It’s a crisp fall morning. The sun is just rising over the horizon and the woods are coming to life. The air is cool and your senses are alive. There’s no place else you’d rather be than in your tree stand. You’ve sweated through the hot months of summer, counting the weeks until opening day. Countless days were spent preparing for this day: trips to sporting good stores for new gear, hours at the shooting range, days scouting the woods – all in anticipation of the moment that first deer steps into your sights.

There’s a rustling through the underbrush behind you. After barely breathing for what seems like endless minutes, you see movement from the corner of your eye. As still as a statue, you wait as the deer continues to browse, meandering within range. Finally, that moment is here. An antlerless deer is standing broadside at 25 yards. It is eating peacefully, unaware of your presence. Your shot rings out; the deer goes down. You wait in the stand for the deer to take its last breath, then eagerly climb down to claim your prize. But your heart sinks when you realize the deer lying before you is an antlerless buck.

Many hunters express dismay when they discover what they thought was a female deer is actually either a male fawn - often called a button buck - or a mature buck that has dropped his antlers. Having the know-how to determine an antlerless deer’s gender in the field enables you to be more selective while hunting.

Both physical appearance and behavior play a part in identifying deer on the hoof. Keeping binoculars at the ready will help. Of course, fawns are easily told apart from adults when they are seen together. Fawns are seen alone without reference to a larger adult can be difficult to identify. While this dilemma can be avoided by waiting for other deer to arrive, observing deer behavior also provides gender clues. Female fawns usually will travel with an adult doe; male fawns are more likely to venture out independently. Most often, the first deer to approach a bait pile is a button buck. And late in the season, a single deer is most often a male.

Physical characteristics are revealing. Observe the shape of a deer’s head closely. A fawn’s snout is much shorter than an adult’s, with the characteristic young mammal profile curving from forehead to snout. Note the shape of the head. A male fawn’s buttons are not always obvious, even up close. But the shape of the head is distinctive: the crown of a female’s head will be rounded, while a male’s will be flatter. An adult male who has dropped his antlers has this flattened head. When viewed from the side, scars may be visible where his antlers had been. Observe the length-to-width ratio of the neck on female fawns and does, then compare them to male fawns and adult bucks. Does have a slimmer neck that appears long relative to its thickness. Males have a shorter and stockier neck. With some practice, this difference is easily noticed.

New Jersey hunters have liberal seasons designed to keep our productive deer herd at manageable levels. In some deer management zones, hunters are required to take an antlerless deer before taking an antlered buck. In other zones, an antler point restriction harvest strategy is in place to allow bucks to grow old and larger. Harvesting the female deer is essential to control the deer population and is important for quality deer management.

Although it is legal to harvest a button buck or a buck with shed antlers, harvesting a female is the primary objective to reach management goals. Inadvertently harvesting an antlerless buck will reduce your chances of harvesting an outstanding buck next season.

By knowing the key features to compare when evaluating antlerless deer in the field, hunters can be more selective, ensuring they get the gender they want. Happy hunting!
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SMITHS AMERICAN
REDBALL
LACROSSE
ROCKY
CHIPPEWA

3 photos above: Carole Kandoth / NJ Fish & Wildlife
Many of us remember Old Yeller, the classic tale about a boy growing up on a Texas ranch during the 1860s. The dog becomes his constant companion after rescuing his little brother from an angry bear. Though the beloved canine is fictional, his endearing qualities of tenacity, courage and dedication to his master exist in a breed of dog gaining popularity among wildlife management professionals: the yellow black mouth cur.

A strong, muscular dog bred for stamina, the black mouth cur originated in the southern United States. Early American settlers used them as all-purpose working dogs, herding cattle, hunting wild game and serving as family guardian.

Today, the black mouth cur is earning high marks from wildlife experts in New Jersey and other states seeking innovative methods for managing burgeoning populations of black bears. These fast, agile working dogs are proving to be particularly effective at discouraging nuisance behavior in bears, a technique referred to as aversive conditioning.

