

USING YOUR DEER TAGS AND TURKEY HARVEST AUTHORIZATIONS IN 2017: FAQ

What has changed with tag requirements?

The new rules no longer require the hunter to:

- Use a turkey carcass tag—these have been eliminated and are now referred to as turkey harvest authorizations, but hunters can continue to use tags that they have already been issued.
- Validate the tag or harvest authorization in any way to indicate that it has been used
- Attach a tag or harvest authorization to the animal
- Keep a copy of the tag/harvest authorization with the meat until consumed

If not required, why would I want to print my tags/authorizations anyway?

Deer tags and turkey harvest authorizations still contain important information. Most important is the tag or harvest authorization number which is needed to fulfill the important requirement of registration. The deer tag also tells you what type of deer (buck or antlerless) that you have authorization to harvest, and where your authorization (zone, DMU, land type) is valid. The turkey harvest authorization indicates the zone and time period in which the authorization is valid. Deer tags and turkey tags/authorizations also contain information on registering the animal (call-in number or web address). Printing your tags/authorizations and using them like harvest coupons not only provides all of this information, but is also a good way of keeping track of what and where you can harvest a deer or turkey. Once used, throw the tag/authorization away as a way of letting yourself know you've used that privilege.

Do hunters still have to carry proof of a tag while hunting?

Yes. Requirements to carry proof of license, tags/harvest authorizations and turkey stamps while afield have not changed. Acceptable forms of proof include:

- an original or reprinted paper tag/harvest authorization
- a Go Wild conservation card
- a Go Wild-authenticated Wisconsin driver's license
- a Go Wild digital PDF file displayed on a mobile device.

Hunters will need to know the tag/harvest authorization number to begin the registration process, which will not be visible if you opt to carry your authenticated Wisconsin driver's license or a Conservation Card. You can obtain the tag/authorization number from the paper tag/harvest authorization, the Go Wild PDF file or from the MyGameReg section of your Go Wild account at GoWild.WI.Gov.

If paper tags are no longer required, how will a biologist or warden verify that I have a valid tag or harvest authorization for my deer/turkey?

DNR personnel can look up your tags/harvest authorizations in your Go Wild account using your customer ID number.

I already printed my tags. Can I continue to use them?

Yes. You may continue to carry your paper tags while hunting, but validating and attaching the tag are not required. However, printing a paper tag continues to provide easy access to your unique tag number which is required for registration, and also contains important information about accessing the GameReg system to register your animal. The unique tag number will stay the same for originals or reprints, and you will still be in compliance with the new rules if you continue to validate and attach paper tags.

All turkey tags that have already been issued are valid. The tag number will stay the same for originals or reprints of your previously purchased tags. If you purchase a new tag, it will now be referred to as a harvest authorization and will look slightly different.

If I choose to print my tags/authorizations, am I still required to carry only one copy of a unique paper tag/authorization while afield?

No. Because you are no longer required to validate tags, you may carry more than one copy of a unique deer tag/turkey harvest authorization while hunting.

Can I leave my untagged deer or turkey with a friend or allow someone else to transport it?

Yes. However, the deer or turkey must be registered before someone else can transport it. You are strongly encouraged to leave a printed copy of the tag/harvest authorization and registration confirmation number with the carcass if someone else will take possession of it.

Since tagging is no longer required, what should I do if I have to leave my deer/turkey in the field while I get my truck?

No special action is required. As long as the animal is harvested under one of your unused tags or harvest authorizations, you can leave the carcass in the field temporarily without attaching a tag or registering the deer.

How do the new deer tag rules apply to group deer hunting?

No changes have been made to group hunting rules. At least one member of the hunting party must have proof of an unfilled deer tag in the area where the hunt is taking place, and be willing to use that tag number to register a deer bagged by another member of the group.

Is registration still required?

