

General Hunting

REGULATIONS

This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal documents.

No person shall hunt except as prescribed by law. See section *Permits for Hunters with Disabling Conditions*, page 16, for special rules.

Persons required by law to wear corrective lenses to operate a motor vehicle (as noted on a valid driver's license) must wear corrective lenses when hunting with a bow or firearm of any kind.

Bow and Arrow

"Bow" means any long bow, recurve bow or compound bow that is hand held and hand drawn, with no mechanical device built into it or attached to it that will enable the archer to lock the bow at a full or partial draw. All draw locking and draw holding devices are prohibited. Hand held release devices are permitted.

All bows must have a minimum draw weight of 35 pounds at the archer's draw length, except compounds, which must have a minimum peak draw weight of 35 pounds. All arrows used for hunting deer, turkey, coyote, fox or woodchuck must be fitted with a well-sharpened metal head with a minimum width of 3/4 inches.

Arrows fitted with heads other than specified for deer, turkey, coyote, fox or woodchuck may be carried in the woods and fields during the small game season or other seasons which overlap with the bow and arrow deer season.

It is unlawful to:

- use a crossbow or variation without a special bow use permit
- use or possess a poison arrow or one with an explosive tip
- use a bow one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise during any hunting season
- use a bow and arrow from any vehicle, moving or stationary
- have both a firearm and bow in possession or under control while hunting

Dogs-Hunting and Training

Allowing dogs to run at large is prohibited.

Persons may train dogs without firearms in daylight at any time except during any open firearm deer season.

No person shall train a raccoon or opossum hunting dog on WMAs other than during the periods of Sept. 1 to Oct. 1 and from Mar. 1 to May 1 each year. Training hours shall be one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

It is illegal to use dogs to pursue or run deer or black bear or to track wounded deer or bear.

Note: Regulations for dog training on wildlife management areas are on page 82.

Delaware River, Hunting

Hunting on the Delaware River is restricted by state boundaries. A valid hunting license and any appropriate permit/stamp is required for your location.

Falconry

No person shall use a raptor for hunting without a falconry permit and a valid hunting license. No person under 14 years of age may hunt by means of a raptor. Hunting migratory birds with raptors on Sunday is prohibited.

Falconry permits will be issued only to persons who pass a comprehensive examination and who can provide proper facilities for housing a raptor.

Beginning falconers must be sponsored by an experienced falconer. ➤

Specifically Prohibited:

- Carrying a loaded firearm or nocked arrow within 450 feet of an occupied building or any school playground is prohibited, except the owner or lessee of a building and persons specifically authorized by him in writing may hunt within 450 feet of the building. Note: persons authorized to hunt within 450 feet of a building must be in the possession of the written permission when hunting. (See p. 89 for diagram with complete safety zone explanation.)
- Discharging a firearm or a bow and arrow on or across highways or roads.
- Discharging a firearm or a bow and arrow from a motor vehicle.
- Sights which project a spot or light onto the game animal.
- Hunting for or shooting any wildlife by aid of a light, except when hunting raccoon, opossum while on foot or when hunting coyote/fox during the special coyote/fox season.
- Hunting or shooting with the aid of a light attached to or carried in a vehicle.
- On national wildlife refuges, the distribution of bait and/or hunting over bait.
- Hunting with arrows, darts or any other device propelled by any means that is used for the purpose of injecting or delivering any type of drug into an animal.
- Using electronic calling devices except when hunting for fox, raccoon, crow and coyote.
- Possessing a loaded firearm in or on a motor vehicle, including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs.) Possession of a loaded firearm in or upon a vehicle is considered proof of pursuing or taking of wildlife.
- Transporting an uncased firearm in or on a motor vehicle or ATV.
- Shooting into a squirrel's nest.

The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the following apply:

- Baiting is prohibited.
- No permanent tree stands or screw-in steps are permitted.
- You cannot possess a loaded firearm while on any publicly traveled roadway within the area.
- Trapping is prohibited.

No person shall possess a firearm while hunting with raptors.

For additional information, write to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400 or call (908) 735-8793.

Farmer Regulations

See *Farmer Hunting and Permit Information*, page 29.

Firearms and Missiles

- A person may not go into the woods or fields with a firearm except during prescribed seasons.
- Airguns are not legal hunting firearms.
- It is unlawful to possess in the woods and fields shot larger than #4 fine shot except for hunting deer, bear, waterfowl, woodchuck (farmers only) and coyote/fox during the Special Permit Coyote and Fox Season.
- Rimfire and centerfire rifles are not legal to hunt deer.
- See sections on specific game animals for permitted firearms and ammunition.
- No person shall use a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells at one time or that may be fired more than three times without reloading except for the September Canada goose season; see page 74.

