

# Deer Hunting Frequently Asked Questions

## 2017 Deer Hunting Rules—September 22, 2017

### *What to Know for 2017*

#### [Season Structure](#)

#### [Licenses and tags](#)

#### [Bonus antlerless tags](#)

#### [Crossbow regulations](#)

#### [Public and private lands tags](#)

#### [Tagging deer](#)

#### [Harvest Registration](#)

#### [Transportation of deer](#)

#### [Chronic wasting disease management](#)

### [What to Know for 2017](#)

- Hunters are no longer required to:
  - print or carry deer tags while hunting
  - attached a deer tag to a deer once harvested
  - retain a deer tag with meat.
- Hunters are still encouraged to print tags because the tag number is required when registering a deer in the GameReg system.
- As of Nov. 13, 2017, WI Acts 61 and 62 were signed into law:
  - The Junior antlerless deer tag (valid statewide in 2017) issued with a Junior license, may only be used by the recipient of the tag. Other members of a group hunting party are not authorized to use another's Junior antlerless tag for a deer they harvested, allowing the youth to have the opportunity to hunt and harvest their own antlerless deer.
  - WI Act 62 eliminates the minimum age required to hunt under the mentored hunting rules. It also eliminates the requirement to only have one firearm, bow, or crossbow jointly possessed by the mentor and the mentored hunter. And lastly, the law amends group deer hunting regulations to prohibit a person who is serving as the mentor for another member of the group hunting party from harvesting a deer for a person being mentored and use a deer approval issued to the hunter being mentored. Any individual mentoring a hunter is not authorized to harvest and use the mentored hunter's deer tags, which provides the opportunity for the mentored hunter to harvest their own deer.
- The antlerless-only Holiday Hunt (Dec. 24 – Jan. 1, 2018) will be offered in some Farmland Zone Deer Management Units (DMUs), including: Adams, Brown, Buffalo, Crawford, Door,

# Deer Hunting Frequently Asked Questions

## 2017 Deer Hunting Rules—September 22, 2017

Dunn, Iowa, Kewaunee, Marinette, Milwaukee, Oconto, Polk, Richland, Sauk, Waukesha, Waushara and Waupaca.

- The December 4-day antlerless-only hunt (Dec 7 – 10) will be offered statewide where antlerless tags are available. No bucks may be harvested during this season.
- Hunters must specify the zone, DMU and land type for each antlerless tag.
- At least one Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer tag is included with each deer hunting license. However, hunters may only select Farmland (Zone 2) tags from a DMU that offers them, and the number of tags offered will vary by county.
- DMUs containing a metro sub-unit may offer, at no cost, one or more metro sub-unit tags with a license in addition to any Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags offered for that DMU. DMUs containing a metro sub-unit may also offer metro sub-unit bonus antlerless tags for purchase. These are DMU, sub-unit and land-type specific.
- All deer must be registered by 5 p.m. the day after harvest in the DMU of kill or an adjacent unit.
- All deer registration will be completed electronically, but some in-person registration stations will be available to assist hunters.

### Season Structure

#### **Q. Which seasons are offered in 2017?**

A. The following seasons will occur:

- Archery and crossbow: September 16 to January 7, 2018
- Youth hunt: October 7 and 8
- October gun hunt for hunters with disabilities (on sponsored properties only): October 7 to 15
- November 9-day gun deer hunt: November 18 to 26
- Muzzleloader season: November 27 to December 6
- December 4-day antlerless-only season: December 7 to 10
- Metro sub-units gun season: November 18 – December 6
- Antlerless-only Holiday Hunt (select Farmland Zone units only): December 24-January 1.

#### **Q. Can hunters shoot bucks with a bow or crossbow in any DMU during the December 4-day antlerless-only deer season?**

A. No. The December 4-day antlerless-only deer season will be held statewide, making it illegal to hunt bucks during this time, regardless of the weapon used. Except, Class A and C disabled permit holders and qualified U.S. Armed Forces members may use their Gun Buck Deer Tags to tag a buck statewide during any firearm deer season, including antlerless-only firearm deer seasons, to tag a buck that has been harvested with any legal weapon for that firearm season.

