

2024/2025

DELAWARE HUNTING & TRAPPING

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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Hunter Registration System
<https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC>



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DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

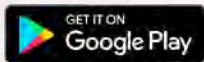




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“If I had an app like this when I started hunting, **the amount of ‘the one that got away’ stories would be far less.** It’s going to take years of mistakes and translate them into years of success.”



John Dudley
@nockontv



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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE



Once again, the hunting season is upon us, and everyone is making preparations. People are making ready their dove fields, considering where they may want to place a new duck blind on their marsh or pond, modifying or putting up new deer stands, repairing and painting old decoys as well as training their dogs for opening day. There is always a level of excitement as everyone prepares for what they hope will be a season of opportunity and adventure.

Each year for me I feel the eagerness of the upcoming season, much like a small child waiting for Christmas day, I dream of all the possibilities for the upcoming year and remembering all those momentous hunts and the cast of individuals I shared them with over the years.

I plan this year to once again hunt with my father, my son and my grandsons as the cycle of hunting knowledge and history is transferred from one generation to the next. Watching my father of 93 years enlighten his great-grandsons on how to decoy and shoot

waterfowl and impart that wisdom to them through stories of hunts gone by. These are the moments that are priceless to those of us who are practitioners of the art of hunting.

Mark this year as your opportunity to experience great hunting adventures and make your own memories that will last a lifetime. Take a family member or friend to share these great experiences and enjoy all that nature has to offer here in our great state of Delaware.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife provides numerous opportunities for you to hunt on approximately 68,000 acres of public lands throughout the state. The wildlife areas featured in the Public Lands Hunting and Trapping Section of this guide, offer a variety of diverse hunting opportunities. Take the time to experience what the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife has to offer you.

I wish you all the best and have a safe and exciting hunting season.

Patrick J. Emory - Director

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE DIRECTORY

STATE OF DELAWARE

John C. Carney
Governor

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

Shawn M. Garvin
Secretary

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Patrick J. Emory
Director

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State and Federal law prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion and/or disability. Complaints or inquiries should be directed to: Human Resource Office, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, 97 Commerce Way, Dover, DE 19904.

This summary is for the convenience of the hunters and trappers and is not intended to cover all hunting laws and regulations. When federal and state laws conflict, the law which is more restrictive governs. For the actual wording of the Wildlife Statutes and Regulations, please visit:

Title 7, Delaware Code: <https://delcode.delaware.gov/title7/index.html#TopOfPage>
DNREC Administrative Code: <https://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title7/3000/3900%20Wildlife/3900.shtml>

DIRECTORY

DELAWARE DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Main Office – Richardson and Robbins Building,
89 Kings Highway, Dover, Delaware 19901
Open 8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. – Mon. thru Fri.
except on Holidays

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT SECTION – 302-739-9912

WILDLIFE REGIONAL OFFICES

Region 1 - Augustine WA,
New Castle County.....302-834-8433
Region 2 - Norman G. Wilder WA,
Kent County..... 302-284-4795
Region 3 - Assawoman WA,
Sussex County..... 302-539-3160

SPECIES CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM – 302-735-3600 x 2

Wildlife Lottery/Check Stations

Augustine..... 302-836-7294
Cedar Swamp.....302-653-8080
Woodland Beach.....302-653-4802
Little Creek.....302-739-4610
Assawoman..... 302-539-3160

HUNTER EDUCATION – 302-735-3600 x 1

OMMELANDEN RANGE – 302-601-6267

RECREATIONAL LICENSING SECTION

**License information for fishing, hunting,
trapping, Conservation Access
Pass, and Charter/Head Boats**302-739-9918

**Boat Registration, Boat Ramp
Certificates and Commercial
Fisheries Information**302-739-9916

FISH AND WILDLIFE NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE

Natural Resources Police
24 Hr. Dispatch.....1-800-523-3336
Main Office302-739-9913
Office of Boating Safety
and Education302-739-9915
New Castle County.....302-836-4682
Kent County.....302-739-6139
Sussex County.....302-855-1901

OPERATION GAME THEFT – 1-800-292-3030

FEDERAL WILDLIFE INFORMATION- U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Enforcement U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office,
2591 Whitehall Neck Rd
Smyrna, DE 19977302-595-1585

**Bombay Hook National Wildlife
Refuge, near Smyrna**302-653-9345

**Prime Hook National Wildlife
Refuge, near Milton**.....302-684-8419



About This Guide

This high-quality guide is brought to you by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control through a partnership with Kalkomey, a trusted leader in outdoor safety education since 1995. In addition to producing this guide, Kalkomey also offers a suite of educational courses to help people enjoy the outdoors safely.

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SUMMARY OF NEW REGULATION CHANGES

SUNDAY HUNTING

- The General Assembly recently passed, and the Governor signed, legislation (HB 271) which authorized the hunting of gamebirds on Sundays. Hunting on Sundays is now allowed for all gamebirds which includes ducks, geese, doves, turkeys, pen-raised released quail, pheasants, and others. This expanded opportunity does not include furbearers, gray squirrels, or rabbits. Hunting on Sunday remains open for deer.

DEFINITIONS

- Establish a definition for “Baited field” (page 14) and “Direct Supervision” (page 15)

DEER

- The Special Antlerless season that occurs in October is now only open Friday – Sundays. Mondays are no longer open for this season (page 20)
- Hunters may now use straight-walled pistol caliber rifles and handguns during the Special Antlerless deer only seasons that occur in October and December (page 20)
- Both archery and crossbow hunters may now harvest an antlered deer during the Special Antlerless deer only season that occurs in December. Archery and Crossbow hunters may continue to harvest antlered deer during the October Antlerless Season segment.
- A second weekend available to youth and non-ambulatory adult hunters will occur the last weekend of September (page 24)
- To collect additional information on sika deer harvests, when registering a deer, hunters will now be asked if the animal they harvested was a white-tailed deer or sika deer (page 25).
- To minimize the risk of Chronic Wasting Disease occurring in Delaware, restriction of the importation of selected deer parts of deer harvested within high-fenced captive facilities (page 22)
- Non-resident hunters that are exempt from purchasing a hunting license will continue to receive four antlerless deer tags for free but instead of also receiving a Hunter’s Choice tag for free will now receive an antlered deer tag for free (pages 21). The non-resident quality buck tag must still be purchased.

TURKEYS

- Turkeys may now be hunted on Sundays (page 26)
- Create a Turkey Harvest Report Card and establish new harvest reporting procedures (pages 19 and 26). All of which are the same as the procedures for deer.
- Clarify the size shot allowed for turkey hunting (nothing larger than size 4 shot) to promote the technical advancement of shot shells while maintaining human safety considerations (page 26). Shot comprised of Tungsten Super Shot (TSS) is legal.

- Allow smaller gauge shotguns for the purposes of hunting turkeys to now include .28 and .410 gauges (page 26)
- Clarify the prohibition of hunting turkeys using the aid of bait or dogs (page 27)
- Clarify the types of courses accepted for fulfillment of turkey specific hunter education requirements (page 26)

SEASONS

- Sunday hunting is now allowed for all gamebirds including ducks, geese, doves, turkeys pen-raised released quail, pheasants, and others. Hunting on Sundays remains open for deer but is not allowed for Furbearers, squirrels, or rabbits.
- Eliminate the annual bag limit on beavers (page 39)
- Allow green frogs to be hunted at the same time bullfrogs can be hunted and clarify that the daily bag limit for both species is in aggregate and not per species (page 30)
- Extend the gray squirrel, pheasant, and pen-raised released quail seasons to close on the last day of February (pages 30)
- Close the wild bobwhite quail season but allow landowners who have sufficient habitat and are implementing management practices to support quail to obtain a permit from the Division to hunt on their lands. Establish a season for which pen-raised release quail may be harvested. The Division will reevaluate the wild bobwhite quail season closure every three years (page 30)
- Adjust the trapping season dates for raccoons and opossums in Kent and Sussex Counties to coincide with season dates in New Castle County (page 39)
- Allow raccoon hunters to chase raccoons (no harvest) one month earlier to now open on August 1st. Reduce the number of firearm deer seasons in which raccoon hunters are not allowed to hunt at night with the aid of a dog and clarify the hunting hours (page 39)
- Close the diamond back terrapin trapping season (page 30)
- Open the trapping season for red fox and coyotes to open on November 1st, a month earlier than was allowed previously (page 39)

GAMEBIRD RELEASES

- Require anyone releasing gamebirds into the wild to obtain a permit from the Division and provide the release location (page 30)

METHOD OF TAKE

- Reduce the minimum poundage for compound, recurve, and longbows to 30 pounds (page 23). Previously, the minimum draw weight was 35 pounds.
- Expand legal methods of take for raccoons and opossums (page 39)
- Clarify that both bullfrogs and green frogs may be harvested by hand (page 30)
- Clarify the types and features of foothold traps that can be used (page 39)

- Clarify the types of firearms that may be used to hunt gray squirrels (page 30)
- Require trappers that obtain a permit to trap snapping turtles to obtain and complete an annual report of their take (page 30)

TRANSFERRING HARVESTED GAME

- No person shall put or leave any harvested animal at any place (other than at their personal residence), or in the custody of another person for cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such animals have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating their address, the total number and species harvested, and the date such animals were killed. The only exception to this pertains to deer and turkeys, for which a Deer/Turkey Possession Tag is to be placed on the animal and include the 12-digit registration number (page 19).

FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED

- Clarify that only youth hunters are allowed to hunt waterfowl during the special youth waterfowl seasons and does not also include non-ambulatory hunters using a wheelchair for mobility which are allowed to hunt during these special seasons for deer and turkeys (pages 20 and 26)

FALCONRY

- Extend the hunting season by one month for falconers and clarify the types of game species (rabbits, squirrels, etc.) that may be taken by the aid of a falcon (page 6)

GUIDE LICENSES

- Clarify when holders of a guide license are required to submit an annual report and the criteria for which a nonresident can be exempt from obtaining a guide license if they are guiding snow goose hunters and previously have been convicted of a wildlife violation (page 11)

WILDLIFE THEFT PREVENTION FUND

- Add and clarify various offenses for which informants may receive rewards through the Wildlife Theft Prevention Fund if they provide tips that result in the arrest and conviction of the violator (page 16)

DELAWARE FOREST SERVICE

LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE

The Delaware Forest Service Stewardship program provides landowners the opportunity to improve the quality of their forested lands through professional technical and educational assistance. Such assistance includes a wide range of forest management activities, such as:

State-Funded Cost Share Program

Private Land Management

**Forest Enhancement
for Wildlife**

Tree Planting

**Contact our Stewardship Coordinator
for more info at (302) 856-2893
de.gov/forestlandowners**

CONSERVE, PROTECT, ENHANCE



ESSENTIAL NEWS AND REMINDERS

DIRECT SUPERVISION OF HUNTERS UNDER THE AGE OF 18

Recently, Delaware state laws were changed as it relates to possession of certain firearms. Some of those changes were associated with hunting. See pages 7, 15, and 18 for additional information.

HUNTER EDUCATION VERIFICATION

For information about verifying your hunter education certification when purchasing a license, please see page 8.

CONSERVATION ACCESS PASS

All registered motor vehicles used to access State Wildlife Areas must have a Conservation Access Pass. A Pass will be issued free to hunters, if requested, with the purchase of a hunting license. See pages 11 and 12 for more information. Delaware residents over the age of 65 may purchase a one-time, lifetime, Conservation Access Pass. See page 12 for more information.

FREE-ROAMING SWINE REGULATIONS

It shall be unlawful to release swine (pigs) into the wild, charge a fee for the purpose of killing swine, or shoot swine without first obtaining a permit from the Division.

FALCONRY SEASONS (HUNTING WITH THE AID OF A FALCON)

For falconry season dates and bag limits, please contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 302-735-3600.

LICENSE EXEMPT HUNTERS

Hunters and trappers that are license exempt are required to obtain an annual License Exempt Number (LEN) at no cost. Hunters can obtain a LEN by visiting a license agent or by visiting <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC>. **LENs will no longer be issued through the toll-free Hunter and Trapper Registration phone system.**

See page 9 for more information.

HUNTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM

Hunters and trappers that need to register a harvested deer or obtain a HIP Number, or Snow Goose Conservation Order Permit Number may do so by visiting <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC> or by calling the toll free number 1-855-DEL-HUNT (1-855-335-4868). If you have problems with this system, call 302-735-3600 or 302-739-9918 during normal business hours (8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m.) Monday - Friday.

RULES FOR TREESTANDS AND GROUND BLINDS

All hunters that install temporary tree stands or ground blinds on State Wildlife Areas are required to obtain a free registration number. See page 42 for more information.

RULES FOR TRAIL CAMERAS ON PUBLIC LAND

Trail cameras may not be deployed on public lands including State Wildlife Areas, State Parks, State Forests, and National Wildlife Refuges. Any trail cameras found on public land will be removed and confiscated. Trail cameras may continue to be used on private lands.

DELAWARE STATE DUCK AND GOOSE CALLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Each July, the annual Delaware State Duck and Goose Calling Championships are held during the Delaware State Fair in Harrington, DE. Join the Division of Fish and Wildlife on Saturday, July 20, 2024, for the junior and senior calling contests, which will be held at the Fairgrounds' Hertrich Plaza in front of the Grandstand. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. This will be a "hunting style" event. For more information, please call 302-739-9910.

ATTENTION WILD TURKEY HUNTERS

YES!

I'd like to join the National Wild Turkey Federation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of the hunting tradition. This membership also enrolls me in my state and local chapters.

- Regular Member: \$35
- Women in the Outdoors: \$35
- Wheelin' Sportsmen Member: \$35
- Sponsor Member: \$250
- JAKES Member (ages 12 & under): \$10
- Xtreme JAKES Member (ages 13 - 17): \$10

Name: *(please print)* _____

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Exp. Date: _____

Make checks payable to NWTF. Send complete application to:

**Delaware NWTF - 29476 Revel Rd
Millsboro, DE 19966**

Your Delaware Chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation, in cooperation with the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife HAS...

- > RESTORED THE WILD TURKEY TO DELAWARE
- > TAUGHT WILD TURKEY HUNTING SAFETY CLASSES
- > CONDUCTED OUTDOOR PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH, WOMEN AND THE DISABLED
- > SERVED AS YOUR VOICE ON WILD TURKEY ISSUES

Join us today to help recruit new hunters and provide more huntable land.

Old Drawers Creek Long Beards Chapter
Jeff Dawson 302-373-1698

First State Chapter
Brian Sherwood 302 363 6649

Lower Delaware Chapter
Stacie Street 302 381 9354

Delaware State Chapter
Charles Spray 302 682 4085

If you are interested in getting involved with a chapter or need information about the NWTF please contact a chapter in your area!

NWTF REMINDS YOU TO ALWAYS HUNT SAFELY

LICENSING AND PERMITS SECTION

KNOW YOUR RESIDENCY STATUS: In Delaware, to purchase a resident license you must be living in Delaware for at least 1 year prior to purchasing a license. You may not establish residency in two different U.S. States. You might own homes in two or more states, but you can only claim residency in one U.S. State at a time. This is the state you claim residency on your FEDERAL income tax return.

- All hunters under the age of 16 must be directly supervised by a person 21 years or older to carry a firearm or bow.
- Additionally, all hunters under the age of 18 in possession of a handgun or a rimfire or centerfire rifle, with the exception of a straight-walled pistol-caliber rifle as described on page 23, must be directly supervised by a person 21 years or older.
- Hunters between the ages of 16 and 18 may hunt with a straight-walled pistol-caliber rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader, or archery equipment without direct supervision by a person 21 years or older.

RESIDENT LICENSES, PERMITS AND TAGS	PRICE
Resident Adult Hunting License (Ages 16-64)¹: Persons 16 years or over and under 65 (16-64 years) must purchase a license to hunt in Delaware.	\$39.50
Resident Junior Hunting License (Age 13-15)^{1, 2}: Persons 13 through 15 years must purchase a junior license to hunt.	\$5.00
Resident Guide Hunting License (Age 18+)¹: Persons operating a hunting guide service must purchase a guide license.	\$159.50
Resident Trapping License (Ages 13-64)³: All persons under 65 years must purchase a license to trap in Delaware after first taking an approved trapping education course if born after January 1, 1978. See page 10 for more information and the trapping license application.	\$10.00
Resident Fur Dealer License⁴: A person must obtain an annual license before engaging in the business of purchasing or receiving raw furs or pelts for commercial purposes within this State, except muskrat furs or pelts.	50.00
Resident Waterfowl (Duck) Stamp (Age 16+): Persons 16 years or over and under 65 (16-64 years) must purchase a state waterfowl (duck) stamp to hunt waterfowl in Delaware.	\$15.00
State Wildlife Area Waterfowl Blind and Deer Stand Permit: Hunters that use a State Wildlife Area waterfowl blind or deer stand for hunting that was assigned through a daily lottery must purchase an annual Wildlife Area Deer Stand/Waterfowl Blind Lottery Permit.	\$20.00
Resident Hunter's Choice and Quality Buck Tag combination	\$20.00
Each additional Antlerless Deer Tag	\$20.00
NON-RESIDENT LICENSES, PERMITS AND TAGS	PRICE
Non-Resident Adult Hunting License (Age 16+)¹: Persons 16 years or over to hunt in this State	\$199.50
Non-Resident Junior Hunting License (Age 13-15)^{1, 2}: Persons 13 through 15 years must purchase a junior license to hunt.	\$50.00
Non-Resident Guide Hunting License (Age 18+)¹: Persons operating a hunting guide service must purchase a guide license.	\$475.00
Non-Resident 3-Day Hunting License (Age 16+): Three (3) consecutive day small game and waterfowl license (not valid for deer or turkey).	\$75.00
State Wildlife Area Waterfowl Blind and Deer Stand Permit: Hunters that use a State Wildlife Area waterfowl blind or deer stand for hunting that was assigned through a daily lottery must purchase an annual Wildlife Area Deer Stand/Waterfowl Blind Lottery Permit.	\$20.00
Non-Resident Trapping License (Age 13+)³: All persons must purchase a license to trap in Delaware after first taking an approved trapping education course if born after January 1, 1978. See page 10 for more information and the trapping license application.	\$75.00
Non-Resident Fur Dealer License⁴: A person must obtain an annual license before engaging in the business of purchasing or receiving raw furs or pelts for commercial purposes within this State, except muskrat furs or pelts.	\$475.00
Non-Resident Waterfowl (Duck) Stamp (Age 16+): Persons 16 years or over must purchase a state waterfowl (duck) stamp to hunt waterfowl in Delaware.	\$15.00
Non-Resident Antlered Deer Tag	\$50.00
Non-Resident Quality Buck Tag	\$50.00
Each additional Antlerless Deer Tag	\$20.00
LICENSE EXEMPT RESIDENTS AND NON-RESIDENTS	PRICE
Certain residents and non-residents are exempt from the requirement to purchase a hunting or trapping license but they must obtain a free License Exempt Number (LEN) before hunting or trapping. See License Exempt Hunters and Trappers section on page 9 for more LEN information, including who qualifies.	FREE Must Obtain a New LEN Each Year

A federal duck stamp is required for any person 16 years or older to hunt migratory birds. Stamps are sold at Post Offices. No exemptions are made for persons 65 years or older for purchasing Federal Stamps. Some states are selling federal duck stamps online, referred to as e-stamps, through their state's licensing system. Delaware is exploring this option to be included within our system in the future. In the meantime, federal duck stamps purchased online from another state will be accepted in Delaware. For more information, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/service/buy-duck-stamp-or-e-stamp>

License agents may charge a service fee of up to \$2.50 to issue a license, up to \$1.50 for deer tags and permits and passes, and up to \$1.00 for waterfowl (duck) stamps. License year is July 1 through June 30.

¹ - Resident and non-resident hunters born on or after January 1, 1967 must complete a state approved Hunter Education course before obtaining a hunting license. Proof of successful completion of a Hunter Education Course must be provided at the time of license purchase in order to obtain a resident or non-resident hunting license.

² - The Junior Hunting License expires on the child's 16th birthday. If this will occur during the hunting season, hunters 15 years of age should consider purchasing the regular hunting license instead of the Junior license prior to the season.

³ - Resident and non-resident trappers born on or after January 1, 1978 must take a 6 hour trapper education course before obtaining a trapping license.

⁴ - License may only be purchased by visiting DNREC's Richardson and Robbins Building, 89 Kings Hwy, Dover, DE 19901

LICENSING AND PERMITS SECTION

QUICK REFERENCE FOR LICENSED HUNTERS

RESIDENT	LICENSE EXEMPT NUMBER	JUNIOR HUNTING LICENSE	ADULT HUNTING LICENSE	FEDERAL WATERFOWL STAMP	STATE WATERFOWL STAMP	HIP #	DEER STAND AND WATERFOWL BLIND PERMIT*
12 and Under	Yes	No (unless turning 13 during season)	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
13 thru 15	No	Yes	No (unless turning 16 during season)	No	No	Yes	Yes
16 thru 64	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
65 and over	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
NON-RESIDENT	LICENSE EXEMPT NUMBER	JUNIOR HUNTING LICENSE	ADULT HUNTING LICENSE	FEDERAL WATERFOWL STAMP	STATE WATERFOWL STAMP	HIP #	DEER STAND AND WATERFOWL BLIND PERMIT*
12 and Under	Yes	No (unless turning 13 during season)	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
13 thru 15	No	Yes	No (unless turning 16 during the season)	No	No	Yes	Yes
16 thru 64	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
65 and over	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

For requirements related to hunters that are license exempt, please see LICENSE EXEMPT HUNTERS/TRAPPERS section below this table.

* A deer stand and waterfowl blind permit is not required for youth hunters or their non-hunting directly supervising adult when hunting during the special youth and non-ambulatory deer and waterfowl seasons.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER AND HUNTING LICENSES

The Delaware Division of Child Support Services has the authority, under Federal Welfare Reform Legislation (Title 42 of the US Code, Section 666 (a) (13)), to collect Social Security Numbers for individuals who purchase recreational hunting and fishing licenses. For more information go to <https://de.gov/huntinglicense>.

OBTAINING A DUPLICATE HUNTING LICENSE

Duplicate licenses may be printed free of charge by logging into your Digital DNREC Account at: <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC>. If you do not have a Digital DNREC Account or need more information please call the Recreational Licensing Office at (302) 739-9918 or email dfwreclic@delaware.gov.

ONLINE LICENSING

Delaware maintains a fully automated recreational licensing system. Sportsmen can purchase and print licenses from our website 24 hours a day 7 days a week by visiting <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC> with a compatible computer and printer. We also partner with over 40 Licensing Agents where licenses can be purchased including our Dover Fish and Wildlife office at 89 Kings Highway. A complete listing of Licensing Agents can be found on our website or by calling 302-739-9918.

HUNTER EDUCATION VERIFICATION

Please do not wait until the last minute to purchase your hunting license. Hunters born after January 1, 1967, are required to have verified proof of completing hunter education before purchasing a hunting license. If purchasing your hunting license online through our Digital DNREC licensing system at <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC>, you will be asked to upload a copy of your hunter education card if your card has not already been verified by the Hunter Education Program. Hunters who completed hunter education in Delaware must enter their Hunter Safety Number and the Hunter Education Program will verify the number. Verification of hunter education information may take up to 5 business days, but it is often completed sooner.

If you need to purchase your hunting license immediately and cannot wait to have your hunter education information verified by the Hunter Education Program, please visit an authorized Licensing Agent. A list of authorized Licensing Agents can be found here: <https://de.gov/LicenseAgents>. At the Licensing Agent, you will need to provide a copy of your hunter education card to the agent who will verify that you have provided proof of hunter safety for the current hunting season only.

In the future, to avoid delays when purchasing a hunting license in Delaware, please upload a copy of your hunter education card to your profile in our Digital DNREC licensing system at <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC>. Your hunter education card will be verified by our Hunter Education Program and will be added permanently to your Digital DNREC profile.

DIGITAL LICENSES AND DELAWARE WATERFOWL (DUCK) STAMPS

A recently passed law modernizes hunting and trapping licenses and Delaware waterfowl (duck) stamps to allow digital formats. Hunters and Trappers may now possess their Delaware hunting and trapping licenses and Delaware duck stamp in either digital or paper form when hunting or trapping in Delaware. Delaware deer hunters are still required to carry a paper copy of their Deer Harvest Report Card and properly complete the card in ink upon harvest of a deer and prior to moving it from the site of the harvest.

SPECIAL LICENSE AND PERMITS REQUIRED TO:

(These permits are only issued at DNREC's Dover office located at 89 Kings Highway)

- Deal in raw furs commercially
- Hold a field trial for dogs
- Ship game out of state
- Breed game commercially
- Operate a shooting preserve
- Possess or collect wildlife for scientific purposes
- Possess live wild animals or any protected animals
- Train dogs out of season (available only for retrievers)

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

LICENSE EXEMPT HUNTERS/TRAPPERS



Hunters and trappers that are license exempt are required to obtain an annual License Exempt Number (LEN) at no cost. Hunters and Trappers shall obtain a separate LEN for each activity if they engage in both. While not legally required to purchase a license, those hunters and trappers that are eligible to be license exempt may purchase a license so that their purchase can help direct conservation and management efforts for wildlife and the habitats they support. For those individuals that are exempt from purchasing a license but choose to do so, we thank you very much for your support to conservation. If a license exempt hunter or trapper chooses to purchase a license they shall not obtain a LEN.

The LEN system was created so that opinions and game harvests of license exempt hunters and trappers could be evaluated and considered when establishing new statutes, regulations and policies. If you obtain this LEN, use it whenever you are asked for your license number such as for registering a deer or turkey, obtaining a HIP number or purchasing additional deer tags or permits. License exempt hunters that are authorized to hunt deer, receive five deer tags at no cost and those that are authorized to hunt turkeys, will receive one turkey tag at no cost. For more information about deer and turkey tags and the associated Deer and Turkey Harvest Report Cards, please see pages 19, 21, and 26.

License exempt hunters not purchasing a hunting license who use a motor vehicle to access State Wildlife Areas must purchase a Conservation Access Pass (pages 11 and 12). Additionally, all license exempt hunters must purchase a State Wildlife Area Waterfowl Blind and Deer Stand Permit if they are using those items. This permit is not required on the Youth and Non-ambulatory Hunt days. License exempt hunters are not required to purchase a Delaware Waterfowl Stamp unless they are Maryland residents utilizing the exemption to hunt snow geese in Delaware and then the stamp is required. Furthermore, license exempt hunters are not required to purchase a federal waterfowl stamp unless they are 16 years of age or older. Lastly, all license exempt hunters that will hunt migratory birds must obtain a free HIP number and those hunters pursuing snow geese during the Conservation Order must also register for a free permit number.

