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Columbia 03

AGRICULTURE TAG RESOLUTION

The Agriculture Tag Program, where landowners are issued special tags to control the deer population, to reduced crop damage is a much abused system.

Firstly, the DNR should realize that it is not the deer that is totally responsible for the damage when turkeys, sand hill cranes, squirrels, raccoons and waterfowl are also causing as much if not more damage.

It is not all, but many are gaining financially from this program, claiming thousands of dollars.

These farmers can go out throughout the year and shoot deer, filling their freezers, or having their friends and family fill theirs, leaving fewer deer for the sportsman of the State to hunt.

Currently, the individuals claiming crop damage has to let individuals on their property providing they ask and there is no one else hunting these lands. The property owners can be selective in only letting family members or close friends on their property, creating a 'private hunting club' with the DNR and the sportsman of the State paying for this abuse.

The DNR permits the shooting the deer throughout the year, allowing farmers and their guest to use rifles. There are many people in camo during the fall and spring that makes an unsafe condition. Furthermore, the shooting takes place in the spring when the does are still carrying their fawns as well as in the summer when the fawn rely on their mother for their milk and predator protection.