Katie Hettel harvested this buck while hunting with family and friends in Florence County. Katie has been deer hunting for 14 years and this is her second buck. This 9-pointer was observed on trail cameras around the property a week prior to the season, and on opening morning of the 9-day gun deer season, Katie harvested it with a clean shot at 40 yards. Congratulations, Katie!

This pamphlet gives you a summary of Wisconsin’s important deer hunting laws and how they affect you; it is not a complete set of all the hunting-related laws.
Wisconsin Deer Hunting Basics

This guide outlines the basics of what you need to know to hunt deer in Wisconsin in 2018.

1. What’s New in 2018
   ▶ Several deer management zone and metro sub-unit boundaries have changed. See pages 24 - 27.
   ▶ Several DMUs will offer an extended, any-deer archery season through Jan. 31, 2019. See page 10.
   ▶ Deer tags are now referred to as “harvest authorizations.” Hunters must still carry proof of a hunting license and deer harvest authorizations while afield.
   ▶ Several new counties are now closed to baiting and feeding deer. Visit dnr.wi.gov and search “baiting and feeding” for a complete map of counties with baiting and feeding bans.

2. Get licensed

   Choose from three general license types or select a license package that suits your needs from the list on page 12.

   ▶ Gun Deer License (legal firearm, bow or crossbow during a firearm season only): Includes one gun buck harvest authorization and Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless harvest authorization(s).
   ▶ Crossbow License (crossbow only)*: It includes one bow buck harvest authorization and Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless harvest authorization(s).
   ▶ Archer License (bow only)*: It includes one bow buck harvest authorization and Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless harvest authorization(s).

   *Hunters who purchase both an archer and a crossbow license will receive only one set of deer harvest authorizations.

   When purchasing a license, proof of hunter education is required for those born on/after Jan. 1, 1973, unless participating in the hunting mentorship program outlined on page 23 or unless the hunter has completed military basic training (see page 13).

   Shop for licenses and harvest authorizations through Go Wild!
   1. Online at GoWild.WI.gov; or
   2. At a license sales location (dnr.wi.gov, search “license agent”)

3. When to hunt

   ▶ Archery & Crossbow: Sept. 15 - Jan. 6, 2019 (see page 10 for counties with an extended season to Jan. 31, 2019)
   ▶ Youth firearm: Oct. 6 & 7; see page 11
   ▶ Gun hunt for hunters with disabilities: Oct. 6 - 14; see page 11
   ▶ November gun deer hunt: Nov. 17 - 25
   ▶ Muzzleloader deer hunt: Nov. 26 - Dec. 5
   ▶ Statewide Dec. antlerless-only (for all weapon types): Dec. 6 - 9
   ▶ Antlerless-only Holiday Hunt in select Farmland (Zone 2) DMUs (applies to all weapon types during the hunt): Dec. 24 - Jan. 1, 2019; see page 9.

4. Carry proof of your deer harvest authorizations

   You are not required to validate or attach a paper harvest authorization (formerly known as “deer carcass tag”) to the deer, but you must still carry proof of your harvest authorization. Three main deer harvest authorization types are offered, but you may be eligible for one or more of the other antlerless harvest authorization types listed on pages 14 - 16.

   ▶ Buck harvest authorization: included with each license, weapon-specific (bow/crossbow or gun) and valid in any Deer Management Unit (DMU) statewide.
   ▶ Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless harvest authorization: included with each deer license (though not all DMUs may offer them), not weapon-specific.
   ▶ Bonus antlerless harvest authorization: not included with a license and not weapon-specific. The cost for each harvest authorization is $12 for residents, $20 for non-residents and $5 for youth age 11 and under. Bonus antlerless harvest authorizations go on sale beginning the week of Aug. 13 and are sold at the rate of one per hunter per day until sold out.

   In Go Wild or at a point of sale: choose a DMU, zone and land type (public-access or private) where harvest authorizations are available.

What you need to know about Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

   If you hunt in a CWD-affected area, see page 28 - 34 of the deer hunting regulations for special baiting/feeding and carcass transportation restrictions. To get your deer tested for CWD, visit dnr.wi.gov and search “CWD sampling” for a list of sampling stations.
5. Prepare for your hunt
► **Know where you are hunting!** This information is required for proper harvest authorization use and harvest registration. See map on page 24.
  - **Zone:** Forest (Zone 1) or Farmland (Zone 2).
  - **Deer Management Unit:** counties in most cases. Also, know if you are hunting within the boundaries of a designated metro sub-unit.
  - **Land type:** public-access or private. See the list of definitions on p. 7.
► **Proof of hunting license and harvest authorizations:** Carry with you one or more of the following:
  - A paper copy;
  - A department-approved PDF displayed on a mobile device;
  - An authenticated Wisconsin driver’s license; or
  - A Go Wild Conservation Card.
► **Group hunting:** Know which rules apply and which harvest authorizations are valid. See page 22.

### Deer Harvest Authorization (formerly known as Carcass Tag) Structure

![Deer Harvest Authorization](image)

- **Unique harvest authorization number used for registration**
- **Registration instructions**
- **Customer information**
- **Area where valid**
- **Year valid**
- **Harvest authorization type**

### Deer Harvest Authorization (formerly known as Carcass Tag) Structure

- **Agent #:** 1555
- **Issued:** 5/23/2018 2:52 PM

**CUSTOMER TEST**
- **Customer #:** 729086322
- **Year of Birth:** 1975
- **S: M H E 6 O W 2 6 0 H B R O E GRN**

**Harvest Authorization #**
- **1803221977**

**Valid only in the following unit(s):**
- **GREEN**
  - **Zone:** Southern Farmland (Zone 2)
  - **Time Period:** 2018 Deer Season
  - **Land Type:** Public

**Registration is required by 5 pm the day after recovery and is critical to sound wildlife management.**

- **Register your harvest at gamereg.wi.gov**
- **Call 844-GAME-REG (844-426-3734)**
- **Rules and regulations are available online at GoWild.Wi.Gov**

6. You got a deer!
► **You are no longer required to validate a deer tag or attach it to the deer.** However, you will need your harvest authorization number to register.
► **You must carry proof** of your hunting license and harvest authorizations while afield.

- **Forms of proof include:** a paper copy, an authenticated Wisconsin driver’s license, a Go Wild conservation card, or a department-issued digital PDF file displayed on a mobile device.

► **Use the unique deer harvest authorization number to register your harvest.** Access the unique harvest authorization number from the paper copy of the harvest authorization, a Go Wild PDF image of the harvest authorization saved to your electronic device or the My GameReg section of your Go Wild account.

7. Register that deer—it’s required!
► **Register your deer through GameReg** by 5 p.m. the day after recovery. All registration is electronic.
  - **Register online (fastest and easiest method):** gamereg.wi.gov (available 24 hours).
  - **Register by phone:** 1-844-426-3734 (1-844-GAMEREG) (available 24 hours). When prompted, use the numbers on your phone keypad to spell the first three letters of the county. For example, for Adams County, enter A-D-A by pressing “232.” Find the numbers that spell the first three letters of each county on the last page of these regulations.
  - **Register in person:** find a station that offers a phone or computer for registration at dnr.wi.gov, search “registration stations”.
► **Have your deer harvest authorization number handy** to enter at the start of the registration process.
► **You will receive a 10-character confirmation number** for your records once your deer has been successfully registered. For white-tailed deer, all confirmation numbers begin with “W” and are issued in the format W12-345-6789.
► **You are not required to keep the harvest authorization with the meat until all meat has been consumed.**
► **Learn more about GameReg at dnr.wi.gov**, search “GameReg.”
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Report Natural Resource Violations
CALL or TEXT:
800-TIP-WDNR
(800-847-9367, 608-267-4023)
Toll Free • Statewide • 24-Hour • Confidential

Definitions

Afield: An area where hunting can legally occur such as fields, forests or similar areas, but does not include areas such as public roadways or dwellings.

Antlerless deer: Any deer without antlers or any deer with both antlers less than three inches in length.

Bow: Any bow, drawn and held by and through the effort of the person releasing it, not including crossbows.

Buck deer: A deer with at least one antler which is three inches or longer in length.

Crossbow: Any device using a bow which, once drawn, is held solely by means other than the effort of the person firing it.

CWD: Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal disease that affects the nervous system of deer, elk and moose.

DMU: Deer Management Unit. DMUs are based on county boundaries, but some DMUs are split between zones. Antlerless deer quotas and harvest authorization levels are decided at the level of DMU.

DNR-managed land: Any land owned or under easement to the State of Wisconsin and some lands leased to the State of Wisconsin which are under the management, supervision, and control of the Department of Natural Resources; does not include private lands open to public access such as Managed Forest Law, Forest Crop Law, Voluntary Public Access lands, NGO-funded stewardship lands, or lands managed by other units of government, such as county or national parks or forests.

Firearm: Any weapon that uses gun powder, including black powder or black powder substitutes for muzzleloaders.

Ground blind: A blind used to conceal a hunter hunting from the ground. Ground blinds do not include elevated blinds or other elevated devices such as tree stands where both the blind and the hunter are in a tree or elevated device above the ground.

Harvest authorization: A hunting privilege, formerly known as a carcass tag, that authorizes the hunter to harvest one deer of the type identified in the zone, DMU and land type for which the authorization is valid. Each is identified by a unique harvest authorization number.

Highway: The entire width between the boundary lines of every public road, but does not include private roads and driveways.

Land type: For purposes of antlerless deer harvest authorizations, there are two land types: public-access or private. Hunters must select one of these land types for each antlerless deer harvest authorization.

Portable device: Any entire ground blind or tree stand that can be moved or carried by one person and which does not require construction aside from assembling the pre-existing components.

Private land: Land that is not public-access land and is not required to be open for public hunting.

Public-access land: Lands open to hunting that are owned, under easement to, or leased by federal, state, county, or municipal government. Managed Forest Law lands, Forest Crop law lands, public utilities lands, and lands acquired with State stewardship funds that are open to deer hunting are also considered public-access lands.

Public road: Roads shown on the current official highway map available from the Department of Transportation for public use. It does not include private roads or driveways.

Roadway: Portion of the highway which is improved or ordinarily used for vehicle travel, excluding the berm or shoulder.

Take: To legally kill or harvest under the authority of a license and appropriate deer harvest authorization.

