt during any special youth hunting seasons for species open to mentored hunters. This includes the antlerless-deer-only Special Firearms season held in October for junior and senior license holders.
- Mentored hunters are exempt from requirements to obtain archery and muzzleloader add-on licenses or stamps applicable to hunting archery or muzzleloader seasons for any species that can be hunted in the mentored program.

Safety & Liability

- A mentored hunter 16 and under 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) and within arm's reach of the mentor at all times while in possession of any lawful hunting device (any firearm or implement that is lawful to be possessed during the current season and used to harvest the particular species) while engaged in hunting or related activities.
- A mentored participant 17 or older 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 hunter** at any given time while participating in the Mentored Hunting Program. For example, a mentor **cannot** accompany a mentored hunter 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 hunter 16 and under 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 hunter 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 hunter occurring while engaged in hunting or related activities. A mentor who causes or allows a mentored hunter to engage in an unlawful act shall be punishable as the principal offender.



BOWTECH BOW

TIGHT SPOT QUIVER

RIPCORD REST

BLACK GOLD SIGHT

OCTANE STABILIZER

WIN
FREE
GEAR

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN
KILLER GEAR FROM THESE BRANDS:



TEXT "GEARPA" TO 64600 TO ENTER



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 within 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 – regardless the type or quantity – are used, or have been used within the past 30 days, as an enticement to lure game or wildlife. Hunters are responsible for ensuring an 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). The manipulation of crops for dove hunting is permitted. Any natural or manmade 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 or 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 when hunting. 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, 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 may be used. Electric bicycles are not permitted on game lands.

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, per 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 License to Carry Firearms permit is required to carry a handgun concealed, or have it loaded in a motor vehicle. License to Carry Firearms permits are issued by county sheriff or the Philadelphia Chief of Police. While engaged in activities regulated by the Game & Wildlife Code, a License to Carry Firearms permit only entitles the holder to carry handguns that fall within this classification. Sportsman's Firearms Permits are issued by county treasurers. A person holding a Sportsman's Firearms Permit may not carry a concealed handgun or a loaded handgun in a motor 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 permits 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

Pennsylvania Game Commission

General Hunting Regulations

semiautomatic rifles used to hunt small game and furbearers.

Firearms & Devices — Unlawful & Permitted

It is unlawful to hunt with automatic firearms. Semiautomatic (autoloading) rifles, air- or gas-operated rifles and manually operated handguns may be used for hunting small game and furbearers (See small game and furbearer sections for more details). 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 be used while hunting deer, bears and elk.

Injury Reports

If you are involved in an incident where someone has been injured by a firearm or archery equipment, either as a victim or the person causing injury (including self-inflicted injuries), 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. Failure to submit a report is unlawful, as is fleeing, or failing or refusing 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 beardless turkey killed by mistake during the spring turkey 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 Wildlife & Trespassing

It is unlawful for a hunter 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 hunter a citation for trespassing on private property, even if game-law violations aren't alleged. A new law allows the use of purple paint on trees or posts as a lawful posting method on private property in all but Allegheny and Philadelphia counties.

Road-killed Deer/Possessing Wildlife

It is unlawful at any time to possess live wildlife, except foxes for which a permit has been issued. In most cases, animals or parts of animals killed on highways may not be possessed. **Pennsylvania residents** may possess deer or turkeys killed by motor vehicles, for personal consumption only, if they secure a **permit number** from the Game Commission within 24 hours after picking up the deer or turkey. Call the appropriate region office. An individual should keep the head and hide of a roadkill for at least 48 hours, unless directed differently by the local game warden. 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 unlawful 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 that was 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.**

General Hunting Regulations

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**. But around playgrounds, schools, nursery schools or day-care centers, the safety zone remains 150 yards. Archery hunters carrying muzzleloaders during any muzzleloader season must abide by the 150-yard safety zone regulation.

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 season, including those days separating the season, 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. A new law, however, permits additional hunting on three Sundays per calendar year. In 2020, those Sundays are: Nov. 15 for archery deer hunting; Nov. 22 for bear hunting and Nov. 29 for deer hunting. Hunters on **private land** on the three selected Sundays must carry written permission from the landowner.

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 in recovery of 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 a 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.

- 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.

Public & Private Lands

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.

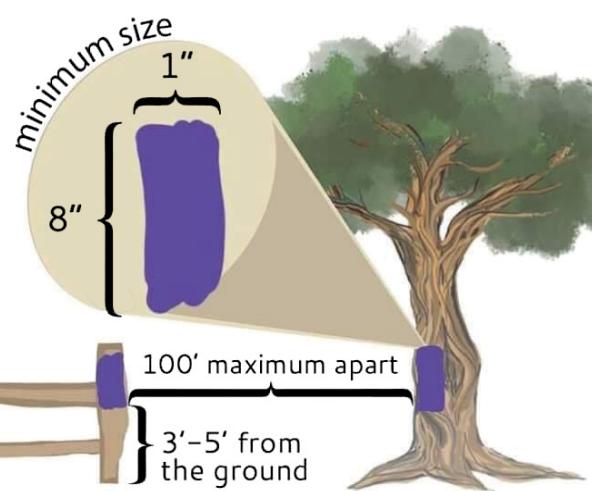
A list of state game lands with shooting ranges also can be found online.

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, 2020 to June 30, 2021 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.

Pennsylvania's purple paint law



A recent change in Title 18, the state Crimes Code, gives landowners the option of using purple paint, rather than signs, to post their properties and alert others that lands are private and trespassing isn't permitted.

This law is effective in all but Philadelphia and Allegheny counties.

Landowners using purple paint to post their properties use vertical purple lines that are at least 8 inches long and 1 inch wide. The bottom of the mark must be no less than 3 feet or more than 5 feet from the ground. And painted marks are not more than 100 feet apart.

Now that the "purple paint law" is effective, hunters and trappers should know they might encounter purple markings on trees and that these marks are meant to define the boundary of an adjoining private property that's posted against trespassing.

The new law also authorizes unarmed persons to go onto private property for the sole purpose of retrieving a hunting dog.

In Pennsylvania, failure to obey purple painted marks, as well as signs or verbal commands to keep out, is considered defiant trespass – a third-degree misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and \$2,500 in fines. If trespassing occurs while hunting, additional game-law violations – and additional penalties – also might apply.

A recent legislative act has provided the Game Commission the authority to investigate trespassing complaints and enforce trespassing violations as a primary offense, even if game-law violations aren't alleged, and the agency will do so.

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 exer-

cising 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

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.

Big Game Regulations

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 that follow).

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.

DUAL-CARRY RULES

Carrying firearms generally is prohibited while bowhunting. Holders of License to Carry Firearms permits may possess their permitted firearms while bowhunting, and archery deer hunters long have been permitted to carry muzzleloaders to hunt deer during times when the archery and muzzleloader deer seasons overlap. Archery deer hunters now can carry muzzleloaders when an archery deer season overlaps with a muzzleloader bear season. The rule also applies to the archery bear season in overlaps with a muzzleloader deer or bear 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

BOW & ARROW EQUIPMENT DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)

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.

MUZZLELOADER 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 (defined earlier). 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 (defined earlier). 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.

Big Game Regulations

ELK SEASON

- Manually operated centerfire rifles and handguns at least 26 caliber using all-lead projectiles or bullets of at least 120 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.
- See Elk Section for dual-carry sporting implements rules when hunting elk.

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

TREE STANDS & BLINDS (CONTINUED)

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; along 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.

Big Game Regulations

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, or information about anyone who has failed to report 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. Harvested bears, turkeys and elk must be tagged immediately after harvest and before the carcass is moved. Deer, however, can be tagged any time before the carcass is moved. A prior regulation had required a hunter to tag any harvested deer before attempting to take another. That regulation has been rescinded.

The harvest 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.

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 townships or counties where eradication trapping operations actively are being conducted. If you think you may have encountered 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, 1-888-PA-PARKS, visit www.dcnr.pa.gov, or write State Parks, 8th Floor, P.O. Box 8551, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8551, or call 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.



PENNSYLVANIA ELK SEASON

APPLY FOR THE HUNT OF A LIFETIME

2020 PENNSYLVANIA ELK HUNTING SEASONS



DEADLINE TO APPLY IS JULY 31, 2020

APPLY AT TIME OF HUNTING LICENSE PURCHASE
OR VISIT US AT WWW.PGC.PA.GOV

**ISSUING 100% MORE ARCHERY
BULL LICENSES IN 2020**



Deer

HUNTERS ARE LIMITED TO 1 ANTLERED DEER PER LICENSE YEAR, AND 1 ANTLERLESS DEER FOR EACH ANTLERLESS LICENSE OR PERMIT.

Regular Firearms Nov. 28, Sunday, Nov. 29, Nov. 30 -Dec. 12

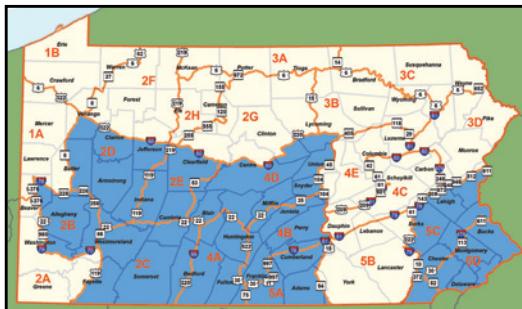
The season is statewide. In many WMUs, antlerless deer may be taken only during the second part of the season.

**WMUs 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 4A,
4B, 4D, 5A, 5C & 5D**

ANTLERED & ANTLERLESS - Nov. 28,
Sunday, Nov. 29, Nov. 30-Dec. 12

**WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A,
3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4E & 5B**

ANTLERED ONLY - Nov. 28, Sunday, Nov. 29, Nov. 30-Dec. 4
ANTLERED & ANTLERLESS - Dec. 5-12



Other deer seasons

Archery

Antlered & Antlerless

STATEWIDE

Oct. 3-Nov. 14, Sunday, Nov. 15,
Nov. 16-20, Dec. 26-Jan. 18

WMUS 2B, 5C & 5D

Sept. 19-Nov. 14, Sunday, Nov. 15
Nov. 16-27
Dec. 26-Jan. 23

Muzzleloader

Antlerless Only

STATEWIDE

Oct. 17-24

Special Firearms

Antlerless Only

STATEWIDE

Oct. 22-24

Junior & Senior license holders, Mentored Youth, active-duty military and certain disabled persons

Flintlock

Antlered & Antlerless

STATEWIDE

Dec. 26-Jan. 18

WMUS 2B, 5C AND 5D

Dec. 26-Jan. 23

Extended Firearms

Antlerless Only

ALLEGHENY, BUCKS, CHESTER, DELAWARE, MONTGOMERY & PHILADELPHIA COUNTIES

Dec. 26-Jan. 23

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, including muzzleloader bear season with a bear license, 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 caliber or larger, or 50 caliber or larger handgun. Scope sights permitted.

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. A safety pin is a good option when a deer is to be mounted. Deer may be tagged anytime before the carcass is moved. A prior regulation had required a hunter to tag any harvested deer before attempting to take another. That regulation has been rescinded. 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 be positioned near the ear tip, unobstructed, so Game Commission personnel can scan it.

SPECIAL ANTLERLESS DEER ONLY FIREARMS

- Arms 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 not 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.

