Hunting and Trapping in New York – A cherished legacy of outdoor adventure continues

Among the many opportunities to enjoy New York’s great outdoors, hunting season remains one of the most cherished times of the year for many residents and visiting non-residents alike. With millions of acres of publicly owned state land and abundant wildlife resources, the possibilities for enjoyable days afield are endless.

Every fall some 500,000 hunters and trappers take to the fields and forests of New York to enjoy our great outdoors. Whether motivated to spend time afield with family and friends, the excitement of seeing wildlife in its element, or simply reconnect with nature, it is a special time of year. For many, it is a time to carry on deeply rooted tradition, and for others it is time to begin a special bond with nature aided by a seasoned mentor. A successful outing is not always measured by game in the bag, but by the experience and memories that will last a lifetime. Introducing a new hunter to all that New York has to offer, or reenergizing a friend who no longer gets out as much, is a great way to carry on tradition or begin a new one. New York has endless opportunities with millions of acres of publicly owned state land and abundant wildlife resources.

I’ve made it a priority of my administration to continue to invest in new lands to conserve wildlife and to improve access for outdoor recreation. The new Doodletown Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Columbia County is one example of new lands to be enjoyed by wildlife enthusiasts. In the Adirondacks, the recent classification of the Boreas Pond tract strikes a balance between preserving a pristine landscape and ensuring that people of all abilities can enjoy this stunning landscape for generations to come.

The Young Forest Initiative administered by DEC’s Division of Fish and Wildlife is improving thousands of acres of habitat on WMAs, benefitting many popular game animals as well as other less-common species in need of conservation. The strong commitment of our dedicated network of volunteer hunter education instructors continues to produce safe and ethical practices by our hunters. The 2017 hunting seasons were again among the safest on record for hunting accidents. Still, even one incident is one too many. It is every hunter’s responsibility to obey the law and make safe decisions. I urge hunters to always keep safety foremost on your mind as you enjoy time afield. And remember, use of blaze orange or blaze pink will help make you visible to other hunters.

The 2018-19 Hunting and Trapping Guide is an important reference for information about seasons, regulations, and wildlife management initiatives in New York. Within these pages, you will find additional information to stay informed on important issues such as Chronic Wasting Disease, use of non-toxic ammunition, and tree stand and gun safety. DEC staff puts this together each year to ensure that you can be informed, safe, and legal.

I wish you all a safe, successful, and truly rewarding season as you go out to enjoy this great fall tradition or begin a brand new one. Enjoy the magnificent fields, woods, and waters of the great state of New York.

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, New York State
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New York State
Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

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Game Management Section
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-4754
Website: www.dec.ny.gov

Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Mission:
The mission of DEC’s Division of Fish and Wildlife is to serve the interests of current and future generations of New Yorkers by using our collective skills, in partnership with the public, to describe, understand, manage and perpetuate a healthy and diverse assemblage of fish, wildlife and ecosystems.

This guide is a summary that is intended for convenience only — for complete references, consult the New York State Environmental Conservation Law and Volume 6 of the Codes, Rules and Regulations of New York State. These are available at: www.dec.ny.gov/regs/2494.html
www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/ (Environmental Conservation Law)

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Reminder for Fisher Trapping Season
In 2016, following completion of the New York State Fisher Management Plan, regulations were adopted to: (1) reduce the fisher (and marten) trapping season from 46 days to 30 days in select Adirondack Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) in the Northern Zone; (2) establish a 6-day fisher trapping season in select WMUs in Central/Western New York; and (3) require a free special permit for all fisher trapping. For more information on how to obtain a free, special permit for fisher trapping, see page 54.

Pending Regulations
At the time the guide went to press, regulations were pending related to deer feeding. Please check DEC’s website for the latest regulation changes before heading afield this fall. Go to http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28182.html.

Hunting & Trapping Essay Contest
We asked New York’s hunters and trappers to share stories about their first memorable experience afield or an experience during which they introduced a new person to hunting or trapping. Based on age categories, we selected three essays to appear in this year’s Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide. Be sure to check them out (pages 21, 46 and 52)!
At Harbor Freight Tools, the "Compare to" price means that the specified comparison, which is an item with the same or similar function, was advertised for sale at or above the "Compare to" price by another national retailer in the U.S. within the past 90 days. Prices advertised by others may vary by location. No other meaning of "Compare to" should be implied. For more information, go to HarborFreight.com or see store associate.