Vehicle: Any device, motorized or not, in, upon or by which any person or property is or may be transported or towed upon a highway or other roadway. For example, cars, trucks, tractors, ATVs, UTVs, trailers, bikes and similar devices.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Deer Hunting Seasons*</th>
<th>Locations and Harvest Limits** (Gun)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gun Seasons</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 6 and 7 Youth Hunt</td>
<td>Statewide, except in state parks: One buck deer per unused Gun Buck Deer Harvest Authorization and one antlerless deer per unused antlerless deer harvest authorization valid for use in the specified zone, DMU and land type (public-access or private). Junior Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization valid statewide on land type specified. See p. 10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 17 – December 5 Metro Sub-units</td>
<td>All Metro Sub-units: One buck deer per unused Gun Buck Deer Harvest Authorization and one antlerless deer per unused antlerless deer harvest authorization valid for use in the specified zone, DMU and land type (public-access or private). Junior Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization valid statewide on land type specified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 6–9 Antlerless-only for all weapon types</td>
<td>Statewide: One antlerless deer per unused antlerless deer harvest authorization valid for use in the specified zone, DMU and land type. Only antlerless deer may be harvested. Junior Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization valid statewide on land type specified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 24–January 1, 2019 Holiday Hunt Antlerless-only for all weapon types</td>
<td>Select Farmland Zone Counties Only (map p. 9): Only antlerless deer may be harvested. One antlerless deer per unused antlerless deer harvest authorization valid for use in the specified zone, DMU and land type. Junior Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization valid statewide on land type specified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Archery/Crossbow Seasons</strong></td>
<td>Location and Harvest Limits (Archery/Crossbow)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 15–December 5 and December 10–January 6, 2019 or January 31, 2019 (extended archery/crossbow DMUs only)</td>
<td>Statewide: One buck deer per unused Bow Buck Deer Harvest Authorization† plus one antlerless deer per unused antlerless deer harvest authorization valid for use in the specified zone, DMU and land type (public-access or private). Junior Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization valid statewide on land type specified. †Statewide antlerless-only hunt: Dec. 6 - 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 15–December 5 and December 10–January 31, 2019 Metro Sub-units</td>
<td>All Metro Sub-units: One buck deer per unused Bow Buck Deer Harvest Authorization† plus one antlerless deer per unused antlerless deer harvest authorization valid for use in the specified zone, DMU and land type (public-access or private). Junior Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization valid statewide on land type specified. †Statewide antlerless-only hunt: Dec. 6 - 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 6–9 Antlerless-only for all weapon types</td>
<td>Statewide Antlerless-only Hunt: Only antlerless deer may be harvested. One antlerless deer per unused antlerless deer harvest authorization valid for use in the specified zone, DMU and land type. Junior Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization valid statewide on land type specified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 24–January 1, 2019 Holiday Hunt Antlerless-only for all weapon types</td>
<td>Select Farmland Zone Counties Only (map p. 9): Only antlerless deer may be harvested. One antlerless deer per unused antlerless deer harvest authorization valid for use in the specified zone, DMU and land type. Junior Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization valid statewide on land type specified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 24 - January 1, 2019 Counties not included in the Holiday Hunt</td>
<td>All Counties Not Included in the Holiday Hunt (map p. 9): One buck deer per unused Bow Buck Deer Harvest Authorization plus one antlerless deer per unused antlerless deer harvest authorization valid for use in the specified zone, DMU and land type (public-access or private). Junior Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization valid statewide on land type specified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Muzzleloader Season</strong></td>
<td>Location and Harvest Limits (Muzzleloader)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 26–December 5</td>
<td>Statewide (except for metro units): One buck deer per unused Gun Buck Deer Harvest Authorization and one antlerless deer per unused antlerless deer harvest authorization valid for use in the specified zone, DMU and land type (public-access or private). Junior Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization valid statewide on land type specified.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See page 17 for authorized weapons during these seasons.  
** See pages 13–15 for exceptions for certain Armed Forces members and certain disabled hunters.

### Counties Included in the 2018 Antlerless-only Holiday Hunt

Dec. 24 - Jan. 1, 2019: Antlerless-only Holiday Hunt for all weapon types

**Look Before You Shoot!**

Buck deer with antlers less than 3 inches in length and does are all considered antlerless deer. Be sure of your target when hunting, and remember to carry proof of an appropriate unfilled harvest authorization for the type of deer (buck or antlerless) you harvest.

**Sponsor a Hunt in 2019 for Hunters with Disabilities**

For more information on becoming a sponsor, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) keywords “disabled deer hunt.” Sponsors must sign up by June 1, 2019.
Counties Offering an Extended Archery/Crossbow Season

Sept. 15 – Jan. 31, 2019: Extended archery/crossbow season, bucks + antlerless by harvest authorization

Special Hunts

Youth Gun Deer Hunt (October 6 & 7)
- Open only to persons 15 years of age and younger who possess a gun deer license.
- This hunt occurs statewide in all areas open for hunting.
- The bag limit is one buck deer per unused Gun Buck Deer Harvest Authorization and one antlerless deer per unused antlerless deer harvest authorization valid for use in the specified zone, DMU, and land type (public-access or private). Junior Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization valid statewide on land type specified.
- Persons age 16 or older may NOT hunt deer under authority of a gun deer license during the Youth Gun Deer Hunt, except for hunting on an agricultural damage deer shooting permit or hunters who possess a valid disabled hunting permit and are hunting on a property sponsoring a disabled deer hunt.
- Youth hunters must be accompanied* by an adult parent or guardian even if the youth is 14 or 15 years old and holds a Hunter Education Certificate. One adult may not accompany more than two youth hunters at the same time.
- *Accompanied means within visual and voice contact without the aid of any mechanical or electronic amplifying device other than a hearing aid.
- All other hunting regulations apply, including highly visible clothing requirements for all hunters except waterfowl hunters.
- Hunting mentorship rules apply to all youth age 11 and under and to any youth who has not completed hunter education. See page 23 for more information on the hunting mentorship program.

Gun Deer Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities (October 6–14)
- A gun deer license is required.
- Special gun deer hunting opportunities are available to hunters with disabilities who hold a Class A, C or D disabled permit or holders of a Class B permit that is issued for longer than one year and which authorizes hunting or shooting from a stationary vehicle.
- Interested disabled hunters who wish to participate must contact a hunt sponsor before September 1. Contact information is available at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword “disabled deer hunt.”
- The tagging options for the Gun Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities are as follows:
  - Gun Buck Deer Harvest Authorization is valid for taking a buck deer statewide. It may not be used to take an antlerless deer.
  - Farmland (Zone 2) harvest authorizations may be used in the Farmland Zone, DMU and land type (public-access or private)* specified.
  - Regardless of which disabled permit type the hunter has, anyone participating in this hunt may use one Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorization to take an antlerless deer in any unit statewide, including buck-only units. Antlerless harvest authorizations may be used on public or private land*.
  - Bonus Antlerless Deer Hunt Harvest Authorizations are valid for taking one antlerless deer in the zone, DMU and land type (public-access or private) specified on the harvest authorization*, and are NOT weapon-specific.
- *During this special hunt on sponsored properties, the hunter may use the Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless harvest authorization on either land type regardless of the land type designated on the authorization. If the hunter does not fill the authorization during this hunt, he or she must use the authorization to harvest an antlerless deer during the other deer seasons only on the land type specified.

Other Opportunities

- Sandhill Outdoor Skills Center: Deer hunting is offered to youth and beginner adults who complete a “Learn to Deer Hunt Workshop.” Contact Sandhill Outdoor Skills Center: Box 125, Babcock, WI 54413; phone 715-884-2437. Applications are due by May 31 of each year.
- Hunting on School Forest Land: School boards may decide to allow hunting in school forests. If a school forest is opened to hunting, seasons and regulations are consistent with the open and closed seasons for game on adjacent land.
- Volk Field and Hardwood Range: For hunting information, send a self-addressed, stamped business envelope to: Volk Field ANGB, Attn: Natural Resources, 100 Independence Drive, Camp Douglas, WI 54618. Visit the website [www.volkfield.ang.af.mil/units/index.asp](http://www.volkfield.ang.af.mil/units/index.asp) and look for “Volk Field Environmental Policies.”
- Fort McCoy Military Reservation: Find hunting information at [www.mccoymilitary.mil](http://www.mccoymilitary.mil) under “recreation opportunities” or by calling the permit sales office at 608-388-3337.

Remember the Four Rules of Firearm Safety
1. Treat every gun as if it were loaded.
2. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
3. Be sure of your target and beyond.
4. Keep your finger out of the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.
### 2018 Deer License and Privilege Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License</th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Non-Resident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Patron</td>
<td>$165</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Conservation Patron (Valid only for youth ages 12–17)</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Heart Conservation Patron</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Sports (Valid only for youth ages 12–17)</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>$36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sports and Junior Sports privileges include:** general fishing, small game and gun deer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License</th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Non-Resident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gun Deer</td>
<td>$24</td>
<td>$160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Mentored Only (Valid only for youth age 11 and under. Gun Deer, Archer or Crossbow youth mentored only)</td>
<td>$7</td>
<td>$7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Gun Deer (Valid only for youth ages 12–17)</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$36 (Purchase Jr. Sports license)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archer</td>
<td>$24</td>
<td>$160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Archer (Valid only for youth ages 12–17)</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$77 (Purchase Jr. Conservation Patron license)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossbow</td>
<td>$24</td>
<td>$160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Crossbow (Valid only for youth ages 12–17)</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$77 (Purchase Jr. Conservation Patron license)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archer or Crossbow Upgrade*</td>
<td>$3</td>
<td>$3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-time Buyer Archer or Firearm</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>$79.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmland (Zone 2) Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization (DMU- and land type-specific)</td>
<td>Included with each deer license in counties with Farmland (Zone 2) harvest authorizations available.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro Sub-unit Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization (DMU-, Metro sub-unit- and land type-specific)</td>
<td>Included with each deer license in counties with metro sub-unit harvest authorizations available.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization (Zone-, DMU-, sub-unit- (if applicable) and land type-specific)</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentored Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization (11 years old and younger) (Zone-, DMU- and land type-specific)</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Purchase of archer or crossbow upgrade authorizes the use of both bow and crossbow; however, the upgrade will not include additional harvest authorizations.

**Rates For Qualifying Hunters**

Qualifying resident and non-resident hunters can purchase certain hunting licenses and permits at reduced rates. Visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) or contact the DNR call center (888-936-7463) for more information.

### Licensing Requirements

Licenses, stamps, and permit applications are available online at [GoWild.WI.gov](http://GoWild.WI.gov) and at license agents. Residents and nonresidents may purchase their licenses, submit their permit applications, check their preference points, and print copies of licenses and harvest authorizations at home from their online Go Wild account 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To find a sales location, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search “license sales.”

### General License Information and Authorized Weapon Use

- **Gun Deer License:** Required to hunt deer with a gun (including a muzzleloader), and also allows hunting with a bow or crossbow, but only during a firearm deer season.
- **Archer License:** Allows hunting for deer with a bow only during the archery deer season and for small game during a small game season.
- **Crossbow License:** Allows hunting for deer with a crossbow only during the crossbow deer season and for small game during a small game season.

**Note:** The purchase of a $3 upgrade is required with either an archer or crossbow license in order to use both weapon types.

### Form of Proof and Reprints

The following forms of proof of a deer hunting license and deer harvest authorizations are accepted: a paper copy, an authenticated Wisconsin driver’s license, a DNR-issued Go Wild Conservation Card or a digital PDF file issued by the department and displayed on an electronic device. Paper copies of licenses and harvest authorizations may be obtained at no charge if printed at home or obtained at DNR service centers. There is a $2 convenience fee for reprints obtained at license agents.

**It is illegal to:**

- use or carry another hunter’s license or harvest authorizations while engaged in hunting.
- obtain a hunting license without completing hunter education or participating in the hunting mentorship program. Anyone born on or after January 1, 1973 who has not completed hunter education or youth age 11 and younger must hunt with a mentor. See page 23 for details.

### Resident Licenses

#### Wisconsin residency

- A person must have maintained a permanent residence in Wisconsin for 30 consecutive days immediately before purchasing a license. Domiciliary intent is required. Evidence of domiciliary intent includes where the person votes, pays personal state income taxes or obtains a driver’s license. Mere presence in the state for a 30-day period and/or ownership of property is not sufficient to establish residency.

**Note:** non-residents under 18 who have a parent that is a Wisconsin resident may purchase licenses at resident prices.