In New Jersey, Fish & Wildlife’s Black Bear Project biologists currently work in the field with four yellow black mouth curs. The dogs, a male named Copper and three females named Lucy, Cyngen and Shawnee, arrived in the Garden State in the fall of 2003. Just a few months earlier, New Jersey biologists had watched the breed in action during a Louisiana Department of Fish and Wildlife demonstration on aversive conditioning of nuisance bears.

The dogs live with their trainers and accompany them to work every day. Wildlife Technician Heather Lemasters trains Lucy. Wildlife Technician Ross Shramko trains Copper. Principal Biologist Kelcey Burguess trains Cyngen and Shawnee.

Those who see yellow black mouth curs in action have no doubt that these dogs were born to chase bears; even after their quarry attempts escape by ascending a tree, the dogs often will run up the tree, too, in an impressive demonstration of their unflagging commitment to the pursuit. The dogs also will circle a bear, distracting and confusing it to the point where the animal is eager to get away.

Anyone who has trained dogs, particularly hunting dogs, knows the process comes with its share of frustrations. But the day all your hard work finally pays off and you watch the dogs work as a team is nothing less than magical. Known for their intelligence, obedience and desire to please their masters, the yellow black mouth curs truly are a joy with which to work.

The dogs’ ability to quickly tree a bear when needed may prevent the animal from charging across a busy road or moving closer to residents and their pets, giving biologists time to prepare netting and tranquilizing equipment to make a safe capture.

The effectiveness of any aversive conditioning technique to permanently alter the behavior of nuisance bears is still being researched. In the meantime, Copper, Lucy, Cyngen and Shawnee continue to hone their skills, assisting with research, wildlife control and black bear education programs and capturing the hearts of their trainers.
New Jersey sportsmen and sportswomen can look forward to another fabulous year of hunting and trapping. The New Jersey Fish and Game Council, in response to your requests and after consultation with the Division of Fish & Wildlife, have adopted regulatory changes which enhance hunting opportunity and further the state’s wildlife management efforts. For details, see the regulations sections of this Digest. Following are highlights of hunting season regulation revisions.

Waterbird Hunting
• Lead Shot Exception Eliminated: Waterbird hunters are reminded that shotgun shells containing nontoxic shot are required while hunting rails, snipe, and moorhens (gallinules).

Small Game Seasons:
Calendar date changes were made for pheasant, chukar partridge, quail (north of Rt. 33), gray squirrel, crow, woodcock, raccoon, oppossum, red fox, gray fox, coyote and wood-chuck hunting seasons. In addition:
• Pheasant hunting zones are eliminated and the statewide bag limit is 2 birds of either-sex. There is no daily bag limit on semi-wild or commercial preserve properties.
• Two zones for bobwhite quail are proposed. North of Rt. 33, the season and bag limit will be unchanged. South of Rt. 33, the season will end Jan. 31, 2006 and the bag limit is reduced from 7 to 4 birds per day.
• Stocking of pen-reared quail on Greenwood Forest and Peaslee Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). These WMAs will be stocked with pheasants. Pre-season stocking of quail in dog training areas will continue.
• Ruffed grouse hunting season has been reduced. The season will open Oct. 20 to Dec. 31, 2005. The daily bag limit is reduced from 3 to 2 birds per day.
• Trapping opportunity is increased on WMAs not stocked with game birds. See page 62.
• Changes in general trapping regulations permit the use of a thicker cable (1/8-inch in diameter), larger loop size (maximum 12-inch diameter) and greater height above the walking surface (maximum 24 inches) for body gripping restraining devices (snares). These changes allow for a more effective harvest of New Jersey’s growing coyote population.
• Two weeks are added to the Special Permit Coyote/Fox Season slated for Jan. 16 - Feb. 20, 2006. In addition, the maximum shot size allowable is increased from #2 fine shot to “T” shot.

Bear Season
In addition to the proposed 2005 Bear Season (Dec. 5 - 10) the Fish and Game Council has implemented the creation of six bear management hunting zones. These zones are outlined in the bear hunting section of the 2005-2006 Digest.

Wild Turkey
Seasons
Wheelchair bound hunters who possess a “Permit to Shoot from a Standing Vehicle” will automatically receive their first choice permit for the spring turkey season in the turkey permit lottery.

