

# TAKE A KID HUNTING



## deer

Take this great opportunity to introduce youth hunters to deer hunting!

### YOUTH DEER HUNTING DAYS

- » **Youth Bow Hunt**  
Saturday, September 26, 2015
- » **Youth Firearm Hunt**  
Saturday, November 21, 2015

### WHO CAN HUNT

Hunters with a valid youth hunting license. See *Youth Licenses*, page 10.

- ♦ The youth hunter **MUST** be under the direct supervision of a person who is at least 21 years old and who has a valid firearm or bow and arrow license corresponding to the season hunted. Direct supervision is defined as both the youth hunter and parent/guardian set up together at the same location, hunting as a unit, not hunting independently. The adult **CANNOT** hunt on this day. The adult may grunt, call or rattle for the youth. In addition to the youth, the adult accompanying the youth should wear the required hunter orange during the youth firearm deer hunt.

### BAG LIMITS

Youth may hunt statewide for one deer of either sex on each of the above dates.

- ♦ During the Youth Firearm Deer Hunt, youths may hunt either with a shotgun or muzzleloader. No bows.
- ♦ If the youth is hunting with a muzzleloader, both the youth and the adult must possess a valid rifle permit.
- ♦ Antler Point Restrictions and Earn-A-Buck requirements do **NOT** apply on these days for the youth hunter.
- ♦ These hunts are extensions of the Fall Bow and Six-day Firearm seasons; no special season deer permit is required. Youth hunters may still use a bow to harvest one antlered deer during the Fall Bow Season, and use an appropriate firearm to harvest two antlered deer during the Six-day Firearm Season.

### REPORT YOUR HARVEST

The youth hunter should complete all information requested on the Harvest Report Card provided on page 29.

- ♦ The card, or hand-made version, should include the youth hunting license number or Conservation ID number, sex of deer, number of antler points, date, zone, deer management unit, county and township from which the deer was taken, in order to have your information ready for when you report your harvest through the Automated

Harvest Report System. Youth hunters do not need a harvest number during youth hunts or non-permit deer seasons.

For additional harvest reporting requirements, see page 32.



▲ "During the last minutes of legal shooting light, this spike buck came in grunting and chasing a doe. He stopped in a small opening about 80 yards away. I steadied my muzzleloader on a stump and squeezed the trigger. I was rewarded with my first buck." Harvested on November 22, 2014 Youth day by Joey Burke, age 13. Taken on public land in Sussex County, Frankford Township, DMZ 1. Weight — 135 lbs.

## waterfowl

### YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

Youth hunters 15 years and under with a valid youth hunting license (see *Youth Licenses*, page 10) and under the direct supervision of a non-shooting New Jersey-licensed adult hunter (age 21 or older) will be permitted to hunt for waterfowl from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset on the following dates by zone:

- » **North Zone**—Oct. 3 and 31
- » **South Zone**—Oct. 10; Nov. 7
- » **Coastal Zone**—Nov. 7; Feb. 13

See the New Jersey 2015–16 *Migratory Bird Regulations* for further details including written zone boundary descriptions and species bag limits. Non-toxic shot is required. An HIP number is required. See page 68 for all waterfowl hunting requirements. Federal and state waterfowl stamps are not required on these youth days. Daily bag limits for ducks, Canada geese, brant, snow geese, coots, moorhens and gallinules will be the same as those allowed during the regular season. Adults may not hunt on this day.



▲ Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day can be a unique and unforgettable opportunity for both mentors and youths. Luke and Logan Bukowski, and Riley LaFay could not agree more, seen here smiling with a nice bag of mallards.





# turkey

## YOUTH TURKEY HUNT DAY

» April 23, 2016

Youth hunters with a valid youth hunting license who have obtained a turkey permit may begin their spring turkey season on the special youth turkey hunting day, April 23, 2016. See *Youth Licenses*, page 10. Youth must be under the direct supervision of an adult 21 years or older who possesses a valid New Jersey hunting license. Adults may not hunt on this day.



Johnny Tomalavage

▲ Youth Upland Bird Hunt Day at the Clinton Wildlife Management Area in Hunterdon County was where 11-year-old Chris Tomalavage harvested his first pheasant.

Nathan Mangold (10, on left) of Mays Landing, took his first turkey with an Ithaca 20 gauge, single shot, break-action shotgun on his second day of turkey hunting. His more experienced cousin, Ricky Mangold, 14, of Egg Harbor City called in the 21-pound gobbler while hunting the Wharton tract. ▶



Nick Mangold

# upland bird

## YOUTH UPLAND BIRD HUNT DAY

» Saturday, October 31, 2015

Youth hunters with a valid youth hunting license (see *Youth Licenses*, page 10), under the direct supervision of a New Jersey-licensed, non-hunting adult 21 years or older, will be permitted to hunt on licensed semi-wild hunting preserves. Youths may hunt for pheasant, quail and/or partridge on Saturday, October 31, 2015 from 8 a.m. to sunset. Take advantage of this great opportunity for hunters belonging to semi-wild preserves to introduce youth hunters to upland bird hunting without competition from adult hunters who may not hunt on this day.

# pheasant

## YOUTH PHEASANT HUNT

» October 31, 2015

The 2015 Take a Kid Hunting Pheasant Hunt will allow properly licensed hunters with a valid youth license (see *Youth Licenses*, page 10) to hunt on one of 10 stocked Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) on Saturday, October 31, 2015. In a cooperative effort between the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, volunteer hunting mentors with trained bird dogs will guide youth hunters on a morning pheasant hunt. This experience will increase the young hunters' opportunity for harvesting a pheasant in a setting which encourages responsible and safe hunting practices.

All guided morning hunt participants must pre-register and be accompanied to the check-in by a parent or guardian. Parents or guardians are welcomed and encouraged to follow the hunters through the fields. All pre-registered hunters will receive an information packet. One session will be offered, starting at 7 a.m.

Only 50 youth hunters will be allowed on each WMA during the guided morning hunts. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of slots available, a random drawing will be held to select participants. To register, please send the application to:

Take a Kid Hunting  
NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife  
Northern Region Hunter Education  
26 Rt. 173 W, Hampton, NJ 08827

All entries must be postmarked by Oct. 5, 2015. Information will be mailed around Oct. 20, 2015.

