Indianapolis Hunting & Trapping Guide

2018-2019 Regulations Guide

Inside

• 4 easy ways to buy hunting licenses
• New gamebird program

YEAR of the BIRD

• Complete waterfowl season dates
• 3 counties added to Fall Turkey Firearms Season

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
EVERY SEASON IS DEER SEASON
ATTRACT I DEVELOP I GROW

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OUR SCIENTIFICALLY ENGINEERED WHITETAIL FEEDING PROGRAM PROVIDES YEAR-ROUND NUTRITION & ATTRACTION FOR YOUR HERD.
Public Lands Expand
A colorful infographic details the number of acres the DNR acquired in 2017.

Bonus Deer
Check out the new bonus antlerless deer quota for your county.

Waterfowl Dates
This year’s guide, just as last year’s, includes the full waterfowl season dates.

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There’s a lot of discussion about cultural diversity these days. But I’d like to talk about a different type of diversity, wildlife habitat. The existence of wildlife, whether it is hunted or not, is made possible by having a diversity of habitats for various species with differing needs.

For a number of reasons, wildlife habitat diversity—especially that of Indiana grasslands and prairie—has dwindled in the past few decades. Hunters know that a dearth of grasslands and prairie means a decline in gamebirds like bobwhite quail. But it also results in a decline in songbirds and pollinators, a fact worth sharing with conservation-minded people who don’t hunt.

The DNR preserves and restores various habitats on public land, but 96 percent of Indiana land is privately owned. To make a true difference, private land needs to be involved. That’s the goal of two DNR private-land conservation initiatives that also address land access for hunters. Both are described in detail in this guide.

New this year, the Grasslands for Gamebirds & Songbirds Initiative (GGS) provides financial and technical assistance to private landowners to develop grassland habitat. APPLE (Access Program Providing Land Enhancements), which is in its second year, provides for some habitat development, but focuses on providing incentives to willing participants to allow limited public hunting opportunities on their land.

If you have had to travel out of state to hunt gamebirds in prior years, this news may rival the sweet sound of any songbird you’ll hear in such grasslands.

Cameron F. Clark
Director, Department of Natural Resources
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<table>
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<th><strong>Furbearers</strong></th>
<th><strong>Hunting Dates</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Red and Gray Fox</td>
<td>Oct. 15, 2018 - Feb. 28, 2019</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coyote, Striped Skunk</td>
<td>Oct. 15, 2018 - March 15, 2019</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raccoon, Opossum</td>
<td>Nov. 8, 2018 - Jan. 31, 2019</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Running (Raccoon, Opossum)</td>
<td>Feb. 1, 2018 - Oct. 25, 2018</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb. 1, 2019 - Oct. 25, 2019</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Woodland Game</strong></th>
<th><strong>Hunting Dates</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wild Turkey</strong></td>
<td><strong>Hunting Dates</strong></td>
<td><strong>Limit</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Spring</td>
<td>April 20-21, 2019</td>
<td>1 bearded or male turkey in spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>April 24 - May 12, 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Archery (statewide)</td>
<td>Oct. 1 - Oct. 28, 2018</td>
<td>1 bird of either sex for the fall archery and firearm combined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Firearms</td>
<td>Oct. 17 - 28, 2018 (see page 41 for counties)</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Deer</strong></th>
<th><strong>Hunting Dates</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Reduction Zone *</td>
<td>Sept. 15, 2018 - Jan. 31, 2019 (see page 24 for Reduction Zones)</td>
<td>See page 28 for deer season bag limits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>Sept. 29 and 30, 2018</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Archery</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearms</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muzzleloader</td>
<td>Dec. 8 - 23, 2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Antlerless **</td>
<td>Dec. 26, 2018 - Jan. 6, 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Squirrel** (gray and fox) | Aug. 15, 2018 - Jan. 31, 2019 | 5 per day |

The possession limit for woodland game (except deer and turkey) is two times the daily bag limit.

* Designated counties or portions of counties (formerly Urban Deer Zones)
** Special Antlerless Season only in counties with a bonus antlerless quota of 4 or more (see page 30)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Upland Game</strong></th>
<th><strong>Hunting Dates</strong></th>
<th><strong>Limit</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pheasant (cock only)</td>
<td>Nov. 1 - Dec. 15, 2018</td>
<td>2 per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quail</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North of Interstate 74*</td>
<td>Nov. 1 - Dec. 15, 2018</td>
<td>4 per day*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South of Interstate 74**</td>
<td>Nov. 1, 2018 - Jan. 10, 2019</td>
<td>8 per day**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The possession limit on upland game is two times the daily bag limit.

* 2 per day on North Zone fish & wildlife areas, Mississinewa Lake and Salamonie Lake
** 4 per day on South Zone fish & wildlife areas and Patoka Lake

| **Rabbit** | | |
| | Nov. 1, 2018 - Feb. 28, 2019 | 5 per day |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Miscellaneous</strong></th>
<th><strong>Hunting Dates</strong></th>
<th><strong>Limit</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crow</td>
<td>July 1 - Aug. 15, 2018</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec. 13, 2018 - March 1, 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frog (bull and green only)</td>
<td>June 15, 2018 - April 30, 2019</td>
<td>25 per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game Turtles</td>
<td>July 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019</td>
<td>4 per day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Eastern snapping turtle, smooth softshell turtle, spiny softshell turtle

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Welcome to the 2018-2019 DNR Hunting & Trapping Regulations Guide. We hope you find it helpful as you prepare for your hunting or trapping seasons.

Any corrections or updates to information published in this guide will be made to the online version at [wildlife.IN.gov/2343.htm](https://wildlife.IN.gov/2343.htm)

The guide provides a summary of Indiana hunting and trapping regulations and is designed as a summary of current regulations. If you need complete versions of Indiana rules and regulations for hunting and trapping, they can be found in Indiana Code, Title 14, Article 22 ([iga.IN.gov](https://iga.IN.gov)) or in Indiana Administrative Code, Title 312, Article 9, ([IN.gov/legislative/iac](https://IN.gov/legislative/iac)).

Information in the guide includes season dates, bag limits, license requirements and cost, legal hunting hours, approved hunting equipment and more.

Included this year are the full waterfowl season dates that in previous years were unavailable until final approval in September by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The waterfowl dates can be found on page 34.

We also want to thank all hunters, anglers and trappers in Indiana for their continued support of conservation and the funding stream that makes it a success.

Every time you purchase an Indiana hunting or fishing license, all funds go directly back to conservation. Your license funds are used for programs such as wildlife management and research, habitat management and restoration, land acquisition, public access, shooting ranges, fish stocking, DNR law enforcement, and more.

So, thank you.

Finally, good luck in your 2018-19 hunting or trapping season. We hope it’s your best one yet.
If you are a hunter, you know how important food plot management is to develop quality whitetails and top-scoring trophy bucks. The good news is your local Woods dealer has a plot seeder that’s perfect for the job — things just got a lot easier.

Visit www.Bane-Welker.com!
River Otters

A person now has up to 48 hours to notify the department if a river otter is killed outside the season, during the season after the person’s bag limit has been reached, after the statewide quota has been reached, or in a county where the season is not open. Contact the DNR to turn in the carcass.

Fall Wild Turkey Firearms Season

Three new counties are now open for the Fall Wild Turkey Firearms season: Noble, Elkhart, and Kosciusko counties (a complete map of legal counties can be found on page 41).

Legal Rifle Cartridges on Public Land

Staying consistent with years prior, cartridges that meet the specifications listed on page 25 are still legal to use for deer hunting on public land. These rifle cartridges, as well as some additional rifles (including some higher-powered cartridges) are legal on private land. Rifle cartridges are legal to use only during the deer firearms, youth, and reduction zones from Nov. 17, 2018-Jan. 31, 2019 (in zones where local ordinances allow the use of a firearm), and special antlerless seasons (where open). For more information on legal rifle cartridges and other deer hunting equipment, see page 25.

Deer Surveys

There will be two new deer surveys available that will be used to help manage deer populations and seek hunter input. To find out more, see page 22.

Purple Paint=No Trespassing

Hunters and trappers will need to be aware of a new law in Indiana Code that provides landowners another option for marking their property as “no trespassing” zones. Landowners can now mark the perimeter of their property where entry is denied to the public with purple paint on either trees or posts. The purple marks must be readily visible to any person approaching the property. A purple-paint perimeter serves the same legal purpose as a “No Trespassing” sign. For more information, see Indiana Code (IC 35-43-2-2) at indiana.gov.

Support Indiana’s Rare Wildlife

Play an active role in helping nongame and endangered wildlife. Donate to the Indiana Nongame Wildlife Fund to protect and manage more than 750 species—from shorebirds and salamanders to lake sturgeon.

As the number of licensed hunters nationwide continued to decrease in the early 2000s, it became clear that something needed to be done to reverse that trend and preserve the tradition of hunting.

In 2009, a group of partners, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State fish and wildlife agencies, and other conservation organizations went to work.

The result, the National Hunting and Shooting Sports Action Plan, was released in 2016. It outlines how to recruit, retain, and reactivate hunters and shooters. Within this plan, experts identified challenges facing new hunters and shooters. They also pointed to the need to develop programs to provide workshops and events, not only for youth, but also for other people who might be interested in trying hunting, shooting or both. As the foundation of the plan, they created a new nationwide program called R3 (Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation).

R3 efforts focus on providing opportunities to every interested person, from those wanting to learn how to hunt or shoot to those seeking to advance their skills. These opportunities have moved beyond traditional one-day events that are typically open only to youth, to a wide variety of activities and multi-day workshops for new and experienced hunters and shooters of all ages. R3 also focuses on expanding learning opportunities for experienced hunters as well as introducing hunting to people who do not come from a traditional hunting background.

In Indiana, the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife’s Hoosier Outdoor Heritage Program (HOH) operates the hunting, trapping, and shooting sports R3 program. The goal of HOH is to offer events and workshops that provide participants the opportunity to learn how to hunt, trap and experience shooting sports. HOH provides about 50 events and workshops a year. Single-day events, such as family dove hunts, pair participants who are new to hunting with seasoned mentors and provide high-quality hunting opportunities. Multi-day events, like the Learn to Hunt Deer workshop, provide participants with the knowledge, experience and practice they need to try deer hunting for the first time.

More information about HOH and the events offered is at wildlife.IN.gov/2701.htm
If you are interested in volunteering to be a hunting, trapping, or shooting sports mentor, email Learn2Hunt@dnr.IN.gov

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If you’ve ever:
> Purchased any license
> Used CheckIN Game
> Purchased a lifetime license

Where can I find my Customer ID?
On the DNR Website
Your Hunting, Fishing or Trapping License
Ask your license retailer

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General License Regulations

- **Hunting licenses**: A valid hunting license issued by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is required to hunt any species of wild animal on both private and public land in Indiana. License exemptions can be found below. Some species also require State and/or federal stamps.

- **Resident licenses**: To qualify for resident hunting licenses, a person must have established a true fixed and permanent home and primary residence in Indiana for 60 consecutive days prior to purchasing a license or permit and not claim residency for hunting, trapping or fishing in another state or country. All other individuals are nonresidents.

- **Licenses and stamps**: A hunting license (and applicable stamp privileges, federal stamps or permits, and HIP number) must have either an original signature in ink and be carried with the licensees while hunting or the licensee must produce an electronic copy of the license while hunting. The license or electronic copy of the license must be produced upon the request of an Indiana Conservation Officer or other authorized law enforcement officer.

- **Hunter education**: Anyone born after Dec. 31, 1986 must successfully complete a DNR-offered hunter education class to purchase an Indiana hunting license (see pages 10–11 for Disability and Apprentice License exceptions).

- **License reprints**: Lost or damaged licenses can be reprinted online at no cost to the customer. Reprints at retail locations may come with a $3 service charge.

- **License revoked**: DNR-issued licenses may be revoked at the discretion of a court upon conviction of fish and wildlife law violations, or at the discretion of the Department, for non-compliance with conditions under which licenses are issued.

- **License refunds**: Licenses are non-transferrable and non-refundable.

How to Purchase a Hunting or Trapping License

1. **Online** …
   
   Go to INHuntFish.com. A service fee applies. Online license purchases have a $1 per license fee for system support maintenance, and an additional $1 plus 2 percent credit card company fee on each transaction.

2. **In Person** …
   
   Visit one of more than 525 retailers statewide listed at INHuntFish.com or visit the DNR Customer Service Center. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday.

3. **By Mail** …
   
   Send a check or money order (payable to DNR) or Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express (include number, expiration date) to:

   **Licenses**
   
   DNR Customer Service Center
   
   402 W. Washington St., W160
   
   Indianapolis, IN, 46204

   Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. Include the following information:

   - Specify the license(s) and season (e.g., deer muzzleloader)
   - Name, date of birth, Indiana Driver’s License number and Social Security number (required by IC 14-22-11-3)
   - Hunter education certificate number if born after Dec. 31, 1986
   - Complete address, city, state, ZIP code and phone number

   **Height, weight, color of hair and color of eyes**

4. **By Phone** …
   
   Call 317-232-4200

License Exemptions

The following are exempt from license requirements:

- Residents or nonresidents participating in a DNR-licensed field trial.