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Important Numbers

DEC Regions

Important Numbers

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<thead>
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<th>Region</th>
<th>Offices</th>
<th>Wildlife</th>
<th>Law Enforcement</th>
<th>Hunter Ed</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Stony Brook University 50 Circle Rd. Stony Brook, NY 11790-3409</td>
<td>(631) 444-0310</td>
<td>(631) 444-0250</td>
<td>(631) 444-0255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 Hunters Pt. Plaza 47-40 21st St. Long Island City, NY 11101-5407</td>
<td>(718) 482-4922</td>
<td>(718) 482-4885</td>
<td>(631) 444-0255</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>21 South Putt Corners Rd. New Paltz, NY 12561</td>
<td>(845) 256-3098</td>
<td>(845) 256-3013</td>
<td>(845) 256-3063</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1130 North Westcott Rd. Schenectady, NY 12306-2014</td>
<td>(518) 357-2355</td>
<td>(518) 357-2047</td>
<td>(518) 357-2355</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>65561 State Hwy 10, Suite 1 Stamford, NY 12167-9503</td>
<td>(607) 652-7367</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1115 Route 86, PO Box 296 Ray Brook, NY 12977-0296</td>
<td>(518) 897-1291</td>
<td>(518) 897-1326</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>232 Golf Course Rd. Warrensburg, NY 12885</td>
<td>(518) 623-1240</td>
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<td>(518) 623-1240</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>317 Washington St. Watertown, NY 13601-3787</td>
<td>(315) 785-2263</td>
<td>(315) 785-2231</td>
<td>(315) 785-2533</td>
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<td></td>
<td>225 North Main St. Herkimer NY 13350</td>
<td>(315) 866-6330</td>
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<td>6739 US Highway 11 Potsdam, NY 13676</td>
<td>(315) 265-3090</td>
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<td></td>
<td>17893 Game Farm Rd. Dexter, NY 13634</td>
<td>(315) 639-6122</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>615 Erie Blvd. West Syracuse, NY 13204-2400</td>
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<td>(315) 426-7431</td>
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<td>1285 Fisher Ave. Cortland, NY 13045</td>
<td>(607) 753-3095 ex. 247</td>
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<td>(607) 753-3095 ex. 242 or 247</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7291 Coon Rd. Bath, NY 14810-9728</td>
<td>(607) 776-2165</td>
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<td></td>
<td>270 Michigan Ave. Buffalo, NY 14203-2999</td>
<td>(716) 851-7010</td>
<td>(716) 851-7050</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>182 East Union St., Suite 3 Allegany, NY 14706</td>
<td>(716) 372-0645</td>
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Other Important Numbers

- NYC Watershed Hunting Permits: 1-800-575-5263
- Deer Management Hotline: 1-866-472-4332
- Report Game Take via DECALS: 1-866-GAME-RPT (1-866-426-3778)
- Lifetime License Information: (518) 402-8843
- Hunter Ed: 1-888-HUNT ED2
- Reporting Banded Waterfowl: www.reportband.gov
- Information on NY SAFE Act: 1-855-LAW-GUNS
- Law Enforcement (ECOs): 1-877-457-5680

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Message from the Commissioner

Dear Hunter, Trapper and Conservationist

It is a great time to hunt or trap in New York State! New Yorkers enjoy seasons for the suite of game species that run from September through March. There are hundreds of thousands of acres of public land open to hunting and trapping across the state, including more than 80 Wildlife Management Areas where habitat and access improvement projects are planned or underway. Purchase of a voluntary Habitat and Access Stamp is a great way to contribute directly to access and habitat improvements.

DID YOU KNOW?

- You may be fined up to $250 for failing to report your deer, bear or turkey take.

Take it • Tag it • Report it

Harvest reporting is the LAW and necessary for wildlife management!

DEC also reminds hunters that ticks are active whenever temperatures are above freezing. Deer ticks can transmit Lyme and several other diseases. It is best to use an insect repellent and do a full body check at the end of the day. More information on deer ticks and Lyme disease can be obtained from the NYS Department of Health.

Hunting in New York is a safe activity, and it is getting safer year after year thanks to the efforts of over 2,500 volunteer hunter education instructors. The best advocates for hunting are hunters themselves, so be sure to use safe and ethical hunting practices while afield to ensure that the tradition of hunting continues to be a vibrant part of New York’s culture.

Whether watching a pointing dog work its way through a tangled covert in search of grouse or watching a doe and fawn slip past your tree stand as the sun rises, the hunting season is about creating and sharing memories you will have for a lifetime. I am proud of the work we do at DEC to preserve the state’s natural heritage so hunters and others can enjoy these benefits for generations to come.

Good luck this fall and be safe.

Basil Seggos
Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Tree Stand Falls are Becoming a Major Cause of Hunting Injuries

These hunting-related injuries and fatalities are easily preventable

Each year many hunters are seriously injured falling from tree stands. This has become a major source of hunting-related injuries and fatalities in New York. DEC began investigating tree stand incidents in 2017. Of the 12 incidents involved a hunter who was not wearing a harness or the harness was not attached to the stand, or the tree at the time of their fall. The proper use of tree stands and full-body harnesses will help to prevent these injuries and fatalities.