[TOP](#)

### Licenses and Tags

#### **Q. Are back tags required in 2017?**

A. No. The Legislature has repealed the requirement of wearing a back tag in 2016.

## **Deer Hunting Frequently Asked Questions 2017 Deer Hunting Rules—September 22, 2017**

- Q. With the new Go Wild system, what will deer hunting licenses and tags look like?**
- A. Go Wild offers several options for displaying licenses and printing deer tags (although printing is not required). Hunters will be able to print off a paper deer hunting license, link hunting license permissions to their Wisconsin driver's licenses or a department-issued Conservation Card or display a department-approved PDF of the license on a smartphone or other mobile device. Hunters have the option to print (any printable material is legal, but plain paper is easiest) deer tags either at home, at a DNR Service Center or at a license agent. If a hunter did not receive their Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags at the time of purchase, they may print them from their Go Wild account for free at home or at a DNR Service Center. They may also select and obtain them from a license agent for a \$2 processing fee. ALL deer tags will be printed on plain paper and the tag must be valid for the correct zone, DMU and land type in order to register a deer. Read more about Go Wild at <http://dnr.wi.gov/GoWild/> for full details on using licenses and tags.
- Q. How many Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags (included with a hunting license) can I get?**
- A. County Deer Advisory Councils determine the number of Farmland (Zone 2) tags issued per license within the county: i.e. 0, 1, 2, etc. For those DMUs that offer one or more Farmland (Zone 2) tags with a license, hunters are expected to be able to obtain these tags through Go Wild starting June 1.
- Q. For DMUs that offer more than one Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tag (included with a license), can hunters select a different land type for each tag?**
- A. Yes. For example, if a DMU offers two Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags with a license, the hunter can designate one for private land and one for public land, both for private land or both for public land.
- Q. For counties that offer more than one Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tag, can hunters designate a different DMU for each of these tags?**
- A. No. Multiple tags issued cannot be split between DMUs and must all be for the same DMU. For example, Sauk County is offering two tags per hunter, and the hunter must take both for Sauk County.
- Q. How can hunters obtain and use metro sub-unit antlerless tags?**
- A. DMUs containing a metro sub-unit may offer, at no cost, one or more metro sub-unit tags with a license in addition to any Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags offered for that DMU. DMUs containing a metro sub-unit may also offer metro sub-unit bonus antlerless tags for purchase.
- Q. Can I use my metro sub-unit antlerless tag or metro sub-unit bonus antlerless tag in the same DMU, but outside of the metro sub-unit?**
- A. No. All metro sub-unit antlerless tags are only valid within metro sub-unit boundaries in the specified DMU and on the land type (public or private) of the hunter's choice.

## **Deer Hunting Frequently Asked Questions 2017 Deer Hunting Rules—September 22, 2017**

**Q. Can I use my Farmland Zone tag for say La Crosse County in the La Crosse metro sub-unit?**

A. Yes. A Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tag is valid within the metro sub-unit of the DMU. It cannot be used in a metro sub-unit outside the DMU for which it is valid.

**Q. How do I get a new deer tag if my original gets damaged? Is there a cost to replace it?**

A. While it is no longer required that hunters print and carry tags, it is still recommended because you will need the unique tag number when completing the registration process. Replacement tags are issued through each hunter's Go Wild account, or you may simply record the tag number for later use during registration. Hunters may print a reprint tag for no charge at home or through a DNR service center, or visit a license agent to obtain a replacement for \$2.

**Q. Can I print several copies of a tag for the field so I have an extra in case one gets damaged?**

A. It is no longer required that tags be printed and carried. Therefore, you may now carry more than one copy of a unique deer tag while hunting.

