

Regulations in red are new this year.

THIS IS NOT THE FULL LAW. The information in this *Digest* is based on N.J.S.A. Title 23, Title 13:1B-34 and N.J.A.C. 7:25-5. The amended regulations are known as the Game Code and implement the statute laws. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Law Enforcement for further details. See *Law Enforcement Conservation Police Contacts*, page 12, for regional Law Enforcement offices. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal documents.

No person shall hunt except as prescribed by law. See section *Permits for Hunters with Disabling Conditions*, page 10, for special rules.

Persons required by law to wear corrective lenses to operate a motor vehicle (as noted on a valid driver's license) must wear corrective lenses when hunting with any kind of bow or firearm.

Baiting

Pursuant to NJSA 23:4-24.2, no person shall kill, destroy, injure, shoot, shoot at, take, wound, or attempt to take, kill or wound a game bird or game animal, or have in possession or control any firearm or other weapon of any kind, while elevated in a standing tree, or in a structure of any kind within 300 feet of a baited area.

Pursuant to NJSA 23:4-24.3, a "baited area" shall mean the presence of placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered agricultural products, salt, or other edible lure whatsoever capable of attracting or enticing such birds or animals.

Safety Tips for Crossbow Shooting Success

- Keep fingers and thumb low on the crossbow forearm, below the rail; the flight path of string and cable can cause serious injury.
- Never cock a crossbow while in a tree stand, except for crank-type models.
- Before shooting, check that bow limbs will hit nothing when they flex forward during the release. Crossbow limbs store enough energy to knock a hunter to the ground should the bow contact the tree or your stand.

To see all **10 Safety Tips for Crossbow Shooting Success**, scan this QR code or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/crossbow_safety_tips.htm.



Growing and unharvested crops shall not be considered baiting or feeding game birds or game animals.

Pursuant to NJSA 23:4-24.4, the above restriction does NOT apply to deer hunting. Hunters targeting deer while elevated in a standing tree or in a structure of any kind may be within any distance of a baited area.

Bow and Arrow

"Bow" means any long bow, recurve bow, compound bow or crossbow. Hand held release devices are permitted. Air bows are not legal for hunting.

See additional regulations under *Specifically Prohibited*, page 23 and page 28 for a table on sporting arms legal for deer hunting.

All bows must have a minimum draw weight of 35 pounds at the archer's draw length, except compounds, which must have a minimum peak draw weight of 35 pounds and crossbows which must have a minimum draw weight of 75 pounds. Crossbows must have a minimum stock length of 25 inches.

See crossbow safety tips, below. Crossbows are now legal for bowfishing except for Greenwood Lake. Crossbows are permitted for hunting migratory birds. See below for restrictions when taking game birds in flight.

All arrows used for hunting deer, bear, turkey, coyote, fox or woodchuck must be fitted with an edged head of well-sharpened metal and a minimum width of 3/4 inches.

It is illegal to cast a visible beam or spot onto a game animal.

New Jersey does not regulate arrow/bolt length or weight, broadhead cutting edge length or bow sight magnification.

Arrows fitted with heads other than specified for deer, bear, turkey, coyote, fox or woodchuck may be carried in the woods and fields during the small game season or other seasons which overlap with the bow and arrow deer season except that for taking game birds in flight, arrows equipped with an edged head are prohibited. Also, flu flu arrows are required for taking game birds in flight because the arrow is designed to fly only a short distance. For the purpose of discharging a crossbow, hunters may carry judo points, target points or blunts. Canada geese and turkeys which are not in flight may be taken with standard fletched arrows and an edged head as described above.

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

See *Safety Zones*, page 22 and *Safety Zone Awareness*, page 75.

It is unlawful to:

- ♦ use or possess a poison arrow or one with an explosive tip
- ♦ use an edged head for taking game birds in flight
- ♦ use a bow one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise during any hunting season
- ♦ use a bow and arrow from any vehicle, moving or stationary
- ♦ have both a firearm and bow in possession or under control while hunting
- ♦ transport in a vehicle a crossbow in the cocked position

Closed Seasons

There is no hunting or trapping season for bobcat, fisher, mourning dove, ruffed grouse, sandhill crane and king rail in New Jersey. See *Protected Wildlife*, page 22.