### Selected Wildlife Management Areas for the Youth Pheasant Hunt

WMA	Guided Morning	Open After 1 p.m.	Open All Day
Whittingham	•	•	
Black River	•	•	
Flatbrook			•
Clinton	•	•	
Assunpink	•	•	
Colliers Mills	•	•	
Glassboro			•
Millville	•	•	
Peaslee	•	•	
Winslow	•	•	

Guided Morning—pre-registration required.

Open—afternoon: Any youth hunter with a valid youth hunting license under the direct supervision of a licensed, non-shooting adult (aged 21 or older), will be permitted to hunt on the listed wildlife management areas on October 31, 2015 from 1 p.m. until sunset. No registration required.

Open—all day: Any youth hunter with a valid youth hunting license under the direct supervision of a New Jersey-licensed, non-shooting adult (aged 21 or older), will be permitted to hunt on the listed wildlife management areas on October 31, 2015 from 8 a.m. until sunset. No registration required.

### YOUTH PHEASANT HUNTER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Hunting License # \_\_\_\_\_

1. Select WMA (Check only one):

- Assunpink     Black River     Clinton     Colliers Mills  
 Millville     Peaslee     Whittingham     Winslow

2. Have you attended the Take A Kid Hunting Pheasant Hunt before?

- NO     YES—2014     Other (list year) \_\_\_\_\_

3. With what gauge shotgun will you be hunting?

- 12     16     20     28     .410 caliber

4. If you have a trained hunting dog and would like to participate as a mentor, enter your name and daytime phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Breed of dog: \_\_\_\_\_

Regulations in red are new this year.

**THIS IS NOT THE FULL LAW.** The information in this *Digest* is based on N.J.S.A. Title 23, Title 13:1B-34 and N.J.A.C. 7:25-5. The amended regulations are known as the Game Code and implement the statute laws. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Law Enforcement for further details. See the *Telephone Directory*, page 92, for regional Law Enforcement offices. 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 12, 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 any kind of bow or firearm.

### Bow and Arrow

"Bow" means any long bow, recurve bow, compound bow or crossbow. Hand held release devices are permitted.

See additional regulations under *Specifically Prohibited*, page 27.

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 and crossbows which must have a minimum draw weight of 75 pounds. Crossbows must have a minimum stock length of 25 inches.

See **crossbow safety tips**, page 28. **Crossbows are not legal for bowfishing. Crossbows are permitted for hunting migratory birds. See below for restrictions when taking game birds in flight.**

All arrows used for hunting deer, turkey, coyote, fox or woodchuck must be fitted with an edged head of well-sharpened metal and 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 **except that for taking game birds in flight, arrows equipped with an edged head are prohibited. Also, flu flu arrows are required for taking game birds in flight because the arrow is designed to fly only a short distance. For the purpose of discharging a crossbow, hunters may carry judo points, target points or blunts. Canada geese and turkeys which are not in flight may be taken with standard fletched arrows and an edged head as described above.**

**Sunday bowhunting for deer is legal only on private land and state wildlife management areas.** See *Safety Zones*, page 26.

**It is unlawful to:**

- ♦ use or possess a poison arrow or one with an explosive tip
- ♦ **use an edged head for taking game birds in flight**
- ♦ 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
- ♦ **transport in a vehicle a crossbow in the cocked position**

### Closed Seasons

There is no hunting or trapping season for bobcat, fisher, mourning dove, sandhill crane and king rail in New Jersey. See *Protected Wildlife*, page 26.

### 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 70.

### 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.

No person shall possess a firearm while hunting with raptors.

For additional information, write to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, MC 501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 or call (908) 735-8793.

### Farmer Regulations

See *Farmer Hunting and Permit Information*, page 28.

### Firearms and Missiles

For the purpose of hunting in New Jersey, *firearms* refer to shotguns, muzzleloaders (rifled or smooth-bore), air guns and modern rifles.

- ♦ Possession and use of silencers are illegal on any firearm. Title 2C:39-1 g. classifies a firearm silencer as "any instrument, attachment, weapon or appliance for causing the firing of any gun, revolver, pistol, or other firearm to be silent, or intended to lessen or muffle the noise of the firing of any gun, revolver, pistol or other firearm."

Pursuant to Title 2C:39-3 c. "Any person who knowingly has in his possession any firearm silencer is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree."

- ♦ A person may not go into the woods or fields with a firearm except during prescribed seasons.

- ♦ 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. This shall not apply lawful use of ammunition for air guns; see *Air Guns*, page 28.

- ♦ 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 68) and during a light goose conservation order season, if any.

- ♦ See *Safety Zones*, page 26.

- ♦ Pursuant to Title 2C:39-1 f., air guns are classified by definition as firearms. Title 2C:39-1 g. classifies a **firearm silencer** as "any instrument, attachment, weapon or appliance for causing the firing of any gun, revolver, pistol, or other firearm to be silent, or intended to lessen or muffle the noise of the firing of any gun, revolver, pistol or other firearm". Pursuant to Title 2C:39-3 c. "Any person who knowingly has in his possession any firearm silencer is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree."
- ♦ See additional regulations under *Specifically Prohibited* on page 27.

### Air Guns

"Air gun" means any shoulder-mounted firearm which by the force of a spring, air or other non-ignited compressed gas expels a missile or projectile and has a rifled or smooth barrel, using ammunition no smaller than .177 caliber and no larger than .22 caliber producing projectile velocities of not less than 600 feet per second measured at the muzzle. Pursuant to Title 2C:39-1 f., air guns are classified as a firearm. Air gun BBs are not legal for hunting. Air guns are now legal for taking cottontail rabbit, hare and gray squirrel. A rifle permit is not required. Modern air guns have sufficient power to take small game plus are quieter and lighter than some shotguns, making them an ideal tool for smaller-framed hunters. Air guns hunting information is now part of the basic shotgun hunter education course.

**IMPORTANT:** See *Firearms and Missiles*, page 24, for the law regarding silencing mechanisms that also apply to air guns.