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

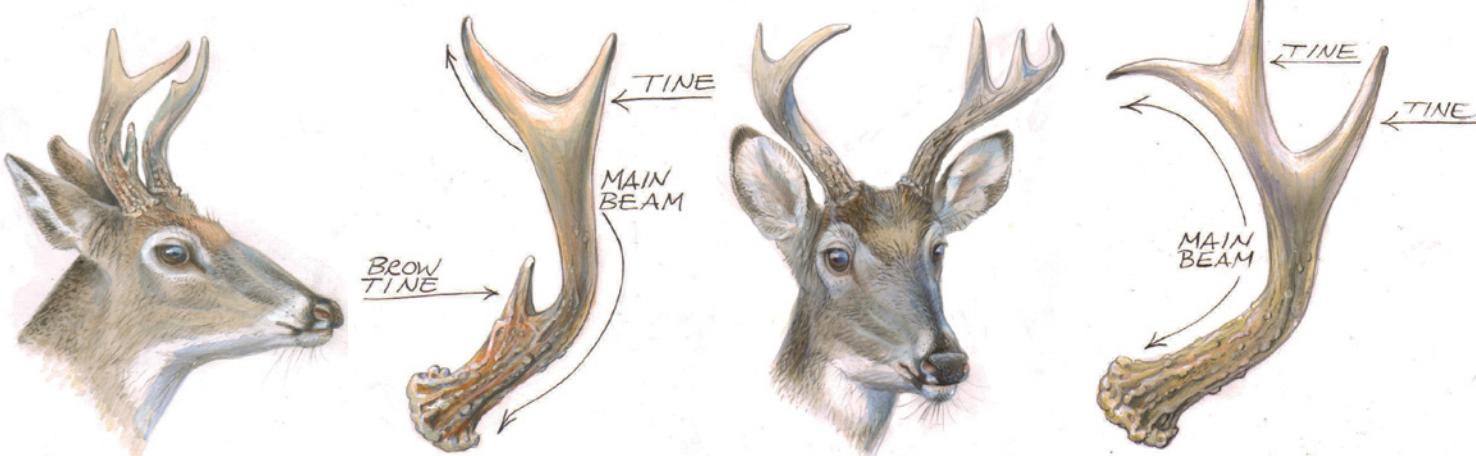
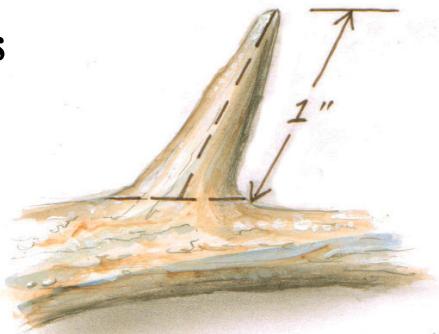
Antler Restrictions

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).



THREE UP

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

Antlerless Licenses

Application Schedule

July 13 RESIDENTS

July 20 NONRESIDENTS

Aug. 3 UNSOLD, 1ST ROUND

Aug. 17 UNSOLD, 2ND ROUND

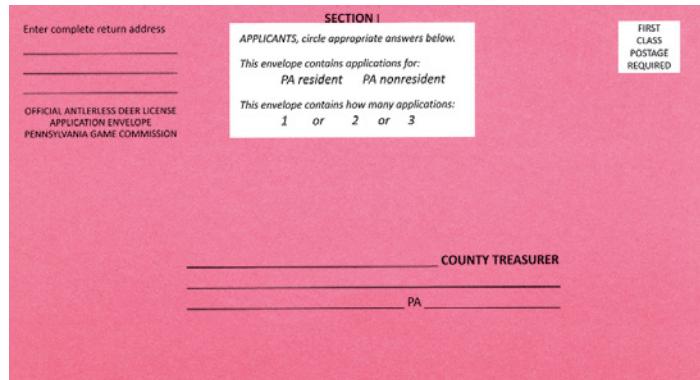
Aug. 24 OVER-THE-COUNTER SALES
WMUS 2B, 5C & 5D

Oct. 5 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. 3 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.*
- *Mentored permit holders can obtain only one antlerless license.*

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.



All antlerless deer license applications must be mailed in the official pink envelope. In most WMUs, hunters may submit only one application per hunter per round. But up to three applicants can submit using the same envelope.

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D

In WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D, hunters can apply for and receive an unlimited number of antlerless licenses beginning Aug. 3. No more than three applications can be sent in the same envelope. Beginning Aug. 24, antlerless licenses that remain unsold for WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D can be purchased over the counter.

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

Antlerless Licenses

may apply to another WMU where licenses are available by using a new pink envelope.

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. 17-24).
- 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. 22-24).
- 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 percent 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.

County Treasurer Addresses

ADDRESS YOUR ENVELOPE BY WRITING IN THE COUNTY TREASURER OF YOUR CHOICE,

COUNTY TREASURER

USING THE APPROPRIATE ADDRESS FROM THE LIST BELOW:

Adams — 117 Baltimore Street, RM 101, Gettysburg, PA 17325-2390	Street, Indiana, PA 15701-3934
Allegheny — 436 Grant Street, Room 109 Courthouse, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2497	Jefferson — 155 Main Street, Room 212, Brookville, PA 15825
Armstrong — 450 East Market Street, Suite 100, Kittanning, PA 16201-1497	Juniata — P.O. Box 68, Mifflintown, PA 17059
Beaver — 810 Third Street, Beaver, PA 15009-2196	Lackawanna — 123 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503
Bedford — 200 South Juliana Street, Bedford, PA 15522-1713	Lancaster — P.O. Box 1447, Lancaster, PA 17608-1447
Berks — 633 Court Street, 2nd Floor County Services Center, Reading, PA 19601-4318	Lawrence — 430 Court Street, New Castle, PA 16101-3503
Blair — 423 Allegheny Street, Suite 142, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648-2047	Lebanon — 400 South 8th Street, Room 103, Lebanon, PA 17042
Bradford — 301 Main Street Courthouse, Towanda, PA 18848-1891	Luzerne — 200 N River St, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711
Bucks — 55 East Court Street, Doylestown, PA 18901-4318	Lycoming — 48 West Third Street, Williamsport, PA 17701-6569
Butler — 124 W. Diamond St., P.O. Box 1208, Butler, PA 16003-1208	McKean — 500 West Main Street, Smethport, PA 16749
Cambria — 200 South Center Street, Ebensburg, PA 15931-1941	Mercer — 104 Courthouse, Mercer, PA 16137-1224
Cameron — 20 East Fifth St., Courthouse, Emporium, PA 15834	Mifflin — 20 North Wayne Street, Lewistown, PA 17044
Carbon — P.O. Box 247, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229	Monroe — 1 Quaker Plaza, Suite 103, Stroudsburg, PA 18360-2141
Centre — 420 Holmes Street, RM 105, Bellefonte, PA 16823-1401	Montgomery — P.O. Box 311, Norristown, PA 19404-0311
Chester — 313 West Market Street, West Chester, PA 19382	Montour — 253 Mill Street, Danville, PA 17821
Clarion — 330 Main Street, Room 110, Clarion, PA 16214	Northampton — Revenue Division, 669 Washington Street, Easton, PA 18042-7482
Clearfield — P.O. Box 289, Clearfield, PA 16830-0289	Northumberland — 399 Stadium Drive, Sunbury, PA 17801-3201
Clinton — 2 Piper Way Suite 124, Lock Haven, PA 17745	Perry — P.O. Box 63, 25 West Main Street, New Bloomfield, PA 17068-0063
Columbia — Columbia County Annex Building, P.O. Box 380, Bloomsburg, PA 17815-0380	Pike — 506 Broad Street, Milford, PA 18337-1542
Crawford — 903 Diamond Park, Meadville, PA 16335	Potter — 1 North Main Street, Suite 202, Coudersport, PA 16915-1630
Cumberland — 1 Courthouse Square, Room 103, Carlisle, PA 17013	Schuylkill — 401 North Second Street, Pottsville, PA 17901
Dauphin — Dauphin County Courthouse, 101 Market Street, Room 105, Harrisburg, PA 17101-2078	Snyder — P.O. Box 217, Middleburg, PA 17842
Delaware — 201 West Front Street, Media, PA 19063-2708	Somerset — 300 North Center Ave., Suite 300, Somerset, PA 15501-1470
Elk — 300 Center Street, P.O. Box 247, Ridgway, PA 15853-0247	Sullivan — P.O. Box 116, Laporte, PA 18626-0116
Erie — 140 West Sixth Street, Room 109, Erie, PA 16501-1084	Susquehanna — P.O. Box 218, Montrose, PA 18801-0218
Fayette — 61 East Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401	Tioga — P.O. Box 308, Wellsboro, PA 16901-1444
Forest — 526 Elm Street, Tionesta, PA 16353-9724	Union — 103 South Second Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837
Franklin — 157 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg, PA 17201	Venango — P.O. Box 708, Franklin, PA 16323-0708
Fulton — 201 North Second Street, McConnellsburg, PA 17233	Warren — 204 Fourth Ave., Warren, PA 16365
Greene — 93 East High Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370	Washington — 100 West Beau Street, Suite 102, Washington, PA 15301-4432
Huntingdon — Bailey Building, 233 Penn Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652-1457	Wayne — 925 Court Street, Honesdale, PA 18431-1994
Indiana — Indiana County Courthouse, First Floor, 825 Philadelphia	Westmoreland — 2 North Main Street, Suite 110, Greensburg, PA 15601-2488
	Wyoming — 1 Court House Square, Tunkhannock, PA 18657-1233
	York — 28 East Market Street, Room 126, York, PA 17401-1584

2020-21 ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSE ALLOCATION

This year's allocation, the increase or decrease from last year, and 2019 sell-out date provided.

WMU 1A — 49,000 (+/- 0)	11/21	WMU 2G — 27,000 (+1,000)	8/5	WMU 4C — 32,000 (-4,000)	8/19
WMU 1B — 41,000 (+6,000)	8/7	WMU 2H — 7,000 (+1,000)	7/15	WMU 4D — 45,000 (-1,000)	9/5
WMU 2A — 46,000 (+/- 0)	N/A	WMU 3A — 21,000 (+1,000)	8/9	WMU 4E — 37,000 (+3,000)	8/12
WMU 2B — 49,000 (-5,000)	N/A	WMU 3B — 33,000 (-5,000)	9/11	WMU 5A — 26,000 (+4,000)	10/7
WMU 2C — 58,000 (+6,000)	10/15	WMU 3C — 49,000 (+3,000)	10/23	WMU 5B — 60,000 (-7,000)	N/A
WMU 2D — 60,000 (-6,000)	10/7	WMU 3D — 36,000 (+11,000)	8/8	WMU 5C — 70,000 (+/- 0)	8/30
WMU 2E — 39,000 (+7,000)	10/18	WMU 4A — 49,000 (+8,000)	N/A	WMU 5D — 29,000 (+/- 0)	8/28
WMU 2F — 36,000 (+5,000)	8/7	WMU 4B — 33,000 (+1,000)	8/23		

ANTLERLESS LICENSE APPLICATIONS

One application is attached to your license and others can be found with the tear-out report cards in this digest and on the Game Commission's website.



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.

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.

For Hunters:

Hunters can get up to four DMAP harvest permits per property, except in areas designated by the Game Commission that will remain at a maximum of two permits per person. 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.

A mentor can transfer one DMAP harvest permit issued to him or her to an eligible mentored hunter below age 7. Mentored hunters 7 and older can apply for their own DMAP permits (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 a DMAP permit may not occur until after the mentored youngster has harvested the antlerless deer, but before tagging the carcass. A mentored hunter under age 7 is ineligible to make direct application for a DMAP harvest permit.

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

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.



Special Regulations Areas

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.

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.

Deer & Bear Season, Arms & Ammunition

- Allegheny County – Centerfire rifles are not lawful. Muzzleloading long guns .44 caliber or larger, bows and arrows, crossbows, manual or semiautomatic shotguns, .410 or larger using slugs. Buckshot is not permitted.
- Philadelphia County – Only bows and arrows, including crossbows.
- Remaining Counties – Centerfire rifles are not lawful. Muzzleloading long guns, .44 caliber or larger, manual or semiautomatic shotguns, .410 or larger, using slugs; 20-gauge or larger, using buckshot, bows and crossbows. 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 crossbows.

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 handguns; and bows and crossbows. 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. For woodchucks and furbearers, air guns must be 22-caliber. BB ammunition cannot be used.

PRIVATE PROPERTY DEER BAITING

A baiting permit no longer is needed when using bait to hunt deer on private property in the Southeast Special Regulations 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.

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. 17-24

- 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. 22-24

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. 28, 29 & Nov. 30-Dec. 12

- 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. 23; Other WMUs Dec. 26-Jan. 18

- 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. 23

- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, and visible from 360 degrees, is required at all times.

SMALL GAME

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D

- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back at all times is required. Furbearer and crow hunters do not need to wear fluorescent orange. Woodchuck hunters must wear a solid fluorescent cap visible 360 degrees.