Deer Seasons
Bank-A-Doe Program: The New Jersey Fish and Game Council has approved a “Bank-A-Doe” program in Earn-A-Buck zones only. This program allows hunters to fulfill their Permit Bow antlerless requirement during the Fall Bow season in zones 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 36, 41, 49, 50 and 51. For specific information on the Bank-A-Doe Program, see “Deer Hunting Regulations” on page 29.
Special Youth Bow Deer Hunt Day: The special Youth Bowhunting Day will be held on Sept. 24, 2005.
Special Youth Firearm Deer Hunt Day: The special Youth Day for Firearm will be held on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2005.
Deer Management Zone Boundary Changes for Zones 1, 3, 5, 6, 36, 37, and 52:
See Zone Descriptions for specific boundary information.
For specific information on deer season dates, bag limits and other regulations according to zones, see the “Deer Regulations Sets” and “Deer Hunting Regulations” sections of the Digest, beginning on page 29.
TAKE A KID HUNTING

Pheasant Hunt:

November 5, 2005

The 2005 Take a Kid Hunting Pheasant Hunt will allow properly licensed hunters with a valid youth license to hunt on one of nine stocked Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) on Saturday morning, Nov. 5, 2005. In a cooperative effort between the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the NJ State Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs, volunteer hunting mentors with trained bird dogs will guide youth hunters on a 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 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 each session. 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 below to:


Selected Wildlife Management Areas for the Youth Pheasant Hunt:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WMA</th>
<th>Guided Morning</th>
<th>Open After 1 pm</th>
<th>Open All Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Whittingham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black River</td>
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<td>Assunpink</td>
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<td>Colliers Mills</td>
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<td>Peaslee</td>
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Guided: 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 Nov. 5, 2005 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 licensed, non-shooting adult (aged 21 or older), will be permitted to hunt on the listed Wildlife Management Areas on Nov. 5, 2005 from 8 a.m. until sunset. No registration required.

Youth Hunter

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: ______ Zip: __________________________
Home Phone: __________________________ Youth Hunting License # __________________________

1. Select WMA (Check only 1):
   - Assunpink
   - Black River
   - Clinton
   - Colliers Mills
   - Millville
   - Peaslee
   - Whittingham

2. Have you attended the Take A Kid Hunting Pheasant Hunt before?
   - NO
   - YES-2004

3. With what gauge shotgun will you be hunting?
   - 12
   - 16
   - 20
   - 28
   - .410

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 ____________________________________________

Pack out what you pack in!

NO LITTERING! Respect our natural resources and all landowners, whether public or private. The hunter image depends on you; a little litter can make a huge difference.
Youth Upland Bird Hunt Day
Saturday, November 5, 2005

Youth hunters with a valid youth license, under the direct supervision of a licensed, non-hunting adult 21 years or older, will be permitted to hunt on licensed semi-wild preserves. Youths can hunt for pheasants, quail, and/or chukars on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2005 from 8 a.m. to sunset. This is a great opportunity for hunters belonging to semi-wild preserves to introduce youth hunters to upland bird hunting without competition from adult hunters.

After taking her first turkey at the Black River WMA, 12-year-old Anna Carr displays her 16-pound jake.
Youth Deer Hunting Days

Youth Bow Hunt, Saturday, Sept. 24, 2005
Youth Firearm Hunt, Saturday, Nov. 19, 2005

Youth hunters with a valid youth hunting license corresponding to the season hunted may hunt statewide for one deer on each of the above dates. 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. For the purpose of this section, direct supervision is defined as both the youth hunter and parent/guardian set up together at the same location, hunting as a unit and not hunting independently. The adult CANNOT hunt or possess a firearm or bow. 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.

During the Youth Firearm Deer Hunt, youths may hunt with either a shotgun or muzzleloader for one deer of either sex. If the youth is hunting with a muzzleloader, both the youth and the adult must have a valid rifle permit. Neither the Earn-A-Buck requirement nor Antler Point Restrictions will apply on these days for the youth hunter. These hunts are extensions of the Fall Bow and Six-day Firearm seasons, so no special season deer permit is required.