You can obtain your annual LEN and other items described above at <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC> or by visiting any location that hunting licenses are sold. For a complete list of license agents, please visit: <https://de.gov/LicenseAgents>. LENs are no longer available by calling the Hunter Registration System. NOTE: If a hunter or trapper is exempt from purchasing a license for reasons related to military service, please contact the recreational licensing office at 302-739-9918 for more information on how to obtain your LEN as you may need to provide supporting documentation.

If you have problems with these systems, call 302-735-3600 or 302-739-9918 during normal business hours (8:00am - 4:30pm) Monday - Friday. For questions on LEN eligibility requirements please contact the recreational licensing office at 302-739-9918 or <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/licenses/exemptions/>.

The following are the criteria for which a person is exempt from purchasing a hunting or trapping license but they must obtain a free License Exempt Number:

Delaware Residents:

- **Resident Youth Under 13:** Residents under 13 years of age may hunt without a license when under direct supervision by a person 21 years of age or older who is the lawful holder of a hunting license or has a lawful right to hunt.
- **Resident Senior 65 or Older:** Residents, 65 years of age or older may hunt or trap without a license, but must have proof of age and residency.
- **Resident Property Owner:** Residents who own or live upon farms in this State containing 20 or more acres, and the members of their immediate families who reside on the farm, may hunt and trap on said farm only without purchasing a license.
- **Resident Organized Fox Hunt:** Any unarmed residents participating in an organized fox hunt may participate without a license.

Non-Residents:

- **Non-Resident Snow Goose Hunter:** A non-resident may hunt without a license while hunting snow geese, provided:
 1. The nonresident resides in another state or Canadian province which extends the same exemption to Delaware residents (Currently, Maryland is the only state to honor this exemption);
 2. The nonresident is properly licensed, or exempt from the licensing requirement, to hunt snow geese in the state or Canadian province in which he or she resides;
 3. The nonresident purchases a Delaware waterfowl (duck) stamp.
- **Non-Resident Youth Under 13:** Nonresidents other than aliens who are under 13 years of age may hunt without a license when under direct supervision by a person 21 years of age or older who is the lawful holder of a hunting license or has a lawful right to hunt.
- **Non-Resident Farm Occupant:** Nonresidents or aliens who are occupants of farms in this State containing 20 acres or more, who actually reside thereon, and the immediate members of the family of such occupants who also reside on said farm, may hunt or trap on said farms without a license.
- **Non-Resident Property Owner:** A nonresident, who owns but is not an occupant of a farm in this State containing 20 acres or more, and the immediate members of the family of the nonresident farm owner may hunt or trap without a license on said farm if the farm occupant or resident, if any, gives the owner written permission or if hunting, trapping, and/or fishing is permitted pursuant to a written lease, if any, between the farm owner and the occupant or resident of the farm.

- **Non-Resident Organized Fox Hunt:** A non-resident participating in an organized fox hunt may participate without a license.

Military Exemptions:

- **Resident Military Hospital Inpatient:** A member of the armed forces of the United States who is a patient in a military hospital may hunt or trap without a license, upon receipt by the Department of a written statement signed by the applicant's commanding officer certifying the nature of the applicant's disability and place of station.
- **Veterans with a Disability:** Residents or non-residents who have been honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States and certified by the Veterans Administration as having at least a 60% service-connected disability may hunt or trap without a license.
- **Resident One-time Military Veteran:** Any resident who has served honorably for 90 or more consecutive days on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, including service as member of the Delaware National Guard, in military actions in Southwest Asia associated with Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom may, for the first 12 months following the date the resident was honorably discharged or removed from active status, hunt without purchasing a license.

If a military hunter or trapper meets the exemption criteria, applicants are asked to complete an application at <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/licenses/exemptions/> or by calling 302-739-9918. Military licenses are not available through State Licensing Agents. License exempt Military exceptions are only processed through the Dover office. Please call 302-739-9918 for assistance.

SPECIAL PERMITS IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR HUNTERS WITH A DISABILITY

A variety of hunting opportunities exist for hunters with a disability in Delaware. For a list of deer stand and waterfowl blind facilities for hunters with a disability, see page 44.

STATE OF DELAWARE CERTIFIED HUNTER WITH DISABILITIES CARD

Hunters with a disability must obtain a certification card to use all facilities and opportunities made available to hunters with a disability on State Wildlife Areas and State Parks. For information on obtaining this card, call the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 302-739-9912.

Continued on page 10

LICENSING AND PERMITS SECTION

Continued from page 9

HUNT FROM A VEHICLE PERMIT

Approved non-ambulatory hunters may be permitted to hunt specified game animals from their vehicle with a permit issued by the Division.

HUNTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM

Hearing impaired hunters may go online at <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC> to register harvested deer, obtain their Harvest Information Program (HIP) numbers, register for the Snow Goose Conservation Order (CO) and report their hunting activity during the CO.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO NON-RESIDENT MILITARY PERSONNEL

Any member of the armed forces of the United States of America while actually stationed within this State shall be deemed a resident of this State for the purpose of obtaining a

license to hunt, trap and fish in this State. Each such application shall be supported by a written statement signed by the applicant's commanding officer certifying the applicant's place of station within this State.

To be eligible for the resident license, applicants are asked to complete an application at <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/licenses/exemptions/> or by calling 302-739-9918. These licenses are not available through State Licensing Agents.

PRIVATE LAND TRAPPING PERMISSION FORM

Name of Trapper: _____

Address: _____

I hereby consent to the person listed above for trapping on my property on the dates, and with the additional permissions, listed below:

Dates: _____

Additional Permissions/Rules: _____

Trapper's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Landowner's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Landowner's Phone Number: _____

Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife Trapping License Application

This is an application for a: Resident Trapping License.....\$10.00 Non-Resident Trapping License\$75.00

An approved Trapping Education Course is MANDATORY for all persons born on or after January 1, 1978 as per Delaware Code. **You must submit a copy of your Trapping Education Card with this application in order to obtain a license (if applicable).**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip code: _____

Drivers License: _____

(Must submit copy of license or proof of residency)

Date of Birth: _____

Do you intend to fur trap this season? Yes No

Trapping Education #: _____

(Must submit copy)

Daytime Phone number: _____

Social Security Number-Mandatory: _____

Social Security number is required under authority of the Delaware Division of Child Support Services The license will not be issued without it.

Anyone trapping snapping turtles are required to obtain a free snapping turtle permit number and complete a post-season survey that summarizes their harvest.

Do you need a Snapping Turtle Permit Number? ... Yes No

An additional snapping turtle permit is needed for State Wildlife Areas. Call 302-739-9912

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

(Check or money order payable to Division of Fish and Wildlife.)

If you wish to pay by Credit Card, please fill in the following required information.



Card Number: _____

3-digit card code: _____ Exp. date: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

*Please allow up to 4 weeks for processing.

Mail to:
Recreational Licensing
Division of Fish and Wildlife
89 Kings Highway
Dover, DE 19901

Fax to:
Recreational Licensing
302-736-7925

Email to:
dfwreclic@delaware.gov

Questions?: 302-739-9918

DELAWARE GUIDE LICENSE

All individuals receiving monetary or in-kind compensation for providing personal guide services to hunters are required to have a Delaware Guide License. License holders must be 18 years of age or older.

Persons acquiring a guide license must not have been convicted for violations of any wildlife or fisheries statutes or regulations within the last three years prior to applying for a Delaware Guide License.

All persons possessing a Delaware Guide License are required to complete and submit an annual report to the Division by July 1st, annually, to include the following information which must be readily available for inspection by enforcement officers: full name of each hunter, address of each hunter in the party, hunting license number for each hunter, date, number and species of each animal harvested, location of hunts and the name and license number of the guide.

The guide shall retain all hunting field records for a period of three years.

A resident or non-resident Guide license is valid as a Guide and a Hunting license. A separate hunting license is not required.

A non-resident shall be exempt from the guide licensing requirement only while guiding hunters for snow geese (light geese), provided:

- The non-resident is properly licensed to guide in another state or Canadian province which extends the same exemption to Delaware residents;
- The non-resident must not have been convicted for violations of any wildlife or fisheries statutes or regulations within the last 3 years.
- The non-resident guide purchases obtains a free License Exempt Number, a Delaware migratory waterfowl (duck) stamp and obtains a Delaware H.I.P. permit;
- The non-resident resides in another state or Canadian province which extends the same exemption to Delaware residents.

Applicants must apply for the license online at: <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC> or by calling the Division's Recreational Licensing Office at (302) 739-9918. Guide licenses are not available through State Licensing Agents.

TRAPPING LICENSES

Trappers must purchase their trapping license through the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Trappers who purchased a trapping license during the previous two trapping years can purchase again this year through their Digital DNREC account or at an authorized recreational license agent statewide, without waiting for approval. Trappers who did not purchase a trapping license during the previous two trapping years can create an account in Digital DNREC (or use their existing Digital DNREC account) and apply for a trapping license; these new trapping applications will require approval by the Division before the sale can be processed

so trappers should plan ahead. Additionally, mail-in applications are available online at www.dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/licenses/, by submitting the trapping application (see page 10) in this guide, or by calling 302-739-9918. Licensed trappers will be issued a permanent license number that can be renewed annually.

CONSERVATION ACCESS PASS

An annual Conservation Access Pass (CAP) is required for any registered motor vehicle used to access designated Delaware State Wildlife Areas for any allowable activity, including hunting, birdwatching, hiking and photography.

The annual Conservation Access Pass will help the Division of Fish and Wildlife maintain and improve these areas for hunting, wildlife viewing and wildlife photography. These funds will also help support habitat improvements on State Wildlife Areas.

A **FREE annual Conservation Access Pass** will be provided with the purchase of a hunting license. In order to receive a free annual CAP the hunter must present a vehicle registration card at the time of the hunting license purchase. The annual CAP is assigned to a single specified registered motor vehicle and may be transferred to another registered motor vehicle of the same ownership for a fee of \$10.00. CAP transfers may be completed by logging into your Digital DNREC Account at: <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC>. If you do not have a Digital DNREC Account or need more information please call the Recreational Licensing Office at (302) 739-9918 or email dfwrelic@delaware.gov.

If a free annual CAP is not selected during the purchase of the hunting license, one may be obtained by logging into your Digital DNREC Account at: <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC> or by contacting the Division of Fish & Wildlife Recreational Licensing Office and providing the hunter's driver's license, hunting license and a vehicle registration card. Manual requests are processed in the order they are received and may take up to four weeks.

The CAP must be displayed in the assigned vehicle as described on the Pass.

The Pass is available annually July 1 - June 30 and is valid from the date of the hunting license purchase until June 30. The non-resident 3 day hunting license receives a free annual Pass.

License exempt hunters not purchasing a hunting license, who use a motor vehicle to access State Wildlife Areas, must purchase the Pass.

Hunters who are issued a free Pass may purchase additional Passes if they use multiple vehicles throughout the year to access State Wildlife Areas where the Pass is required. The annual CAP may be purchased online at <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC>, at authorized license agents throughout the state, or at the Division's licensing desk in the Richardson & Robbins Building, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE. Remember to have your vehicle registration card available at the time of purchase. If you have questions about purchasing the Pass, please call the Division's Recreational Licensing Office at 302-739-9918.

Hunters using a motor vehicle to access a State Wildlife Area to hunt from a waterfowl blind or deer stand must also have the Pass displayed in the vehicle. See page 42 for more information.

State Wildlife Areas exempt from the annual CAP include the C&D Canal Conservation Area, including the Michael N. Castle Trail, designated fishing and boating access areas, educational facilities and shooting ranges. Additional areas may also be exempt. For a complete list of areas where the Pass is required or areas where the Pass is exempt, please visit our website <https://de.gov/fw> or call the Division's Wildlife Section at 302-739-9912.

A Conservation Access Pass shall not be required to access applicable lands leased from the Department, provided access is for the purpose for which such lands are leased. For more information on furbearer trapping leases see the State Wildlife Areas section on page 39.

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CONSERVATION ACCESS PASS

CONSERVATION ACCESS PASS COSTS*	PRICE
Resident Annual Conservation Access Pass	\$32.50
Resident 3 Day Conservation Access Pass	\$10.00
Resident Senior Lifetime Conservation Access Pass	\$65.00
Non-Resident Annual Conservation Access Pass	\$65.00
Non-Resident 3 Day Conservation Access Pass	\$20.00
Transfer to Vehicle of Same Ownership (Dover Office or Online)	\$10.00
One free Pass issued with the purchase of a hunting license.	
License exempt hunters must purchase the Pass if accessing State Wildlife Areas where the Pass is required.	
Vehicle registration card required is required to purchase vehicle pass.	
*A Conservation Access Pass purchased through a State Licensing Agent may include allowable agent fees.	

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RESIDENT SENIOR LIFETIME CONSERVATION ACCESS PASS

Effective July 1, 2022, Delaware residents age 65 and older have the option to purchase a Resident Senior Lifetime Conservation Access Pass for a one-time fee of \$65. Individuals who purchase this Resident Senior Lifetime Pass are permitted access to the same designated Delaware State Wildlife Areas as other Conservation Access Pass holders.

The Resident Senior Lifetime Pass remains effective as long as the holder remains a Delaware resident. Unlike other Conservation Access Passes that are assigned to a single vehicle's registration, the Resident Senior Lifetime Pass is assigned to an individual and is non-transferable to another individual. The Resident Senior Lifetime Pass can be used in any vehicle provided the Pass holder is the driver or passenger of the vehicle accessing a Delaware State Wildlife Area where passes are required. The Resident Senior Lifetime Pass must be displayed on the driver's side front dashboard of the motor vehicle while in use.

The Resident Senior Lifetime Pass may be purchased online at <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC>, at authorized license agents throughout the state, or at the Division's licensing desk in the Richardson & Robbins Building, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE. If you have questions about purchasing the Resident Senior Lifetime Conservation Access Pass, please call the Division's Recreational Licensing Office at 302-739-9918.

STATE WILDLIFE AREAS REQUIRING A CONSERVATION ACCESS PASS

ASSAWOMAN WILDLIFE AREA (INCLUDING THE OKIE PRESERVE)

- Except to launch a boat, fish or crab at Sassafras and Mulberry Landing boating access areas, Strawberry Landing dock and pavilion, and Memorial Pond

AUGUSTINE WILDLIFE AREA

- Except Augustine Beach boating access area

BLACKISTON WILDLIFE AREA

CEDAR SWAMP WILDLIFE AREA

- Except Collins Beach boating access area

EAGLES NEST WILDLIFE AREA

INDUSTRIAL FOREST LAND WILDLIFE AREA – BARR AND LAUREL COMPLEXES

LITTLE CREEK WILDLIFE AREA

- Except Port Mahon boating access area, DNREC Offices

MARSHY HOPE WILDLIFE AREA

MCGINNIS POND WILDLIFE AREA

- Except McGinnis Pond boating access area

MIDLANDS WILDLIFE AREA

MILFORD NECK WILDLIFE AREA

- Except DuPont Nature Center and Cedar Creek boating access area

NANTICOKE WILDLIFE AREA

- Except Phillips Landing boating access area

NORMAN G. WILDER WILDLIFE AREA (INCLUDING THE C&R CENTER)

OLD FURNACE WILDLIFE AREA

- Except Concord Pond boating access area

PRIME HOOK WILDLIFE AREA

TAPPAHANNA WILDLIFE AREA

TED HARVEY CONSERVATION AREA WILDLIFE AREA

- Except Scottons Landing boating access area and the Logan Lane Fishing Pond

WOODLAND BEACH WILDLIFE AREA

- Except Woodland Beach boating access area, fishing pier, Aquatic Resources Education Center and associated fishing ponds

A Conservation Access Pass is not required to access the C&D Canal Conservation Area including the Michael N. Castle Trail.

Fishing access areas listed in the Delaware Fishing Guide do not require a Conservation Access Pass, except for certain non-fishing/boating uses at Assawoman Wildlife Area as indicated above.

Please refer to area specific maps available online at <https://de.gov/wamaps>, the DNREC building in Dover, or call the Wildlife section at 302-739-9912 for allowable activities on each Wildlife Area.

GENERAL WILDLIFE AREA RULES

Regulated hunting and trapping is authorized throughout many state wildlife areas. Please refer to the various season tables found within this guide for specific dates. Additionally, refer to page 42 of this guide and specific area maps for more information.

The following rules and regulations apply to all wildlife areas owned or managed by the Division of Fish and Wildlife unless otherwise authorized by written permit from the Director or regional office. For additional area

Continued on page 13



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WILDLIFE AREA MAPS

Did You Know?

Delaware's Wildlife Area Maps are now interactive and available online.

You can now:

- Access them with your mobile device in the field.
- Zoom in and out for better details about your favorite spots.
- Get all the information on a wildlife area in one easy location.

Each Wildlife Area is complete with maps for:

- General Overview
- Hunting
- Sunday Hunting
- Birding

Go to <https://de.gov/wamaps> and click on the button for the online maps to access them today!

Continued from page 12

specific rules please see the respective State Wildlife Area map.

- A Conservation Access Pass is required for any registered motor vehicle used to access designated Delaware State Wildlife Areas for any allowable activities, including hunting, birdwatching, hiking and photography.
- Entry is permitted between 1/2 hour before sunrise and 1/2 hour after sunset unless lawfully hunting, fishing or boating.
- All lands administered by the Division are Carry-In / Carry-Out. Littering or dumping trash including yard waste is prohibited.
- Releasing or otherwise introducing any species of domestic or wild animal onto lands administered by the Division is prohibited, unless in accordance with the statutes or regulations governing dog training activities.
- The following activities are prohibited on State Wildlife Areas:
 - » Damaging or defacing buildings, equipment, structures, signs or land features
 - » Operating or possessing radio-controlled drones, boats and other vehicles, or the launching of model rockets
 - » Allowing dogs to run off leash. See area hunting maps for dog training and hunting information related to dogs
 - » Camping
 - » Open fires of any type
 - » Swimming
 - » Posting signs, banners or notices of any type
 - » Vending or soliciting of any type
 - » Cutting or removing firewood
 - » Placing caches or letterboxes
 - » Using a metal detector
 - » Cutting, injuring or removing trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, mosses or other plants
 - » Collecting and/or removing any wildlife species unless lawfully hunting, trapping or fishing
 - » Driving or operating any unlicensed motor vehicle
 - » Driving any motorized vehicle off maintained roadways or driving in excess of 20 MPH on wildlife area roads
 - » Riding horses or bicycles (including electric bicycles) anywhere other than on maintained roads or trails that have been designated by the Division on current area maps.
 - » Parking in a manner that blocks access to a road, trail, or boat ramp. Violators will be towed at owner's expense
 - » Leaving a vehicle or trailer unattended for more than 24 hours
 - » Crabbing or fishing on or from any dike or water control structure or within any impoundment administered by the Division is prohibited.
 - » Licensed fishing is prohibited in any wildlife area pond from September 1 through January 31 and Monday through Saturday during the spring turkey season except where permitted according to area specific rules established on current area maps.
- Licensed fishing is permitted according to area specific rules established on current area maps.



DIGITAL
DNREC
CONNECT ANYTIME. ANY DEVICE.

Digital DNREC is Delaware's automated licensing system available to hunters and anglers.

Visit Digital DNREC at <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC> any time on any computer, tablet or mobile device to:

- » Create a Digital DNREC Account
- » Purchase Your Licenses, Tags, Permits or Passes
- » Purchase Additional Tags and Permits for Your License
- » Register for Your Permit to Hunt on State Park Lands
- » Apply for a License Exempt Number (LEN)
- » Reprint Your Active License, Tags, Permits or Passes
- » Print Your Delaware Hunter Education Certificate

IMPORTANT TIP

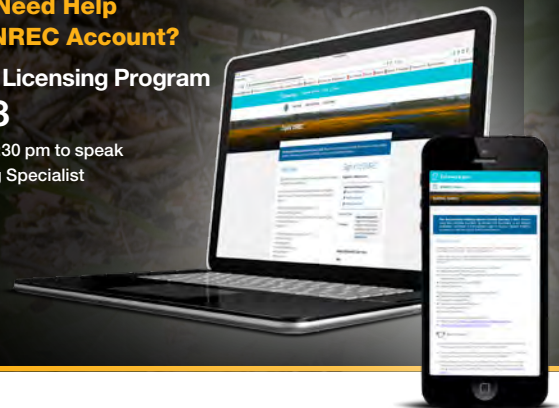
Please do not wait until the last minute to purchase your hunting license. Hunters born after January 1, 1967, are required to have verified proof of completing hunter education before purchasing a hunting license. If purchasing your hunting license online through our Digital DNREC licensing system, you will be asked to upload a copy of your hunter education card if your card has not already been verified by the Hunter Education Program. Verification of hunter education information may take up to 5 business days, but it is often completed sooner.

If you need to purchase your hunting license immediately and cannot wait to have your hunter education information verified by the Hunter Education Program, please visit an authorized Licensing Agent. A list of authorized Licensing Agents can be found here: <https://de.gov/LicenseAgents>. For more information about how to avoid delays, please refer to page 8.

Have Questions or Need Help with Your Digital DNREC Account?

Call the Recreational Licensing Program at 302-739-9918

Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm to speak with a Recreational Licensing Specialist



PROHIBITED METHODS OF TAKE – IT IS UNLAWFUL TO:

GENERAL

- Hunt out-of-season, without a license, take more than the daily limit, or possess unlawfully killed game.
- Hunt within 100 yards of an occupied structure (unless hunter is the owner or occupant, or has permission from the owner or occupant) or drop shot on buildings or people. When hunting deer with archery equipment, a hunter must be at least 50 yards from a structure. In New Castle County, north of I-295 and I-95 the distance is 200 yards when hunting with a firearm.
- Discharge any firearm from or within 15 yards of public road or shoot across a public road or right-of-way.
- Trespass with gun or dog or trap on private property without prior permission of the landowner whether or not the land is “posted.”
- Damage any nest, den, or lair of game animals or birds.
- Use an artificial light to illuminate wildlife from a motor vehicle for the purpose of hunting or observation.
- Use night vision or infrared devices while hunting.
- For specifics on waterfowl and other migratory birds, see Federal Regulations at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-20>.

FIREARMS AND ARCHERY EQUIPMENT

- Have a loaded firearm, or a cocked crossbow, in or on a motorboat while underway, or in, against, or on a motor vehicle or farm machinery.
- Transport a muzzleloader with a charge in the barrel unless the cap or primer is removed and the gun is enclosed in a case or the striking mechanism is removed.
- Hunt at night (1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise) except that frogs, raccoons and opossum may be hunted at night using a handheld light.
- Take game using a shotgun larger than 10 gauge, a fully automatic loading gun (machine gun), or use a centerfire rifle, except groundhogs, foxes and coyotes may be hunted with a centerfire rifle.
- Use a shot larger than No. 2, except when hunting deer. Waterfowl hunters may use non-toxic shot up to size T.
- Use a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells in total except for snow geese during the Conservation Order.
- Use poison or explosive tip arrows.
- Use a punt or swivel gun or any gun not normally fired from the shoulder.

Local ordinances may be more restrictive than state laws. Check before hunting within incorporated areas.

FURBEARERS/TRAPPING

- Use a trap, snare, pitfall, deadfall, cage, net, pen, baited hook, baited field, drug, poison, chemical or explosive to take game, except that muskrats, mink, otter, raccoons, opossum, rabbits, groundhogs, red foxes, coyotes, nutria, and beavers may be trapped as permitted by law.
- Hunt muskrats with a dog.
- Shoot or take muskrats or otters except by trap.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Sell, trade, or barter any game or any parts thereof, except as permitted by law. Hunters shipping lawfully taken game shall first obtain a notarized affidavit stating the game was lawfully killed, and include the name of the sender and the number of animals enclosed.
- Shoot hawks, owls, or other wild birds, except lawfully hunted game birds, house sparrows or starlings.
- Possess live protected game animals.
- Obtain live rabbits from out-of-state without a health certificate.
- Permit dogs to run at large at any time. (Except landowners of 20 acres or more may permit their dogs to run from October 1 through February 28 on their own land.)
- Allow dogs to run at large between the hours of sunset and sunrise by any person on any day. All dogs must be licensed.
- Use bait to hunt game, except bait may be used to hunt deer on privately-owned lands.
- It shall be unlawful to release swine (pigs) into the wild, charge a fee for the purpose of killing swine, or shoot swine without first obtaining a permit from the Division.
- It shall be unlawful to use antler traps, or any device intended to remove or collect shed antlers from deer.

LEGAL METHODS OF TAKE:

Squirrel, Rabbit, Pheasant, Quail: Longbow or shotgun using no larger than No. 2 shot. Shotguns must be plugged to hold only 3 shells (in chamber and magazine combined). Additionally, squirrels only may be hunted with .17 through .22 caliber rimfire or .17 caliber pellet firearm with a rifled barrel or a muzzleloader rifle of not larger than .36 caliber firing a round projectile.

Snapping Turtles: May be taken with gig, trap, net or spear.

Frogs: May be taken with spear, gig, or hook.

Deer: Compound, recurve, longbow, and Crossbow using sharpened broadhead arrows (min. width 7/8 inch).

Shotgun no smaller than 20 gauge for deer hunting using rifle slug, pumpkin ball or buckshot and must be plugged to hold only 3 shells (in chamber and magazine combined). It is unlawful to carry buckshot, rifle slug or pumpkin ball except while hunting for deer, and conversely, it is also unlawful to carry shot smaller than buckshot while deer hunting.

Muzzleloader no smaller than .42 caliber with a barrel length of at least 20 inches.

Handguns are limited to revolvers and single shot pistols with a barrel length of at least 5.75 inches and no longer than 12.5 inches and chambered for and using straight-wall handgun ammunition in .357 to .38 caliber with a cartridge case length of no less than 1.25 inches and a maximum case length of 1.82 inches, or in .41 caliber to a maximum of .50 caliber and a maximum case length of 1.82 inches.

Straight-walled pistol-caliber rifles may only be used to harvest deer. For more information on these firearms, as well as restrictions on allowable cartridges, see page 23.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS:

Bullfrogs may be sold.

Deer killed by motor vehicle may be retained by the motorist killing the deer upon official tagging by the State Police or Division personnel.

TRANSFERRING HARVESTED GAME TO ANOTHER PERSON

No person shall put or leave any harvested game animal, game bird or non-native/invasive wildlife at any place (other than at their personal abode), or in the custody of another person for cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such animals have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating their address, the total number and species harvested, and the date such animals were killed. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the transfer procedures for harvested deer and turkeys shall follow the requirements described by regulation of the Department; which states a registration number shall be indicated on a possession tag that is affixed to the animal.

SELECTED DEFINITIONS

“Bait” shall mean any nontoxic food material, compound or mixture of ingredients which wildlife is able to consume.