Hunter Orange

Firearm hunters must wear a cap made of solid daylight fluorescent orange or an outer garment containing at least 200 square inches of fluorescent orange material visible from all sides at all times while engaged in hunting. A camo-orange hat alone is not adequate.

This applies to all persons while hunting with a firearm for deer, bear, rabbit, hare, squirrel, coyote, fox, railbirds, and game birds including while in a tree stand.

Exceptions: this law does not apply to waterfowl, crow, wild turkey, coyote/fox (during the special permit season, page 61), woodchuck nor bowhunters except that a bow hunter using a deer decoy must wear hunter orange, as described above, while transporting the decoy into and out of the woods and fields.

Muzzleloaders

It is unlawful to use smokeless powder in a muzzleloader while hunting in New Jersey. Only **black powder or black powder equivalents**, such as Pyrodex and Triple Seven, may be used with a muzzleloading firearm when engaged in hunting.

Properly licensed and permitted hunters 10 years and older may hunt with a muzzleloading rifle. A valid rifle permit must be possessed while hunting with a muzzleloading rifle. Permitted action types include percussion, flintlock and inline. For muzzleloader barrel types and legal hunting ammunition, see regulations for each game species.

It is unlawful to hunt with a muzzleloading rifle on WMAs, except for deer, bear, coyote/fox and squirrel hunting during the special season in certain zones. For muzzleloader rifle squirrel hunting, see page 64. For muzzleloader deer hunting, see page 31. For rifle permit information, see page 15. For muzzleloader coyote/fox hunting, see page 61.

Non-Resident Game Removal

A non-resident licensee may remove from the state each day a daily bag limit of game. However, a non-resident may not

take more than two day's bag limit from the state after one week's stay (Sunday to Saturday inclusive.) This does not apply to game raised or killed at a licensed commercial preserve and legally tagged.

Possession Of Certain Wildlife By Persons, Taxidermists & Butchers

No person shall have in possession a deer, bear, migratory game birds or turkey that he himself or she herself did not kill unless it has a tag bearing the name, address, telephone number, license and permit numbers of the person who killed the deer, bear, migratory game birds or turkey. Those in the business of processing deer, bear or turkey, that is butchers, taxidermists, etc., shall keep a ledger of all of their customers. Each customer's name, current address, day and evening telephone numbers, hunting license number, and possession seal number of any black bear, deer or turkey being processed shall be included in the ledger. The ledger shall be made available for inspection upon request during the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by any law enforcement officer or employee of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

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General Hunting

REGULATIONS

(continued from page 27)

Taxidermists note: The sale of wild birds and game animals or parts thereof is prohibited in New Jersey. Legally-trapped furbearers may be sold. Questions should be directed to a regional Fish and Wildlife law enforcement office.

Property Damage

Hunters must not hunt in unharvested crops without first obtaining permission from the owner. Anyone causing damage to cultivated crops, orchards, fences, buildings or livestock may be arrested without warrant by the owner, occupant, lessee, or any officer of the law. Violators are liable for a fine of up to \$2,000 and restitution to the property owner in addition to the loss of hunting privileges for a period of two years.

Rifles, .22 caliber

A valid rifle permit must be possessed while hunting with a .22 caliber rifle.

It is unlawful to possess and use .22 caliber rifle except while hunting woodchuck, (no rifle hunting on wildlife management areas) hunting raccoon and opossum with hounds, and dispatching trapped animals other than muskrat.

A .22 caliber rifle must be loaded with short cartridges only, except when hunting woodchuck.

A .22 caliber rifle need not be plugged, but may be loaded with no more than three shells. No 10-17 year-olds may hunt with any rimfire or centerfire rifle.

See chart on page 64 for details on small caliber rifle ammunition legal for hunting woodchucks.

Safety Zone

No hunter may carry a loaded firearm or knocked bow and arrow within the Safety Zone of 450 feet from a building or school playground, even if not occupied. Exception: a hunter must have written permission in possession from the owner or qualified lessee to be within the Safety Zone with a loaded firearm or knocked arrow. See *Safety Zone Awareness*, page 89. Shooting into a Safety Zone is prohibited.

Shotguns

Shotguns larger than 10-gauge are prohibited. Shotguns may not be capable of holding more than three shells except for September Canada goose hunting; see page 74. For information on legal shot sizes, see regulations for each game species to be hunted.

Sunday Hunting

No person may hunt with firearms or any other weapon or carry a gun in the woods or fields or on the waters on Sunday: except on semi-wild and commercial shooting preserve lands for the purpose of shooting stocked game; and when using a .22 rifle for dispatching trapped animals.