Yes. Registration is not an option! You must register your deer or turkey by 5 p.m. the day after harvest. Register online at gamereg.wi.gov, by phone at 1-844-426-3734 or at a participating in-person station (deer only—find a list at dnr.wi.gov, search “registration stations”). You will need the unique tag/harvest authorization number to begin the registration process. Tag/harvest authorization numbers are available on the paper copy, Go Wild PDF or in the My GameReg section of your Go Wild account at GoWild.WI.Gov. Harvest registration is a critical component of deer and turkey population management.

How can I find my tag/authorization number in order to register my deer/turkey?

Your tag/authorization number is easily visible on your paper deer tag or harvest authorization (formerly known as a carcass tag). If you elect to carry your authenticated Wisconsin driver’s license or a Conservation Card as form of proof while afield, you will need to obtain your harvest authorization number to register your turkey. You can also find a list of your current tags/authorizations and numbers in the My GameReg section of your Go Wild account at GoWild.WI.Gov.

The diagram compares two tags from the Department of Natural Resources, issued on 9/26/2017. The left tag is an **Antlerless Deer Tag** for **JOHN TEST**, issued at 11:30 AM. The right tag is a **Awarded Fall Turkey Harvest Authorization** for **CUSTOMER TEST**, issued at 1:57 PM. Both tags include customer information, physical characteristics, and a year valid box containing the number **17**. The tag number for the deer tag is **1700559308** and for the turkey harvest authorization is **1700559314**. Both tags specify a valid unit (DANE for deer, Zone 1 for turkey) and include registration instructions. Red arrows and text labels identify key fields: 'Type of tag and whether it is valid for a buck or an antlerless deer', 'Year valid', 'Tag or harvest authorization number required for registration', 'Location for which the hunter has been issued harvest authorization', and 'Registration instructions'.

What should I do if I don't have my tag/harvest authorization number when registering?

Even though a hunter may provide one of the authorized forms of proof for their hunting license and tags/authorizations, a hunter is still required to meet their registration requirements and have their unique tag/harvest authorization number available to complete the registration process.

- You may document your unique tag/harvest authorization number in any method you choose as long as you are able to identify which unique tag/harvest authorization number corresponds to each tag. For example: 1) you may only use your buck tag number to register a buck, and 2) you may only use a Zone 1 harvest authorization number to register a turkey harvested in Zone 1, even if you have another harvest authorization for Zone 2.
- If you do not have access to a computer or mobile device to look up your tag/harvest authorization number, you are encouraged to carry a printed copy of your tag/authorization. You can look up your tag number in the My GameReg section of your Go Wild account.
- As a reminder, you have until 5 p.m. the day after recovery to access your tag/harvest authorization number and register your harvest.

Do taxidermists or meat processors require a copy of the tag/harvest authorization?

Taxidermists and meat processors may require a record of your tag/authorization number and/or registration confirmation number. You may email your confirmation number to yourself straight from the online registration system (gamereg.wi.gov). You may also look up your confirmation number by logging into your GoWild account (gowild.wi.gov) and going to the harvest history link under the **My GameReg** section.

Do I have to provide a tag or harvest authorization if I gift the meat to someone else?

No. However, you are encouraged to write down the registration confirmation number if gifting the meat, and are required to provide the registration confirmation number if donating the meat through the deer or turkey donation program.

Are car-killed deer/turkey now exempt from keeping the registration confirmation number with the meat until consumed?

No. Because tags that authorize possession of the carcass/meat are not issued for car-killed deer or turkey, individuals who take possession of a car-killed deer/turkey will be **required to keep the registration confirmation number** with the meat until it is consumed.

Can I use alternate forms of proof (Conservation Card, driver's license, electronic file) for agricultural damage tags, Learn to Hunt tags and DMAP tags?

No. A hard copy is required. These are special tags associated with specific programs and are not necessarily issued through the hunter's Go Wild account. You may also be required to write in your customer number and birth date to use these types of tags prior to use. You are not required to validate or attach these special tags, but registration of harvests through GameReg is still required.

Will the electronic version of the hunting regulations posted on the web site be updated with these changes?

Yes. This has already been completed.

Where can I find more information?

Visit dnr.wi.gov and search "[hunting regulations](#)", "[deer](#)" or "[turkey](#)"