Hunters need to become more vigilant in their use of tree stands and not take a “this won’t happen to me” approach to their safety. Every one of the 12 incidents in 2017 could have been prevented if hunters simply practiced the following:

- Read the manufacturer’s instructions and warnings before you use your tree stand and check your stands (including straps and chains) every season. Replace any worn or missing parts.
- Use a full-body harness with a lifeline and stay connected from the time you leave the ground to the time you get back down.
- Use a “lifeline” or safety rope that is secured at the base of the tree or stand and to the tree just above your head when sitting in the stand. Attach the tether from your full-body harness to the lifeline using a carabiner and prusik knot, which easily slides up and down the lifeline, keeping you connected at all times.
- Be aware of suspension trauma. Be sure the harness has a foot strap to relieve harness leg pressure.
- Once you are safely in your stand and your tether is attached to the tree, raise your equipment into your stand. Always use a haul line, such as a strong rope, to raise and lower your unloaded gun or cocked crossbow or bow with quiver up the stand. Do not tie the haul line around the trigger or trigger guard on a firearm. Raise a firearm with the muzzle pointing down.
- Let a reliable person know where you will be hunting and when you will return. A map showing your stand location makes it easier for others to find you if you do not return on time.
- Carry emergency equipment, such as a knife, cell phone, flashlight and whistle in your pockets at all times (not in your pack hanging in the tree).

For more information, including the 2017 Hunting Safety Statistics and the 2017 Tree Stand Safety Statistics, visit the DEC Hunter Education Program page www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7860.html
Purchasing a license

Hunting, trapping and fishing licenses can be purchased at over 1,300 agent locations throughout NYS, over the phone with the DEC call center (1-866-933-2257/M-F, 8:30-4:30) and online through the DEC’s Automated Licensing System, DECALS (www.dec.ny.gov/permits/365.html). To find an agent near you visit www.dec.ny.gov/permits/95448.html. Visa & Mastercard are accepted online and over the phone.

Mandatory Hunter Education

A hunter education course is required for persons who cannot provide proof that they have ever possessed a hunting license. You must be at least 11 years of age to take this class. The general course is a minimum seven hours in length. Once the course is complete, the individual must have the education certificate added to their DEC licensing profile. This can be done anywhere licenses are sold or by calling 1-866-933-2257. DEC honors hunter education certificates and sporting licenses from all other states and countries.

Mandatory Bowhunter Education

Hunters wishing to bowhunt for big game must possess either:

1. Proof that he or she previously held a NYS bowhunting license or stamp issued in 1980 or later; OR NYS Junior Bowhunting License issued 1980 or later.
2. Proof that he or she previously held a NYS bowhunting license or stamp issued in 1980 or later; OR NYS Bowhunting Education Certificate OR previous hunting license (certificates to possess firearms do not qualify). Must be accompanied by parent/legal guardian to purchase. First-time applicants must show proof of age (birth certificate or passport). Junior hunters do not need a Federal Duck Stamp but are required to register in NYS’s Harvest Information Program (www.NY-HIP.com) to hunt migratory game birds.

Mandatory Crossbow Requirement

Hunters wishing to use a crossbow must complete qualifications in the safe use of hunting with a crossbow and responsible crossbow hunting practices. See page 23 for details.

Residency

To qualify for a resident license, a person must live in New York State for more than 30 days immediately preceding the date of application. Land ownership in New York does not make you a resident. Residency is that place where a person maintains a fixed, permanent and principal home (regardless of where temporarily located), such as where a person is registered to vote. If under 18, the residence must be immediately preceding the date of application.

To qualify for a resident license, a person must

continue on page 12
## General License Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Age or Special Qualifier</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deer Management Permit Application (Ages 12+)</td>
<td>12–15 (NYS Resident)</td>
<td>FREE</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Privileges:</strong> Application for up to two antlerless deer tags issued through a random computer selection process. Tags are valid for hunting antlerless deer only (both antlers less than 3&quot; long) in a specified Wildlife Management Unit. See DMP information on pages 28–29. Application deadline is October 1 annually.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualifications: Must hold a current year NYS hunting license to apply and pay a non-refundable $10 application fee. Fee is waived for hunters 12–15 years of age and holders of Lifetime (Sportsman) Licenses purchased prior to October 1, 2009.</td>
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| Turkey Permit (Ages 12+) | 12+ (NYS Resident) | $10   |
| **Privileges:** Hunt turkey during fall and spring turkey seasons (see page 45). To hunt turkey, all hunters must possess a turkey permit. There are no exceptions. | | |
| Qualifications: Current year NYS hunting license. Turkey tags are included with a Lifetime License (formerly Lifetime Sportsman). | | |

| Trapping | 12+ (NYS Resident) | $10 |
| **Privileges:** Set traps for species during their appropriate seasons (see page 56 for detailed information). | | |
| Qualifications: Trapper Education Certificate or previous trapping license. See page 37 for additional information on the mentoring program for trappers under 12 years of age. | | |

1 Military Disabled: Permanent status — must be a NYS resident and provide a letter from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs stating the disability is “permanent” and rated at 40% or greater service-connected disability. Once permanent eligibility is determined, it will stay in your customer profile. Annual Status — must be a NYS resident and provide a letter ANNUALLY from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs stating the disability is service connected and rated at 40% or more. The letter must be dated in the current year. **Note:** The first purchase of either a hunting, fishing or trapping license within a calendar year will cost $5. Subsequent purchases of these license types within the same calendar year will be free for qualifying customers.