Persons are allowed to hunt raccoon or opossum between midnight on Saturday and one hour before sunrise on Sunday during the prescribed season.

Trespass Law

Hunters and trappers must have permission (oral or written) from the landowner or lessee prior to entering either posted lands or agricultural lands (which are not required to be posted.) Hunters also must obtain permission to enter posted land and agricultural land to recover deer. Hunters and trappers may not enter unposted land after having been forbidden to trespass by the owner, lessee or occupant.

If a hunter or trapper is charged with trespass, they must provide documentation of written permission in court for their defense. See page 83 for the Hunt SMART Courtesy Card.

Wildlife

It is illegal to capture, kill, injure or have in possession any wild bird other than a game bird.

No one may rob a bird's nest.

The removal of the skin or feathers or mutilation of any wild bird or mammal in the woods or fields for the purpose of concealing sex or identity is illegal.

All nongame mammals, reptiles, birds and amphibians are protected. Penalties for taking these species range from \$250-\$5,000.

There is no open season on bobcat. It

is illegal to kill, attempt to kill or possess bobcats except parts of bobcats legally taken in other states may be possessed but not sold in New Jersey.

The sale of wild birds or game animals or parts thereof is prohibited except as described in N.J.S.A. 23:4-27. For more specific information, refer to our Web site, www.NJFishandWildlife.com.

Wildlife Damage Control

Property owners and occupants of dwellings, or their agents designated in writing, suffering damage from squirrel, raccoon, opossum, skunk, weasel, woodchuck, gray fox, red fox and coyote may control these animals by lawful procedures at any time subject to state law and local ordinances. Farmers or their agents may also control the above species by lawful procedures when found destroying livestock, crops or poultry at any time subject to state and local ordinances.

Note: Persons who kill a coyote must notify a Fish and Wildlife Regional Law Enforcement Office within 24 hours. ☺

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Farmer License Exemption

A farmer and the immediate members of the family who also reside on the farm may hunt, trap and fish on the farm without being licensed or possessing a valid rifle permit. (See page 35 for a cut-out farmer deer transportation tag.) All hunting, fishing and trapping must be conducted in the manner provided by law during the prescribed seasons. A farm is defined as an area of at least five acres and having gross income of at least \$500, and tax assessed as farmland. This exemption does not apply to a tenant or employee who is not an immediate family member.

Farmer Regulations

The occupant of a farm may allow his or her dog to run at large on land he or she occupies, except during the firearm deer seasons.

Farmers and their lessees occupying or farming their land, members of their immediate families, or their farming employees may kill crows, woodchuck and fox on farm property at any time when found destroying livestock or crops. However, they must use legal firearms, ammunition and other lawful procedures. See also *Wildlife Damage Control*, page 28. See also *General Regulations*, page 26.

Farmers must possess the appropriate permit to legally hunt the farm during any hunting or trapping season which requires a permit. Permits are provided free to all qualified farmers for the following seasons: Permit Bow, Permit Muzzleloader and Permit Shotgun deer seasons plus the spring and fall Turkey Permit seasons.

Farmers may trap fox destroying poultry, crops or property at any time, subject to state law and local ordinances. Farmers or their agents may shoot or trap coyotes by lawful procedures at any time when found destroying livestock or crops. A regional Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement office must be notified within 24 hours of killing a coyote. See Telephone Directory page 96.

Permits for Farmers

- Fish and Wildlife maintains a farmer database. Farmers who received farmer deer or turkey permits in 2006, 2007 or 2008 are in our database already and

need not reapply.

- New farmers or farmers who have not received permits since 2006 MUST apply. Applications are available on Fish and Wildlife's Web site at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/farmer.htm or at your local county agricultural extension office.
- The preferred application period for farmers is June 1 - August 1.
- Once approved and in the new license system, farmers may claim their farmer permits by going to any license agent. The dates when permits will become available are listed below.

Farmer Deer Permits

- Farmers may claim deer permits beginning Monday, Oct. 6, 2008 at 10 a.m. at any license agent.
- Approved farmers are eligible for one free bow, shotgun and muzzleloader permit and one free Antlered Buck Permit for each of the three permit seasons. See *Farmer License Exemption*, above. See also *Farmer Regulations*, above.
- Two types of farmer permits - occupant and non-occupant farmer- allow the applicant to decide for which permit it is easiest to qualify; see below. Farmers who must change the occupancy status for their deer permit should call the Permit Hotline at (609) 292-9192.
- Only a qualified farmer or the spouse or children of that farmer who reside in the farmer's household, are eligible to apply for occupant and non-occupant farmer deer permits.
- Farmers may also apply for (or purchase at any license agent) regular deer permits in addition to the free farmer permits. See *Deer Season Permits*, page 17.