“Baited Field” shall include any farm field, woodland, marsh, water body or other tract of land where minerals, grain, fruit, crop or other nontoxic compounds have been placed to attract wildlife to be hunted. A baited field is considered baited for 10 days following complete removal of all bait.

Continued on page 15

Continued from page 14

"Hunt" shall mean to chase, pursue, kill, trap, take, or attempt to chase, pursue, kill, trap, or take any form of wildlife.

"Direct Supervision" a person will be considered directly supervised while hunting if a person 21 years of age or older is always within 30 yards and in direct line of sight of the supervised person. The supervising person must be lawfully allowed to hunt in Delaware.

"Possession" in addition to its ordinary meaning includes the location in or about the defendant's person, premises, belongings, vehicle or otherwise within his reasonable control.

"Seasons" shall be that period of time during which designated species of wildlife may be lawfully hunted pursuant to the regulations of the Department. It shall be unlawful to hunt those species of wildlife for which a "season" is designated at any time other than during that "season."

"Wildlife" shall be any animal species not commonly under the domestication of man and including but not limited to those animals defined by statute as "game" or "protected wildlife."

"Antlered Deer" shall mean any deer with one or more antlers three inches long or longer, measured from the base of the antler where it joins the skull to the tip of the antler following any curve of the antler.

"Antlerless Deer" shall mean any deer that has no antlers or antlers less than three inches in length.

"Longbow" shall mean a straight limb, reflex, recurve or compound bow. All crossbows or variations thereof and mechanical holding and releasing devices are expressly excluded from the definition.

WHAT DO I DO TO REPORT GAME LAW VIOLATIONS?

Contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife Operation Game Theft Hotline Toll-Free at 1-800-292-3030 anytime, 24 hours a day. You will be given an OGT Case Number. You do not need to give your name at this time. From this phone call, a Fish and Wildlife Natural Resources Police Officer will be dispatched or will return your call. Wildlife offenses need to be investigated immediately by an officer if there is to be a chance of making an arrest. The longer the delay in getting information to the

officer, the smaller the chances of obtaining an arrest and conviction.



PUBLIC OPINION

It is the desire of the Division of Fish and Wildlife to continue to provide the highest level of service to the public using our wildlife areas, boating access areas, ponds, and marine resources. The management of the Division of Fish and Wildlife invites comments or suggestions on the operation of our wildlife areas, wildlife management programs, wildlife laws and regulations, or any problems encountered with Division employees. To voice a comment or offer a suggestion, you may contact the office of the Director of Fish and Wildlife at 302-739-9910 or write to the Director of Fish and Wildlife at 89 Kings Highway, Dover, Delaware 19901. Your comments or suggestions will be forwarded to the proper individual for consideration.

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GENERAL HUNTING INFORMATION

OPERATION GAME THEFT INFORMATION

What is "Operation Game Theft"?

The Operation Game Theft Fund was established by the 130th General Assembly to assist in the apprehension and conviction of game law violators. The fund is comprised of all the fines levied for violation of game laws in this state and donations. The Legislature delegated the authority to the Division of Fish and Wildlife to designate offenses for which rewards will be paid and the amount of the reward.

What types of offenses are covered under the O.G.T. Program?

Up to \$1,000.00 can be rewarded for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a person(s) involved in:

Class 1 – Reward up to \$1,000.00

1. Commercialization of Wildlife.
2. Killing of an endangered/threatened species.
3. Violating any rule or regulation of the Department pertaining to antlered deer.

Class 2 – Reward up to \$500.00

1. Illegally hunting gamebirds to include waterfowl and turkeys.
2. Poisoning wildlife.
3. Hunting during license revocation without a license, or fraudulently obtaining or using a hunting or trapping license.
4. Gross over limits of wildlife.
5. Illegally hunting or trapping on a state game refuge.
6. Hunting/Trapping out of season.
7. Tending or setting body-gripping traps with a jaw spread in excess of 5 inches.
8. Illegally hunting at night or from a motor vehicle or vessel.

9. Guiding paid hunts without a guide license.
10. Violating any rule or regulation of the department pertaining to antlerless deer.
11. Willfully impeding lawful hunting or trapping.
12. Wanton waste of a game animal whereby a person killing a game animal did not make a reasonable effort to retrieve the wounded or dead animal.



Class 3 – Reward: up to \$100.00

1. Hunting or wounding wildlife with an unlawful weapon or firearm.
2. Trespassing to hunt or trap.
3. Using illegal or improperly tagged traps.

NOTE: An additional \$100 reward will be given by the Delaware Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone illegally killing a wild turkey in Delaware.

How do I get paid?

You will be paid in cash by the agent to whom you gave your name.

Will my identity be confidential?

YES

Will I get paid for any information that I provide?

No. Only information which leads to the arrest and conviction of a violator. (Specific offenses covered)

**To report game law violations call:
1-800-292-3030**



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Winners Photo Contest

The Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife's Hunting Photo Contest aims to showcase hunting activities throughout Delaware. The statewide photography competition has just completed its thirteenth year. The theme for the 2024/2025 contest was "Adventures in Hunting."

Entries were judged by Fish and Wildlife's Director Pat Emory, along with the Wildlife Section's Deer Biologist, Sam Millman, and our Delaware Bayshore Planner, Amanda Delayo. Below are the top five. The first-place photograph is also featured on the cover. Visit <http://de.gov/fwphotos> for details.



1st Place

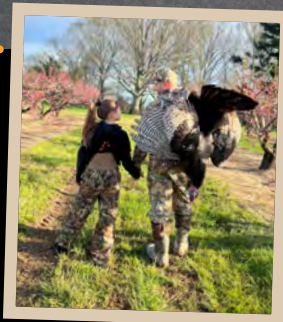
"Dawn in the Salt Marsh", taken by **Mari Grehofsky** of Dagsboro featuring **Clayton Townsend** and his good dog **Maggie** enjoying a beautiful hunting day on the water at the Assawoman Wildlife Area.



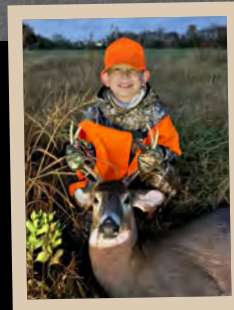
2nd Place

"Getting the Boat Out After a Busy Morning", taken by **Tommy Dorsi** of Milford, featuring **Rylan Dorsi** about to head out for a hunting adventure on the water at the Ted Harvey Wildlife Area.

In addition, three honorable mentions were selected and are presented here:



"Opening Morning Gobbler with Dad", by **Danny Macklin** of Camden featuring himself with his daughter **Olivia** who just finished up a successful day of turkey hunting in Camden.



"Trevor's First Buck", taken by **Lee Shane** of Smyrna, featuring his son **Trevor** with his first ever buck harvest.



"Family Tradition... Raising My Hunting Buddy!", by **Earl B. Tingle, Jr.** of Clayton featuring himself and his son **James** and their goose harvest after a great day of enjoying father and son time while hunting in the Delaware Wild Lands, Betts Farm in Middletown.

Congratulations to all the winners!

YOUTH HUNTING INFORMATION

The Division of Fish and Wildlife is committed to providing safe and responsible hunting opportunities for youth in Delaware.

The Division's established youth hunting programs support Delaware's Children in Nature Initiative, a statewide effort to improve environmental literacy in Delaware, create opportunities for children to participate in enriching outdoor experiences, combat childhood obesity, and promote healthy lifestyles. Delaware's multi-agency initiative, which partners several state and federal agencies with community organizations, is part of the No Child Left Inside program. To further promote the outdoors and getting youth involved with hunting and fishing, Ducks Unlimited, in collaboration with the Division will be hosting a Greenwing event in early Spring. For more information, please visit: <http://www.greenwingde.org>

HUNTER EDUCATION CLASSES

All persons born after January 1, 1967 are required to satisfactorily complete a Basic Hunter Education Course in order to obtain a Delaware Hunting License. Youth age 10 and older are eligible to take the Basic Hunter Education Course. Students under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Parents are reminded that younger students require a level of maturity and vocabulary sufficient

2024/25 SCHEDULED YOUTH HUNTS

Youth and Non-ambulatory Deer Hunt: September 28 and 29 and November 2 and 3, 2024

Youth and Non-ambulatory Turkey Hunt: April 5, 2025

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days: Sunday, October 20, 2024 and Saturday, February 1, 2025

for understanding adult subject matter and completing assignments. Students of smaller physical body size may find it very difficult or impossible to successfully complete the live firing exercise.

DIRECT SUPERVISION OF YOUTH

A youth (ages 15 and under) hunting in Delaware must be under direct supervision by a person 21 years or older who is the lawful holder of a hunting license or has a lawful right to hunt and has a License Exempt Number (LEN). Adults directly supervising youth under the age of 13 while turkey hunting must have completed an approved turkey hunting education course as well as meet the requirements above.

PURCHASING A HUNTING LICENSE

- Both resident and non-resident youth ages 13 through 15 must purchase a junior license to hunt in Delaware.
- Both resident and non-resident youth under the age of 13 must obtain a License Exempt

Number (LEN) and must be under direct supervision by a person 21 years or older who is the lawful holder of a Delaware hunting license or has a lawful right to hunt in Delaware.

- Youth under the age of 16 do not need to purchase a State Waterfowl (Duck) Stamp.

FREQUENTLY ASKED YOUTH HUNTING QUESTIONS:

- **Question:** If a youth licensed hunter (age 13-15) turns 16 in the middle of a hunting season, does that person need to purchase an adult hunting license?

Answer: Yes. In this case, the youth should consider purchasing an adult hunting license instead of a youth hunting license in anticipation of turning 16 during the course of the hunting season.

- **Question:** Can a person under the age of 18 obtain a guide license?

Answer: No. Guides must be 18 years of age or older.

- **Question:** Does an adult hunter directly supervising a youth hunting waterfowl need to have a license and waterfowl stamps if he/she is not hunting and not in possession of a firearm? Also, does the adult need a license and waterfowl stamps if he/she is calling, but not in possession of a firearm?

Answer: Youth hunters must be under direct supervision by an adult 21 years of age or older who is the lawful holder of a hunting license or has a lawful right to hunt and has a License Exempt Number (LEN). Accompanying licensed and license exempt adult hunters must also have a federal waterfowl (duck) stamp but only licensed hunters are required to have a state duck stamp, as well. If these criteria are not met, the adult DOES NOT have the lawful right to hunt (to include calling) and may not accompany the youth hunter.

- **Question:** Does an adult directly supervising a youth hunting turkey need to have a license and turkey safety course card even if the adult is not hunting? Also, does the adult need a license and permit if he/she is calling but not in possession of a firearm?

Answer: Yes. The directly supervising adult must have a valid Delaware license and must have completed an approved turkey hunting education course. Also, the accompanying adult must be at least 21 years of age.

- **Question:** Does a hunter with a Junior Hunting License need to have a State Wildlife Area Waterfowl Blind and Deer Stand Permit?

Answer: Yes, unless the hunter is participating in a Division of Fish and Wildlife youth hunting day and then the requirement to have this permit is waived.



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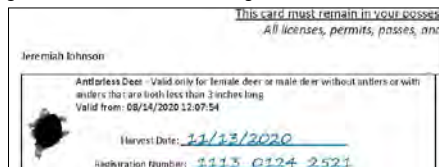
 **eRegulations.com**

DEER AND TURKEY HARVEST REPORT CARDS, POSSESSION TAGS, AND HARVEST REPORTING

DEER AND TURKEY HARVEST REPORT CARDS

New this year: The procedures after harvesting a turkey are new this year. Hunters will follow the same procedures that they have the last several years after harvesting a deer. Hunters will no longer receive tags that must be attached to a deer before the animal is moved from the place of kill. Instead, all hunters legally allowed to hunt deer and/or turkeys, will receive a Deer and/or Turkey Harvest Report Card which will show all of the "tags" available to the hunter based on what they are eligible for and/or have purchased.

Upon successfully harvesting a deer or turkey, and before the animal is moved from the place of kill or field dressed, the hunter must complete the appropriate section of their Harvest Report Card that represents the type of animal they harvested. This section must be punched, and the date of harvest must be recorded in permanent ink. See example below.



Once the deer or turkey is registered (no more than 24 hours following harvest) the 12-digit registration number is to be recorded in permanent ink on the card. **IMPORTANT: Hunters shall not remove the "tags" from their Harvest Report Cards for any reason, including being attached to a deer or turkey and the card should be kept as a complete document.**

Your applicable Harvest Report Card and Delaware Hunting License or LEN card must be in a hunter's possession while a hunter is hunting deer or turkeys. If a hunter purchases additional deer tags, they will receive an updated Deer Harvest Report Card that will reflect their original tags as well as the new tag(s). Additionally, if a hunter had already harvested deer or turkey and recorded their harvest information on their card, the harvest information will automatically be printed on the newly issued card. The most recently issued Harvest Report Card is the version that the hunter must keep in their possession moving forward, and all previously issued cards will no longer be valid.

If a harvested deer or turkey is no longer in a hunter's immediate possession, a Deer/Turkey Possession Tag must be affixed to the animal. See the Deer/Turkey Possession Tags section on this page for more information.

DEER/TURKEY POSSESSION TAGS

Hunters that successfully harvest a deer are no longer required to attach a tag to their deer at the place of kill before the deer is moved, however they must complete the appropriate section on

the Deer Harvest Report Card. See Deer Harvest Report Card section on this page for more information. Turkey hunters will also receive a Turkey Harvest Report Card and they too will need to complete the appropriate section on their Turkey Harvest Report Card. The only time a physical tag is required to be affixed to a deer or turkey is if the animal is no longer in the hunter's immediate possession, at which time the successful hunter must affix a Deer/Turkey Possession Tag. These tags can be found as in insert in the middle of the printed paper version of this guide, within your Digital DNREC account (<https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC>), on the FW website, at <https://dnrec.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/hunting/> or a hunter may make their own Deer/Turkey Possession Tags provided they include the hunters' name, license number, harvest date, and registration number once the deer or turkey has been registered.

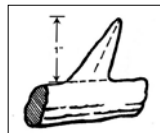
Examples of what constitutes a deer or turkey leaving a hunter's immediate possession include dropping it off at a meat processor or taxidermist, donating a deer at one of the Division's maintained Delaware Hunters Against Hunger coolers, or hanging the deer or turkey to cool and the hunter leaving the area to go somewhere else. A good rule of thumb to determine if a possession tag is needed is; if a Natural Resource Police Officer encountered a hunter's deer or turkey and the hunter wasn't available to talk with the Officer, then the animal needs to have a Deer/Turkey Possession Tag affixed to the animal. For questions, please call 302-735-3600.

DEER AND TURKEY HARVEST REPORTING PROCEDURES

New this year: Successful turkey hunters will not have to take their turkey to a check station to have it registered. Instead, successful turkey hunters will follow the same harvest reporting procedures that deer hunters have followed.

All successful deer AND turkey hunters must register their deer or turkeys within 24 hours of harvest. Prior to registering a deer or turkey, hunters may not cut the meat or remove any part of the animal except the internal organs (known as the viscera). Hunters can register their deer or turkey by visiting <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC> or by calling the toll-free number 1-855-DEL-HUNT (1-855-335-4868). Hunters will answer a series of questions regarding where the deer or turkey was harvested (county, wildlife management zone, land type, public land name if applicable, the weapon used, the harvest date, and information about the animal.

DEER HUNTER REMINDER: Hunters that harvest an antlered deer will be required to report the antler spread and number of points. A ruler can be found on the bottom edge of pages 28 and 29. Spread will be reported as, "15 inches or greater" or "less than 15 inches", as measured across the outside of the main beams (antler spread) at their widest point; this measurement's path must be perpendicular to the center line of the skull and parallel to the top of the skull plate. See picture to the right for example where

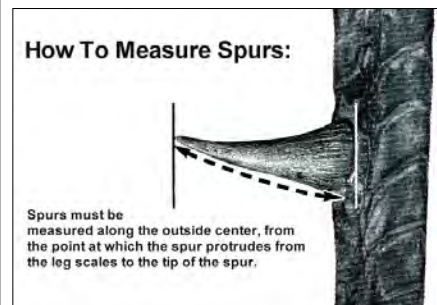


to measure. When reporting the number of points, hunters shall report the number of points that are equal to or greater than one inch in length. If a point is broken off and less than one inch or a point is shorter than one inch than it should NOT be counted.

TURKEY HUNTER REMINDER: Hunters that harvest a turkey will be required to report the beard and spur length, as well as voluntarily provide the turkey's weight if that information is available. Measurements for beard and spur length are needed to the nearest 1/16 inch. A ruler can be found on the bottom edge of pages 28 and 29. Beard length will be measured from where the beard protrudes from the skin on the turkey's breast to the tip of the longest strand. See picture to the below (courtesy of Turkey Talk) for an example. If a turkey



has more than one beard, each beard will be measured and reported independently. Each spur will be measured from where the spur protrudes from the leg to the tip along the outer curvature. See picture below for an example. If a hunter has weighed their turkey,



they will be asked to voluntarily provide their bird's weight, but this is not a required entry. While not required, turkey weights are an important source of data to help biologists manage turkeys so if a hunter is able to weigh their turkey and report that information, they are encouraged to do so.

At the end of the questions, hunters will be given a 12-digit harvest registration number. This number will serve as proof the animal was checked and should be kept for your records and written in ink in the appropriate section on a hunter's Deer or Turkey Harvest Report Card.

If you have problems with this system, call 302-735-3600. Hunters that take their deer or turkey to a butcher shop or taxidermist will need to supply their registration number to the shop owner as proof the animal was registered.

DEER HUNTING SECTION

DEER SEASONS **INCLUSIVE OF SUNDAYS**

SEASONS	DATES	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Archery	Statewide Sept. 1 - Feb. 2	Hunters may use archery equipment when it is lawful to hunt deer with a firearm or muzzleloader provided they wear at least 400 square inches of hunter orange material displayed on the head, chest, and back.
Crossbow	Statewide Sept. 1 - Feb. 2	Hunters may use crossbow equipment when it is lawful to hunt deer with a firearm or muzzleloader provided they wear at least 400 square inches of hunter orange material displayed on the head, chest, and back.
Muzzleloader	Statewide Oct. 11 - 20 Jan. 27 - Feb. 2	Muzzleloaders must be loaded from the muzzle using any manufacturer's approved propellant and they may be equipped with a scope.
General Firearm	Statewide Nov. 15 - 24 Jan. 18 - 26	Shotguns, muzzleloaders, handguns, authorized straight-walled pistol-caliber rifles, and archery equipment may be used during the general firearm seasons.
Special Antlerless*	Statewide Oct. 4 - 6 and 25 - 27 Dec. 14 - 22	Shotguns, muzzleloaders, handguns, authorized straight-walled pistol-caliber rifles, and archery equipment may be used during the Special Antlerless only deer seasons. However, archery and crossbow hunters may take antlered deer during both of these seasons. This season is no longer open on Mondays.
Handgun and Straight-walled Pistol-caliber Rifle	Season closed in Wildlife Management Zones 1A and 1B Jan. 4, 6 - 11	Sunday, Jan. 5 is not open to handgun or straight-walled pistol-caliber rifle hunting. Authorized straight-walled pistol-caliber rifles may be used during the handgun season. See page 23 for more season details.
Youth and Non-ambulatory Hunt	Statewide Sept. 28 and 29 and Nov. 2 and 3	Hunters may use archery equipment, muzzleloaders, shotguns, handgun, or authorized straight-walled pistol-caliber rifles.

* Straight-walled pistol-caliber rifles and handguns may now be used during the Special Antlerless only deer seasons. However, archery and crossbow hunters may take antlered deer during the Special Antlerless only deer seasons.

** It is now legal to hunt deer with a handgun and authorized straight-walled pistol-caliber rifle during any General Firearm deer season, including the Special Antlerless seasons.

Only 2 antlered deer may be taken during any license year (July 1 - June 30) by all methods and seasons combined. There is no limit on antlerless deer provided a hunter has an antlerless deer tag in their possession before harvesting additional antlerless deer. Shotguns, straight-walled pistol-caliber rifles, muzzleloaders, and crossbows may be equipped with a scope.

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SUNDAY DEER HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday deer hunting for established deer seasons is legal on private land at the discretion of the landowner and on designated publicly-owned lands. Deer seasons to include all statewide Sunday deer hunting dates are indicated within the table above. More information on statewide Sunday deer hunting dates and public lands open to Sunday deer hunting is available at the Sunday deer hunting website: <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/hunting/sunday/> or by calling the Wildlife Section office 302-739-9912.

DEER HARVEST REPORT CARDS AND "TAGS"

RESIDENT LICENSED HUNTERS

Delaware hunting licenses come with a Deer Harvest Report Card that contains 4 antlerless deer tags. Quality Buck Tags are available for \$20 and come with a free Hunter's Choice Tag and will be included on a hunter's Deer Harvest Report Card if purchased. The Hunter's Choice Tag can be used on an antlerless or antlered deer.

The Quality Buck Tag can only be used on an antlered deer with a minimum outside spread of 15 inches. Hunters will only be allowed to harvest a maximum of 2 antlered bucks (all seasons combined) by using the Hunter's Choice Tag and the Quality Buck Tag. All other deer taken must be antlerless. Additional antlerless deer tags are available for \$20 each.

This deer tag system has been implemented to encourage hunters to harvest antlerless deer and to promote quality bucks.

NON-RESIDENT DEER TAGS

Non-resident hunting licenses will come with a Deer Harvest Report Card that contains 4 antlerless deer tags. The cost of an Antlered Deer Tag and a Quality Buck Tag will be \$50 each for non-resident hunters. Hunters may purchase only one of each tag. If purchased, these "tags" will be added to the hunter's Deer Harvest Report Card. An antlered deer tag may only be used on a deer with one or more antlers measuring 3 inches or more.

LICENSED EXEMPT HUNTERS

Persons not required to purchase a hunting license in Delaware must obtain a License Exempt Number (LEN) and associated Deer Harvest Report Card. For more information about LENs, please refer to page 9.

License exempt hunters will receive a Deer Harvest Report Card that contains 4 antlerless deer "tags" and 1 Hunter's Choice deer "tag" for residents and 1 Antlered Deer "tag" for non-residents at no charge. License exempt hunters

may purchase a Quality Buck Tag using their annual mandatory License Exempt Number (LEN). The cost of a Quality Buck Tag is \$20 for resident or \$50 for non-resident license exempt hunters. If purchased, this tag will automatically be added to their Deer Harvest Report Card.

License exempt hunters are only allowed two antlered bucks during any license year by all methods and seasons combined. One free Hunter's Choice Tag and one purchased Quality Buck Tag.

QUALITY BUCK TAGS

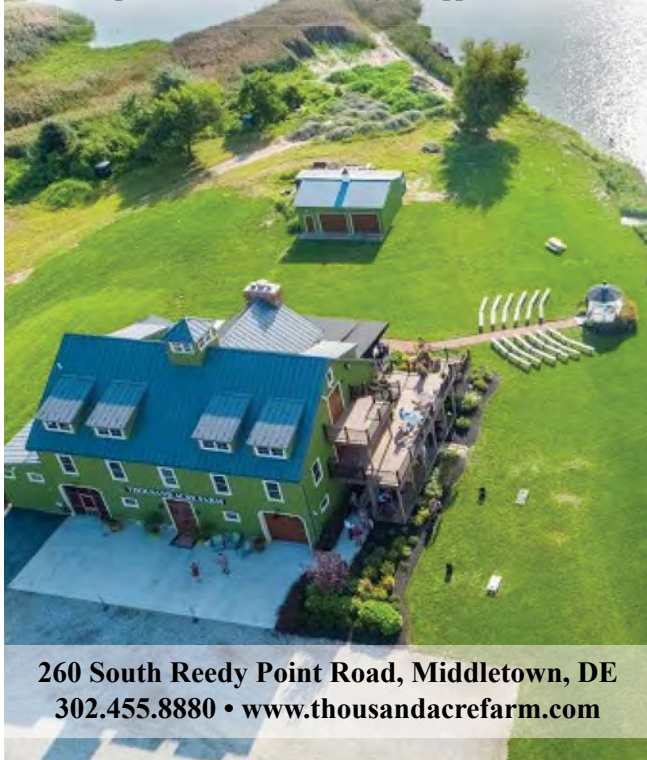
Quality Buck Tags may only be used on an antlered deer with an outside antler spread of at least 15 inches. The distance between the tips of a deer's ears when both ears are held straight out from the head in the "alert" position is approximately 15 inches so a deer in which this tag would be applicable would generally need to have antlers that are at least as wide as the space between his ear tips.



Continued on page 23

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Advice to Hunters and Rules Concerning Chronic Wasting Disease

What is CWD?

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a naturally occurring disease of the brain and nervous system in deer, elk, and moose. CWD attacks the brain of these animals producing small lesions that eventually result in death. The body condition of animals that contract CWD tends to deteriorate before death. Currently there is no treatment for deer that contract CWD and is invariably fatal to the animal. No cases of human infection have been associated with CWD. Since 2002, the Division has collected nearly 10,000 CWD samples from deer harvested in Delaware and none have been positive for the disease.

Laws and Best Management Practices Pertaining to CWD

It is far easier and less expensive to implement precautions that minimize the risk of CWD infecting the Delaware deer population than it is to manage the disease after it has been detected. There are several things that individual hunters can do to minimize the chance of CWD spreading to our state.

It is unlawful to import or possess any carcass or parts of a carcass of any member of the family Cervidae (deer, elk or moose) originating from an entire state or Canadian province or portion thereof, as described by the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife in which CWD has been found in free-ranging or captive deer. Additionally, it shall be unlawful to import any carcass or part of a carcass of any member of the family Cervidae from a captive facility including those where deer and/or elk were released or confined in an enclosed (fenced) facility for the purposes of being hunted. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the following parts may be imported into the state:

- Boned-out meat that is cut and wrapped;
- Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or skull attached;
- Hides or capes with no skull attached;
- Clean (no meat or tissue attached) skull plates with antlers attached;
- Antlers (with no meat or tissue attached);
- Upper canine teeth (buglers, whistlers, or ivories); and
- Finished taxidermy products.

Regionally, the states of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia have confirmed the presence of CWD. From these states, hunters are restricted from bringing entire deer carcasses and may only bring the above mentioned parts from the counties in which CWD has been found. If hunters are hunting in portions of these states outside of those areas, they are not restricted from bringing their harvest back to Delaware.