- Resident owners of Indiana farmland or resident lessees of Indiana farmland who farm that land, their spouses and children living with them, while hunting, fishing or trapping on the farmland they own or lease. There is no acreage requirement to qualify for this exemption. This exemption does not apply to land owned by a business, corporation or partnership unless the
Canoeing on Sugar Creek
Antique, Primitive & Vintage Shops
caught May 25, 2010 at Raccoon Lake
WEIGHING 39.08 LBS
STRIPED BASS
STATE RECORD
LODGING
INNS
Turkey Run Inn 877-563-4371
Raccoon Lakeside Lodge 765-344-1162
Old Jail Inn Parke County 217-808-1309
Econo-lodge 765-369-3430
MOTELS
Parke Bridge Motel 765-569-3525
Covered Bridge Motel 765-569-2833
Motel Forrest 765-569-5250
BED & BREAKFASTS
Granny’s Farm B & B 765-597-2248
Owl Nest B & B 765-569-1803
Bubble Gum Farm B & B 765-569-8630
Cherrywood Farm B & B 765-548-0382
Mansfield Guest Inn 812-877-9831
Red Brick Inn 765-592-7818
Knoll Inn 765-597-2248
Granny’s Farmhouse 765-597-2248
CABINS
Turkey Run State Park Cabins 765-597-2029
Rockville Lake Park Cabins 765-597-2029
Turkey Run Cabins 765-597-2029
Peaceful Waters Cabins 765-392-0383
Hilltop Guesthouse 765-597-2029
Pat’s Pad 765-597-2029
Bear Cub Cabins 765-592-0383
Raccoon Lake House Rentals 765-597-2029
Fallen Rock Parke 765-597-2029
Sugar Valley Cabins 765-597-2029
The Dragonfly Guesthouse 765-597-2029
Gobbler’s Knob Cabins 765-597-2029
Raccoon Lake Sunset Rentals 765-597-2029
The Cabins at Hobson Farms 765-597-2029

INDIANA STATE RECORD
STRIPE BASS
caught May 25, 2010 at Raccoon Lake
WEIGHING 39.08 LBS
HOT FISHING SPOTS
Raccoon Lake, Rockville Lake, Sugar Creek,
Wabash River, Big Raccoon Creek,
and Little Raccoon Creek

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Zoom Town 5K Covered Bridge Run - May 11
Rosedale Strawberry Festival - June 7-9
Miami Indians All Nations Gathering - June 1 & 2
Parke County Maple Faye™ - Feb 23 & 24, and March 2-3
Bridgeton Rendezvous - April 27 & 28
Bridgeton Country Christmas - November 23-25, and November 30-December 2

2018 Covered Bridge Festival Antiques Power Club Tractor Drive - June 29 & 30
Rockville Lake - July 1
Montezuma - July 4
Covered Bridge Antique Power Club Tractor Drive - June 29 & 30
Fireworks - Raccoon Lake - July 1
Rockville Lake - July 1
Montezuma - July 4
2019 Parke County Covered Bridge Festival™ - October 11-20
For additional events, CoveredBridges.com

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2018 Parke County Maple Faye™ - Feb 23 & 24, and March 2-3
Bridgeton Rendezvous - April 27 & 28

2019 Parke County Maple Faye™ - Feb 23 & 24, and March 2-3
Bridgeton Rendezvous - April 27 & 28
shareholders, partners, members or owners are comprised solely of the members of an immediate family and farm that land.

Farmland means agricultural land that is devoted or best adaptable to the production of crops, fruits, timber or the raising of livestock, or is assessed as agricultural land for property tax purposes. There is no acreage requirement to qualify for this exemption.

- Trustees and named trust beneficiaries comprised solely of the members of an immediate family when hunting on the trust property (as defined in Indiana Code 30-4-1-2).
- Residents of Indiana engaged in full-time military service and who are carrying their leave orders and a valid Indiana driver’s license or Indiana voter registration card.
- Youth participating in free youth hunting weekends.

The following nonresidents can hunt with a resident license:

- A nonresident younger than 18 years old may hunt, trap or fish with a resident license if a parent, grandparent or legal guardian is an Indiana resident.
- Nonresident military personnel on active duty and stationed in Indiana may hunt or fish with a resident license.

Indiana allows non-resident landowners, including their spouse and children living with them, to hunt, fish or trap on their own farmland in Indiana without a hunting license only if the following conditions are met:

1. The nonresident’s state allows the same exemption for the same species for Indiana residents who own farmland in that state;
2. While hunting, fishing, or trapping on the farmland, the nonresident must keep proof of ownership (for example, a tax receipt identifying the nonresident as owner) in a place where the proof is readily accessible by the nonresident.

* For example, if a nonresident is from state X that only allows Indiana residents who own land in that state an exemption to hunt small game on land they own without a license, then the same exemption would apply in Indiana for a nonresident who owns Indiana farmland and is hunting small game on that farmland.

Nonresidents who lease land in Indiana are not exempt and must purchase nonresident licenses.

Nonresident Private Shooting Preserve

Nonresidents must purchase a nonresident shooting preserve license and any applicable stamp privilege requirements for species they are hunting at a private shooting preserve. The nonresident private shooting preserve license expires April 30, immediately following the date the license is effective. The nonresident shooting preserve license is $17 and the nonresident youth shooting preserve license is $7.

Persons with Disabilities

Individuals with a disability that prevents them from being able to hunt wild animals under regular hunting regulations may request a special permit from the DNR. Special permits may allow those who cannot walk or have serious walking limitations to hunt from a vehicle or gain special vehicle access on public property.

For rules or application forms, contact the Division of Fish & Wildlife, 402 W. Washington St., W273, Indianapolis, IN 46204; 317-232-4102 or at wildlife.IN.gov/2371.htm

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Individuals with certain permanent developmental disabilities as defined in State law may apply for a conditional hunter education card. The individual must first take the hunter education class. Call DNR Law Enforcement at 317-232-4080 for more information.

A disability is defined as a physical impairment resulting from injury or disease, excluding impairment due to the normal aging process.

To find out where to hunt on a State property with a disability permit, contact the property manager.

A special disability permit is not required to hunt deer with a crossbow; however, a valid license is required.

**Apprentice Licenses**

A resident or nonresident can buy an apprentice hunting license without having to take a hunter education class. An individual can purchase up to three apprentice licenses, of any combination, in his/her lifetime before having to take a DNR-offered hunter education class.

While hunting, the apprentice hunter at all times must be in close proximity to and able to communicate with a hunter who is at least 18 years old and has a valid hunting license (unless exempt from needing a hunting license). The individual who accompanies the apprentice hunter cannot accompany more than two apprentice hunters at one time while afield.

The apprentice resident youth hunt/trap license includes the same licenses and stamps as the regular resident youth hunt/trap license; it only exempts the license holder from needing to take a hunter education class.

Landowners or lessees of farmland and their children living with them who meet the requirements for license exemptions listed on pages 8-10 also are exempt from needing an apprentice hunting license.

**Hunter Education**

Anyone born after Dec. 31, 1986 must successfully complete a DNR-offered hunter education class to purchase a hunting license. See apprentice license exception. Hunters certified in another state or Canada can also present a card or certificate and purchase an Indiana hunting license.

The DNR offers hunter education courses in counties throughout the state. The program takes approximately 10 hours to complete. For information on classes in your area, see register-ed.com/programs/indiana/agency:257 or contact the nearest hunter education office:

- Hunter Education North, 317-605-1028; email chlark@dnr.IN.gov
- Hunter Education South, 812-482-3093; email tbeck@dnr.IN.gov

---

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Bag and Possession Limits
It is illegal to take more than the daily bag limit of a wild animal in a calendar day.

The possession limit is two times the daily bag limit for species other than migratory birds (including waterfowl), deer, and wild turkey, beginning the second day of the season.

The possession limit does not apply to a wild animal that is processed and stored at an individual’s primary residence, except for waterfowl and migratory birds.

It is illegal to carry, transport or ship outside Indiana, in open season, in one day, a wild animal that the individual has taken in open season in excess of the possession limit.

A harvested wild animal that is left unattended while in the field, not in the immediate vicinity of the individual who took the animal while in the field, or gifted to another person must have a tag attached or be in a container or bag that has the following information: the name and address of the person who took the animal, total number and species of wild animals taken, the date the wild animals were taken, and the signature of the person who killed the animals.

You cannot transport a harvested wild animal for another person that is in excess of your bag limit unless the animal is tagged as described above.

You may carry the carcass of a wild animal for another person while in the field or transporting from the field as long as the person who killed the animal is present with you.

When transporting pheasant, the head and head plumage of the bird must remain attached until processing.

Legal Hunting Hours
Turkey: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset (hours may differ on state-owned property — see page 41).
Deer: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.
Furbearer: Hunting/Running: noon of season’s first day to noon of last day.
Small Game: No hunting hours, except for rabbits on designated DNR properties in February (see page 32).
Waterfowl (ducks and geese): One-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Shooting hours may differ on state-owned property — see page 34.
Trapping: 8 a.m. of season’s first day to noon of last day.

Wild Animals Found Dead
If a deer, wild turkey, river otter, fox squirrel, gray squirrel, Eastern cottontail rabbit, bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasant, or furbearer (e.g., beaver, coyote, fox, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, skunk, long-tailed weasel) dies after a collision with a motor vehicle, an Indiana Conservation Officer or other law enforcement officer, DNR property manager or assistant property manager, or wildlife biologist (wildlife.IN.gov/2716.htm) may issue a permit to an individual to possess the dead animal.

An Indiana Conservation Officer or a person designated by the Conservation Officer may also issue a permit to possess one of these animals if it is found dead from another cause.

Disturbing Nests or Dens
It is illegal to disturb the den or house of a wild animal by shooting, digging, cutting, or shoveling into the nest, hole, burrow, den, or other home of a wild animal with the aid of smoke, fire, fumes, chemicals, a ferret or other small animal, or with any mechanical device (other than a lawfully set trap) introduced into the hole, burrow, tree or den where the animal is hidden or sheltered.

A person must not wear or use a device to climb poles or trees, or possess an ax or saw while in the field at night for the purpose of dislodging a wild animal from a location where the animal has hidden itself for security or protection, or in which the animal maintains a nest or den.

Trespassing
It is illegal to hunt, trap, chase or retrieve game on private land without the consent of the landowner or tenant.
Always ask permission before entering private property. A sample private landowner permission form is on page 33.

Use of Drones
State law prohibits the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) to search for, scout, locate, or detect a wild animal as an aid to take that animal during the hunting season and for 14 days prior to the hunting season for that animal. There are a few exceptions for purposes such as agricultural production, nuisance wildlife control, and scientific research.

An ‘unmanned aerial vehicle’ means an aircraft that (a) does not carry a human operator, and (b) is capable of flight under remote control or autonomous programming.

Party Hunting
Party hunting is illegal. In a party hunting arrangement, a hunter not only shoots to fill his/her license but also shoots additional game to fill the licenses of other hunting party members.

Spotlighting
It is illegal to shine a spotlight, searchlight or other artificial light for the purpose of taking, attempting to take or assisting another person to take a deer, or to shine such a light while in possession of a firearm, bow or crossbow.

It also is illegal for a person to deliberately cast a spotlight or other artificial light from a motor vehicle if in possession of a firearm, bow or crossbow.

Red Dot Sights
Red dot sights are legal for all hunting.

Hunting from a Vehicle or Boat
Mammals and birds may not be taken or chased from, by the use of, or with the aid of any motor-driven conveyance (including boats), except:

• By an individual authorized to hunt from a stationary vehicle with a Persons with Disabilities Hunting Permit.
• To check traps that are lawfully set and maintained.
• To hunt waterfowl or squirrels from a motorboat if the boat is beached, resting at anchor, tied to a stationary object, or otherwise without motion, except as provided by wind, water current or hand-operated oars or paddles.

It is illegal to hunt furbearers from any boat.

It is illegal to ride an off-road vehicle with a loaded firearm (unless it’s a handgun and you are on private property in accordance with Indiana Code 14-16-1-23).

Wanton Waste
It is illegal to kill or cripple any wild animal without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the animal to include in your daily bag limit.

It is illegal, however, to enter private property without permission to retrieve downed game. Before hunting, individuals should make sure they have permission to track game on land adjoining their hunting area.

Handguns
While hunting, an individual may carry a handgun without a handgun license in accordance with Indiana Code 35-47-2-1 at iga.IN.gov. It is not legal to take a deer with a handgun except during the firearms and special antlerless seasons, and during the muzzleloader season with a muzzleloading handgun, and in compliance with DNR regulations.

Shooting Across Roads or Waters
It is illegal to shoot, hunt at or kill any animal or to shoot at any object from within, upon or across any public road. It is illegal to shoot across a body of water, except in the lawful pursuit of wildlife.

Harassment of Hunters, Trappers
It is illegal to intentionally interfere with the legal taking of a game animal by another person on public land, or on private land without permission of the landowner.
Selling of Wild Game

Protected or regulated wild animals, live, dead, or the meat therefrom, cannot be sold, traded or bartered. (Exceptions: lawfully taken fur-bearers, river otters, squirrel tails, deer hides, antlers, hooves, and cured gamebird feathers may be sold).

DNR, Federal Property Rules

Hunting and trapping regulations may vary on some State or federal properties. Please check with the property manager for current regulations before hunting or trapping on State or federal areas.

Violation Penalties

A violation of a fish and wildlife law or regulation is a Class C infraction. If it is done with knowledge or intent, it is a Class C misdemeanor.

Any person who takes a deer or wild turkey in violation of any regulation will be penalized $500 in addition to any other penalty under the law and can be charged with a Class B misdemeanor or Class A misdemeanor (with a prior conviction). Equipment such as guns and vehicles used in intentional violation of fish and wildlife laws may be seized for evidence and, upon conviction, confiscated at the discretion of the court.

Hunter Orange Requirements

To meet fluorescent orange (or “hunter orange”) clothing requirements, hunters must wear one or more of the following items that is solid fluorescent orange in color and exposed at all times as an outer garment: vest, coat, jacket, overalls, hat or cap. Minimal logos or patches are allowed.

Camouflage-patterned fluorescent orange garments do not satisfy the requirement.

Fluorescent orange must be worn when hunting:
• Deer (See page 23)
• Rabbit
• Pheasant
• Quail
• Turkey (when fall turkey season overlaps a deer firearms season. See page 41 for details)
• Woodcock
• Squirrel (Nov. 1 through Jan. 31, 2019)

Where to Hunt

The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife manages 334 sites in Indiana covering almost 165,300 acres. These properties include Fish & Wildlife Areas, Wetland Conservation Areas, Wildlife Management Areas, and other satellite locations. Reservoir properties and State Forests add another 200,000-plus acres.

The combination provides various hunting opportunities for the public. To find a hunting spot near you, visit wildlife.IN.gov/5427.htm

Trapper Education

The DNR offers trapper education courses that describe basic methods for trapping fur-bearers, handling the catch, and the responsibilities of the trapper. The course takes approximately six hours to complete.

To find information on classes in your area, go to www.register-ed.com/programs/indiana/agency:25?

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Benefits for Youth Hunters

In Indiana, youth hunters have a number of special opportunities to help them get outdoors. The list starts with a low-cost hunting license and special hunting dates set aside for them. The resident youth hunt/trap license is $7 for any Indiana resident age 17 or younger. It includes all hunting and trapping licenses and stamp privileges, including small game, deer, wild turkey, and waterfowl. No additional licenses are needed, unless a federal duck stamp is required (age 16 and older).

The license also is available to nonresident youth (age 17 or younger) who have a parent, grandparent or legal guardian who is an Indiana resident. Nonresident youth who don’t qualify for the $7 license can buy the appropriate nonresident youth license — annual hunting, deer, turkey, or trapping — at the same rate as a resident adult license, which is less than nonresident adult licenses.

There also are special hunt dates for youth age 17 and younger, and many DNR-managed properties offer youth hunting events as part of their outreach programs. For more details, check wildlife.IN.gov/2701.htm.