Dogs, Hunting and Training

Allowing dogs to run at large is prohibited.

Persons may train dogs without firearms in daylight at any time except during any open firearm deer season.

No person shall train a raccoon or opossum hunting dog on WMAs other than during the periods of Sept. 1 to Oct. 1 and from Mar. 1 to May 1. Training hours shall be one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

It is illegal to use dogs to pursue or run deer or black bear or to track wounded deer or bear. However, a hunter may use the services of a dog handler in possession of a valid, Fish and Wildlife-issued Tracking Dog Permit with a certified tracking dog for the search and recovery of deer lost during any deer hunting season prescribed by the Game Code. See page 10 for certification requirements.

Note: Regulations for dog training on wildlife management areas are on page 64.

Delaware River, Hunting

Hunting on the Delaware River is restricted by state boundaries. A valid hunting license and any appropriate permit/stamp is required for your location.

Drones, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Drones or unmanned aircraft are prohibited for the purposes of hunting or trapping and cannot be used to harass, scout, drive, track, retrieve or rally wildlife.

Falconry

No person shall use a raptor for hunting without a falconry permit and a valid hunting license. No person under 14 years of age may hunt by means of a raptor. Hunting migratory birds with raptors on Sunday is prohibited.

Falconry permits will be issued only to persons who pass a comprehensive examination and who can provide proper facilities for housing a raptor.

Beginning falconers must be sponsored by an experienced falconer.

No person shall possess a firearm while hunting with raptors.

For additional information, write to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, MC 501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 or call (908) 735-6938.

Farmer Regulations

See farmer hunting and permit information, page 20.

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Firearms and Missiles

For the purpose of hunting in New Jersey, *firearms* refer to a shotgun, muzzleloader (rifled or smooth-bore), air gun and modern rifle.

- Possession and use of silencers are illegal on any firearm. Title 2C:39-1 g. classifies a **firearm silencer** as "any instrument, attachment, weapon or appliance for causing the firing of any gun, revolver, pistol, or other firearm to be silent, or intended to lessen or muffle the noise of the firing of any gun, revolver, pistol or other firearm." Pursuant to Title 2C:39-3 c. "Any person who knowingly has in his possession any firearm silencer is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree."
- The use of "smart" rifles or guns for hunting is prohibited. Computer-aided hunting devices would negate the tenet of fair chase, giving hunters an unfair advantage by allowing a computer to target the prey.
- A person may not go into the woods or fields with a firearm except during prescribed seasons.
- It is unlawful to possess in the woods and fields shot larger than #4 fine shot except for hunting deer, bear, waterfowl, woodchuck (farmers only) and coyote/fox during the Special Permit Coyote and Fox Season. This shall not apply to the lawful use of ammunition for air guns; see *Air Guns*, this page.
- Rimfire and centerfire rifles are not legal to hunt deer.
- **See sections on specific game animals for permitted firearms and ammunition.** See table on page 28 for sporting arms legal for deer hunting.
- No person shall use a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells at one time or that may be fired more than three times without reloading except for the September Canada goose season (see page 61) and during a light goose conservation order season, if any.
- See also *Specifically Prohibited* page 23 and *Safety Zones*, page 22.

Air Guns

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

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

Muzzleloaders

It is unlawful to use smokeless powder in a muzzleloader while hunting in New Jersey. Only black powder or black powder equivalents, such as Pyrodex and Triple Seven, may be used with a muzzleloading firearm when engaged in hunting.

Properly licensed and permitted hunters 10 years and older may hunt with a muzzleloading rifle. A valid Rifle Permit must be possessed while hunting with a muzzleloading rifle. Permitted action types include percussion, flintlock and inline. Electronic ignitions are not legal. For muzzleloader barrel types and legal hunting ammunition, see regulations for each game species.