Occupant Farmer Deer Permits

- Applicants must be the owner, lessee or immediate family (spouse and children only) who actually reside on the farm property.
- Land must be at least five acres, tax-assessed as farmland.
- Occupant permits are valid only on the farm property where the applicant resides.

Non-Occupant Farmer Deer Permits

- Applicants are not required to live on the farm property.
- Farmer(s) and their immediate family members (spouse and children only) may qualify, up to a total of five people.
- Must actively till at least 30 acres of land which is tax-assessed as farmland.
- Woodlots do not qualify.
- To apply for hunting leased farmland, a copy of all leases authorizing the agricultural and hunting uses of the land must be attached to the application.
- Non-occupant permits are valid in the entire zone for which the permit was applied.
- An applicant who lives on a farm and actively tills at least 30 acres may apply either as an occupant or a non-occupant.

Farmer Turkey Permits

Farmers may claim fall season turkey permits beginning Monday, Oct. 6, 2008 at 10 a.m. at any license agent.

Qualified farmers may apply only if their land is in a turkey hunting area open to hunting.

Farmer turkey permits are available only to the farmer and immediate family who reside on the farm.

For the purpose of farmer turkey permits, "immediate family" includes the spouse, mother, father, child, stepchild, stepparent, legal guardian, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, great grandparent, brother, sister, stepsister, stepbrother, brother-in-law and sister-in-law of the farm owner or lessee who resides thereon.

Farmers may also apply for (or purchase at any license agent) regular turkey permits in addition to the free farmer permits. See the turkey permit supplement, distributed each January or on our Web site for details. 🍗

Deer Hunting

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Legal Deer Hunting Hours: half hour before sunrise to half hour after sunset



Only one antlered deer may be taken per season statewide, except during the Six-Day Firearm Season, regardless of the number of antlered buck permits in possession. To be legal, all deer harvested must be registered at an official deer check station (see page 58) and have a metal possession seal affixed to the deer. Only after registering the first deer may a hunter take or attempt to take another deer, where legal, unless specifically written as an exception.

Key Concepts and Definitions

- **Antlered deer** is defined as any deer with at least one antler measuring at least three inches in length as defined below.
- **Antler length** is defined as the maximum length of a deer antler measured from the lowest outside edge of the antler burr along the outer curve to the most distant point of what is or appears to be the main antler beam. For the purposes of this definition, the antler length does not include the pedicel or portion of skull between the skull plate and base of the antler point.
- **Antler point** is defined as any point at least one inch long from its tip to its base line, and the length must exceed the width at some location at least one inch down from the tip.
- **Antlerless deer** is defined as any deer that does not have an antler length measuring at least three inches. For the purposes of this definition, adult male deer that have shed their antlers, button bucks and adult males with antlers less than three inches are considered antlerless deer.
- **Antlered Buck Muzzleloader Permit, Antlered Buck Shotgun Permit or Antlered Buck Bow Permit** refers to the antlered buck permits available for purchase which are valid *only*

when used in conjunction with the regular, antlerless, zone-specific deer season permit. The antlered buck permits contain an antlered deer transportation tag and allows for the pursuit and harvest of an antlered deer only.

- **Earn-A-Buck regulations are reduced in Zones 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 36, 41, 49, 50 and 51.** The hunter's first deer harvested from these zones during the early **Fall Bow Season only** (through October 3, 2008) must still be an antlerless deer as defined above; the second deer may be antlered. Earn-A-Buck is removed from Permit Bow and Permit Muzzleloader seasons. Earn-A-Buck is a tool to reduce the growth of deer herds in areas where the harvest of antlerless animals under regular harvest guidelines is insufficient to reach desired population levels.
- **Antler Point Restriction zones** include Zones 3, 9, 13, 27, 29, 35, 37, 40, 63 and 67. The harvest of antlered deer from these zones during any open season is restricted to deer with at least one antler having a minimum of three antler points as defined above. The goal of the antler point restriction strategy, as part of Quality Deer Management, is to reduce harvest pressure on the 1½ year-old antlered deer in the expectation that they will survive to produce larger antlers as older animals.

Six-day Firearm Season Dec. 8 – 13, 2008

- **Special Areas Deer Management zones** include Zones 37, 38, 39, 40, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 61, 64, 66, 67, 68, and 70. They are generally small, publicly-owned properties administered by county, federal or state agencies (other than Fish and Wildlife) where deer season dates, bag limits or regulations differ from those of the surrounding deer management zone. See page 47 for details.