Turkey

Fall season 1 bird, either sex

Oct. 31-Nov. 7

- WMU 1B

Oct. 31-Nov. 14

- WMUs 1A, 2A, 4A, 4B, 4D & 4E

Oct. 31-Nov. 14; Nov. 25-27

- WMUs 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D & 4C

Oct. 31-Nov. 20; Nov. 25-27

- WMUs 2B & 2C

Nov. 5-7

- WMU 5A

Nov. 3-5

- WMU 5B

Closed to fall hunting

- WMUs 5C & 5D

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

SPRING TURKEY HUNTING IS OPEN STATEWIDE

YOUTH HUNT

April 24, 2021

STATEWIDE SEASON

May 1-31, 2021

Hunting Hours

Hunting hours during the **April 24** youth hunt, and from **May 1 to May 15** 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 17 to May 31**, 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 hunters may participate. Harvest tags are provided to mentored hunters 7 and older. Birds taken by mentored hunters under the age of 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 (16 and under) 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 to the Mentored Youth from his or her adult 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 turkeys 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

A **2ND SPRING TURKEY LICENSE** can be purchased **BEFORE** the start of the regular spring turkey season (by April 30, 2021) from any issuing agent or at the Game Commission's website. While the second license allows hunters to harvest up to two gobblers, only one turkey may be taken per day.

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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WEAR A
HARNESS.**

SAFE IN YOUR STAND

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.

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HUNTERS ARE LIMITED TO HARVESTING 1 BEAR PER LICENSE YEAR.

Regular Firearms

STATEWIDE

Nov. 21,

Sunday, Nov. 22,
& Nov. 23-24

Archery

Includes Crossbow

STATEWIDE

Oct. 17-Nov. 7

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D

Sept. 19-Nov. 27

WMU 5B

Oct. 3-Nov. 14

Muzzleloader

STATEWIDE

Oct. 17-24

Special Firearms

STATEWIDE

Oct. 22-24

*Junior & Senior license
holders, active-duty military
and certain disabled persons'
permit holders*

Extended Season

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

Nov. 30-Dec. 12

WMUs 1B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 3C,
3D, 4A, 4B,
4C, 4D, 4E & 5A

Nov. 30-Dec. 5

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. 24, or Dec. 7-12 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 seasons without needing an archery or muzzleloader license for these two particular seasons. Bear licenses are available to purchase from the time general hunting licenses go on sale through the Dec. 12 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.

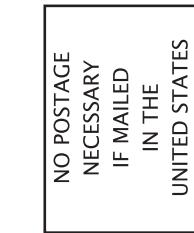
Restrictions

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.

BEAR FEEDING BAN

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.



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See application instructions on the Antlerless Licenses page in the deer hunting section

ANTLERLESS LICENSE APPLICATION

This application must be mailed in an official pink envelope
Make check or money order payable to "County Treasurer"

SUCCESSFUL DEER AND TURKEY HUNTERS
ARE REMINDED TO REPORT ALL HARVESTS

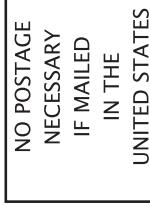


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2020-21 TURKEY HARVEST REPORT CARD

NOTICE: Report only ONE turkey per report card PRINT PLAINLY.

CID No. _____

Name _____

Date of birth _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

- Fall/Spring Turkey Check if taken by mentored youth
 Special Turkey (2nd Gobbler) Check if taken by mentored adult
 Tag No. _____
 Check if no harvest



Sex (check one):

- Male (Black-tipped Breast feathers) Female (Brown-tipped Breast feathers) Unknown



Length of: (Circle nearest part of an inch):

Beard: _____ inch(es) and 0 1/8 1/4 3/8 1/2 5/8 3/4 7/8

Note: If multiple beards, report only longest beard.

Spur: _____ inch(es) and 0 1/8 1/4 3/8 1/2 5/8 3/4 7/8

Date of kill _____ / _____ / _____ Time of Kill _____ : _____
Month Day Year hr min

WMU of kill _____ a.m. p.m.

County of kill _____

Township of kill _____

Taken with (check one):

- Rifle Shotgun Handgun Muzzleloader
 Bow/Compound Bow Crossbow

ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSE APPLICATION

(This application may be copied, but an original signature on each application is required.)

CID Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____
Mo. Day Year

(large 9-digit number on your hunting license)

Resident check here _____ (**Cost \$6.90**) Nonresident check here _____ (**Cost \$26.90**)

Check if this is part of a group application _____ (all applicants must select the same preference(s))

WMU Preference (enter letter and number): 1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____

Name: _____ First _____ Middle Initial _____ Last _____
City/Town _____

Legal Address: _____ Street or RR _____
State _____ Zip Code _____

Check No. _____ Amount \$ _____ Phone No. (_____) _____ - _____

Signature: _____ Must be written _____ Date Signed: _____ / _____ / _____

2020-2021 DEER HARVEST/DMAP REPORT CARD

Notice: Report only ONE deer tag per report card. PRINT PLAINLY.

CID No. _____

Name _____

Date of birth _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

- Antlered deer: Points — Left _____ Right _____
 Check if taken by mentored youth



- Antlerless deer: Check if taken by mentored youth
 Regular Antlerless License Check if taken by mentored adult

Tag No. _____

- DMAP Antlerless Deer Check if no harvest
 Tag No. _____

- DMAP Unit No. _____ Coupon No. _____
 Check if taken by mentored youth

- Late Season Flintlock (Antlered/Flintlock Tag)



Date of kill _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

WMU of kill _____

County of kill _____

Township of kill _____

Taken with: (Check One)

- Rifle Shotgun Handgun Muzzleloader
 Bow/Compound Bow Crossbow



2020-2021 DEER HARVEST/DMAP REPORT CARD

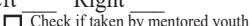
Notice: Report only ONE deer tag per report card. PRINT PLAINLY.

CID No. _____

Name _____

Date of birth _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

- Antlered deer: Points — Left _____ Right _____
 Check if taken by mentored youth



- Antlerless deer: Check if taken by mentored youth
 Regular Antlerless License Check if taken by mentored adult

Tag No. _____

- DMAP Antlerless Deer Check if no harvest
 Tag No. _____

- DMAP Unit No. _____ Coupon No. _____
 Check if taken by mentored youth

- Late Season Flintlock (Antlered/Flintlock Tag)

Date of kill _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

WMU of kill _____

County of kill _____

Township of kill _____

Taken with: (Check One)

- Rifle Shotgun Handgun Muzzleloader
 Bow/Compound Bow Crossbow

NOTICE: Report only ONE Turkey per report card				PRINT PLAINLY.			
2020-21 TURKEY HARVEST REPORT CARD							
Name _____				CID No. _____			
Date of birth _____ / _____ / _____				Name _____			
Fall/Spring Turkey <input type="checkbox"/> Check if taken by mentored youth				Special Turkey (2nd Gobbler) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if taken by mentor or adult			
Tag No. _____				Check if no harvest <input type="checkbox"/>			
Fall/Spring Turkey <input type="checkbox"/> Check if taken by mentored youth				Special Turkey (2nd Gobbler) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if taken by mentor or adult			
Sex (check one):				Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>			
 				 			
Length of: (Circle nearest part of an inch):				Beads: (inch(es) and 0 1/8 1/4 3/8 1/2 5/8 3/4 7/8 Note: If multiple beads, report only longest bead.)			
Spurs: (inch(es) and 0 1/8 1/4 3/8 1/2 5/8 3/4 7/8 Note: If multiple spurs, report only longest spur.)				Spurs: (inch(es) and 0 1/8 1/4 3/8 1/2 5/8 3/4 7/8 Note: If multiple spurs, report only longest spur.)			
Date of Kill _____ / _____ / _____				Time of Kill _____ : _____ a.m. <input type="checkbox"/> p.m. <input type="checkbox"/>			
WMU of Kill _____				County of Kill _____			
Township of Kill _____				Township of Kill _____			
Taken with (check one):				Taken with (check one):			
Rifle <input type="checkbox"/> Shotgun <input type="checkbox"/> Handgun <input type="checkbox"/> Muzzleloader				Rifle <input type="checkbox"/> Shotgun <input type="checkbox"/> Handgun <input type="checkbox"/> Muzzleloader			
Bow/Crossbow <input type="checkbox"/> Compound Bow <input type="checkbox"/> Crossbow				Bow/Crossbow <input type="checkbox"/> Compound Bow <input type="checkbox"/> Crossbow			



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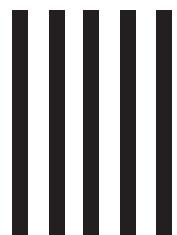
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A vertical rectangular label for business reply mail. At the top, it says "BUSINESS REPLY MAIL" in large, bold, black capital letters. Below that, it says "FIRST-CLASS MAIL" and "PERMIT NO. 8376". In the center, it says "HARRISBURG, PA". At the bottom, it says "POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE". There are four thick, horizontal black bars at the very bottom of the label.

PA GAME COMMISSION
2001 ELMERTON AVE
HARRISBURG PA 17110-9851



Bear Check Stations

Check stations statewide are open each day through the regular firearms bear season. Hours are:

- **Saturday, Nov. 21** – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Sunday, Nov. 22** – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Monday, Nov. 23** – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 24** – 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 – Tidioute Borough Fire Hall, 228 Main Street, Tidioute – 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, 4728 Quehanna Highway, 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, Beavertown – 40.7529 N, 77.166542 W

NORTHEAST REGION

Carbon County – SGL 141 Maintenance Bldg. 526 Behrens Road, Jim Thorpe – 40.9411 N, 75.6722 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 County – 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
Monday through Friday 11/30-12/4, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday 12/5, Noon-7 p.m.

Warren County – State Game Lands 143 Building
375 Moore Lane, Pittsfield- 41.823172 N, 079.435473 W
Saturday 12/5, Noon-7 p.m.

SOUTHWEST REGION

Westmoreland County – Southwest Region Office
Monday through Friday, 11/30-12/4, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday 12/5, Noon- 7 p.m.

Somerset County – New Centerville Rural Fire Dept.
Monday, 11/30, Noon-7 p.m.
Saturday, 12/5, Noon-7 p.m.

NORTHCENTRAL REGION

Lycoming County – Northcentral Region Office, 1566 S. Rt. 44 Hwy., Jersey Shore-41.1911 N, 77.2315 W
Monday through Friday 11/30-12/4, 8 a.m-7 p.m.
Saturday, 12/5, Noon-7 p.m.

Tioga County – State Game Lands 208 Headquarters
Bldg., 1749 Rte. 349, Gaines – 41.8007 N, 77.5721 W
Monday through Friday, 11/30-12/4, Noon- 7 p.m.
Saturday 12/5, Noon- 7 p.m.

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION

Fulton County – Buchanan State Forest Building, 5 miles east of Breezewood on Rt. 30-40.0172 N, 78.1505 W
Monday 11/30, Noon- 7 p.m.
Tuesday, 12/1, Noon- 7 p.m.
Saturday, 12/5, Noon- 7 p.m.

Huntingdon County – Huntingdon Nat'l Guard
Armory, 10034 Raystown Rd., Huntingdon-40.4885 N, 78.0480 W
Monday through Saturday 11/30-12/5, Noon- 7 p.m.

Snyder County – Beavertown Hose Company, 222 S. Sassafras Street, Beavertown-40.7529 N, 77.166542 W
Monday 11/30, Noon- 7 p.m.
Tuesday, 12/1, Noon- 7 p.m.
Saturday, 12/5, Noon- 7 p.m.

NORTHEAST REGION

Carbon County – SGL 141 Maintenance Bldg. 526 Behrens Road, Jim Thorpe – 40.9411 N, 75.6722 W
Monday 11/30, Noon- 7 p.m.
Tuesday, 12/1, Noon- 7 p.m.
Saturday, 12/5, Noon- 7 p.m.

Lackawanna County – Lackawanna State Park:
Monday through Saturday 11/30-12/5, Noon- 7 p.m.

Luzerne – Northeast Region Office, 3917 Memorial Highway, Dallas-41.342975 N, 75.991387 W
Monday through Friday 11/30-12/4, 8 a.m.- 7 p.m.
Saturday 12/5, Noon- 7 p.m.

Monroe County – State Game Lands 127 Building
Monday 11/30, Noon- 7 p.m.
Tuesday, 12/1, Noon- 7 p.m.
Saturday, 12/5, Noon- 7 p.m.