It is unlawful to hunt with a muzzleloading rifle on WMAs, except for deer, bear and during the special seasons for coyote/fox and squirrel hunting. For muzzleloader rifle squirrel hunting, see page 50. For muzzleloader deer hunting, see page 28. For Rifle Permit information, see page 10. For muzzleloader coyote/fox hunting, see page 48.

Rifles, Modern

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

Rifles for small game hunting are allowed using limited types of .22 caliber rimfire ammo and are legal only for taking woodchuck (ammo restrictions, page 58), raccoon and opossum with hounds (.22 shorts only) plus coyote and fox during the Special Permit Season (ammo restrictions, page 54). NO rifle woodchuck hunting on wildlife management areas or state parks, forests and recreation areas. Small game hunting with centerfire rifles is limited to not larger than .25 caliber for coyote and fox (see page 48) and .25 caliber or larger for woodchuck (see page 52). See also *Firearms and Missiles*, this page.

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

See chart on page 52 for details on small caliber rifle ammunition legal for hunting woodchucks and page 48 for the special permit coyote/fox season.

Shotguns

Shotguns larger than 10-gauge are prohibited for hunting. Shotguns may not be capable of holding more than three shells except for September Canada goose hunting and during the Spring Light Goose Conservation Order; see page 61. For information on legal shot sizes, see regulations for each game species to be hunted.

Hunter Harassment

It is illegal to obstruct or attempt to obstruct or annoy a person lawfully taking wildlife as per N.J.S.A. 23:7A-1 through N.J.S.A. 23:7A-3. This includes making loud noises or gestures designed to disturb, alarm, drive, attract or affect the behavior of wildlife.

Hunter Orange

Firearm hunters must wear a cap made of solid daylight fluorescent orange or an outer garment containing at least 200 square inches of fluorescent orange material visible from all sides at all times while engaged in hunting. A camo-orange hat alone is not adequate. This applies to all persons while hunting with a firearm for deer, bear, rabbit, hare, squirrel, coyote, fox, railbirds, and game birds including while in a tree stand. See exceptions



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REGULATIONS

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below along with ground blind hunting fluorescent orange requirements.

Wearing a hunter orange hat is mandatory when firearm hunting for small game on wildlife management areas stocked with pheasant or quail. See list of WMAs at *Pheasant and Quail Stamp Areas*, page 11.

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

Exceptions: the hunter orange law does not apply to waterfowl, crow, wild turkey, coyote/fox (during the special permit season, page 49), woodchuck nor bowhunters except a bowhunter using a deer decoy must wear hunter orange, as above, while transporting a decoy into or out of the woods. During the Six-day Firearm Season, it is recommended that bowhunters wear hunter orange.

Injured or Orphaned Wildlife

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

Landowner Liability Act

For sport or recreational activities, whether property is posted or not, and whether the land is maintained

or left natural, the property owner is not required by law to keep the property safe for use by hunters or anglers. Property owners are not required to warn others of hazards on the land or any structures. A property owner who gives permission to hunt or fish on their land does not incur liability for any injury to that sportsman to whom permission was granted. *Reference: N.J.S.A. 2A:42A-2 et seq. Note: A landowner's liability changes if a fee is charged (or other consideration) or if there is a "willful or malicious failure" to warn of a dangerous condition on the property.*

Possession of Certain Wildlife by Persons, Taxidermists & Butchers

No person shall have in possession a deer, bear, migratory game birds or turkey that they did not kill unless it has a label bearing the name, address, phone number, license and permit numbers of the person who killed the deer, bear, migratory game bird or turkey. Game processors of deer, bear or turkey (butchers, taxidermists, etc.) shall keep a ledger of all customers. Each customer's name, address, day and evening phone numbers, Conservation ID Number and possession seal number of any black bear or turkey or Confirmation Number, gender and age (fawn or adult) for deer or turkey being processed shall be recorded. The ledger must be available for inspection upon request during the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by any law enforcement officer or employee of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Possession of naturally shed deer antlers is legal. Parts of deer possessed, other than shed antlers,

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

Protected Wildlife

It is illegal to capture, kill, injure or have in possession any wild bird other than a game bird. The sale of wild birds or game animals or parts thereof is prohibited except as described in N.J.S.A. 23:4-27. For more specific information, refer to our website, NJFishandWildlife.com. See also *Sale of Wildlife*, this page.