- **Youth Hunter** status applies to the possessor of a valid Youth Hunting License (or the immediate member of a qualified occupant farmer who is at least 10 years of age) and continues until Dec. 31 of the year in which he or she turns 16 years of age. **The Youth Bow Deer Hunt Day is Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008. The Youth Firearm Deer Hunt Day is Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008.** The bag limit for youth hunters on this day is *one* deer of either sex. Antler Point Restrictions do not apply for deer taken on this day by youth hunters. See page 35 for a cut-out youth transportation tag.

Licenses and Permits

- See *License, Permits and Stamps*, page 10, for details and for Hunter Education requirements.
- Additional hunting licenses may not be purchased in order to harvest additional deer.
- Although hunters may purchase multiple deer permits, **they are limited to only one regular, zone-specific ANTLERLESS permit per zone during each of the permit seasons.** For example, a hunter may buy an ANTLERLESS muzzleloader permit for each of Zones 18, 21 and 24. A hunter may purchase a bow permit, a muzzleloader permit and a shotgun permit for Zone 24; however, they may not purchase two ANTLERLESS bow permits (nor two shotgun permits nor two muzzleloader permits) for Zone 24.
- It is unlawful to use a bow and arrow for hunting deer while using a firearm license or while using a shotgun or muzzleloader deer permit. A bow and arrow license and permit (when required) must be in possession using this hunting equipment.
- **The regular, zone-specific Bow, Muzzleloader and Shotgun Permits are valid ONLY for the pursuit and harvest** ➤

of **ANTLERLESS** deer. Hunters who want to pursue and take an antlered deer during any of these seasons must purchase an additional Antlered Buck Bow, Antlered Buck Muzzleloader or Antlered Buck Shotgun Permit. Hunters may purchase only one Antlered Buck Permit per season. An Antlered Buck Permit must be used in conjunction with regular, zone-specific antlerless permit. The Antlered Buck Permit is *not* zone-specific; it is valid for use in any zone for which the a hunter already holds a regular, zone-specific antlerless season permit, but only one buck may be harvested per season. Adult deer permits are \$28; youth deer permits are \$12.

IMPORTANT: Antlered Buck Permits must be purchased by 11:59 p.m. on the following dates: Nov. 1 for Permit Bow; Dec. 1 for Permit Muzzleloader and Dec. 17 for Permit Shotgun seasons, **UNLESS** you are buying your first zone-specific antlerless permit **AND** an Antlered Buck Permit at the same time on a later date.

Firearms, Ammunition and Sights

- See page 26 for general hunting regulations which also apply to deer hunting.
- **All firearms must be cased and unloaded while being transported in vehicles, including on all-terrain vehicles.** A muzzleloader is considered unloaded when, in the case of a percussion cap rifle or shotgun, the percussion cap has been removed from the nipple; in the case of a flintlock, when the powder is removed from the pan and a boot or cover made of nonmetallic material is placed over the frizzen.
- Hunters using or possessing any **shotgun slug** in the field during the deer seasons must have a shotgun with adjustable open iron or peep **sights** or a scope affixed to the shotgun.
- **Telescopic sights** of any magnification (scope power) are permitted for deer hunting on **all** firearms, including muzzleloader rifles and smoothbore muzzleloader shotguns. No permits are required for telescopic sights.
- Any sight or device that casts a beam of light upon the deer is prohibited.

- Shotgun shells containing single spherical projectiles referred to as **pumpkin balls are prohibited.**
- While deer hunting with a shotgun, it is illegal to have in possession any ammunition not authorized for deer hunting.
- When hunting during the overlapping firearms seasons for deer and when in possession of the proper permits for the current seasons, hunters may carry the firearms legal for the current seasons. For example, when Six-day Firearm and Permit Muzzleloader seasons run concurrently, a hunter may be in possession of a shotgun and either a muzzleloading rifle or smoothbore muzzleloader.
- Double-barreled muzzleloading rifles are not permitted during the Six-day

Firearm or Permit Muzzleloader seasons.

- Only **one** muzzleloading rifle or smoothbore muzzleloader may be in possession while deer hunting, but not both simultaneously.
- Only **black powder or black powder equivalents**, such as Pyrodex and Triple Se7en, may be used with a muzzleloading firearm when engaged in hunting. Modern smokeless powder is strictly prohibited while hunting game with a muzzleloading firearm.
- **Special Areas Deer Management Zones** may have regulations that differ from the state-wide regulations. See page 47 for details.