Pike County – State Game Lands 180 Shohola Building
Monday 11/30, Noon- 7 p.m.
Tuesday, 12/1, Noon- 7 p.m.
Saturday, 12/5, Noon- 7 p.m.

Sullivan County – DCNR Loyalsock State Forest Resource Management Center
Monday 11/30, Noon- 7 p.m.
Tuesday, 12/1, Noon- 7 p.m.
Saturday, 12/5, Noon- 7 p.m.

SOUTHEAST REGION

Berks County – Southeast Region Office
Monday through Friday 11/30-12/4, 8 a.m.- 7 p.m.
Saturday 12/5, Noon- 7 p.m.

Dauphin County – Game Commission Headquarters
Saturday 12/5, Noon- 7 p.m.
Monday through Friday 11/30-12/4, 8 a.m.- 7 p.m.

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION | FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*As your state wildlife agency, we want to help clarify and simplify some of the most commonly asked Pennsylvania hunting- and wildlife-related questions. If you have a question that isn't answered here, email us at pgccomments@pa.gov or visit www.pgc.pa.gov to read additional FAQs. *This Hunting and Trapping Digest serves as a great resource when it comes to questions about hunting seasons and regulations.*

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION? Since 1895, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has worked to manage Pennsylvania's wild birds, wild mammals and their habitats for current and future generations. The agency is focused on putting wildlife first, improving wildlife habitat, following sound business practices, serving the Pennsylvania public and improving support for hunting and trapping.

IS THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION FUNDED BY TAX DOLLARS? No. The Pennsylvania Game Commission is an independent state agency and receives no General Fund money from the state's annual budget. View our annual reports, which include the Game Fund Revenues, Expenditures and *Reserve Funds on www.pgc.pa.gov. *Since the agency does not receive funding from the state budget, the agency must maintain a healthy reserve fund balance to continue to operate and fund long-term infrastructure projects.

HOW ARE SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS SET AND HOW DO I SUBMIT A RELATED PUBLIC COMMENT? Pennsylvania's hunting seasons and bag limits are set annually by the Board of Game Commissioners at its meeting in April. The board is comprised of eight board members, each selected by the governor and confirmed by a majority vote of the state Senate. Public comments related to hunting seasons and bag limits intended for the board's consideration can be emailed to pgccomments@pa.gov and will be shared with commissioners.

HOW DO I REPORT A ROAD-KILLED DEER? Road-killed deer should be reported directly to the Game Commission region office that serves the county where the animal is located. A variety of entities handle road-killed deer removal throughout the state and the region office can clarify the proper authorities to notify based on the location of the animal. Consumption permits for deer and turkey only: Residents can pick up deer and turkey only for consumption purposes and must obtain a permit within 24 hours. Consumption permits are issued from region offices. Call the region office that serves the county where the animal is located, directly. Region office contact information can be found in this digest.

WHO SHOULD I CALL WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT MY LOCAL AREA? Call the Game Commission region office that serves the county in question for the best local on-the-ground information and faster response times. Again, those phone numbers are available within this digest.

HOW DO I REPORT SUSPECTED WILDLIFE CRIMES? If you encounter a dead or injured animal that you suspect is a victim of a wildlife crime, please report the instance to the Operation Game Thief Hotline, an anonymous resource the agency uses to help solve cases, at 1-888-PGC-8001. Thank you in advance for helping to protect Pennsylvania wildlife!



HOW ARE DEER HARVEST ESTIMATE TOTALS CALCULATED?



Pennsylvania has some of the most deer hunters in the nation. Currently, only about one third of successful hunters report their harvest. That figure is based on more than 30 years of research at the Pennsylvania Game Commission, as staff physically check more than 20,000 harvested deer each year.

After the deer are checked, staff members cross reference this information with data from various credible reporting systems. A simple mathematic equation provides an estimate for the annual harvest count.

This is a common practice in wildlife management, and there is NO guessing involved. The number is double checked with an annual game take survey, and for the last three decades, the numbers have checked out. Below is an example.



If 1000 deer are reported – and each harvest report = 2 deer harvested. 2,000 deer were harvested ($1000 \times 2 = 2,000$)

Pennsylvania deer hunters are encouraged to work together to ensure the future by reporting successful harvests! Demonstrate your commitment to deer and deer hunting by reporting your harvest.

“LIKE” OR “FOLLOW” THE GAME COMMISSION ONLINE

Interested in staying up to date on information like the deer harvest data? The Pennsylvania Game Commission regularly shares timely and similar information on its social media pages. The agency is active on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for the purpose of informing, engaging and educating the public about its mission.

Please note that all official Pennsylvania Game Commission pages are verified by the platform and each page denotes this by having a blue check mark next to the page name. The agency's official pages are listed below and the social media posting policy is available online at www.pgc.pa.gov.



Official Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaGameCommission



Official Twitter Page

[@PAGameComm](https://www.twitter.com/PAGameComm)



Official Instagram Page

[@PAGameComm](https://www.instagram.com/pagamecomm)

Small Game

Squirrel

6 daily, 18 possession
Combined Species

JUNIOR HUNT
Sept. 12-26

STATEWIDE
Sept. 12-Nov. 27
Dec. 14-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 27

Pheasant

2 daily, 6 possession

JUNIOR HUNT
Oct. 10-17

STATEWIDE
Oct. 24-Nov. 27
Dec. 14-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 27

Rabbit

4 daily, 12 possession

JUNIOR HUNT
Oct. 3-17

STATEWIDE
Oct. 17-Nov. 27
Dec. 14-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 27

Grouse

2 daily, 6 possession

STATEWIDE
Oct. 17-Nov. 27
Dec. 14-24

Except for crows,
small-game hunting
is closed on Sundays.

Bobwhite Quail

8 daily, 24 possession

STATEWIDE
Oct. 17-Nov. 27
Dec. 14-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 27

Snowshoe Hare

1 daily, 3 possession

STATEWIDE
Dec. 26-Jan. 1

Woodchuck

No Limit

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

Crow

No Limit

STATEWIDE
July 3-April 11
Fridays, Saturdays,
Sundays only

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 semi-automatic 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

Pheasant hunting is open statewide during the Junior Hunt, Oct. 10-17. Junior pheasant hunt stocking locations are available on the Game Commission website. Hunters statewide may hunt pheasants from Oct. 24-Nov. 27, Dec. 14-24, and Dec. 26-Feb. 27.

Male and female pheasants may be taken
in all Wildlife Management Units.

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 now permitted on WPRAs.

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 and mentored premit holders under 17** now need a **FREE permit**.

YOUNG HUNTERS HAVE EARLY CHANCES TO PURSUE SQUIRRELS, RABBITS AND PHEASANTS.

The junior squirrel season runs from Sept. 12-26. The junior rabbit season runs Oct. 3-17. The junior pheasant season runs Oct. 10-17. Mentored Youth hunters under 17 may participate.

- **Junior hunters and mentored youth** 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** as during the regular season.
- Resident and nonresident junior hunting license holders and mentored hunters under 17 now must obtain a **free** junior pheasant hunting permit to hunt pheasants.
- 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.

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

Threaten people and pets



Harmful algal blooms (HABs) occur each year in Pennsylvania, often from mid-June through September, but also at other times of year if conditions are right.

They can be harmful to people, pets, fish, shellfish and other animals that come in contact with them or ingest the toxins they contain.

HABs can look like foam, scum, mats, or paint floating on or below the surface of water. They might look blue, green, brown, yellow, orange or red.

Exposure to HABs may cause a range of symptoms in people and animals. The duration, type, and severity of symptoms can vary depending on the duration and type of exposure, and the particular toxin involved.

Human symptoms of HAB exposure include rashes, eye and nose irritation, diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. If you exhibit any of these after exposure to a known or suspected HAB, call your doctor or a Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222.

Animal symptoms may include staggering, difficulty breathing, or vomiting. If your pet exhibits any of these symptoms, contact a veterinarian or ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435.

For more information on HABs, please email HABs@pa.gov.

Waterfowl & Migratory Game Birds

License Requirements

A general hunting license or mentored permit is required.

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 doves. The Electronic Duck Stamp, or E-Stamp, is valid in Pennsylvania, and stamps can be purchased through "The Outdoor Shop."

In addition, all licensed hunters ages 12 and older must have a Pennsylvania 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.

To hunt light geese in the conservation season, hunters must purchase a conservation season permit and submit a mandatory report on their hunting activity and harvest. For more information, visit www.pgc.pa.gov, or call 717-787-4250.

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.

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.



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 or use of a car or other motor-driven land 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 or 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.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING HOURS TABLE

DATES	BEGIN A.M.	END P.M.	DATES	BEGIN A.M.	END P.M.
June 28 - July 4	5:08	8:33	Jan. 3 - 9	6:53	4:54
July 5 - 11	5:12	8:30	Jan. 10 - 16	6:52	4:55
July 12 - 18	5:17	8:26	Jan. 17 - 23	6:49	5:03
July 19 - 25	5:23	8:20	Jan. 24 - 30	6:45	5:11
July 26 - Aug. 1	5:30	8:14	Jan. 31 - Feb. 6	6:40	5:19
Aug. 2 - 8	5:38	8:06	Feb. 7 - 13	6:33	5:27
Aug. 9 - 15	5:43	7:56	Feb. 14 - 20	6:24	5:36
Aug. 16 - 22	5:49	7:46	Feb. 21 - 27	6:15	5:44
Aug. 23 - 29	5:56	7:36	Feb. 28 - March 6	6:06	5:52
Aug. 30 - Sept. 5	6:03	7:25	March 7 - 13	6:54	6:59
Sept. 6 - 12	6:09	7:13	March 14 - 20 *	6:43	7:07
Sept. 13 - 19	6:16	7:02	March 21 - 27	6:32	7:14
Sept. 20 - 26	6:23	6:50	March 28 - April 3	6:21	7:21
Sept. 27 - Oct. 3	6:29	6:39	April 4 - 10	6:09	7:28
Oct. 4 - 10	6:36	6:28	April 11 - 17	5:58	7:35
Oct. 11 - 17	6:44	6:17	April 18 - 24	5:48	7:42
Oct. 18 - 24	6:51	6:08	April 25 - May 1	5:38	7:49
Oct. 25 - 31	6:59	5:59	May 2 - 8	5:29	7:57
Nov. 1 - 7 **	6:07	4:51	May 9 - 15	5:21	8:03
Nov. 8 - 14	6:15	4:45	May 16 - 22	5:14	8:10
Nov. 15 - 21	6:23	4:40	May 23 - 29	5:09	8:16
Nov. 22 - 28	6:31	4:37	May 30 - June 5	5:05	8:22
Nov. 29 - Dec. 5	6:37	4:35	June 6 - 12	5:02	8:27
Dec. 6 - 12	6:43	4:36	June 13 - 19	5:02	8:30
Dec. 13 - 19	6:48	4:38	June 20 - 26	5:04	8:33
Dec. 20 - 26	6:51	4:39	June 27 - July 3	5:07	8:33
Dec. 27 - Jan. 2	6:52	4:47	Daylight Saving Time Begins* Ends**		

Add the minutes from the Meridian Map to the begin/end times on this table.

Ducks, Mergansers & Coots

Seasons for **Ducks, Sea Ducks, Coots and Mergansers** run concurrently, but each of the state's four zones has its own **opening and closing dates**. Waterfowl hunting is closed on Sundays.

Lake Erie Zone

Nov. 2-Jan. 9

1 scaup daily, Nov. 2-24 and Dec. 18- Jan. 9
2 scaup daily, Nov. 25-Dec. 17

Northwest Zone

Oct. 10-Dec. 12
Dec. 29-Jan. 2

NEW SCAUP LIMITS

Scaup limits have changed this year. Hunters now may take 1 scaup daily on 20 hunting days and 2 scaup daily on 40 hunting days. Season dates vary by zone and are shown on this map.