2 Patriot: Free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are available to NYS residents who have the appropriate hunting or trapping education and are active members of the NYS National Guard, US Reserve Forces or certain members of the US Armed Forces. For more detailed information, visit our website or call (518) 402-8843.

3 Native American: Free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are available to members of the Shinnecock and Poospatuck tribes and members of the Six Nations residing on reservations wholly or partially in New York State. Licenses must be obtained from participating tribal councils or DEC headquarters in Albany (518) 402-8843.

### Lifetime Sporting Licenses

The following Lifetime Licenses are available to New York State residents only and may be purchased at all license-issuing outlets throughout New York State. Applicants must prove NYS residency for one year prior to application (proofs are the same as annual licenses with the exception of the one-year requirement). For additional information and clarification on Lifetime License sales, contact our License Sales Unit, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233–4790, call 518-402-8843, or visit our website www.dec.ny.gov.

**Lifetime License (Sportsman) (combined hunting and fishing licenses, includes turkey permit):**

- For a person age 0–4 $380
- For a person age 5–11 $535
- For a person age 12–69 $765
- For a person age 70 or older $65

### Other Lifetime Licenses/Privileges

- Hunting License $535
- Fishing License (age 0–69) $460
- Fishing License (age 70 and older) $65
- Trapping License $395
- Bowhunting $235
- Muzzleloading $235

### Lifetime Licenses and Tags for Young Hunters

Young hunters who hold a lifetime hunting privilege and wish to receive their tags must first take the appropriate hunter safety training course and have it entered in their DECALS profile. To have the course added, please call the DEC call center at 1-866-933-2257 (M-F, 8:30-4:30). Young hunters should take the appropriate training course well in advance of the season to allow adequate time for their tags to be mailed. Tags cannot be obtained from a license-issuing agent.

When purchasing a lifetime license for a child, the purchaser must bring proof of the child’s age (e.g., birth certificate or passport) and a copy of the parent’s proof of residency.

### Remember to Report Your Game Harvest

Visit http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html for details. It’s the law!

See page 13.
of parents or legal guardian shall be deemed such person’s residence. For a complete list of valid residency proof documents please see www.dec.ny.gov/permits/95452.html#Res.

Active members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in New York and full-time college students in residence in the state during the school year (proof required) qualify for annual resident licenses.

Minimum Hunting Age

Minors under the age of 12 may not obtain a hunting license or hunt wildlife.

License Year

Licenses and permits are valid from September 1 through August 31.

License Responsibilities

• A license or tag is not transferable and may be used only by the person to whom issued (except for Deer Management Permits—see pages 28–29).
• It is illegal to possess another person’s license while hunting.
• A license to hunt, trap or fish does not give the holder any right to go on private property without permission of the landowner.
• You can legally purchase and possess only one hunting license per year.
• Your license must be carried on your person when hunting or trapping.
• It is illegal to refuse to show your license on demand to a law enforcement officer or the owner, lessee or person in control of the lands (or their designees) while on their property.
• Make sure that your license has all the correct information. Carefully check it immediately after receipt. If you discover an error, have it corrected as soon as possible.
• Do NOT heat laminate your license. High temperatures will destroy the license and tags and turn them black. If destroyed, there is a fee for replacement.
• Sign the back of your license/privilege panel.

Back Tags

Must be visibly displayed on the middle of your back while hunting, except in the Northern Zone and Catskill Park.

Hunting License Exceptions

All residents must have a valid hunting license in their possession except:
• Resident owners primarily engaged in farming, lessees and members of their immediate families do not need a hunting license when hunting small game on farm lands they are occupying and cultivating.
• Native Americans living on a reservation do not need a hunting license while hunting on reservation lands.

General License Information

### Stamps / Donations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Age or Special Qualifier</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Habitat &amp; Access Stamp</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations are used to create or improve fish and wildlife habitat and improve access to those resources for recreational or educational activities.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venison Donation</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>$1 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help feed the hungry by supporting NY’s venison donation program.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Duck Stamp</td>
<td>16+</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Available at most post offices and some sporting goods stores.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Privileges: Hunt migratory waterfowl. It is not needed for gallinules, coot, crows, rails, woodcock or snipe. All migratory game bird hunters, including junior hunters, must register with the Harvest Information Program by calling toll free 1-888-427-5447 or registering online at: www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6405.html

Qualifications: Validated by holder’s signature on the face of the stamp. Hunter must also possess a current year NYS hunting license.