**Q. How is the number of land type-specific bonus antlerless deer tags (public and private) determined in DMUs?**

A. County Deer Advisory Councils (CDAC) provide recommendations on how many public and private bonus antlerless tags should be issued in each DMU. Similar to how the department has handled this in the past, the CDACs review harvest history, anticipated hunter success, population estimates and other factors. Then, they make recommendations on antlerless harvest and bonus tag availability to help achieve three-year county population objectives of increase, decrease or maintain the deer herd in that DMU. This year, CDACs also made recommendations on various season options such as implementation of the Holiday Hunt,

**Q. Which tags will be issued with the purchase of an archery or crossbow deer hunting license?**

A. Hunters will receive one Bow Buck Deer Tag valid in any unit statewide and valid for use with either archery or crossbow equipment depending on license purchased. In addition, they may receive one or more Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tag(s), the number determined based on the DMU they hunt. Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags must be designated for use in only one DMU in a Farmland Zone. In addition, at the time of purchase, the buyer must choose the land type (public or private) for which the tag will be valid. If a hunter did not receive their Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags at the time of purchase, they may print them from their Go Wild account for free at home or at a DNR Service Center. They may also select and obtain them from a license agent for a \$2 processing fee.

**Q. Which tags will be issued with the purchase of a gun deer hunting license?**

A. Hunters will receive one Gun Buck Deer Tag valid in any DMU statewide, plus one or more Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tag(s), the number determined based on the DMU they hunt. All Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags must be designated for use in only one DMU in a Farmland Zone. In addition, at the time of purchase, the buyer must choose the land type (public or private)

## **Deer Hunting Frequently Asked Questions 2017 Deer Hunting Rules—September 22, 2017**

for which the tag will be valid. If a hunter did not receive their Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags at the time of purchase, they may print them from their Go Wild account for free at home or at a DNR Service Center. They may also select and obtain them from a license agent for a \$2 processing fee.

**Q. Which tags will be issued with the purchase of a Conservation Patron license?**

A. Conservation patron license holders will receive one Gun Buck Deer Tag and one Bow Buck Deer Tag that can be filled with either a conventional bow or crossbow. They may also receive one or more Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tag(s) for each license type valid for use only in the Farmland Zone DMU and land type specified at the time of purchase. Antlerless tags are not weapon-specific and can be filled with bow, crossbow or firearm, during an open season. Conservation Patrons may specify two different DMUs, or the same DMU twice, for their Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags. They may also select different land types for each antlerless tag. If a hunter did not receive their farmland zone antlerless tags at the time of purchase, they may print them from their Go Wild account for free at home or at a DNR Service Center. They may also select and obtain them from a license agent for a \$2 processing fee.

**Q. If I plan to harvest antlerless deer in multiple DMUs or outside the Farmland Zones, will I need to buy separate tags?**

A. Most Farmland Zone DMUs will provide antlerless tag(s), which must be designated for either public or private land. If a hunter would like to harvest an antlerless deer in a Forest Zone DMU, he/she must purchase a bonus antlerless tag for that DMU, if available. If a hunter wants more than one antlerless tag in a Farmland Zone DMU, they may be able to purchase additional bonus antlerless tags for \$12 (residents), \$20 (non-residents) or \$5 (youth ages 10-11) each at a rate of one tag per hunter, per day, until sold out.

**Q. What if I hunt in Chippewa County DMU which doesn't offer any Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags?**

A. In this case, hunters will have the option of purchasing a bonus antlerless tag for the DMU and specific land type (if available).

**Q. Which tags will junior deer hunters receive?**

A. Junior deer hunters will receive one buck tag valid statewide and one Junior antlerless deer tag valid statewide. Youth hunters age 10 – 17 will not need to specify DMU or zone, but will need to specify land type on this antlerless tag.

