



NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Fish and Wildlife  
Commercial Preserve Permits  
1 Eldridge Road  
Robbinsville, NJ 08691-3476

## COMMERCIAL SHOOTING PRESERVE INFORMATION SHEET

### AUTHORITY

N.J.S.A. 23:3-29 provides the authority to the New Jersey Fish and Wildlife to issue a permit to operate commercial shooting preserves for mallard, pheasant, quail, and partridge. The applicant must be the owner or lessee of the property to be permitted.

Two or more non-contiguous tracts of land, each consisting of a minimum of 50 acres in size excluding safety zones, shall be covered under the same permit.

### DEFINITION

A commercial shooting preserve is defined as 50 acres or more of land with the boundaries clearly posted at intervals of not more than 200 feet with signs containing the following wording: **COMMERCIAL SHOOTING PRESERVE – PERMITTED UNDER N.J.S.A. 23:3-29**  
**Signs must display the name of the club or the property owner.**

### SEASON AND BAG LIMIT

Under a Commercial Preserve permit, stocked birds of either sex may be taken by shooting only on lands designated in the application and permit by properly licensed hunters between September 1 and the following May 1, inclusive, without regard to daily bag limit.

NOTE: Captive bred mallards stocked and hunted on Commercial Shooting Preserves must also meet the following criteria established by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service:

1. Proper identification by toe clipping of the helix on the left foot, tattooing of the webbing or leg banding with a closed band or seamless band.
2. The use of steel or other U.S. Wildlife Service approved nontoxic shot.

### FEES

The annual fee for a Commercial Shooting Preserve permit is \$320.00 plus an additional \$2.00 application fee for the first tract of land, and \$165.00 per season for each additional tract of land. Each piece of land must be at least 50 acres in size, including safety zones.

The cost of tags is \$0.15 each.

## **CRITERIA FOR GRANTING PERMIT**

New Jersey Fish and Wildlife may, upon receipt of fees, issue to the applicant such a permit when it appears that:

1. The operation of such a shooting preserve shall not conflict with prior reasonable public interest; and
2. The applicant has provided evidence (contract, purchases, etc.) that a total of at least 500 pheasants, mallard, quail, partridge, or a combination thereof will be raised or purchased for the liberation on the shooting preserve between September of the year of the permit and the following May 1.
3. The applicant has produced a Verification of Lease Agreement, signed by both parties, that is effective through the entire season.

To ascertain compliance with the above criteria, applicants are required to submit a completed application, evidence for purchase or raising of birds, and include two 8.5" x 11" photocopies of tax assessor's or survey maps showing acreage and lot/block numbers. Maps should show the name of the Commercial Shooting Preserve Club and the permit number if available. Maps must show the boundaries of the preserve outlined in RED. Maps should indicate buildings on the property and on each adjacent property, which might affect the amount of land hunted because of safety zones. Safety zones should be indicated in RED. A field inspection of new commercial shooting preserves and those with changes in property will be conducted prior to issuing the permit.

## **APPLICATION DEADLINE**

Applications for Commercial Shooting Preserve permits received prior to August 1 will be issued by September 1. Applications received after that date are processed on a first come, first serve basis with no guarantee that they will be issued by September 1. All applications must be accompanied by the required tax maps, lease agreement verification form (if property is leased), contract for a minimum of 500 birds, and an application to import (if applicable). A permit will not be issued until the applicant has produced evidence that the required number of birds will be issued for liberation during the season.

## **TAGGING BIRDS**

Every harvest game bird, including mallards, covered under the permit must be tagged regardless of sex, including birds from the freezer and/or meat sale being transported or sold. Tags will be issued on an annual basis. Tags are numbered and dated; they are valid for the current season only. Tags are assigned to the individual preserve. Not tagging birds is a violation and may result in a fine and loss of permit. Sufficient tags should be purchased to cover the anticipated number of birds stocked. Tags remaining at the end of the season should be destroyed. No transfer of tags from one permitted preserve to another will be allowed. New applicants needing assistance in evaluating how many tags to purchase may call (609) 223-6055.