#### Non-resident students attending school in Wisconsin

- Full-time non-resident students in residence at any public or private Wisconsin college, technical college or university offering an associate’s or bachelor’s degree or foreign citizens residing in the state and attending a Wisconsin high school or a university agricultural short course may purchase non-resident student gun deer, archer, crossbow, small game, fishing and sports licenses at resident prices.

**Note:** student licenses may only be purchased in person (not online).

### Armed Forces Members

People who have successfully completed basic training in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves or National Guard are exempt from hunter education requirements. Armed Forces privileges may only be purchased in person (not online).
Armed Forces members are entitled to the following:

- A qualified U.S. Armed Forces member may use one Farmland (Zone 2) Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization in units outside of the Farmland Zones to take an antlerless deer, including buck-only units, but only under the authority of a gun deer license and only during a season open to hunting deer with firearms; authorization is land type-specific (public-access or private).
- A qualified U.S. Armed Forces member may use their Gun Buck Deer Harvest Authorization during any firearm deer season, including antlerless-only firearm deer seasons, to take a buck that has been harvested with any legal weapon for that firearm season.

A qualified U.S. Armed Forces member is defined as a person who meets all of the following:

- Is a Wisconsin resident stationed outside of Wisconsin, or was a resident when that person entered active service;
- Is in active service with the U.S. Armed Forces or forces incorporated in the U.S. Armed Forces; and
- Is on furlough or leave.

Non-residents meeting any of the following criteria may purchase any hunting, trapping or fishing license at the resident price if they are:

- An active duty U.S. Armed Forces member or member of forces incorporated in the U.S. Armed Forces who is stationed in Wisconsin or was a resident when that person entered active service;
- A member of a reserve unit located in Wisconsin or a member of a unit located outside of Wisconsin who was a Wisconsin resident when that person entered active service; or
- A member of the Wisconsin National Guard.

Note: Armed Forces members are still required to purchase a valid deer hunting license.

Wisconsin residents in active service with the U.S. Armed Forces stationed outside Wisconsin on furlough or leave may also purchase one Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization for any one unit with a quota, even if the unit is sold out.

Deer Harvest Authorizations
Hunters are no longer required to validate paper carcass tags or attach them to harvested deer. Hunters are also no longer required to keep the tag with the meat. However, hunters must carry one of the forms of proof of a deer harvest authorization listed on page 13. Keep in mind that even with electronic forms of proof of deer harvest authorizations available, hunters will need the unique authorization number to begin the harvest registration process.

Gun Buck Deer Harvest Authorization
Valid in any DMU statewide for harvesting one buck deer with a firearm, muzzleloader, bow or crossbow during any firearm deer season except it is not valid in any DMU where an antlerless-only hunt is taking place. See pages 14–16 for military and disabled hunter exceptions.

Bow Buck Deer Harvest Authorization
Valid in any DMU statewide for harvesting one buck deer with an archer or crossbow license during an open archery or crossbow season, except it is not valid in any DMU where an antlerless-only hunt is taking place. During the Holiday Hunt, this harvest authorization is valid for taking a buck only in DMUs not offering the Holiday Hunt. This harvest authorization is weapon-specific and may not be filled with a deer harvested with a firearm.

Junior Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization (youth under age 18)
Hunters ages 17 and younger will be issued a statewide Junior Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization with each license. This authorization is valid for taking one antlerless deer in any DMU statewide on the land type specified on the authorization. It may be used during any open deer season with the appropriate gun, archer or crossbow license and weapon authorized by that license. This authorization may be filled ONLY by the authorization holder and may not be filled by another hunter.
Metro Sub-unit Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorizations
Dane, Eau Claire, Kenosha, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Pierce, Sheboygan and St. Croix counties contain a metro sub-unit (see maps on page 26) and will offer, at no charge, one or more Metro Sub-unit Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization(s) in addition to Farmland (Zone 2) Antlerless Harvest Authorizations offered for those counties. Also, metro sub-units in Brown, Chippewa, Douglas, Eau Claire, Pierce, Racine, Rock, Sheboygan and St. Croix may have bonus Metro Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorizations for sale. Both types of metro sub-unit antlerless harvest authorizations are only valid within the metro sub-unit boundary, within the county selected, and on the land type (public or private) specified on the harvest authorization.

Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorizations

- Bonus harvest authorizations are valid only for taking antlerless deer in the zone, DMU and land type (public-access or private) specified on the authorization and are NOT weapon- or season-specific.
- At the time of purchase, hunters will be asked to specify the zone, DMU and whether they will be hunting on public-access land or private land.
- Select bonus harvest authorizations for use in metro sub-units by specifying the county in which the sub-unit is located.
- Bonus harvest authorizations are sold on a first-come, first-served basis at a rate of $12 for Wisconsin residents and certain qualified non-residents (see page 13-14 for military and students attending school in Wisconsin), $20 for non-residents and $5 for youth ages 11 and under.
- Bonus harvest authorizations may be purchased online at GoWild.WI.gov, at DNR service centers and at license agents.
- Only one bonus harvest authorization per person, per day, may be purchased. Quantities are limited.

Farmer Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorizations
Eligible resident farm owners can receive one free unit-specific Farmer Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization for each unit-specific Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorization they purchase for the same DMU and land type. Free Farmer Antlerless Harvest Authorizations are available only if bonus harvest authorizations for the desired DMU and land type remain. To qualify, the majority of the land on the farm must be used on a commercial basis, be used for an agricultural purpose and provide income during the year that the authorization is valid. In addition, the farm must be located wholly or partially in the DMU for which the landowner is requesting the free authorization. If there are joint owners or vendee names under a land contract, only one of the owners is eligible for the Farmer Antlerless Harvest Authorization.

Hunters with Disabilities: Use of Antlerless Harvest Authorizations
A qualified person with disabilities may obtain a disabled permit to hunt from a stationary vehicle, use a laser sight, or use an adaptive device on a firearm. Class A and Class C disabled permit holders:
- may use their Gun Buck Deer Harvest Authorization to take a buck statewide during any firearm deer season, including antlerless-only seasons.
- during the season as a whole, may use one Farmland (Zone 2) Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization issued with their gun deer license or their archer/crossbow license to take an antlerless deer in any unit statewide, including buck-only units. If the disabled hunter purchased both a gun and archer/crossbow license or a patron license, they may use two of their Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless harvest authorizations in any unit statewide, including buck-only units. Antlerless harvest authorizations are land type-specific, but not weapon- or season-specific.

Hold permissions a Class D permit or a Class B permit issued for longer than one year and that authorizes hunting or shooting from a stationary vehicle may exercise the above privileges during the department gun deer hunt for hunters with disabilities only (see page 11).

Disability permit holders may not use their Gun Buck Deer Harvest Authorization to take an antlerless deer (this applies to all disabled permit holders, not just Class A and Class C).

Antlerless Harvest Authorization FAQ
For frequently asked questions on antlerless harvest authorizations, visit dnr.wi.gov and search keyword “deer.”

Buck-Only Units

See the map on page 24 for details.

Buck-Only Units
Iron County is designated as a buck-only unit. Only bucks may be harvested, with some exceptions for military, youth and disabled permit holders.
- A Buck Deer Harvest Authorization is issued with each deer license and is valid statewide, except during antlerless-only deer seasons within the unit where the season occurs.
- There are no Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorizations available for purchase in any buck-only unit.
- The Junior Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization is included with deer hunting licenses for youth ages 17 and under and is valid for taking an antlerless deer statewide, including in buck-only units, on the land type (public-access or private) specified on the harvest authorization.
- Class A and C disabled permit holders may use one Farmland (Zone 2) Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization per license (gun or archer/crossbow) statewide including in buck-only units; harvest authorization is land type-specific (public-access or private).
- Certain qualified resident active service U.S. Armed Forces members stationed outside Wisconsin and home on furlough or leave may use one Farmland (Zone 2) Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization to take an antlerless deer statewide, including in buck-only units, but only under the authority of a gun deer license and only during a season open to hunting deer with firearms; harvest authorization is land type-specific (public-access or private). See pages 13–16 for exceptions.

Firearm, Bow and Crossbow Restrictions

It is illegal to:
- possess or use any firearm for hunting if you are a felon or have been prohibited from possessing a firearm under Wisconsin law. In Wisconsin, a firearm is any weapon that uses gun powder, including black powder or black powder substitute for muzzleloaders. A hunting license does not authorize a felon to possess a firearm for hunting;
- hunt with a fully automatic firearm;
- possess or use while hunting any tracer or incendiary shells, cartridges or ammunition;
- hunt with any means other than a gun discharged from the shoulder or a bow or crossbow. Handguns may be used as described under the “handgun” section on page 18. Bows and crossbows may only be used as described under the Bows, Arrows and Crossbows section described on page 19;
- load a firearm other than a handgun while it is in a vehicle or to discharge any firearm, including handguns, in or from any moving or stationary vehicle except for certain disabled hunters with proper permits;

Note: Any person may load and discharge a firearm, bow or crossbow from a stationary, non-motorized vehicle, such as a wagon, trailer or blind with wheels, if it is not attached to a motor vehicle.
- shoot a firearm within 100 yards of a building devoted to human occupancy while on lands the hunter does not own, including public lands and public waters, without the permission of the owner or occupant of the building;
- hunt deer with ammunition loaded with non-expanding type bullets;
- possess or control any shotshell loaded with a single slug or ball while hunting game birds except during the gun deer season;
**Weapon Restrictions**

**General Deer Hunting Regulations**

**Dogs**

It is illegal to hunt deer with dogs.  

*Note:* dogs kept on a leash may be used to follow a blood trail in order to locate a suspected dead deer, provided that the trackers do not possess any firearm, bow or crossbow.

- Dogs are considered private property and are protected by law. Only conservation wardens may kill dogs chasing deer. Owners may be held responsible for damage caused by their dogs.
- A dog that is actively engaged in a legal hunting activity, including training, is not considered to be running-at-large as long as the dog is monitored or supervised by a person and the dog is on land that is open to hunting or on land on which the person has obtained permission to hunt or to train a dog.
- A dog allowed to run on lands where permission has not been obtained is considered to be running-at-large and may be taken into custody by a humane officer or law enforcement officer.

**Bows, Arrows and Crossbows**

- Crossbows and bow and arrows may be used by any person hunting under the authority of a gun deer license during any firearm (i.e., gun deer or muzzleloader) deer season.  
  
  *Note:* when hunting under the authority of an archer license, only bows are allowed. When hunting under the authority of a crossbow license, only a crossbow is allowed.
- Bows must have a draw weight of 30 pounds or greater, and metal broadheads must be at least 7/8 of an inch wide and kept sharp. Stone arrow heads may be used.
- Crossbows must have a minimum draw of 100 pounds, a working safety and use at least 14-inch long bolts or arrows equipped with broadheads as described above.
- Bows equipped with a drawlock mechanism that is capable of holding the bow at full draw without the aid of a hunter are considered crossbows. These are exempt from the 100-pound requirement but must meet the 30-pound minimum draw weight.

**It is illegal to:**

- possess any poison-, drug- or explosive-tipped arrow while hunting.

**Arms Transportation**

All firearms (excluding handguns) must be **unload** when **inside** any vehicle, whether moving or stationary, and must be unloaded when inside or on any moving vehicle.

*Note:* loaded firearm may be placed on, but not inside, a vehicle which is stationary. All firearms, bows and crossbows must be **unload** when **inside or on** any motor-driven boat while the motor is running.