(continued on page 32)

Firearms, Bows and Ammunition Legal for Deer Hunting:

Season(s)	Weapon Type	Gauge, Caliber or Weigh	Projectile(s)	Firearm sights; Bow releases
Fall Bow Permit Bow Winter Bow	Bow—long, recurve or compound	35 pounds pull at archer's draw length (long and recurve bows) or peak weight (compound bow)	Arrows must be fitted with a well-sharpened metal broadhead with a minimum width of 3/4"	Hand-held release devices are permitted
Permit Muzzleloader	Muzzleloader—rifle or smoothbore, single-barrel, single-shot. Flintlock, percussion and in-line ignitions permitted. Double-barrel firearms prohibited	Rifle—not less than .44 caliber Smoothbore—not smaller than 20 gauge and not larger than 10 gauge	Must be loaded with a single projectile only	Telescopic sights permitted
Six-day Firearm	Shotgun—single or double barrel, rifled bore or smoothbore Muzzleloader—single-shot, single barrel rifle OR single or double-barrel smoothbore shotgun. Flintlock, percussion and in-line ignitions permitted	Not smaller than 20 gauge and not larger than 10 gauge, capable of holding no more than three shells Muzzleloading rifle—single shot not less than .44 caliber Smoothbore—single or double-barrel not smaller than 20 gauge and not larger than 10 gauge	Slugs—lead, lead alloy or copper rifled slug or sabot slug Buck shot—sizes not smaller than #4 (0.24") nor larger than #000 (0.36") Muzzleloading rifle—single projectile Smoothbore—buck shot not smaller than #4 (0.24") nor larger than #000 (0.36") or a single projectile	Shotgun must have an adjustable open iron or peep sight or a scope affixed if hunter is hunting with or in possession of slugs Telescopic sights permitted
Permit Shotgun	Shotgun—single or double barrel, rifled bore or smoothbore Muzzleloader—single or double-barrel <i>smoothbores</i> only (no rifles.) Flintlock, percussion and in-line ignitions permitted	Not smaller than 20 gauge and not larger than 10 gauge, capable of holding no more than three shells Not smaller than 20 gauge and not larger than 10 gauge	Slugs—lead, lead alloy or copper rifled slug or sabot slug Buck shot—sizes not smaller than #4 (0.24") nor larger than #000 (0.36") Buck shot—sizes not smaller than #4 (0.24") nor larger than #000 (0.36") or a single projectile	Shotgun must have an adjustable open iron or peep sight or a scope affixed if hunter is hunting with or in possession of slugs

Deer Hunting

REGULATIONS

(continued from page 31)

Baiting

- Baiting is allowed for deer hunting. Hunters may hunt for deer while in a tree, on the ground or in a structure and from any height and any distance from the bait pile. Hunters should check with the landowner or administrative agency before placing bait on their hunting area as baiting is **not** allowed on properties such as national wildlife refuges.

Decoys and Electronic Devices

- Persons may hunt with the aid of deer decoys statewide in those zones open for deer hunting only during the Fall Bow, Permit Bow and Winter Bow seasons. When carrying or moving deer decoys for the purpose of hunting, persons must wear a fluorescent orange hat or outer garment consisting of at least 200 square inches of fluorescent orange material, which shall be visible from all sides as currently required for firearm deer hunting.
- It is unlawful to hunt for deer with the aid of an electronic calling device or any device that casts a beam of light upon the deer.

Bag Limits

- For all seasons except Six-day Firearm, properly licensed and permitted hunters are limited to taking one antlered buck per season, regardless of the number of antlerless, zone-specific permits purchased, when applicable.
- Bowhunters may take two antlered deer legally on a bow or all-around license, one antlered deer each during the Fall Bow and Winter Bow seasons. Hunters who want to pursue and harvest an antlered deer during the Permit Bow Season must purchase an Antlered Buck Bow Permit valid **only** when used in conjunction with the regular, zone-specific antlerless Bow Permit. For permit purchasing deadline, see *Deer Season Permits*, page 17.
- Firearm hunters legally may take two antlered deer during the Six-

day Firearm Season on a firearm or all-around license. Hunters will receive a supplemental tag upon checking in their first Six-day Firearm Season buck, allowing the pursuit and harvest of a second buck. Hunters who want to harvest an antlered deer during the Permit Shotgun or Permit Muzzleloader seasons must purchase an Antlered Buck Shotgun or Antlered Buck Muzzleloader Permit, valid only when used in conjunction with the regular, zone-specific antlerless Shotgun or Muzzleloader Permit. If hunters who take a **second** antlered deer during the Six-day Firearm Season, their Shotgun Permit Season bag limit is then restricted to antlerless deer **only**. For purchasing deadlines, see *Deer Season Permits*, page 17.