- Maryland — Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Montgomery, and Washington Counties
- Pennsylvania — Adams, Armstrong, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Elk, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Snyder, Somerset, Sullivan, Union, Warren, and Westmoreland Counties
- Virginia — Arlington, Carroll, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Floyd, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Montgomery, Orange, Page, Prince William, Pulaski, Rappahannock, Shenandoah, & Warren Counties
- West Virginia — Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, and Morgan Counties

CWD has been detected in 29 states and 3 Canadian provinces. For a complete list of restricted areas within other states please visit <http://cwd-info.org/> or contact the Division at 302-735-3600.

Any person who imports into Delaware any deer carcass or parts of a deer carcass (e.g. antlers, meat, hide, etc.) that was tested for CWD by another state and is notified that the animal has tested positive for CWD must report the test results to the Division within 72 hours of receiving the notification by calling the Division at 302-735-3600.

For a complete list of restricted areas within other states please visit the websites above or contact the Division at 302-735-3600.

CWD may be present in some locations but it hasn't been detected by natural resource agencies. Therefore, all hunters should properly dispose of all portions of their carcass not consumed or used for taxidermy purposes. The parts that remain after processing a deer for consumption are considered household waste and hunters should dispose of the skeleton, hide, and scraps in a sealed trash bag and



place it with the rest of their household waste for transport to a landfill. Do not dump your butchering scraps on the ground as wild deer in Delaware could come in contact with these parts and if the animal that was processed had CWD, the wild deer could become infected after coming into contact with the scraps you put out on the ground.

The biological material responsible for infecting deer with CWD can be spread through urine, among other materials. Many hunters use natural deer urine as an attractant while deer hunting. If used improperly, hunters could unknowingly be infecting the areas they hunt with CWD. Short of not using deer urine while hunting, hunters should take the following precautions to minimize the chance that deer will come in contact with these products.

- Use attractants that do not contain natural deer urine as an ingredient or use synthetically produced products as a replacement.
- Do not pour or dispense natural deer urine on the ground or in a place where a deer could come in contact with the product. A better approach when using natural deer urine as an attractant, would involve saturating a scent wick, cotton ball, or other material with the urine and then hanging the item on a branch high enough that it is out of reach of a passing deer. At the end of each hunt, remove your scent station from the field so that deer are unable to come in contact with the lure.

For More Information on CWD

Additional information on CWD can be found at the CWD Alliance website www.cwd-info.org and on the Delaware Fish and Wildlife website <https://de.gov/fw>.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTICIPATING DEER PROCESSORS

The Division would like to sincerely thank the following deer processors for allowing us to collect CWD samples at their facilities last year. Their annual participation and involvement with our monitoring program is extremely important to the program's success.

Participating processors include:

Bobby's Deer Butcher Shop in Middletown, Dutch Neck Deer Processing in Middletown, Miller's Butcher Shop in Camden-Wyoming, Johnson's Custom Cutting in Milton, and Hocker's Super Center in Millville.

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METHOD OF TAKE

HANDGUN HUNTING

Handguns legal for deer hunting are limited to revolvers and single shot pistols with a barrel length of at least 5.75 inches and no longer than 12.5 inches that use straight-wall handgun ammunition in .357 to .38 caliber with a cartridge case length of no less than 1.25 inches and a maximum case length of 1.82 inches, or in .41 caliber to a maximum of .50 caliber and a maximum case length of 1.82 inches. When hunting with a handgun, youth under the age of 18 must be under direct supervision by a person 21 years of age or older.

The handgun must be carried openly on a sling or in a holster and not concealed. Handgun hunting for deer is only permissible on privately owned lands situated south of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and on many state-owned lands. Consult area maps for more details.

In addition to the January Handgun and Straight-walled Pistol Caliber Rifle Deer Season, it is legal to hunt deer with a handgun during the November and January General Firearm Deer Seasons and October and December Special Antlerless Deer Seasons. Hunting deer with a handgun is not legal on Sunday, January 5, 2025, based on state law.

STRAIGHT-WALLED PISTOL-CALIBER RIFLE

Only straight-wall cartridges usable in handguns may be used that are of .357 to 38 caliber with a case length no less than 1.25 inches and a maximum case length of 1.82 inches, or .41 caliber to maximum of .50 caliber and a maximum case length of 1.82 inches. Case length excludes the bullet portion of the cartridge. These rifles cannot be loaded with more than three cartridges in the chamber and magazine combined when hunting deer. Open, metallic/mechanical, optical and telescopic sights may be used. These rifles cannot be used for deer hunting north of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. Furthermore, these rifles are not a legal method of take for any other species (except groundhogs), including red fox and coyotes.

SHARPS RIFLE

Hunters may use a single shot falling block, breech-loading antique or authentic reproduction black powder Sharps rifle of .45 to .60 caliber using paper patched cartridges for hunting deer during any general firearm deer seasons.

CROSSBOWS

Crossbows used must have a minimum pull weight of 125 pounds and have a mechanical safety, and may be equipped with a scope. Crossbows shall not be transported in or on a vehicle while in the cocked position.

VERTICAL BOWS

No person shall use a compound, recurve, or longbow with a pull weight less than 30 pounds.

BAITING

It is lawful to distribute and hunt over bait while hunting deer on privately owned lands only.

WHITE-TAILED DEER RESEARCH

HARVESTING TAGGED DEER

Over the past few years, the University of Delaware in collaboration with the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, captured and tagged deer in Delaware. All deer received numbered ear tags, and some received radio transmitter collars. Both of which allowed us to collect data on deer ecology and hunter harvests. Hunters should treat deer with collars and ear tags as any other deer. If a marked deer is legal for harvest, then it may be harvested. If a hunter harvests a marked deer, they are asked to call the phone number listed on the metal ear tag (302-831-4621), so information concerning the harvested deer can be collected. Someone will contact them for further information as soon as possible. Since many of these deer are reported during the hectic firearms season, please feel free to contact us again if you have not been contacted within a few days of previously calling.

HUNTER ORANGE

During a time when it is lawful to take a deer with a firearm, any person hunting any wildlife except migratory game birds in this state shall display hunter orange on that person's head, chest, and back totaling no less than 400 square inches combined. Furthermore, hunters pursuing small game (squirrels, rabbits, groundhogs, quail, or pheasants) on a State Wildlife Area must abide by the same hunter orange requirements at all times. If a hunter utilizes a ground blind to hunt deer during a time when it is lawful to take deer with a firearm and the hunter is completely concealed within a blind, then 400 square inches of hunter orange material shall be placed within 10 feet outside of the blind and at least 3 feet off of the ground.

STATE DEER RECORDS

The Division maintains records of the top hunter taken deer based on net Boone and Crockett scores on its website at <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/hunting/>. Any whitetails meeting Pope and Young minimums for bow kills (125 typical, 155 non-typical), Longhunter Society minimums for muzzleloader kills (130 typical, 160 non-typical), handgun (130 typical, 160 non-typical) and shotgun and straight-walled pistol-caliber rifles harvests of 140 typical and better and 160 non-typical and better are eligible for entry. The Division is interested in Delaware whitetails taken in any year; however, antlers cannot be scored until at least 60 days have passed since the deer was harvested. To have your deer scored by the Division, please call 302-735-3600 to schedule an appointment or if a hunter has their deer scored by an official measurer of one of the previously mentioned organizations, and it surpasses our minimum score requirements, a copy of the score sheet can be submitted to the Division and your entry will be added to Delaware's records book. For more information, please call 302-735-3600.

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DELAWARE HUNTERS AGAINST HUNGER PROGRAM

In addition to the contracted private deer processors, the Division of Fish and Wildlife maintains walk-in coolers where hunters can drop off deer for donation to the Delaware Hunters Against Hunger Program (DHAH), formerly known as the Sportsmen Against Hunger Program (SAH). Only deer legally harvested in Delaware are eligible to be donated through this program. Deer harvested out of state will not be accepted. These locations include in Sussex County: the Assawoman Wildlife Area near Bethany Beach, the Mosquito Control Office in Milford, the headquarters office at Redden State Forest near Georgetown, the Gumboro Community Center in Millsboro and Trap Pond State Park near Laurel; In Kent County: the Little Creek Wildlife Area main tract, east of Dover and the Main office on the Norman G. Wilder Wildlife Area near Viola; and in New Castle County: the Augustine Wildlife Area, in Port Penn. For more information about walk-in cooler locations and participating deer processors, visit the DHAH website <https://de.gov/DHAH>. If you own and operate a private deer processing facility and

would like more information about potentially becoming involved with the DHAH program, please contact the Division at 302-739-9912.

YOUTH AND NON-AMBULATORY DEER HUNT, SEPTEMBER 28-29 AND NOVEMBER 2-3, 2024

Any youth from 10 years through 15 years and individuals that are non-ambulatory, and use a wheelchair for mobility, may hunt. Youth hunters must be under direct supervision by a person 21 years of age or older. Hunters 13-15 years of age must have completed a Hunter Education Course and possess a certification card and must also purchase a Delaware junior hunting license. The normal bag limits and regulations apply.

Adult companions must be licensed to hunt in Delaware (or exempt) but may not possess a firearm during the hunt.

Young hunters must be of sufficient size and physical strength to safely handle a firearm.

All deer taken must be registered.

Open statewide on private and public lands. On State Wildlife Areas that require a stand allocation drawing, the lottery drawing will be held 1.5 hours before legal shooting time.

Hunters should arrive at least 1.5 hours before legal shooting time to sign up. The youth hunt at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge will be conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis at Steamboat Landing and Fischer Tract. Contact the refuge for information on how to sign up.

For more information on youth hunting, see the Youth Hunting section on page 18.

DEER HUNTING HOURS

1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

DEER HUNTING ON PUBLIC LANDS

For information on deer hunting on public lands, see page 41.

Continued on page 25

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SELLING DEER PARTS OR DEER MEAT

No person shall purchase, sell or expose for sale, or transport, ship or possess with the intent to sell, any deer or any part of such deer, except for the hides of lawfully killed deer, at any time.

Therefore, taxidermists and deer butchers may only charge for a service and may only charge those to whom they are providing the service. It is illegal to sell deer taxidermy items and deer meat in Delaware. This includes the "recouping" of processing fees for items or meat not picked up by the legal owner.

SIKA DEER

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HARVEST ONE

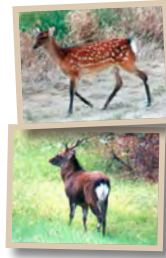
Follow the same steps as you would if you harvested a white-tailed deer and register the deer as described on page 19 of this guide. During the registration process you will be asked if the deer you harvested was a white-tailed deer or sika deer. Please select sika deer. To aid in the management of sika deer, hunters that register a sika may receive a follow-up phone call, so that biologists can collect additional information surrounding the harvest.

WHERE ARE THEY FOUND?

Sika deer inhabit marshes, swamps, and associated woodlands and agricultural fields. Sika Deer are a small elk introduced from Asia (China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan) by private citizens into Maryland in 1916. Recently, their range has expanded and some individuals have been found in Delaware. As a result, the Division will allow Delaware hunters to harvest sika deer while hunting for white-tailed deer. The sika deer population in Delaware is still very small and the Division would like to keep it that way. Sika deer are not native to the State, so following the Division's goal of not promoting nonnative species they may be harvested.

WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

They are 2.5 feet high at the shoulder, weigh 50-100 pounds and the sika deer coat is dark brown to black. Some even have faint white parallel spots on their back. They also have a white rump. Males (stags) are larger than females (hinds) and have antlers. Males also have a dark shaggy mane running down their neck.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Will sika deer compete with white-tailed deer?

A: Research conducted in Maryland indicates that white-tailed deer and sika deer can coexist but recent surveys have shown that in some areas sika deer are more plentiful than white-tailed deer which suggests that sika deer may exclude and push white-tailed deer away from established territories. However, more research is needed to confirm this relationship.

Q: Will sika deer breed with white-tailed deer?

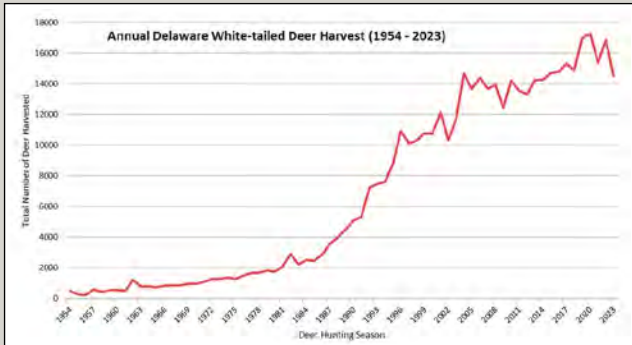
A: No, sika deer will not breed with a white-tailed deer as they are a separate species. Additionally, the breeding season for sika deer occurs in mid to late October, while the breeding season for white-tailed deer occurs in mid-November.

Q: Are sika deer related to white-tailed deer?

A: Sort of. Both sika deer and white-tailed deer are members of the deer family (Cervidae), but are of a different genus *Cervus* (sika deer) and *Odocoileus* (white-tailed deer). Sika deer are actually more closely related to Rocky Mountain elk than they are to white-tailed deer.

DELAWARE DEER HARVEST AT A GLANCE

Deer hunting in the First State has come a long way since 1954 when that first year harvest topped out at 505 animals. It's been said that many thought too many deer were taken that year and that the population could not sustain that sort of pressure. The graph shows that this was certainly not the case. Annual Delaware deer harvests now regularly top more than 14,000 deer. For additional harvest information visit de.gov/deer



2023-24 Deer Season Highlights

- 14,541 deer taken – 9th seasons of 14,000+ deer harvested
- The November General Firearm Season yielded 6,224 deer
- For the first time, the straight-walled pistol-caliber rifle harvest, surpassed the number of deer harvested with a shotgun

2023-24 DELAWARE DEER HARVEST BY COUNTY AND MANAGEMENT ZONE

COUNTY	DEER HARVEST
New Castle	2,398
Kent	4,582
Sussex	7,561
ZONE	HARVEST
1A	841
1B	376
2	825
3	569
4	731
5	563
6	1,020
7	1,191
8	1,051
9	745
10	672
11	1,210
12	794
13	838
14	682
15	774
16	964
17	695

TURKEY SEASON

Delaware's spring wild turkey hunting season will run from April 12, 2025 - May 10, 2025. A special one-day hunt for youth and non-ambulatory hunters will occur on April 5, 2025. Turkeys may be hunted 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1:00 PM. **Hunting on Sundays is now permitted for all gamebirds, including turkeys. However, the season will not be open on Sunday, May 11, 2025.** Public land permits can only be used on the property and season segment for which they are issued. Applications must be post-marked by January 6, 2025 to be processed for the lottery drawing.

Segment dates (A-D) for Public Land Permits are:

- (A) April 12 - April 18
- (B) April 19 - April 25
- (C) April 26 - May 2
- (D) May 3 - May 10

TURKEY HARVEST REPORT CARDS

All hunters legally allowed to hunt turkeys, will receive a Turkey Harvest Report Card which will show their turkey "tag" available to the hunter if they are legally allowed to hunt turkeys in Delaware. All hunters that have completed a Division approved turkey education course will receive a turkey harvest report card when they purchase a license or obtain their LEN. Additionally, youth hunters under that age of 13 will also receive a turkey

harvest report card when they obtain their LEN because they are eligible to hunt turkeys without taking the course, provided they are accompanied by an adult that has a hunting license or LEN and has completed the course. If you have taken the turkey education course but do not receive a turkey harvest report card when you obtained your license or LEN, please contact the hunter education program at 302-735-3600 x1. All hunters that completed the Division approved turkey education course after purchasing their license, or obtaining their LEN, will need to go to their Digital DNREC account at <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC> and reprint their license. The reprinted license will have a validation that shows they completed the course and they will be able to print their turkey harvest report card. For more information about the turkey education course please see page 48.

Upon successfully harvesting a turkey, and before the animal is moved from the place of kill, the hunter must complete the appropriate section of their Turkey Harvest Report Card. This section must be punched and the date of harvest must be recorded. Once the turkey is registered (no more than 24 hours following harvest) the turkey registration number is to be recorded in permanent ink on the card. **IMPORTANT:** Hunters shall not remove the "tag" from their Turkey Harvest Report Card for any reason, including being attached to a turkey and the card should be kept as a complete document.

Both the Turkey Harvest Report Card and Delaware Hunting License or LEN card must be in a hunter's possession while a hunter is hunting turkeys. If a hunter has already harvested a turkey and recorded their harvest information on their card the harvest information will automatically be printed on the newly issued card. If a harvested turkey is no longer in a hunter's immediate possession, a Turkey Possession Tag must be affixed to the bird. See the Turkey Possession Tags section on this page for more information.

TURKEY POSSESSION TAGS

Hunters that successfully harvest a turkey are not required to attach a tag to their turkey at the place of kill before the turkey is moved, however they must complete the appropriate section on the Turkey Harvest Report Card. See Turkey Harvest Report Card section on this page for more information. The only time a physical tag is required to be affixed to a turkey is if the turkey is no longer in the hunter's immediate possession, at which time the successful hunter must affix a Turkey Possession Tag. These tags can be found in the middle of the paper version of this guide, within your Digital DNREC account (<https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC>), on the FW website, at <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/hunting/> or a hunter may make their own Turkey Carcass Tags provided they include the hunters' name, license number, harvest date and turkey registration number once the turkey has been registered.

Examples of what constitutes a turkey leaving a hunter's immediate possession include dropping it off at a processor or taxidermist.

A good rule of thumb, if a Natural Resource Police Officer encountered a hunter's turkey and the hunter wasn't available to talk with the Officer, than the turkey needs to have a Turkey Possession Tag affixed to the animal. For questions, please call 302-735-3600.

LEGAL BIRDS AND BAG LIMIT

Bearded birds only. Bag limit is one turkey per season.

CALLS

All **non-electronic** calls are legal. For safety reasons, and to avoid potentially "calling" other hunters closer to your location, hunters should use caution if imitating a male gobbling call.

LEGAL FIREARMS, BOWS, AND SHOT SIZES

1. Shotguns (10, 12, 16, 20, 28, and .410 gauge), including smoothbore muzzleloading shotguns - 20, 16, 12, 10 gauge - legal shot sizes: #4 or smaller. All shot types are legal, including those comprised of tungsten super shot (TSS).

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FIRST TIME TURKEY HUNTERS

All first time Delaware turkey hunters must successfully complete a Division approved Turkey Hunting Safety Course. This includes both public and private hunters. Public land hunters must have completed the Turkey Hunting Safety Course before they can apply for a public land turkey permit.

To register for a classroom Turkey Hunting Safety Course, call the Hunter Education Office at 302-735-3600 x 1.

Delaware also accepts an online turkey course:

todayshunter.com/turkey101/
(Certification Fee \$29.99)

Note: Upon completion of the online course, students must contact the Hunter Education office at huntereducation@delaware.gov or 302-735-3600 x 1) to update their account to reflect course completion. Students will be required to submit a copy of their course completion certificate. Please include a phone number where the Hunter Education Office may call, in case there are any questions.

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Continued from page 26

2. Longbow/compound/crossbow – Minimum broadhead width of 7/8 inches.
3. Crossbows may be used for turkey hunting. Crossbows must meet the same standards as for deer hunting.

CLOTHING

For safety reasons, it will be illegal to wear any visible garment having the colors red, white or blue.

BLINDS/DECOYS

Temporary blinds of vegetation or camouflage material are legal. Artificial turkey decoys are legal. Decoys may have no parts from a formerly live turkey.

RESTRICTIONS

Dogs or bait may not be used. All bait must be removed at least 10 days prior to hunting. Hunters may not drive turkeys or shoot them while they are at roost.

MANDATORY TURKEY SAFETY COURSE

Before hunting turkeys in Delaware for the first time, all hunters age 13 and older must complete a mandatory turkey education course. For more information, please see pages 26 and 48 of this guide. Upon successful completion of this course, hunters will need to reprint their hunting license (if they already have a license) as completion of the course will be indicated on the license. Hunters that have already successfully completed the course will no longer need to carry a card as proof of completion as long as their hunting license indicates they have completed the course. In addition, public land hunters must have an annual permit from the Division if hunting on a State Wildlife Area or from the Delaware Department of Agriculture if hunting on a State Forest.

Youth under the age of 13 are not required to complete a mandatory turkey education course but they must have a License Exempt Number and be under direct supervision by a person 21 years or older while hunting. See page 18 for information related to the requirements for an accompanying adult.

PUBLIC LAND TURKEY PERMITS

A permit is needed to hunt turkey on public lands. See page 45 for the permit application form to hunt on State Wildlife Areas and federal National Wildlife Refuges. See page 42 for information on how to hunt on State Forest

Lands. Hunters may only receive one public land permit each season, either a State Wildlife Area, National Wildlife Refuge, or a State Forest permit. The State Forest Lottery will be held after the State Wildlife Area and National Wildlife Refuge Lottery. Hunters that successfully receive a State Wildlife Area or National Wildlife Refuge permit, and applied for a State Forest permit, will have their State Forest application removed before the lottery takes place and they will not be eligible for the State Forest lottery. This system maximizes the number of individual hunters that have an opportunity to hunt on public lands each season.

YOUTH AND NON-AMBULATORY TURKEY HUNT

Open statewide. Any youth from 10 years through 15 years and individuals that are non-ambulatory, and use a wheelchair for mobility, may hunt. Young hunters must be under direct supervision by an adult 21 years of age or older. Hunters 13-15 years old must have a valid Delaware junior hunting license and must have taken a Basic Hunter Safety course as well as a Delaware approved turkey hunter safety course.

Adult companions must be licensed to hunt in Delaware (or exempt) and must have taken a Delaware approved turkey hunter safety class. Adult companions may not possess a firearm during the hunt. Young hunters must be of sufficient size and physical strength to safely handle a firearm.

The normal bag limits and regulations apply and all turkeys taken must be registered.

All state wildlife areas and state forests open for turkey hunting will be open for the Youth and Non-Ambulatory Turkey Hunt. Hunters may go to any areas they choose. If overcrowding occurs, the Division may add this hunt to its pre-season lottery system in future seasons.

For more information on youth hunting, see the Youth Hunting section on page 18.

WILD TURKEY RESEARCH

HARVESTING LEG BANDED TURKEYS

To better understand turkey ecology and hunter success, wild turkeys have been captured and marked with leg bands and some have been fitted with radio transmitters to track their movements. Hunters should treat turkeys with transmitters and leg bands as they would an unmarked turkey. So that we can accurately evaluate turkey survival, hunters should not target marked birds or refrain from harvesting marked birds if they can tell they are banded prior to harvest as this will influence our research results. If a marked turkey is legal for harvest, then it may be harvested. If a hunter harvests a marked turkey, they are asked to call the phone number listed on the metal leg band, 302-831-4621, or the Division at 302-735-3600 so that information concerning the harvested turkey can be collected. Furthermore, hunters must still register their turkey in the same manner described within this Guide.

WILD TURKEY SIGHTING SURVEY

During the months of July and August, the Division asks hunters and the general public to submit their observations of turkeys as part of an annual survey of the population. Survey forms may be found in June on the Division's website at <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/hunting/wild-turkeys/surveys/> or it may be obtained by calling 302-735-3600.



Delaware Wildlife Management Zones

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ZONE BOUNDARY DESCRIPTIONS

Zone 1A

All land north of the line created beginning at the Delaware Memorial Bridge and following Interstate 295 to its intersection with Interstate 95 to the Delaware/Maryland border.

Zone 1B

All land south of the line created beginning at the Delaware Memorial Bridge and following Interstate 295 to its intersection with Interstate 95, thence to the Delaware-Maryland border to the C&D Canal.

Zone 2

Land bordered north by C&D Canal, south by Route 6, east by Route 13, and west by the Maryland State Line.

Zone 3

Land bordered north by the C&D Canal, south by Route 6, east by the Delaware River, and west by Route 13.

Zone 4

Land bordered north by Route 6, south by Route 8, east by Route 13, and west by the Maryland State Line.

Zone 5

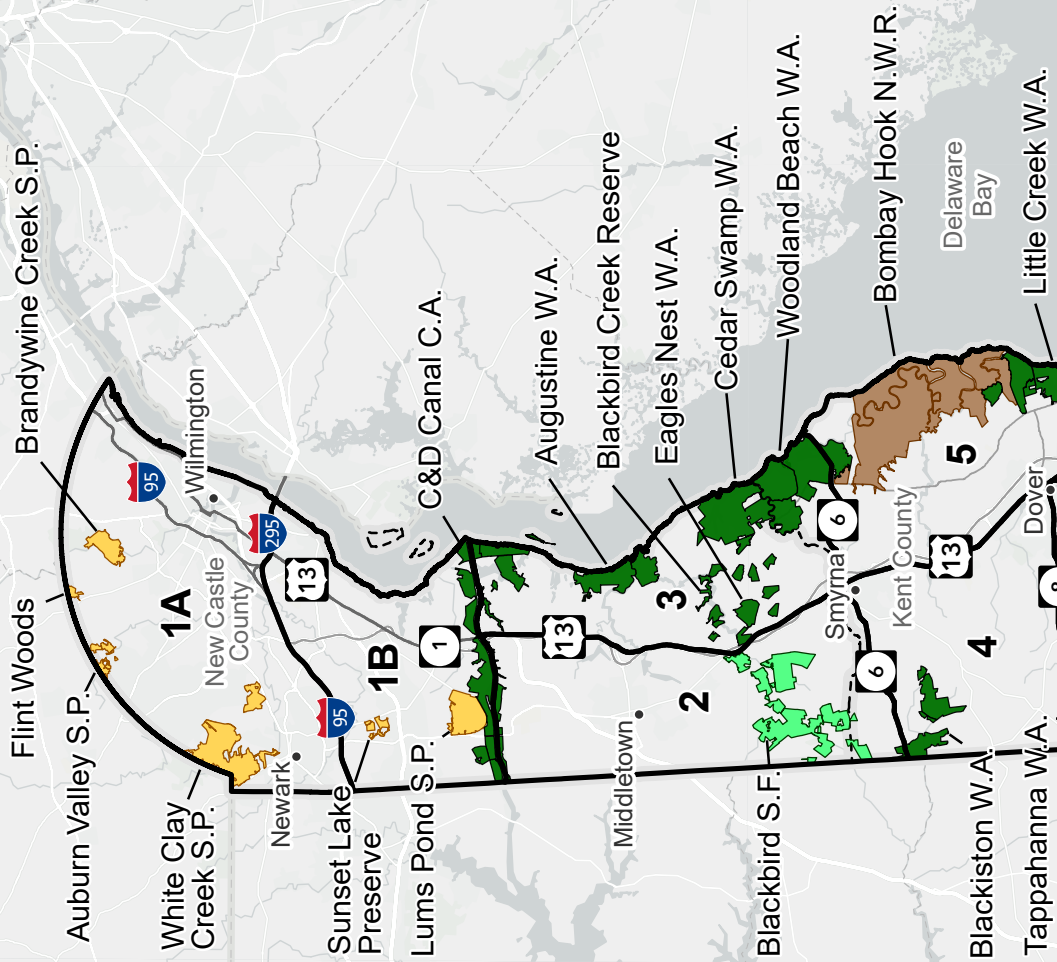
Land bordered north by Route 6, south by Road 18, east by Delaware Bay, and west by Routes 13 and 113.