### 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 Se7en, 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. Electronic ignitions are not legal. 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 and during the special seasons for coyote/fox and squirrel hunting. For muzzleloader rifle squirrel hunting, see page 62. For muzzleloader deer hunting, see page 30. For rifle permit information, see page 12. For muzzleloader coyote/fox hunting, see page 60.

### Rifles, Modern

A valid rifle permit must be in possession while hunting with a modern rifle.

Rifles for small game hunting are allowed using limited types of .22 caliber rimfire ammo and are legal only for taking woodchuck (ammo restrictions, page 62), raccoon and opossum with hounds (.22 shorts only) plus coyote and fox (ammo restrictions, page 60). NO rifle woodchuck hunting on wildlife management areas or state parks, forests and recreation areas. Small game hunting with centerfire rifles is limited to not larger than .25 caliber for coyote and fox (see page 60) and .25 caliber or larger for woodchuck (see page 62). See also *Firearms and Missiles*, page 24.

A modern rifle magazine need not be pinned (plugged), but may be loaded with no more than three cartridges. Rifle permit holders of all ages may hunt with all rifle types as allowed by New Jersey laws.

See chart on page 62 for details on small caliber rifle ammunition legal for hunting woodchucks and page 60 for the special permit coyote/fox season.

### Shotguns

Shotguns larger than 10-gauge are prohibited for hunting. Shotguns may not be capable of holding more than three shells except for September Canada goose hunting; see page 68. For information on legal shot sizes, see regulations for each game species to be hunted.

### Hunter Harassment

It is illegal to obstruct or attempt to obstruct or annoy a person lawfully taking wildlife. This includes making loud noises or gestures designed to disturb, alarm, drive, attract or affect the behavior of wildlife.

### 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. See exceptions below along with ground blind hunting fluorescent orange requirements.

It is now mandatory to wear a hunter orange hat when firearm hunting for small game on wildlife management areas stocked with pheasant or quail. See list of WMAs at *Pheasant and Quail Stamp Areas*, page 14.

All firearm and bow and arrow deer and black bear hunters utilizing a ground blind when a firearm deer season is open concurrently must display 200 square inches of hunter orange atop the blind and visible from all sides or within five feet outside the blind and higher than the blind or at least three feet off the ground, whichever is higher. During these concurrent seasons, bowhunters in treestands also should consider wearing hunter orange.

Exceptions: the hunter orange law does not apply to waterfowl, crow, wild turkey, coyote/fox (during the special permit season, page 60), woodchuck nor bowhunters except that a bowhunter using a deer decoy must wear hunter orange, as described above, while transporting the decoy into and out of the woods and fields. During the Six-day Firearm Season, it is recommended that bowhunters wear hunter orange.

### Injured or Orphaned Wildlife

If you encounter injured or orphaned wildlife, contact a wildlife rehabilitator. For more information visit our website at [NJFishandWildlife.com/bornwild.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/bornwild.htm).

### Landowner Liability Act

(Excerpted from N.J.S.A. 2A:42A-2 et seq.) a. An owner...of a premises, whether or not posted and whether or not improved or maintained in a natural condition, or used as part of a commercial enterprise, owes no duty to keep the premises safe for entry or use by others for sport and recreational activities, or to give warning of any hazardous condition of the land or in connection with the use of any structure or by reason of any activity on such premises to persons entering for such purposes; b. An owner of a premises who gives permission to another to enter upon such premises for a sport or recreational activity or purpose does not thereby (1) extend any assurance that the premises are safe for such purpose, or (2) constitute the person to whom permission is granted an invitee to whom a duty of care is owed, or (3) assume responsibility for or incur liability for any injury to person or property caused by any act of persons to whom the permission is granted. **Note: A landowner's liability changes if a fee is charged (or other consideration) or if there is a "willful or malicious failure" to warn of a dangerous condition on the property.**

### Non-Resident Game Removal

A non-resident licensee (see *Non-resident Licenses*, page 10) 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 restriction does not apply to game raised or killed at a licensed commercial preserve and legally tagged. In addition, nonresident possession of migratory birds is the same as those described in the annual New Jersey migratory bird regulation publication.



**Gateway Properties**  
of Upstate NY  
Your Gateway to the  
**Simple Life**  
Lots Bordering State Lands  
Waterfront Properties  
Custom Portable/Modular  
Cabins  
Financing Available  
(on bare land)  
**Hunt your OWN  
land this season!**  
Call Toll Free Today  
1-877-NY-LANDS  
1-877-695-2637  
[GatewayPropertiesOfUpstateNY.com](http://GatewayPropertiesOfUpstateNY.com)



**BULLSEYE**  
ARCHERY AND SPORTING LLC  
**BOWS, CROSSBOWS,  
KNIVES, TARGET RANGE,  
BAIT AND TACKLE**  
-Full Service Shop-  
318 Route 9 - Bayville, NJ • 732-998-8795  
[BULLSEYearcheryandsporting.com](http://BULLSEYearcheryandsporting.com)



**MELTZER'S**  
**SPORTING GOODS**  
Family-owned since 1914  
Now Carrying Live Bait!  
Full line of fresh and saltwater tackle  
Large selection of new and used guns  
Knowledgeable sales staff  
Discount prices  
118 Outwater Lane  
Garfield, NJ 07026 973-478-7647  
[MeltzersSportingGoods.com](http://MeltzersSportingGoods.com)

Regulations in red are new this year.

### Possession of Certain Wildlife by Persons, Taxidermists & Butchers

No person shall have in possession a deer, bear, migratory game birds or turkey that they did not kill unless it has a label bearing the name, address, telephone number, license and permit numbers of the person who killed the deer, bear, migratory game bird 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, Conservation ID Number and possession seal number of any black bear or turkey, or Confirmation Numbers, gender and age (fawn or adult) for deer 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.

Possession of naturally shed deer antlers is legal. Parts of deer possessed, other than shed antlers, must be from lawfully harvested deer. Proof of lawful harvest (Confirmation Number or seal) should be retained for verification. Road killed deer with a permit are intended only for consumption; antler possession from these deer is not legal.

### Protected Wildlife

It is illegal to capture, kill, injure or have in possession any wild bird other than a game bird. 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 website, NJFishandWildlife.com. See also *Sale of Wildlife*, page 26.