A firearm is considered unloaded if the shell or cartridge is removed from the chamber and any clip, magazine or cylinder that is attached to the firearm is empty, the cap or primer is removed from a percussion muzzleloader, the flashtube of a flint lock muzzleloader is cleaned of powder or the battery is disconnected and removed from an electronic-ignition system muzzleloader. Qualified persons with disabilities with the permit authority to shoot from a stationary vehicle must have all firearms (other than handguns) unloaded while the vehicle is in motion.

**It is illegal to:**

- place, possess or transport a cocked crossbow inside or on a motorized vehicle unless it is unloaded (bolt removed) and enclosed within a case,
- load a firearm other than a handgun while inside a vehicle or to discharge any firearm, including handguns, inside or from any moving or stationary vehicle except for certain disabled hunters with proper permits.

**It is illegal to:**

- possess while hunting, shot or shotshells loaded with shot larger than No. BB from June 1–December 15 (unless legally engaged in waterfowl or bobcat hunting). See the 2018 Waterfowl Regulations for maximum shot sizes for waterfowl hunting;
- hunt deer with any ammunition loaded with shot other than a single slug or projectile.

*Note:* Hunters are encouraged to check with local governments for weapon restrictions in the area they plan to hunt.

**Shotguns**

- Shotguns must have an overall minimum length of 26 inches with an 18 inch minimum barrel length unless the hunter possesses a federal license to possess a “short-barreled” shotgun.
- Rifled shotgun barrels of at least 18 inches in length are considered to be shotguns for the purpose of hunting deer if they fire a single projectile and are in the following gauges: 10, 12, 16, 20 and 28.

**It is illegal to:**

- hunt deer with or while in possession of a shotgun loaded with any .410 shotgun shell ammunition or any shotgun with a bore of .410 or less,
- hunt with or while in possession of buckshot while hunting deer, except a hunter may possess buckshot for harvesting a bobcat during a deer season if in possession of a valid, unfilled bobcat harvest permit for an open bobcat season.

**Rifles**

- Rifles must have an overall minimum length of 26 inches with a 16 inch minimum barrel length unless the user has a federal license to possess a “short-barreled” rifle.

**It is illegal to:**

- hunt deer with any center-fire rifle less than .22 caliber, any rimfire rifle, or air gun.

**Muzzleloaders**

- Muzzleloaders may be used statewide during any firearm deer season.
- Muzzleloaders that are discharged from the shoulder must be .45 caliber or larger if smoothbore and .40 caliber or larger if the barrel is rifled, and must be loaded with a single ball or slug.
- Muzzleloading handguns must be .44 caliber or larger with a minimum barrel length of seven inches measured from muzzle to breech face and fire a single projectile weighing not less than 138 grains. Black powder revolvers are legal during all gun deer seasons except the 10-day muzzleloader-only season because they are capable of being loaded by the cylinder instead of the muzzle.
- Telescopic sights may be used during all firearm deer seasons.
- During the muzzleloader-only deer season, all muzzleloaders must have a solid threaded breech plug making them capable of being loaded only from the muzzle.

**It is illegal to:**

- possess a loaded firearm (excluding handguns) in a vehicle, even if stationary, except qualified disabled persons possessing a permit to shoot from a stationary vehicle may possess a loaded firearm in a stationary vehicle;
- possess a concealed handgun unless authorized by a Concealed Carry License or otherwise authorized to possess a concealed firearm; and
- hunt with a handgun, including muzzleloading handguns, if under age 18.

**General Regulations**

**Handguns**

Handguns must use center-fire cartridges of .22 caliber or larger and have a 5½ inch minimum barrel length measured from the firing pin to the muzzle with the action closed. For details on muzzleloading handguns, see “Muzzleloaders” section above.

**It is illegal to:**

- possess a loaded firearm (excluding handguns) in a vehicle, even if stationary, except qualified disabled persons possessing a permit to shoot from a stationary vehicle may possess a loaded firearm in a stationary vehicle;
- possess a concealed handgun unless authorized by a Concealed Carry License or otherwise authorized to possess a concealed firearm; and
- hunt with a handgun, including muzzleloading handguns, if under age 18.
Use of Devices

**It is illegal to:**
- hunt any animal with the aid of any aircraft, including unmanned aircraft or drones;
- use, or possess with the intent to use, laser sights while hunting except by Class C visually handicapped permit holders;
- use or hunt with a firearm equipped with a suppressor or silencer, unless the hunter possess the proper federal firearm license that authorizes possession and use of the device.

**Note:** electronic calls and decoys are legal for hunting deer.

Hunting Near Roadways

See definitions of highway, public road and roadway on page 7.

**It is illegal to:**
- Hunt within 50 feet of the roadway’s center
- Discharge a firearm, shoot an arrow from a bow or a bolt from a crossbow:
  - a. from or across a highway;
  - b. within 50 feet of the roadway’s center.

The above prohibition applies to all public roads.

**Note:** certain exceptions are allowed for Class A and B disabled permit holders, and for hunting small game from dirt or gravel roads with shotguns loaded with fine shot. Visit dorwi.gov and search “disabled permits” for more information.

Shining

**It is illegal to:**
- use or possess with intent to use, a light including vehicle headlights for shining any wild animal while hunting or in possession of a firearm, bow and arrow or crossbow. This includes laser sights on firearms, bows and crossbows. Exceptions apply for Class C disabled permit holders and for hunting certain small game; see 2018 Small Game Hunting Regulations;
- use or possess with intent to use, a light including vehicle headlights for shining wild animals between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. from September 15 through December 31 whether or not in possession of a firearm, bow or crossbow;

**Note:** some areas may prohibit shining by local ordinance. Check with the local sheriff’s department or town officials for local shining restrictions.

- shine at any time on federal refuges and Waterfowl Production Areas.

**Quartering Your Deer**

Deer must be kept intact while afield, except for field dressing, skinning and quartering. Hunters may divide a deer into as many as five pieces to facilitate removal of the carcass from the field, but the head must remain attached to one of the five parts of the carcass. The hide and lower legs, if removed, do not count as one of the five parts. Only one deer that has been quartered may be stored or transported at a time prior to registration, but quartered deer can be transported with other intact deer. The lower legs up to the tarsus joint (ankle or hock) on the hind legs and up to the carpus joint (wrist or knee) on the front legs may also be removed. All parts of the deer, except the entrails, must be removed from the field.

**Wisconsin Conservation Congress**

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress is the only statutory body in the state for which citizens elect delegates to advise the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources on natural resources management issues. For more information, visit dorwi.gov keywords “conservation congress.”

**Highly Visible Clothing Requirement**

- When and where a firearm deer season (listed on page 8) is in progress, no person may hunt any game, except waterfowl, unless at least 50% of their outer clothing above the waist is colored blaze orange or fluorescent pink. A hat or other head covering, if worn, must be at least 50% blaze orange or fluorescent pink. Faded or stained blaze orange or fluorescent pink clothing is unsafe and may not meet law requirements. Although not as visible, camo-blaze is legal if 50% of the material is blaze orange or fluorescent pink. The DNR recommends 100% solid blaze orange or fluorescent pink.

**Note:** Highly visible clothing requirements do not apply to those hunters participating in legal night hunting (e.g., raccoon) from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise.

**Ground Blinds on DNR-Managed Lands**

- During any gun or muzzleloader deer season, ground blinds (except waterfowl blinds) on DNR-owned or -managed lands must have a minimum of 144 square inches of solid blaze orange or fluorescent pink material visible from all directions.
- All unoccupied ground blinds on DNR-owned or DNR-managed lands must have the owner’s customer ID number or name and address attached in a manner that is legible and visible in a conspicuous location near the entrance.
- Statewide, all ground blinds and elevated devices must be removed daily*. However, north of Highway 64, portable devices may be left overnight on DNR-managed lands during certain times of the year; see page 36 for details.

**Exceptions:** These ground blind requirements do not apply to blinds constructed entirely of dead vegetation found on the property, and which include no man-made materials. Also, waterfowl blinds may be left up throughout the season but must be removed completely within seven days after the season closes.

**Ground Blind Frequently Asked Questions**

**Can I hang a 12 inch x 12 inch blaze orange/fluorescent pink flag on the top, attach multiple small pieces of blaze orange/pink on the outside or wrap a 144-inch long, 1-inch wide piece of blaze orange/pink flagging tape around my blind?**

No, because not all 144 square inches of material would be visible from any direction at all times.

**Can I use camo-blaze orange or camo-fluorescent pink pattern?**

Not by itself; camo-blaze orange/pink does not meet the solid color requirement and can only be used in addition to the 144 square inches of solid blaze orange/pink.

**Transportation, Possession and Sale of Deer**

**It is illegal to:**
- sell, purchase, barter, or offer to sell, purchase or barter any deer or deer part, except the head, skin (not in spotted coat) and antlers (not in velvet) of any deer may be sold or bartered when these parts are separated from the rest of the carcass;
- possess any deer from which the antlers have been removed, broken, shed or altered so as to make determination of the legality of the deer impossible. Any such deer is considered an illegal deer if taken during a season for hunting only antlerless deer;
- possess a deer carcass unless the hunter possesses the appropriate proof of a deer harvest authorization;

**Note:** If possessing or transporting another person’s deer, proof of the valid harvest authorization should accompany the carcass prior to registration.

- possess albino or all-white deer which are entirely white except for the hooves, tarsal glands, head and parts of the head unless special written authorization is obtained from the department;

**Note:** Deer with antlers in velvet or in spotted coat may be harvested during the open deer season. The velvet antlers and spotted hide may not be sold or transferred to another person. Albino and white deer may not be harvested.
Group Hunting Law

It is illegal to kill game for another person except during a firearm deer season when a member of a group deer hunting party may kill a deer for another member of the party. However, Junior Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorizations issued to those age 18 and under may only be filled by the person to whom the authorizations are issued. Group hunting is not legal for persons hunting with bows and crossbows. All participants must be licensed and each must possess a firearm. Members of a group deer hunting party should also agree in advance that a harvest authorization holder is willing to use their authorization number to register a deer killed by another member of the party. The following conditions are established by law to ensure that hunters are actively participating in the hunt, are in the field, and do not harvest more deer than the group has harvest authorizations:

• A group deer hunting party must be two or more hunters who are hunting together within sight or voice contact at all times. Temporary loss of voice or visual contact for a reasonable time due to terrain or weather conditions is acceptable. Hunters may not kill deer for persons who are not actively hunting with the party.
• Hunters may not use cellular phones, special free radio communications, or other mechanical or electronic amplifying devices (except hearing aids) to establish contact with the person for whom the deer is killed.
• The hunter for whom the deer is killed must possess proof of a valid unused deer harvest authorization for the type (i.e., buck or antlerless) of deer killed and valid for the zone, DMU and type of land where the deer is killed.
• Convicted felons cannot participate in group deer hunting or allow use of their harvest authorization by anyone else, because felons cannot possess a firearm. People participating only as deer drivers are not required to possess firearms or hunting licenses.
• Adults may not hunt deer with firearms during the youth gun deer hunt. See page 11 for details.
• While group hunting, a mentor may not fill any of their mentee’s deer harvest authorizations.