- Remember, although two antlered bucks **may** be taken during the Six-Day Firearm Season, when that occurs, **the antlered buck bag limit for the Permit Shotgun Season is then zero**. Hunters may choose: take **either** two antlered bucks during Six-day Firearm Season, **or** one antlered buck during Six-day Firearm Season and one antlered buck during Permit Shotgun Season (while possessing an Antlered Buck Permit.) The antlerless bag limit for these permit seasons will be one, two or unlimited depending on the zone and season. See *Regulation Sets*, page 44.
- Two deer may be taken at a time in Zones 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 25, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 48, 49, 50, 51, 54, 56, 64, and 66 and 68 during the Permit Muzzleloader and Permit Shotgun seasons (in those zones open for both of those seasons) until the season concludes. See *Regulation Sets*, page 44.

Tagging Requirements - Transportation Tag

Immediately upon harvesting any deer, hunters must complete in ink all information requested on the Transportation Tag either attached to your *license*, the regular, zone-specific deer *permit*, the *Antlered Buck Permit*, or the *supplemental tag*. Be sure to use the Transportation Tag corresponding to the hunting season in which the deer was harvested. ➤

What should be done when a deer is recovered too late to register at a check station?



1. Go home and immediately call the nearest NJ Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Office.

Call the Northern Region Law Enforcement Office at (908) 735-8240 for deer harvested in these counties:

Bergen	Morris	Union
Essex	Passaic	Warren
Hunterdon	Somerset	
Hudson	Sussex	

Call the Central Region Law Enforcement Office at (609) 259-2120 for deer harvested in these counties:

Burlington	Monmouth
Mercer	Ocean
Middlesex	

Call the Southern Region Law Enforcement Office at (856) 629-0555 for deer harvested in these counties:

Atlantic	Cumberland
Camden	Gloucester
Cape May	Salem

2. Leave a message on the recorder with your name, phone number, hunting license number, sex of deer and from which deer management zone the deer was taken.
3. Check your deer the following morning at the deer check station closest to your home. If weather conditions necessitate butchering the deer immediately, the hunter must bring the head and hide to be checked the next day.

1. A valid transportation tag first must be detached from your license or permit then securely attached to the deer immediately after it has been killed.
2. **Youth and farmer hunters** creating a hand-written transportation tag must include the following information: Conservation ID number, date, hunting season, gender of deer, number of antler points, county, township and deer management zone. See page 35 for a printed Youth/Farmer Transportation Tag.
3. Transportation Tags from 2008 permits are valid for the entire length of the Permit Bow, Permit Muzzleloader and Permit Shotgun seasons, including January and February 2009, if the zone specified on the original permit is open for hunting during these dates.
4. **All Supplemental Deer Transportation Tags** are valid on the day of issuance for taking another deer.
5. See *Mandatory Deer Check Station Requirement* below.

After Harvesting a Deer: Mandatory Deer Check Requirement

Immediately upon harvesting a deer, hunters must complete in ink all required tags.

1. **All hunters are required to register harvested deer.** Bring your deer to the closest official deer check station (see *Deer Check Stations*, page 58).
2. **Be discrete** when transporting your deer to and from a check station, butcher or taxidermist; rinse away excess blood, turn the field-dressed side to face in toward your vehicle and push the tongue back into the deer's mouth.
3. Deer must be taken to the check station by the hunter who killed the deer on the day killed, by 8 p.m. during the regular Fall Bow Season, and by 7 p.m. during all other seasons.
4. Transportation Tags must be surrendered to the check station operator. Check station personnel will attach a legal metal possession seal to the deer, and, if applicable, will issue a New Jersey Supplemental Transportation Tag for the harvest of another deer. It is the hunter's responsibility to confirm that the seal is attached and locked on the deer.

Remember: Bring your hunting license and applicable deer season permit(s) to the deer check station.

After checking your deer – Possession/Sale

- Metal possession seals (affixed to deer at check stations) **must** be kept until all venison is consumed **and** as long as you keep any part or parts, including antlers. Persons with deer mounts should write their name, legal possession seal number, date of kill and season of harvest on back of the mounting plate for future reference.
- It is illegal to sell deer meat, deer antlers or any part of a deer **except** deer hides. However, nonprofit organizations conducting wild game dinners for social and fundraising events may offer game or furbearer meat (the sale of which is otherwise prohibited) provided that the meat been harvested, stored and processed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Spotlighting

- Spotlighting deer during hours of darkness from a vehicle is illegal while in possession of a weapon capable of killing deer, **whether the weapon is cased, uncased or in a locked compartment.** This does not apply to the regular use of headlights when traveling in a normal manner on public or private roads.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Guidance

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) affects the central nervous system of deer family species. Most scientists believe the disease is caused by an infectious protein or prion. CWD has been diagnosed in mule deer, white-tailed deer, black-tailed deer and mule deer, white-tailed deer hybrids and North American elk. Moose have been experimentally infected through oral inoculation.