Free Hunting Days

Youth free hunting days for 2018 are Sept. 8-9 and Nov. 24-25.

Any resident age 17 or younger on the date of the hunt can take any legal game in season during these youth free hunting days. To participate, the youth must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years of age.

The youth hunter does not have to possess a hunting license, Harvest Information Program (HIP) number or any state stamp, but must comply with all other hunting regulations.

To hunt waterfowl, a federal duck stamp is required for all persons 16 years or older.

The youth’s adult partner must be in close enough proximity to monitor and be able to communicate with the youth hunter at all times. The adult may help the youth hunter with calling game but may not carry a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow, except for a handgun carried lawfully. The adult must possess a valid hunting license, unless exempted from needing a license.

Trap, skeet, pistol, rifle, and archery available.

DNR modern ranges

Atterbury FWA
VISIT atterburseshootingcomplex.com
Call 812-526-6552

Kingsbury FWA
VISIT wildlife.IN.gov/3089.htm
Call 219-393-1128

J.E. Roush FWA
VISIT wildlife.IN.gov/6358.htm
Call 260-468-2165

Deer Creek FWA
VISIT deercreekrange.org
Call 765-653-0453

Willow Slough FWA
VISIT wildlife.IN.gov/3080.htm
Call 765-653-0453
Youth Deer Season
Youth deer season is Sept. 29-30, 2018. Youth age 17 or younger on the date of the hunt can participate but must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years of age.

The youth hunter may harvest both antlered and antlerless deer. The antlered deer counts toward the statewide bag limit of one antlered deer. The number of antlerless deer harvested is determined by the bonus anterless quota for the county hunted. A youth hunter can take only one antlerless deer in a county with a bonus antlerless quota of “A” during the special youth deer season.

The youth hunter must possess a valid license for hunting deer (youth hunt/trap or other) while in the field unless exempt from needing a license. The youth’s adult partner must possess a valid hunting license of any type that is not an apprentice license.

The youth hunter and adult partner must wear hunter orange.

The youth hunter may use a legal firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow while in the field, except for a handgun carried lawfully.

Youth Turkey Season
Youth wild turkey season is April 20-21, 2019. Youth age 17 or younger on the date of the hunt can participate but must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years of age.

The youth hunter must possess a valid license for hunting wild turkey (youth hunt/trap or other). The adult partner must possess a turkey hunting license and game bird habitat stamp if participating in the hunt (e.g., calling turkeys) unless exempt from license requirements (see page 8).

The youth hunter may take only one bearded or male wild turkey during spring, which includes both the youth and regular spring turkey seasons. The youth must comply with all other turkey hunting regulations.

The youth hunter may use any legal shotgun, bow and arrow, or crossbow. The youth’s adult partner must not possess a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow while in the field, except for a handgun carried lawfully.

Youth Waterfowl Season
Youth waterfowl season dates are Oct. 13-14, 2018 (North Zone), Oct. 20-21, 2018 (Central Zone), and Oct. 27-28, 2018 (South Zone). Youth age 17 or younger on the date of the hunt can participate, but must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years of age. A federal duck stamp is required for all persons 16 years of age or older. A State migratory waterfowl stamp is not required to hunt waterfowl or other migratory birds for resident youth hunting or nonresident youth hunting license holders.

National Refuge Hunts
Big Oaks and Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuges will have special deer hunts in 2018 and special turkey hunts in 2019 for youth hunters.

Youth hunters.

The deer hunt dates are Sept. 29-30, 2018 at Muscatatuck and Nov. 3, 2018 at Big Oaks.

The turkey hunt dates are April 20-21, 2019 at Muscatatuck and April 21, 2019 at Big Oaks. Both Big Oaks hunts include an optional workshop and luncheon the day before.

To apply for either Big Oaks hunt, send a postcard that includes the youth’s name, address and phone number to Big Oaks NWR, 1661 W. JFG Niblo Road, Madison, IN 47250. The deadline is Oct. 1, 2018 for the deer hunt and April 1, 2019 for the turkey hunt.

To apply for the Muscatatuck hunts, go to wildlife.IN.gov/5834.htm
Two new DNR programs benefit grassland habitat and hunting access

By Nick Werner, DNR staff

Restoring grasslands is important because the habitat type is a treasure trove of biodiversity.

The process involves planting up to 40 types of native grasses and wildflowers. And all that plant diversity leads to wildlife diversity, too—and increased opportunities for hunting, wildlife watching and nature study.

Furthermore, the planting of native grasses and wildflowers will improve soil health and water quality.

And while pollinators might not be part of the program’s name, they are also an essential element.

The loss of pollinating insects and the plants they depend on is a growing concern. Pollinators are important not only for wildlife, but also for human health. Estimates suggest that one in three bites of food people consume, worldwide, are directly linked to pollination from insects.

To be eligible for either program, landowners must own ground in one of five focal regions. Biologists developed the regions to direct resources to locations where they would have the best chance for success. They are:

- **Focal Region 1 (west-central Indiana):** Sullivan and Daviess counties, Greene County west of U.S. 231, Clay County south of U.S. 40
- **Focal Region 2 (southwest Indiana):** Gibson, Pike, Warrick, and Spencer counties.
- **Focal Region 3 (southeast Indiana):** Ripley and Scott counties, Jackson and Jennings counties south of U.S. 50.
- **Focal Region 4 (northwest Indiana):** Benton and White counties, Jasper and Newton counties south of S.R. 10, Warren County north of S.R. 28
- **Focal Region 5 (northeast Indiana):** All of LaGrange, Steuben, Noble and Dekalb counties.

GGS is funded through 2021 with a three-year budget of $2 million. Most funding for GGS comes from a grant from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Regional Conservation Partnership Program. DNR Fish & Wildlife contributed funding, too, as did 32 partners and more than 50 financial sponsors.


The DNR will begin accepting applications for GGS this fall.

APPLE also provides some incentives for habitat development, but the main focus is to encourage participants through financial incentives to allow limited public hunting opportunities on their land.

"The idea is that someone will sign up for and receive funding for a habitat project using GGS, then enroll some or all of those acres into APPLE for some additional funding after the habitat has been created," Wade said. APPLE began in 2017 with two landowners.

The program, which is funded through sales of Indiana gamebird habitat stamps, continues to accept applications.

Biologists have had to battle misconceptions about what it allows, said Erin Basiger, south region landscape biologist.

“When we talk with landowners, they worry their land is going to be open to the public at all times,” Basiger said. “But it’s not. It is limited hunting. We work with landowners on days that they are OK with having people out there. We can provide them a list of names for who is going hunting so they know who to expect.”

Biologists also work with landowners to set daily bag limits for each property. Furthermore, public hunting on APPLE land is limited to pheasants, quail and woodcock, although the landowner is still permitted to hunt all permitted species.

All APPLE hunters must be licensed. They are selected by random draw through the DNR online reserve system.

APPLE helps expand upland hunting opportunities beyond what’s currently available at DNR Fish & Wildlife Areas.

The state relies on a lottery-style system to administer upland bird hunting opportunities on FWA. For example, 3,444 people applied for 533 reserved DNR wild pheasant hunts in 2015.

“A lot of people from Indiana drive out west,” Basiger said. “They’d love to hunt here, but if they don’t get drawn, their choices are limited.” Landowners interested in GGS or APPLE in Focal Regions 1, 2 and 3 should contact Basiger, 765-276-3047, or email him at ebasiger@dnr.IN.gov.

Those in regions 4 and 5 should contact Wade, 260-468-2515, jwade@dnr.IN.gov.

For more information, see the DNR website at wildlife.IN.gov/9467.htm.
Keeping an Eye on Quail

Indiana has joined a nationwide effort to monitor Northern bobwhite quail and other grassland birds that use similar habitat to determine how they respond to changes in habitat.

The effort is called the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI). NBCI is a strategic effort of 25 state fish and wildlife agencies and various conservation organizations — all under the umbrella of the National Bobwhite Technical Committee — to restore wild populations of bobwhite quail to levels comparable to 1980.

The state is joining NBCI as it is also gearing up to restore more grassland habitat.

This year, the state also launched Grasslands for Gamebirds & Songbirds (GGS), a private-lands conservation program that offers financial assistance and technical advice for grassland development.

Small-game biologist Matt Broadway of DNR Fish & Wildlife serves as the Indiana NBCI coordinator.

“Our NBCI involvement kind of piggybacks on GGS,” Broadway said.

So, as more grassland habitat is being developed, Broadway and other biologists will study those areas to see how quail and other grassland birds respond. Because the program will last 10 years, biologists will also study the effects of maturing habitats on birds and management efforts to keep the habitat right.

NBCI will focus on focal regions that will include private land as well as portions Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area.

“We want to determine whether we are having an effect,” Broadway said.
GRASSLAND WILDLIFE DEPENDS ON YOU!

GRASSLANDS FOR GAMEBIRDS and SONGBIRDS (GGS)

Creating and enhancing grassland and pollinator-friendly habitat through financial and technical assistance to landowners.

See article on page 16 in this guide for more complete information.

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IN.gov/ai/appfiles/inrf-donations

TO PARTICIPATE:
wildlife.IN.gov/9467.htm

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GAMEBIRD AREAS

292 ACRES
WABASH RIVER CONSERVATION AREA

170 ACRES
FISH & WILDLIFE AREAS

547 NEW ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND IN 2017

Thank you to our partners:
Lifetime License Holders, The Nature Conservancy, Environmental License Plate Holders (IHT), Bicentennial Nature Trust, Game Bird Habitat Stamp Holders, Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, Hunters & Shooters (WSFR) and The Conservation Fund
Don’t Be a Thud

Sometime this hunting season, a hunter will fall out of a tree stand. Perhaps he will survive; perhaps not.

Most assuredly, he or she will suffer injuries. It’s inevitable. The sad thing is it’s also avoidable.

“Wearing your safety harness in a tree stand is comparable to wearing your life jacket around water,” said Lt. Larry Morrison of the DNR Law Enforcement division. “When the accident happens, it’s going to save your life.

“When you leave the ground, you should be secured to the tree with a full-body safety harness.”

Of the 177 hunting accident reports filed by the DNR Division of Law Enforcement over the past five years, 109 involved falls from tree stands.

Most of the victims were not wearing any form of fall arrest device, which could have prevented serious injury.

National studies show that one of every two tree stand users wears a fall arrest device and that as many as 30 percent of hunters who hunt from an elevated stand will have an incident sometime in their hunting career.

The National Bowhunter Education Foundation (www.nbef.org) states on its website: “Some will not live to tell their story; others will tell it from a hospital bed or wheelchair. Many accident victims will never hunt again.”

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service offers the following tree stand safety tips:

**Before the hunt**

- Know your equipment.
  - Read and understand manufacturer’s instructions and warning before using your tree stand and full-body harness (FBH).
  - Check stands (including straps and chains) every season and before each use for signs of wear, fatigue, cracks, and loose or missing nuts and bolts. Replace as necessary.
  - Practice at ground level with your tree stand and FBH with another person present.
  - Learn how to properly use your FBH with a suspension release device.
- Select the right tree for your stand.
  - Find a healthy, straight tree that is the right size for your tree stand.
  - Check the tree for insect nests or animal dens.
  - Avoid using climbing stands on smooth barked trees, especially during icy or wet conditions.
- Clear debris from the base of the tree to minimize injury from a fall and to ensure a safe base if using a ladder stand.

**During the hunt**

- Wear a full-body harness (FBH). Simply owning a FBH does not make you safe. You must wear it.
- Make sure your FBH is attached to the tree as soon as you begin to climb.
- In the case of ladder stands, attach the FBH before securing the platform to the tree or stepping onto it.
- When climbing a ladder, keep three points of contact with the ladder at all times. Both hands and a foot or both of your feet and one hand should be used to support your body weight when using a ladder.
- When using a platform stand, climb higher than the stand and then step down onto the platform. Slowly put your weight onto your stand to be sure of your balance.
- Use boots with non-slip soles to avoid slipping, especially in wet weather.

**In the stand**

- Properly adjust your FBH. Whether standing or sitting, keep the tether-line distance between you and the tree as short as possible with no slack in the tether while in a seated position. This will minimize the distance in the case of a fall.
- Use a haul line. Always raise and lower your firearm, bow or other equipment with a haul line.
- Make sure firearms are unloaded before attaching to a haul line and don’t attach the haul line near the trigger or trigger guard.
- Make sure broadheads are covered before raising or lowering a bow with a haul line.
- If you fall, stay calm. By planning ahead, you can avoid additional problems.
- Have emergency equipment, such as a knife, cell phone, flashlight, and/or whistle on your person.
- Practice the three Rs: recover, relief and rescue. Attempt to recover and return to your stand. If this is not possible, exercise your legs by pushing against the tree, using another form of motion or your suspension relief device until help arrives.

**The best tip of all?**

Don’t take chances. Don’t be a thud!

### TREE-STAND ACCIDENTS IN INDIANA 2013-2017

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Two New Surveys for Deer Hunters

More hunters and other Indiana residents who have an interest in deer management can now make their opinions known to the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) more frequently because of the DFW’s increased online resources.

The DNR has been incorporating opinions of hunters and landowners into management decisions through surveys since the early 1990s. However, in past years, only a random selection of hunters and landowners could be surveyed because of the high cost and logistics of paper surveys. Many hunters complained they never received a survey and felt their opinion was not being heard. Now, anyone with a DNR account can provide input on a regular basis through the new Indiana Deer Management Survey.

Hunters and anglers who purchase licenses on a regular basis will be emailed an invitation to complete the survey. Hunters who use a landowner exemption or have a lifetime license should make a special effort to create an online account with the DNR to ensure they receive the various surveys, as should any Indiana residents or hunters hunting on various exemptions. This can be done at the secure link at INHuntFish.com, where you can verify or correct your existing contact information, including email address, or open an account.

The DFW has also incorporated a second survey into deer management—the After Hunt Survey. This survey was tested during the 2017-2018 hunting season to collect biological data about deer and sociological data about deer hunters regarding a single hunt. Hunters complete the survey immediately after harvesting and checking in their deer. Hunters are asked about the number of deer seen, how many were seen but not shot, and their opinion about the number and quality of deer seen. Hunters are also asked for specific information about their deer, including the location of harvest, age, lactation and antler characteristics, as well as opinion data about the hunting experience.

The goal is to have 50 to 100 hunters fill out this survey for each county (depending upon the level of harvest in that county) to ensure that the data are representative for each county. There is no maximum number of hunters who can participate in the survey in each county. Having more hunters participate in the survey in each county will ensure that the data collected for the county are more representative of the county’s deer population. Results for each county that achieves the minimum sample sizes will be reported each year on a county-by-county basis in the annual White-tailed Deer Report.