The youth hunter must tag his/her deer with a homemade transportation tag. The tag must include the youth hunting license number, sex of deer, number of antler points, date, zone, county and township from which the deer was taken, and must say “Taken during the Fall Bow (or Six-day Firearm) Season Youth Hunt.” The youth hunter will not be given a supplemental tag when the deer is checked.

The bag limit for each youth hunt day is only ONE deer of either sex. Youth hunters may still harvest two antlered deer during the Six-day Firearm Season and one antlered deer during the Fall Bow Season. Take this great opportunity to introduce youth hunters to deer hunting!

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

Youth hunters with a valid youth hunting license and under the direct supervision of a non-shooting adult hunter (age 21 or older) will be permitted to hunt for waterfowl from 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset on the following dates by zone:

**North Zone** . . . . . . . . . . . Sept. 24
**South Zone** . . . . . . . . . Nov. 11 & 12
**Coastal Zone** . . . . . . . . Oct. 29

Ecologically, New Jersey’s three waterfowl zones are quite different, each with unique patterns of waterfowl migration. The unique date by waterfowl zone allows the youth days to be held during periods of higher waterfowl abundance within each zone thus enhancing the waterfowl hunting experience for youths and their mentors.

Each youth hunter may participate on all three days. See the New Jersey 2004-05 Migratory Bird Regulations for further details including written zone boundary descriptions and species bag limits. Non-toxic shot is required. Federal and state waterfowl stamps are not required on these youth days. Daily bag limits for ducks, Canada geese (South Zone and Coastal Zone), brant, snow geese, coots, moorhens and gallinules will be the same as those allowed during the regular season. In the North Zone, the daily bag limit for Canada geese is eight birds.

Youth Turkey Hunt Day

April 15, 2006

Youth hunters with a valid youth license who have obtained a turkey permit may begin their spring turkey season on the special youth turkey hunting day, April 15, 2006. Youth must be under the direct supervision of an adult 21 years or older who possesses a valid New Jersey hunting license.
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.
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 dissected by soaking in a 30 percent Clorox solution for 15 minutes
- Do not dispose of carcasses (partially 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.
- 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.

**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 Regulations are on page 66.

**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 the Division of Fish and Wildlife, or call (908) 735-8793.

**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.

Farmers may trap foxes 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.

**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 bear, waterfowl, woodchuck (farmers only) or coyote. Rimfire and centerfire rifles 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.

**Hunter Orange**

Hunters must wear a cap made of 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 camouflage hat alone is not adequate.

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

Exceptions: this law does not apply to waterfowl, crow, wild turkey, coyote, 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.

**Muzzleloading Rifles**

It is unlawful to use smokeless powder in a muzzleloader while hunting in New Jersey.

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.

It is unlawful to hunt with a muzzleloading rifle on WMAs, except for deer, bear and squirrel hunting during the special season in certain zones. For muzzleloader rifle squirrel hunting, see page 29. For rifle permit information, see page 10.

**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 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 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.

**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 67 for the Hunt SMART Courtesy Card.

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.

Wildlife

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 concerning the above should be directed to regional Division law enforcement offices.

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 bobcats. 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.

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 Offices within 24 hours.

Heather LeMasters (below) harvested this mature doe while hunting with her father in Clinton Township. She often hunts with her father, Chuck, who took this photo.
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FREE
Get your FREE EFINGER CARABINER LOCK WITH EFINGER LOGO AND KEY RING
$5.99 Value Offer expires 12/31/05 Coupon must be present to redeem. Limit one per customer.
Legal Deer Hunting Hours: half hour before sunrise to half hour after sunset

Hunters must surrender a valid Antlered Buck Stub from their 2005 license for each antlered deer harvested.

Only one antlered may be taken per season statewide, except during the Six-Day Firearm Season, regardless of the number of special season permits in possession. To be legal, all deer harvested must be registered at an official deer check station (see page 52) 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.