### Free Licenses/ Patriot Licenses

Free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are available to members of the Shinnecock and Poospatuck tribes and members of the Six Nations residing on reservations in the state. They must be obtained from some tribal councils or DEC headquarters in Albany (518) 402-8843.

Free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are also available to NYS residents who have the appropriate Hunter Education and are active service members of the NYS Guard, US Reserve Forces or certain members of the US Armed Forces. For more detailed information, visit our website or call (518) 402-8843.

### Lost Licenses

A current year lost license may be replaced at any license-issuing outlet at a cost of $5 for a license panel. Big game carcass tag sets or turkey carcass tag sets may be replaced at a cost of $10. There is no charge to replace a lost backpack.

### Deer Hunting Privileges and Tags

#### Resident and non-resident hunting licenses

- **Hunting or Junior Hunting (ages 14-15 only):** You will receive a Regular Season Deer Tag and a Regular Season Bear Tag.
- **Muzzleloading privilege:** You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag.
- **Junior bowhunting or bowhunting privilege:** You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag. Junior bowhunters may also use this tag during the regular season.

Residents and non-residents must purchase a hunting license to be eligible for bowhunting and muzzleloading privileges. If you purchase both bowhunting and muzzleloading privileges, you will receive one Bow/Mz Either Sex Deer Tag and one Bow/Mz Antlerless Deer Tag. Both tags may be used in either season, with the appropriate implement.

### Special Licenses for Hunters with Disabilities

#### Non-ambulatory hunter permit

This permit allows qualified hunters to shoot a firearm from a motorized vehicle (including an off-road vehicle) that has the motor turned off and that is completely off the highway right-of-way.

To qualify for a Non-Ambulatory Hunter Permit, a person must be physically unable to move about except with the use of a mechanized aid such as a wheelchair.

#### Modified longbow authorization

This authorization allows qualified people to hunt big or small game with a legal bow that is equipped with a device to hold it in a drawn and cocked position. It does not allow for the use of a crossbow.

To qualify for a Modified Longbow Authorization, a person must be permanently physically unable to draw and hold a legal bow.

#### Modified crossbow permit

This permit allows qualified people to hunt big or small game during bowhunting season with a crossbow that has been specifically modified with a device that only allows it to be discharged (fired) by means of a breath tube. This permit does not allow the use of an unmodified crossbow.

To qualify for a Modified Crossbow Permit, a person must be permanently physically unable to hold or draw a legal bow or to fire a legal bow that has been modified to hold and release the string.

If a person can pull the trigger on a gun, he or she will not qualify for a Modified Crossbow Permit.

For more information on these permits, write the NYS DEC Special Licenses Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4752, email speciallicenses@dec.ny.gov or call (518) 402-8985. The application process takes time; write or call well before you intend to hunt.
How To Properly Fill Out Your Carcass Tag and Report Your Harvest

**Carcass Tag**

1. Fill in the date, location, biological and season information on the front of your tag.
2. Mark or cut out month and day of kill AND sign the back of your tag.

**Reporting Your Game Harvest**

- Deer, Bear and Turkey harvests must be reported within 7 days of take.
- You can report your harvest by phone, online or through our new mobile app (see page 8 for details).
- Reporting online and through the new mobile app is simple, fast and convenient!

Remember to save the bear’s skull so DEC can collect a tooth to age the bear.

**Information You Will Need When Reporting**

- For Spring Turkey:
  - Spur length (none, less than ½”, ½” or longer)
  - Beard length (less than 3”, 3” but less than 7½”, or 7½” or longer.
  - Estimated weight

- For Fall Turkey:
  - Remember to save a leg. We will request it to determine age and sex.
The following are general hunting regulations. Specific regulations for various game species are in the Small Game, Big Game and Trapping sections of this booklet.

Definitions

**Air gun**—a firearm that uses spring or compressed air (not gunpowder) to propel a single projectile that is .17 caliber or larger and produces a muzzle velocity of at least 600 feet per second. You may use a smooth or rifled bore.

**Bow**—includes long (stick), compound, or recurve bow.

**Crossbow**—consists of a bow, a string, and either compound or recurve limbs with minimum width of 17 inches (tip of limbs, uncocked), mounted on a stock. The stock shall have a trigger with a working safety that holds the string and limbs under tension until released. It shall have a minimum overall length from the butt of the stock to the front of the limbs of 24 inches and be able to launch a minimum 14-inch arrow/bolt, not including the legal arrowhead. It shall have a draw weight of 100 to 200 pounds. Optical sights are allowed on crossbows.

**Firearm**—all guns, including handguns, rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, BB and pellet guns.

**Handgun**—is any pistol or revolver intended to be aimed and fired with one hand and having a barrel length not exceeding 16 inches. Possession of handguns in New York State requires a NYS Pistol Permit. New York does not recognize permits issued by other states.