This partnership between DFW and Indiana hunters will provide DFW with large amounts of data that should allow for more accurate management of the deer herd and help hunters understand more about the deer herd where they hunt.
Deer Regulations

License Requirements
Unless exempt (see pages 8 and 10), an individual must have a signed or digital deer hunting, resident youth hunt/trap, lifetime comprehensive hunting, or lifetime comprehensive hunting/fishing license when hunting deer on public or private land. Except for the deer license bundle and resident youth hunting & trapping license, only one deer can be taken per deer hunting license. See the table on page 28 for a summary of deer seasons, licenses, bag limits and equipment requirements.

- **Archery Season**: an archery, deer license bundle, bonus antlerless, resident youth hunt/trap, lifetime comprehensive hunting, or lifetime comprehensive hunting/fishing license is required. To use a crossbow during the archery season, an individual must have a crossbow license, deer license bundle, bonus antlerless, resident youth hunt/trap, lifetime comprehensive hunting, or lifetime comprehensive hunting/fishing license.

- **Firearms Season**: a deer firearms, deer license bundle, bonus antlerless, resident youth hunt/trap, lifetime comprehensive hunting, or lifetime comprehensive hunting/fishing license is required. (Note: a muzzleloader license is not valid during the deer firearms season). A deer firearms license is only valid for the harvest of one antlered deer during the firearms season.

- **Muzzleloader Season**: a muzzleloader, deer license bundle, bonus antlerless, resident youth hunt/trap, lifetime comprehensive hunting, or lifetime comprehensive hunting/fishing license is required. (Note: a firearms license is not valid during the deer muzzleloader season).

Deer License Bundle
The deer license bundle is valid for all deer seasons except for the Reduction Zone Season. The deer license bundle allows an individual to harvest up to three deer (two antlerless and one of either sex) with only one license. An antlered deer harvested with the deer license bundle counts toward an individual’s one antlered deer limit for statewide seasons.

The bundle can be used to take a deer with equipment legal during the archery (this includes crossbows), firearm, and muzzleloader seasons, and in counties open to the special antlerless-only season.

Antlerless deer harvested with the deer license bundle can be used toward the bag limit for bonus antlerless deer in that county as well as the archery, muzzleloader, and special antlerless-only bag limits. If used toward the bonus antlerless deer county quota, the county quota applies. See page 26 for bonus county quotas.

The bundle may not be used toward the bag limit for bonus antlerless deer on DNR properties where the bonus antlerless license cannot be used. Contact the property or go to wildlife.IN.gov for details.

Legal Hunting Hours
Legal hunting hours for all deer seasons are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Hunter Orange Requirements
Hunters, including those using archery equipment, must meet hunter orange requirements while hunting for deer during firearms (Nov. 17-Dec. 2, 2018), muzzleloader (Dec. 8-23, 2018) and special antlerless firearms (Dec. 26, 2018-Jan. 6, 2019) seasons.

Hunter orange must be worn during the special youth deer season (Sept. 29-30, 2018). See page 13 for a description of hunter orange requirements.

- An occupied ground blind must display hunter orange of at least 144 square inches on each side so that it is visible from any direction while deer hunting during any deer season in which a hunter is already required to wear hunter orange.

- Hunter orange is required only on ground blinds constructed of man-made or synthetic materials and placed on or within 4 feet of the ground that conceals a hunter so the hunter orange is visible from one or more directions, and is required on public and private land.

- A flag placed on top of a blind does not satisfy this hunter orange requirement.

Infrared Sensors/Electronic Calls
The use of infrared sensors or electronic deer calls to locate or take deer is illegal.

- It is also illegal to hunt with the aid of an infrared sensor or to hunt deer while possessing an electronic deer call.

Antlered Deer
An antlered deer must have at least one antler that is at least 3 inches long.

Tree Stands
Tree stands may be used for hunting deer during all deer hunting seasons. It is illegal to erect or hunt from a permanent tree blind on State-owned or State-leased lands. Portable tree stands may be used on State-owned or State-leased lands. U.S. Forest Service lands and lands of the Muscatatuck, Patoka River and Big Oaks national wildlife refuges and may be left overnight only from noon Sept. 15 through Jan. 10.

- Fasteners that penetrate a tree more than 1/2 inch are prohibited on these lands.

- A tree stand placed on public land must be legibly marked in English with the owner’s name, address and telephone number, or DNR Customer Identification Number.

Fair Chase
It is illegal to use bait, salt, snares, dogs or other domesticated animals to take deer.

- Bait is considered any product that is transported into a hunting area and placed there for animal consumption. Baits can be in the form of salt, mineral blocks, prepared solid or liquid, or piles of apples or other food that is intended for the animal to eat. An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait and any affected soil.
Dogs may be used while on a leash only to track or trail wounded deer.

Artificial deer decoys are legal for deer hunting.

**Deer Reduction Zones**
In addition to statewide bag limits, deer reduction zones, previously called urban deer zones, give hunters opportunities to harvest deer in defined urban areas with high deer densities.

The Reduction Zone season is Sept. 15, 2018 through Jan. 31, 2019. The bag limit for the Reduction Zones is 10 deer, of which only one can be antlered. Individuals hunting in a designated Reduction Zone who are attempting to satisfy the Reduction Zone bag limit must harvest an antlerless deer before harvesting an antlered deer (a.k.a. earn-a-buck). The earn-a-buck requirement only applies to the Reduction Zone bag limit. The Reduction Zone bag limit is in addition to all other bag limits. (See page 28 for deer bag limits.)

A Reduction Zone license has been established to replace previous requirements to possess a regular archery, extra archery or bonus antlerless license. The Reduction Zone license allows an individual to harvest one deer per license in a defined Reduction Zone.

Hunters attempting to satisfy the Reduction Zone bag limits must have a Reduction Zone, resident youth hunt/trap, lifetime comprehensive hunting, or lifetime comprehensive hunting/fishing license, or meet a license exemption. The bundle license is not valid when working toward the Reduction Zone bag limit. A valid license is required for each deer taken.

The season does not override any local ordinances restricting shooting of firearms and bows.

Where allowed by local ordinances, firearms legal for deer hunting can be used in Reduction Zones from Nov. 17, 2018 to Jan. 31, 2019. Hunter orange clothing requirements must be followed to hunt deer with a firearm in a Reduction Zone. Hunters must obtain permission from landowners to hunt on their property. (For a private land permission form, see page 33.)

Reduction Zone licenses are not permitted on Division of Fish & Wildlife properties. Deer Reduction Zones may be altered annually at the DNR director’s discretion based on deer population management needs. Please visit [wildlife.IN.gov/8534.htm](http://wildlife.IN.gov/8534.htm) to see a current map and zone descriptions.

**Tagging Requirements**
Immediately upon killing a deer, the hunter must complete a temporary tag on paper that states the hunter’s name, address, sex of the deer, license number (if applicable) of the individual who took the deer, and the day and month of the kill. A hunter is not required to place the tag on the deer while dragging it out of the field as long as the hunter has filled out and is carrying the required information. A hunter must maintain immediate custody of and visual contact with the deer carcass unless the completed temporary transportation tag is attached. The tag must be attached to the deer before the hunter leaves the deer or loads the deer in a vehicle.

**Reporting Requirements**
Hunters are required to register their harvested deer within 48 hours of the kill. This can be done one of three ways:

- Self reporting online through the DNR’s CheckIN Game system ([CheckINGame.dnr.IN.gov](http://CheckINGame.dnr.IN.gov))
- Calling 800-419-1326 (a $3 fee applies)
- Finding a check station, or license retailer who will enter the information for you through CheckIN Game.

Once the deer is registered with the CheckIN Game system, a confirmation number will be generated. The number must be recorded on a temporary transportation tag and kept with the deer until processing begins. The deer head must remain attached to the carcass until the deer is registered with CheckIN Game and a confirmation number is issued.
**Hunting Equipment**

**Legal Firearms**
Shotguns, handguns, rifles with legal cartridges, muzzleloading long guns and muzzleloading handguns are legal during the firearms and special antlerless seasons. Only muzzleloading firearms are legal during the muzzleloader season.

Hunters may carry more than one type of legal firearm when hunting during the firearms, youth, reduction zone (in zones where local ordinances allow the use of a firearm), and special antlerless seasons only.

**Shotguns**
Shotguns must be 10-, 12-, 16-, 20- or 28-gauge or .410 bore loaded with slugs or saboted bullets. Rifled slug barrels are permitted. Combination rifle-shotguns are allowed.

**Rifles**
Rifles chambered for cartridges that fire a bullet of .357-inch diameter or larger, have a minimum case length of 1.16 inches, and have a maximum case length of 1.8 inches are legal to use only during the deer firearms, youth, reduction zones from Nov. 17-Jan. 31, 2019 (in zones where local ordinances allow the use of firearms) youth seasons, and special antlerless season (where open), rifles that fire cartridges meeting the following requirements may be used to hunt deer on private land only:

- The cartridge must have a minimum case length of 1.16 inches and a maximum case length of 3 inches.
- The cartridge must fire a bullet with a minimum diameter of .243 inches (same as 6 mm).
- A hunter must not possess more than 10 of these cartridges while hunting deer.
- Full metal jacketed bullets are illegal.

**Handguns**
Legal handguns can be used to hunt deer during the firearms, reduction zone from Nov. 17, 2018 - Jan. 31, 2019 (in zones where local ordinances allow the use of a firearm), and special antlerless seasons.

Handguns, other than muzzleloading handguns, must have a barrel at least 4 inches long and must fire a bullet of 2.43-inch diameter or larger. The handgun cartridge case, without the bullet, must be at least 1.16 inches long. There is no maximum cartridge length for those used in handguns. Full metal-jacketed bullets are not permitted. The handgun must not be a rifle that has a barrel less than 18 inches. (A rifle with a barrel less than 18 inches is not considered a handgun.)

Handguns are not permitted for hunting on any military areas.

Some handgun cartridges that are legal for deer hunting include .357 Magnum, .41 Magnum, .44 Special, .45 Colt, .45 Long Colt, .45 Winchester Magnum, .35 Remington and .357 Herrett.

State law also legalizes a handgun that fires the 10mm Auto and 40 Smith & Wesson cartridge.

Some handgun cartridges that are illegal for deer hunting are .38 Special, .38 Smith and Wesson, .38 Colt New Police, .38/200, .38 Long Colt, .38 Super, .38 ACP, .38 Colt Auto, .45 ACP, .45 Automatic and .45 Auto Rim. All .25/.20, .32/.20 and .30 carbine ammunition is prohibited.

**Muzzleloaders**
Legal muzzleloaders can be used to hunt deer during the firearms, youth, reduction zone (in zones where local ordinances allow the use of a firearm), and special antlerless seasons.
Airbows do not meet the definition of legal archery equipment.

The bow must have a pull of at least 35 pounds.

Arrows must be tipped with broadheads that are metal, metal-edged, or napped flint, chert or obsidian. Poisoned or exploding arrows are illegal.

Bows drawn, held or released by means other than by hand or hand-held releases may be used.

No portion of the bow’s riser or any track, trough, channel, arrow rest or other device that attaches to the bow’s riser can guide the arrow from a point back beyond the bow’s brace height.

The common overdraw is still allowed as long as it does not extend beyond the string when the bow is relaxed.

Crossbows are legal hunting equipment during the archery deer season and in Deer Reduction Zones.

A crossbow means a device for propelling an arrow by means of limbs mounted on a stock and a string and having a working safety that may be drawn, held, and released by a mechanical device. It has to have a mechanical safety and a pull of at least 125 pounds.

### Archer Survey

Since the early 1990s, bowhunters have teamed with DNR biologists to record wildlife observations during the archery deer season. This annual tally of wildlife sightings is a valuable way to monitor many species across the state.

If you plan to bowhunt for deer between Oct. 1 and Nov. 16 and want to participate in the survey, call 812-334-1137 or email a note to dfw@dnr.IN.gov and provide your name and mailing address, and mention the Archer’s Index.

The deadline to register is Sept. 15, 2018.

If you’ve previously participated, there is no need to re-send your contact information. Send corrections or changes to the email or phone number listed above.

### Disposition of Carcasses

Carcasses of deer and other wild animals that are lawfully taken cannot be dumped in streams or other bodies of water or left in the open for scavengers and others to see without permission from the landowner. Dumping dead deer and other wild animals in a waterway is considered littering and is a criminal offense punishable by a fine. Rotting carcasses in a waterway can also affect water quality for those downstream.

### Deer Hotline

If you have questions about deer hunting regulations, call 812-334-3795, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday. This is not a toll-free call. See wildlife.IN.gov/7389.htm for Deer Hunting FAQs.
Lead ammunition, especially when fired from rifles, can fragment into tiny pieces that spread throughout big game such as deer. These fragments cannot all be removed during processing, and ground venison can have higher lead concentrations than whole muscle cuts.

Lead exposure has a well-documented negative impact on both humans and animals, affecting multiple organ systems. Lead exposure can cause health effects in both adults and children. Lead levels in venison may not impact adults, unless lead-tainted meat is eaten frequently. Children are at a much higher risk to the effects of lead due to their developing bodies. Even low levels of lead in children, or in women who are pregnant, have been associated with decreased IQ, behavioral changes, and learning disabilities.

Hunters concerned about lead exposure for themselves and their families may want to follow this advice:

- When purchasing ammunition for deer hunting, especially rifle ammunition, choose a non-lead alternative such as copper or a copper alloy.
- If you choose to purchase lead ammunition, select ammunition the manufacturer indicates has high mass retention after impact.
- When processing your harvest shot with lead ammunition, trim liberally around the wound channel to reduce exposure to lead fragments, and dispose of the carcass in a way that prevents wildlife from scavenging from it.
- Be aware that some processors commingle meat from multiple harvested deer when producing ground venison, so ground meat may be lead-tainted even if your deer was harvested with non-lead ammunition.