No one may rob a bird's nest.

All nongame mammals, reptiles, birds and amphibians are protected. Penalties for taking these species range from \$250–\$5,000.

There is no open season on **ruffed grouse**, bobcat or fisher. It is illegal to intentionally kill or attempt to kill a **ruffed grouse**, bobcat or fisher in New Jersey. For more information about bobcat (including incidentally trapped) and fisher, see page 57. **Bobcat pelts from animals legally harvested in other states may be possessed or sold provided a CITES tag from the state of harvest is attached. Fishers legally harvested in other states may be possessed or sold.**

See also *Possession of Certain Wildlife*, above.

Property Damage

Do not hunt in unharvested crops unless first obtaining permission from the owner. Anyone causing damage to cultivated crops, orchards, fences, buildings or livestock may be arrested without warrant by the owner, occupant, lessee or any officer of the law. Violators are liable for a fine up to \$2,000 and restitution to the property owner in addition to the loss of hunting privileges for five years.

Public Land Hunting

For public land hunting, refer to pages 38, 45, 55 and 74.

Sale of Wildlife

The sale of wild birds and game animals, or parts thereof, is prohibited in New Jersey with the following exceptions: legally trapped furbearers may be sold plus the sale of white-tailed deer hides, tails and the lower portion of the legs is legal. See *Closed Seasons*, page 20. For questions, contact a regional Fish and Wildlife law enforcement office; see page 12.

Safety Zones

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

Edible Portions Guide

Edible portions do not include meat from the head or neck; meat that has been damaged by the method of taking; bones, sinew, and meat reasonably lost as a result of butchering, boning, or close trimming of bones, or viscera. Edible portions do not include meat from diseased or scavenged carcasses. See *Wanton Waste of Game*, page 23.

For white-tailed deer and black bear:

- Front quarters to the knee
- Hind quarters to the hock
- Backstrap/tenderloin — the meat along the backbone, between the front and hind quarters



For rabbit and squirrel:

- Front shoulders
- Thighs
- Backstrap



For game birds such as turkey:

- breast, legs and thighs



For game birds other than turkey:

- breast



in writing. Persons authorized to bowhunt *within* 150 feet of a building must hunt from an elevated position to shoot down toward the ground. Note: persons authorized to hunt or trap with a firearm within 450 feet, or with bow and arrow within 150 feet of a building must be in possession of that written permission while hunting or trapping. Shooting into a safety zone is prohibited. (See *Safety Zone Awareness*, page 75, for diagram and safety zone explanation.)

Stealing Traps or Trapped Animals

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

Sunday Hunting

No person may hunt with firearms or any weapon or carry a gun in the woods or fields or on the waters on Sunday except on semi-wild and commercial shooting preserve lands for the purpose of shooting stocked game; and when using a .22 rifle for dispatching trapped animals.

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

Persons are allowed to hunt raccoon or opossum on Sunday mornings only between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and one hour before sunrise during the prescribed season.

Stands and Blinds on State Parks, Forests

The State Park Service has modified its policy on the use of hunting tree stands and ground blinds on state parks, forests and recreation areas where hunting is allowed. To view the updated policy, visit the State Park Service website at NJParksandForests.org/stand-blind_policy.htm.

Trespass Law

Hunters and trappers must have permission (oral or written) from the landowner or lessee prior to entering either posted lands or agricultural lands—which are not required to be posted. Hunters must obtain permission to enter posted land and agricultural land to recover deer. Hunters and trappers may not enter unposted land after having been forbidden to trespass by the owner, lessee or occupant either by verbal notice or when the land has been conspicuously posted with intervisible signs displayed not fewer than ten to a mile along the exterior boundaries and at all roads, trails and rights-of-way entering such land.