**Motor vehicle**—means every vehicle or device operated by any power other than muscle power including but not limited to automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, tractors, trailers, motorboats, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles, whether operated on or off public highways.

**Muzzleloading firearm**—is a firearm loaded through the muzzle, shooting a single projectile and having a minimum bore of .44 inch. Scopes or fiber-optic sights may be used at any time. You must possess a New York State pistol permit to hunt with a muzzleloading pistol.

**Public highway**—means any road maintained by a state, county or town. A private road is one maintained by a person or corporation.

**Rifle**—is a firearm with a barrel length of 16 inches or more with rifling in the barrel that uses metallic cartridges.

**Shotgun**—is a firearm with a barrel length of 18 inches or more that uses shells that are non-metallic except for the base.

**To take**—means to pursue, shoot, hunt, kill, capture, trap, snare or net wildlife and game—and all lesser acts that disturb or worry wildlife—or to place or use any net or other device commonly used to take wildlife.

**To trap**—means to take, kill or capture wildlife with traps, deadfalls and other devices commonly used to take wildlife, including the shooting or killing of lawfully trapped animals. It also includes all related activities such as placing, setting, staking or checking traps or assisting another person with these activities.

**Crossbows may not be used to take carp or any other fish.**

**Spotlighting**

You may use lights to observe wildlife under the following conditions:

- You are not within 500 feet of a home or farm building, unless you have permission from the owner or lessee (when looking for deer or bear)
- While in or on a motor vehicle and operating a light and no person has a firearm, bow, or crossbow unless:
  - the implement is taken down, or
  - the implement is securely fastened in a case, or
  - the implement is locked in the trunk of the vehicle, or
  - the implement is a handgun

For information on hunting furbearers at night, see page 55.

**Possession of Firearms and Crossbows**

During the open season for deer, it is illegal to:

- Possess shotgun shells loaded with slug or ball, unless holding a valid license (including carcass tags) or permit to take deer or bear, or
- Possess a rifle larger than a .22-caliber rimfire in areas where rifles are banned for taking deer (Centerfire rifles less than .22-caliber and muzzleloading rifles are legal)

In Westchester County and on Long Island, it is illegal to use any rifle for hunting or to carry one afield. In Suffolk, Nassau and Westchester counties, it is illegal to use a crossbow to hunt wildlife.

In the Northern Zone, it is illegal to carry a rifle larger than .22 rimfire or a shotgun loaded with slug, ball or buckshot afield if accompanied by a dog, except when coyote hunting.

Possession of handguns in New York requires a NYS Pistol Permit. New York does not recognize permits issued by other states.

**Transportation of Firearms**

A person may not transport or possess a shotgun, rifle or crossbow in or on a motor vehicle unless the firearm is unloaded in both chamber and magazine or the crossbow is unloaded or taken down. While legally hunting migratory game birds, a loaded firearm may be possessed in a motorboat not under power or in a motorboat under power only while retrieving dead/crippled birds.

A muzzleloader is considered unloaded when the cap is off the nipple, the primer is removed, the primer powder is removed from the flintlock pan, or the battery is removed from an electric-fired muzzleloader.

A crossbow is considered unloaded when the arrow/bolt is removed and the crossbow is uncocked.
General Hunting Regulations

Discharge of Firearms, Crossbows and Bows
It is illegal to discharge a firearm, crossbow or bow:
• So that the load or arrow/bolt passes over any part of a public highway.
• Within 500 feet for a firearm, 250 feet for a crossbow or 150 feet for a bow of any school, playground, or an occupied factory or church.
• Within 500 feet for a firearm, 250 feet for a crossbow or 150 feet for a bow of a dwelling, farm building or structure in occupation or use unless you own it, lease it, are an immediate member of the family, an employee, or have the owner’s consent.

You may hunt waterfowl over water within 500 feet of a dwelling or public structure as long as neither are within 500 feet in the direction you are shooting.

Protected and Unprotected Wildlife
In New York State, nearly all species of wildlife are protected. Most species, including endangered species, songbirds, hawks and owls are fully protected and may not be taken. The few unprotected species include porcupine, red squirrel, woodchuck, chipmunk, English sparrow, starling, rock pigeon and monk parakeet. Unprotected species may be taken at any time without limit. However, a hunting license is required to hunt unprotected wildlife with a bow, crossbow or firearm.

Game species may be taken only during their open seasons and as summarized in this guide. Persons taking wildlife on licensed shooting preserves must comply with regulations governing those shooting preserves.

Hunter Education

All first-time hunters, bowhunters and trappers must pass one or more courses before they can purchase a license in New York. Trained volunteer instructors certified by DEC teach safe and responsible outdoor practices and the important role of hunters and trappers in conservation.

Beginning in 2016, all hunter and trapper education courses require the completion of homework prior to attending the course. Proof of the completed homework must be brought to the course led by an instructor. The homework may take several hours to complete, so one should not begin the work the night before the course.