The DNR thanks these 2016 & 2017 bTB partners:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>3-D Mart BP</td>
<td>Frame's Outdoor</td>
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<td>West Harrison</td>
<td>Liberty</td>
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<td>52 Pik-up Brookville</td>
<td>French's Locker</td>
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<td>FCN Bank Sunman</td>
<td>Hampton Inn</td>
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<td>Jeff's Deer Processing</td>
<td>Connersville</td>
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<td>Mounds State Recreation Area</td>
<td>Brookville</td>
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<td>Orcsclin Farm &amp; Home</td>
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<td>Timberline Trophies Taxidermy</td>
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| Whitewater Canal State Historic Site | Metamora  

Bushy Creek Outfitters
11101 Bushy Road
Metamora, IN
765-580-2048

Hunters Choice Deer Processing
6164 Highland Center
Brookville, IN
765-647-0916

Mustin’s Taxidermy & Processing
1660 W CR 350S
Connersville, IN
765-825-5943

Special thanks to all hunters who brought us deer.
### DEER SEASONS, LICENSES, AND EQUIPMENT

A separate deer license is required prior to taking each deer (exceptions: deer license bundle, youth hunt/trap, lifetime license, landowner exemption).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Bag Limit</th>
<th>Archery</th>
<th>Crossbow</th>
<th>handgun</th>
<th>Muzzleloading</th>
<th>Long Gun</th>
<th>Shotgun</th>
<th>Rifle</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Season</strong> – Sept. 29 and 30, 2018</td>
<td>1 antlered deer AND the number of bonus antlerless deer per county quota (see page 30)</td>
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<td><strong>Reduction Zone Season</strong> – Sept. 15, 2018 - Jan. 31, 2019</td>
<td>1 antlered deer (see &quot;earn-a-buck&quot; req. page 24) AND 9 antlerless deer OR 10 antlerless deer</td>
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<td><strong>Archery Season</strong> – Oct. 1, 2018- Jan. 6, 2019</td>
<td>2 antlerless deer OR 1 antlered and 1 antlerless deer (AND bonus antlerless county quota)</td>
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<td><strong>Firearms Season</strong> – Nov. 17, 2018 - Dec. 2, 2018</td>
<td>1 antlered deer (AND bonus antlerless county quota)</td>
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<td><strong>Muzzleloader Season</strong> – Dec. 8 - 23, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Special Antlerless Firearms Season</strong> – Dec 26, 2018 - Jan. 6, 2019</td>
<td>the number of bonus antlerless deer per county with a quota of 4 or more (see page 30)</td>
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**Orange Text** — Hunter Orange clothing is required for the entire season (see page 13).
* **Statewide Season** — Only one antlered deer per hunter may be taken during the special youth, archery, firearms, and muzzleloader seasons combined.
  - An antlered deer must have at least one antler that is at least 3 inches long.
  - If allowed by local ordinances, firearms may be used to hunt deer in designated Reduction Zones from Nov. 17, 2018 - Jan. 31, 2019.

**Additional opportunities:**
- Bonus Antlerless Deer — 1 antlerless deer per license not to exceed the bonus antlerless county quota (see page 30)
- Military/Refuge Properties (by reserved hunt drawing or invitation only) — 1 deer of either sex per Mil/Ref Deer License
- State Park (must be drawn in online reserved hunts at wildlife.IN.gov/5834.htm) — 3 antlerless deer or 2 antlerless deer and 1 antlered deer

**NOTE:** The Bonus Antlerless License (and bonus county deer under the Deer License Bundle) may not be used on all DNR properties. Contact the property for details.
The target shooting and hunting community prides itself on being safe and responsible with firearms in all situations—from using them outdoors to storing them safely at home. Sometimes, however, unusual conditions such as extremely dry environments require an extra level of awareness and safety on the part of shooters.

Wildfires have many possible causes. The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms and ammunition industry, reminds all shooters that during dry and hot weather conditions their use of certain ammunition and targets could accidentally ignite a wildfire. NSSF reminds all target shooters and hunters, as well as other outdoor enthusiasts, to consider the potential consequences of their activities in fire-prone environments.

Shooters & Hunters: Help Prevent Wildfires.

- Make it a point to know the regulations and rules related to shooting in areas experiencing dry and hot conditions, whether on public or private land or at shooting ranges. Many national forests, for example, do not allow recreational shooting when fire restrictions are in effect.
- Consider the type of ammunition and targets you are using. Minimize the risk of fires by not using steel-jacketed ammunition, ammunition with steel-core components, tracer rounds or exploding targets in fire-prone areas.
- Remember that equipment, such as cars and ATVs, can have extremely hot exhaust systems that could ignite dry vegetation, so park only in designated areas.
- Extinguish and dispose of smoking materials safely.
- Follow guidelines to extinguish campfires.
- Warn others of potential dangers and behaviors for starting wildfires.
- Report any wildfire you see to authorities.
- Spread this message to other target shooters, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts.

NSSF.ORG
**Bonus Antlerless Deer**

**Antlerless Deer Bag Limit**
To maintain a healthy and thriving deer population in Indiana, strategic herd management is done on a county basis. The primary strategy in counties where deer populations need to be reduced is increased harvest of female deer. The bonus antlerless county quotas are set to allow hunters the opportunity to actively participate in deer herd management by harvesting additional antlerless deer.

Bonus antlerless county quotas have been set for the 2018-19 Indiana deer hunting season. Bonus antlerless quotas are determined based on a variety of factors — hunter harvest trend data, crop damage reports, deer-vehicle collisions, and landowner and hunter surveys that measure individual satisfaction level with deer populations in each county.

In addition to the basic bag limits for the license that was purchased, hunters can purchase bonus antlerless licenses if they wish to take additional antlerless deer. No more than one deer can be taken per bonus antlerless license. Bonus antlerless licenses can be used in any season, except the Reduction Zone Season and prior to Nov. 29 for counties designated as “A,” and using the equipment that is legal at that time.

Bonus licenses may be used in any county, but you may not take more than the county quota for bonus antlerless deer in any specific county. The map on the right indicates county quotas for bonus antlerless deer. Bonus antlerless licenses may not be used on DNR-managed Fish & Wildlife Areas but may be used on some other DNR properties and on some Healthy Rivers Initiative sites. Contact the property or go to wildlife.IN.gov/8367.htm for details.

County quotas range from A to 8. For counties designated as an A, a bonus antlerless license can be used to take one antlerless deer from Nov. 29, 2018 through Jan. 6, 2019 (the last four days of regular firearms season, plus muzzleloader season and the remainder of archery season). Bonus antlerless licenses cannot be used in A counties prior to Nov. 29, 2018. For counties designated 1 to 8, hunters may take additional antlerless deer but cannot exceed the county quota. Only counties with a quota of 4 or above are eligible for the special antlerless season (Dec. 26, 2018 - Jan. 6, 2019).

Antlerless deer harvested with the deer license bundle must be used toward the bag limit for bonus antlerless deer in that county as well as the archery, muzzleloader, and special antlerless-only bag limits. For example, during archery season the third antlerless deer harvested counts towards the bonus antlerless county quota; in firearms season any antlerless deer harvested must count toward the antlerless quota; and during muzzleloader season, the second antlerless deer counts towards the county quota.

**Special Antlerless Firearms Season**
The special antlerless firearms season is from Dec. 26, 2018 to Jan. 6, 2019 in counties with a bonus antlerless deer quota of 4 or more (shaded counties on map). The special antlerless firearms season gives hunters additional opportunities to harvest antlerless deer in those participating counties. Hunters may use the license bundle to fulfill bag limits during the special antlerless season but must purchase additional antlerless licenses after bag limits have been reached. Hunters who do not have a bundle license must purchase a separate bonus antlerless license to hunt in the special antlerless firearms season and have one license for each additional deer.

**Youth/Lifetime License Holders**
Comprehensive lifetime hunting/fishing and resident youth hunt/trap license holders are not required to purchase bonus antlerless deer licenses since they are included in those license types. Lifetime/youth license hunters must follow the bonus antlerless bag limits and all other deer regulations.
**Bovine Tuberculosis**

Indiana DNR and the Board of Animal Health (BOAH) are monitoring Indiana’s deer herd for bovine tuberculosis (TB) after detecting the disease at a captive cervid facility in Franklin County, cattle farms in Dearborn and Franklin counties, and in a wild white-tailed deer and two wild raccoons that were infected on cattle farms in Franklin County.

In 2017, with support from hunters, Indiana DNR tested approximately 500 deer from within the bovine TB surveillance zone. Microscopic diagnostic results were negative. Preliminary results suggest the prevalence of bovine TB in wild deer was very low in Franklin and Fayette counties, if it was present in the wild deer at all. More information about bovine TB testing during the hunting season is at wildlife.IN.gov/9320.htm

You can assist the effort to protect Indiana’s domestic and wild animal populations from bovine TB by inspecting your harvested deer. The following procedures provide guidance in the event you harvest a deer that you suspect might be diseased.

**Inspect Your Deer**

1. While field dressing a deer, look for white, Inspect Your Deer

2. In the unlikely event you find lesions, Inspect Your Deer

3. Keep the animal, including the head, intact until examined. Inspect Your Deer

   To contact a BOAH veterinarian, call 877-747-3038 (toll free). This number is answered 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Messages left on weekends or holidays will be returned as soon as possible.

   A BOAH veterinarian will advise, free of charge, about the appropriate use of the animal and may collect tissue samples for further testing. Reporting any suspicious lesion helps protect the health status of Indiana’s white-tailed deer population.

   If a veterinarian asks a hunter to submit a deer for further testing, the DNR will replace the hunter’s deer tag and revalidate an existing license.

   When field dressing or handling any carcass or other raw meat, consider wearing disposable gloves and wash your hands with soap and water afterward. Hand washing removes disease-causing bacteria, including bovine TB. It is wise to follow this practice even if the animal appears healthy.

   For more information on Indiana’s deer bovine TB surveillance program, contact BOAH, toll free, at 877-747-3038, email animalhealth@boah.IN.gov, or mail a request to: Board of Animal Health, Discovery Hall, Suite 100 1202, East 38th St., Indianapolis, IN 46205-2898.

**Chronic Wasting Disease and Out-of-State Deer, Elk and Moose**

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a neurological disease found in deer, elk and moose. CWD has been confirmed in approximately half of the states in the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia. It is spreading geographically, and prevalence in some areas is quite high, but it has not been confirmed in Indiana.

The disease is caused by a misfolded protein called a prion. Prions are shed from infected deer through secretions, feces, urine, saliva and diseased carcasses. Prions persist in the environment indefinitely. Research shows that plants uptake prions, and that prions can be transmitted to animals through ingestion of parts of such plants.

CWD-affected deer may appear normal and look healthy, but are still capable of spreading the disease. Affected animals eventually experience weight loss, decreased body condition and changes in behavior. They may stand with legs wide apart, stagger, salivate excessively, hold their head and ears low, have subtle head tremors, and drink water excessively. Infection with CWD is always fatal in deer species.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “there have been no reported cases of CWD infection in people.” However, animal studies suggest that CWD poses risk to some monkey species that eat meat or other tissues from CWD-infected deer. In areas where CWD is known to be present, the CDC recommends that hunters strongly consider having deer and elk tested before eating the meat. The CDC recommends that not eating meat from an animal that tests positive for CWD.

For more information about precautions you can take to decrease the risk of exposure to CWD, see cdc.gov/prions/cwd/prevention.html. For questions related to human health, you may also call the Indiana State Department of Health at 317-233-1325.

BOAH strictly limits the movement of cervid carcass and body parts into Indiana to the following:

- Commercially processed meat, which may contain bone.
- Carcasses or parts of carcasses if no portion of the head, spinal cord or small intestine is attached or otherwise included.
- Carcasses or parts of carcasses that include the head, spinal cord or small intestine, if they are delivered within 72 hours after entry to one of the following:
  - A meat processor inspected by BOAH for processing.

- A commercial deer processor registered with the DNR for processing.
- A taxidermist licensed by the DNR.
- Antlers, including antlers attached to skull caps, if the skull cap is cleaned of all brain and muscle tissue.
- Hides.
- Upper canine teeth, also known as “buglers,” “whistlers,” or “ivories.”
- Finished taxidermist mounts.

A person licensed as a disposal plant or collection service under State law (Indiana Code 15-21-16) may move carcasses and parts into the state if the carcasses and parts are moved directly to a licensed disposal plant.

Indiana DNR has conducted surveillance for CWD in wild deer across the state for more than 10 years without any detection of infection. DNR will continue its efforts to detect this disease in Indiana in the coming years. For more information on CWD, see wildlife.IN.gov/9650.htm

**EHD**

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) has been present in the United States for more than 50 years. EHD is caused by infection of viruses from the genus Orbivirus that are only transmitted by biting midges.

Not all deer that contract EHD die as a result of EHD. Many recover and develop EHD immunity. While deer mortality due to EHD may be high in a small area, large-scale, long-term, regional deer population decreases due to EHD have not been observed.

The variability of the disease is affected by many factors, including the number of insect vectors, virus serotype, previous host immunity and host genetics, and deer population density.

The onset of freezing temperatures often brings an end to outbreaks. Infected deer develop a fever and often seek comfort in or around water. Other signs include blue tongue, ulcers on the tongue, or an eroded dental pad.

There is no cure for EHD.

If you suspect an outbreak, contact your local DNR wildlife biologist. A directory is at wildlife.IN.gov/2716.htm

Humans are not at risk for contracting EHD.
**Rabbit**

Cottontail rabbit season is from Nov. 1, 2018 through Feb. 28, 2019.

Hunting hours for rabbits in February on FWAs and at Mississinewa, Patoka and Salamonie lakes are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour before sunset.

There are no equipment or ammunition restrictions for rabbit hunting. A 12- or 20-gauge shotgun loaded with 6- to 7 1/2-size shot is recommended.

It is illegal to remove a rabbit from a hole, den or tree hollow with the aid of a ferret or other small animal or other means. Hunter orange clothing requirements must be met while hunting rabbits (see page 13).

It is illegal to hunt, take or possess swamp rabbits, which are an endangered species in Indiana.

Rabbits can be chased with a dog year-round with a hunting license. Certain restrictions apply on DNR-managed properties.

**Squirrel**

Gray and fox squirrel season is from Aug. 15, 2018 through Jan. 31, 2019.

Hunter orange clothing requirements (see page 13) must be met while hunting squirrels from Nov. 1, 2018 through Jan. 31, 2019.

There are no equipment or ammunition restrictions for squirrel hunting. A 20-gauge or smaller shotgun loaded with 6- to 7 1/2-size shot or a .22-caliber rimfire rifle is recommended.

Shooting into or disturbing leaf nests or squirrel dens is illegal at all times.

It is illegal to hunt flying squirrels, which are protected species in Indiana. They cannot be possessed without a special permit.

Gray and fox squirrels can be chased with dogs year-round, with a hunting license. Certain restrictions apply on DNR-managed properties.

**Reptile/Amphibian**

All reptiles and amphibians native to Indiana are regulated species.

Species of frogs, lizards, salamanders, snakes, toads, or turtles on the state- or federal-endangered species list may not be taken at any time. Eastern box turtles also are protected and cannot be collected from the wild at any time.

The collection limit for native nongame amphibians and reptiles is two per day and four per year (from April 1 through March 31 of the following year) for any one species. The possession limit is four per species.