Taking of Game

It is illegal to:

• take or possess any deer or wild animal which has been lawfully obtained by someone else without having that person’s consent;
• not immediately kill all game taken and make it part of the daily bag;
• while afield, possess game killed by another unless accompanied by the holder of the harvest authorization for the deer;
• possess game taken by another unless able to provide the registration confirmation number, or name and address or customer ID of the holder of the harvest authorization;
• gift game to any person while afield. All game given as a gift remains counted toward the daily bag limit of the holder of the harvest authorization;
• carelessly waste game. The hunter must make every reasonable effort to retrieve all game that is killed or crippled. Until such effort is made, the game shall be included in the daily bag.

Note: This does not apply to a person who possesses game at a dwelling, business or in a vehicle on a public roadway as long as the game has been registered by the holder of the harvest authorization.)

• possess a crossbow license.

Note: This rule does not allow hunters to trespass without permission of the landowner or to shoot game beyond established shooting hours.

Wildlife Violator Compact

The State of Wisconsin is a participating member of the Wildlife Violator Compact. The Wildlife Violator Compact is an agreement between participating states that prohibits a person whose hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges are suspended in one state from obtaining licenses, permits, or engaging in those activities in another participating state. For more information, visit dnr.wi.gov, keywords “wildlife violator compact.”

Hunter Education Requirements

Persons born on or after January 1, 1973 must present their Wisconsin Hunter Education Certificate or proof of a hunter safety course recognized by the department from another state, province or country; or a Wisconsin hunting license from a previous year that has the hunter safety certification code imprinted on it, or proof of successful completion of basic training in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves or National Guard to purchase any hunting license. A certificate of successful completion of a Bow Hunter Education course can be used to purchase an archer or a crossbow license.

• If a person has not completed hunter education, that hunter may only obtain a license that requires hunting with a mentor in compliance with the Hunting Mentorship Program rules. See below for more information or visit dnr.wi.gov and search “hunter education” for Hunter Safety Course information.

• A parent or guardian who is at least 18 years of age must accompany hunters who are ages 12 and 13 and who have completed Hunter Education. Accompanied means within sight and voice contact without the aid of any mechanical or electronic amplifying device other than a hearing aid. Persons under the age of 12 may not hunt unless participating in a DNR Learn to Hunt event or the Hunting Mentorship Program. Persons under age 18 may not possess firearms for non-hunting purposes unless accompanied by an adult, except that persons ages 14–17 who have completed Hunter Education can possess legal shotguns and rifles without being accompanied by an adult. However, all youths participating in the Youth Gun Deer Hunt (p. 11) must be accompanied by an adult.

Hunting Mentorship Program

This program allows a person to hunt without the need to first take hunter education, provided the hunter and the mentor comply with the following rules.

Rules that apply to the hunter. The hunter must:

• possess the appropriate hunting license and harvest authorizations;
• hunt within arms-reach of their mentor regardless of the age of the hunter; and
• comply with all other hunting laws, seasons and bag limits.

Rules that apply to the mentor. The mentor must:

• be at least 18 years old;
• be a hunter education graduate unless they were born before Jan. 1, 1973 or have completed basic training with the U.S. Armed Forces;
• be the hunter’s parent or guardian, or have the permission of the hunter’s parent or guardian before acting as a mentor for a person under 18;
• possess a current year’s Wisconsin hunting license. The type of hunting license does not matter unless the mentor will also be attempting to harvest the same type of game;
• only serve as a mentor for one hunter at a time if the hunter is either of the following:
  • age 11 or under, or
  • born on or after Jan. 1, 1973 and has not yet completed a hunter education course.

Note: Certain exemptions for the hunting license requirement apply if mentoring on a licensed bird or deer hunting preserve or on land the mentor owns or occupies. For more information call the DNR Call Center 888-936-7463.

• possess a crossbow license.

Note: This does not apply to a person who possesses game at a dwelling, business or in a vehicle on a public roadway as long as the game has been registered by the holder of the harvest authorization.)

• possess game taken by another unless able to provide the registration confirmation number, or name and address or customer ID of the holder of the harvest authorization;
• gift game to any person while afield. All game given as a gift remains counted toward the daily bag limit of the holder of the harvest authorization;
• carelessly waste game. The hunter must make every reasonable effort to retrieve all game that is killed or crippled. Until such effort is made, the game shall be included in the daily bag.

Note: This rule does not allow hunters to trespass without permission of the landowner or to shoot game beyond established shooting hours.

Wildlife Violator Compact

The State of Wisconsin is a participating member of the Wildlife Violator Compact. The Wildlife Violator Compact is an agreement between participating states that prohibits a person whose hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges are suspended in one state from obtaining licenses, permits, or engaging in those activities in another participating state. For more information, visit dnr.wi.gov, keywords “wildlife violator compact.”

Hunting Mentorship Program

This program allows a person to hunt without the need to first take hunter education, provided the hunter and the mentor comply with the following rules.

Rules that apply to the hunter. The hunter must:

• possess the appropriate hunting license and harvest authorizations;
• hunt within arms-reach of their mentor regardless of the age of the hunter; and
• comply with all other hunting laws, seasons and bag limits.

Rules that apply to the mentor. The mentor must:

• be at least 18 years old;
• be a hunter education graduate unless they were born before Jan. 1, 1973 or have completed basic training with the U.S. Armed Forces;
• be the hunter’s parent or guardian, or have the permission of the hunter’s parent or guardian before acting as a mentor for a person under 18;
• possess a current year’s Wisconsin hunting license. The type of hunting license does not matter unless the mentor will also be attempting to harvest the same type of game;
• only serve as a mentor for one hunter at a time if the hunter is either of the following:
  • age 11 or under, or
  • born on or after Jan. 1, 1973 and has not yet completed a hunter education course.

Both the hunter and the mentor may possess a weapon while participating in the Hunting Mentorship Program. Mentors may not harvest a deer for the mentored hunter or use a mentored hunter’s harvest authorization to harvest a deer during a group hunt.

Note: Hunters 11 years old and younger must hunt under these mentorship rules, even if they have already completed hunter education.

A hunter with any valid hunting approval who is assisting in a mentored hunting situation or assisting a person who is 17 or younger may kill an animal that has been shot and wounded by a youth or mentored hunter only if:

• the youth or mentee wounded the animal while hunting with the accompanying hunter;
• the youth or mentee asks the accompanying hunter to kill the wounded animal; and
• the accompanying hunter uses a type of weapon authorized for use by the youth or mentee during the hunting season in which the youth/mentee is hunting.

A harvested animal counts toward the bag limit of the youth or mentee who wounded the animal. For more information on mentored hunting, visit dnr.wi.gov, keywords “mentored hunting.”
2018 Season Maps

2018 Deer Management Units and Zones

Statewide: Bucks plus antlerless by permit

Statewide bag limits for all seasons: Bucks plus antlerless deer by harvest authorization availability unless otherwise noted at right

- **Buck Only**- all seasons. No antlerless harvest authorizations available
- **Antlerless Only Holiday Hunt**: Dec 24 - Jan 1
- **Metro Sub-units**: see regulations for more information on boundary lines and extended season dates

- **Modified DMZ Boundary**
- **Modified or creation of Metro sub-unit**
- **Non-quota Area**: no harvest authorizations issued by the DNR

**Note**: See regulations for more information on the extended archery seasons
2018 Metropolitan Sub-units

[Diagram showing various counties and cities in Wisconsin, including Dane, La Crosse, St. Croix, Rock, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Chippewa, and Eau Claire.]
Deer Carcass Transportation Regulations in the U.S. and Canada

See [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) search “carcass movement” for the most current carcass transportation restrictions.

Research indicates that intact carcasses and certain parts of (e.g., deer, elk and moose) infected with CWD may be a source of disease spread. The infective agent (prion) is concentrated in the brain, spinal cord and lymph nodes. The intent of the following regulations is to prevent the movement of brain, spinal cord and lymphoid tissue in order to minimize the risk of introducing CWD into an area where it does not currently exist.

**It is illegal to:**

- transport whole wild deer carcasses and certain parts of those carcasses from the CWD-affected counties to areas outside of the CWD-affected counties, unless these deer carcasses or parts are being transported to an adjacent county or to a licensed taxidermist or processor within 72 hours of the deer being registered. This restriction applies to all CWD-affected counties, even where a baiting and feeding ban is no longer in effect. Visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search “CWD” for a map of CWD-affected counties.
- transport carcasses or certain parts of wild cervids (e.g., deer, elk and moose) from other states or provinces that have CWD into any part of Wisconsin, unless they are taken to a licensed taxidermist or processor within 72 hours of entering the state.
- Hunters transporting whole carcasses or restricted parts of those cervids into Wisconsin from other states or provinces must possess and exhibit to wardens, upon request, documentation of the state or province in which the carcass was harvested.

The following list specifies the only parts of wild deer harvested in a CWD-affected county that may be transported beyond an adjacent county without being taken to a licensed taxidermist or processor. This list also applies to any wild deer, elk or moose transported into Wisconsin from other states and provinces that have CWD:

- meat that is cut and wrapped (either commercially or privately);
- quarters or other portions of meat to which no part of the spinal column is attached;
- meat that has been deboned;
- hides with no heads attached, finished taxidermy heads, antlers;
- clean skulls or skull plates with no lymphoid or brain tissue attached;
- upper canine teeth (also known as buglers, whistlers or ivories).

Whole carcasses that are delivered to a licensed meat processor or licensed taxidermist within 72 hours of being registered or entering the state may be transported from an area with CWD. The processor or taxidermist must be told that the animal came from the CWD-affected county or state with CWD. They must dispose of the brain, spinal column and parts not exempt from the transportation restrictions in a landfill.

The movement of carcasses and parts of captive cervids is regulated by the USDA and the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Please contact DATCP at 608-224-4872 with questions concerning these regulations.

Many states and provinces restrict the importation of cervid carcasses and hunters should check the regulations of their home state or province, the state or province in which they will be hunting, and the states or provinces through which they will be traveling. For more information, please visit the CWD Alliance website at: [www.cwd-info.org](http://www.cwd-info.org).

**Venison and Hide Donation Programs**

Since the deer donation program began in 2000, hunters have donated more than 91,000 deer which were processed into over 3.6 million pounds of ground venison. You can continue to help feed people in need throughout Wisconsin this fall by taking four simple steps. You can also help charitable organizations by donating deer hides.

**Venison Donation**

- Properly field dress and register the deer.
- Contact one of the participating meat processors (visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search keyword “dear donation”) to verify they have space to accept the deer.
- Drop deer off at a participating processor by February 1, 2018. Donate the entire deer to receive the processing for free (head or antlers may be removed for mounting).
- Sign the log sheet indicating your desire to donate the deer while at the processor.

This year, deer can be donated any time after August 1. Hunters may make monetary donations to help pay for the costs of deer processing when buying hunting licenses. Since 2002, over 48,000 hunters have donated over $183,000 to help pay for venison processing for food pantries. Last year hunters donated more than 1,500 deer. For updates on participating processors and venison and hide donation, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search “dear donation.”

**Lead in Venison**

Deer harvested with lead bullets have been shown to have tiny fragments remaining in processed meat. Often fragments are too small to be seen and can disperse far from the wound channel. Although the amount of lead found in samples of venison is small, studies suggest that long-term effects could occur in people who regularly eat venison harvested with lead ammunition. However, there is currently no evidence linking human consumption of venison to lead poisoning. To help reduce the risk of lead exposure from venison:

- consider alternative non-lead expanding ammunition such as copper or other high-weight -retention lead bullets, such as bonded bullets;
- practice marksmanship and outdoor skills to get closer to your target and make cleaner, lethal shots away from major muscle areas. Aim for the vitals behind the shoulder or the neck;
- avoid consuming internal organs as they can contain extra lead from heart-lung shots;
- process small batches so you can frequently check the grinder and remove lead fragments. Remind your meat processor to not use deer meat with excessive shot damage. Trim a generous distance away from the wound channel and discard any meat that is bruised, discolored, or contains hair, dirt, bone fragments, or grass.