North Zone

Oct. 10-24
Nov. 17-Jan. 9

1 scaup daily, Oct. 10-24 and Nov. 17- Dec. 17
2 scaup daily, Dec. 18-Jan. 9

South Zone

Oct. 17-24
Nov. 17-Jan. 16

1 scaup daily, Oct. 17-24 and Nov. 17- Dec. 24
2 scaup daily, Dec. 25-Jan. 16

Ducks & Sea Ducks

6 daily, 18 in possession

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
including 1 hen mallard
- 1 scaup (2 scaup at times)
- 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

Mergansers

5 daily, 15 in possession

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

Coots

15 daily, 45 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 Geese

Canada Goose hunting is open statewide, but season lengths and bag limits vary by zone. Seasons for Canada geese include white-fronted geese. Waterfowl hunting is closed on Sundays.

Southern James Bay Population Zone

Sept. 1-25*

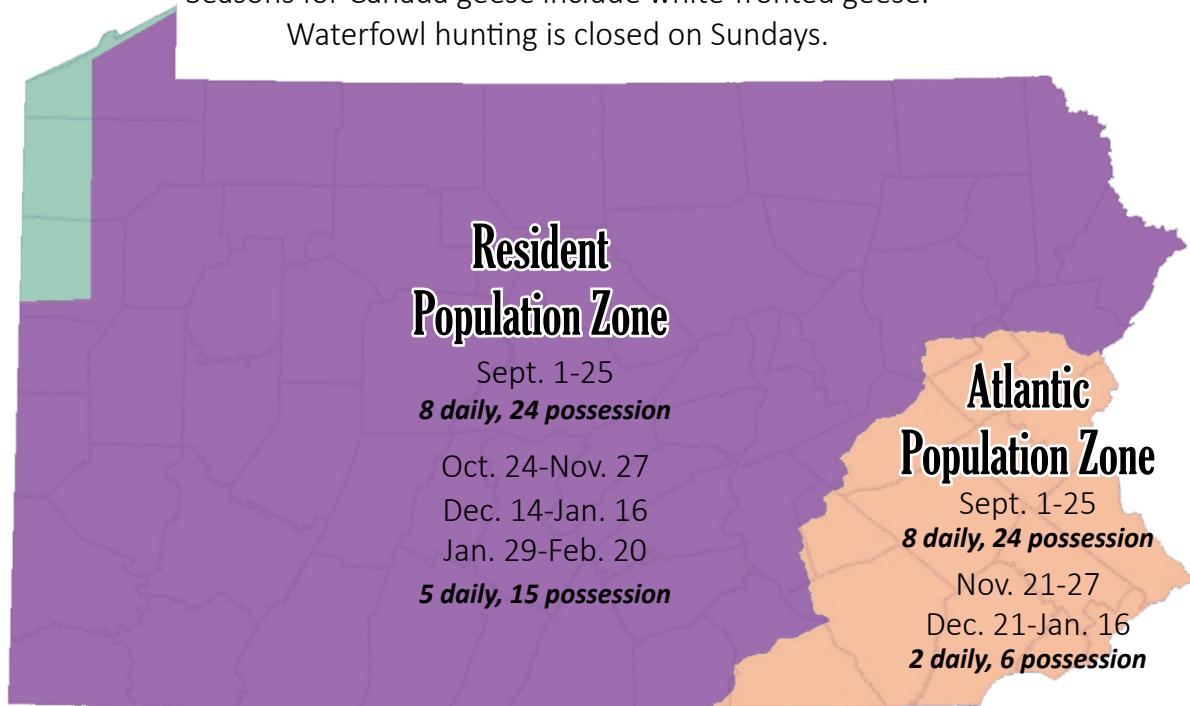
5 daily, 15 possession

Oct. 24-Nov. 27

Dec. 21-Feb. 13

3 daily, 9 possession

* In western Crawford County, the season runs from Sept. 1-12



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. 1-12. 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 geese, 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)

25 daily, no possession limit

Southern James Bay Population Zone

REGULAR SEASON
Oct. 13-Feb. 13

CONSERVATION SEASON
Feb. 15-April 23

Resident Population Zone

REGULAR SEASON
Oct. 20-Feb. 20

CONSERVATION SEASON
Feb. 22-April 23

Atlantic Population Zone

REGULAR SEASON
Oct. 1-Jan. 23

CONSERVATION SEASON
Jan. 25-April 23

CONSERVATION SEASON

During the conservation season, recorded or amplified calls or sounds are permitted. Hunters need a Conservation Season permit (\$1.90 PALS transaction fee) and federal duck stamp, and hunters 12 and older need the Pa. Migratory Game Bird License.

Webless Birds & Brant

Brant

2 daily, 6 possession
Federal duck stamp needed

ALL GOOSE ZONES
Oct. 10-Dec. 7

Woodcock

3 daily, 9 possession

STATEWIDE
Oct. 17-Nov. 27
Dec. 14-23

Gallinules

3 daily, 9 possession

STATEWIDE
Sept. 1-Nov. 20

Common Snipe

8 daily, 24 possession

STATEWIDE
Oct. 17-Nov. 27
Dec. 14-23

Doves

15 daily, 45 possession

STATEWIDE
Sept. 1-Nov. 27
Dec. 18-Jan. 2

Virginia & Sora Rails

3 daily, 9 possession

Bag limit singly or combined

STATEWIDE
Sept. 1-Nov. 20

*Clapper and King Rail hunting
is closed statewide.*

Except for crows,
migratory bird hunting is
closed on Sundays.

LIFE JACKETS REQUIRED BY LAW Nov. 1 TO APRIL 30

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.

Youth, Veterans and Military Days

Licensed junior hunters ages 12-16, and veterans and active military personnel, can hunt ducks, mergansers, Canada geese, coots and gallinules during selected days. Hunters 16 or older need a federal duck stamp to participate. Regular season bag limits and other restrictions apply. Check www.pgc.pa.gov for more details. The Sept. 19 hunt is only for youth. Youth, veterans and active military may hunt on the other days.

Statewide

Sept. 19
(Youth only)

North Zone

Jan. 16

Northwest Zone

Dec. 19

Lake Erie Zone

Oct. 24

South Zone

Jan. 23

Goose Blind Application

GOOSE BLIND APPLICATION

Middle Creek or Pymatuning Wildlife Management Areas

Permittees to hunt these areas during goose season are selected only by public drawings held prior to the hunting season. Only the [electronic application form](#) found on the Game Commission's website www.pgc.pa.gov under the Goose Blind Application link will be accepted.

An individual may apply to only one area per year and may submit only an electronic application to either area through the application found on the Game Commission's website.

Applications will be accepted electronically through Aug. 28 and selected through a public drawing at the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area on Sept. 9 and the Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area on Sept. 19.

The electronic application must contain the applicant's 2020-21 hunting license Customer Identification Number (CID).

The number of applications to be drawn will be established prior to the drawing.

One shooting day each at Middle Creek and Pymatuning will be designated as a youth-only day. Adults who accompany a junior license hunter on this day may assist the junior hunter, but are not permitted to shoot or harvest waterfowl. This does not forfeit the adult hunter's option to hunt a different day. Applications received from junior hunters will be drawn prior to the other applications on the established drawing date for the management area. Unsuccessful applicants for the youth shooting day will then be placed with all other applications and the drawing will proceed until all shooting days are filled.

A drawing for a special hunt for qualifying veterans with disabilities will be conducted for Pymatuning. Applicants must hold a Resident Disabled Veteran Hunting License or Resident Reduced Fee Disabled Veteran License to qualify. Senior lifetime license holders who qualify for a Resident Disabled Veteran License are eligible to apply. Up to three guests can accompany the disabled hunter. See the License Information section of this digest for qualifications.

A separate drawing is held for blinds that accommodate hunters with disabilities. Applicants must type in their current Disabled Person Permit (permit to hunt from a vehicle) number issued by the Game Commission in the space provided on the application.

Blinds at Middle Creek and Pymatuning will not be operational during the September season. Shooting days at Middle Creek are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Shooting days at Pymatuning are Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Specific dates are listed on the electronic application.

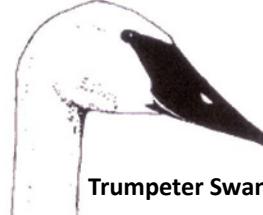
Persons may hunt only once per year on a goose blind reservation, either as a blind holder or a guest. Persons may hunt more than once per year in the controlled goose hunting program, but only if unclaimed permits exist after the first no-show drawing. If a "no-show" blind is used, the hunter forfeits his or her right to future blind reservations during that license year. Successful applicants will be mailed a hunting reservation entitling them to be accompanied by a maximum of three guests.

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.



Mute Swan



Trumpeter Swan



Tundra Swan

DISCOVER THE PA HUNTING INTERACTIVE MAP

Visit www.hunting.pa.gov

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission have teamed up to create a new interactive map specifically for hunters. Collectively, state forest land and state game lands offer more than 3.7 million acres open to hunting in Pennsylvania.

Hunters can use this map to:

- View public lands open to hunting.
- Search hunting seasons and bag limits across different parts of the state.
- Display hunting hours (starting and ending times) across different parts of the state.
- Add personal GPS data to the map (GPS waypoints and tracklogs).
- View different types of wildlife habitat across public forest lands, including mature oak forests, meadows, food plots, openings, winter thermal (coniferous) cover and young aspen forest.
- See where recent timber harvests have occurred on public forest lands.
- Get Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAPI) information for state forest land.
- Add map layers associated with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).
- Identify bear check station locations and get driving directions.
- Display and get information on the elk hunt zones.
- Add the locations of gated roads opened for hunters on public forest lands and when those gates will be opened.
- Analyze graphs and trends in antlerless/antlered deer harvests, and antlerless license allocations from 2004 to the present.

REPORT BANDED BIRDS

Hunters can report bird bands online at www.reportband.gov. In addition to band numbers, information requested includes when, where and what species of waterfowl were killed. The age and sex of the bird and where it was banded will be provided to the hunter by email. Online reporting provides better data quality and lowers costs.

Furtaking

Hunting

Except for foxes and coyotes, furbearer hunting is closed on Sundays.

Raccoons & Foxes

No Limit

Oct. 24-Feb. 20

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. 9-Feb. 3

WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

Porcupine

3 daily, 10 season

Oct. 10-Jan. 30

Trapping

Foxes & Coyotes

No Limit

GENERAL

Oct. 25-Feb. 21

CABLE RESTRAINTS
Dec. 26-Feb. 21

Raccoons, Opossums Striped Skunks & Weasels

No Limit

Oct. 25-Feb. 21

Minks & Muskrats
No Limit
Nov. 21-Jan. 10

Bobcats

1 per license year with permit

Dec. 19-Jan. 10

WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

1 per license year with permit

Dec. 19-Jan. 3

WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

Fishers

1 per license year with permit

Dec. 19-Jan. 3

WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3C & 3D

Beavers

Limits vary by WMU

Dec. 19-March 31

River Otters

1 per license year with permit

Feb. 13-20

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.

Traps & Trapping

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 furbearers, except foxes, for which a permit must be issued by the Game Commission; and 3) buy, sell or possess furbearers or parts unlawfully taken, transported, imported, exported or improperly tagged.

TRAPS

Foot-Encapsulating Trap

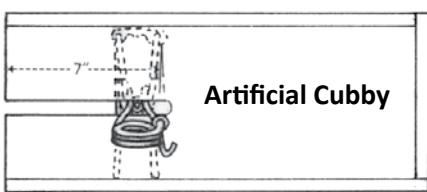
A device that has all triggering and restraining mechanisms enclosed by a housing that, once set, allows access to the triggering and restraining mechanisms through a single opening not to exceed 2 inches in diameter or diagonally and is anchored by a swivel-mounted anchoring mechanism. Encapsulating traps may be used to harvest furbearers during legal seasons.

Cage and Box Traps

Cage and box traps can be used to take furbearers, however it is unlawful to 1) use a cage or box trap in water; and 2) use a cage or box trap capable of capturing more than one animal at a time.

Artificial Cubby

A baited enclosure constructed of natural or artificial material that is designed to house and corral a furbearer into a body-gripping trap. Furtakers are permitted to trap furbearers using body-gripping traps set in artificial cubbies when all of the following conditions are met: 1) The artificial cubby is placed within an established watercourse, waterway, marsh, pond or dam. 2) The entrance to the artificial cubby does not exceed 50 square inches. 3) Traps no larger than 6½ x 6½ inches can be used. 4) The triggering mechanism of the trap is recessed within the artificial cubby at least 7 inches from the entrance. 5) The artificial cubby is anchored in a manner that it cannot be moved or rolled. Note: Requirements 2 through 5 shall not apply to body-gripping traps that are 5½ inches or less and set in artificial cubbies to target mink or muskrat.