Eastern snapping, smooth softshell, and spiny softshell turtles can be taken only between July 1 and March 31 of the following year and must be at least 12 inches in carapace length.

Carapace length is the straight-line measure along the top surface of the shell from the central point of the front edge directly behind the turtle’s neck to a central point on the back edge directly above the turtle’s tail.

A license is required to take a reptile or amphibian from the wild (see table above). Indiana residents older than 17 must possess a valid hunting or fishing license while collecting species of reptiles and amphibians from the wild. All nonresident adults and nonresident youth must possess a nonresident annual hunting license while collecting reptiles and amphibians from the wild.

License holders must obey season dates and bag limits, and use legal methods. An individual with a valid hunting or fishing license may take game frog and turtle species from a DNR property where hunting or fishing is authorized. Air rifles and firearms cannot be used at state parks.

Other species of reptiles and amphibians may not be taken from any DNR property (see wildlife.IN.gov/3328.htm). The daily bag limit is 25 for game frog species and four for game turtle species. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

Reptiles and amphibians collected from the wild in Indiana may not be sold. Only legally collected amphibians or reptiles held for fewer than 30 days may be released at their original capture site if they have never been housed with another animal.
TO BE RETAINED BY THE HUNTER

According to IC 14-22-10-1, a person may not hunt on privately owned land without consent of the owner or tenant of the land. According to IC 34-31-9, natural resource-based activities, including hunting and fishing, are considered agritourism activities. An agritourism provider is a person who provides the opportunity for agritourism activities whether or not the participant pays to participate in the activity.

WARNING - Under Indiana law, an agritourism provider is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in agritourism activities at this location if the death or injury results from the inherent risks of agritourism activity. Inherent risks of agritourism activities include risks of injury inherent to land, equipment, and animals as well as the potential for you to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to your injury or death, or for other participants to act in a manner that may cause you injury or cause your death. You are assuming the risk of participating in this agritourism activity.

Participant’s Name ______________________
Participant’s Signature ______________________ Date ______________
Permitted Activities:  [ ] Hunting  [ ] Fishing  [ ] Trapping  [ ] Other
Restrictions/Additional Information ____________________________________________

Landowner’s /Tenant’s Name ______________________
Landowner’s/Tenant’s Phone ______________________
Landowner’s/Tenant’s Signature ______________________

TO BE RETAINED BY THE LANDOWNER/TENANT

Under IC 34-31-9, you are not liable for the injury or death of someone participating in natural resource-based activities on your property if the death or injury results from the inherent risks of such activity. Inherent risks include risks of injury inherent to land, equipment, and animals as well as the potential for the participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to their injury or death, or for other participants to act in a manner that may cause their injury or death. The participant assumes the risk of participating in natural resource-based activities on your property.

The law does not prevent or limit the liability of an agritourism provider who has knowledge or reasonably should have known of a dangerous condition on the land and does not make the danger known to the participant; or who commits an act or omission that constitutes willful or wanton disregard for the safety of the participant; or who intentionally injures the participant.

Participant’s Name ______________________
Participant’s Signature ______________________ Date ______________
Address ________________________________________________
City __________________________ State __________ ZIP Code ______________
Home Phone __________________________ Cell Phone __________________________
Vehicle Make __________________________ Vehicle Model __________________________
Vehicle Color __________________________ Vehicle License Plate No. __________________________
Permitted Activities:  [ ] Hunting  [ ] Fishing  [ ] Trapping  [ ] Other
Restrictions ____________________________________________
State/Federal Regulation Reminders

- In order to hunt ducks and geese in Indiana, all individuals must have an Indiana hunting license, an Indiana waterfowl stamp privilege and a free Harvest Information Program (HIP) validation number. Additionally, all persons 16 years or older must have a signed federal duck stamp to hunt waterfowl. Federal duck stamps are available at most post offices and at fws.gov/duckstamps. State waterfowl stamp privileges are available from hunting and fishing license vendors and online at INHuntFish.com.

- Indiana enforces all federal migratory bird laws. Violating any provision of a state law regarding federally protected migratory birds is also a violation of federal law.

- Migratory game birds may be hunted from a motorboat provided it is beached, resting at anchor, tied to a stationary object, or without motion other than that imparted by wind and current acting upon the hull, or due to hand-operated oars or paddles.

- Hunters may retrieve dead or injured birds by hand or from a motorboat under power but may NOT shoot from a boat under power or in motion due to motor power.

- Migratory game birds in a hunter’s possession must have one fully feathered wing or head attached to the carcass for identification when the hunter is in the field or traveling from the field to home.

- All migratory game birds killed or crippled shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field.

- No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:
  - The hunter’s signature.
  - The hunter’s address.
  - The total number of birds involved, by species.
  - The dates such birds were killed.

- No person or business shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

Harvest Information Program (HIP)

HIP is a joint effort of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state wildlife agencies.

The program is designed to derive harvest estimates for migratory game birds nationwide. Once harvest information is gathered, the information is used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and states to

**YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS (DUCKS, GEESE, MERGANSERS, & COOTS)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zones</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Bag Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Zone</td>
<td>Oct. 13-14</td>
<td>Same as Regular Season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Zone</td>
<td>Oct. 20-21</td>
<td>Same as Regular Season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Zone</td>
<td>Oct. 27-28</td>
<td>Same as Regular Season</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The daily bag and possession limits are for mourning doves and white-winged doves in aggregate.
** Shooting hours are from sunrise to sunset.
*** The daily bag limit for coots is 15. The daily bag limit for mergansers is 5, which may include no more than 2 hooded mergansers. The daily bag limit for ducks is 6, which may include no more than 4 mallards (2 of which may be hens), 3 wood ducks, 3 scaup, 2 canvasbacks, 2 pintails, 2 redheads, 2 black ducks, and 1 mottled duck. The possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.
**** The daily bag limit for dark geese (Canada, white-fronted, and brant) is 5 in the aggregate. During September, all 5 may be Canada geese; during the remainder of the season, no more than 3 may be Canada geese. The possession limit for dark geese is 3 times the daily bag limit. The daily bag limit for light geese (snow, blue, and Ross) is 20. There is no possession limit for light geese.
ensure decisions regarding migratory game bird hunting seasons are based on sound scientific evidence.

All hunters in Indiana, including those exempt from purchasing a license, must register with the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) before hunting coots, doves, ducks, mergansers, gallinules, geese, snipe, sora rails or woodcock.

Hunters must register at wildlife.IN.gov/3567.htm or by calling 866-671-4499 and providing the information requested. At the end of the registration, the hunter is given a validation number to record on his or her license. This number is valid from the date of registration through the close of the last current migratory bird hunting season.

Lifetime license holders and those exempt from Indiana license and stamp requirements must also register with HIP.

Hunters need to register for HIP only once each season, not each time they hunt; however, hunters must register in each state in which they hunt.

In addition to providing name and address, hunters are asked questions designed to identify which species they hunted last year and, in some cases, the number of birds they harvested.

Non-Toxic Shot

Hunters are required to use approved non-toxic shot while hunting all waterfowl. Hunters are also required to use non-toxic shot to hunt mourning doves on all DNR properties. Non-toxic shot currently approved for use by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are:

- bismuth-tin
- copper-clad iron
- corrosion-inhibited copper
- iron (steel)
- iron-tungsten
- iron-tungsten-nickel
- tungsten-bronze
- tungsten-iron-copper-nickel
- tungsten-iron-polymer
- tungsten-matrix
- tungsten-tin-bismuth
- tungsten-tin-iron
- tungsten-tin-nickel
- coated with copper, nickel, tin, zinc, zinc chloride, zinc chrome, and fluoropolymers on approved non-toxic shot types are allowed. Lead shot plated with copper, nickel or other material does not qualify.

It is illegal to possess shells loaded with anything other than approved non-toxic shot while hunting ducks, geese and coots anywhere in the state.

The use of lead shot for hunting waterfowl was banned nationwide in 1991.

It is illegal to possess lead shot while hunting mourning doves on any state-managed property.

Waterfowl Hunting on State Areas

Hunters can apply for reserved waterfowl hunts by completing the reserved waterfowl hunt application online at wildlife.IN.gov/5834.htm.

For more information concerning waterfowl hunting on state-owned properties, contact the property (see page 46 for phone number).

Restrictions

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.

- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of being removed without disassembling the gun.

- From a sink box (a low, floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).

- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land vehicle, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may hunt from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land vehicle.

- By the use or aid of live decoys. All tame or captive live ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure that substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.

- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized vehicle or any sailboat to put them in the range of the hunters.

- By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, if the person knows or reasonably should know that the area is baited. Baiting includes the placing of corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed to serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. It is a separate offense to place or direct placement of bait on or adjacent to an area for the purpose of causing or allowing hunters to take or attempt to take birds by the aid of bait or over a baited area. A baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after complete removal of any bait. The maximum federal penalties are: for hunting over bait: $15,000/6 months jail; placing bait: $100,000/1 year jail. For more information on baiting:
  - Dove Hunting and Baiting (wildlife.IN.gov/2713.htm)
  - Waterfowl Hunting and Baiting (wildlife.IN.gov/2713.htm)

- By the use of recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.

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Dave Lyon 334-412-3368
— Alabama’s Black Belt —
Hunting and fishing have a long history in Indiana. Hoosiers have contributed to conservation since the first hunting license was sold in 1901. With future generations in mind, regulated hunting and fishing was established to protect fish and wildlife species from being overharvested.

Ever since, proceeds generated from licenses, including habitat and fish stamps, have gone directly into managing those species and their habitats, furthering conservation and recreation. The success of conserving our natural resources would not have been possible without this user-pay, everyone-benefits model, which remains in effect today. In addition to licenses, an excise tax on various hunting and fishing equipment is dedicated solely to the conservation of fish and wildlife. Taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, fishing equipment, boat engines, and motorboat fuel are collected for the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The WSFR program began in 1937. WSFR has distributed more than $20 billion across the nation for the conservation of fish and wildlife species and their habitats, and associated recreational opportunities. Indiana has received more than $300 million, including almost $18 million in 2018 alone.

The funds have helped the DNR acquire more than 20,000 acres of public-use land since 2010. Notable acquisitions in 2015 that benefit both wildlife and recreation include 860 acres added to Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area in Greene County and the new 376-acre Goose Creek Gamebird Habitat Area in northwest Indiana for critical upland wildlife habitat.

The DNR recently opened two shooting ranges to enhance customer experience — a new facility at Deer Creek Fish & Wildlife Area in Putnam County and a renovated range at Willow Slough Fish & Wildlife Area in Newton County. Both facilities feature multiple target ranges, and a pro shop, and are staffed with an on-site safety officer.

The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife relies on the revenue generated from these dedicated funding programs. License sales and WSFR funds currently contribute about 87 percent of the division’s funding. In total, roughly 96 percent of all funding for the division is from sources exclusively for fish and wildlife resources.

The majority of funds are generated from hunting and fishing activities, but the conservation programs benefit everyone. Everything from viewing sandhill cranes at Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area, to receiving habitat assistance from a wildlife biologist on your private property, to launching a canoe at a public access site, and more is supported by funds from licenses and WSFR funds.

Recreation related to fish and wildlife (including wildlife watching) is a $1.7 billion industry in Indiana that benefits businesses and contributes to the quality of life that Hoosiers desire.

Support from hunters and anglers is critical to sustaining healthy fish and wildlife populations and to providing recreational opportunities for current and future generations of Hoosiers.
Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area has been a prime place for quail hunting in Indiana since opening near Linton in 2006.

Part of the reason is that, during restoration of the area, its quail population exploded. Since then, annual quail numbers have roller-coastered through highs and lows, depending on several factors. But after more than a decade, Goose Pond FWA remains the state’s top quail hunting destination.

Supporting a resilient quail population requires active management. Northern bobwhite quail need a mix of brushy cover, bare ground, and weedy areas situated in an open landscape—the habitat often associated with grasslands and agriculture. Goose Pond FWA fits the bill with more than 2,000 acres of grasslands and more than 700 acres of farmland, providing tremendous opportunity for gamebirds, especially quail.

Maintaining that acreage to keep it productive means intentionally disturbing habitat to prevent it from becoming overgrown or too dense. Some of the methods for doing so include setting prescribed fire, using a disc harrow, cutting trees and applying herbicides.

Each year, 600 to 700 acres of grasslands are burned at Goose Pond FWA in the spring, late summer and fall. More than half of that acreage also undergoes strip discing and herbicide applications to promote annual plants, which not only provide food for quail, but also create cover needed for raising their chicks.

Staff plants crops like sunflowers and wheat throughout the property to provide more food sources for adult birds and bare ground for broods of young birds to develop. During late winter and early spring, select trees are cut, and shrubs are planted along edges of the fields to promote brushy cover.

Even with all of this intensive hands-on habitat work, the use of agriculture for wildlife is arguably the most critical component of managing for quail at Goose Pond FWA. A rotational farming system is used. This allows small crop fields to be mixed among fallow fields, brushy fencerows, ditches and buffer strips. The idea is to create a complex habitat puzzle in which quail and countless other wildlife can thrive.

Populations of Northern bobwhite have been declining in Indiana for several decades. Even so, State properties like Goose Pond FWA and private lands that also perform habitat projects demonstrate that, if the right landscape and habitat are present and managed properly, quail populations will respond. More important, such populations can be sustained for future generations so they can experience the excitement of a covey bursting into flight or hearing the old familiar spring sound of “bob-white.”
**Pheasant**

Pheasant season is from Nov. 1, 2018 - Dec. 15, 2018. A valid hunting license and Indiana game bird habitat stamp privilege are required to hunt pheasants. Hunter orange clothing requirements (see page 13) must be met while hunting pheasants. The daily bag limit for pheasants is two male (cock) pheasants. It is illegal to shoot female pheasants (hens), except during put-and-take hunts in designated areas. If you take a pheasant, you must leave the head and head plumage attached while you are transporting the bird. There are no equipment or ammunition restrictions for pheasant hunting. A 12- or 20-gauge shotgun loaded with 4- to 6-size shot is recommended. Nontoxic shot is required when hunting pheasant on some DNR properties. Call the property for additional information.