For additional information on lead in venison, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) keyword “lead.” For additional information on lead poisoning, visit [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lead](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lead).

**Vehicle-Killed Deer**

The person who hit the deer has first claim to a vehicle-killed deer. To take possession of the deer, register it at [gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov) or contact the DNR vehicle-killed deer hotline at 608-267-7691 prior to removing the deer from the scene. Upon completing notification to DNR, a person may, without a harvest authorization, legally possess and transport a vehicle-killed deer; transport must be in compliance with chronic wasting disease transportation rules. Visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keywords “car-killed dear,” to learn more.
Baiting and Feeding Deer

The regulations pertaining to baiting and feeding are divided into two geographical categories: (Visit dnr.wi.gov and search “baiting and feeding” for additional information.)

- Those counties where baiting and feeding is prohibited.
- Those counties where baiting and feeding of deer is allowed with a two-gallon limit.

Counties Where Baiting and Feeding is Not Allowed

Placing bait for hunting purposes is prohibited in the shaded counties shown on the Baiting and Feeding map at dnr.wi.gov, search “baiting and feeding”. In these counties, no person may place, use or hunt over bait or feed material for the purposes of hunting deer or place feed for non-hunting purposes.

2018 CWD-Affected Counties Where Baiting/Feeding Restrictions Apply

In 2018, most CWD-affected counties will continue to implement baiting and feeding bans. However, recent rules limit the amount of time baiting and feeding are prohibited following a positive test for CWD. For a current map of counties in which baiting and feeding are currently prohibited, visit dnr.wi.gov and search “baiting and feeding.” Check this page frequently, as baiting and feeding bans will renew with each positive CWD test result. In all other areas, the baiting and feeding restrictions and regulations listed on pages 30 - 33 still apply.

Counties Where Baiting and Feeding is Allowed

In the remainder of the state (except for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands), baiting for deer hunting purposes is allowed only under the following conditions:

Scents

Scents which are used only to attract deer by odor may be used for hunting deer statewide, but the scent may not be placed or deposited in a manner that makes it accessible for consumption by deer. Scents shall be removed daily at the end of shooting hours, except two ounces or less of scent do not need to be removed daily and may be placed, used or deposited in any manner for hunting deer.

Natural Vegetation and Plantings

Hunting with the aid of material deposited by natural vegetation, material found solely as a result of normal agricultural or gardening practices, or with the aid of crops planted and left standing as wildlife food plots is legal. It is illegal to establish or maintain food plots/plantings on DNR-managed lands.

Amount

Each hunter may place up to two gallons of bait for each property under the same ownership, regardless of the size of the property. If the property is larger than 40 acres, then each hunter may place an additional two gallons of bait for each additional full 40 acres of contiguous land under the same ownership (parcels of land that do not touch but are separated only by a town, county or state highway are considered contiguous). Bait may be spread out or divided into more than one pile as long as the total amount of bait or feed material is not more than two gallons per 40 acres or less.

Placement

It is illegal to:

- place a baiting site within 100 yards of another baiting site;
- hunt within 100 yards of more than two gallons of bait on the same parcel of land;
- place a baiting site within 50 yards of any trail, road or campsite used by the public, or within 100 yards of a roadway having a posted speed limit of 45 mph or more.

Note: removal of unlawfully placed bait or feed material does not preclude the issuance of a citation for the original placement of unlawful baiting or feeding material.

Timing

It is illegal to:

- place, use or hunt over bait or feed for hunting purposes during the closed deer season, except bait may be placed starting the day prior to the archery season opener. In 2018, bait may be placed for deer hunting starting at 12 a.m. on September 14. Baiting must stop at the close of all deer seasons;
- hunt over bait or a feeding site that is in violation of these regulations unless the area is completely free of bait or feed material for at least 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, pursuing animals or dog training.

Content

It is illegal to:

- place, use or hunt over any bait or feed material that:
  - contains any animal part or animal byproduct. Animal parts and byproducts include bones, fish, meat, solid animal fat, animal carcasses and parts of animal carcasses, but do not include liquid scents;
  - is contained in or deposited by a feeder that is designed to deposit or replenish feed automatically, mechanically or by gravity; and
  - contains or is contained within metal, paper, plastic, glass, wood or other similar processed materials. This does not apply to scent materials.

License

No person may use or hunt over bait or feed material placed for deer unless in possession of or hunting with someone in possession of a valid archer, crossbow or gun deer license and an unused deer harvest authorization.

Feeding of Deer

In counties where it is legal to bait deer for hunting, it is also legal to feed deer for recreational viewing or other non-hunting purposes. The following regulations apply to feeding for non-hunting purposes:

- Each owner-occupied residence or business open to the public may place no more than two gallons of feed.
- The feed must be located within 50 yards of an owner-occupied residence or a business open to the public.
- The feed may not be located within 100 yards of a roadway with a posted speed limit of 45 mph or more.
- All baiting of deer for hunting purposes must stop when all the deer seasons have closed for that area. Feeding for non-hunting purposes, where allowed, can occur year-round.

It is illegal to:

- use a feeder that replenishes or distributes food automatically, mechanically or by means of gravity (i.e., automated feeders); and
- place feed at a deer feeding site that is known to be used by bear or elk. The owner of the residence or business must discontinue feeding for no less than 30 consecutive days if they become aware that bear or elk have been using a deer feeding site.

- Owner-occupied residence means a dwelling devoted to human occupancy that is used as a residence by the owner, members of the owner’s immediate family or as a residence by individuals as a rental property. It is not legal to feed deer at a residence when it is not being used as a residence.

- Business open to the public means a business building that allows the general public to enter and access the building.
**Baiting and Feeding Frequently Asked Questions**

**What exactly is considered bait?**

Bait is any material that is placed or used to attract wild animals, including scent materials, salt, minerals, grains, etc. Water is not considered bait.

**What is considered a scent material?**

Scent is any material, except animal parts or byproducts, used to attract wild animals solely by its odor.

**Are there any restrictions on scent material?**

The following rules apply statewide. For more information on recommended uses of scents as they pertain to CWD, visit dnr.wi.gov and search “CWD.”

- up to two ounces of liquid or solid scent may be placed or used in any manner (e.g., on the ground, scrapes, branches, etc.);
- any scent material over two ounces must be inaccessible to deer and must be removed daily at the end of deer shooting hours;
- honey and solid animal parts or animal byproducts may not be used as scent.

**Can I use an automatic, mechanical or gravity feeder to bait or feed deer?**

No. The use of these types of feeder is prohibited.

**Does the two gallons per 40 acres limit also apply to public land?**

The rules for baiting deer are the same on public and private land. Individuals may not place more than two gallons of bait for every 40 acres of contiguous public land.

**In areas where deer baiting is not allowed, what can I use to attract deer closer to my stand if I can’t use bait?**

Use of the following is legal statewide:

- decoys;
- scents;
- naturally occurring material (e.g., acorns) that is deposited by natural vegetation and is not collected and/or relocated in any manner;
- crops planted and left standing as wildlife food plots; and
- material deposited solely as a result of normal agricultural or gardening practices and is not collected and/or relocated for hunting or other purposes.

**What if my neighbor has a bait site on his property that is less than 100 yards from my stand where I want to place a bait site?**

The 100-yard rule does not apply to bait sites located on an adjacent property which has a different owner. Where you place your bait site on your land is not affected or restricted by where a neighbor places their bait site on their land.

**If there are four members in my hunting party, can we each place two gallons of bait?**

Each hunter may place up to two gallons of bait, but every bait site must be at least 100 yards from any other bait site. Also, no one may hunt within 100 yards of more than one bait site or more than two gallons of bait regardless of who placed the bait. Hunting halfway between two bait sites located less than 200 yards apart is not legal.

**I have more than one stand on my 40 acres. Can I maintain a bait site at each location for myself or for other hunters?**

It is legal to place multiple bait sites, but the total amount of bait placed among the multiple sites cannot contain more than two gallons. No one, including family members, may place another hunter’s bait in addition to their own if the total amount of bait they place is more than two gallons.

**Can I hunt over someone else’s bait site? Can someone else hunt over my bait site?**

Yes. There is no restriction on how many hunters can use a single bait site on either public or private lands. Placing a bait site on public lands does not reserve that area for the exclusive use of the hunter who placed the bait.

**If I own or hunt on a 50-acre or larger parcel, how many bait sites can I have?**

Only two gallons of bait may be placed by a hunter on any property that is less than 80 acres in size. Each hunter may place up to two gallons of bait on a property regardless of the size of the property. If the property is larger than 80 acres, then each hunter may place an additional two gallons of bait for each additional 40 acres of contiguous land under the same ownership. All bait sites on a single property must be at least 100 yards away from any other bait site.

**When can I start baiting for deer if I only hunt deer during the firearm season?**

Bait for deer hunting can be placed during any open deer hunting season and the day before the first season (i.e., the archery season) opens.

**Can I place out more than two gallons of bait or place bait in an automatic feeder if I hunt more than 100 yards from the bait site?**

It is not only illegal to place out more than two gallons of bait or feed for deer, but it is also illegal to place bait or feed in an automatic feeder.

**What is the penalty for illegal placement or use of bait material?**

A citation issued for illegal bait or baiting is currently set at $343-$745, depending on the amount of bait. The maximum penalty which can be imposed by the court is $2,152 and loss of all hunting, trapping and fishing privileges for up to three years. The penalty for the illegal feeding of wildlife is $343.

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**Sick and Dead Deer Sightings**

Deer that wear tracking collars or ear tags are part of a DNR research project in Wisconsin. They are legal for harvest. If you harvest or find a marked deer, please call 608-935-1940 and leave a message regarding the ear tag numbers or collar number and your contact information (including area code). For more information about the project, visit http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/research/projects/dpp/.

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**Does your deer have a collar or ear tags?**

Please contact your local biologist or conservation warden to report any sightings. For a list of contacts and what to look for, visit dnr.wi.gov keywords “sick deer.”
Chronic Wasting Disease in Wisconsin Deer

Wisconsin has monitored Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) for 16 years. Between 2002 and 2017, DNR has tested over 209,000 free-ranging deer, of which over 4,000 have tested positive for CWD.

During the 2017 deer season, DNR sampled almost 10,000 deer statewide. Of these, 600 tested positive. The sampling strategies were aimed at detecting changes in the location and trends in prevalence of the disease. Monitoring plans focused surveillance on adult deer which are the age group most likely to have CWD.

CWD Testing Information

CWD testing of deer is voluntary. Hunters who want to have their deer tested for CWD can choose from a number of options. Department-managed sampling stations offer this service at no charge; visit dnr.wi.gov and search keyword “CWD sampling” for details. Some private veterinarians and the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory offer CWD testing for a fee.

CWD-Positive Deer

Any hunter who harvests a deer that tests positive for CWD will be issued a replacement deer harvest authorization through the hunter’s Go Wild account. Hunters will be allowed to keep the meat, antlers, hide and any other parts of the CWD-positive deer. If a hunter chooses to not keep any part of the CWD-positive deer, they must properly dispose of the parts so they end up in a landfill.