No one may rob a bird's nest.

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 or fisher. It is illegal to kill or attempt to kill a bobcat or fisher in New Jersey. For more information about bobcat (including incidentally trapped) and fisher, see page 66. **Bobcat pelts from animals legally harvested in other states may be possessed or sold provided a CITES tag from the state of harvest is attached. Fishers legally harvested in other states may be possessed or sold.**

See also *Possession of Certain Wildlife*, above.

### Property Damage

Hunters must not hunt in unharvested crops unless 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 five years.

### Public Land Hunting

For public land hunting, refer to pages 70, 84 and 85.

### Sale of Wildlife

The sale of wild birds and game animals, or parts thereof, is prohibited in New Jersey with the following exceptions: legally trapped furbearers may be sold plus the sale of white-tailed deer hides, tails and the lower portion of the legs is legal. See also *Closed Seasons, Bobcat*, page 24. Questions should be directed to a regional Fish and Wildlife law enforcement office; see page 47.

### Safety Zones

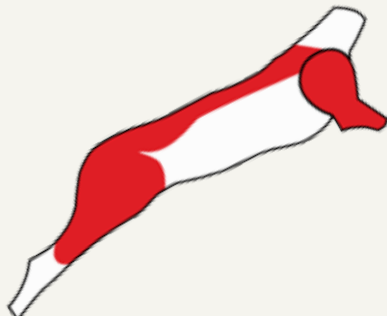
No firearm hunter may carry a loaded firearm or hunt within 450 feet of a building or any school playground, even if unoccupied, except the owner or lessee of a building, and persons specifically authorized by him in writing. No bowhunter may carry a nocked arrow or hunt within 150 feet of a building or within 450 feet of any school playground, even if unoccupied, except the owner or lessee of a building,

## Edible Portions

Edible portions do not include meat from the head or neck; meat that has been damaged by the method of taking; bones, sinew, and meat reasonably lost as a result of butchering, boning, or close trimming of bones, or viscera. Edible portions do not include meat from diseased or scavenged carcasses.

### For white-tailed deer and black bear:

- Front quarters as far as the distal joint of the radius-ulna (knee)
- Hind quarters as far as the distal joint of the tibia-fibula (hock)
- Backstrap/tenderloin — the meat along the backbone, between the front and hind quarters



### For rabbit and squirrel:

- Front shoulders
- Thighs
- Backstrap



### For game birds such as turkey:

- breast, legs and thighs



### For game birds other than turkey:

- breast



and persons specifically authorized by him in writing. Persons authorized to bowhunt *within* 150 feet of a building must hunt from an elevated position to shoot down toward the ground. Note: persons authorized to hunt with a firearm within 450 feet, or with bow and arrow within 150 feet of a building must be in possession of that written permission while hunting. Shooting into a safety zone is prohibited. (See *Safety Zone Awareness*, page 85, for diagram and safety zone explanation.)

### Stealing Traps or Trapped Animals

(Excerpted from N.J.S.A. 23:4-40) **No person shall take or unlawfully appropriate, with intent to steal, a trap or the property of another, set along, by or in any of the public or private ditches, streams, ponds or waters in this state for the purpose of catching furbearing animals, or remove an animal from the trap of another person.**

### 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.

**NOTE: Sunday bowhunting for deer is legal only on state wildlife management areas and private property.**

Persons are allowed to hunt raccoon or opossum between midnight on Saturday (the day's beginning) 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 71 for the Hunt SMART Courtesy Card.

### Wanton Waste of Game

It is unlawful for any person who kills or wounds any white-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkey, rabbit, squirrel, pheasant, quail, partridge, ruffed grouse or waterfowl while engaged in any hunting to refuse or neglect to make a reasonable effort to retrieve, retain or lawfully take into possession such game animal or bird.

It is unlawful for any person to take, kill, or capture any game mammal or game bird and remove from the carcass the head, hide or antlers and leave the edible portions of the carcass and meat to waste except for a furbearer, crow, woodchuck or squirrel. See *Edible Portions* guide on page 26.

It is unlawful for any person to place, leave, dump or abandon a game mammal, game bird or wildlife carcass or parts of it along or upon a public right-of-way or highway, or on public or private property, including a waterway or stream, without the permission of the owner or tenant, or on any wildlife management area or state park. Make every effort to retrieve your game, remove the animal from the field—except entrails may be left discretely in the field—consume the edible portions and properly dispose of the remains such as bagged in your household trash.

### 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.**

### Youth Hunting

A youth hunter means the possessor of a youth hunting license—or the immediate family member of a qualified occupant farmer—who is at least 10 years of age. Youth hunter status continues until Dec. 31 of the year in which the youth turns 16. For youth hunters from 10 through 13 years of age, they **MUST** hunt under the direct supervision of a person who is at least 21 years old and who has a valid firearm or bow and arrow license corresponding to the season hunted. Direct supervision is defined as both the youth hunter and parent/guardian set up together at the same location, hunting as a unit, not hunting independently. See also *Youth Licenses*, page 10. Youth licenses are issued free to youths ages 10–15 upon completion of a hunter or trapper education course. Youth hunters who pre-registered for and successfully complete a hunter education course will receive their youth hunting license at the course. See *Hunter and Trapper Education Requirements*, page 8 and *Youth Licenses*, page 10. Be sure to visit the *Take a Kid Hunting* section and special youth hunt days, pages 22–23. ♫

### Specifically Prohibited

- Carrying a loaded firearm within 450 feet, or a nocked arrow within 150 feet of a building or within 450 feet of any school playground (whether or not occupied) is prohibited, except the owner or lessee of a building and persons specifically authorized by him in writing may hunt with a firearm within 450 feet or a bow within 150 feet of the building. **Note:** persons authorized to hunt with a firearm within 450 feet or with a bow and arrow within 150 feet of a building must be in possession of that written permission while hunting. (See page 85 for diagram with complete safety zone explanation. See also *Safety Zone*, page 26.)
  - 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, including ATVs.
  - 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. Also, no Sunday hunting on these lands.
  - 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.
  - 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 or transporting a cocked crossbow in or on a motor vehicle or ATV.
  - Shooting into a squirrel'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.
- In 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 Sunday bowhunting.