**Q. If a 17-year-old buys a Junior hunting license, but turns 18 before or during the deer season, can they still use the statewide antlerless deer tags they received with their Junior hunting license?**

A. Yes. Because the tags were obtained while the person was under 18 years of age, they are valid.

**Q. What tags will Class A and C disabled permit holders receive?**

## **Deer Hunting Frequently Asked Questions 2017 Deer Hunting Rules—September 22, 2017**

- Q.** Class A and C disabled permit holders will receive one buck tag valid statewide and the same free Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer tag(s) as everyone else. Class A and C disabled permit holders may use their Gun Buck Tag to tag a buck statewide during any firearm deer season, including antlerless-only seasons. During the season, disabled permit holders may use **one** Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer tag issued with their gun deer license or their archer/crossbow license to tag 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 tags in any unit statewide, including buck-only units. Antlerless tags are land type-specific, but not weapon or season-specific.
- R. What tags will qualified U.S. Armed Forces members receive?**
- A. A U.S. Armed Forces member who exhibits proof that he/she is in active service stationed outside of this state, on furlough or leave and is a Wisconsin resident or was a resident upon entering active service will receive one buck tag valid statewide and the same free Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer tag(s) as everyone else. However, qualified U.S. Armed Forces members may use **one** of the Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tag(s) in any DMU statewide on the land-type specified on the tag, including in buck-only DMUs, but only under the authority of a gun deer license and only during a season open to hunting deer with firearms. Qualified U.S. Armed Forces members may use their Gun Buck Deer tag during the firearm deer season, including antlerless-only firearm deer seasons, to harvest buck that has been harvested with any legal weapon for that firearm season.
- Q. Can Class A and C disabled or qualified military personnel on leave hunt for an antlerless deer with their buck tag?**
- A. No. The law requires that the DNR provide Class A and C disabled hunters and military personnel the opportunity to hunt either sex deer statewide during any firearm deer season under the authority of their gun deer license. Their buck tag is now valid only for bucks.
- Q. Will active duty military service members still be offered bonus antlerless tags for DMUs that are sold out?**
- A. Yes. We will continue to handle this as we have in the past. Residents who are in active service with the U.S. Armed Forces outside this state and on furlough or leave will still be able to purchase a bonus tag for any DMU and land type (public or private) which has an antlerless quota, even if they are already all sold out.
- Q. Are antlerless tags weapon-specific?**
- A. No. All antlerless tags may be filled with any weapon and during any open season with the appropriate license and weapon for that season.
- Q. Is regular hunting or hunting under an agricultural deer damage shooting permit allowed on the Friday prior to the November 9-day gun deer season?**

## Deer Hunting Frequently Asked Questions

### 2017 Deer Hunting Rules—September 22, 2017

- A. Yes. The prohibition of possessing a loaded or uncased firearm on the Friday prior to the November 9-day gun deer season has been eliminated. This allows hunting with a firearm for any animal with an open season or under damage shooting permits.

**Q. Why are hunters charged a \$2 fee per transaction to pick up their antlerless tags at a Go Wild license agent after their deer license purchase?**

- A. The \$2 fee covers payments and commissions to agents and contractors, plus a transaction fee that is set in state statute. Customers may select their Farmland Zone antlerless tags and print themselves free of charge from their online Go Wild account.

[TOP](#)

#### **Bonus antlerless tags**

**Q. When will bonus tags go on sale?**

- A. Where available, bonus tags will be sold starting at 10 a.m. on August 14 in the Northern Forest and Central Forest Zones, August 15 in the Central Farmland Zone and August 16 in the Southern Farmland Zone. Sales for all remaining bonus tags for all zones and DMUs will begin at 10 a.m. on August 17. Bonus tags can be purchased at a rate of one tag per customer per day until the unit is sold out or the hunting season ends. At purchase, the hunter will specify the zone, DMU and land type (public or private) in which they want their tag to be valid.

**Q. How can I purchase a bonus tag?**

- A. Bonus tags can be purchased online at [gowild.wi.gov](http://gowild.wi.gov) or in person at a DNR service center or licensing agent. Over-the-phone purchasing is no longer available.

**Q. Are additional bonus tags weapon-specific?**

- A. No. Bonus tags are NOT weapon-specific. They are zone, DMU and land type (public or private property) specific.