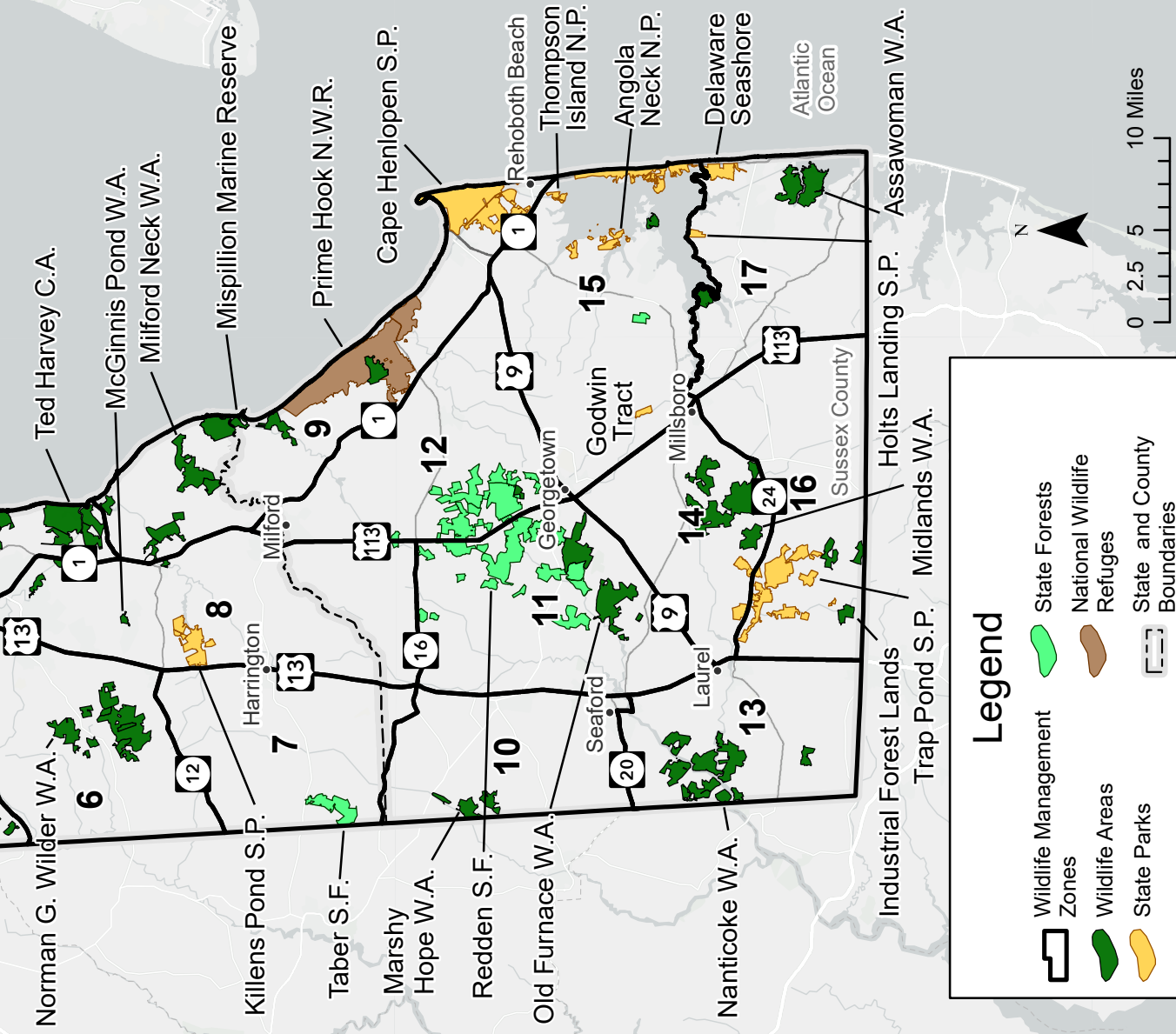
Zone 6

Land bordered north by Route 8, south by Route 12, east by Routes 13 and 113, and west by the Maryland State Line.

Zone 7

Land bordered north by Route 12, south by Route 16, east by Route 13, and west by the Maryland State Line.





Zone 8

Land bordered north by intersection of Routes 13 and 113, south by Route 16, east by Route 113 and west by Route 13.

Zone 9

Land bordered north by Road 18, south by Route 1, east by Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean and west by Routes 113 and 1.

Zone 10

Land bordered north by Route 16, south by Route 20, east by Route 13, and west by the Maryland State Line.

Zone 11

Land bordered north by Route 16, south by Route 9, east by Route 113 and west by Route 13.

Zone 12

Land bordered north by intersection of Routes 113 and 1, south by Route 9, east by Route 1 and west by Route 113.

Zone 13

Land bordered north by Route 20, south by Maryland State Line, east by Route 13, and west by Maryland State Line.

Zone 14

Land bordered north by Route 9, south by Route 24, east by Route 113, and south by Route 24.

Zone 15

Land bordered north by Route 9, south by south shore of Indian River Bay, east by the Atlantic Ocean, and west by Route 113.

Zone 16

Land bordered north by Route 24, south by Maryland State Line, east by Route 113, and west by Route 13.

Zone 17

Land bordered north by Indian River Bay, south by the Maryland State Line, east by the Atlantic Ocean, and west by Route 113.

SMALL GAME HUNTING SECTION

SMALL GAME SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

All seasons and limits subject to change. Please stay current by consulting the online version of this guide by visiting <http://www.eregulations.com/delaware/hunting/> or call 302-739-9912.

SEASONS	DATES	LIMIT*	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Gray Squirrel	Sept. 15 - Feb. 28 Closed during Nov. General Firearm Deer Season (No Sunday Hunting)	Daily 6	Gray squirrels may be hunted with shotguns statewide, .17 through .22 cal. rimfire and .17 cal. pellet firearms and muzzleloading rifles up to .36 cal. south of the C&D Canal. Only shotguns may be used north of the C&D Canal. When a squirrel season overlaps with a deer firearms season, squirrel hunters must wear 400 square inches of hunter orange displayed on the head, chest and back.
		Possession 12	
Cottontail Rabbit	Nov. 25 - Feb. 28 (No Sunday Hunting)	Daily 4 Possession 8	Rabbits may be hunted with shotguns, compound, recurve, and longbows. Rabbit hunters must wear at least 400 square inches of hunter orange material displayed on head, chest, and back when hunting during any deer firearms season.
Groundhogs	July 1 - June 30	No limit (Including Sundays)	Groundhogs are an unprotected species and may be hunted with longbows, crossbows, shotguns, muzzle-loaders, handguns, and rimfire or centerfire rifles. A hunting license is not required to hunt groundhogs.
Ring-necked Pheasant (Male Only)	Nov. 25 - Feb. 28 (Including Sundays)	Daily 2 Possession 4	Pheasants may be hunted with shotguns and longbows. Pheasant hunters must wear at least 400 square inches of hunter orange material displayed on head, chest, and back when hunting during any deer firearms season.
Bobwhite Quail (Pen-raised and released birds only)	Nov. 25 - Feb. 28 Season closed for wild quail (Including Sundays)	No limit	It is unlawful to hunt wild quail. Quail may not be hunted without a permit from the Division and only pen-raised and released birds may be hunted. Please visit the Division's website for an application, https://de.gov/fw

* No person shall have more than two times the daily bag limit at any one time when it is lawful to possess such wildlife. Any game bird or game animal that has been processed and stored for consumption at a person's permanent residence shall not count against the hunter's possession limit.

Hours: Upland game (except raccoons, opossums and frogs) 1/2 hr. before sunrise to 1/2 hr. after sunset. Raccoons and frogs may be hunted at night. Season for hunting on private shooting preserves is October 15 - March 31. Commercial shooting preserves may operate on Sundays during this time period.

NOTE: A minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange worn on the head, chest, and back is required when hunting small game on a State Wildlife Area.

BULLFROG AND TURTLE SEASONS

SEASONS	DATES	LIMIT*	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Bullfrogs or Green Frogs	May 1 - Sept. 30	Daily 24	May be taken with a valid hunting or fishing license. Daily and possession limits are aggregate between species. Collection by hand or using a hook, spear, or gig is permitted.
		Possession 48	
Snapping Turtle**	June 15 - May 15	No limit	Snapping turtle minimum length is 11 inches on the curvature of the top shell. Traps must be tagged with trapper's name and address or current year's license number. Baited fish hooks are unlawful. A free snapping turtle permit number must be obtained and will be issued at the time of the trapping license purchase. Those interested in trapping on Division of Fish and Wildlife lands and state-owned ponds will need to contact the Regional Manager for an additional permit for those lands.
Diamondback Terrapin	Season Closed		

* No person shall have more than two times the daily bag limit at any one time when it is lawful to possess such wildlife. Any game animal that has been processed and stored for consumption at a person's permanent residence shall not count against the hunter's possession limit.

** Delaware Snapping Turtle Regulations require anyone who traps snapping turtles to obtain a free Snapping Turtle Permit Number and complete a MANDATORY harvest and effort report which is due by July 30. Failure to file a complete and accurate report may disqualify the trapper from obtaining a snapping turtle permit in the future. Please be sure to request this on your trapping application if needed. An additional snapping turtle permit is required for State Wildlife Areas and state-owned ponds and may be obtained through the regional office located within the county in which trapping is intended. Trapping snapping turtles on State Wildlife Areas is NOT exempt from the Conservation Access Pass if required.

DELAWARE SQUIRRELS

Sussex County hosts two species of diurnal tree squirrel: Gray and Delmarva Fox

Gray squirrels are quite common while Delmarva fox squirrels are so rare they are on the state Endangered Species list.

If you hold a Delaware hunting license, you are permitted to hunt gray squirrels but **NOT fox squirrels**. Before you shoot, take a good look at the squirrel in your crosshairs! In addition to looking different, Delmarva fox squirrels also behave differently; are more likely to walk on the ground rather than jump from tree to tree as with gray squirrels.

Delmarva fox squirrels are most likely to be found at, and around, the following areas to Assawoman Wildlife Area, Nanticoke Wildlife Area, Prime Hook NWR, Redden State Forest, and Trap Pond State Park. The squirrels have expanded out to surrounding woodlands so please take special care in those areas. In the case of Trap Pond, you are especially likely to see them in the Raccoon Pond Tract but they have also spread out as far as seven miles from the park.

If you have seen a Delmarva fox squirrel, please call the Species Conservation and Research office 302-735-3600 and, if you have a camera, take a picture. Hunters often see the squirrels while hunting and we would love to hear about it if you do. Thanks!

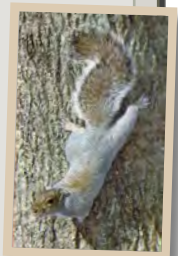
Gray Squirrel

FUR: Darker gray with rusty brown highlights

EARS: Longer and pointy

BELLY: White

SIZE: Smaller with less bushy tail



Delmarva Fox Squirrel

FUR: Silver gray with creamy to white belly, ears and muzzle (rarely have any brown fur)

EARS: Shorter and wider

BELLY: Creamy white

SIZE: 1½ times larger with fuller tail



Unboxing Delmarva Breeding Wood Ducks



The DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife is partnering with the University of Delaware's Waterfowl and Upland Gamebird Center, Delta Waterfowl, Maryland DNR, Delaware Wild Lands Inc., Delaware Audubon Society, and Nemours Wildlife Foundation to study wood duck nesting and brood ecology in the Delmarva Peninsula. Under the mentorship of Dr. Chris Williams, graduate student Blake Struthers is researching what cues wood duck hens use to select nest boxes and how box characteristics affect nest success, identifying areas and habitats that hens prefer to use while raising their broods, and establishing a baseline expected survival rate of ducklings throughout this region.

"This information will help to establish recommendations for optimal nest box placement and inform better habitat management practices on the Delmarva that we can use to boost nest success and increase duckling survival to provide more birds for fall hunting seasons and subsequent breeding seasons," Williams said.

To determine the best placement strategy for nest boxes, Struthers is analyzing how 20 different box characteristics and habitat attributes influence nest box use, nest parasitism (when hens lay eggs in nests that are not their own), and nest success. The data collected from 2020-2023 includes information from over 300 nest boxes and 650 individual nests at seven sites throughout the Delmarva Peninsula including four DNREC Wildlife Areas and Conservation Areas. This large sample is representative of many of the various habitats suitable for wood ducks in the Delmarva and Mid-Atlantic region and will be applicable for anyone interested in initiating or improving existing wood duck nest box programs.

Struthers is also interested in learning more about the life of ducklings after they leave the nest box. To investigate this, he is using GPS and radio transmitters attached to hens and their ducklings during the 2023 and 2024 nesting seasons to collect fine-scale movement, habitat use, and survival data. Hens are fitted with a solar-powered GPS unit strapped on like a backpack. These units are programmed to log GPS points of the hen's location every hour.

"Ducklings remain very close to their mothers during their first month of life, so the hen GPS locations accurately reflect the areas she brings her brood to forage and hide from predators. Once a brood moves on from a small wetland or section of a stream, we navigate to the coordinates of the locations we obtained from the hen transmitters to conduct vegetation surveys and other habitat measurements", Struthers said. "This gives us very detailed knowledge about the areas that hens seek out to raise their broods successfully."

In addition to the transmitters on the hens, the ducklings are also fitted with a jellybean sized radio transmitter weighing less than 1g. These tiny transmitters allow Struthers to monitor and track individual duckling survival as well as identify major predators and other causes of mortality. During the two breeding seasons, Struthers is planning to deploy 80 GPS transmitters on hens and 240 radio transmitters on ducklings throughout the Delmarva Peninsula.

"Even though the project is ongoing, we have still been able to generate very informative preliminary results from data already collected" Struthers said, "Our early analysis indicates that keeping boxes adequately spaced so they are not visible from neighboring boxes or even placed in separate wetlands is important". Struthers explained that when boxes are densely congregated, hens often engage in "dump nesting" where multiple hens will lay in the same box until it accumulates dozens of eggs. If this happens, nests may not be incubated successfully, and this often results in nest abandonment. Predators also benefit from clumped nest boxes since they can find more nests and destroy them faster if they are all close together.

Struthers has also found that boxes placed over water seem to be used more often and have a higher success rate than those placed on land. Boxes situated in deeper water in larger, more expansive wetlands are used and hatch nests at an even higher rate.

"We do emphasize, however, that keeping boxes maintained is the single most important aspect of a nest box program" Williams mentioned. "If they are placed in a location that is

difficult or time consuming to access, managers and landowners are much less likely to check on them regularly". The biologists noted that wood ducks do not bring in their own nesting material, so landowners must place wood shavings in boxes for them prior to each nesting season. Boxes also degrade over time, and typically have a lifespan of 10-25 years depending on the wood used to construct them. Maintaining structurally sound boxes that protect hens and ducklings by keeping out wind and rain is also critical, and this requires occasional replacement of boxes as they age. Williams further mentioned, "We recommend groups or individuals with nest box programs keep this in mind when choosing locations for nest boxes and follow the above recommendations only to the degree that boxes remain regularly accessible. For example, although we found higher success rates from boxes in open water, they should not be placed there if it will be too difficult to get to them. Rather, a box adjacent to water that is regularly checked and maintained would be a better choice."

Struthers also explained that it is important to consider where a brood will go when choosing where to place boxes. Hens will lead their ducklings as far as necessary to reach high quality brood rearing habitat. "Our data from 2023 indicates that these are areas with many small wetlands close together or large impoundments that have abundant emergent vegetation that enable ducklings to avoid predators," Struthers said. "However, traveling from one area to another exposes ducklings to predators and exhaustion along the way. We found that broods traveling shorter distances from the nest box to brood habitat experience greater survival rates."

Placing boxes within or near areas of quality brood rearing habitat will help to increase survival of ducklings after they've left the box. Keeping these guidelines in mind will help land managers, hunting groups, and individuals have more successful wood duck nest box programs and hatch more ducks that can be enjoyed by hunters, birdwatchers, and other wildlife enthusiasts.



A radio transmitter attached to a wood duck duckling.



A solar-powered GPS unit affixed to a wood duck hen.



Blake Struthers (left, Graduate Research Assistant) and Kursha Baier (right, Wood Duck Technician) with a brood of wood ducks.

MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING SECTION

DELAWARE MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASON SUMMARY (INCLUDING SUNDAYS)

DUCKS	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Ducks (Regular Season)	Oct. 26 - Nov. 3	6	18
	Nov. 25 - Dec. 1		
	Dec. 14 - Jan. 26		
September Teal	Sept. 14 - Sept. 29	6	18
Limited to the designated teal zone south of the C&D Canal to north of Route 9 in Lewes, and east of Routes 13, 113/113A, and 1. Bag limit may include any combination of blue-winged and/or green-winged teal.			
Youth Waterfowl Hunt Youth must be age 10-15.	Sunday, Oct. 20 and Saturday, Feb. 1	See applicable species bag limits	See applicable species possession limits
During the Youth Waterfowl Hunt, participating eligible hunters may harvest ducks, mergansers, coots, moorhens, gallinules, Canada geese, snow geese, brant, and swans. The daily bag limit for each of these species is the same as their regular seasons.			
Daily Bag Limits and Possession Limits			
The daily limit of 6 ducks (excluding mergansers and coots) may include, in any combination, up to: 4 mallards (2 hens); 2 black ducks; 1 pintail; 2 canvasback, 3 wood ducks; 2 redheads; 1 scaup, 6 teal; 6 shovellers; 6 gadwall; 6 wigeon; 6 goldeneye; 6 ring-necked ducks; 6 bufflehead; 6 ruddy ducks; 1 mottled duck; 1 fulvous whistling-duck; 4 total sea ducks (no more than 3 scoters; 3 eiders (1 hen); 3 long-tailed ducks). The possession limit is 3 times the daily limit. The season on harlequin ducks remains closed.			
Sea Ducks* Scoters, Eiders, and Long-tailed ducks	Same as Duck Season	See duck bag limits	See duck possession limits
* There is no longer a special sea duck zone with its own separate season dates or daily bag and possession limits. The season dates for sea ducks are the same as the Regular Duck Season and the Daily Bag and Possession Limits are included as part of the regular daily bag and possession limits. The shooting of crippled waterfowl from a motorboat under power will be permitted in the area not less than 800 yards (1/2) mile seaward from the Delaware Bay shore or the Atlantic Ocean shore beginning at an east-west line between Port Mahon and the Elbow Cross Navigation Light, south to the Delaware-Maryland line.			
Coots	Same as Duck Season	15	45
Mergansers**	Same as Duck Season	5	15
** Daily bag limit may include no more than 2 hooded mergansers (6 in possession)			
GEESE AND BRANT	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Canada Goose (Resident)	Sept. 1 - Sept. 25	15	45
Canada Goose (Migratory) Including White-fronted geese	Nov. 28 - Dec. 1	2	6
	Dec. 21 - Jan. 15		
Brant	Dec. 21 - Jan. 5	1	3
	Jan. 18 - Jan. 31		
Snow Goose Including Ross' goose	Oct. 18 - Feb. 1	25	No limit
Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge open Mon., Wed., and Fri. with permission of Refuge Manager.			
Snow Goose Conservation Order	Feb. 2 - Apr. 11	No bag or possession limits	
During the Conservation Order (CO) unplugged shotguns and electronic calls may be used to harvest snow geese. Shooting hours have been extended to 1/2 hour after sunset and daily bag and possession limits have been eliminated. Hunters who wish to participate in the CO must register for a free, annual permit, available by visiting https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC (after Jan. 1st). Participants are required to re-visit this website after the CO has closed to report their harvest to the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The Snow Goose Conservation Order will be closed on Saturday, February 1, 2025 which is the second youth waterfowl day and will open on Sunday, February 2, 2025. Snow geese, including Ross' geese, may be harvested on Saturday, February 1, 2025 within the regular season framework. No liberal methods allowed during the Conservation Order may be allowed this day and a daily bag limit of 25 applies.			
SWANS	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Tundra Swan (By special permit ONLY)	Nov. 9 - Jan. 31	1 per season	1 per season
Mute Swan	Legal to take during any open waterfowl season	No limit	No limit
(Closed during the Snow Goose Conservation Order)			
Trumpeter Swan	Closed Season	0 - Closed Season	0 - Closed Season

MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING SECTION

OTHER SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Mourning Dove	Sept. 1 - Sept. 29 ¹	15	45
	Oct. 19 - Oct. 27 Dec. 6 - Jan. 26		
King and Clapper Rails ² Singly or in combination of the two species	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9	10 ²	30
Sora and Virginia Rails ³ Singly or in combination of the two species	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9	25 ³	75
Woodcock	Nov. 25 - Dec. 1	3	9
	Dec. 21 - Jan. 27		
Common Snipe	Sept. 24 - Dec. 1 Dec. 21 - Jan. 27	8	24
Moorhens and Gallinules	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9	15	45
Crow ⁴ Thurs., Fri., and Sat. only	July 4, 2024 - Mar. 29, 2025 ⁴ and Jun. 26 - 28, 2025	No Limit	No Limit

To view regulations for hunting of migratory game birds, see:

- USFWS complete Federal Regulations (50 CFR Part 20): <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-20>
- Synopsis of Federal Regulations: <http://de.gov/migbirdhntref>

NOTE: When State law is different from the Federal law the hunter must comply with the most restrictive law.

NOTE: The shooting hours for all mute swans and migratory game birds, including waterfowl except during the Snow Goose Conservation Order, are 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset.

NOTE: No person shall have more than three times the daily bag limit of migratory birds at any one time when it is lawful to possess such wildlife. Any migratory bird that has been processed and stored for consumption at a person's permanent residence shall not count against the hunter's possession limit.

NOTE: You cannot put or leave waterfowl at any place or in the custody of another person unless you tag the birds with your signature, address, number of birds identified by species, and the date you killed them.



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HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM – H.I.P.



If you are a Delaware migratory bird hunter (ducks, geese, swans, doves, woodcock, rails, snipe, and coots), you MUST obtain a new H.I.P number each year which are valid from July 1st through June 30th of the following year. Note: If the only migratory birds that you intend to hunt are crows, you do not need to obtain a H.I.P. number. H.I.P. is the “Harvest Information Program” which is required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Under the Harvest Information Program, migratory bird hunters need a special permit to hunt. A H.I.P number is specific to each state so a hunter will need a different number for each state they hunt migratory birds in. To get the permit, hunters have to provide their name and address, and answer a few questions

about their previous year’s hunting effort and success. This information is collected by the state, remains totally confidential, and goes immediately to the USFWS which randomly selects hunters to receive a survey form. If you are going to hunt migratory birds in Delaware, you MUST have a H.I.P. number. To obtain your number please visit <https://de.gov/DigitalDN-REC> or call toll free 1-855-335-4868.

THIS PERMIT IS FREE. Hunters shall record their 6-digit H.I.P. number on their hunting license. If the H.I.P. number is obtained at the same time the license is acquired, or if a hunter reprints their license after receiving their number, it will automatically be printed on the license.

NON-RESIDENT 3-DAY HUNTING LICENSE

- The non-resident 3-day hunting license may be used to hunt waterfowl provided the hunter has purchased the Federal Duck Stamp and state waterfowl (duck) stamp and has a H.I.P. number.
- When purchasing your waterfowl (duck) stamp on the electronic systems, the stamp image is printed on your license if you purchase your hunting license at the same time. If you purchase the stamp separately you will receive the stamp image. The Division no longer mails original waterfowl (duck) stamps automatically at the end of the season (June 30th of each year). If you would like an original stamp sent to you please answer “yes”

to the question at the time of purchase or call 302-739-9918 and provide your name, address and order ID number after you purchase the electronic stamp.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

Open statewide on private and public lands, including state wildlife areas. The federal National Wildlife Refuges will be closed for the youth hunt on Sunday, October 20th but will be open on Saturday, February 1st. The lottery drawing for state blinds is 1.5 hours before legal shooting time except for the Little Creek WA where the drawing is 2 hours before legal shooting time. Hunters should arrive prior to 2 hours before legal shooting time to sign up for the lottery.

Children 10 through 15 years old may hunt, but must be under direct supervision by a licensed adult 21 years of age or older. No state or federal stamps are required. Thirteen, fourteen and fifteen year old hunters must purchase a Delaware junior hunting license. Regular season limits and waterfowl hunting regulations apply.

Adult companions must be licensed to hunt in Delaware (or exempt) but may not possess a firearm during the hunt. For more information on youth hunting, see the Youth Hunting section on page 18.

MANY WATERFOWL REGULATIONS WERE ADOPTED THROUGH FEDERAL REGULATIONS.

NON-TOXIC SHOT

Non-toxic shot, as approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is required for all waterfowl hunting within the State of Delaware. **There are no exceptions.** For a list of currently approved non-toxic shot types visit <http://de.gov/migbirdhuntref>.



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HUNTING FROM BOATS

During the waterfowl season, it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt from a boat of any kind that is within 1,500 feet of an established blind, unless they have permission from the blind owner, except that:

- Any person may retrieve crippled waterfowl by the use of a boat in accordance with federal Regulations
- Any person may use a boat for transportation to and from an established blind lawfully used by such person
- Any person may hunt from a boat that is firmly secured and enclosed in an established blind.

During the waterfowl season, it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt from a boat, or a floating or fixed blind in the Little River in areas bounded on both sides by land administered by the Division.

During the waterfowl season, it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt within 900 feet of the shoreline (high tide line) of the Delaware River and Bay, between the Appoquinimink River and the Smyrna River, without written permission of the closest adjoining landowner(s). Furthermore, it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt within 1,500 feet of the shoreline (high tide line) of the Delaware River and Bay, between the Smyrna River and the Murderkill River, without written permission of the closest adjoining landowner(s).

It shall be unlawful for tender boats servicing gunning (layout) rigs to be further than 1,500 feet from the rig or to conduct any activity, except to pick up downed birds or service the rig.

SNOW GEESE

Hunters are reminded that Delaware and Maryland have a reciprocal agreement for hunting snow geese. Delaware hunters can hunt snow geese in Maryland with their Delaware hunting license provided they have a Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp, a Federal Duck Stamp, a Maryland H.I.P. number and are in compliance with Maryland Hunter Safety laws. Holders of a Delaware resident guide license should refer to the "Delaware Guide/Hunt License" section on page 11 for information related to reciprocity in other states. Maryland resident hunters can hunt snow geese in Delaware with their Maryland resident hunting license provided they obtain a Delaware License Exempt Number (LEN) specifically for hunting snow geese and they must obtain a Delaware Waterfowl (Duck) Stamp, a Federal Duck Stamp, a Delaware H.I.P. number and are in compliance with the Delaware Hunter Safety laws. When obtaining the LEN, Maryland residents will be asked to provide their Maryland DNR ID number. For more information about how to obtain a LEN see page 9. This agreement only applies to residents of Maryland and Delaware.