Regulations in red are new this year.

### Farmer License Exemption

All farmers hunting deer must have a Conservation Identification number (CID#). Farmers who already receive free farmer deer or turkey permits, and farmers who have purchased a hunting license/permit and/or freshwater fishing license since 2006 already have an assigned, permanent CID#. A CID# is required to utilize Fish and Wildlife's Automated Harvest Report System. Farmers who are exempt from the license requirement and hunt only during non-permit seasons still must obtain a CID# in order to report their harvested deer. Register for a free CID# online at [www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com). No purchase is required but you must create a profile in the online license sales site. From our homepage at [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com), click 'Buy your licenses and permits' and follow the instructions to create a profile. There will be options to purchase a license, apply for permits or print an identification card. Choose 'Print an Identification Card.' A card will print with your 9-digit CID#.

**All Farmer Deer Hunters:** Before going hunting, be sure to go to Fish and Wildlife's website ([NJFishandWildlife.com/ahrs.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/ahrs.htm)) and write down the DMZ, county, township and Deer Management Unit of your hunt location prior to harvesting a deer! Record this info on your license, permit or the Deer Harvest Report Card (page 29) to have accessible for when you report your deer and to record your assigned Confirmation Number. When reporting a deer harvest on your farm property, farmers do not need a Harvest Number during the non-permit deer seasons. To report a deer call (855) IHUNT NJ or (855) 448-6865 or online at [www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com). See page 32 for additional information.

A farmer and members of the immediate family (see definition below) 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 29 for a cut-out Harvest Report Card.) 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.

**Immediate Family:** For the purpose of farmers hunting and trapping, "immediate family" includes the spouse, mother, father, child, grandchild, 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.

### 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 family (see definition above), 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 27. See also *General Regulations*, page 24.

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 and the Black Bear Season.

**Sunday bowhunting for deer is legal only on state wildlife management areas and private property.**

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 92.

### Permits for Farmers

Fish and Wildlife reviews the Farmer Permit database periodically to ensure compliance. Our Bureau of Law Enforcement will contact you if additional information is required during the re-evaluation process. Farmer status will be inactivated and farmers notified if the information on file is no longer accurate.

New farmers must submit an application to obtain free turkey, deer and/or bear permits. Applications are available on our website at [NJFishandWildlife.com/farmer.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/farmer.htm) under *Farmer Certification Application for Deer and Turkey Permits*. Print out both pages and use the instruction sheet to fill out the application.

Applications are also available at your local county agricultural extension office.

The preferred application period for farmers is June 1–August 1.

Once approved, 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 **TUESDAY, September 8, 2015** 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 (609) 292-1473.
- ♦ Only a qualified farmer and members of the immediate family (see definition on this page) who reside on the farm, 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 16.
- ♦ Farmers are eligible for a Farmer Buck Permit which are limited to only one per person per season. If a farmer claims their FARMER Buck Permit they cannot purchase an Antlered Buck Permit. Likewise, if a farmer first purchases an Antlered Buck Permit, the farmer cannot claim a Farmer Buck Permit. The Antlered Buck Permit is valid for any zone in which the farmer has an antlerless permit for the season.

### Occupant Farmer Deer Permits

- ♦ Applicants must be the owner, lessee or members of the immediate family (see definition on this page) who actually reside on the farm property.

## 10 Safety Tips for Crossbow Shooting Success

1. Always read the manufacturers directions and use the recommended arrow (bolt) weight and length.
2. Always visually inspect crossbow and accessories before shooting to ensure all are in good condition.
3. Keep fingers and thumb low on the crossbow forearm, below the rail; the flight path of string and cable can cause serious personal injury.
4. Never walk with a crossbow cocked and arrow loaded.
5. Never cock a crossbow while in a treestand, except for crank-type models.
6. Always raise and lower unloaded crossbows from a treestand using a haul line.
7. Before shooting, check that bow limbs will hit nothing when they flex forward during the release. Crossbow limbs store enough energy to knock a hunter to the ground should the bow contact the tree or your stand.
8. Carry in your quiver an arrow with either a field point, judo or blunt. Uncock the crossbow at day's end by shooting that arrow into a target or soft ground.
9. Never dry-fire a crossbow; releasing the trigger without an arrow in place can damage to the bow limbs or cause serious personal injury.
10. Never store or transport a crossbow in the cocked position.

- ♦ 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 members of their immediate family (see definition on this page) 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 only on private land within the deer management zone designated on the permit and are not valid on public lands within that zone.
- ♦ 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 TUESDAY, September 8, 2015 at 10 a.m. at any license agent. Farmer Turkey Permits are only for Occupant Farmers. Fall Turkey Season is now open in all Turkey Hunting Areas. If you experience a problem obtaining the fall permit at a license agent, call (609) 292-1473.

Farmer turkey permits are available only to the farmer and immediate family who reside on the farm. See definition of "immediate family" on page 28.

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 website for details.

### Farmer Bear Permits

Only the owner or lessee of a farm, who resides thereon, or members of his immediate family 10 years of age or older who also reside thereon, may apply on forms provided for a special farmer black bear permit. See definition of "immediate family" on page 28. Under this section a farm is an area of five acres or more, producing a gross income in excess of \$500 and is tax assessed as farmland. Special farmer black bear permits will be issued only in those Black Bear Management Zones where a season is prescribed.

**Farmers who applied for a farmer black bear permit in the past, do not need to re-apply this year provided that their information and farm situation has not changed. New farmers and those who did not apply in the past must submit an application. These will be reviewed and approved by Law Enforcement.**

Application forms may be obtained from Fish and Wildlife's website or at county agricultural extension offices.

**Deer Harvest Report Card**  
(Attach to deer after reporting the harvest.)

Record your deer harvest information here prior to using the Automated Harvest Report System via phone or the Internet for deer taken during the Fall Bow, Six-day Firearm, Winter Bow or Youth Hunt Day seasons when there is no permit on which to record youth or farmer harvest data. To report your deer, call (855) 1 HUNT NJ or (855) 448-6865 or NJFishandWildlife.com/ahrs.htm.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ CID# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Deer Killed \_\_\_\_\_ Hunting Season \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deer Mgt Zone \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deer Mgt Unit\* \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_

\* Find this number through DFW's website link shown above *prior* to hunting.

