One of the greatest responsibilities a hunter has during their time afield is making a swift, clean harvest on the species being hunted. Year round practice keeping shots within your effective range, helps achieve this goal. Effective range while hunting is quite different than effective range at the archery or firearm ranges. While you may be proficient with a bow at 40 yards while practicing, all your shots should be kept within 20 yards while in the field, with no difference between a vertical bow or crossbow. Even your shotgun slug and muzzleloader shots should be kept under 100 yards and buck shot loses its efficacy past 35 yards. But even with all this practice, sometimes the shot doesn’t fly true and target impact on a deer isn’t precisely placed. When in doubt, back out. Specially trained tracking dogs and their handlers are a phone call away.

Use grid to explain shot placement

All hunted animals should be revered with equal respect. Whether it is a button buck, a doe, spike or buck of a lifetime, don’t hesitate to use this option complete the hunt.