**Put-and-Take**
Pheasants are released for put-and-take hunting on Atterbury, Glendale, J. E. Roush Lake, Pigeon River, Tri-County, Willow Slough and Winamac FWAs. There is a person fee to participate in put-and-take hunts. The bag limit for put-and-take pheasant hunting is two birds of either sex, except at Pigeon River, Willow Slough and Winamac FWAs, where the limit is two roosters only. A hunter filling his/her limit in the put-and-take hunt may not take any more pheasants that day. Hunters can reserve put-and-take pheasant hunts online from 5 a.m. ET Sept. 1 until midnight on Nov. 24 online, at the website [wildlife.IN.gov/5834.htm](http://wildlife.IN.gov/5834.htm). Hunts are no longer available first-come, first-served at the property. Hunters can select the date, property, and area for their hunt. Pheasant hunters in designated put-and-take areas are prohibited from harvesting game animals other than pheasants on days when pheasants are released and hunted. This restriction is only for pheasant hunters and only in their designated units.

**Game Bird Areas**
The Division of Fish & Wildlife conducts special reserved pheasant hunts on game bird habitat areas in northern Indiana (Benton, Jasper, Newton, Warren and White counties). Hunters can apply to participate, online, at [wildlife.IN.gov/5834.htm](http://wildlife.IN.gov/5834.htm).

**Quail**
Quail hunting is divided into two zones — north and south. Interstate 74 is the dividing line. The North Zone season is from Nov. 1 to...
Dec. 15, 2018, with a bag limit of 4 birds. The South Zone season is from Nov. 1, 2018 to Jan. 10, 2019, with a bag limit of 8 birds.

The daily bag limit at North Zone fish & wildlife areas and at Mississinewa Lake and Salamonie Lake properties is 2 quail. The daily bag limit at South Zone fish & wildlife areas and at Patoka Lake is 4 quail.

A valid hunting license and an Indiana game bird habitat stamp privilege are required to hunt quail in Indiana. Hunter orange clothing requirements (see page 13) must be met while hunting quail.

There are no equipment or ammunition restrictions for quail hunting. A 12- or 20-gauge shotgun loaded with 6- to 9-size shot is recommended.

Some DNR properties may have additional regulations for quail hunting. Check with the property for details.

Other Wild Birds

English sparrows, European starlings, monk parakeets, and feral pigeons (except homing pigeons) may be killed at any time.

Brown-headed cowbirds, common grackles, red-winged blackbirds, Brewer’s blackbirds and crows may be controlled without a permit when they are damaging trees or crops, or creating a public health hazard in accordance with federal regulations. All other nongame species of birds not otherwise covered in this regulation are protected by State or federal law and may not be killed. These provisions do not override any local ordinances restricting the use of firearms and other equipment.

Crow

Crow hunting season is July 1 through Aug. 15, 2018 and Dec. 13, 2018 through March 1, 2019.

Crows may be taken outside of the hunting season only if they are damaging trees, crops, livestock or wildlife, or creating a public health hazard. There are no restrictions on use of calls or decoys, and crows may be taken with bow and arrow, crossbow or firearm.

You are not required to have a State stamp privilege or federal stamp, but you must have a HIP registration number.
License Requirements

To hunt wild turkey, a valid turkey hunting license and a valid game bird habitat stamp privilege are required. Those who have a lifetime comprehensive hunting, lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing, or resident youth hunt/trap license can hunt turkey and do not need to purchase the game bird habitat stamp because it is included with those license types.

A separate turkey hunting license is required when hunting during each turkey hunting season — one for the spring season and one for the fall season.

Game bird habitat stamp privileges are good for both spring and fall seasons in the same calendar year.

You can assist another hunter by calling only if you are licensed to hunt turkeys, regardless of whether or not you have harvested a turkey yourself.

Season and Bag Limits

Spring 2019 - The spring season is April 24 through May 12, 2019. The bag limit is one bearded or male turkey for the spring season. Spring turkey hunting is allowed statewide.

Fall 2018 - The bag and possession limit for the fall seasons is one bird of either sex, regardless of hunting equipment used or what portion of the season. Fall archery season is statewide. Fall firearms season has specific dates for specific counties (see below or map on page 41).

- Fall firearms: Oct. 17-28, 2018 in the following counties only:

Reserved Hunts

Special reserved turkey hunts are scheduled at select DNR fish & wildlife areas.

Special reserved turkey hunts also take place at Big Oaks and Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuges. Applications and drawings are managed through the DNR reserved hunt system. For details and how to apply online, go to wildlife.IN.gov/5834.htm

Youth Season

Information about the youth season is on page 14-15.

Legal Equipment

Turkeys can be hunted only with:

- A 10-, 12-, 16- or 20-gauge shotgun loaded with pellets of size No. 4, 5, 6, 7 or 7½. Non-toxic shot is required while hunting turkey on some DNR properties. Call the property for additional information.
- A muzzleloading shotgun not smaller than 20-gauge and not larger than 10-gauge, loaded with pellets of size No. 4, 5, 6, 7 or 7½. Combination loads using shot sizes other than these are illegal.
- Bow and arrow
- A crossbow
Hunting Hours
Wild turkeys may be hunted only from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. All DNR properties managed by the Division of Fish & Wildlife have spring season hunting hours one-half hour before sunrise until noon for properties on CDT and until 1 p.m. for properties on EDT. Call the property for additional information.

Tagging Requirements
Immediately upon killing a turkey, the hunter must complete a temporary transportation tag on paper stating the hunter’s full name, address, sex of the turkey, license number (if applicable), and the date the turkey was taken before transporting the turkey from the field.

Reporting Requirements
Hunters are required to register their harvested turkey within 48 hours of the kill. This can be done one of three ways:
- Self reporting online through the DNR’s CheckIN Game system (CheckINGame. dnr.IN.gov)
- Calling 800-419-1326 (a $3 fee applies)
- Finding a check station, license vendor, or retailer who will file the information for you through CheckIN Game.

Once the turkey is registered with the CheckIN Game system, a confirmation number will be generated. The number must be recorded on a temporary transportation tag and kept with the turkey until processing begins.

For an online printable version of a temporary transportation tag, see wildlife.IN.gov/files/turkeytag.pdf

Hunter Orange
Turkey hunters must meet fluorescent (hunter) orange requirements while hunting turkeys Dec. 8-24, 2018 and from Dec. 26, 2018 through Jan. 6, 2019. (in locations where the deer special antlerless season is open). See hunter orange requirements on page 13.

Fair Chase
While hunting wild turkey, it is illegal to use or possess: a dog; another domesticated animal; a live decoy; a recorded call; an electronically powered or controlled decoy; or bait. An area is considered baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait and affected soil, but an area is not considered to be baited that is attractive to wild turkeys resulting from normal agricultural practices.
Furbearer Hunting

A valid hunting license is needed to hunt coyote, gray fox, opossum, raccoon, red fox, and striped skunk. See the chart above for season dates.

A continuously burning light that can be seen for at least 500 feet must be carried while pursuing furbearing animals between sunset and sunrise. It is illegal to:

- Remove wild animals from any cavity or den;
- To disturb the den or nest of any animal by shooting, digging, cutting or chopping; with the aid of smoke, fire, fumes, chemicals, ferret or other small animal; or with any device introduced into the hole where the animal is sheltered;
- To use or carry tree-climbing or cutting equipment for the purpose of dislodging an animal from a tree.

Dog Running

The dog running season for raccoon and opossum extends from noon Feb. 1 through noon Oct. 25. A person needs a valid Indiana hunting license to chase wild animals with dogs. See license exemptions on pages 8 and 10. It is legal to hunt and chase foxes (Oct. 15 to Feb. 28), raccoons (Nov. 8 to Jan. 31), and coyotes (Oct. 15 to March 15) with dogs during the established hunting seasons. Youth who are younger than 13 years old, do not possess a bow, crossbow or firearm, and are accompanied by an individual who is at least 18 years of age and holds a valid license are exempt from needing a hunting license while chasing a wild animal during the dog running season. Certain restrictions apply on DNR-managed properties. It is legal to chase foxes and coyotes with dogs year-round with a hunting license. Certain restrictions apply on DNR-managed properties.

Possession of Live Furbearers

Only raccoons, red foxes, gray foxes, and coyotes can be retained alive during the trapping season for that species.

Raccoons, foxes or coyotes that are removed from a trap and kept alive must be confined in a cage or other enclosure that: (a) makes escape of the mammal unlikely and prevents the entrance of a free-roaming mammal of the same species; (b) is structurally sound; (c) is of sufficient strength for the species involved; (d) is maintained in good repair and smoothly secured to prevent escape or injury to the mammal in the enclosure; (e) is constructed to allow sufficient space for individual posture, to turn about freely, and make normal social movements; (f) is secured when unattended with protective devices at entrances and exits to prevent escapes if kept outdoors and if needed to prevent injuries to human or the mammal's health and; (g) has ambient ventilation by means of windows, doors, vents, fans, or air conditioning to protect the health of the mammal and to minimize drafts, odors and condensation.

Wild Night quarters, transportation cages, and nesting boxes may not be used as primary housing. Surface water must be adequately drained from a cage or enclosure where the mammal is housed. Adequate lighting must be provided by artificial or natural means and cycled for appropriate photoperiod, if necessary for the mammal in possession. The cages or enclosures must also have adequate shelter from the elements and provide adequate shade for the animals.

You must remove and dispose of food wastes, feces, urine and bedding from the enclosure. You must also remove from the enclosure and appropriately dispose of trash, garbage, debris, and carcasses as soon as they are observed.

You must also provide daily: 1) fresh, clean drinking water in clean containers and 2) food that is unspoiled, uncontaminated, appropriate to the dietary needs of the mammal, and of sufficient quantity for the mammal involved.

Furbearers that are possessed alive and their cages or other enclosures must be made available for inspection by an Indiana Conservation Officer upon request.

Possession of Hides/Carcasses

There is no deadline for the possession of lawfully obtained untanned hides or unprocessed carcasses of furbearers taken during the season.

The sale of legally harvested furbearing mammals or untanned hides of furbearing mammals can be made to licensed fur buyers only.

Go to wildlife.IN.gov/7730.htm for a list of Indiana licensed fur buyers, or call the Division of Fish & Wildlife at 317-232-4200.

Fox & Coyote Hunting

It is legal to hunt fox and coyote with the use of mouth- or hand-operated calls, or with the use of recorded calls. Spotlights may be used to take fox and coyote. There are no restrictions on hunting hours or firearms for hunting fox and coyote. It is illegal to hunt fox or coyote from a roadway or with the use of any motor-driven conveyance. It is legal to chase foxes and coyotes with dogs year-round with a hunting license. Certain restrictions apply on DNR-managed properties.

Protected Species

Badgers and bobcats are protected species. It is illegal to take these furbearers in Indiana. If you accidentally trap a badger or bobcat, report the incident to an Indiana Conservation Officer (see page 47). There is no penalty for reporting accidental captures. If the animal is dead, the carcass must be surrendered to an Indiana Conservation Officer. Information provided by hunters and trappers is an important means of determining the status and distribution of these species in Indiana.

For more on protected wildlife, call the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, 317-232-4200 or go to wildlife.IN.gov
Trapping Regulations

Furbearing game animals in Indiana include beaver, coyote, gray fox, red fox, long-tailed weasel, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, and striped skunk.

You must have a valid Indiana trapping license to set traps.

Traps must be checked and animals removed at least one time every 24 hours. Traps may be set at any distance from openings to tile drains or entrances to beaver or muskrat lodges. Tree-climbing equipment may not be used as an aid in removing wild animals from trees. The use of motor-driven watercraft is permitted for purposes of setting or checking trap lines.

There are no daily bag or possession limits, except for river otters.

Furbearers (except for raccoons, foxes and coyotes that can be retained alive) that are trapped must either be released into the wild in the county in which they were captured within 24 hours of capturing the animals, or they must be euthanized immediately after removal from the trap or immediately upon transporting from the trap site.

River Otter Rules

River otters may be trapped from 8 a.m. Nov. 15, 2018 until noon March 15, 2019 and only in counties that are shaded in the map to the right.

A valid Indiana trapping license is required to set traps for river otters. An individual who sets a trap for river otters must be at least 10 years old, unless the individual has passed a state-certified trapper education course.

The bag limit is two otters per trapper per season. An individual who sets a trap that catches a river otter must count the animal toward his or her season limit. River otters taken during the trapping season must be reported to the DNR CheckIN Game system (CheckINGame.dnr.IN.gov or call 800-419-1326) within 24 hours of harvest. A CheckIN Game confirmation number will be provided and must be kept with the river otter until the animal is physically registered by a designated Indiana DNR employee or at an official DNR river otter check station. Check online at wildlife.IN.gov/8499.htm for locations.

There is a statewide quota of 600 river otters for the 2018-19 season. The season will close early if the quota is reached prior to March 15, 2018. Trappers are responsible for knowing if the quota has been met. The current reported river otter take can be found at wildlife.IN.gov/8499.htm. If the season closes early, an exception may be made for an individual who traps a river otter within 48 hours after the close of the season and has not yet reached his/her own bag limit.

River otters killed accidentally after the statewide quota or individual’s own bag limit has been reached must notify the DNR within 48 hours of capture and make arrangements to give that river otter to the DNR.

River otters trapped outside the season or in counties closed to river otter trapping must be turned in to the DNR. Call your local district wildlife biologist, local Conservation Officer or 812-837-9536.

You must take the skinned carcass and separated pelt to a designated DNR employee or registration station for physical registration and CITES tagging 15 days after the month of harvest.

River otter pelts will be sealed with a CITES tag and the carcass collected so DNR biologists can evaluate reproductive and age data from the animal. The information helps biologists make future season recommendations.

What is a CITES tag? CITES stands for the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora. It is an international agreement governing trade of endangered species. As a CITES participant, the United States follows certain requirements. River otters are on Appendix II of CITES, which means they are a “look-alike” species to other endangered otter species around the world.

To ensure river otters entering international trade were harvested legally in the United States, an unaltered CITES tag must be affixed to the pelt. Each state has uniquely marked tags. An otter pelt must have a CITES tag before it can be sold.

Trappers reported taking 498 river otters during the 2017-18 season after trapping 518 otters in the 2016-17 season.
Furbearers/Trapping

Body Gripping Traps
A person must not take a wild animal with a Conibear, Dahlgren, Bigelow or other body-gripping trap on land if the widest inside jaw-spread measured at the horizontal center of the trap’s jaws (Figure 1) and the widest horizontal inside jaw-spread measured at the vertical center of the trap’s jaws (Figure 2) is:

1. Larger than 7.5 inches if square or
2. Larger than 8 inches if round

Otherwise, the trap must be completely covered by water.

Snares
It is only legal to use a snares to trap a wild animal on land you own or with the written permission of the landowner. The maximum legal circumference for snares loops is 15 inches, unless at least half of the snare loop is covered by water or if the snare employs a relaxing snare lock. A relaxing snare lock allows the snare loop to loosen slightly to reduce the possibility of strangulation. Regulations on snare size and lock are designed to prevent accidental loss of domestic animals.