Artificial Cubby

Cubby entrance cannot exceed 50 inches, and traps no larger than 6½ by 6½ inches are permitted. Trap trigger mechanism must be recessed at least 7 inches from the cubby entrance.

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 furbearers 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 neck. 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. 21), 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.

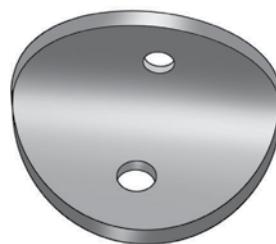
Approved Cable Restraint & Snare Locks Include:



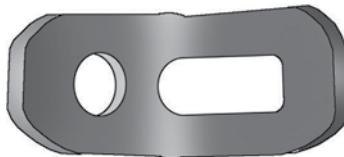
Reichart 180-Degree
Reverse Bend Washer



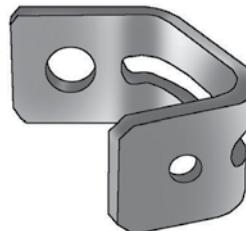
Kaatz "Relax-a-Lock"



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 furtaker 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.

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 2020-21 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, 2B, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D or 4E (combined) from **Jan. 9-Feb. 3, 2021, by hunting only, or Dec. 19-Jan. 10, 2021, 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. 19-Jan. 3** 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

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. 19**.

Otter permits must be purchased **before Feb. 13**.

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).

BEAVERS & OTTERS

Beavers

Dec. 19-March 31

WMUs 1A & 1B

(Combined) 20 daily, 60 per season

WMUs 2A, 2B & 3C

(Combined) 20 daily, 40 per season

WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 3A, 3B, 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

River Otters

Feb. 13-20, 2021

WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3C & 3D

1 per year with permit

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.

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. For WMUs 3C or 3D, call the Northeast Region Office at 570-675-1143; for WMUs 1A, 1B or 2F, call the Northwest Region Office at 814-432-3187. 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.

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

- Where beaver season overlaps with otter season by calendar date within WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3C & 3D, and shall extend for five additional consecutive days after the close of otter season, 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.

BEAVER TRAPPING

- Where no overlap of otter and beaver seasons occurs by both calendar date and WMU, it is unlawful for beaver trappers to set, tend or operate more than a combined statewide total of 20 traps or snares, no more than 10 of which may be traps. No more than two of the traps may be body-gripping traps, except in WMUs where beaver bag limits are 40 per season all 10 traps may be body-gripping traps. In WMUs where beaver bag limits are 60 per season, all 20 traps or snares may be body-gripping traps.

A legal snare for beaver and otter trapping must be looped galvanized stranded steel cable 3/32 inches in diameter, equipped with the approved locks required for cable restraints. A metal ferrule shall be crimped on the cable to prevent the snare loop from closing to a circumference less than 7 inches. It

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.

is unlawful to equip snares with a spring-activating mechanism or any device designed to aid in closing the snare loop. Snares used for taking beavers must be set completely or partially submerged in water within a waterway, watercourse, marsh, pond or dam. There must be one durable identification tag attached to each trap or snare by means of an extension wire of sufficient length so that the name tag or identification number is completely above the water or ice level and totally visible. The tag must list the owner's first and last name and legal home address, or a number issued by the Game Commission.

Beaver Season Limit

Trappers may legally take up to 125 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 2020 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.



Archery Season

Sept. 12-26

General Season

Nov. 2-7

Arms & Ammunition

Manually operated centerfire rifles and handguns at least 26 caliber that propel single-projectile ammunition 120 grains or larger. Manually operated or semiautomatic centerfire shotguns at least 12-gauge firing a single projectile. Muzzleloading firearms at least 50 caliber propelling a single projectile weighing at least 210 grains. A bow with a minimum draw weight of 45 pounds. Any arrow, or crossbow bolt, with a broadhead that has 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 1 inch, and the length may not exceed 3.25 inches. Crossbows must have a minimum peak draw weight of 125 pounds.

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

Except during the archery season, elk hunters 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. Successful archery season elk hunters need to contact the Northcentral Region Office.

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.

2020 ELK LICENSE ALLOCATION

Hunt Zone	Archery Antlered	Archery Antlerless	General Antlered	General Antlerless	Late Antlerless	Total
1 OPEN TO ALL HUNTERS						
2	0	0	2	18	10	30
3	1	2	2	5	2	12
4	1	2	2	5	2	12
5	2	2	3	4	2	13
6	0	0	2	4	2	8
7	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	2	4	2	8
9	1	1	2	4	2	10
10	1	2	2	8	2	15
11	1	1	2	1	1	6
12	1	2	2	14	4	23
13	1	2	2	5	2	12
14	1	2	3	6	3	15
Total	10	16	26	78	34	164

Late Season

Jan. 2-9, 2021

Seasons occur in designated Elk Hunt Zones within the Elk Management Area. Elk hunting is closed on Sundays.

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.

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, 2020. 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 that season and for five additional years; individuals drawn for an antlerless license cannot apply again that season, but can continue to apply thereafter. 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 per elk season, 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. 15 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

Have you heard about the HUNTER ACCESS PROGRAM?



The Game Commission has been working with private landowners to increase wildlife populations, hunting territory and improve habitat on private lands for more than 80 years. The Hunter Access Program has evolved into a statewide cooperative with more than 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 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 Game Commission Mapping Center to find a local cooperator— www.pgc.pa.gov

Pennsylvania
Game Commission



Visit www.ExperienceElkCountry.com to purchase your ticket or for more information.



2020

PA ELK TAG RAFFLE

Get your tickets now for a chance to win the 7th annual Conservation Elk Tag. With a cost of only \$25 (6 tickets for \$100), any hunter has a chance to win this once-in-a-lifetime hunt! The drawing will be held at the Elk Country Visitor Center in Benezette, PA on Sunday August 16th at 1PM, during the 2020 Elk Expo. Winner of the special tag will receive a hunt featuring:

- CHANCE AT A RECORD 400+ CLASS BULL
- 59 DAY HUNTING SEASON
- HUNT ACROSS ANY OPEN ELK HUNT ZONE

Tag awarded by:



100% of KECA's proceeds from ticket sales directly benefit Pennsylvania's Elk Country. Winner DOES NOT have to be in attendance at drawing. Our partner in conservation, TomBob Outdoors, will film winner's hunt for national television upon winner's decision. Elk County Outfitters will donate and provide fully guided hunt. A full shoulder mount is also included. Details available on KECA's website.

Reporting a Violation

Violation Report Form

Use this form to record as much information as possible.

Nature of Violation _____

Date _____ Time _____

Location _____

Suspect's Name _____

Weight _____ Height _____ Hair _____ Eyes _____

Customer ID Number (CID) _____

Vehicle License Number _____

Year _____ Make _____ Color _____

Distinguishing Features _____

Wildlife Involved _____

Evidence _____

Type of Firearm _____

Other Information _____

Your Phone Number _____

YOU CAN HELP STOP WILDLIFE CRIMES

If you have witnessed activity you suspect violates the law, immediately note as many details as possible.

The more information you provide, the faster a violator can be caught and prosecuted.

Transmit this information as quickly as possible to the Game Commission region office serving your area.

A list of counties comprising each Game Commission region, as well as telephone numbers and addresses of the region offices is in the front of this digest.

Here are some tips:

- Gather as much information as possible about the subject.
- Get an accurate physical description and any other pertinent information. Try to secure names and addresses of other witnesses, and any information they may have about the violation or suspect
- What type of violation was it, and when, where and what time did it occur?
- What wildlife was involved (species, how many and where are they now)?
- Describe the suspect's vehicle: license number, make, year, color and any other distinguishing features such as dented fenders or other noticeable damage.
- Note other physical evidence, such as hides, entrails, firearms, cartridge cases, etc. Note type and make of firearms involved. Do you know if the illegal game will be moved soon – when and where?

POACHERS ARE THIEVES

Have you witnessed a wildlife crime involving deer, turkey, bear or elk, or a species that is protected, endangered or threatened?

Call Operation Game Thief's toll-free hotline – 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year – to report wildlife violations, or fill out an Operation Game Thief Reporting Form online.

Calls phoned in to Operation Game Thief at 1-888-PGC-8001 always are answered by a secure recording device. Although it is beneficial to provide your contact information in case officers have follow-up questions, callers may remain confidential. However, some tips that lead to convictions might qualify for monetary rewards, and callers must provide contact information in order to claim them.

Wildlife crimes affect us all. Be a conservation hero, report wildlife crimes involving big game, or threatened, endangered or protected species to Operation Game Thief. Other violations should be reported to the region office serving that county.

HELP US CATCH THEM!

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Licenses & More

THE PENNSYLVANIA AUTOMATED LICENSE SYSTEM (PALS)

allows hunters and trappers to purchase licenses online, but provides a number of other services, as well.

FIRST ...



Visit www.pgc.pa.gov and click Buy a License

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.

THEN ...



A Purchase Fishing and/or Hunting License Permit and or Application / Replace License and or Permit
Purchase a License, Permit, Cast Net, or Application/Reprint a License/Redeem a Fishing Voucher/Annual Fishing
Update Address/Personal Information Only.
Check accumulated elk preference points or the status of an Antlerless Deer or Elk Application.

B Harvest Reporting
Report your deer, turkey, bobcat or fisher harvests.
View current year harvests.

C View Antlerless Deer License Availability

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

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

A

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.

B

Click the **Harvest Reporting** option, and use your CID to manage your harvest reports:

- Report your Harvest: You can report these tags online: antlered/flintlock, antlerless deer (including DMAP permits), fall turkey, spring turkey, bobcat, and fisher. If you have multiple antlerless deer or spring turkey licenses, make sure to use the correct tag.
- View Harvest Record: You can view your harvest reports for the current year. PALS will display harvest reports made online or via the harvest phone hotline.

C

Click the **View Antlerless Deer License Availability** option to see up-to-the-minute sales.

- Check to see how many licenses are left in each WMU before mailing your application.

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 and porcupines are the exceptions). 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 or 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 furbearers within the last five years. These provisions do not apply to persons under 12 who trap furbearers 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.

License Information

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 Hunting 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 hunting license. Applicants must have their PGC Cooperative Hunter Access Program agreement number when applying.

Landowner Antlerless Deer License

An eligible landowner who owns 50 or more contiguous acres within a county is entitled to one antlerless deer license for the WMU where the land is located at the prescribed fee (\$6.90 for residents, \$26.90 for nonresidents). If the qualifying acreage is located within a county with two or more WMUs, the applicant selects the WMU he or she desires. A landowner must keep his or her property open to public hunting and trapping year-round to qualify. These licenses are allocated in advance of the regular licenses. The Landowner Antlerless Deer License Application/Affidavit is available from county treasurers, PGC offices, and online. Applicants must apply directly to the county treasurer of the county where the acreage is located. Landowners must apply for these licenses prior to the start of the regular application period, which begins on the second Monday in July.

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 furtaker 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 furtaker 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 (April 30) the spring gobbler season.

Replacement Licenses

If a hunting or furtaker 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.

License Availability

THE FOLLOWING LICENSES, PERMITS AND SPECIAL-DRAW APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ALL ISSUING AGENTS INCLUDING COUNTY TREASURERS, GAME COMMISSION OFFICES AND ONLINE.