**Q. As in the past, can qualified farmers request one free bonus tag for each bonus tag they purchase?**

- A. Yes, but this request must occur at the time of purchase of the initial bonus tag and it must be for the same DMU and land type as their first tag.

**Q. When the bonus tags go on sale in August, do the prices differ between Management Zones?**

- A. No. Where available, bonus tags are the same price, regardless of zone and DMU - \$12 each for residents, \$20 each for non-residents and \$5 each for youth age 10 and 11.

[TOP](#)

#### **Crossbow regulations**

## **Deer Hunting Frequently Asked Questions 2017 Deer Hunting Rules—September 22, 2017**

**Q. Which license is required to hunt with a crossbow?**

A. To hunt with a crossbow during the crossbow deer season, a hunter must purchase a crossbow-specific license. However, if the hunter wishes to use both a crossbow AND archery equipment they must purchase the crossbow or archer license and the bow/crossbow upgrade. The first license will be sold at the regular price and the upgrade costs \$3. Use of a crossbow is included with the Conservation Patron license.

**Q. Which tags will a hunter receive with a crossbow license?**

A. Hunters receive one Bow Buck Deer tags valid in any unit statewide and one or more Farmland Zone Antlerless Deer Tags specific to the Farmland (Zone 2), county and land type specified at purchase. Hunters may purchase a \$3 upgrade which authorizes the use of both crossbow and vertical bow to fill the Bow Buck Deer tags and Farmland (Zone 2) tag (specific to the Farmland Zone, county and land type specified at purchase). However, the purchase of an upgrade (or both licenses) does not come with a second set of deer tags.

**Q. If someone wants to hunt with a bow or crossbow during a firearm (including muzzleloader) hunting season, do they need to purchase an archer or crossbow license?**

A. No. Anyone who possesses a regular (gun) deer license can use any legal firearm, bow or crossbow to hunt deer with that license during any season open to hunting deer with a firearm.

**Q. If someone purchases both an archer and a crossbow license, what tags will they receive?**

A. With the purchase of both licenses, hunters will receive one Bow Buck Deer tag valid in any DMU statewide and one or more Farmland (Zone 2) Antlerless Deer Tags specific to the Farmland Zone, DMU and land type specified. These tags may be filled using either weapon. The purchase of both archer and crossbow licenses only authorizes the use of both weapons and hunters will not receive a second set of deer tags.

**Q. Can junior deer hunters hunt with a crossbow?**

A. Yes, but they must purchase a crossbow-specific junior deer hunting license to use a crossbow during the crossbow deer seasons. Youth hunters do not need a crossbow license to hunt with a crossbow during a firearm deer season if the youth has a valid gun deer license.

**Q. Do Conservation Patron licenses allow crossbow use?**

A. Yes. A crossbow license is included with a Conservation Patron license.

**Q. Can disabled hunters or hunters over the age of 65 hunt with a crossbow using a regular archer license?**

A. No. All hunters wishing to hunt with a crossbow during the crossbow season, including the disabled and those over 65 years of age, must purchase a crossbow-specific license or Conservation Patron license. Disabled hunters and hunters over the age of 65 do not need a crossbow license to hunt with a crossbow during a firearm deer season if they possess a valid gun

## Deer Hunting Frequently Asked Questions 2017 Deer Hunting Rules—September 22, 2017

deer license. Disabled hunting permits no longer authorize crossbow use. The law that formerly allowed crossbow use in these cases was repealed by the legislature in 2014.

**Q. Are there specific transportation requirements relative to crossbows?**

A. Crossbows that are not cocked do not need to be cased during transportation, whether it is in or on a vehicle, ATV, UTV, snowmobile or other motorized vehicle. A cocked crossbow can be placed in or on any of these vehicles and transported only if it is first unloaded (arrow/bolt removed) and the cocked crossbow is encased in a carrying case.

