



## **COMMERCIAL SHOOTING PRESERVE INFORMATION SHEET**

### **AUTHORITY**

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

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

### **DEFINITION**

A commercial shooting preserve is defined of land, 50 acres or more, with the boundary clearly defined and posted along all boundary lines at intervals of not more than 200 feet with signs containing the following wording:

**COMMERCIAL SHOOTING PRESERVE – LICENSED UNDER N.J.S.A. 23:3-29**

**SIGNS MUST DISPLAY THE NAME, ADDRESS, AND THE LICENSE NUMBER**

### **SEASON AND BAG LIMIT**

Under a commercial pheasant, quail, mallard or partridge shooting preserve license, birds stocked may be taken by shooting only on lands in the application and license, without regard to sex and daily bag limit, by properly licensed hunter between September 1 and the following May 1, both days inclusive.

**NOTE:** Captive bred mallards stocked and hunted on commercial shooting preserves must also meet criteria established by the United State Fish & Wildlife Service.

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

### **FEES**

The annual fee for a commercial shooting preserve is \$320, plus an additional \$2.00 application fee for the first tract of land, and \$165 per annum for each additional tract of land. Each piece of land must be at least 50 acres in size, excluding safety zones.

The cost of tags are \$.15 each.

## CRITERIA FOR GRANTING LICENSE

The Division **MAY**, upon payment of fees, issue to the application such a license when it appears that:

1. The operation of such a shooting preserve shall not conflict with prior reasonable public interest; and
2. The applicant has produced evidence (contract or purchases, etc) satisfactory to the Division, that he will raise or purchase for liberation on the shooting preserve, a total of at least 500 pheasants, mallard, quail, or partridge or combination thereof, between September of the year of the license and the following May 1.
3. The applicant has produced a Verification of Lease Agreement, signed by both parties and effective through the entire season.
4. To ascertain compliance with the above criteria, applicants are required to submit a completed application, evidence for contract or raising of birds, and **two 8.5" x 11" photocopies of tax assessor's maps. Maps should clearly show the name of the Commercial Club and permit number if available. Maps must show the boundaries of the preserve outlined in RED. Maps should indicate buildings on the property and on each adjacent property, which might affect the amount of land hunted because of safety zones. Safety zones should be indicated in RED.** New maps **must** be forwarded each year along with renewal applications. A field inspection of the proposed preserve may be conducted prior to receiving your permit.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications for Commercial Shooting Preserves received prior to August 1 will be issued by September 1. Applications received after that date are processed on a first come, first serve basis, with no guarantee that they will be issued by September 1. All applications must be accompanied by the required tax maps (2-photocopies-8.5" x 11"), lease agreement verification form (if property is leased), contract for birds to be stocked (minimum of 500 birds), and an application to import (if applicable). A license will not be issued until the applicant has produced satisfactory evidence that the required number of birds will be issued for liberation during the forthcoming season.

## TAGGING BIRDS

Every harvested game bird, including mallards, covered under the license must be tagged regardless of sex, including birds from the freezer and/or meat sale being transported or sold. Tags will be issued on an annual basis. Tags are numbered and dated; they are for the current season only. Tags are assigned to your preserve and you are responsible for the following proper tagging requirement. **Not tagging birds is a violation and may result in a fine and loss of your permit.** Sufficient tags should be purchased to cover the anticipated number of birds to be harvested on licensed premises. Tags are \$.15 each and no refunds will be issued for unused tags. More tags may be purchased as necessary. You may not purchase more tags than the number of birds stocked. Tags remaining at the end of the season should be destroyed. **NO TRANSFERS OF TAGS FROM ONE LICENSED PRESERVE TO ANOTHER LICENSED PRESERVE WILL BE ALLOWED.**

New applicants needing assistance in evaluating how many tags to purchase may call (609) 984-1400.

No mallards, pheasant, quail, partridge or their carcasses, shall be taken, possessed or transported unless each bird is tagged. Tags must be kept available on the premises at a location available to all members and guests. A constant daily record must be kept of the birds shot and tagged by each hunter. Records should include date, hunter name, species and quantity of birds shot on a daily kill sheet.

In addition, a daily record of birds released must be kept, indicating species and quantity of birds released. Daily stocking records and kill sheets must be filed with your annual report at the end of the permit season.

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

### **CAPTIVE GAME PERMITS**

You do not have to maintain a captive game permit to raise birds for your commercial operation, if birds raised and held are solely for the commercial preserve, you must possess a captive game permit if you sell or transfer birds to another individual or club, maintaining appropriate records. You may file for the captive game permit when you file for your commercial permit license.

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

### **INFORMATION ON BIRDS**

All game birds, transported or otherwise moved, into the state shall be accompanied by an official health certificate. A Division issued importation permit must be attached to the waybill or shall be in the possession of the driver of the vehicle or person in charge of the game birds. No game birds may be imported without prior written approval from the Division. Importation applications are available upon request at (609) 984-1400. Allow 20 working days for approval and issuance of an importation permit. There is no fee for this permit.

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

Annual report form will be sent to permit holder at the close of the season. Annual report forms should be completed and submitted to the Division within 30 days of the close of the season. Annual report forms must be filed with a copy of your receipt(s) showing full payment or a summary statement showing full payment for the birds stocked. The receipts should indicate the species, quantity, and note if "Paid in full". Permittees are also required to submit their daily kill sheets and stocking sheets.

### **ONE DAY HUNTING LICENSES**

**All persons hunting on a commercial preserve must possess a valid hunting license.**

Commercial Shooting Preserve operators may purchase books of one day hunting licenses from the Division. Books containing 20 licenses may be purchased for \$230.00. Individual licenses are to be sold for \$12.50. The books are issued with a receipt form you must sign and return to the Division. Completed books should be returned **immediately** with your club name and number indicated on the front. **Before you sell a one-day license you are required by law to check each individual's proof of having a previous hunting license or hunter education certificate. Licenses must be filled out with complete information.**

Hunting in the state of New Jersey is a privilege, not a right, which can be revoked for cause. Any person violating any of the provisions of the state be liable to a penalty of not less than \$50 or more than \$200 for each offense.

### **REFUNDS/TRANSFERS**

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

**INFORMATION**

**Additional information regarding commercial preserve, or with completing the application please call (609) 984-1400. Incomplete applications and reports will be returned for proper information.**

**MAILING ADDRESS**

**Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Commercial Preserve Permits  
PO Box 400  
501 East State Street  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0400**

**Visit our Web site: [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)**