There are a few simple ways to obtain the study materials to complete the homework requirement:
• Download the free manual and worksheet OR
• Obtain the manual and worksheet through the guidelines of the course announcement OR
• Complete the online homework (fee) and print the voucher to bring to the course.

Visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7860.html for more information on materials, including a list of courses.

There are NO “online-only” courses. All courses have an in-person field day. All courses are free of charge, but space may be limited. As hunting seasons approach, many classes fill quickly. SIGN UP EARLY!

New York State Conservation Council, Inc.
A non-profit organization tax exempt under IRS Section 501(c)(3)

The New York State Conservation Council (NYSCC) is sportsmen working for sportsmen. The NYSCC is the oldest statewide conservation organization in New York, started in 1933 by sportsmen/conservationists to help secure and manage our natural resources for future generations, and to protect the rights of sportsmen and sportswomen to hunt, fish, trap, and own firearms. The NYSCC represents over 300,000 sportsmen and women from county federations, sportsmen’s clubs, and various other organizations across New York. Sportsmen’s interests in conservation and outdoor activities in New York State are coordinated through the NYSCC. NYSCC was the lead organization in the successful change of EnCon Law to allow 14–15 year olds to hunt big game with a rifle, shotgun or muzzleloader, allow 12–13 year olds to hunt small game with a mentor and create a trapper mentor program for youth under 12. The NYSCC sponsors a nationwide Sportsmen’s and Conservation Club Liability Insurance Program that offers extremely competitive rates for NYSCC member clubs and shooting preserves. The plan is administered through the United Insurance Agency, Inc.

For information about the Club Liability Insurance Program contact John Long, Jr. or Colleen Jackson at 1-800-728-4522.

For info, membership, or to donate to the NYSCC, contact 315-894-3302, or email nyscc@nyscc.com. Visit our website: www.nyscc.com

Name ________________________________________________________________
Address ......................................................................................................
City ________________________ State ________ Zip ________

Enclose check or money order payable to NYSCC or Charge $ ______ to my (circle one) Visa or MasterCard
Account # ___________ Exp. Date ___________ Signature _______________________

Check one: Guardian $25 _____ Defender $60 _____ Life $250 _____ Send application to NYSCC, 8 East Main Street, Ilion NY 13357.
Access to Hunting Areas

For information about places to hunt in New York, go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7844.html.

Private Lands
Always ASK the landowner for permission to hunt and trap on private land. If it were your land, how would you want a visitor to act?
- Be courteous — ASK permission well in advance.
- ASK what is permitted. What species can be hunted? Are tree stands allowed?
- Exercise safety—always!
- Thank the landowner.

Many landowners use "ASK permission" stickers (see page 14) on their signs which show the landowners' willingness to allow access to their lands. Stickers are available for free from your local Regional Wildlife Office (see page 6) or from DEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754. For more information on hunting on private lands, visit our website: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7844.html.

Remember: Damaging bark or cutting trees, branches or plants is illegal without permission of the landowner.

Rights of way that cross private property, such as for power lines and railroads, are NOT public land. Trespassing on these areas without permission from the landowner is illegal.

FWMA cooperative areas
Through cooperative agreements under New York’s Fish and Wildlife Management Act (FWMA), Cooperative Hunting Areas provide access and management services to privately owned lands in order to increase public hunting opportunities. When using these areas, remember that you are a guest on private property. Littering and other abuses will only result in closure of many excellent hunting areas.

A word about liability
Whether or not the land is posted, New York State General Obligations Law protects landowners from liability for non-paying recreationists engaged in hunting, trapping and fishing on their property. Because of this protection, recreational liability lawsuits against rural landowners are uncommon — This protection does not apply in cases of willful or malicious failure to guard or warn against dangers.

State Lands
For information on hunting and trapping opportunities and rules governing the use of state land, contact the regional office for the county where you would like to hunt or trap (see page 6). Wildlife staff can provide information on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and Cooperative Hunting Areas. Forestry staff and NYS Forest Rangers can provide details on state forest lands and the forest preserve. In some instances, written permission or permits are required to use state areas. These are available from DEC regional offices during normal business hours.

Motorized access to state lands
DEC has designated routes on state forests, wildlife management areas, and in the forest preserve for motor vehicle use by people with a qualifying mobility disability. The list of these opportunities, along with information on how to obtain a statewide permit for this purpose, is available by writing to the Regional Land Manager at DEC regional offices (see page 6) or at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html.

Wildlife management areas
The Division of Fish and Wildlife manages about 187,000 acres of wildlife management areas (WMAs). These areas are located throughout the state and contain a variety of different types of habitat and wildlife. They are managed primarily for wildlife and wildlife-related public use.

WMAs have specific use regulations in addition to the general use regulations for state land. Hunting, trapping, and fishing are permitted, except as specifically restricted by posted notice.