How to Reduce the Transmission of CWD

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal, contagious, neurological disease that affects white-tailed deer. The known CWD infectious agent, or prion, is highly resistant to destruction and disinfection by normal procedures, making it difficult to contain. Transmission occurs when disease prions are shed by infected animals through saliva, urine, feces and natural decomposition after death. CWD is spread both through direct (deer to deer) and indirect (deer to contaminated environment) contact. Consider taking proactive measures to reduce the risks of disease outbreaks and transmission in Wisconsin’s deer herd by applying the following voluntary recommendations which may help to reduce potential inadvertent human-related indirect transmission of CWD:

• Prevent unnatural concentrations of deer.
• Reduce the amount of urine-based scent in the environment by using synthetic or food based scents.
• Avoid transporting whole wild deer carcasses or any deer brain, spinal cord, spleen or lymph tissue to areas outside the county or adjacent county in which the animal was harvested.
• Use designated or disposable equipment to process and transport your deer, and minimize contact with the brain, spinal cord, spleen and lymph nodes.
• Dispose of carcass waste, including all bones and butcher waste, via your regular municipal waste stream or directly in a landfill.
• Pressure-wash any vehicles or equipment to be moved to and from areas of known CWD contamination.
• Soak all appropriate processing equipment and surfaces in a 50:50 bleach to water solution for at least one hour prior to rinsing with clean water. Visit dnr.wi.gov and search “CWD” for more information on what you can do to reduce potential inadvertent human-related indirect transmission of CWD.

Check Your Deer’s CWD Test Results

Check the CWD test result of your harvested deer online! Visit dnr.wi.gov, keywords “CWD results” and follow the instructions to obtain your results.

Venison and CWD What Hunters Should Know

Information from the Wisconsin Division of Public Health

Chronic Wasting Disease is a fatal disease that affects the nervous system of deer, elk and moose. The disease is caused by an abnormal protein called a prion, which can survive cooking temperatures. Prions concentrate in certain tissues, such as brain, spinal cord, lymph nodes and spleen, and are present in lower concentrations in other tissues such as muscle. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention state that to date, there have been no reported cases of CWD infection in people. However, in the interest of safety, the CDC advises that hunters not consume meat from deer, elk or moose which test positive for CWD.

In keeping with this recommendation, the Wisconsin Division of Public Health recommends that venison from deer harvested in CWD-affected areas not be consumed or distributed to others until CWD test results on the source deer are known to be negative.

If you have your deer or elk commercially processed, consider asking that your animal be processed individually to avoid mixing meat from multiple animals. Venison from multiple deer should be kept separate and labeled before freezing. For more information on human prion disease, call the Wisconsin Department of Health Services at 608-267-9003.

Safe Handling of Deer

General Precautions

• Do not eat the eyes, brain, spinal cord, spleen, tonsils or lymph nodes of any deer.
• Do not eat any part of a deer that appears abnormal.
• If your deer is sampled for CWD testing, wait for test results before eating the meat.

Hunters

• Wear rubber or latex gloves when field dressing carcasses.
• Bone out the meat from your animal.
• Remove all internal organs.
• Minimize handling of the brain, spinal cord, spleen and lymph nodes.
• Do not use household knives or utensils.
• Use equipment dedicated to field dressing only.
• Thoroughly clean knives and equipment. After cleaning, use a 50/50 solution of chlorine bleach and water to soak all butchering tools for one hour and to wipe down all countertops and work areas.
• Request that your animal be processed individually and not combined with meat from other animals.
• Avoid use of saws. Do not cut through the spine or skull except to remove the head. Use a knife designated only for this purpose.
State-Owned and State-Managed Lands

This section refers to rules for all lands and property owned by or under control of the DNR. This includes lands under easement to or leased by the DNR and which the DNR manages and controls. It does not include lands enrolled in Managed Forest Law or Forest Crop Law programs or private lands only leased to provide public-access for hunting, fishing or trapping. See the section on page 40 for rules regarding those properties.

It is illegal to:

• hunt or possess a firearm, bow or crossbow in an area closed to hunting unless it is unloaded or unstrung and enclosed within a carrying case;
  
  Note: the above restrictions do not prohibit a person authorized to possess a concealed weapon from possessing a loaded, uncased handgun on these properties or a hunter from possessing or discharging a firearm, airgun, bow or crossbow in areas of state parks that are open to hunting during those portions of the year when hunting is open in state parks or possessing a loaded or uncased firearm, bow or crossbow in areas closed to hunting for the purpose of accessing areas within the park that are open to hunting.

• pursue, drive or chase animals on lands that are closed to hunting;

• use a ground blind during any open deer season or special deer hunt with firearms unless a minimum of 144 square inches of solid blaze orange or fluorescent pink material is visible from all directions;
  
  Note: blinds used for waterfowl hunting are exempt from this rule.

• build or use a ground blind or any elevated device unless it does not damage the tree and is completely removed from the property each day up to one hour following the close of shooting hours. However, overnight placement is allowed during certain times of the year under the following requirements; visit dnr.wi.gov for further details:

  – North of Highway 64, no more than two portable devices per hunter per county may be left overnight on DNR-managed lands from Sept. 1 - Jan. 31, 2019. All portable devices must be removed no later than Jan. 31, 2019, except that on any land that is part of the state park system, portable devices may remain placed only throughout the timeframe beginning seven days prior to, and ending seven days after, an established fall hunting period.

  – South of Highway 64, any portable device may remain placed only during the daily timeframe beginning one hour prior to, and ending one hour after, the shooting hours on pages 43 - 45.*
  
  *Note: blinds used for waterfowl hunting do not need to be removed daily. See the 2018 Migratory Bird Regulations for details.

• leave a tree stand or ground blind unoccupied unless the owner’s customer ID number or name and address has been attached in a manner that is visible and legible to a person on the ground or near the entrance of the ground blind;

  Exception: ground blinds constructed entirely of dead vegetation found on the property do not need to be removed at the end of each day, do not need to display blaze orange/pink and do not need to have the hunter’s name and address displayed.

• damage trees. Cutting shooting lanes and use of screw-in tree-stands or steps are considered damaging and are illegal on public lands;

• possess any loaded or uncased firearm or air gun while within the exterior boundary of state-owned lands posted with department signs in Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha and Winnebago counties or on state forests, state recreation areas, state natural areas or on state trails established on railroad grades, except as follows:
  
  - while engaged in hunting in accordance with the open seasons;
  
  - while shooting at an established target range (this is the only target shooting permitted on these state lands);
  
  - while training or trialing dogs under department license within designated areas.

• camp on any state lands except in designated campgrounds unless a special camp registration permit is obtained from the DNR prior to setting up camp;

• operate motor vehicles, including ATVs, UTVs and snowmobiles, except in areas posted open to such use or by permit;

• allow dogs to run on DNR lands from April 15 through July 31 unless the dog is on a leash no longer than eight feet. This rule does not apply to Class 1 field trial grounds, DNR lands open to dog training or training dogs to track bear after June 30. Also, there are exceptions for the training and trialing of dogs on raccoon and rabbits with a training license. See the Wisconsin Dog Training and Trialing Regulations (PUB-WM-444) for more information, license requirements and restrictions;

• operate any vehicle, including but not limited to snowmobiles, bicycles, trail bikes, and all-terrain vehicles except where their use is authorized by posted notice or permit. This prohibition does not apply to public roadways and trails held open to the public for the type of vehicle being operated.

  Note: bicycles are permitted in all areas of the northern state forests and the Turtle-Flambeau and Willow Flowage Scenic Water Areas, except where posted against such use.

Trail Cameras

The placement and unattended, overnight use of trail cameras is authorized on department lands only under the following conditions:

• Placement only occurs in areas where hunting is allowed and outside of designated special use zones (e.g., designated hiking trails, beaches or buildings).

• Trail cameras must bear the name and address or department-issued customer identification number of the owner or operator permanently attached or engraved to the outside of the camera so that it is clearly visible without the need to move or adjust the camera.

• Cameras may not cause damage to natural vegetation or other department property.

• The placement of trail cameras on department managed lands is done at your own risk. The department will not be responsible for theft or damage of trail cameras on department-managed lands.

Attention Public Lands Hunters

Please note that public lands are also used by non-hunting recreationists such as hikers, dog walkers, and bird watchers. These users may not be dressed in blaze orange or pink. Please respect all public lands users and “share the land”.

Find a Place to Hunt

Visit dnr.wi.gov and search “public hunting lands” for information on public lands open to hunting, including private lands that allow public access. An unfilled antlerless harvest authorization designated for public-access land and/or an unfilled buck harvest authorization is required to hunt deer on these properties.
State Park Deer Hunting

Deer hunting is allowed in most state parks, except hunting is limited to bows and crossbows only in Big Foot Beach and Lake Kegonsa state parks and is not allowed in Copper Culture, Cross Plains, Governor Nelson, Heritage Hill, Lakeshore and Lost Dauphin state parks and the Hank Aaron State Trail. All hunters are encouraged to obtain a park map showing areas open and closed to hunting within the state park or trail in which they plan to hunt. Maps will be posted at the property and at dnr.wi.gov keywords “hunting state parks.”

Park Access

- A state park sticker is required for all vehicles in any state park or trail parking lot, and a state trail pass is required for a state trail when posted.
- No special hunting access permit is needed to hunt deer with a firearm, bow or crossbow in state park or trail properties open to hunting.
- All legal hunting methods are allowed during the open seasons (see page 8 for deer season dates), but only during the following periods and are restricted to bow and crossbow only where specified below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hunting with Firearms</th>
<th>November 15, 2018–December 15, 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hunting with Bows or Crossbows</td>
<td>November 15, 2018–January 6, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Season Dates for Buckhorn State Park:** The archery deer season at Buckhorn State Park will run from September 15, 2018–January 6, 2019.
- **Season dates for Big Bay, Blue Mound, Governor Dodge, Rock Island and Tower Hill state parks:** The archery deer season at these parks will run from October 15, 2018–January 6, 2019.

**Note:** All hunters are encouraged to obtain a park map showing areas open and closed to hunting within the state park in which they plan to hunt.

Muzzleloader-only Restrictions

The following properties only allow the use of muzzleloaders, and/or bows and crossbows during firearm deer seasons: Harrington Beach, High Cliff, Kohler-Andrae, Peninsula, Perrot, Rib Mountain and Wildcat Mountain state parks.

Shooting Hours

Normal shooting opening and closing hours apply (see pages 42–45). Access to state park properties for the purpose of hunting is allowed starting at 6 a.m. or one hour prior to the shooting hours for the species being pursued, whichever is earlier, until 11 p.m. All hunting, including hunting for those species legal to hunt at night, ends at 11 p.m.

It is illegal to:

- discharge a firearm, airgun, bow or crossbow from, on, or across any state trail or other area in a state park that is closed to hunting;
- hunt or remain on the property past 11 p.m. daily;

**Note:** hunters who are staying in a designated campsite within a state park are not required to leave the property, but may not hunt or use other areas of the park after 11 p.m.

- hunt within 100 yards of designated use areas such as picnic areas, campgrounds, beaches and certain designated trails, or any areas indicated as closed to hunting on that property’s hunting area map;
- hunt with a firearm or airgun in any park area restricted to bow and crossbow only;
- hunt during the closed season for any species.