*Check only one box:*

Antlerless		Antlered		Antler Points	
Female		Male > 3 in		Left	
Male <3 in		Shed		Right	
Button Buck		Broken			

**Confirmation Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Deer Harvest Report Card**  
(Attach to deer after reporting the harvest.)

Record your deer harvest information here prior to using the Automated Harvest Report System via phone or the Internet for deer taken during the Fall Bow, Six-day Firearm, Winter Bow or Youth Hunt Day seasons when there is no permit on which to record youth or farmer harvest data. To report your deer, call (855) 1 HUNT NJ or (855) 448-6865 or NJFishandWildlife.com/ahrs.htm.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ CID# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Deer Killed \_\_\_\_\_ Hunting Season \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deer Mgt Zone \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deer Mgt Unit\* \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_

\* Find this number through DFW's website link shown above *prior* to hunting.

*Check only one box:*

Antlerless		Antlered		Antler Points	
Female		Male > 3 in		Left	
Male <3 in		Shed		Right	
Button Buck		Broken			

**Confirmation Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

Include on the application your Conservation ID Number; fill in the entire form. Properly completed applications will be accepted in the Trenton office **no later than October 15**. There is no fee; all qualified applicants will receive a Special Farmer Black Bear Permit via mail.


Submit only one farmer application per individual during the initial application period. Application for a farmer black bear permit shall not preclude a farmer (as a holder of a valid hunting license) from applying for—and Fish and Wildlife issuing—one regular black bear season permit. However, the season bag limit remains one black bear regardless of the numbers of permits held.

Special Farmer Black Bear Permits will NOT be issued via the electronic license system for the

2015 Black Bear Season. Permits will be mailed to qualified farmers only after receiving valid applications approved by Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Law Enforcement. 🐾

### Warning to Violators

Be advised: two violations of wildlife management area regulations will result in loss of all sporting licenses and privileges for a period of five years.







### Six-day Firearm Deer Season

**Dec. 7–12, 2015 and Dec. 5–10, 2016**  
(Season always opens the second Monday after Thanksgiving.)

Regulations in red are new this year.

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

**ONLY ONE ANTLERED DEER** may be taken per season statewide, except two deer may be taken at a time during the Six-Day Firearm Season regardless of the number of antlered buck permits in possession. To be legal, all deer harvested must be reported using Fish and Wildlife's Automated Harvest

Report System (see page 32), either online or by telephone. Hunters will be assigned a Confirmation Number (CID) in place of the metal possession seal formerly provided at check stations. This Confirmation Number, like the metal seal, must be kept with the deer and its parts.

**Note:** Only one deer at a time may be taken during any permit season even if you possess both an antlered and antlerless permit, **except** in those zones in Regulation Sets 6, 7 and 8 where two deer at a time may be harvested during the **Fall Bow, Permit Bow, Permit Shotgun, Permit Muzzleloader and Winter Bow** seasons.

**NOTE:** Sunday bowhunting for deer is legal only on state wildlife management areas and private property.

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 antlerless, zone-specific deer season permit. The antlered buck permits contain an antlered deer Harvest Report Stub (formerly called a transportation tag) and allows for the pursuit and harvest of an antlered deer only.
- ♦ **Antler Point Restriction** zones include Zones 3, 9, 13, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 35, 47, 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.
- ♦ **Special Areas Deer Management** zones include Zones 37, 38, 39, 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 50 for details.

### Feral Hogs



**Report sightings, rooting evidence or other damage caused by feral hogs!**

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services at (908) 735-5654 x 2

**Deer hunters must report the harvest of feral hogs to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife at (609) 748-2044.**

For more information on Feral Hogs in New Jersey, visit our website by scanning this code or go to [NJFishandWildlife.com/qr/hogs.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/qr/hogs.htm).



### Feral Hogs

With the ongoing presence of feral hogs in the Gloucester County area, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife will allow deer hunters in Deer Management Zones 25 and 65 to hunt feral hogs during the regular deer seasons. Feral hogs must be checked. Hunters who harvest a feral hog must call (609) 748-2044 to schedule a time to check in the hog.

### 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

♦ **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. 26, 2015. The Youth Firearm Deer Hunt Day is Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015.** The bag limit for youth hunters on this day is one deer of either sex. Antler Point Restrictions and Earn-A-Buck requirements do not apply for deer taken on this day by youth hunters. See page 22 for details. See page 29 for a cut-out Harvest Report Card.

## Licenses and Permits

- ♦ See *License, Permits and Stamps*, page 8, 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 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 (except during the Six-day Firearm Season) and unlawful 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 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 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 zone-specific antlerless permit. The Antlered Buck Permit is not zone-specific; it is valid for use in any zone for which the hunter already holds a zone-specific antlerless season permit, but only one buck may be harvested per season. Adult deer permits are \$28; youth deer permits are \$12.

## Antlered Buck Permit Deadline!

**Antlered Buck Permits must be purchased by 11:59 p.m. on the following dates: Oct. 31 for Permit Bow; Nov. 30 for Permit Muzzleloader and Dec. 16 for Permit Shotgun seasons, UNLESS you are buying your first zone-specific antlerless permit AND an Antlered Buck Permit at the same time after these dates. See *Antlered Buck Permit Deadline!* page 18.**