Licenses

Resident Mentored Youth (Ages under 7, No Tags)	\$2.90
Resident Mentored Youth (Ages under 12)	\$2.90
Resident Mentored Youth (Ages 12 or older but under 17)	\$6.90
Resident Mentored Adult	\$20.90
Resident Junior Hunting (Ages 12 through 16)	\$6.90
Resident Junior Furtaker (Ages 12 through 16)	\$6.90
Resident Junior Combination (Ages 12 through 16)	\$9.90
Resident Landowner Hunting (Ages 12 & older)	\$4.90
Resident Adult Hunting (Ages 17 and older)	\$20.90
Resident Adult Furtaker (Ages 17 and older)	\$20.90
Resident Senior Hunting (Ages 65 & older)	\$13.90
Resident Senior Lifetime Hunting (Ages 65 & older)	\$51.90
(Must be renewed each license year at no additional cost)	
Resident Senior Lifetime Combo (Ages 65 & older)	\$101.90
Resident Senior Lifetime Combo Upgrade	\$51.90
(See Lifetime Combination)	
Resident Senior Furtaker (Ages 65 & older)	\$13.90
Resident Senior Lifetime Furtaker (Age 65 & older)	\$51.90
(Must be renewed each license year at no additional cost)	
Resident Military Personnel, National Guard,	
Reserves and POW Hunting Licenses	\$2.90
Nonresident Mentored Youth (Ages under 7, No Tags)	\$2.90
Nonresident Mentored Youth (Ages under 12)	\$2.90
Nonresident Mentored Youth (Ages 12 or older but < 17)	\$41.90
Nonresident Mentored Adult	\$101.90
Nonresident Adult Hunting (Ages 17 & older)	\$101.90
Nonresident Junior Hunting (Ages 12 through 16)	\$41.90
Nonresident Junior Combination (Ages 12 through 16)	\$51.90
Nonresident Adult Furtaker (Ages 17 & older)	\$81.90
Nonresident Junior Furtaker (Ages 12 through 16)	\$41.90
Nonresident 7-Day Small Game *	\$31.90

Add-on Licenses

Resident Archery	\$16.90
Nonresident Archery	\$26.90
Resident Muzzleloader *	\$11.90
Nonresident Muzzleloader *	\$21.90
Resident Migratory Game Bird License	\$3.90
Federal Duck Stamp	\$28.40
Nonresident Migratory Game Bird License	\$6.90
Resident Bear License	\$16.90
Nonresident Bear License	\$36.90
Resident Special Spring Turkey License	\$21.90
Nonresident Special Spring Turkey License	\$41.90
Resident DMAP Harvest Permits	\$10.90
Nonresident DMAP Harvest Permits	\$35.90
Elk License Drawings (See elk section in this Digest)	\$11.90
Bobcat Permit (See bobcat section in this Digest)	\$6.90
Fisher Permit (See fisher section in this Digest)	\$6.90
River Otter Permit (See otter section in this Digest)	\$6.90
Adult Pheasant Permit	\$26.90
Junior Pheasant Permit	FREE
Shooting Range Permit (See PGC website for more info)	\$31.90
Snow Goose Permit	\$1.90

QUESTIONS ABOUT LICENSES? 717-787-2084

Sold Only by County Treasurers

(See "Antlerless and Unsold Antlerless Deer License" sections elsewhere in this Digest for additional information)

Resident Antlerless Deer License	\$6.90
Resident Landowner Antlerless Deer	\$6.90
Resident Disabled Veteran Antlerless License	\$6.90
Resident Armed Forces Antlerless License	\$6.90
Nonresident Antlerless License	\$26.90
Nonresident Landowner Antlerless Deer	\$26.90
Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Hunting License (if qualified)	Free
Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Furtaker License (if qualified)	Free

Sold by County Treasurers & Game Commission Offices

Resident Reduced Disabled Veteran Hunting License	\$2.90
Resident Reduced Disabled Veteran Furtaker License	\$2.90
Resident Disabled Veteran Annual Hunting License *	Free
Resident Disable Veteran Annual Furtaker License *	Free

* Must be renewed annually

Resident Disabled Lifetime hunting and furtaker licenses can be renewed at any issuing agent, or online.

All combination licenses include hunting, furtaker, archery and muzzleloader privileges. (Bear hunting privileges, antlerless deer license, migratory game bird license and federal duck stamp not included.)

Senior resident hunting and furtaker (annual and lifetime, including combination) licenses are available to those who will be 65 years old by June 30 of the current license year.

* Nonresident of Pennsylvania – 12 years of age and older. Seven consecutive days and licenses include waterfowl and pheasants, but not valid for coyotes or big game, including turkey. All junior, adult and senior hunters need to hold a Pheasant Hunting Permit to hunt pheasants. To hunt waterfowl, applicants 16 years of age and older need a federal duck stamp and applicants 12 and older need a Migratory Game Bird License.

* Muzzleloader firearms, bows and arrows, and crossbows may be used during the firearms deer hunting seasons without purchasing muzzleloader or archery licenses.

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).

Chronic Wasting Disease

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 members of the deer family. CWD belongs to a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE). Other diseases in this family include bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease) in cattle and scrapie in sheep. CWD first was detected in Colorado in 1967 and has spread to 26 states and four Canadian provinces.

What causes CWD?

TSE diseases, including CWD, are believed to be caused by misfolded proteins called prions. Prions concentrate in the central nervous system causing tiny holes to form in the brain, eventually leading to death. Prions are hearty proteins found to withstand freezing and thawing, and extreme heat.

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.

How can I tell if a deer has CWD?

CWD has a long incubation period, meaning it takes a long time for clinical signs to show. On average, CWD-infected deer don't display clinical signs of disease for 18-24 months. As the disease progresses, infected individuals may exhibit lowered head, lowered ears, excessive drooling, wasting or thinning, rough coat, or abnormal behaviors like the lack of fear of humans. Many diseases have clinical signs similar to CWD, therefore CWD cannot be diagnosed through observations alone.

What should I do if I see a deer I suspect has CWD?

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 and the World Health Organization recommend people avoid consuming meat from a CWD-infected animal. The Pennsylvania Game Commission recommends hunters who harvest deer in a CWD-positive area get their deer tested prior to consuming.

Where has CWD been detected in North America?

CWD has been detected in captive and free-ranging cervids 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, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Quebec, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. For an updated map on CWD-positive locations in North America, please visit www.usgs.gov and search "CWD."

History of CWD in Pennsylvania

CWD was first detected in Pennsylvania in a captive deer facility in Adams County in 2012. Shortly after, 3 free-ranging CWD-positive deer were detected in Bedford and Blair counties. As a result, Disease Management Areas (DMA) 1 and 2 were created to prevent the spread of CWD to other parts of the state. Since CWD was first detected in the state, CWD has been detected in the following counties: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Clearfield, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Jefferson, Juniata, Lancaster, Perry, Somerset and Westmoreland.

DISEASE MANAGEMENT AREAS

When a new CWD-positive is detected in either a wild or captive cervid in Pennsylvania, a Disease Management Area (DMA) is established. To establish a DMA, a 10-mile radius buffer is created around each new positive. New CWD-positives that are detected near or outside of the boundaries of existing DMAs typically result in the boundary expanding to encompass the entire buffer or the creation of a new DMA.

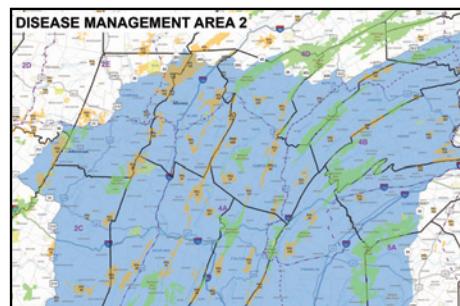
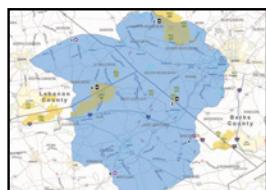
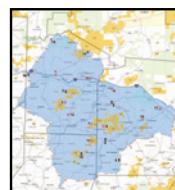
Within DMAs, specific regulations exist to help prevent the spread of CWD. Enhanced CWD surveillance also occurs within DMAs to better understand the disease's impact.

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 the new CWD-positives harvested from the 2019-2020 hunting seasons were not yet final. DMA expansions for the 2020-2021 hunting seasons are provided on the Chronic Wasting Disease webpage at www.pgc.pa.gov/cwd.

As of last season, DMAs encompassed all or parts of the following counties: Adams, Armstrong, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, Somerset and Westmoreland counties.

Updated DMA maps at
www.pgc.pa.gov



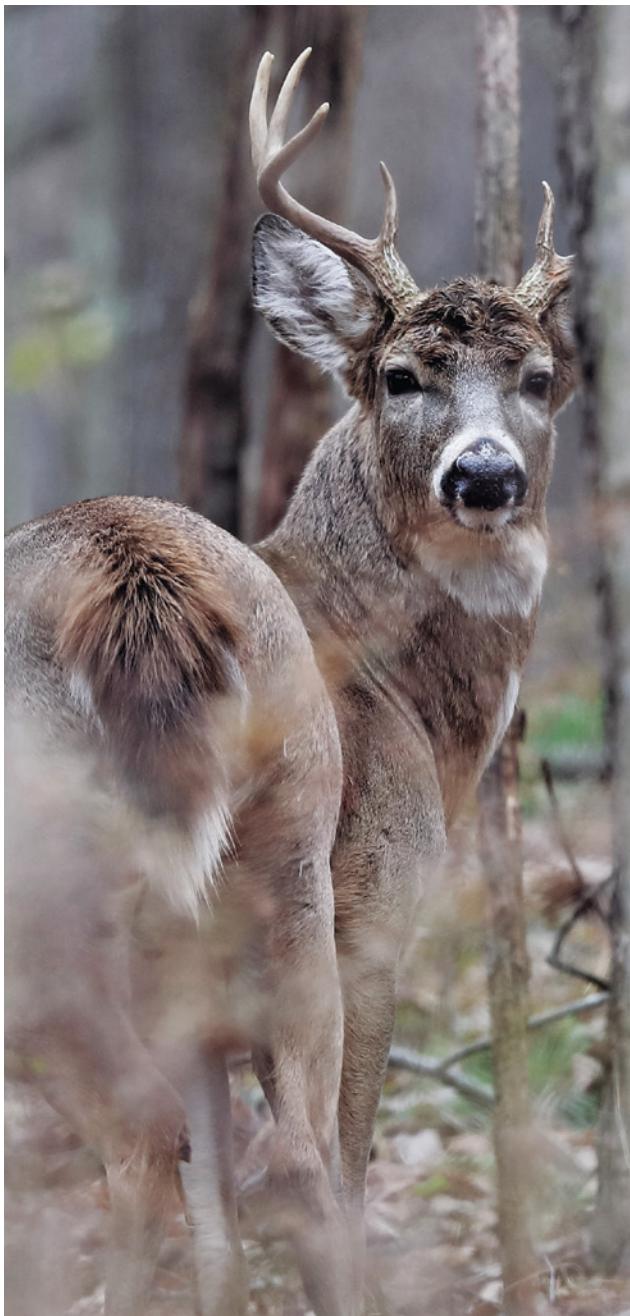
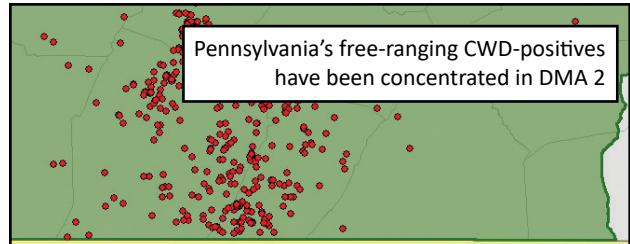
CWD Management

CWD SURVEILLANCE

The Game Commission began monitoring CWD in 1998, more than 10 years prior to the state's first CWD detection. As of March 2020, nearly 95,000 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 2020, a total of 460 free-ranging deer had tested positive for CWD in Pennsylvania, 452 of them within DMA 2 and the remaining eight in DMA 3. CWD only has been detected in captive deer in DMA 4.



CWD RESPONSE PLAN

Hunters must be aware of changes

In early 2019, the Pennsylvania Game Commission consulted other state wildlife agencies, representatives from conservation-based non-government organizations, and university researchers to draft a CWD Response Plan to guide the agency's CWD management.

The goals of the CWD Response Plan are to reduce CWD infection rate and slow the disease's spread within Pennsylvania through increased hunting opportunities and other actions.

The draft CWD Response Plan was released in September 2019 and made available for review at the Game Commission's website. Public comments about the draft plan were accepted through February 2020, and over 350 comments were received. The draft plan then was revised, presented to the Game Commission's Board of Commissioners and made available for further review and comment.

At the time this digest was due to the printer, the revised CWD Response Plan remained open for public comment and had not yet received final approval for implementation.

The plan remained on schedule for adoption in 2020, and by the time you read this, changes – some of which could apply statewide – might already have occurred.