If a hunter or trapper is charged with trespass, they must provide documentation of written permission in court for their defense. See page 31 for the Hunt SMART Courtesy Card.

Wanton Waste of Game

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

It is unlawful for any person to take, kill, or capture any game mammal or game bird and remove from the carcass the head, hide or antlers and leave the edible portions of the carcass and meat to waste except for a furbearer, crow or woodchuck. See *Edible Portions Guide* on page 22.

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

Wildlife Damage Control

Property owners and occupants of dwellings, or their agents designated in writing, suffering damage from squirrel, raccoon, opossum, skunk, weasel, woodchuck, gray fox, red fox and coyote may control these animals by lawful procedures at any time subject to state law and local ordinances. Farmers or their agents may also control the above species by lawful procedures when found destroying livestock, crops or poultry at any time subject to state and local ordinances.

Note: Persons who kill a coyote must notify a Fish and Wildlife Regional Law Enforcement Office within 24 hours. See page 12.

Youth Hunters

A youth hunter is the possessor of a youth hunting license—or the immediate family member of a qualified occupant farmer—who is at least age 10. Youth hunter status continues until Dec. 31 of the year in which the youth turns 16. For youth hunters from age 10 through 13, they **MUST** hunt under the direct supervision of a person who is at least 21 years old and who has a valid firearm or bow and arrow license corresponding to the season hunted. Direct supervision is defined as both the youth hunter and parent/guardian set up together at the same location, hunting as a unit, not hunting independently. See also *Youth Licenses*, page 8. Youth licenses are free to youths ages 10–15 upon completion of a hunter or trapper education course. Youth hunters no longer receive their license at the course. See *Hunter and Trapper Education Requirements*, page 8; *Youth Licenses*, page 8. Visit the *Take a Kid Hunting* section and special youth hunt days, pages 18–19. 🐾

Specifically Prohibited

- Carrying a loaded firearm within 450 feet, or a nocked arrow within 150 feet of a building or within 450 feet of any school playground (whether or not occupied) is prohibited, except the owner or lessee of a building and persons specifically authorized by him in writing may hunt with a firearm within 450 feet or a bow within 150 feet of the building. **Note:** persons authorized to hunt with a firearm within 450 feet or with a bow and arrow within 150 feet of a building must be in possession of that written permission while hunting. (See page 75 for diagram with complete safety zone explanation. See also *Safety Zone*, page 22.)
- Discharging a firearm or a bow and arrow on or across highways or roads.
- Discharging a firearm or a bow and arrow from a motor vehicle, including ATVs.
- Sights which project a spot or light onto the game animal.
- Hunting for or shooting any wildlife by aid of a light, except when hunting raccoon, opossum while on foot or when hunting coyote/fox during the special coyote/fox season.
- Hunting or shooting with the aid of a light attached to or carried in a vehicle.
- On national wildlife refuges, the distribution of bait and/or hunting over bait. Also, no Sunday hunting on these lands.
- Hunting with arrows, darts or any other device propelled by any means that is used for the purpose of injecting or delivering any type of drug into an animal.
- Possessing a loaded firearm in or on a motor vehicle, including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). Possession of a loaded firearm in or upon a vehicle is considered proof of pursuing or taking of wildlife.
- Transporting an uncased firearm in or on a motor vehicle or ATV or transporting a cocked crossbow in or on a motor vehicle or ATV.
- Shooting into a squirrel's nest.
- The removal of the skin or feathers or mutilation of any wild bird or mammal in the woods or fields for the purpose of concealing sex or identity is illegal.

In the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the following apply:

- Baiting is prohibited.
- No permanent tree stands or screw-in steps are permitted.
- You cannot possess a loaded firearm while on any publicly traveled roadway within the area.
- Trapping is prohibited.
- No Sunday bowhunting.