No mallards, pheasant, quail, partridge, or their carcasses shall be possessed or transported unless the bird is tagged. Tags must be kept available on the premises at a location available to all members and guests. A daily record sheet must be kept of all the birds shot and tagged by each hunter. Records should include date, hunter's name, species, and quantity of birds shot on a daily kill sheet. In addition, a daily record of birds released must be kept, indicating species and quantity of birds released. Daily stocking records and kill sheets must be filed with your annual report at the end of the permit season.

Records must be available for inspection for up to three (3) years after the close of a season.

### **CAPTIVE GAME PERMITS**

The sale of game birds must be accompanied by a Game Bird Sales Receipt, which shall serve as a temporary possession permit for a period of 20 days. You must obtain a Captive Game permit if you purchase and possess game birds for more than 20 days. You must possess a Captive Game permit if you sell or transfer birds to another individual or club. You may apply for the Captive Game permit when you apply for your Commercial Preserve permit.

Captive Game permits are traditionally valid for the calendar year and expire on December 31. A recent legislative change now allows NJ Fish and Wildlife to issue Captive Game permits, which coincide with the issue and renewal dates of the Commercial Preserve permit. If you wish your future Captive Game permits for the propagation and sale of game birds to coincide with the Commercial Preserve permit, please indicate so on the commercial preserve permit application. We will issue a Captive Game permit for the period of September 1 to August 31 of the following calendar year.

### **INFORMATION OF BIRDS**

All live game birds transported into the state must be accompanied by an official health certificate. A NJ Fish and Wildlife issued importation permit must be attached to the waybill or shall be in the possession of the driver of the vehicle or person in charge of the game birds. No game birds may be imported without prior written approval from the Wildlife Permits Unit. Importation applications are available upon request at (609) 223-6055. Allow 20 working days for the approval and issuance of an importation permit. There is no fee for this permit.

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

Annual report forms can be downloaded from the New Jersey Fish and Wildlife website at [http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/comm\\_pres\\_annrpt.pdf](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/comm_pres_annrpt.pdf). Annual report forms should be completed and submitted to the Wildlife Permits Unit within 30 days of the close of the season. Annual report forms must be filed with a copy of your receipt(s) showing full payment or a summary statement showing full payment of the birds stocked. The receipts should indicate the species, quantity, and note if "paid in full." Commercial Preserve permit holders are also required to submit their daily kill sheets and stocking sheets.

### **ONE DAY HUNTING LICENSES**

**All persons hunting on a commercial preserve must possess a valid hunting license.** Commercial Shooting Preserve operators may purchase books of one-day hunting licenses from the Wildlife Permits Unit. Books containing 20 licenses may be purchased for \$230.00. Individual licenses are to be sold for \$12.50. The books are issued with a receipt form. Sign and return to NJ Fish and Wildlife. Completed books should be returned **immediately** with your club name and number indicated on the front. **Before selling a one-day license, you are required by law to check the individual's previous hunting license or hunter education certificate. Licenses must be filled out with completed information.**

Hunting in the state of New Jersey is a privilege, which can be revoked at any time. Any person violating any of the provisions of the state may be liable for a penalty of not less than \$50.00 or more than \$200.00 for each offense.

### **REFUNDS/TRANSFERS**

No refunds for permits, licenses, or tags will be issued for loss of acreage resulting from township closures, lease cancellation, etc.

### **INFORMATION**

Additional information regarding Commercial Preserve permits or completing the application may be obtained by calling (609) 223-6055 or emailing Katherine Szostak at [Katherine.Szostak@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Katherine.Szostak@dep.nj.gov).

### **MAILING ADDRESS**

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Visit our website at [http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/comm\\_preserves.htm](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/comm_preserves.htm) for more information on Commercial Shooting Preserves.