Hunting on other properties within the State Park System

Hunting is allowed in most other properties within the state park system (see page 38 for deer season dates); however, hunting is not allowed in Fischer Creek State Recreation Area, Havenwoods State Forest, the Lapham Peak Unit and most of the Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The only use of muzzleloaders and/or bows and crossbows during firearm deer seasons is allowed on the Loew Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

State Park Hunting Etiquette

- Check property maps and be sure of your location.
- Do not field dress deer on trails, in campgrounds, picnic areas or leave the field dress piles openly near the side of trails.
- Hiking and snowshoeing are prohibited on designated cross-country ski trails when the trails are snow-covered.
- All parking and traffic regulations apply during deer hunting seasons. Vehicles shall be operated only on established roads and parking is permitted only in designated areas.
- Remove all trash daily and all blinds and stands no later than 7 days following an established fall hunting season.

Tribal Lands

Special rules apply on tribal lands in Ashland, Bayfield, Forest, Iron, Menominee, Oneida, Sawyer and Vilas Counties. For more information, contact the tribal chairpersons. Anyone wishing to hunt on nontribal lands within the Red Cliff Reservation in Bayfield County must obtain a permit from the reservation to do so.

Federal Lands

Federal lands, including National Wildlife Refuges, Forests and Lakeshores and Waterfowl Production Areas, are subject to additional regulations. Contact the property’s website for these regulations. Additional information can be found at midwest.fws.gov.

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Information

Headquarters Offices

- Park Falls: 715-762-2461, TTY 715-762-5701.
- Additional information and regulations may be found on the web at www.fs.usda.gov/cnnf.

**Note:** contact the above offices for details about motorized access to these forest lands.

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (AINL)

Unique hunting seasons and opportunities include the September 15 – 30, 2018 and November 1, 2018 – January 6, 2019 archery and crossbow seasons and an October muzzleloader hunt. Contact the Park for information regarding island openings and closings, accessibility, special regulations, required permits, and tagging options.

**Contact information:** 415 Washington Ave., Bayfield, WI 54814; 715-779-3397; www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/hunting.htm

Horicon NWR: Mayville, WI; 920-387-2658.

Fox River NWR: Marquette County; 920-387-2658.

Necedah NWR: Necedah, WI; 608-565-2551.

Trempealeau NWR: Trempealeau, WI; 608-539-2311.

Whittlesey Creek NWR: Ashland, WI; 715-685-2678.


Leopold Wetland Management District (WMD): Portage, WI; 608-742-7100.

Contact this office for information regarding WPA’s in southeast Wisconsin.

St. Croix WMD: New Richmond, WI; 715-246-7784.

Contact this office for information regarding WPA’s in northwest Wisconsin.
Private Lands and Landowner Information

License Requirements
A landowner is required to have a deer hunting license to hunt deer. Private lands open to public hunting that are enrolled in the Managed Forest Law, Forest Crop Law or Voluntary Public Access programs are considered public lands for the purpose of deer hunting and where antlerless harvest authorizations are valid.

Liability
Under sec. 895.52 of the Wisconsin Statutes, landowners are generally immune from liability for injuries received by individuals recreating on their lands. This law provides liability protection to landowners for injury or death of individuals participating in outdoor recreation such as fishing, hunting, trapping, hiking, camping, boating and berry picking activities on their land. This immunity does not apply when the landowner receives more than $2,000 a year in income from the recreation activity or when the landowner acted maliciously with an intent to harm the recreator. There is also an exception for social guests invited specifically for an occasion on residential or platted property or property within 300 feet of a commercial building or structure. Courts have consistently interpreted this statute to protect landowners and to encourage landowners to allow others to recreate on their lands.

Trespassing
Landowners suspecting that individuals are trespassing on their property should contact their local sheriff’s department or other local law enforcement agency. Conservation Wardens do not have the authority to investigate hunting trespassing complaints. Any person convicted of trespassing is subject to a penalty of up to $1,397.50. According to sec. 943.13, of the Wisconsin Statutes, the following rules apply.

It is illegal to:
- enter land of another without the express or implied consent of the owner or occupant of the land. This includes railroad tracks and their adjacent property;
- enter or remain on private land after having been notified by the owner or occupant not to enter or remain. A person has received notice from the owner or occupant if he or she has been notified personally, either orally or in writing, or if the land is posted. Private land antlerless harvest authorizations do not authorize access to any private lands.

Managed Forest Law (MFL) and Forest Crop Law (FCL)
This section refers to rules on private forest lands enrolled in either the Managed Forest Law or Forest Crop Law programs. For those wishing to fill an Antlerless Deer Harvest Authorization on lands enrolled in MFL and FCL that are open to public hunting, the harvest authorization must be specified as valid for use on public-access land.

It is illegal to:
- build or use a ground blind or any elevated device unless it does not damage the tree and is completely removed from the property each day at the close of shooting hours;
- damage trees. Cutting shooting lanes and use of screw-in tree stands or steps are considered damaging and are illegal;
- operate any vehicle, including but not limited to snowmobiles, bicycles, trail bikes, and all-terrain vehicles except where their use is authorized by landowner or posted notice;

Note: this does not apply to the owners of lands enrolled in the program or those who have the landowner’s authorization. Doing so without authorization would be considered a trespassing violation.
- the use of trail cameras on lands enrolled in the MFL/FCL programs is only allowed with permission of the landowner.

Game Retrieval on Private Land
Although hunters are required to make a reasonable effort to retrieve game they have killed or injured, hunters may not trespass to retrieve such game, even if the game was shot from outside the posted area. Ask first for permission.

Deer Management Assistance Program
A partnership for healthy deer and healthy habitat
The Wisconsin Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) provides habitat and herd management assistance to landowners in managing their property for wildlife.

Staff from the Department of Natural Resources will assist landowners by producing wildlife habitat and deer herd management recommendations that will emphasize individual property goals while also considering the ecological and social impacts of white-tailed deer.

Participants in Wisconsin DMAP will benefit from the following:
- Personal interaction with DNR staff and communication on land and herd management.
- Networking with other landowners with common goals.
- Written management plans.
- Reduced price antlerless harvest authorizations when recommended.

Visit dnr.wi.gov keyword: “DMAP” for more information regarding the DMAP program, application instructions, and deadlines.

Hunter Ethics
The majority of Wisconsin’s public accepts ethical hunting as a form of recreation and a tool for conservation. Ethical hunting goes beyond the regulations contained in this pamphlet to help ensure a safe and humane hunt. Ethical hunters lead by example by doing the following:
- considering a complete hunt to be more than obtaining a bag limit;
- understanding that, to the non-hunter, one hunter represents all and each hunter’s actions may be taken as the typical behavior of all sportsmen;
- recognizing the effective range of his/her weapon and shooting ability, and striving for a clean kill;
- respecting the game animal before and after harvest.

Remember, the future of hunting depends on the conduct of hunters while afield!

Get Your Regulations Online
Visit dnr.wi.gov and search “hunting regulations” for up-to-date digital hunting regulations, rule announcements, season dates and more. Translated versions of the deer and small game regulations in Spanish and Hmong will be available online in the summer.
**Shooting Hours: Northern Area**

No person may shoot or shoot at deer before or after the shooting hours listed in the table on page 43.

**Calculating shooting hours:** Determine your location in the Northern Area and add the minutes shown for the zone in which you are hunting to the opening and closing times listed in the Northern Area Shooting Hours table listed on the next page.

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**Northern Area Deer Shooting Hours 2018–2019: Zone A**

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Shooting Hours: Southern Area

No person may shoot or shoot at deer before or after the shooting hours listed in the table on page 45.

Calculating shooting hours: Determine your location in the Southern Area and add the minutes shown in the zone in which you are hunting to the opening and closing times listed for the Southern Area Shooting Hours table listed on the next page.
Get Involved in Deer Management!

There are many opportunities for you to take an active role in the management of white-tailed deer in Wisconsin. We encourage you to visit dnr.wi.gov and type in the keywords listed below to get involved!

- **County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC):** keyword “CDAC”
  Created in 2014, CDACs provide input and recommendations to the department on deer management at the county level. Members come from the general public, deer hunters, and professionals in the fields of forestry, agriculture and business/tourism. Each council is chaired by a member of the Conservation Congress. To apply for a seat in your county or learn more, visit dnr.wi.gov and search keyword “CDAC.”

- **Deer hunter wildlife survey:** keywords “deer hunter wildlife”
  Help monitor the relative abundance and distribution of deer and other wildlife species in Wisconsin. Use the online form to submit information that you experienced.

- **Operation Deer Watch:** keywords “deer watch”
  Help monitor deer reproduction in Wisconsin. Keep a tally sheet in your car to record all deer sightings during the summer months (August 1 – September 30). The department is interested in all deer sightings of bucks, does and fawns. Your data is combined with DNR staff observations to estimate deer populations.

- **Conservation Congress Spring Hearings:** keywords “spring hearings”
  The Wisconsin Conservation Congress holds its annual meeting to provide citizens with the opportunity to comment and vote on proposed fish and wildlife rule changes and to submit resolutions for new rule changes for the future. This meeting is held in every county of the state on the second Monday in April. It is an opportunity unique to Wisconsin and plays a significant part in determining how you enjoy your time in the outdoors.

- **Contact your local biologist:** keyword “contact”
  Wildlife biologists are available to speak with you to answer questions, address any concerns you have and to gather input when setting the upcoming deer season framework.

- **Snapshot Wisconsin:** keyword “snapshot Wisconsin”
  Snapshot Wisconsin is a statewide, year-round program where citizens, students and the department work together to monitor trail cameras. Data from this program helps provide information on a variety of Wisconsin wildlife species.

Register Your Deer—It’s Required!

1. Register your deer by 5 p.m. the day after recovery in the DMU of harvest or an adjoining DMU. Registration is required by law.
2. Choose a registration method:
   - Easiest and Fastest: Go to gamereg.wi.gov on your computer or mobile device and start by entering the unique harvest authorization number on the deer harvest authorization.
   - Call 1-844-426-3734 (844-GAME-REG) and start by entering the unique harvest authorization number on the deer harvest authorization.
   - Visit an in-person registration station and use the computer or mobile device provided. Find a registration station by going to dnr.wi.gov and searching “registration stations”.
3. Before you register, have the deer harvest authorization number handy. A list of your harvest authorization numbers is available in the My GameReg section of your Go Wild account at GoWild.WI.Gov. Answer questions as asked. A 10-character confirmation number in the format W12-345-6789 is provided upon completion. Record this number for your records.

County Codes for Phone-In Deer Registration

When prompted, please enter the code (given below) for the county where you harvested the deer. Some counties (for instance Waukesha, Waupaca and Waushara) have the same code. In those cases, you will have a second prompt to select the exact county.

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The content of this pamphlet was prepared by the Department of Natural Resources. Part of the printing costs were generously paid for by these organizations and companies. Thank you for your contribution!

Questions?

Visit dnr.wi.gov and search keyword “deer.”

Buy your licenses online at GoWild.wi.gov

Or buy from one of our license agents. To find an agent near you, visit the dnr website at dnr.wi.gov and search keywords “license agents” or call 1-888-WDNR-INFO (1-888-936-7463) TTY access via relay - 711

General mailing address:
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707

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Note: If you need technical assistance or more information, call the Accessibility Coordinator at 608-267-7490 / TTY Access via relay – 711.