CONSERVATION ORDER

The snow goose Conservation Order (CO) will reopen during the winter and spring after other waterfowl hunting is closed. When the CO is open, snow goose hunters can use unplugged shotguns and electronic calls. In addition, hunting hours are extended to a half hour before sunrise to a half hour after sunset and daily bag and possession limits are removed. All hunters hunting snow geese during the Conservation Order must have a hunting license or a valid Delaware License Exempt Number (LEN) if they are exempt from purchasing a license and all licensed hunters at least 16 years of age must purchase a Delaware Waterfowl Stamp. Maryland residents that can legally hunt in Maryland and have not purchased a nonresident Delaware license or already have a Delaware LEN, are eligible to hunt in Delaware without purchasing a license provided they obtain a LEN that is specific to hunting snow geese. Unlike other license exempt hunters that are exempt from also purchasing a Delaware Waterfowl Stamp, those hunters utilizing this specific license exemption are required to purchase the stamp. All other non-resident hunters must have a Delaware non-resident hunting license or obtain a valid Delaware LEN, and all hunters at least 16 years of age must purchase a Delaware Waterfowl Stamp unless exempt from purchasing a Delaware hunting license. A federal migratory bird (duck) stamp and a Delaware Harvest Information Program (HIP) number, are not required to

Continued on page 36



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MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING SECTION

Continued from page 35

participate in the Conservation Order. Holders of a Delaware resident guide license should refer to the "Delaware Guide/Hunt License" section on page 11 for information related to reciprocity in other states. All hunters hunting during the Snow Goose Conservation Order must register for a free permit number before hunting. Your registration number can be obtained by visiting <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC> or by calling 1-855-DEL-HUNT (1-855-335-4868). THIS PERMIT IS FREE. The need for the Delaware Waterfowl (Duck) Stamp follows the requirements on page 8 of this guide as related to hunter age. Hunters shall record their 6-digit Snow Goose CO number on their hunting license.

If the Snow Goose CO number is obtained at the same time the license is acquired, or if a hunter reprints their license after receiving their number, it will automatically be printed on the license. Hunters will also be provided a log to help them keep track of their hunting effort during the CO. When they are finished hunting, or by April 30, 2025, hunters are required to report their hunting effort by visiting <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC> and logging into their profile or by calling 302-735-3600.

and will be limited to one tundra swan per season. Permits will be issued through an annual random lottery. Hunters that are successfully selected during the lottery will be notified in early September. The application for the lottery may be found below and all applicants must have a valid hunting license or valid License Exempt Number by September 15, 2024. If not, their permit will be forfeited and issued to another hunter. Each permit is valid statewide but landowner permission is required to hunt on privately-owned land and hunters should refer to the information provided with their permit for rules concerning when and where tundra swan hunting is allowed on publicly-owned lands.

TUNDRA SWANS

Tundra swans may be hunted by permit only. Hunters are only eligible for one permit annually

Up to 347 permits will be issued during the 2024/25 tundra swan hunting season through a

SWAN IDENTIFICATION



Tundra Swan

- Regulated season by permit only:
 - » 1 Permit/person/season
- **Adult:** large and entirely white with a long neck, with black wedge shaped bill showing a small yellow spot on the black facial skin in front of the eye
- **Juvenile:** pale dusky-brown/gray with extensive white highlights and a mostly pink bill with black tip



Mute Swan

- Currently allowed to be harvested during any waterfowl season
- Unlimited take
- Non-native/exotic
- **Adult:** large and entirely white with a long neck, bright orange bill, black skin around face with large black knob at the base of the upper part of the bill
- **Juvenile:** pale dusky-brown/gray with extensive white highlights and a mostly pink bill with black base. Small black knob at the base of the upper part of the bill



Trumpeter Swan

- Closed Season
- Few records in Delaware
- **Adult:** large and entirely white with a long neck, with black wedge shaped bill, black facial skin in front of the eye
- **Juvenile:** pale dusky-brown/gray with extensive white highlights and a pink center to a black bill

Source: www.allaboutbirds.org

2024/25 Application for Tundra Swan Permit

Application Information:

- Print all information clearly. Illegible information could result in application being rejected.
- Submitting more than one application per individual will result in disqualification.
- Awarded permits are non-transferrable. Only successful applicants will be notified.
- Successful hunters chosen during the lottery must obtain a valid hunting license or License Exempt Number by September 15, 2024

Hunter's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
 Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____ Email Address: _____
 License # or LEN: _____

*Mail swan applications to: **Wildlife Section, Tundra Swan Permit Application, 6180 Hay Point Landing Road, Smyrna, DE 19977**

The Wildlife Section must receive the Tundra Swan Permit application by **4:00 PM on Friday, August 16, 2024**. Late applications will not be accepted. No exceptions.

MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING SECTION

random lottery run by the Division. The number of permits available to non-residents will be capped and shall not exceed the percentage of non-resident hunters as determined from the most recent year for which hunting license sales were certified (16.2% were non-residents). For the 2024/25 swan season, no more than 56 tundra swan permits will be given to non-residents. However, if permits remain available after all applying Delaware residents have been issued a permit, the cap may be exceeded and any additional permits will be issued to non-residents.

The Division will issue a non-reusable tag with each permit that the successful hunter must immediately affix to the bird at the time of kill. Hunters that harvest a tundra swan are no longer required to register their bird in-person to have biological data collected by a Division Biologist or Natural Resource Police Officer. Instead, hunters must report their swan harvest using the Delaware Tundra Swan Survey and return envelope included with the original mailing in which the hunter received their permit prior to the season. All hunters receiving a permit to hunt tundra swans in Delaware, must return the survey to the Division at the end of the tundra swan season to assess hunter effort and success. Hunters are required to return this survey even if they do not hunt, or hunted but did not harvest, a tundra swan. Hunters who fail to return the survey will be ineligible for future tundra swan lotteries.

CAUTION:
Shot carries beyond the lethal range.
Hunters should use extreme caution when selecting the direction they shoot in.

WOOD DUCK BOX PROGRAM

Plastic Bellrose wood duck nest boxes are available to Delaware property owners for purchase through the Division of Fish and Wildlife's regional wildlife offices. Nest box costs are subsidized with State Waterfowl Stamp funds. Because of these subsidies, these \$60 nest boxes can be purchased from the Division for just \$30. Contact a Division of Fish and Wildlife regional manager to learn more!

New Castle County: 302-834-8433
Kent County: 302-284-4795
Sussex County: 302-539-3160



DELAWARE WATERFOWL (DUCK) STAMP PROGRAM



2025 Delaware Waterfowl (Duck) Stamp

The Division of Fish and Wildlife, in partnership with Delaware Ducks Unlimited, began the waterfowl stamp and print program in 1980 to raise funds for waterfowl conservation, including acquiring and improving the wetland habitats that are vital for the survival of migratory waterfowl. These funds improve waterfowl habitat in Delaware and Canada and help to ensure that waterfowl species will prosper and provide enjoyment for generations to come.

All 2024 entries submitted had to depict a redhead duck in open water. The 2024 prints and stamps (as well as the 2022 and 2023 prints and stamps) will be available July 1, 2024. After June 30, 2025 the 2021 prints and stamps will be destroyed in accordance with the waterfowl stamp program policy. For information on the Delaware Waterfowl Stamp Program, or to reserve and purchase prints/stamps, contact the Division at 302-739-9918 or visit our website: <http://de.gov/waterfowlstamp>.



BOATING SAFETY

Each year more hunters die from drowning and the effects of hypothermia than from gunshot wounds. Statistics show that the majority of capsizing and falls overboard occur with boats less than 20 feet in length. Some boat designs are not as stable as others. Hunters often use smaller, more easily transportable crafts like john boats, bass boats or canoes. These types of boats, because of their flat bottoms or narrow beams, are more prone to swamping or capsizing. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) are essential and should be worn at all times. Special wearable flotation vests and coats for hunting are available and are comfortable and warm for the coldest duck and goose hunting days.

ENGINE/PROPULSION CUT-OFF SWITCHES

In 2021, the US congress passed the "Engine cut off switch mandatory wear" law. It requires the operator to wear the ECOS (engine cut off switch) device on certain recreational vessels less than 26 in length with an engine capable of 115 lbs., which equates to about three horsepower or more. It also requires operators to use ECOS link while navigating on plane or above displacement speed. Using the ECOSL is not required when the main helm is installed within an enclosed cabin. For more information regarding this law please refer to the U.S. Coast Guard's FAQs at <https://uscgboating.org/recreational-boaters/engine-cut-off-switch-faq.php>

PRIMARY CAUSES OF HUNTING-RELATED WATER DEATHS:

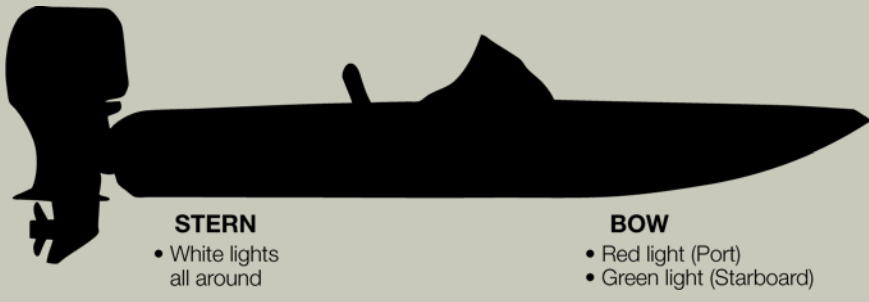
- Hypothermia – The rapid loss of body heat in cold water
- "Dry" Drowning – Constriction of the throat due to a sudden inrush of water, resulting in suffocation
- "Wet" Drowning – The displacement of air in the lungs with water
- Massive Heart Attacks in older, out-of-shape non-swimmers in cold water
- Being run over by own boat, especially when starting in gear and not wearing your engine cut-off switch

Most drownings could have been prevented. Drownings occur because the victim made the wrong decision; did not realize the dangers of boating in rough, cold water; was not properly prepared; had the wrong equipment; or failed to wear a PFD (life jacket).

BOATING SAFETY TIPS:

- Wear your PFD (life jacket)
- Never cross large bodies of water during rough weather in a boat that can't take the conditions due to size and/or overloading.
- Stay with your boat if you capsize and can't get to shore. Try to climb on it.
- Avoid standing up or moving around the boat.
- Never move about your boat with a loaded firearm.
- Read the capacity plate attached to the inside hull as a guide to keep from overloading your boat.
- Distribute your gear evenly.

DELAWARE SMALL BOAT EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

EQUIPMENT	CLASS A (LESS THAN 16 FEET)	CLASS 1 (16 FEET TO LESS THAN 26 FEET)
1. Annual registration fee	\$20.00	\$40.00
2. Decals and boat number	Display properly on bow	Display properly on bow
3. Personal flotation Device (PFD)*Must be serviceable (see below)	One approved wearable PFD for each person on board	One approved wearable PFD for each person on board plus one throwable PFD.
4. Whistle	One hand, mouth or power operated, and audible at least one half (1/2) mile	One hand, mouth or power operated, and audible at least one half (1/2) mile
5. Fire Extinguisher Portable	One type B-1, if carrying passengers for hire, or if boat construction will permit entrapment of flammable vapors.	One type B-1, if carrying passengers for hire, or if boat construction will permit entrapment of flammable vapors.
6. Lights		
7. Ventilation At least two ventilator ducts fitted with cowls or equivalent, if boat construction will permit entrapment of flammable vapors.		
8. Atlantic Ocean, Delaware Bay and Delaware River South of Artificial Island—U.S. Coast Guard regulations require all vessels to carry day and night distress signaling devices. Outboard motorboats less than 16' in length are exempt from daytime requirements.		

* Test for serviceability of PFD—All PFD's must be readily accessible, in serviceable condition, legibly marked with approval number of the U.S. Coast Guard and be of appropriate size. PFD's must have flotation material without rot or being waterlogged, untorn or damaged coverings and straps in good condition.

- Don't drink alcohol. Alcohol lowers your body's core temperature and encourages individuals to take chances they wouldn't normally take. Guns, alcohol and/or drugs don't mix. It is illegal to be in possession of a firearm while under the influence of alcohol or drugs in a public place.

DID YOU KNOW?

CPR can save your life! Cold water not only kills, but in some instances, it preserves. Warming drowning victims from the inside out by CPR or warm, moist inhalation may bring them back to life!

TAKE A BOATING EDUCATION COURSE

Those persons born on or after January 1, 1978 must take an approved boating education course before operating a boat. Contact the Office of Boating Safety and Education for more information on taking a classroom course: 302-739-9915. OR Take an online course at <http://de.gov/boatsafety>.

FURBEARER TRAPPING SEASONS

SPECIES	SEASON
Muskrat, Mink, Otter Raccoon, Opossum, Nutria	Dec. 1 - Mar. 10*
Beaver	Dec. 1 - Mar. 20
Red Fox and Coyote	Nov. 1 - Mar. 10
Groundhog	July 1 - June 30 A trapping license is not required to trap groundhogs.

A .17 through .22 rimfire firearm may be used to dispatch furbearers caught in a trap.

There is no daily or possession limit for furbearers that have been trapped.

*In New Castle County, on embanked meadows, the season runs through March 20.

FURBEARER HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS (NO SUNDAY HUNTING)

SPECIES	SEASON	LIMIT	NOTE
Raccoon and Opossum	Chase only season (no harvest allowed): Aug. 1 - Oct. 31* Mar. 1 - Mar. 31 Hunting season: Nov. 1 - Feb. 28**	No Limit	* Chase Only Season: Season closed during the Oct. muzzleloader deer season. See page 20 for deer season dates. ** Hunting Season: Season closed during the Nov. youth and non-ambulatory hunt and Nov. general firearm deer seasons. Special hunting hours during the Oct. and Dec. antlerless, Jan. straight-walled pistol-caliber rifle and handgun, Jan. general firearm, and Jan. muzzleloader seasons are 1 hour after sunset until midnight. See page 20 for deer season dates. See Raccoons section on next page for special zone where season is open all year, except Sundays, including during the deer seasons listed above. Raccoons and opossums may be hunted with compound, recurve, longbow, shotgun, a .17 through .22 caliber rimfire firearm, or a muzzleloading rifle not larger than .36 caliber.
Red Fox	Chase only season (no harvest allowed): Oct. 1 - Apr. 30* except season closed during deer shotgun, muzzleloader and antlerless seasons occurring Oct. thru Dec. Hunt: Nov. 1 - Feb. 28**	No Limit	* Season closed during the Oct. muzzleloader, Oct. antlerless, Nov. youth and non-ambulatory hunt, Nov. general firearm, and Dec. antlerless seasons. Season open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday on private land only during the Jan. straight-walled pistol-caliber rifle and handgun, Jan. general firearm, and Jan. muzzleloader deer seasons provided the owner of the private land has authorized such fox chasing to occur thereon. See page 20 for deer season dates. ** Red fox may be harvested with a compound, recurve, longbow, crossbow, shotgun, muzzleloading rifle, rimfire or centerfire rifle up to .25 caliber. Red fox may not be harvested with handguns or straight-walled pistol-caliber rifles. See next page for firearm restrictions during firearms deer seasons.
Coyote	Sept. 1 - Feb. 28	No Limit	Coyotes may be harvested with compound, recurve, longbow, crossbow, shotgun, muzzleloading rifle, rimfire, or centerfire rifle up to .25 caliber. Coyotes may not be harvested with handguns or straight-walled pistol-caliber rifles. See next page for firearm restrictions during firearms deer seasons.
Beaver	Dec. 1 - Mar. 20	No Limit	Beavers may be hunted with shotguns, compound, recurve, or longbows.

- Only raccoons and opossums may be hunted at night with the aid of a light.
- Electronic calls may be used to hunt raccoons, opossums, red fox, and coyotes.

STATE WILDLIFE AREAS

Each year the Division accepts sealed bids for persons to trap on its wildlife areas. Bidding information is published in early August and bids are opened in early October. Bid information can be obtained through the Office of Management and Budget Bid Solicitation website at <http://bids.delaware.gov> or by calling the Division at 302-739-9912. No trapping is allowed on any Division lands without a permit.

TRAPPING PROHIBITIONS

- IT IS UNLAWFUL TO:

- Use traps to take wildlife except muskrats, mink, otter, beaver, raccoons, opossum, groundhogs, nutria, red foxes, and coyotes. Rabbits may be trapped by landowners, their tenants, or their respective children during the open season.
- Use any type of trap, except for muskrats, without marking the trap with a metal tag stating the trapper's license number and year or the trapper's name and address.
- Set traps on public or private land without first acquiring written permission from the landowner. For your convenience, trappers who wish to trap on private property may use the Private Land Trapping Permission Form on page 10 in this guide.
- Fail to visit traps, except those set for muskrats, at least once every 24 hours.
- Set traps any time before the opening day of a season or any time after the last day of a season. (There is no provision in Delaware's laws to set up traps the day before a season opens or to allow the removal of traps for several days after a season closes.)
- Set foothold traps with a jaw spread in excess of 6½ inches above the waterline or 7¾ inches beneath the waterline. "Waterline" shall refer to beneath the surface of the water or below the mean high tide line in an area ordinarily subject to the rise and fall of the tide. Jaw spread is measured as the widest distance from this inside of both jaws on a line drawn perpendicular through the jaw pivot points when the trap is in the set position.
- Set foothold traps in areas above the waterline without them having padded or offset jaws,

Continued on page 40



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Continued from page 39

or smooth jaws with a minimum thickness of 5/16 inch, with the exception being that coil-spring traps with a jaw spread of 4 inches or less and long-spring traps with a jaw spread of 4 ½ inches or less do not need to be padded or have offset jaws but must have a minimum jaw thickness of 1/8 inch. Jaw thickness is measured perpendicular across the face of the jaw where the two jaws meet when closed.

- Set foothold traps with toothed or serrated jaws.
- Set snares, now referred to as cable restraints, without the following criteria being met: comprised of stranded steel cable with a minimum diameter of 5/64 inches. Cable restraints must be equipped with a relaxing-type lock. The cable may not exceed 7 feet in length from the anchor point to the relaxing lock and must be equipped with at least one swivel device, which allows for 360° rotation, between the loop and the anchor. The cable restraint must have stops affixed to the cable to ensure that the cable that makes up the loop may not have a circumference greater than 38 inches when fully open, or a circumference less than 6 ¼ inches when fully closed. Cable restraints with a maximum loop circumference of 12 ½ inches do not require cable stops. It shall be unlawful to set a cable restraining with the bottom of the loop any higher than 12 inches above the ground. Cable restraints must be maintained in good condition so that all components operate properly.
- Move, take, or damage any trap, or take, or attempt to take, wildlife from any trap without first acquiring specific advance permission.
- Use killer or conibear traps with a jaw spread in excess of 5 inches.
- Use diving or box traps for muskrats.
- Set traps (except box/cage traps) within 10' of exposed meat used as bait. The use of animal fur or feathers without any attached animal tissue is not restricted.
- Trap within 100 yards of an occupied structure (unless trapper is the owner or occupant, or has permission from the owner or occupant).

TRAP TAGS

- Every trapper (licensed or license exempt trapper) must place a trap tag on every trap they set in the field for the purpose of catching snapping turtles and furbearers, excluding muskrats. While traps that are set for muskrats are not required to be tagged, the Division recommends tagging these traps because sometimes these traps may capture an animal other than a muskrat. Tagging all traps would ensure a trapper remains

compliant with the rules pertaining to trap tags for any furbearer they catch.

- A trap tag is used to enable a Natural Resource Police Officer or landowner to identify the owner of the trap. Trap tags must be metallic and must be affixed to all traps, except those set to capture muskrats. The tag needs to have **either** the words "Trapping License, Delaware" and the trap owner's trapping license or license exempt number and the year of issuance **or** the owner's name and address.
- The Division will provide to any trapper (license or license exempt) a one-time allotment of 25 tags for free. Additional tags may be purchased from the Division at the R&R Front Desk for \$4 per 25 tags. These Division-issued tags simply state, "Trapping License Delaware" and the trapper needs to add their personal information (engraving is recommended). Tags may also be made by the trapper or purchased from a private vendor.

TRAPPING FROM BOATS

An individual may use a boat to tend lawfully set traps for fur-bearing wildlife

RACCOONS

Raccoons may be trapped in season statewide with foothold traps, including foot encapsulating style traps, cable restraints, or box traps operated to confine but not harm the entrapped animal. The trap opening of box/cage traps may not exceed 195 square inches. At any time of the year (except on Sundays).

Raccoons may be hunted and trapped any time of the year on private land in New Castle and Kent Counties east of Rte. 13 from Federal School Lane (near the Ommelanden Range in New Castle County) south to the St. Jones River in Kent County. Where Rte. 13 and Rte. 1 split in Dover, the westerly boundary follows Rte. 1 until it meets the St. Jones River with permission from the landowner. In all other areas of the state, the regular season applies. See previous page.



COYOTES

Anyone that shoots or traps a coyote must report the harvest by contacting the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 302-735-3600 by the close of business on the day following the harvest. Harvest reports are an important way for Division biologists to track coyote distribution and abundance across the state. During any deer firearms season, it will be unlawful to hunt coyotes with any firearm that is not also legal for deer hunting except coyotes may never be harvested with a straight-walled pistol-caliber rifle or handgun. Hides of coyotes legally taken may be sold.

RIVER OTTER

Otters must be tagged by an authorized representative of the Division of Fish and Wildlife in accordance with CITES requirements. Please contact the Division at 302-735-3600 to make arrangements to have your otter tagged once the pelt has been stretched and dried but before it is sold or shipped out of state. Tags will not be distributed to trappers but instead must be affixed to otter pelts by a representative from the Division so bring your pelts with you for tagging.

RED FOX

It is unlawful to kill a red fox that is being pursued by dogs. During any deer firearms season, it will be unlawful to hunt red fox with any firearm that is not also legal for deer hunting except red fox may never be harvested with a straight-walled pistol-caliber rifle or handgun. It is unlawful to hunt red fox with the aid of a light.

GRAY FOX

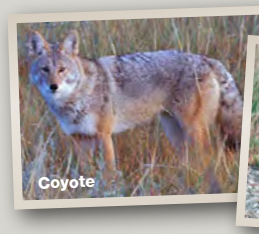
The collateral take of gray fox shall not be unlawful south of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal during the established hunting and trapping seasons for red fox. No take is permitted north of the canal. Anyone that shoots or traps a gray fox must report the take to the Division within 7 days of the harvest by calling 302-735-3600.

NUTRIA

Anyone that traps a nutria must report the harvest by contacting the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 302-735-3600 by the close of business on the day following the harvest. Harvest reports are an important way for Division biologists to track nutria distribution and abundance across the state. Captured nutria may not be released back into the wild alive and must be killed. Hides of nutria legally taken may be sold.

COYOTES

Adult coyotes generally weigh 20–45 pounds. Coyotes look similar to German Shepard dogs. They have erect, pointed ears, a slender muzzle, and a bushy tail. Most coyotes are brownish gray in color with a light gray to cream-colored belly although they can vary in color from reddish to even black. Coyote tracks are often confused with those made by a red fox or domestic dog likely due to the variation in size and shape of domestic dog breeds, some of which are similar to coyotes. Coyote tracks are smaller than many people think and are oval in shape, whereas dog tracks are generally more round. Additionally, the middle toe pads of a coyote track generally point inward whereas the toe pads of a domestic dog generally do not. For more information on coyotes in Delaware, please visit <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/hunting/coyotes/>



PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS WITHIN EACH COUNTY

	ZONE ^A	DEER	WATERFOWL	TURKEY ^B	SMALL GAME
NEW CASTLE					
STATE WILDLIFE AREAS					
Augustine Wildlife Area	3	X (L)	X (L, T)	X	X
Eagles Nest Wildlife Area	3	X	X (PL)	X	X
C&D Canal Conservation Area	1A,1B,2,3	X	X	X	X
Cedar Swamp Wildlife Area	3	X*(L)	X (L)	X	X (L)
STATE PARKS					
Auburn Valley State Park	1A	X			
Brandwine Creek State Park	1A	X			
Lums Pond State Park	1B	X			
White Clay Creek State Park	1A	X			
STATE FORESTS					
Blackbird State Forest	2	X*	X	X	X
KENT					
STATE WILDLIFE AREAS					
Blackiston Wildlife Area	4	X	X	X	X
Little Creek Wildlife Area	5	X (PL)	X (PL, T)	X	X (PL)
McGinnis Pond Wildlife Area	8	X			
Milford Neck Wildlife Area	9	X	X (T)	X	X
Norman G. Wilder Wildlife Area	6	X	X	X	X
Tappahanna Wildlife Area	4	X		X	
Ted Harvey Conservation Area	5,8	X (PL)	X (PL, T)	X	X (PL)
Woodland Beach Wildlife Area	5	X* (PL)	X (L, T)	X	X (PL)
STATE PARKS					
Killens Pond State Park	8	X			
STATE FORESTS					
Taber State Forest	7	X	X	X	X
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES					
Bombay Hook NWR	5	X	X		X
SUSSEX					
STATE WILDLIFE AREAS					
Assawoman Wildlife Area	15,17	X (PL)	X (L)	X	X
Industrial Forest Land - Barr Complex	11	X	X	X	X
Industrial Forest Land - Laurel	13,16	X	X	X	X
Marshy Hope Wildlife Area	10	X	X	X	X
Midlands Wildlife Area	14	X	X	X	X
Milford Neck Wildlife Area	9	X	X	X	X
Nanticoke Wildlife Area	13	X	X	X	X
Old Furnace Wildlife Area	11	X		X	X
Prime Hook Wildlife Area	9	X	X (L)	X	X
STATE PARKS					
Cape Henlopen State Park	9	X	X		
Delaware Seashore State Park	15	X	X		
Holts Landing State Park	15	X			
Trap Pond State Park	16	X			X**
STATE FORESTS					
Redden State Forest	8,11,12,15	X*	X	X	X
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES					
Prime Hook NWR	9,12	X	X (L)		X

A – Zone refers to the Wildlife Management Zone(s) in which the public land is located. Refer to page 28 for zone boundaries.
 B – All public land turkey hunting by pre-season lottery only. See page 45 for application.
 X – Species allowed to be hunted here. See area map for specific seasons, rules, and locations.
 L – Hunting only available through daily lottery. See area map for lottery requirements.
 PL – Hunting on portions of area only available through daily lottery.
 T – Open for September Teal Season
 * Some tracts are managed as Quality Buck Areas. See area map for more details.
 ** Check area rules for the types of small game that may be hunted

HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES ON PUBLIC LANDS

WATERFOWL

Waterfowl hunters have a variety of opportunities to hunt on public lands in Delaware including marsh blinds/blind sites, upland blinds, goose pits, and upland fields. Refer to individual area maps for specific area rules and regulations.