Farmer License Exemption

A farmer and members of the immediate family (see definition below) who also reside on the farm may hunt, trap and fish on the farm without being licensed or possessing a valid rifle permit. (See page 25 for a cut-out Harvest Report Card.) All hunting, fishing and trapping must be conducted in the manner provided by law during the prescribed seasons. A farm is defined as an area of at least five acres and having gross income of at least \$500, and tax assessed as farmland. This exemption does not apply to a tenant or employee who is not an immediate family member.

Immediate Family: For the purpose of farmers hunting and trapping, “immediate family” includes the spouse, mother, father, child, grandchild, stepchild, stepparent, legal guardian, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, great grandparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepbrother, brother-in-law and sister-in-law of the farm owner or lessee who resides thereon.

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

All Farmer Deer Hunters: Before going hunting, be sure to go to Fish and Wildlife’s website (NJFishandWildlife.com/ahrs.htm) and write down the DMZ, county, township and Deer Management Unit of your hunt location prior to harvesting a deer! Record this info on your license, permit or the Deer Harvest Report Card (page 25) to have it accessible for when you report your deer harvest and to record your assigned Confirmation Number. When reporting a deer harvest on your farm property, farmers do not need a Harvest Number during the non-permit deer seasons. To report a deer call (855) IHUNT NJ or (855) 448-6865 or online at www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com. See page 30 for additional reporting information.

Farmer Regulations

The occupant of a farm may allow his or her dog to run at large on land he or she occupies, except during the firearm deer seasons.

Farmers and their lessees occupying or farming their land, members of their immediate family (see definition above), or their farming employees may

kill crows, woodchuck and fox on farm property at any time when found destroying livestock or crops. However, they must use legal firearms, ammunition and other lawful procedures. See also *Wildlife Damage Control*, page 23. See also *General Regulations*, page 20.

Farmers must possess the appropriate permit to legally hunt the farm during any hunting or trapping season which requires a permit. Permits are provided free to all qualified farmers for the following seasons: Permit Bow, Permit Muzzleloader and Permit Shotgun deer seasons plus the spring and fall Turkey Permit seasons and the Black Bear Season.

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

Farmers may trap fox destroying poultry, crops or property at any time, subject to state law and local ordinances. Farmers or their agents may shoot or trap coyotes by lawful procedures at any time when found destroying livestock or crops. **A regional Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement office must be notified within 24 hours of killing a coyote.** See *Law Enforcement* page 12 or *Telephone Directory* page 80.

Permits for Farmers

Fish and Wildlife reviews the Farmer Permit database periodically to ensure compliance.

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

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

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

Once approved, farmers may claim their farmer permits by going to any license agent. The dates when permits will become available are listed below.

Farmer Deer Permits

- ♦ Farmers may claim deer permits beginning MONDAY, Sept. 14, 2020 at 10 a.m. at any license agent or via the internet sales site.
- ♦ Approved farmers are eligible for one free bow, shotgun and muzzleloader permit and one free Antlered Buck Permit for each of the three permit seasons. See *Farmer License Exemption*, above. See also *Farmer Regulations*, above.
- ♦ Two types of farmer permits—occupant and non-occupant farmer—allow the applicant to decide for which permit it is easiest to qualify; see below. Farmers who must change the occupancy status for their deer permit should call (609) 292-1473.
- ♦ Only a qualified farmer and members of the immediate family who reside on the farm, are eligible to apply for occupant and non-occupant farmer deer permits.
- ♦ Farmers may also apply for (or purchase at any license agent) regular deer permits in addition to the free farmer permits. See *Deer Season Permits*, page 14.

- ♦ Farmers are eligible for a Farmer Buck Permit which are limited to only one per person per season. If a farmer claims their FARMER Buck Permit they cannot purchase a regular Antlered Buck Permit. Likewise, if a farmer first purchases an Antlered Buck Permit, the farmer cannot claim a Farmer Buck Permit. The Antlered Buck Permit is valid for any zone in which the farmer has an antlerless permit for the season.