[TOP](#)

### Public and private lands

**Q. What is the penalty for someone who harvests a deer in the correct zone and DMU but does not have the correct land-type specified on their tag?**

A. This has not changed with the new rules. The penalty would be \$222.90 plus the cost of a bonus antlerless deer tag they should have purchased for that land type (\$12 for residents or \$20 for non-residents).

**Q. If someone in a group has an antlerless tag valid for use only on public land, will everyone else be able to participate under group hunting rules?**

A. Yes. If the antlerless tag is valid for the DMU that the group is hunting (correct zone, DMU and land-type) and if all group members comply with all group deer hunting requirements, anyone in the group may participate in group hunting and fill an open antlerless tag. All members of the group must be using firearms and each must hold a regular gun deer license in addition to contact and tagging requirements. A person hunting with a bow or crossbow cannot shoot a deer for someone else to tag, or tag a deer shot by another.

**Q. Will the Farmland Zone antlerless tag(s) included at no cost with the purchase of a deer hunting license need to be specified for use on public or private land?**

A. Yes. Hunters are required to specify zone, DMU and land type (public or private) for all antlerless tags, including those that are issued with the purchase of a deer hunting license.

**Q. Do bonus antlerless tags require the purchaser to indicate public or private land?**

A. Yes.

**Q. If a person buys an antlerless tag valid for use on private land, is that person restricted to only shooting a deer that is actually on private land or is he/she able to shoot a deer that is on public land so long as the shot originates on private land?**

A. Both the hunter and the deer must be located on private property. A hunter with a private lands tag cannot shoot a deer standing on public lands even if he/she is standing on private land.

## **Deer Hunting Frequently Asked Questions 2017 Deer Hunting Rules—September 22, 2017**

- Q. If a person plans to hunt on private land AND public land, which antlerless tag is that person required to have?**
- A. Hunters must specify land type on all antlerless tags. If a hunter wants to hunt both public and private land within a given DMU for antlerless deer, this could be accomplished by selecting one land type (public or private) for the Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tag that is included with a deer license, and selecting the other type (public or private) for a bonus antlerless tag (if bonus tags of that land type are available in that DMU). If the DMU offers more than one Farmland Zone tag with each licenses, those tags could be divided among public and private lands. Buck tags are valid statewide in any zone and unit, including on both public and private lands.
- Q. If a hunter possesses an antlerless tag for use on private lands, can that hunter access any private lands within the unit?**
- A. No. Trespassing laws exist and hunters need landowner permission prior to entering private land. There are lands enrolled under open Managed Forest Law, Forest Crop Law and Voluntary Public Access programs that allow public hunting access, but these lands are considered public lands for purposes of where antlerless deer tags are valid. Hunters must possess an antlerless tag for public lands to harvest antlerless deer on these “open” lands.
- Q. If a hunter purchases a bonus antlerless tag for hunting public lands, can that person switch it to a private lands tag after the purchase?**
- A. Yes. A hunter may switch land types as long as there are antlerless tags available for the desired zone, DMU, and land type, and does so before the deer season is open. That hunter would also have to pay a \$2 processing fee if picking up the tag at a Go Wild license agent. Once the exchange has been approved and posted to their Go Wild account by the department, customers may print the tags themselves at home for no charge.
- Q. Are there more antlerless tags available for private land than public land?**
- A. This varies throughout the state and is based on CDAC recommendations for antlerless harvest and the distribution of private and public land throughout each unit.
- Q. If a person buys an antlerless tag valid for use on private land, is that person restricted to only shooting a deer that is actually on private land or is he/she able to shoot a deer that is on public land so long as the shot originates on private land?**
- A. If the hunter possesses an antlerless tag valid for use on private land only, both the hunter and the deer must be located on private property. A hunter with only a private lands tag cannot shoot a deer standing on public lands even if he/she is standing on private land. If the hunter possessed BOTH public and private lands tags valid for the DMU in which they were hunting, the hunter could stand on public land and shoot at a deer standing on private land.
- Q. If a hunter with an antlerless tag valid for private lands shoots a deer on private land and the deer runs onto public land but does not die, may the hunter shoot that deer when found and if so, what type of tag is required, public or private lands?**
- A. If the deer is still alive when the hunter finds it, and if the hunter (or a member of the hunting party, if applicable) does not have a valid antlerless tag, the hunter should contact the local