Box Traps
Furbearers may be captured in box traps used on land or underwater.

Foothold Traps
It is illegal to use a foothold trap with saw-toothed or spiked jaws. It is illegal to take a wild animal with a foothold trap on land if the widest inside jaw-spread measured perpendicular to the trap's base plate and the widest horizontal inside jaw-spread measured at the vertical center of the trap’s jaws is greater than 5½ inches and less than or equal to 6½ inches, unless the jaws of the trap have at least a 1/8-inch offset, the gap of the offset is filled with securely attached rubber pads, or the trap is completely covered by water.

Securely attached rubber pads are those attached with bolts or rivets. The trap’s hinge posts must be maintained at a 90-degree angle to the trap’s base plate. It is illegal to take a wild animal with a foothold trap on land if the widest inside jaw-spread measured perpendicular to the trap’s base plate and the inside width between the trap’s hinge posts is greater than 6½ inches.

It is illegal to set or place a stake, chain, drag or another portion of a trap that is designed to take a wild animal, except during a season established for trapping that wild animal.

Measuring your foothold trap
1. Measure the widest inside jaw spread perpendicular to the trap's baseplate as in Figure 3 and circle the measurement (or closest measurement) in Column 1.
2. Measure the inside width between the trap’s hinge posts as in Figure 4 and circle the measurement (or closest measurement) in Column 2.
3. If both measurements fall in Box 1, then the trap can have standard jaws (offset jaws are not required).
4. If either measurement falls in Box 2, then the jaws of the trap must have at least a 1/8 inch offset or the gap of the offset can be filled with securely attached rubber pads. “Securely attached” means with bolts or rivets, not tape.
5. If either measurements fall in Box 3, then the trap must be completely covered by water.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX</th>
<th>COLUMN 1</th>
<th>COLUMN 2</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>7¼” or more</td>
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* The Symbol “>” means “greater than.” (i.e.: “> 5¼” means “greater than 5¼”)
Gray Fox Reports Requested

Red foxes are easily recognizable because of their bright reddish-orange coat and black stockings and ears, but have you recently seen their cousin, the gray fox, in Indiana? If you have, we’d like to know.

Although not as common in Indiana as red foxes, gray foxes are native to the state. They are similar in size to red foxes, but tend to be smaller. Unlike red foxes, gray foxes have reddish-brown ears, and gray and brown legs.

Usually, red foxes can be easily distinguished from gray foxes by the color of their coat. But a small number of red foxes go through a gray color phase. For that reason, gray foxes can often be distinguished from red foxes by their tail, which has a black stripe down its length, as opposed to the tail of red foxes, which usually have a white tip with no stripe.

Unlike their other canine relatives like the red fox, coyote and domestic dogs, gray foxes can climb trees because of their special claws that partially retract into their paws. This trait allows their claws to stay sharp. By comparison, coyote, dog, and red fox claws stay out all the time. Those animals use their claws for traction when running.

The diet of the gray fox consists primarily of rodents, rabbits, squirrels, fruit and insects. Because of their ability to climb trees to escape danger or rest, gray foxes are most likely to be found in forested areas but they also go into fields to hunt.

Gray foxes are an important part of Indiana’s wildlife community because they help control rodent populations and eat carrion. Gray foxes are also a valuable furbearer because their fur can be made into warm, sustainable clothing.

Fur-buyer data, observations by bowhunters, and reports from trappers suggest gray foxes are declining in Indiana. Once common statewide, gray foxes now seem to be limited to primarily southern Indiana and the far northeastern corner of the state.

The DNR seeks information on encounters with gray foxes in hopes of conducting research on the species. Reports of sightings, of hunted or trapped gray foxes, or trail camera photos are welcome.

If you see a gray fox, please contact furbearer biologist Geriann Albers, at galbers@dnr.IN.gov or 812-822-3304.

Non-Native Wild Pigs Present Problems

Populations of non-native wild pigs have been a problem in pockets around the state. Usually, red foxes can be easily distinguished from gray foxes by the color of their coat. But a small number of red foxes go through a gray color phase. For that reason, gray foxes can often be distinguished from red foxes by their tail, which has a black stripe down its length, as opposed to the tail of red foxes, which usually have a white tip with no stripe.

Wild pigs are opportunistic animals that feed on the nests and young of game birds, rabbits, reptiles, amphibians and deer. They also compete with native wildlife for food. Some wildlife, such as deer and nesting turkeys, avoid areas where pigs are active.

Pig activity along streams and rivers can cause water-quality issues. Pigs muddy up waterways, an activity that covers fish spawning beds in silt and decreases oxygen levels.

Wild pig rooting also damages crops, parks, lawns and rural cemeteries. Wild pigs will eat young lambs and goats.

Wild pigs are known to carry more than 30 pathogens and parasites that can be transmitted to livestock, people, pets and wildlife. Some of these pathogens can be directly transmitted to humans, causing lifelong debilitating illnesses.

A person can take a wild pig anytime without a permit from the DNR, but they must have written permission of the landowner where the pig is taken. All captured pigs must be euthanized immediately. Possession of a live wild pig is illegal.

Recreational sport hunting has not been successful in reducing wild pig populations. Population control is possible through a combination of trapping whole social groups, selective shooting of trap-shy pigs, and aerial shooting.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services (USDA-WS), the Indiana Board of Animal Health (BOAH), and the Indiana DNR ask hunters who observe or take wild pigs to report the animal(s) to the USDA-WS at 1-855-386-0370.

Reports help the cooperating agencies determine necessary control and disease-monitoring steps. Reports should include date, best possible location information (e.g., distance and direction to nearest town, county or township, landowner’s name), approximate number and relative size of the pigs, and the observer’s contact information. Digital pictures of the pigs are helpful.
Fish & Wildlife Areas / Healthy Rivers Initiative Sites

1. Atterbury FWA
   7970 S. Rowe St.
   Edinburgh, IN 46124
   812-526-2051

2. Blue Grass FWA
   Contact Sugar Ridge FWA

3. Chinook FWA
   Contact Deer Creek FWA

4. Crosley FWA
   2010 South SR 3
   North Vernon, IN 47265
   812-346-2814

5. Deer Creek FWA
   2001 W. CR 600 S
   Greencastle, IN 46135
   765-653-0453

6. Fairbanks Landing FWA
   Contact Goose Pond FWA

7. Glendale FWA
   6001 E 600 S
   Greencastle, IN 46135
   260-468-2125

8. Goose Pond FWA
   13540 West CR 400
   Linton, IN 47441
   812-512-9185

9. Hillenbrand FWA
   Contact Goose Pond FWA

10. Hovey Lake FWA
    15800 Raben Road S
    Mt. Vernon, IN 47620
    812-838-2927

11. J.E. Roush FWA
    517 N. Warren Road
    Huntington, IN 46750
    260-468-2165

12. Jasper-Pulaski FWA
    5020 E. Prospect Rd.
    Medaryville, IN 46556
    812-883-0700

13. Kankakee FWA
    4320 W. Tato Road
    North Judson, IN 46366
    574-896-3522

14. Kingsbury FWA
    5344 S. Hupp Road
    LaPorte, IN 46350
    219-393-3612

15. LaSalle FWA
    4752 W 1050 N
    Lake Village, IN 46349
    812-367-1524

16. Pigeon River FWA
    8310 E 1000 S.
    Winslow, IN 47598
    219-992-3019

17. Splinter Ridge FWA
    Contact Crosley FWA

18. Sugar Ridge FWA
    2310 East SR 346
    Winslow, IN 47598
    812-789-2724

19. Tri-County FWA
    8432 North 850E
    Syracuse, IN 46576
    574-834-4461

20. Wabashki FWA
    Contact Deer Creek FWA

21. Wilbur Wright FWA
    2239 North SR 103
    New Castle, IN 47362
    260-285-2165

22. Willow Slough FWA
    1803 S. 700 W.
    Morroco, IN 47963
    219-285-2704

23. Winamac FWA
    1493 West 500N
    Winamac, IN 46996
    574-946-4422

A. Wabash River (HRI)
   Contact Deer Creek FWA

B. Sugar Creek (HRI)
   Contact Deer Creek FWA

C. Austin Bottoms (HRI)
   Contact Crosley FWA

State Reservoirs & State Forests

A. Brookville Lake
   2101 State Road 63
   Brookville, IN 47012
   765-653-2752

B. Cagles Mill Lake
   1394 W. Lieber Road
   Cloverdale, IN 46120
   812-526-2051

C. Cecil M. Harden Lake
   1588 S. Raccoon Parkway
   Rockville, IN 47872
   765-344-1884

D. Hardy Lake
   5620 Hardy Lake Road
   Scottsburg, IN 47170
   812-794-3800

E. Mississinewa Lake
   4673 S 625 E
   Peru, IN 46970
   765-473-6528

F. Monroe Lake
   4850 S SR 446
   Bloomington, IN 47401
   812-837-9546

G. Patoka Lake
   3084 N. Dillard Road
   Birdseye, IN 47513
   812-685-2464

H. Salamonie Lake
   9214 W Lost Bridge W
   Andrews, IN 46702
   260-468-2125

1. Clark SF
   P.O. Box 119
   #2 Service Road
   Henryville, IN 47126
   812-294-4306

2. Deam Lake SRA
   1217 Deam Lake Road
   Borden, IN 47106
   812-246-5421

3. Ferdinand SF
   6583 E SR 264
   Ferdinand, IN 47532
   812-367-1524

4. Greene-Sullivan SF
   2551 S SR 159
   Dugger, IN 47848
   812-648-2810

5. Harrison-Crawford SF
   7240 Old Forest Rd.
   SW Corydon, IN 47112
   812-738-7694

6. Jackson-Washington SF
   1278 E SR 250
   Brownstown, IN 47220
   812-358-2160

7. Martin SF
   14040 Williams Road
   Shoals, IN 47581
   812-247-3491

8. Morgan-Monroe SF
   6220 Forest Road
   Martinsville, IN 46151
   765-342-4026

9. Owen-Putnam SF
   2153 Fish Creek Road
   Spencer, IN 47460
   812-829-2462

10. Pike SF
    5994 E. SR 364
    Winslow, IN 47598
    812-367-1524

11. Salamonie River SF
    5400 E. Salamonie
    Forest Rd.
    Lagro, IN 46941
    260-782-0430

12. Selmer SF
    905 E CR 350 N
    North Vernon, IN 47265
    812-346-2286

13. Starve Hollow SRA
    3435 S. 275 W, Box 291
    Vallonia, IN 47281-9741
    812-358-3464

14. Yellowwood SF
    772 Yellowwood Lake Rd.
    Nashville, IN 47448
    812-986-7945
DNR Law Enforcement Districts
Contact DNR Law Enforcement Central Dispatch (24 hours) to report violations or if you need assistance from an Indiana Conservation Officer. Call 1-800-TIP-IDNR to report any poaching activities.

Central Dispatch
4850 S SR 446
Bloomington, IN 47401
812-837-9536

1. District 1 Headquarters
9822 N. Turkey Creek Road
Syracuse, IN 46567
574-457-8092

2. District 2 Headquarters
1353 S. Governors Drive
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-244-3720

3. District 3 Headquarters
4112 E SR 223
West Lafayette, IN 47906
765-567-7859

4. District 4 Headquarters
3734 Mounds Road
Anderson, IN 46017
765-649-1062

5. District 5 Headquarters
1317 W. Lieber Road Suite 2
Cloverdale, IN 46120
765-795-3534

6. District 6 Headquarters
11 Durbin St.
Camp Atterbury
Edinburgh, IN 46124
812-526-4101

7. District 7 Headquarters
2310 E. SR 364
Winslow, IN 47598
812-789-9538

8. District 8 Headquarters
1504 Schlamm Lake Road
Henryville, IN 47126
812-639-4148

9. District 9 Headquarters
1387 E U.S. 50
Versailles, IN 47042
812-689-4370

10. District 10 Headquarters
100 W. Water St.
Michigan City, IN 46360
219-879-5710

Need a Wildlife Biologist?
To find the DNR wildlife biologist or urban biologist in your area, go to wildlife.IN.gov/2716.htm

Public Shooting Ranges
DNR shooting ranges are open to the general public. Contact the range in your area with questions on range hours, fees and other information or go online to wildlife.IN.gov/3648.htm

1. Clark State Forest
archery
rifle/shotgun/handgun
812-294-4306

2. Patoka Lake
archery
812-685-2464

3. Wilbur Wright FWA
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
765-529-9581

4. J. E. Roush Lake FWA
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
765-344-1884

5. Jackson-Washington State Forest
archery
812-358-2160

6. Jasper-Pulaski FWA
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
219-843-4841

7. Crosley FWA
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
912-346-5598

8. Atterbury FWA S
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun/trap/skeet
812-526-6552

9. Tri-County FWA
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
812-346-5598

10. Pigeon River FWA
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
260-367-2164

11. Kingsbury FWA S
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
219-393-1128

12. Willow Slough FWA S
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
219-285-2060

13. Cecil M. Harden Lake
archery
765-344-1884

14. Sugar Ridge FWA
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
812-789-2724

15. Winamac FWA
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
574-946-4422

16. Hardy Lake
archery
812-794-3800

17. Greene-Sullivan State Forest
archery
812-648-2810

18. Brookville Lake S
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
765-276-3032

19. Deer Creek FWA S
rifle/shotgun/handgun
765-276-3032

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Offering opportunities for wild-dove and pheasant hunting in the heart of rural Pulaski County, Sandy Prairie Hunt Club provides more than 200 acres of ground, including 40 acres of prairie-grass strips and sunflower fields. Individuals and small parties are welcome, dogs are required, and there’s no membership fee.

The Winamac Fish and Wildlife Area, in northern Pulaski County, along U.S. 35, offers tremendous opportunities for hunting deer, wild turkey, rabbit, quail, squirrel, woodcock, dove, and furbearers. Waterfowl hunting is offered, but is limited due to the small amount of wetlands, and opportunities exists for pheasant, quail and dove hunting. Wetland trapping is always permitted. Two two-acre ponds are home to bluegill, channel catfish, and largemouth bass waiting to challenge master anglers and recreational fishers alike.

Northwestern Pulaski County’s Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area is home to the Ryan Ditch (shoreline fishing), two gravel pits with boat ramps, and numerous small ponds to provide plenty of diversity as you seek the catch of the day — or just a day out of the office, communing with nature. Deer, quail, rabbit, squirrel, snipe, dove, sora rails, woodcock, waterfowl and wild turkey all inhabit the area, challenging mature marksmen and first-timers alike.