License and Permits
• See License, Permits and Stamps section 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 permit from a given zone during each of the permit seasons. For example, a hunter may buy a muzzleloader permit for Zones 18, 21 and 24, however he/she may not purchase two muzzleloader permits for Zone 24. A hunter may purchase a bow permit, a muzzleloader permit and a shotgun permit for Zone 24, however he/she may not purchase two bow permits (or two shotgun permits or two muzzleloader permits) for Zone 24.
• It is unlawful to use a bow and arrow for hunting deer using a firearm license or shotgun or muzzleloader deer permit.

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 deer that have shed their antlers are considered antlerless deer.


Earn-A-Buck zones include Zones 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 36, 40, 41, 49, 50, 51 and 67. The first deer harvested by the hunter from these zones during Fall Bow, Permit Bow, Permit Muzzleloader and Permit Shotgun seasons through Dec. 10, 2005 must be an antlerless deer as defined above. 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. The number of antlerless deer harvested, including does, is increased substantially in Earn-A-Buck zones.

* Bank-A Doe is a new program available only in Earn-A-Buck (EAB) zones (Zones 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 36, 40, 41, 49, 50 and 51). The Bank-A-Doe option allows hunters to meet their antlerless deer requirement for the Permit Bow Season, however they must harvest one antlerless deer as their first deer during the Fall Bow Season. Hunters who harvest two antlerless deer from any Earn-A-Buck zone during the Fall Bow Season now may harvest an antlered deer as their first deer during the Permit Bow Season only in an Earn-A-Buck zone. As in the past, if you harvest one antlerless deer during Bow in any EAB zone, you are then eligible to harvest one antlered deer during that season. With the Bank-A-Doe option, if you harvest a second antlerless deer during Fall Bow in any EAB zone, you are now eligible to harvest an antlered deer as your first deer during the Permit Bow Season.

Hunters MUST go only to participating check stations (see highlighted deer check stations, p. 52) to be eligible for this program. These check stations have the required Bank-A-Doe Harvest Cards. Hunters will fill in their personal information, date, possession seal number and check station used for each of the two antlerless deer harvested during Fall Bow in an EAB zone. Later, when checking an
antlered deer as the first deer taken during the Permit Bow Season (only from EAB zones) hunters must then surrender this card only at a participating check station, along with the transportation tag and buck stub. Antlerless deer taken from a non-EAB zone do not satisfy the Bank-A-Doe requirement. Antlerless deer taken to non-participating check stations are not eligible for this program. NO EXCEPTIONS.

- Quality Deer Management zones include Zones 3, 6, 9, 13, 27, 29, 35, 37, 40, 59, 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 this antler point restriction strategy as part of Quality Deer Management is to reduce harvest pressure on the 1-1/2 -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, 40, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 61, 64, 66 and 67. They are generally small, publicly owned properties administered by county, federal or state agencies (other than the Division of 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. 24, 2005. The Youth Firearm Deer Hunt Day is Saturday, Nov. 19, 2005. The bag limit for youth hunters on this day is one deer of either sex. Antler point restrictions do not apply to deer taken on this day by youth hunters. See page 24.

Firearms, Ammunition and Sights
- See page 25 for general hunting regulations which also apply to deer hunting.
- All Firearms must be cased and unloaded while being transported in 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 frizzer.
- 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.
- 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 a muzzleloading rifle and/or smoothbore muzzleloader.
- Only one muzzleloading rifle or smoothbore muzzleloader may be in possession while deer hunting.
- Only black powder or black powder equivalents, including Clean Shot, GOEX Clear Shot and Pyrodex, may be used with a muzzleloading firearm when engaged in hunting. Modern smokeless powder is strictly prohibited while hunting with a muzzleloading firearm.
- Double-barreled muzzleloading rifles are not permitted during the Six-day Firearm or Permit Muzzleloader seasons.
- Special Areas Deer Management Zones may have regulations that differ from the statewide regulations. See page 47 for details.