There is no evidence linking CWD to disease in humans; however, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization recommend that people do not consume meat from an apparently sick deer, elk or any animal found dead or known to be positive for CWD. Also, as

a precaution in areas where CWD has been identified, hunters are advised not to eat tissues known to harbor CWD prions (lymph nodes, tonsils, spleen, pancreas, brain, and spinal cord) and to "bone out" the meat.

CWD has been diagnosed in deer and elk in 13 states and two Canadian Provinces:

Colorado ¹	Alberta, Canada ²
Illinois ³	Nebraska ¹
Kansas ²	New Mexico ³
New York ¹	Minnesota ²
Utah ³	South Dakota ¹
Montana ²	Wisconsin ¹
Oklahoma ²	West Virginia ³
Wyoming ^{1*}	

Saskatchewan, Canada¹

¹ CWD in both captive and wild deer

² CWD in captive deer only

³ CWD in wild deer only

* captive research herd

CWD can be transmitted among adult deer, and the prions have been found in the brain, eyes, spinal cord, spleen, tonsils and lymph nodes. Prions in these tissues of infected deer can potentially infect other deer if they are disposed of improperly.

To ensure you do not inadvertently spread CWD prions from the above-listed states:

- Follow the rules of the states in which you hunt to ensure you do not spread CWD
- Bring back to New Jersey only hides, capes and boned meat free of spinal cord, brain and associated lymph nodes
- Bring back to New Jersey skull plates free of brain residue and disinfected by soaking in a 30 percent Clorox solution for 15 minutes
- Do not dispose of carcasses (particularly skull, brain, spinal cord, lymph nodes) in the wild when you return to New Jersey. The remains of an eviscerated butchered deer or elk must be disposed of in the household trash where it will be delivered to an appropriate landfill.

(continued from page 35)

Using Distance Sampling

to Estimate the Number of Deer

Distance sampling is a survey technique used by wildlife biologists to estimate the number of deer in an area. At night, roads are driven through the survey area maintaining a speed of 10 – 12 miles per hour. Observers use spotlights to find and count deer, then measure the distance between observer and deer with a laser range finder.

There is a decreasing probability of seeing deer as they are further from the road. To obtain a valid population estimate, at least 50 groups of deer must be observed.

Although the technique is easy, it is also time-consuming. Frequently, wildlife personnel drive the survey route multiple times over the course of several evenings to obtain the proper sample size.



The number of miles driven, the number of deer seen and the distances from the observer to the deer are entered into Distance 5.0, a computer program which calculates the deer population estimate of the survey area.

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has used this technique to estimate deer populations in several areas. Locations include deer browse study sites, such as High Point State Park, Sussex County; suburban municipalities where Community Based Deer Management programs were in place such as Watchung Borough, Somerset County and in county parks where deer culls have occurred, such as South Mountain Reservation, Essex County.

(continued from page 33)

- Butchers must use food-waste dumpsters for appropriate disposal of larger quantities of deer remains in landfills.
- Taxidermists must not dispose of curing salts, deer or elk carcasses or body parts in the wild where deer may find them. Taxidermists with larger quantities of animal parts must use food-waste dumpsters for appropriate disposal.
- For the latest CWD information, visit our Web site at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/cwdinfo.htm.

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YOUTH / FARMER DEER TRANSPORTATION TAG
 For use as 1st tag in Fall Bow Six-day Firearm, and Winter Bow or Youth Hunt Days seasons ONLY

Name _____ Please check **only** one box: **Male**

Address _____ **Female**

_____ Button
 Buck
 Shed
 Antlered

Youth License # _____ Total Antler Points _____
 OR _____

Conservation # _____ Deer Mgmt. Zone _____

Date Deer Killed _____ County _____

Signature _____ Township _____

YOUTH / FARMER DEER TRANSPORTATION TAG
 For use as 1st tag in Fall Bow Six-day Firearm, and Winter Bow or Youth Hunt Days seasons ONLY

Name _____ Please check **only** one box: **Male**

Address _____ **Female**

_____ Button
 Buck
 Shed
 Antlered

Youth License # _____ Total Antler Points _____
 OR _____

Conservation # _____ Deer Mgmt. Zone _____

Date Deer Killed _____ County _____

Signature _____ Township _____

YOUTH / FARMER DEER TRANSPORTATION TAG
 For use as 1st tag in Fall Bow Six-day Firearm, and Winter Bow or Youth Hunt Days seasons ONLY

Name _____ Please check **only** one box: **Male**

Address _____ **Female**

_____ Button
 Buck
 Shed
 Antlered

Youth License # _____ Total Antler Points _____
 OR _____

Conservation # _____ Deer Mgmt. Zone _____

Date Deer Killed _____ County _____

Signature _____ Township _____