## Deer Hunting Frequently Asked Questions

### 2017 Deer Hunting Rules—September 22, 2017

warden for advice on how to proceed. It is not legal to hunt and/or shoot a deer in a DMU or on a land-type for which one does not have a valid tag, even if they first wounded that same deer in the DMU or on the land type their antlerless tag was valid. To allow this would be to allow anyone to hunt in the wrong area and simply claim that he/she wounded the deer earlier in the area his/her tag was actually valid. If the deer is already dead when the hunter finds it in an adjacent DMU or property type, it would be legal harvest. This is no different than what could have happened in the past when someone was hunting near the boundary between two DMUs.

**Q. If hunting on private land that is open to public hunting because of an agricultural damage deer shooting permit, which land type must be designated on the antlerless tag, public or private?**

A. Lands for which deer damage permits have been issued are still treated as private lands, and would require a designation of private lands on the antlerless tag. However, if they are also enrolled as open to public hunting under Managed Forest Law or Forest Crop Law, they would require a public lands designation on the tag. A damage permit might require the land to be open for public deer hunting, but it is neither a lease agreement like lands enrolled in Voluntary Public Access nor a contract like those for open Managed Forest Law and Forest Crop Law lands.

**Q. For people enrolled in open Managed Forest Law or Forest Crop Law programs and hunting their own land, should their antlerless tag be designated for use on public or private lands?**

A. If all or part of the property is enrolled in Managed Forest Law, Forest Crop Law or Voluntary Public Access and open to public hunting, the landowner will need a public lands antlerless tag to hunt on land enrolled in one of these programs. If the property is enrolled in one of these programs but is closed to public hunting, or if the landowner plans to hunt on part of the property that is not enrolled in one of these programs, the landowner will need a private land designation on their antlerless tag.

**Q. What are some resources for finding land open to the public for hunting?**

A. Hunters can consult several resources to help determine where to hunt, including the [Public Access Lands Atlas](#), the listing of [Voluntary Public Access lands](#) and the [Managed Forest Law lands map](#).

[TOP](#)

#### **Tagging deer**

**Q. Do I need to attach the tag before field dressing the animal or moving it?**

A. Hunters are no longer required to attach a tag to their deer at any time.

**Q. If a tag is not attached to the animal, how will a conservation warden know if it was legally harvested?**

## Deer Hunting Frequently Asked Questions

### 2017 Deer Hunting Rules—September 22, 2017

- A. Wardens have the ability to electronically look up your GoWild account and determine what hunting licenses, deer tags, or other harvest authorizations you have.

[TOP](#)

#### **Harvest registration**

**Q. Will electronic registration (GameReg) continue to be available to all deer hunters?**

- A. Yes. Deer registration is required, and all deer registration is completed electronically. Hunters can register deer harvests by phone, mobile device or computer with Internet access. Tip: completing a deer registration online is much faster than deer registration by telephone.

**Q. How long will a hunter have after harvesting a deer before that deer must be registered?**

- A. All deer must be registered by 5 p.m. the day after the animal is recovered

**Q. Does this registration deadline apply to all deer harvested during the deer seasons?**

- A. Yes. Any deer harvested must be registered by 5 p.m. the day after it was harvested.

**Q. With the implementation of electronic harvest registration, will the registration requirements for harvested deer change?**

- A. No. All deer harvested during all deer hunting seasons must be registered before being transported from the DMU of harvest or an adjacent DMU. Traditional registration stations will still be open to provide electronic registration services; however, hunters are not required to register their harvest in person. Hunters can find additional information on electronic registration on the DNR website.