The following areas are by permit only issued through a daily lottery:

- Augustine WA
- Cedar Swamp WA
- Woodland Beach WA
- Kelley Island (part of Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge)
- Little Creek WA (portions of)
- Ted Harvey CA (portions of)
- Assawoman WA (portions of)
- Prime Hook WA and Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge (lotteries run through National Wildlife Refuge lottery system)

DEER

Deer hunters have a variety of opportunities to hunt on public lands in Delaware. Refer to individual area maps for specific area rules and regulations.

The following areas have firearm deer hunting by permit only issued through a daily lottery.

- White Clay Creek State Park
- Augustine WA
- Blackbird State Forest
- Cedar Swamp WA
- Woodland Beach WA (except the Lighthouse Island tract)
- Little Creek WA (portions of)
- Ted Harvey CA
- Assawoman WA (portions of)
- Deer hunting in eight Delaware State Parks is by permit only and hunters should contact the Park Office where they intend to hunt for specific site information. For more information call 302-739-9220 or visit <https://destateparks.com/Adventures/Hunting>.

QUALITY BUCK MANAGEMENT AREAS

The Cedar Swamp (except the Rocks tract) and Woodland Beach State Wildlife Areas as well as the Dulany Manor tract of Blackbird State Forest and the Chesapeake, Ellendale, Headquarters, and Jester tracts of Redden State Forest and Killens Pond State Park are Quality Buck Areas. All hunters (except hunters under 17 years of age and non-ambulatory hunters hunting on either the Cedar Swamp or Woodland Beach State Wildlife Areas) hunting these areas shall not take an antlered deer with a minimum outside antler spread of less than 15 inches at any time. Only bucks that qualify for the existing Quality Buck Tag are legal in these areas. Antlerless deer can still be legally harvested.

SMALL GAME / TURKEY

Small game hunters have a variety of opportunities to hunt on public lands in Delaware.

Continued on page 42

Continued from page 41

Refer to individual area maps for specific area rules and regulations.

The following areas have rabbit hunting by permit only issued through a daily lottery:

- Cedar Swamp WA
- Woodland Beach WA (portions of)
- Little Creek WA (portions of)
- Ted Harvey CA (portions of)
- Assawoman WA (portions of)

Turkey hunting is only available through a pre-season lottery. See page 45 for more information.

RULES FOR STATE WILDLIFE AREAS

WILDLIFE AREA MAPS

Did You Know?

Delaware's Wildlife Area Maps are now interactive and available online. You can now:

- Access them with your mobile device in the field.
- Zoom in and out for better details about your favorite spots.
- Get all the information on a wildlife area in one easy location.

Each Wildlife Area is complete with maps for:

- General Overview
- Hunting
- Sunday Hunting
- Birding

Go to <https://de.gov/wamaps> and click on the button for the online maps to access them today!

For paper maps of all state wildlife areas may be obtained from the Division of Fish and Wildlife Office, 89 Kings Hwy., Dover, Delaware 19901. Regulations covering each area are included. Individuals can receive up to 5 maps free. Additional maps will cost \$0.50 cents each. A complete booklet of maps can be obtained for \$5.00 plus \$1.00 for shipping. Maps are also available for free at <https://de.gov/wamaps>.

- Hunters should note that days open for hunting some species on public lands may vary from the general hunting season. Hunters should check the regulations for each public area they plan to hunt.
- To view public lands open to Sunday hunting, please visit the Sunday hunting website: <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/hunting/sunday/> or call the Wildlife Section office 302-739-9912.

DEER STAND / WATERFOWL BLIND LOTTERY PERMIT

Hunters that use a State Wildlife Area waterfowl blind or deer stand for hunting that is assigned through a daily lottery must purchase a \$20 annual Wildlife Area Deer Stand/Waterfowl Blind Lottery Permit. All individuals must be in possession of this permit when using the blind or stand. This permit is not required for youth hunters or their non-hunting accompanying adult when hunting during the special youth deer and waterfowl hunts. These permits can

be purchased where hunting licenses are sold or online at <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC>.

GENERAL RULES

Hunters are advised to check each area map for specific rules and information.

- A Conservation Access Pass is required for all vehicles using designated State Wildlife Areas, except for the C&D Canal Conservation Area. See pages 11 and 12 for more information.
- Driving or operating any unlicensed motor vehicle is prohibited.
- Driving any motorized vehicle off established and maintained roadways or driving in excess of 20 MPH on wildlife area roads is prohibited.
- Riding horses or bicycles (including electric bicycles) anywhere other than on established and maintained roads or trails that have been designated by the Division on current area maps is prohibited.
- Operating or possessing radio-controlled drones, boats and other vehicles, or launching model rockets is prohibited on lands or waters administered by the Division without a permit from the Director.
- No person may trespass into areas closed by the Division.
- Entry is permitted between ½ hour before sunrise and ½ hour after sunset unless lawfully hunting, fishing or boating.
- No camping or swimming without special authorization of the Division.
- Furbearer hunting is permitted on many State Wildlife Areas. See area maps for details and locations.
- No dumping or littering, no target shooting including paintball.
- Using metal detectors is prohibited on lands or waters administered by the Division without a permit from the Division Director
- Releasing or otherwise introducing any species of domestic or wild animal onto lands administered by the Division is prohibited, unless in accordance with the statutes or regulations governing dog training activities.
- Hunting is permitted only as specified on area maps available from the Division.
- Firearms are allowed except for designated prohibited areas; the Division may authorize firearm possession in designated prohibited areas.
- The discharge of any firearm including paintball guns, air rifles, bows, and crossbows is prohibited unless lawfully hunting or trapping.
- No rifled guns allowed on lands along the C&D Canal except muzzleloaders and shotguns during the deer seasons when it is lawful to use such firearms.
- Hunting is prohibited on all dikes and walking on dikes is prohibited during open waterfowl seasons.
- No trapping on state areas without a valid lease. Leases will be bid in October of each year.
- It shall be unlawful to participate in deer drives, except where authorized on current wildlife area maps between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. No more than 6 hunters may participate in driving deer at any one time. Both resident and non-resident hunters may participate in deer drives.

- Small game hunting is closed during December and January General Firearm deer seasons. See area maps for details.
- Baiting for deer hunting is prohibited.
- Rabbit dogs may be trained on some areas on Sundays during September, October, and November except for the Sundays during firearm deer seasons. See specific wildlife area maps for dog training regulations.
- No permanent non-state deer stands are permitted. Temporary portable deer stands may be used on some areas (see individual area maps). Temporary portable stands may be erected at the owner's own risk after August 1st and must be removed by February 15th. Any stands left after this date will become property of the Division.
- All hunters that install temporary tree stands or ground blinds on State Wildlife Areas, and leave them overnight, are required to obtain a free registration number either by visiting the Division's website at <https://de.gov/fw> or by calling the Wildlife Section at (302) 739-9912. This registration number must be legibly displayed on all tree stands or ground blinds. Tree stands may be deployed from August 1 - February 15. For additional information, please refer to the area specific maps at <https://de.gov/wamaps>.
- The placement or use of trail cameras is prohibited on all state wildlife and fishing access areas.
- It shall be unlawful to possess, consume or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages, liquors or drugs while hunting or in the possession of firearms when on lands administered by the Division.
- Collection and removal of any wildlife species from a State Wildlife Area is prohibited unless otherwise provided by statute, regulation or authorized by the Division Director.

RULES FOR DELAWARE FOREST SERVICE LANDS

(BLACKBIRD, REDDEN, AND TABER STATE FORESTS)

(Administered by Delaware Forest Service, Department of Agriculture) Please contact each State Forest office for a list of any tract closures.

- For Redden State Forest information call: 302-856-2893.
- For Blackbird State Forest call: 302-653-6505.
- For Taber State Forest call: 302-698-4549.

TURKEY HUNTING ON STATE FOREST LANDS

The Delaware Forest Service will be issuing permits to hunt turkeys on State Forest Lands through a separate public lottery system not found within this guide. Hunters will no longer be eligible to receive a permit to hunt on both State Forests and State Wildlife Areas in the same season. The State Forest Lottery will be held after the State Wildlife Area Lottery. Hunters that successfully receive a State Wildlife Area permit, and applied for a State Forest permit, will have their State Forest application removed before the lottery

Continued on page 43

Continued from page 42

takes place and they will not be eligible for the State Forest lottery. This change is being made to maximize the number of individual hunters that have an opportunity to hunt on publicly-owned land each season. Applications are due by January 6, 2025 and are available at State Forest offices or they may be found at <https://agriculture.delaware.gov/forest-service/forms-information/>

THE FOLLOWING RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLY TO ALL STATE FOREST LANDS:

- State Forests are year-round multiple use areas. Hunters share the use of State Forest Lands with other public users such as hikers, campers, horseback riders, firewood cutters, and loggers.
- No special permits are required to hunt on State Forest lands, except as specified in the DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife annual Hunting and Trapping Guide. Properly licensed hunters may hunt during any open season except on areas designated, such as those marked with Wildlife Sanctuary, NO HUNTING, Safety Zones signs, or Closed to Public White-tailed Deer Hunting.
- Portions of State Forest tracts will be closed to public white-tailed deer hunting from September 1st - January 31st. Please contact each State Forest for a list of these closures.
- Hunting is only permitted as specified on State Forest maps available free-of-charge from State Forest offices and online at <https://>

agriculture.delaware.gov/forest-service/maps/.

- Sunday hunting is prohibited on all State Forest property.
- No permanent deer stands, platforms, ladders, or blinds may be constructed. No screw-in steps, tree spikes, screws, or nails are allowed. All parts of temporary (portable) deer stands must be removed on the final day of the January muzzleloader season; any stands remaining after this date will be removed and become property of the Delaware Forest Service. Stands may be placed after August 1 prior to the start of the new year's hunting season. Owners of deer stands left on Delaware State Forest lands during the designated time period are required to tag/clearly identify their stand with the owners name and phone number. Failure to do you will result in removal of the stand by Delaware Forest Service officials.
- Deer drives by any person or persons are not permitted on any State Forest land at any time.
- For deer hunting, only the entrails (internal organs known as viscera) may be left behind on State property. All other deer parts must be removed from State property.
- Portions of some State Forest tracts are only open to archery hunting for deer. Please contact your local State Forest office for more information.
- Small game hunting is closed on State Forest lands during firearm deer season.
- The Delaware Forest Service reserves the right to close to hunting specific State Forest tracts during specific hunting seasons. Therefore, it

is important to consult the current hunting guide for a listing of these closures.

- Trapping rights may be leased for State Forest lands. No other trapping is permitted on State Forest lands.
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Waterfowl hunting is permitted on State Forest property only in designated areas on designated days. Please refer to state forest regulations posted at each office and on the back of each map.
- Red fox hunting is allowed on State Forest lands but centerfire rifles are not permitted.
- No dumping or littering.
- Placing paint, ribbon, flagging, reflectors, etc., is not permitted.
- No living trees, shrubs or other vegetation may be cut, felled, uprooted, removed or otherwise injured or destroyed.
- No off-road vehicles registered or unregistered.
- Camping is available by permit in designated areas only.
- It is unlawful to use bait for hunting purposes on all State Forest lands.
- No parking in front of access gates to State Forest lands.

RESTRICTIONS APPLYING TO REDDEN STATE FOREST

- Headquarters, Jester, Ellendale and Chesapeake Tracts are Quality Buck only (doe harvest is permitted on these tracts).

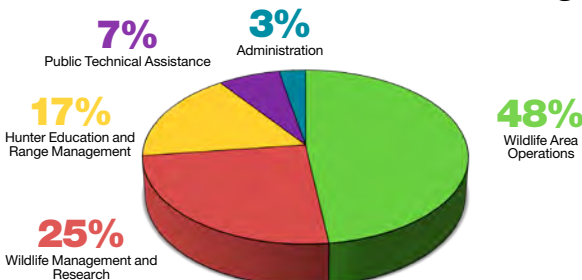
Continued on page 44

License \$\$\$ Working for You

Hunting and trapping license dollars are used to "match" federal aid dollars under the Wildlife Restoration Act. License funds cover 25% of approved project costs with Federal Aid covering the rest. Now that's an investment you can "go wild" about.

Hunters exempted from purchasing a hunting license may voluntarily purchase a license which would allow the Division to match additional federal funds for those activities shown in the adjoining chart. The Division thanks all of those who volunteer to financially support wildlife conservation in this way.

Distribution of Wildlife Section Funding



Invading our Wetlands: Nutria!

Report sightings of this invasive species before it destroys our wetlands!



Distinguishing Characteristics

- Large blocky head and orange teeth
- Body length up to 24 inches, tail is round, slightly haired and up to 15 inches long
- Weighs up to 20 pounds
- Hump-back posture when walking
- Distinctive droppings up to 2 inches long and banana-shaped

Call **877-463-6497** to report sightings

The Chesapeake Bay Nutria Eradication Project



DEER STAND AND WATERFOWL BLIND FACILITIES FOR HUNTERS WITH A DISABILITY

AREA	DEER STANDS		DEER LOCATIONS	WATERFOWL BLINDS	
	WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE	LIMITED MOBILITY	WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE	WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE	LIMITED MOBILITY
Augustine WA	1	1		1	1
Cedar Swamp WA	4	6	1	3	
Woodland Beach WA	2	8		3	
Little Creek WA		3		2	
Ted Harvey CA		5	3	1	
Assawoman WA		9		1	
Old Furnace WA		2	4		
Nanticoke WA	1				
White Clay Creek SP		9			
Trap Pond SP		2			
Lums Pond SP			2		
Brandywine Creek SP		1			
Auburn Valley SP		1			
Cape Henlopen SP		4			
Delaware Seashore SP		2			
Killens Pond SP		1			
Holts Landing SP		3			

All hunters wishing to hunt from a stand or blind designated for hunters with a disability must possess a valid State of Delaware Certified Hunter with Disabilities card. For more information about this program please call 302-739-9912.

Continued from page 43

RESTRICTIONS APPLYING TO BLACKBIRD STATE FOREST

Maps delineating these areas are available at Blackbird State Forest headquarters, on the DDA website (agriculture.delaware.gov) or by calling 302-653-6505.

- Deer hunting is limited to numbered stands on Tybout, White Road, Dulany and South Barlow.
- For most firearm seasons, there will be a lottery held at Blackbird State Forest (BSF) headquarters, located on the Tybout tract, at 502 Blackbird Forest Road, 1.5 hours before legal hunting time.
- The Tybout and Barlow tracts will be closed for firearm hunting during the October Antlerless Season. Archery hunting will still be allowed on these areas during this season.
- During the January Handgun and Straight-walled Pistol-caliber Rifle season, the Tybout tract will be closed to all hunting. There will be no lottery held for the White Road, Barlow, and Dulany tracts during this season, it will be on a first come first serve basis.
- During the January General Firearm and January Muzzleloader seasons there will be limited lotteries held for the Tybout, White Road, Dulany, and Barlow tracts due to low

hunter participation. Please contact BSF for further details.

- Dulany Tract is managed for Quality bucks only.
- No small game hunting on the Dulany and Tybout tracts.
- Archery hunting is permitted from BSF lottery stands.
- During Archery seasons bow hunters, using BSF stands, must be within 50 yards of their designated stand.
- Please note that archery hunting is the only type of hunting allowed on the Meadows and north Barlow Tracts. The Meadows Tract contains the BSF Education Center, which includes outdoor education trails, so hunters may encounter other individuals on this property.
- Stands will be available during the Archery seasons on a first-come, first-served basis.
- No more than one hunter may hunt from a stand at any one time.
- Squirrel hunting is not allowed with a rifle or muzzleloading rifle. Shotgun squirrel hunting is permitted.
- The trails of BSF trails are generally closed during firearm hunting seasons, but hunters may encounter other individuals on BSF properties.

RESTRICTIONS APPLYING TO TABER STATE FOREST.

- All hunters must sign in at kiosks.

- Squirrel hunting is not allowed with a rifle or muzzleloading rifle. Shotgun squirrel hunting is permitted.

RULES FOR DELAWARE STATE PARK LANDS

(ADMINISTERED BY DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION)

State Parks are year-round multiple use areas. Hunters share park lands with other recreational user groups including hikers, bikers, runners, equestrians and others.

Deer hunting is an important management tool used by natural resource managers to reduce the impact of deer on the natural communities in Delaware's state parks. Deer hunting is permitted in nine of Delaware's seventeen state parks. Limited recreational small game and waterfowl hunting is also permitted in a few state parks.

Sunday hunting and hunting with a handgun or rifle are not permitted in Delaware state parks.

A State Park Registration fee (\$10) is required of all hunters to hunt on state park lands. Starting this year you can only pay the fee through Digital DNREC where you purchase your license. One registration is good for all State Parks where hunting is permitted. To find out more about the registration fee please visit destateparks.com/Adventures/Hunting. This year registrations will only be available via Digital DNREC starting in August.

State Park Rules are generally more restrictive than on State Wildlife Areas. You can obtain the rules and maps specific for the Park you intend to hunt, at that park's office, on the State Parks website at <https://www.destateparks.com/Adventures/Hunting>, by email request to DNREC_StatePark_Hunting@delaware.gov or by calling 302-739-9220.

RULES FOR BOMBAY HOOK AND PRIME HOOK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Stretched along the eastern coastline of Delaware near Milton and Smyrna and covering 26,000 acres, the Bombay Hook and Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuges provide habitat for a diversity of wildlife.

Game species are sought after by avid hunters on both refuges. Hunting, which is identified by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 as one of the six wildlife-dependent recreational uses on refuges, is an important part of Delaware's heritage and tradition. Public hunting opportunities are available for deer, turkeys, upland game, web-less migratory birds, and waterfowl on both refuges. A complete listing of hunting information and regulations can be accessed for Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge at <https://fws.gov/refuge/bombay-hook> or 302-653-9345 and for Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge at <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/prime-hook> or 302-684-8419.

PUBLIC LANDS HUNTING AND TRAPPING SECTION

2025 Application for State Wildlife Area and National Wildlife Refuge Turkey Hunts

- **Print clearly.** Illegible information could result in application being rejected.
- **Submit only one application.** More than one application per individual will result in disqualification.
- **Select each area only once.** Listing an area more than once does not change your odds of being drawn.
- **Awarded permits are non-transferable.** You may only receive one public land permit each season, either a State Wildlife Area, Federal National Wildlife Refuge or a State Forest permit.
- If selected, failure to accurately complete and return the Division-provided Turkey Harvest survey card after the season will result in disqualification from the lottery in the following year.
- **All first-time Delaware Turkey Hunters must have satisfactorily completed a Division-approved Turkey Hunting Safety Course to be eligible to apply for a permit.** (Note: Youth under the age of 13 that will be directly supervised while hunting by a person 21 years or older that has completed the class are exempt.)
- All applicants will be reviewed to confirm the successful completion of the required turkey hunting safety course before being considered for the lottery. **If not already verified,** applicants are also required to submit proof of course completion by the application deadline. See page 48 for more information.

Hunter's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
 Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____ Email Address: _____
 License # or LEN: _____

Eligible State Wildlife Areas and Federal National Wildlife Refuges			State Forests
Assawoman (4) Augustine (3) Blackiston (5) Cedar Swamp (5) C&D Canal (5) Eagles Nest (7) Industrial Forest-Barr (6)	Industrial Forest-Laurel (5) Little Creek (7) Marshy Hope (5) Midlands (13) Milford Neck (9) Nanticoke (9) Norman G. Wilder (10)	Old Furnace (7) Prime Hook (3) Tappahanna (4) Ted Harvey (5) Woodland Beach (5) Bombay Hook NWR (5) Prime Hook NWR (5)	Applications are due by January 6, 2025 and are available at State Forest offices or they may be found at https://agriculture.delaware.gov/forest-service/forms-information/ See page 42 for more information.

1) SELECT UP TO 5 AREAS	2) CIRCLE PREFERRED SEGMENT (1 ONLY)				
1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">A</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">B</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">C</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">D</td> </tr> </table>	A	B	C	D
A	B	C	D		
3) I WILL ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING SEGMENTS (circle all that apply)					
	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">A</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">B</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">C</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">D</td> </tr> </table>	A	B	C	D
A	B	C	D		
4) SELECT AREA OR SEGMENT PREFERENCE					
	<input type="checkbox"/> My AREA is more important than my segment <input type="checkbox"/> My SEGMENT is more important than my area				

I will accept a permit for any area and segment if permits are still available after the initial lottery is completed.

Segments: A (4/12 - 4/18) B (4/19 - 4/25) C (4/26 - 5/2) D (5/3 - 5/10)

Mail turkey applications to: **Wildlife Section, Public Land Turkey Application, 89 Kings Hwy, Dover, DE 19901**

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JANUARY 6, 2025.
 ALL APPLICATIONS POSTMARKED AFTER THIS TIME WILL BE REJECTED.



The Delaware Bayshore

Come Explore Our "Wild Side"

New Castle County

C&D Canal Conservation Area: Michael Castle Trail



Augustine Wildlife Area



DNERR: Blackbird Creek Reserve



Aquatic Resources Education Center



Woodland Beach Wildlife Area



Town of Little Creek & Little Creek Wildlife Area



Ted Harvey Conservation Area



DuPont Nature Center at the Mispillion Harbor Preserve



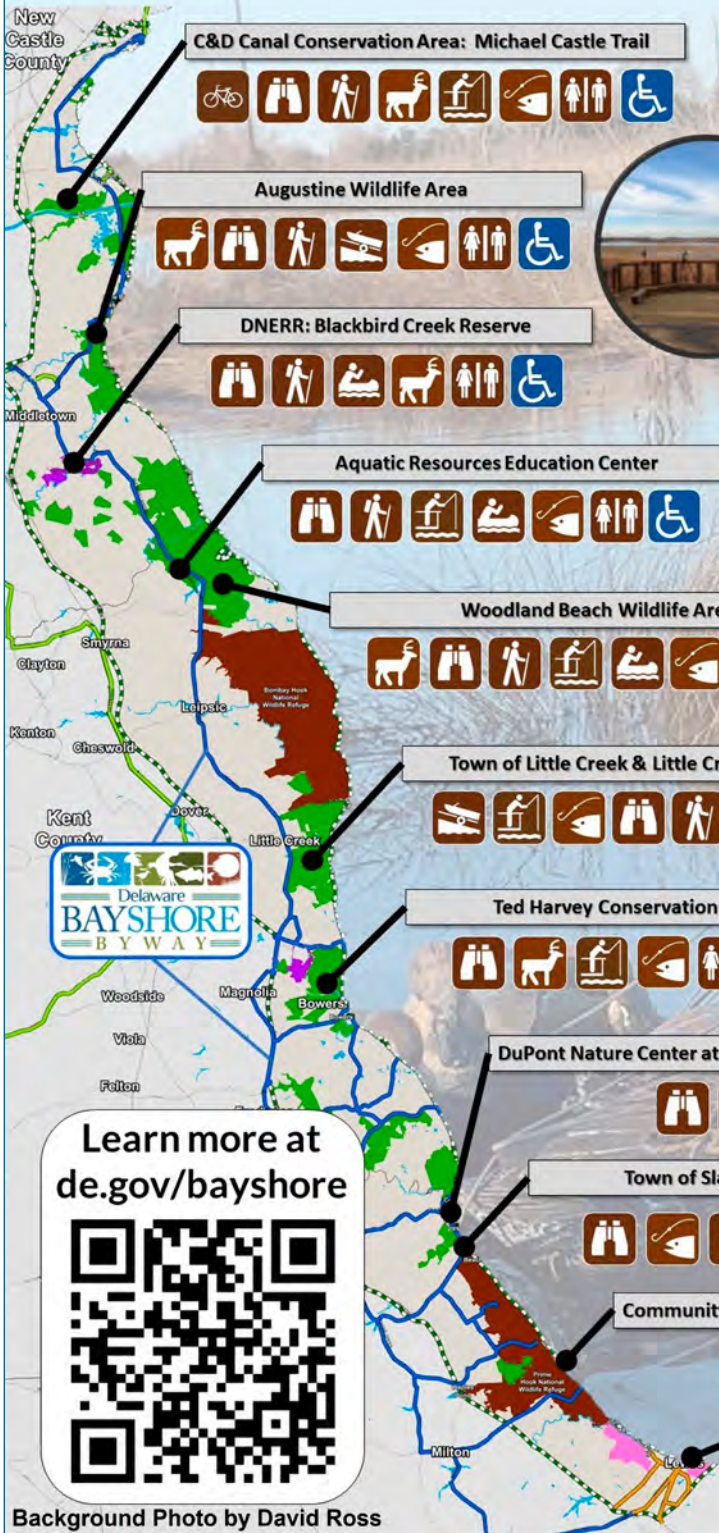
Town of Slaughter Beach



Community of Broadkill Beach & Beach Plum Island



Cape Henlopen State Park



Learn more at de.gov/bayshore



Background Photo by David Ross

DELAWARE HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

THE DELAWARE HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM



Delaware's Hunter Education Program was established in 1970. Section 501, Title 7, Delaware Code, requires all persons born after January 1, 1967 to satisfactorily complete a Basic Hunter Education Course in order to obtain a Delaware hunting license or Youth Hunting License. Since 1970, tens of thousands of Delaware hunters have been certified by the volunteer instructors of the Delaware Hunter Education Program. The program has been extremely successful and effective in significantly reducing risk and accidents.

Emerging factors such as changing demographics and the decreasing amount of habitat and accessible open space for hunting have created new considerations for hunters, landowners, the Division of Fish and Wildlife and Delaware's general public who may or may

not be hunters themselves. In response, the Delaware Hunter Education Program has also changed to meet the demands and challenges of a new hunting era. In addition to a live firing requirement, today's curriculum includes an increased emphasis on safety and ethical behavior, landowner relations, wildlife identification, wildlife management and conservation, hunting laws and regulations.

The Delaware Hunter Education Program is committed to preserving Delaware's heritage of fair chase hunting. In addition to mandatory Basic Hunter Education, Turkey Education and Trapper Education courses, the program offers advanced courses in Bowhunting, Muzzleloading, Handgun Hunting for Deer, Successful Deer Hunting, Precision Firearms for Large Game, Young Waterfowler's Program, Deer Workshops, etc.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Courses including live firing are offered free of charge throughout the year. Certification will not be issued to any person under the age of ten (10). All firearms and ammunition are provided by the Hunter Education Program. Please try to complete your training at least one month before you plan to hunt. Your certification cards can be printed online a few days after you complete the course. The card must be presented to purchase a Delaware hunting license.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Seating is limited and classes will fill quickly as hunting season approaches. Delaware law now requires live firing of a shotgun as part of basic hunter education.

YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

Certification will not be issued to youths under the age of ten. Students under the age of twelve must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Parents are reminded that younger students require a level of maturity and vocabulary sufficient for understanding adult subject matter and completing assignments. Students of smaller physical body size may find it very difficult or impossible to successfully complete live firing exercises.

HUNTER EDUCATION RESOURCES

- Want to view information about the Delaware Hunter Education program and to see a list of the types of courses offered: <https://de.gov/huntersafety>
- Want to see where and when courses are offered - <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/hunter-education/course-calendar/>
- Need to register for a course, update your address, change your contact information or need a replacement Hunter Safety Card - <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC>
- If you need assistance with anything else Hunter Education related, please call 302-735-3600 x 1 or email, huntereducation@delaware.gov

MANDATORY LIVE-FIRE REQUIREMENT AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY WAIVER

Since January 1, 2010, section 501 Delaware Code Title 7 has required all basic hunter education students to participate in a live firing experience with a trained firearms instructor in order to complete the course.

Insurance rules of the State of Delaware require all participants in any course which includes live firing to sign a "Release From Liability Waiver". This form is a legal release.

To register for a course or to learn more about the Release of Liability Waiver and Live-Fire Requirements go to: <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC> or call 302-735-3600 x 1.

- Participants under 18 must have a parent/guardian sign with verification by a notary.
- Participants 18 or older must fill out, sign and either mail the waiver to the Hunter Education office or bring the waiver to class with you.

If you have any questions or want to make sure your waiver has arrived at our office, please call 302-735-3600 x 1.



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IMPORTANT ADVISORY

All residents and non-residents completing Basic Hunter Education in a state other than Delaware must upload a valid copy of his or her Hunter Safety Card **before** purchasing a hunting license. **Only a copy of your hunter safety card from the state where you completed the course will be accepted.**



IMPORTANT TIP

Do not upload a previously purchased hunting license, driver's license, concealed carry permit or anything other than proof of completing Basic Hunter Education in another state.

COURSE OFFERINGS AND LOCATIONS

Please note that our courses are taught by volunteer instructors who schedule most of their courses from late August through December. All class details are subject to change without notice based on availability of instructors and sufficient student participation. The classes listed below may not always be available. Not all of the printed locations may be used. The online schedule is the most accurate and will be updated immediately as soon as new courses are available and posted.

Plan Ahead!

Don't wait until the last minute to take the course!

Classes are usually available somewhere in the state during every month of the year. If you plan to go hunting in the coming season, and you need hunter education certification in order to buy a hunting license, check the latest online schedule today at <https://de.gov/huntersafety>.

Register for the course of your choice online at <https://de.gov/huntersafety> or call 302-735-3600 x 1 during business hours. All course schedules are subject to cancellation or change without notice. It can take several weeks to process tests and enter the results into our computer.

TRADITIONAL, LIVE BASIC HUNTER EDUCATION COURSES

Seating is limited. Advance online registration at <https://de.gov/huntersafety> is required for all courses or call 302-735-3600 x 1.

New hunters learn safety, ethics, firearm types, safe gun handling, marksmanship techniques, specialty hunting techniques, wildlife management, wildlife ID, survival, etc. Delaware requires hunter ed certification via traditional live course or via internet course and field day for all hunters born after January 1, 1967. The courses are recognized in all states and Canadian provinces.

Sign up for traditional basic hunter education course given live at one of the classroom locations throughout the state. Delaware law now requires all basic hunter education course participants to participate in a live firing experience with a trained instructor. Live firing of shotguns requires a liability release signed by students 18 or older or a notarized signature of parents/guardians of students under the age of 18. All students must have protective shooting glasses and hearing protection. Adult and youth firearms, targets and ammunition will be provided. All live courses are free of charge with most held in the late summer and fall. Pre-registration is required. To sign up, go to the Hunter Education Online Access at <https://de.gov/huntersafety> or call 302-735-3600 x 1.

ONLINE OPTION FOR BASIC HUNTER EDUCATION COURSES

Complete your hunter education coursework online with one of three private vendors. All three courses allow you to study and take the exam for free, with a fee due only when you are ready to have the vendor certify your successful completion. The State of Delaware has reviewed and approved these interactive courses but receives no portion of the vendor's fee. New hunters learn safety, ethics, firearm types, safe gun handling, hunting and marksmanship skills, specialty hunting techniques, wildlife management, wildlife ID, survival,

etc. Students with certificates in hand must then register and attend a specially designed, "hands-on" field day training session for final Delaware certification. Field day training for online courses includes Delaware laws and regulations, loading, unloading, safe handling and transporting of firearms; field skills involving blinds, boats and tree stands; zones of fire; obstacle crossing; operation of safeties and shotgun live firing.

Live firing of shotguns requires a liability release signed by students 18 or older or a notarized signature of parents/guardians of students under the age of 18. All students must have protective shooting glasses and hearing protection. Adult and youth firearms, targets and ammunition will be provided. For more information Delaware approved Internet courses visit <https://de.gov/huntersafety> or call 302-735-3600 x 1.

IBEP BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

Seating is limited. Advance online registration at <https://de.gov/huntersafety> is required for all courses or call 302-735-3600 x 1.

Though not a Delaware requirement, this special course is required in many other states and provinces for bowhunters. Participants in this course learn bowhunting methods, game trailing and recovery, field experience, bowhunting safety, reading game signs, safe use of tree stands, calling, field dressing, and more. Youths under the age of 14 must attend with a responsible adult.

Live firing and a signed release of liability and advance online registration are required for participation at <https://de.gov/huntersafety>.

YOUNG WATERFOWLERS PROGRAM

Participation is limited. Advance online registration at <https://de.gov/huntersafety> is required for all courses or call 302-735-3600 x 1.

Always a favorite, these courses (approx 20 hours) provide youths between the ages of 12-16, exposure to the complete waterfowl experience. Everything from waterfowl ID,

biology, blind construction and safety, decoy use, duck calling, camouflage technique, boating safety, bird recovery, laws and regulations, language and tradition, firearms, ammo and equipment will be covered. The course includes basic hunter education and finishes with an actual mentored waterfowl hunt. Participants must be hunter education qualified prior to hunting.

A signed release of liability and advance online registration at <https://de.gov/huntersafety> are required for participation.

MANDATORY TURKEY EDUCATION

Seating is limited. Confirm course dates. Advance online registration at <https://de.gov/huntersafety> is required for all courses or call 302-735-3600 x 1.

In addition to complying with other hunter education requirements, all hunters 13 years of age or older must successfully complete a Delaware-approved turkey hunter education course before they can legally hunt turkeys in Delaware.

Upon successful completion of this course, hunters will need to reprint their hunting license (if they already have a license) as completion of the course will be indicated on the license. Hunters that have already successfully completed the course will no longer need to carry a card as proof of completion as long as their hunting license indicates they have completed the course. In addition, public land hunters must have an annual permit from the Division if hunting on a State Wildlife Area or from the Delaware Department of Agriculture if hunting on a State Forest.

Online Turkey Course Option

Delaware also accepts an online turkey course:

- www.todayshunter.com/turkey101/ (Certification Fee \$29.99)

Note: Upon completion of the online course, students must contact the Hunter Education office at huntereducation@delaware.gov or 302-735-3600 (x 1) to update their account to reflect course completion. Students will be required to submit a copy of their course completion certificate. Please include a phone number where the Hunter Education Office may call, in case there are any questions.

MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION

Seating is limited. Advance online registration at <https://de.gov/huntersafety> is required for all courses or call 302-735-3600 x 1.

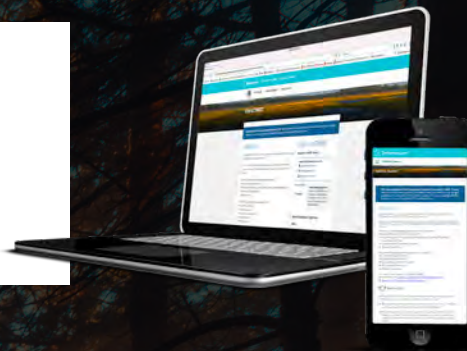
Trapper education is a mandatory prerequisite for purchasing a Delaware trapping license for all persons born after January 1, 1978. Class and Field work sessions include trapping history, heritage and ethics, furbearing animals of Delaware, trapping equipment, boating safety, hypothermia, practical water sets, hands-on instruction, how tides affect sets, proper skinning techniques, fur handling and how to market furs.

Online Option for Trapper Course:

Delaware also accepts an online trapper course that can be found at <https://trapped.com/> (Illinois Basic Trapper Course and Kansas Furbearer Course). Upon completion of the



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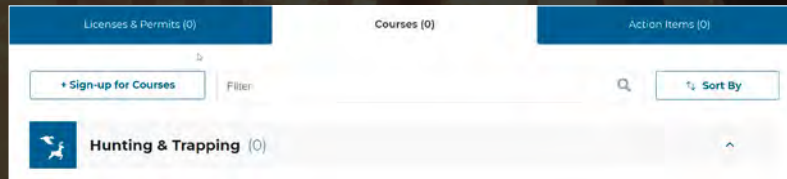


Need to take a Hunting or Trapping Course?

Log in to **DIGITAL DNREC** at <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC> and get started today!

Register for a Course

- » After logging in, select “Sign-up for Courses” on the “Courses” tab.
- » Follow the on-screen prompts and select courses you are interested in to determine course availability and select dates and times.

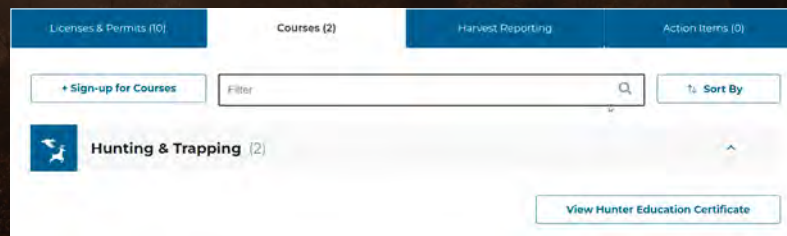


IMPORTANT TIP

You will receive a verification email confirming the class, date, time and location for the class you have chosen. Please review that email to verify your course selection, dates and time.

Print your DE Hunter Education Certificate

- » After logging in, select “View Hunter Education Certificate” on the “Courses” tab.
- » Select your name to view, save or print a copy of your certificate.



IMPORTANT TIP

Please do not wait until the last minute to purchase your hunting license. Hunters born after January 1, 1967, are required to have verified proof of completing hunter education before purchasing a hunting license. If purchasing your hunting license online through our Digital DNREC licensing system at <https://de.gov/DigitalDNREC>, you will be asked to upload a copy of your hunter education card if your card has not already been verified by the Hunter Education Program. Verification of hunter education information may take up to 5 business days, but it is often completed sooner. For more information about how to avoid delays, please refer to page 8.

Have Questions or Need Help with Hunter Education?
Call the Hunter Education Program (302) 735-3600 ext. 1
Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm to speak to Hunter Education Staff.

DELAWARE HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

online course, students must contact the Hunter Education office at huntereducation@delaware.gov or 302-735-3600 x 1 to update their account to reflect course completion. Students will be required to submit a copy of their course completion certificate. Please include a phone number where the Hunter Education Office may call, in case there are any questions.

For more information about additional classes or the Hunter Education Program, visit our website at <https://de.gov/huntersafety>

Or contact:

The Hunter Education Office
6180 Hay Point Landing Road
Smyrna, DE 19977
302-735-3600 x 1.

DELAWARE MASTER HUNTER

Seating is limited. Advance online registration at <https://de.gov/huntersafety> is required for all courses or call 302-735-3600 x 1.

Not for Beginners.

You are already an experienced hunter. You love hunting; you read about it and think about it all year long. You are dedicated to the principles of ethical, responsible, fair chase hunting. You've learned a lot over the years but you are always ready to learn more. You want to keep yourself up to date with the latest hunting developments, trends, tactics, skills and regulations. You realize that there is a lot more to learn about wildlife, wildlife management and the role of hunting in our modern society. You know that hunting is a controversial issue and you want to keep up to date on what's happening in Delaware. You'd like to benefit from

the opportunity to learn from your peers and share some of the things you've learned the hard way. As a lifelong advocate and ambassador for hunting you want to help continue the heritage of hunting and ensure its future for the coming generations. You'd value the personal satisfaction of being a Delaware Master Hunter, officially qualified, certified and recognized by the State of Delaware.

If the above description sounds like you, you may be a candidate for the Delaware Master Hunter Program. Download an application and check the online schedule for dates at <https://de.gov/huntersafety> or call 302-735-3600 x 1 and ask for an application by mail for this unique, one-of-a-kind program. The Delaware Hunter Education Office of the Division of Fish and Wildlife will be glad to mail you an application form and an information sheet with details about the next course.

DIRECTIONS TO HUNTER/TRAPPER EDUCATION CLASSROOM LOCATIONS

CEDARFIELD RURITAN CLUB – MILFORD

From Route 113 South: Head South on Rt. 113. Before coming to the Rt. 113/Rt. 1 split you will see I.G. Burton car dealership on your right. Pass the dealership and immediately take the 1st right onto Tub Mill Pond Road. Wind around the "S" curve and the Ruritan Club (white building) is on your left.

OMMELANDEN HUNTER EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER

1205 RIVER ROAD, NEW CASTLE, DE 19720

From the South: From Route 13, turn right onto Hamburg Rd. At flashing light, turn left onto Rte. 9/River Rd. Ommelanden Range is approximately 2 miles on the right side of the road across from Kirkwood Soccer Club.

From the North: From Route 13, turn left onto Federal Lane. Turn left onto Rte. 9/River Rd. Ommelanden Range is approximately 100 yards on the right side of the road across from Kirkwood Soccer Club.

For Ommelanden Range hours of operation and pricing, visit <https://de.gov/huntersafety> or call 302-601-6267.

HUNTER EDUCATION NEEDS YOU!

Have you ever thought of becoming a Delaware Volunteer Hunter – Trapper Education Instructor?

Download an application at <https://de.gov/huntersafety>, and mail it to the Office of Hunter Education, 6180 Hay Point Landing Road, Smyrna, DE 19977, or call the Hunter Education Coordinator at 302-735-3600 x 1 with questions about the program.

KENT COUNTY HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINING CENTER AT LITTLE CREEK WILDLIFE AREA – RT 9 DOVER / LITTLE CREEK, 3018 BAYSIDE DRIVE

DOVER, DE 19901, 302-735-3600 x 1

From SR 1, south of Dover Air Force Base, take exit 91 for Little Creek / Kitts Hummock. Travel 3.5 miles north on SR9 to Little Creek. (3018 Bayside Drive is .5 miles south of Little Creek city limits on the east side of the roadway)

The Little Creek Wildlife Area is located on the east side of Rt 9, approximately one mile south of Little Creek.



OWENS STATION SHOOTING SPORTS AND HUNTER EDUCATION CENTER

12613 HUNTERS COVE ROAD, GREENWOOD, DE 19950

From Rt 113, take Rt 16 West approx 4.75 miles and turn South (left) onto Owens Rd. Drive approximately .75 miles and turn left again onto Hunters Cove Rd. Drive approximately .3 miles to entrance on left side.

From Rt 13, take Rt 16 East, approximately 2.5 miles and turn right onto Hunter's Cove Road. Drive straight across Owens Rd (stop sign) then drive .3 miles to entrance on left side.



SUNRISE/SUNSET TABLE

SUNRISE AND SUNSET AT DOVER, DELAWARE (Eastern Standard Time) From July 2024 - June 2025

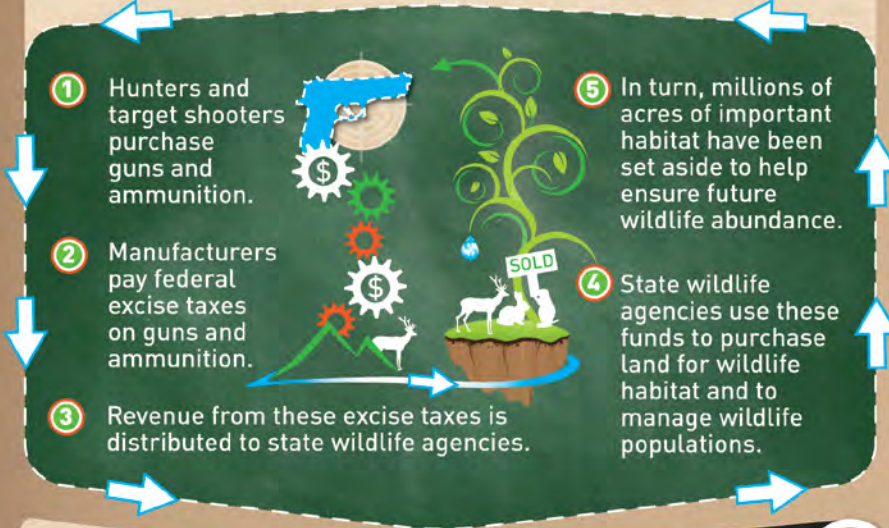
	JULY		AUG.		SEPT.		OCT.		NOV.		DEC.		JAN.		FEB.		MAR.		APR.		MAY		JUNE	
Day	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
1	5:40	8:32	6:03	8:14	6:32	7:32	6:59	6:44	7:31	6:01	7:03	4:40	7:22	4:50	7:08	5:23	6:34	5:55	6:46	7:26	6:03	7:55	5:38	8:22
2	5:41	8:32	6:04	8:12	6:32	7:31	7:00	6:43	7:32	6:00	7:04	4:39	7:22	4:51	7:07	5:24	6:32	5:56	6:44	7:27	6:02	7:56	5:37	8:23
3	5:41	8:32	6:05	8:11	6:33	7:29	7:01	6:41	6:33	4:58	7:05	4:39	7:22	4:52	7:06	5:25	6:31	5:57	6:43	7:28	6:01	7:57	5:37	8:24
4	5:42	8:32	6:06	8:10	6:34	7:28	7:02	6:39	6:34	4:57	7:06	4:39	7:22	4:53	7:05	5:27	6:29	5:58	6:41	7:29	6:00	7:58	5:37	8:24
5	5:42	8:31	6:07	8:09	6:35	7:26	7:03	6:38	6:35	4:56	7:07	4:39	7:22	4:54	7:04	5:28	6:28	5:59	6:39	7:30	5:58	7:59	5:36	8:25
6	5:43	8:31	6:08	8:08	6:36	7:24	7:04	6:36	6:36	4:55	7:08	4:39	7:22	4:55	7:03	5:29	6:26	6:00	6:38	7:31	5:57	8:00	5:36	8:26
7	5:43	8:31	6:09	8:07	6:37	7:23	7:05	6:35	6:37	4:54	7:09	4:39	7:22	4:56	7:02	5:30	6:25	6:01	6:36	7:32	5:56	8:01	5:36	8:26
8	5:44	8:30	6:10	8:06	6:38	7:21	7:06	6:33	6:38	4:53	7:09	4:39	7:21	4:57	7:01	5:31	6:23	6:02	6:35	7:33	5:55	8:02	5:36	8:27
9	5:45	8:30	6:11	8:05	6:39	7:20	7:07	6:32	6:39	4:52	7:10	4:39	7:21	4:57	7:00	5:32	7:22	7:03	6:33	7:34	5:54	8:03	5:36	8:27
10	5:45	8:30	6:11	8:03	6:40	7:18	7:08	6:30	6:41	4:51	7:11	4:39	7:21	4:58	6:59	5:34	7:20	7:04	6:32	7:35	5:53	8:04	5:36	8:28
11	5:46	8:29	6:12	8:02	6:41	7:16	7:09	6:29	6:42	4:51	7:12	4:39	7:21	4:59	6:58	5:35	7:19	7:05	6:30	7:36	5:52	8:05	5:35	8:28
12	5:47	8:29	6:13	8:01	6:41	7:15	7:10	6:27	6:43	4:50	7:13	4:40	7:21	5:01	6:57	5:36	7:17	7:06	6:29	7:37	5:51	8:06	5:35	8:29
13	5:48	8:28	6:14	7:59	6:42	7:13	7:11	6:26	6:44	4:49	7:13	4:40	7:20	5:02	6:55	5:37	7:16	7:07	6:27	7:38	5:50	8:07	5:35	8:29
14	5:48	8:28	6:15	7:58	6:43	7:12	7:12	6:24	6:45	4:48	7:14	4:40	7:20	5:03	6:54	5:38	7:14	7:08	6:26	7:39	5:49	8:08	5:35	8:30
15	5:49	8:27	6:16	7:57	6:44	7:10	7:13	6:23	6:46	4:47	7:15	4:40	7:20	5:04	6:53	5:39	7:13	7:09	6:24	7:40	5:48	8:08	5:35	8:30
16	5:50	8:27	6:17	7:56	6:45	7:08	7:14	6:21	6:47	4:47	7:15	4:41	7:19	5:05	6:52	5:40	7:11	7:10	6:23	7:41	5:48	8:09	5:36	8:30
17	5:51	8:26	6:18	7:54	6:46	7:07	7:15	6:20	6:48	4:46	7:16	4:41	7:19	5:06	6:50	5:42	7:09	7:11	6:22	7:41	5:47	8:10	5:36	8:31
18	5:51	8:25	6:19	7:53	6:47	7:05	7:16	6:19	6:49	4:45	7:17	4:41	7:18	5:07	6:49	5:43	7:08	7:12	6:20	7:42	5:46	8:11	5:36	8:31
19	5:52	8:25	6:20	7:51	6:48	7:04	7:17	6:17	6:51	4:45	7:17	4:42	7:18	5:08	6:48	5:44	7:06	7:13	6:19	7:43	5:45	8:12	5:36	8:31
20	5:53	8:24	6:21	7:50	6:49	7:02	7:18	6:16	6:52	4:44	7:18	4:42	7:17	5:09	6:47	5:45	7:05	7:14	6:17	7:44	5:44	8:13	5:36	8:31
21	5:54	8:23	6:22	7:49	6:50	7:00	7:19	6:14	6:53	4:43	7:18	4:43	7:17	5:10	6:45	5:46	7:03	7:15	6:16	7:45	5:44	8:14	5:36	8:32
22	5:55	8:23	6:22	7:47	6:51	6:59	7:20	6:13	6:54	4:43	7:19	4:43	7:16	5:11	6:44	5:47	7:01	7:16	6:15	7:46	5:43	8:15	5:37	8:32
23	5:55	8:22	6:23	7:46	6:51	6:57	7:21	6:12	6:55	4:42	7:19	4:44	7:15	5:13	6:42	5:48	7:00	7:17	6:13	7:47	5:42	8:15	5:37	8:32
24	5:56	8:21	6:24	7:44	6:52	6:55	7:22	6:10	6:56	4:42	7:19	4:44	7:15	5:14	6:41	5:49	6:58	7:18	6:12	7:48	5:42	8:16	5:37	8:32
25	5:57	8:20	6:25	7:43	6:53	6:54	7:23	6:09	6:57	4:42	7:20	4:45	7:14	5:15	6:40	5:50	6:57	7:19	6:11	7:49	5:41	8:17	5:37	8:32
26	5:58	8:19	6:26	7:41	6:54	6:52	7:24	6:08	6:58	4:41	7:20	4:46	7:13	5:16	6:38	5:51	6:55	7:20	6:09	7:50	5:40	8:18	5:38	8:32
27	5:59	8:18	6:27	7:40	6:55	6:51	7:25	6:07	6:59	4:41	7:21	4:46	7:13	5:17	6:37	5:53	6:54	7:21	6:08	7:51	5:40	8:19	5:38	8:32
28	6:00	8:17	6:28	7:38	6:56	6:49	7:26	6:05	7:00	4:40	7:21	4:47	7:12	5:18	6:35	5:54	6:52	7:22	6:07	7:52	5:39	8:19	5:39	8:32
29	6:01	8:17	6:29	7:37	6:57	6:47	7:27	6:04	7:01	4:40	7:21	4:48	7:11	5:20			6:50	7:23	6:06	7:53	5:39	8:20	5:39	8:32
30	6:01	8:16	6:30	7:35	6:58	6:46	7:28	6:03	7:02	4:40	7:21	4:49	7:10	5:21			6:49	7:24	6:04	7:54	5:38	8:21	5:40	8:32
31	6:02	8:15	6:31	7:34			7:29	6:02			7:21	4:49	7:09	5:22			6:47	7:25			5:38	8:22		

Source: NOAA Global Monitoring Laboratory. Daylight Savings Time is observed in the chart (in black). Dover, DE: 39.161079, -75.525681

HOW WILDLIFE IS THRIVING BECAUSE OF GUNS & HUNTING

Since the late 1930s, hunters, target shooters and the firearms industry have been the nation's **LARGEST** contributors to **conservation**, paying for programs that benefit America's wildlife and all who love the outdoors.

HOW IT WORKS



This System Has Provided

MORE THAN \$12.5 Billion

For Conservation So Far

Where the Money Goes

Buy, develop, maintain and operate wildlife management areas

Research projects focused on wildlife conservation

Hunter safety and education programs

Construction and maintenance of public target shooting ranges

Quick History

- Early 1900s**
As many wildlife species are dwindling in numbers or disappearing, firearms industry steps forward and asks Congress to redirect excise tax on sale of guns and ammo to help fund wildlife conservation.
- 1937**
Congress passes and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act into law.
- 1938 to today:**
Revenue from this act has purchased millions of acres of prime habitat that is maintained by state wildlife agencies. These lands, where game and non-game species flourish, are purchased with sportsmen's dollars but used by all Americans.

THEN & NOW

Species	Then	Now
White Tailed Deer Population	1900: 500,000	TODAY: 32,000,000
Ducks / Waterfowl Population	1901: FEW	TODAY: 44,000,000
Rocky Mountain Elk	1907: 41,000	TODAY: 1,000,000
Wild Turkeys	1900: 100,000	TODAY: 7,000,000
Pronghorn Antelope	50 YEARS AGO: 12,000	TODAY: 1,100,000

OTHER WAYS SPORTSMEN CONTRIBUTE

Excise taxes combined with revenue from hunting and fishing license sales fund the majority of state wildlife agency budgets.

\$81 Million CONTRIBUTED ANNUALLY

Duck stamp proceeds are used by the government to buy or lease wetland habitat for ducks, geese and hundreds of non-game birds and animals.

SOME HEROES OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION MODEL IN THE WORLD ARE:



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