Occupant Farmer Deer Permits

- ♦ Applicants must be the owner, lessee or members of the immediate family (see definition on this page) who actually reside on the farm property.
- ♦ Land must be at least five acres, tax-assessed as farmland.
- ♦ Occupant permits are valid only on the farm property where the applicant resides.

Non-Occupant Farmer Deer Permits

- ♦ Applicants are not required to live on the farm property.
- ♦ Farmer(s) and members of their immediate family (see definition on this page) may qualify, up to a total of five people.
- ♦ Must actively till at least 30 acres of land which is tax-assessed as farmland.
- ♦ Woodlots do not qualify.
- ♦ To apply for hunting leased farmland, a copy of all leases authorizing the agricultural and hunting uses of the land must be attached to the application.
- ♦ Non-occupant permits are valid only on private land within the deer management zone designated on the permit and are not valid on public lands within that zone.
- ♦ An applicant who lives on a farm and actively tills at least 30 acres may apply either as an occupant or a non-occupant.

Farmer Turkey Permits

Farmers may claim fall season turkey permits beginning MONDAY, September 14, 2020 at 10 a.m. at any license agent. Farmer Turkey Permits are only for Occupant Farmers. Fall Turkey Season is now open in all Turkey Hunting Areas. Farmers may claim 2021 spring season turkey permits beginning MONDAY, March 29, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. If you experience a problem obtaining the fall permit at a license agent, call (609) 292-1473.

Farmers may also apply for (or purchase at any license agent) regular turkey permits in addition to the free farmer permits.

Farmer Bear Permits

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

Farmers undergoing re-inspection this year must complete the bear permit information in the mailing that was sent. All others need not re-apply. Application forms may be obtained from Fish and Wildlife's website or at county agricultural extension offices.


Application deadline: Sept. 1. **There is no fee; all qualified applicants will be able to claim their Farmer Bear Permit at license agents or online beginning September 14, 2020.** The Farmer Bear

Permit will be valid for both segments. However, the bag limit remains at one bear.

Submit only one farmer application per individual during the initial application period. Application for a farmer black bear permit shall not preclude a farmer (as a holder of a valid hunting license) from applying for—and Fish and Wildlife issuing—regular black bear season permit(s).

NOTE: Special Farmer Black Bear Permits will NO LONGER be mailed to farmers. 🐾

AMB DEER PROCESSING INC.



The problems:

- Poor quality—processing by amateurs
- High cost
- Are you getting the cuts you want?
- Are you getting all your meat back?
- Are you getting the same deer back?*

The AMB Deer processing solution:

- Reasonable price of \$100.00**
- Skilled professional butchers
- Processed the way you request
- 90% boned out
- Properly wrapped and labeled for the freezer

Woodbridge (732) 750-5034

Note: A deer tag is absolutely required for our processing service.

Offering limited line of smoked products!

Kielbasa • Hot Dogs

Hot & Sweet Sausage

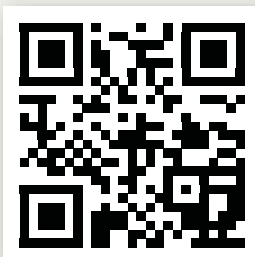
*Does not include smoked products **150 lbs. and down

Deer Harvest Trends in New Jersey

New Jersey deer hunters harvested 45,650 deer during the 2019–2020 seasons.

The harvest for this year's deer season is 10.2 percent lower than the 50,861 deer taken in 2018–19. The antlerless portion of the 2019–2020 harvest was 26,798 deer, down 8.6 percent from 2018–19. The antlered portion of the 2019–2020 harvest was 18,852 deer, down 12.5 percent from 2018–19.

Scan this code for additional deer harvest information through the 2019–2020 hunting seasons or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/qr/trends.htm.



Deer Harvest Report Tag

All hunters may use this card to fulfill tagging requirements upon recovering their deer. Confirmation # required if continuing to hunt where bag limit has not been reached, except those DMZs where two deer at a time may be taken.

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

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

Circle sporting arms used: S/G, M/L, vertical bow, crossbow.

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

Check only one white box:

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

Confirmation Number: _____

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