For instance, the draft plan identified options such as a statewide ban on **feeding deer**, including the use of minerals or supplements; a statewide ban on the use or field possession of **deer attractants**, including natural urine and synthetics; increased hunting opportunities within CWD areas that could include **longer seasons**, the removal of deer **antler restrictions** within CWD areas and the **targeted removal** of deer.

It is important for hunters statewide to stay up to date on the changes brought about by the plan.

The Game Commission will be announcing the changes through updates to its website, news releases issued to media and posts to the agency's social media pages – all of which can be accessed through www.pgc.pa.gov.

To review the latest version of the CWD Response Plan and other up-to-date information on CWD, please refer to the website's Chronic Wasting Disease page at www.pgc.pa.gov/cwd.

Disposing of Deer Parts

Within Disease Management Areas

IT IS UNLAWFUL TO:

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

Free CWD-testing available in DMAs

To increase CWD surveillance, the Game Commission offers free CWD-testing within DMAs.

Hunters may submit their deer for testing by placing their deer head – double-bagged and with the harvest tag firmly attached to the ear – in any Game Commission-provided head-collection container.

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

All container locations will be listed at www.pgc.pa.gov/cwd.

The Game Commission encourages hunters to check their test results on the CWD webpage. Click the “CWD Test Results” link on the right side of the page under “resources” and enter your hunting-license CID number and date of birth. If needed, hunters with limited internet access may check their test results by calling the CWD hotline at 1-833-INFOCWD. However, all hunters whose deer test positive for CWD will be notified by letter. Results take approximately three to four weeks. Outside of the DMA, hunters can get their deer tested through the Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System for a fee. More information on that can be found on the Department of Agriculture’s website, www.padls.org.



PROPER DISPOSAL

Hunters may properly dispose of high-risk parts with their commercial trash service, if trash is deposited in a lined landfill. Deer parts disposed in this manner should be double-bagged and sealed.

In addition, hunters who harvest deer in a DMA can properly dispose of high-risk parts in disposal containers provided by the Game Commission. Deer parts disposed in these containers should be double-bagged and sealed.

In hunting season, an updated list of collection container locations is available at www.pgc.pa.gov/cwd.

Hunters harvesting deer within a DMA may leave high-risk parts, except the head, at the location of the kill site; however, it is recommended to bury parts left in the field. The head must be packed out with the meat and must not leave the DMA in which the animal was harvested.

High-risk deer parts can't be moved

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 from Pennsylvania’s own Disease Management Areas (DMAs).

Hunters may not move high-risk parts from CWD-positive states or provinces into Pennsylvania or out of Pennsylvania’s DMAs. **High-risk parts** 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 tissue is present; cape, if visible brain or spinal cord tissue is present; upper canine teeth, if root structure or other soft tissue is present; any object or article containing visible brain or spinal cord tissue; unfinished taxidermy mounts; and brain-tanned hides.

Once the high-risk parts are removed, the following items can be brought into Pennsylvania, or exported from a DMA: meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached; cleaned hides without the head; skull plates and/or antlers cleaned of all brain tissue; upper canine teeth without soft tissue; or finished taxidermy mounts.

Before hunting deer, elk or moose out of the state, hunters should visit www.pgc.pa.gov/cwd 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.

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.

CWD Management

Why is CWD a threat?

CWD is a threat to healthy deer populations, deer hunting, and wildlife conservation in Pennsylvania.

CWD is always fatal to deer that become infected. With no cure or vaccine, options are limited to manage the disease.

Research shows CWD-infected deer are more likely to die annually than uninfected deer, and as a result, CWD can decrease deer populations over time. Experiences from other states suggest that, with no change, CWD prevalence among deer in Pennsylvania's Bedford and Blair counties could reach an estimated 30 percent or more in the next 20 years.

As the number of deer infected with CWD increases, deer-population declines likely follow, and as a result, hunting opportunity could be reduced. Surveys conducted by the Game Commission have found that more than 20 percent of hunters in Pennsylvania would have a decreased interest in deer hunting if any CWD-positive deer were found in the area they hunt.

The potential economic losses resulting from a decline in hunting participation in Pennsylvania, from decreased sales of licenses or hunting gear, would reduce funding for not just the Game Commission's wildlife-management activities, but for wildlife conservation.

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 are asked to go to www.pgc.pa.gov for the most-up-to-date DMA maps.

We need your help to fight CWD!

Hunters are an integral component in successfully managing CWD in Pennsylvania. While the Game Commission is responsible for managing CWD among free-ranging deer and elk, it is the public who ultimately will determine the disease's fate.

Hunters can help stop the spread of CWD by reducing the movement of and properly disposing of high-risk deer parts.

Studies show prions can remain infectious in the soil for several years so preventing the introduction of prions to uninfected areas is crucial.

Hunters who harvest deer in Pennsylvania's DMAs can help surveillance efforts by getting their deer tested.

Hunters can also help by harvesting additional antlerless deer within DMAs using Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permits.

Reducing the number of deer in an area reduces deer-to-deer contact and, as a result, can slow the transmission of CWD. Reducing deer populations also minimizes the accumulation of prions in the local environment, which reduces the chances of healthy deer picking up prions from the environment.

Hunters can purchase DMAP permits at any local issuing agent or online at www.pa.wildlifelicense.com. Hunters can use each DMAP permit to harvest one antlerless deer.

More information about the DMAP program can be found on the Game Commission website at www.pgc.pa.gov.

MANAGING AND PROTECTING



OUR WILDLIFE AND HABITATS



HUNTERS SHARING THE HARVEST

From the Forest and Fields → Food for the Hungry



Join the Pennsylvania Game Commission in supporting this meaningful program that gives back to neighbors in need. Whether you donate venison or send a monetary donation, you are giving back and assisting fellow Pennsylvanians.

HUNTERS SHARING THE HARVEST® PENNSYLVANIA'S VENISON DONATION PROGRAM

HSH coordinates the distribution of donated venison to a statewide network of meat processors and food banks. When you donate your average sized deer you will help provide 200 meals to feed hungry people in Pennsylvania. Monetary donations go directly toward the cost of processing meat and storage. FOR MORE INFORMATION please call (866) 474-2141 or visit www.sharedeer.org.



PLEASE GIVE A BUCK TO THE POT

...and help HSH feed the hungry in Pennsylvania! If you don't hunt your financial support to help pay the butchers that process the donated meat. Please fill out the coupon for tax-deductible donations or visit us at sharedeer.org/support today! Checks can be made payable to Hunters Sharing the Harvest."

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Phone _____ eMail _____

If donating as a memorial, please specify name: _____

HSH is a 501C3 charitable organization and your contribution is tax deductible.

The official registration and financial information of Hunters Sharing the Harvest may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Mail your donation to:

Hunters Sharing the Harvest
John Plowman, Executive Director
6780 Hickory Lane
Harrisburg, PA 17112

eMail: info@sharedeer.org
Toll Free: 1-866-474-2141



Hunting & Trapping Digest

This digest is not the Game & Wildlife Code or its attendant regulations and should not be considered final on legal interpretation.

The digest simply is a summary of the more important and frequently misunderstood hunting and trapping regulations.

Review the digest carefully. If there is anything you do not understand, contact your nearest Game Commission office.

Hunting and trapping are privileges in Pennsylvania. Remember, a license does not entitle you to trespass on private lands. Hunters and trappers may be prosecuted for trespassing, whether or not a property is posted against hunting or trapping.

Always ask permission to hunt or trap, and make sure you are a welcomed guest of the landowner.

A private landowner who permits hunting or trapping does not extend assurance that the premises are safe and does not assume responsibility or incur liability for injury.

Index

- Algae Blooms 42
- Antlerless Deer Licenses 27, 28, 29, 59
- Antler Restrictions 26
- Appalachian Trail 19
- Archery Seasons, Licenses 8, 20, 24, 60
- Armed Forces 59, 60
- Baiting 16, 31, 36, 43, 48
- Bear Check Stations 37, 38
- Bear Feeding Ban 36
- Bear Season 8, 36, 59, 60
- Beaver Trapping 9, 48, 51, 52
- Big Game Scoring Program 52
- Big Game Regulations 20-22
- Big Game Unfit for Consumption 22
- Blinds 10, 21, 33
- Bobcat Season 9, 48, 51, 60
- Cable Restraints 49, 50
- Commission Board Members 7
- Contacting the PGC 7
- Contents 3
- County Treasurer Addresses 29
- Coyotes 9, 13, 48, 49
- Crossbows 20, 21, 25, 31, 32, 36, 41, 43, 48, 53
- Crows 9, 41
- Cultivated Lands 16
- CWD 61-64
- Decoys 16, 33, 43
- Deer, Seasons & Info 8, 26-31
- Delaware Water Gap 19
- Dens, Animal 16, 36, 49
- DMAP 30
- Dog Training Regs. & Info. 18, 21, 32, 48
- Doves 13, 43, 46
- Driving Deer, Elk & Bears 21, 53
- Drugs & Alcohol 16
- Dual-Carry Rules 20
- Duck Stamps 43, 46, 59, 60
- Electronic Calls, Devices 16, 18, 33, 43, 46, 48
- Elk, Seasons & Info 9, 21, 23, 53, 54, 59
- Game Commission Comments and Questions 4, 39, 40
- Feral Swine 22
- Firearms 16, 17, 20, 21, 25, 31, 32, 36, 41, 43, 48, 53
- Fisher Season 9, 48, 51, 60
- Fluorescent Orange 10, 14, 25, 31, 32, 36, 41, 53
- Furtaking Seasons 9, 48-52
- Game News Subscription 66
- General Hunting Regulations 16-18
- Goose Blind Application 47
- Goose, Conservation Season 46
- Handguns 16
- Hares, Snowshoe 9, 41
- Harvest Reporting 14, 21, 30, 33, 36, 51, 53
- Hunter Access Program 54
- Hunter Education Requirements 58
- Hunting Hours Tables 13, 43
- Hunting Interactive Map 47
- Hunters Sharing the Harvest 65
- Identification Required 58
- Injury Report 17
- Junior Licenses 24, 32, 36, 41, 42, 46, 58, 60
- Junior Rabbit & Pheasant Hunts 9, 41
- Landowner Licenses 28, 59, 60
- License Availability 60
- License Information 17, 23, 24, 27-29, 36, 41, 43, 53, 57-60
- License Revocations 57
- Littering 17
- Lures 17
- Mentored Hunting Program 14
- Migratory Game Birds 13, 43-47, 59, 60
- Mistake Kill 17, 22
- Muzzleloader License 20, 24, 31, 60
- Non-Immigrant Firearms Regulations 60
- Non-Toxic Shot 43
- Number of Hunters in Party 14, 21, 41, 43
- Operation Game Thief 55
- Otters 9, 48, 51, 52, 60
- PALS 57
- Pheasants 9, 41, 42, 60
- Pheasant Recovery Areas 41
- Porcupines 9, 48
- Possession Limits 16
- Public & Private Lands 19
- Purple Paint Law 19
- Random Shooting 21
- Recovering Dead/Injured Game 17
- Region Office Contact Information 7
- Replacement Licenses 28, 59
- Road Hunting 17
- Road-killed Deer, Possessing Wildlife 17
- Safety Harness 33
- Safety Zones 18
- Shooting Range Permits & Regulations 19
- Sights 16, 20, 25, 48
- Small Game Seasons 9, 41-47
- Special Regulations Areas 31
- Spotlighting 18
- State Game Lands Regs & Info 6, 12, 19
- State Forests/Parks Regulations 22
- Sunday Hunting 3, 18, 24, 36, 44, 48
- Tagging & Transporting Wildlife 14, 21, 22, 25, 33, 36, 41, 51, 53, 63
- Tracking Dogs 18
- Trapper Education 50, 58
- Traps 49, 50, 52
- Tree Stands 10, 21, 33
- Turkey Seasons & Regulations 8, 20, 32, 33, 59, 60
- Unlicensed Persons 58
- Updates 3
- Waterfowl 43-47, 59, 60
- Wildlife Classifications 4
- Wildlife Management Units 11
- Woodchucks 9, 41
- Woodcock 46
- Youth Hunts 8, 9, 14, 24, 32, 36, 41, 42, 46, 58

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