Decoys and Electronic Devices
- Persons may hunt with the aid of deer decoys statewide in those zones open for deer hunting during the Fall Bow, Permit Bow and Winter Bow seasons only. When carrying or moving deer decoys for the purpose of hunting, persons must wear a fluorescent orange hat or other 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
- Properly licensed hunters are limited to taking one antlered buck per season (regardless of the number of permits purchased) during the Fall Bow, Permit Bow, Permit Muzzleloader, Permit Shotgun and Winter Bow seasons. Two antlered bucks may be taken during the Six-Day Firearm Season. Note: If two antlered bucks are taken during the Six-Day Firearm Season, the antlered buck bag limit for 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. The antlerless bag limit for these seasons will be one, two or unlimited depending on the zone and season.
- 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 during the Permit Muzzleloader and Permit Shotgun seasons, respectively (in those zones open for those seasons), until the season concludes.

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, deer season permit or supplemental tag. Be sure to use the Transportation Tag corresponding to the hunting season for the deer you harvested. This shall be in addition to the Buck Stub if applicable; see below.

1. A valid transportation tag 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 handwritten transportation tag must include the following information: hunting license number (youths only), date, hunting season, gender of deer, number of antler points, county, township and deer management zone.
3. Transportation Tags from 2005 permits are valid for the entire length of the Permit Bow, Permit Muzzleloader and Permit Shotgun seasons, including January and February 2006, if the zone specified on the original permit is open for hunting during these dates.
4. All Supplemental Deer Transportation Tags are valid immediately for taking another deer on the day of issuance.
5. See Mandatory Deer Check Station Requirement below.
Buck Stub

Immediately upon harvesting any antlered deer, hunters must initial and date in ink, the Buck Stub from your hunting license. Be sure to use the Buck Stub corresponding to the deer you harvested. This shall be in addition to the regular Transportation Tag; see above.

1. Buck Stubs from 2005 firearms licenses are valid for the entire length of the Permit from January 1 to February 20, 2006 if the zone specified on the original permit is open to hunting during these dates. Do NOT use the Buck Stub from your 2006 firearm license in January or February!
2. Only for the Winter Bow Season in January 2006 will a Buck Stub be used from your 2006 bow license.

After Harvesting a Deer: Mandatory Deer Check Requirement

Immediately upon harvesting a deer, hunters must complete in ink all required tags and/or buck stub. See Tagging Requirements above.
1. All hunters are required to register harvested deer. Bring your deer to the closest official check station (see page 52), except for Bank-A-Doe, see page 29 for special check station requirements.
2. Be discrete when transporting your deer to and from a check station, butcher or taxidermist.
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 and Buck Stubs, if applicable, 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.

5. Remember: Bring your hunting license and applicable deer season permit 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 had 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.

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 & Wildlife Law Enforcement Office.

For deer harvested in these counties:
Bergen  Morris  Union
Essex  Passaic  Warren
Hunterdon  Somerset
Hudson  Sussex

Call the Northern Region Law Enforcement Office at (908) 735-8240.

For deer harvested in these counties:
Burlington  Monmouth
Mercer  Ocean
Middlesex

Call the Central Region Law Enforcement Office at (609) 259-2120

For deer harvested in these counties:
Atlantic  Cumberland
Camden  Gloucester
Cape May  Salem

Call the Southern Region Law Enforcement Office at (856) 629-0555

2. Leave a message on the recorder with your name, phone number, hunting license number 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.
New Jersey deer hunters harvested 58,564 deer during the 2004 – 2005 season between September 11, 2004 and February 19, 2005. The harvest for this year’s deer season is the lowest since the institution of Earn-A-Buck regulations in 1999, and is nearly 16 percent lower than the 69,456 deer taken in 2003. The overall decline in harvest in both the antlered and antlerless segments across almost all zones may indicate a stabilization of the deer herd in New Jersey based on current management strategies and objectives.

The antlerless portion of the 2004 harvest was 40,599 deer, down 12 percent from 2003; the antlered portion of the 2004 harvest was 17,965 deer, down almost 23 percent from 2003. The decline in the antlered harvest is primarily attributed to a weather event during the Six-day Firearm Season.
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<tr>
<th>Deer Mgmt. Zone</th>
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<th>Antlered Buck Harvest per sq. mi.</th>
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**State** 5,248
Targeted Marketing at its Best

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Your Ads help defray publishing costs for NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife, allowing more resources to be dedicated towards fish and wildlife programs and service.