## Firearms, Bows and Ammunition Legal for Deer Hunting

Season(s)	Weapon Type	Gauge, Caliber or Draw Weight	Projectile(s)	Firearm sights; Bow releases
Fall Bow Permit Bow Winter Bow	<b>Bow:</b> long, recurve, compound or crossbow.	35 pounds pull at archer's draw length (long and recurve bows) or peak weight (compound bow) or 75 pounds minimum draw weight (crossbow)	Arrows must be fitted with a well-sharpened metal broadhead with a minimum width of 3/4"	Handheld release devices are permitted
Permit Muzzleloader	<b>Muzzleloader:</b> rifle or smoothbore, single-barrel, single-shot. Flintlock, percussion and in-line ignitions permitted. Electronic ignitions are not legal. Double-barrel firearms prohibited.	<b>Rifle:</b> not less than .44 caliber <b>Smoothbore:</b> 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	<b>Bow:</b> long, recurve, compound or crossbow.	35 pounds pull at archer's draw length (long and recurve bows) or peak weight (compound bow) or 75 pounds minimum draw weight (crossbow)	Arrows must be fitted with a well-sharpened metal broadhead with a minimum width of 3/4"	NOTE: bowhunters must possess both a firearm and a bow and arrow license during this season.
	<b>Shotgun:</b> single or double barrel, rifled bore or smoothbore	Not smaller than 20 gauge and not larger than 10 gauge, capable of holding no more than three shells	<b>Slugs:</b> lead, lead alloy or copper rifled slug or sabot slug <b>Buck shot:</b> sizes not smaller than #4 (0.24") nor larger than #000 (0.36")	Shotgun must have an adjustable open iron or peep sight or a scope affixed if hunter is hunting with or in possession of slugs
	<b>Muzzleloader:</b> single-shot, single barrel rifle OR single or double-barrel smoothbore shotgun. Flintlock, percussion and in-line ignitions permitted. Electronic ignitions are not legal.	<b>Muzzleloading rifle:</b> single shot not less than .44 caliber <b>Smoothbore:</b> single or double-barrel not smaller than 20 gauge and not larger than 10 gauge	<b>Muzzleloading rifle:</b> single projectile <b>Smoothbore:</b> buck shot not smaller than #4 (0.24") nor larger than #000 (0.36") or a single projectile	Telescopic sights permitted
Permit Shotgun	<b>Shotgun:</b> single or double barrel, rifled bore or smoothbore	Not smaller than 20 gauge and not larger than 10 gauge, capable of holding no more than three shells	<b>Slugs:</b> lead, lead alloy or copper rifled slug or sabot slug <b>Buck shot:</b> sizes not smaller than #4 (0.24") nor larger than #000 (0.36")	Shotgun must have an adjustable open iron or peep sight or a scope affixed if hunter is hunting with or in possession of slugs
	<b>Muzzleloader:</b> single or double-barrel smoothbores only (no rifles.) Flintlock, percussion and in-line ignitions permitted	Not smaller than 20 gauge and not larger than 10 gauge	<b>Buck shot:</b> sizes not smaller than #4 (0.24") nor larger than #000 (0.36") or a single projectile	—

## Firearms, Ammunition and Sights

- ♦ See page 24 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



Regulations in red are new this year.

- 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 statewide regulations. See page 50 for details.

### Ground Blinds

All firearm and bow and arrow deer hunters utilizing a ground blind when a firearm deer season is concurrently open must display 200 square inches of hunter orange atop the blind and visible from all sides or within five feet outside the blind and higher than the blind or at least three feet off the ground, whichever is higher. During these concurrent seasons, bowhunters in treestands also should consider wearing hunter orange.

A “ground blind” is defined as a temporary, man-made structure used for the purpose of concealing from sight a person who is hunting. A ground blind is not a naturally occurring feature that a hunter merely uses for concealment.

### 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.

- ♦ Bag limits for the fall bow and winter bow seasons are as prescribed for each zone (see Regulation Sets, page 44) except that once a hunter has met the bag limit in a given regulation set, he or she may not harvest additional deer from any zone in that regulation set or in one of identical or more restrictive bag limits. However, the hunter may subsequently hunt in a zone with a more liberal (greater) antlerless bag limit as described in the regulation sets.
- ♦ Bowhunters may take two antlered deer legally on a Bow or All-around Sportsman 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 a buck permit valid only when used in conjunction with the zone-specific antlerless Bow Permit. For permit purchasing deadline, see *Deer Season Permits*, page 16.
- ♦ Bowhunters may take antlered deer with their bow during the Six-day Firearm season, provided that they have a current and valid firearm license in addition to an archery license, or have an All-around Sportsman License. Bow hunters who bag an antlered deer during the Six-day Firearm Season with their bow must use the Harvest Report Stub for the Six-day season from their firearm or All-around Sportsman License only.
- ♦ Firearm hunters legally may take two antlered deer during the Six-day Firearm Season on a firearm or All-around Sportsman License. Hunters will be assigned a Confirmation Number upon reporting their first Six-day Firearm Season buck using the new Automated Harvest Report System, allowing the immediate 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 a buck permit for the corresponding season, valid only when used in conjunction with the zone-specific antlerless Shotgun or Muzzleloader permit. If hunters 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 16.
- ♦ 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.
- ♦ Note: Only one deer at a time may be taken during any permit season even if you possess both an antlered and antlerless permit, except in those zones in Regulation Sets 6, 7 and 8 where two deer at a time may be harvested during the Permit Bow, Permit Shotgun and Permit Muzzleloader seasons.

- ♦ Two deer may be taken at a time in Zones 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 25, 36, 39, 41, 42, 48, 49, 50, 51, 54, 56, 57, 58, 64, and 66 and 68 during the Permit Bow, Permit Shotgun and Permit Muzzleloader seasons plus Fall and Winter Bow Seasons (in those zones open for each of those seasons) until the season concludes. See *Regulation Sets*, page 44.

### Mandatory Harvest Report and Tag Requirements

All hunters are required to report harvested deer on the day killed using the Automated Harvest Report System and now **must immediately tag your deer.**

#### Before you go hunting:

1. Before your hunt, verify that you have the correct year's license and proper, valid zone permit. This is essential—both to report your harvest and to comply with the law!
2. Use the Deer Hunting Location Viewer at [NJFishandWildlife.com/ahrs.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/ahrs.htm) with easy instructions above the viewer's map. Use this app to determine the deer management zone (zone), county, township, and deer management unit (unit) where you hunt. Write down all this information and keep it accessible while in the field for when you need to report a deer.