**Q. Where can I learn more about GameReg?**

- A. Visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword "[electronic registration](#)," for more information and a comprehensive e-registration FAQ.

[TOP](#)

#### **Transportation of deer**

**Q. What is the requirement for possessing and transporting someone else's deer?**

- R. Yes, there is no longer a requirement to attach a carcass tag, even when leaving an animal with another person. When possessing the deer of others, such as the last person at a deer camp who will be bringing home several deer for others, having a printed copy of the carcass tag/confirmation number corresponding to each animal will assist wardens with ensuring compliance with the bag and possession limit regulations.

**Q. Does that mean it is okay to leave my registered deer hanging in my hunting camp and go home?**

- A. Yes. Your registered deer can be left at any cabin or campsite and possessed, in your absence, by someone who is not hunting. This person can also transport the deer on public highways to another residence, meat processor, etc.

## **Deer Hunting Frequently Asked Questions 2017 Deer Hunting Rules—September 22, 2017**

**Q. What about assisting with field dressing and removing a deer from the field?**

A. So long as the deer was harvested with a valid tag, normal activities associated with field dressing, dragging, and transporting a deer from the field remain lawful for assistants. If the hunter is present, he/she must be able to provide proof of a valid tag. If the hunter is not present, then printed copies of the valid tag used to harvest that animal will assist wardens with ensuring compliance with bag and possession limits.

**Q. Does that mean if someone is using an ATV/UTV either on their land or if they are disabled, they cannot transport any deer except for their own deer on the ATV/UTV?**

A. No, there is no longer a requirement to attach a carcass tag to the deer even when leaving the animal with another person. Therefore, another person may transport a deer on an ATV/UTV for a fellow hunter at any time as long as that animal was harvested with a valid tag. Having a printed copy of the valid tag used to harvest that animal will assist wardens with ensuring compliance with bag and possession limit regulations.

[TOP](#)

### ***Chronic wasting disease management***

**Q. Is there a map showing the CWD-affected areas?**

A. Yes. A map identifying the counties designated as CWD affected-areas (recall that there is no longer a CWD Management Zone) can currently be found on the DNR's [CWD](#) web page.

**Q. In the past, the department has given someone a replacement buck tag if they shot a CWD-positive buck. Will they now do the same if they shoot a CWD-positive doe?**

A. Yes. A replacement tag will be issued for all harvested deer that test positive for CWD, regardless of sex. Please see the current Deer Hunting Regulations for further details.

**Q. Do you foresee continued testing for CWD considering the growing area in which it is found?**

A. Yes. The department intends to continue testing for CWD. The major focus will likely continue to be in southern counties, but the department will also continue to do weighted surveillance in counties where CWD has not been detected. Hunter service testing will continue to be an option for adult deer and hunters/landowners are encouraged to report sick deer to DNR staff. Contact information for reporting can be found on the [sick deer](#) web page on the DNR's website.

**Q. Will hunters still be able to bring their deer to a walk-in testing location for free CWD testing?**

A. Yes. The department will continue CWD monitoring efforts as before. With full implementation of electronic registration, some registration stations will be maintained throughout the state specifically for the purposes of collecting CWD samples and other biological data to assess deer

## Deer Hunting Frequently Asked Questions 2017 Deer Hunting Rules—September 22, 2017

herd health. The department will continue to offer free testing for CWD on a voluntary. Hunters wishing to find a CWD sampling station near them can visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/registersample.html>.

- Q. Are there any restrictions about crossing state lines or transporting a deer harvested in a CWD-affected county out of a CWD-affected county?**
- A. Yes, restrictions are in place to prevent the spread of CWD from affected areas to disease-free areas. The head and spinal column cannot be moved any farther than an adjacent county outside a CWD-affected area unless the carcass is taken to a licensed meat processor or licensed taxidermist within 72 hours. Anyone wanting to transport a deer from a CWD-affected area out-of-state should contact the state to which the deer will be transported to determine what restrictions exist regarding the transport of deer in the other state.

[TOP](#)