#### In the field:

Upon retrieval, the deer is considered to be in your possession. The hunter must:

1. Immediately fill out the Harvest Report Stub that is part of your license or permit (or a Harvest Report card found on page 29) with the exception of the Confirmation Number (a number automatically assigned by the system which replaces the metal possession seal). Leave the harvest report stub attached to the license. The stub is not used as a tag. See item 2 below for tagging details.
2. Restored in 2015, each deer must have a tag affixed to the carcass bearing the hunter's CID, both the date and zone of harvest, antler points and confirmation number, if applicable. Make your own tag or use the Deer Harvest Report Card on page 29.
3. Report your harvest via the Automated Harvest Reporting System (by phone or Internet as printed on every hunting license and permit) by 8 p.m. during the Fall Bow Season or by 7 p.m. for all other seasons. If unable to access the Automated Harvest Reporting System by the designated time, the deer shall be reported immediately by telephone to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement office (see page 47 for Law Enforcement listings). The hunter must continue to attempt accessing the Automated Harvest Report System until they receive a Confirmation Number for that deer.
4. Record your assigned Confirmation Number on your Harvest Report Stub or card. Keep this stub in your license holder – Do not attach to the deer. Retain your Confirmation Number as long as the deer or its parts are in possession. To report the harvest of additional antlerless

deer during the *same* season (and zone, if applicable) **reuse** the *same* Harvest Number from that season's antlerless stub for all other antlerless deer taken in this season. Since the license or permit stub only has space for two Confirmation Numbers, use the Harvest Report Card in this Digest (page 29) and on our website, or make your own card on which to record your harvest data and Confirmation Number for each deer.

**NOTE:** A hunter may be required to produce the head of the deer—or produce records relating to the location of the head such as the butcher or taxidermist who has possession of the deer's head—upon request by a conservation officer within 48 hours after a deer harvest is reported.

Harvest Report Stubs from 2015 permits are valid for the entire length of the Permit Bow, Permit Muzzleloader and Permit Shotgun seasons, including January and February 2016, if the zone specified on the original permit is open for hunting during these dates.

When regulations allow taking multiple deer, hunting may resume after each deer is reported and a Confirmation Number assigned.

The online license system, including the Harvest Reporting section, is optimized for smartphones and other mobile devices. Mobile device users *must* provide a valid email address and phone number.

## After Harvesting a Deer

Even when in possession of deer that have been reported already, **each deer must be tagged with their assigned Confirmation Number, when applicable, and other information.** See *Mandatory Harvest Report and Tag Requirements* page 32 for

tagging details. See page 29 for a Harvest Report Card for use when each of your license or permit stubs have been filled or for use as a tag. Be discreet when transporting your deer to the butcher, taxidermist or home; 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.

## After Reporting Your Deer—Possession or Sale

- The Confirmation Number assigned by the Automated Harvest Report System must be retained until all venison is consumed and as long as you keep any deer parts, including antlers. Persons with deer mounts should write their name, assigned Confirmation Number, date of kill and season of harvest on back of the mount for future reference.
- It is illegal to sell deer meat, deer antlers or any part of a deer except deer hides, tails and the lower portion of the legs. 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 has 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. 🐾

# An Apple A Day...



## Deer Love New Jersey Apples!

Apples are a favorite feed source among New Jersey deer.

**Buy direct from the farmer!**



For information of local sources of New Jersey apple farmers offering deer feed, contact: **The New Jersey Apple Industry Advisory Council** at (609) 292-8854 (ask for Bill Walker)

[www.thehuntersbutcher.com](http://www.thehuntersbutcher.com)

We're open 24/7 for self drop off.

Cold storage 24/7.

Standard cutting packages \$50 to \$120

You get your deer your way, expert care for your trophy deer!

Skill, experience, and knowledge of the food industry is at your service.

Packaged the way you want, portioned for 1 or more people.

**OPEN FOR THE ENTIRE DEER SEASON**

**732-414-1446**

967 Adelphia Farmingdale Rd. Adelphia, NJ

Also:  
**Sausage Jerky**  
**Slim Jims**

## Deer Hunting—General Seasons vs. Permit Seasons

New Jersey has six distinct deer hunting seasons, all of which require a hunting license and three that also require a deer permit.

### General Deer Seasons

Three *general seasons* include the Fall Bow, Winter Bow and Six-day Firearm (buck) statewide seasons open to any hunter bearing a valid license corresponding to the season. During these statewide seasons, hunters are not restricted to hunting particular deer management zones but still must abide by the specific season dates and bag limits regulated on a zone-basis. Consult the *Regulation Sets* beginning on page 44.

For these general seasons, a deer Harvest Report Stub is an integral part of every hunting license valid for taking deer.

### Permit Deer Seasons

Three *permit seasons* include the Permit Bow, Permit Shotgun and Permit Muzzleloader *zone-specific seasons* open to any hunter bearing a

valid license corresponding to the season plus an appropriate deer permit (bow, shotgun or muzzleloader) for the deer management zone in which you are hunting. These deer permits are valid only for taking antlerless deer. To harvest an antlered buck during any permit season, the hunter must purchase a buck permit (one per person per season) which is not zone-specific but must be used only in a zone for which the hunter possesses the antlerless zone permit. (See page 31.)

**During the Permit Bow Season** hunters must possess a valid Bow and Arrow or All-around Sportsmen license **plus** a Bow Permit for the specific zone being hunted.

#### During the Permit Shotgun and Permit Muzzleloader seasons

hunters must possess a valid Firearm or All-around Sportsmen license **plus** either a Shotgun or Muzzleloader Permit for the specific zone being hunted. For the Permit Muzzleloader season, the hunter must also possess a valid Rifle Permit. (See *Muzzleloaders* page 26.)

### Expiration Dates

**All licenses** (Firearm, Bow and Arrow and All-around Sportsmen licenses) are valid for the *calendar year* from January 1 through December 31.

**All deer permits** (Shotgun, Muzzleloader, Bow permits and their respective Buck permits) are valid for the duration of the season—even when the season crosses into the new year. Numerous deer management zones have seasons that begin in November/December and end in January/February.

**All Rifle Permits** (not the deer *season* permit) are valid for the fiscal year from July 1–June 30.

### Find Regulations by Season

Know the deer management zone where you will hunt. Go to the *Regulation Sets* table on page 44. Zones numbers are listed below each regulation set column heading. Confirm season dates and bag limits according to the chosen sporting arm and the corresponding dates. Several deer seasons may be open concurrently.