On wildlife management areas, it is unlawful to:
- Camp without written permission
- Travel off-road by use of motorcycles, motor scooters, mopeds, trail bikes, snowmobiles or any other motorized vehicle, except as specifically allowed by a permit or posted notice
- Remove, cut or willfully damage or destroy living vegetation of any kind
- Construct or place a permanent structure, blind, stand or platform (including placement of nails or other hardware into trees)
- Leave any personal property when leaving the area, including leaving tree stands overnight
- Enter property posted with No Trespassing signs, except with written permission from DEC

Lands and forests
The Division of Lands and Forests manages nearly 4,000,000 acres of land, located in almost every county of the state. From the remote locations of the Adirondack and Catskill mountains to the rolling hills of the western parts of the state and the forested areas on Long Island, a wide range of hunting and trapping opportunities await the outdoor recreationist.

Forest Preserves
Hunting and trapping are permitted in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves. State-owned lands located within these preserves are designated “Forever Wild.” All state land rules and camping requirements apply to the preserves, as well as additional rules specific to certain areas. Contact the regional DEC office (see page 6) or nearest NYS Forest Ranger for further information.

Conservation easements
Conservation easements are tracts of privately owned property on which New York State has acquired certain public rights, which are outlined in the easement document as well as in a recreation management plan jointly developed by the state and the landowner. Public hunting and trapping is allowed on many conservation easements.
easements, but due to the individual nature of each conservation easement, members of the public wishing to hunt or trap on a given easement property are strongly encouraged to contact a local DEC office (see page 6) for details on how to properly access the property and the hunting and trapping regulations unique to the easement.

State forest (reforestation land)
Outside the Adirondacks and Catskills, reforestation areas are the most common type of state lands. Many recreational activities can be pursued on reforestation areas, including hunting and trapping. Reforestation areas are marked with signs saying “State Forest.”

In some instances, permits are required to camp overnight on undeveloped state forest lands. Unless specifically prohibited, groups of less than 10 people may camp on state forest lands (other than developed campgrounds and wildlife management areas) for three consecutive nights without a permit. To camp for four consecutive nights or more, a permit must be obtained. Groups of 10 or more people need a permit to camp on such lands for one night. Further information may be obtained from DEC regional offices for the county you want to camp in or from local NYS Forest Rangers (see page 6).

Remember, it is unlawful to:
• Cut or injure trees (including construction of permanent tree stands, construction of natural blinds, clearing of shooting lanes around portable stands, placement of nails or other hardware into trees, or use of live trees as targets while sighting-in firearms).
• Store personal property. Tree stands or hunting blinds that do not injure a tree, and are properly marked or tagged with the owner’s name and address or valid hunting license number, may be placed during the appropriate hunting season, but must be removed within 30 days of the end of the season.
• Erect, use or maintain a building or structure.
• Deposit or leave any litter or rubbish.
• Operate a motor vehicle, including an all-terrain vehicle, off maintained roads except where specifically allowed.
• Camp without a permit when a permit is required.
• Possess a rifle, shotgun or firearm in or upon buildings or grounds used for educational purposes (see Penal Law Section 265.01-a).

Other Areas to Hunt

• Whitney Point Reservoir Recreation Area (federal): Located on state route 26 several miles north of the Village of Whitney Point in Broome and Cortland counties. Offers big and small game hunting opportunities. No special hunting permits are needed.
• Moose River Plains Wild Forest (state): Located in Hamilton County. Hunting and trapping opportunities in a 64,500-acre wilderness setting. Register at the gates. Over 100 drive-in primitive camping sites. Extensive seasonal road network.
• Finger Lakes National Forest (federal): Located east of Seneca Lake in Schuyler and Seneca counties. Small and big game hunting opportunities. No special hunting permits are needed.
• Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (federal): Located at the north end of Cayuga Lake in Seneca County. Offers big game and waterfowl hunting opportunities. This area is also open for deer hunting on a controlled basis during both the bowhunting and regular seasons. Permits are required. When deer management permit use is allowed, WMU 8J permits are valid. For current information on seasons, permits, maps and regulations, write:
  » Refuge Manager
  Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge
  3395 Route 5/20 East
  Seneca Falls, NY 13148
  Telephone (315) 568-5987
• Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge (federal): Located east of Lockport in Genesee and Orleans counties. Offers small game and waterfowl hunting opportunities. This area is also open for deer hunting during both the bowhunting and regular seasons. Detailed information available from:
  » Refuge Manager
  Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge
  1101 Casey Road
  Basom, NY 14013
  Telephone (585) 948-5445
• Long Island: For a brochure on areas to hunt and for access permits, write to:
  » Hunting Opportunities, NYS DEC
  SUNY Stony Brook
  50 Circle Rd.
  Stony Brook, NY 11790-3404
• Fort Drum Military Installation (federal): Wildlife Management Unit 6H, located in Jefferson and Lewis counties. Over half of the 107,000-acre installation is open to the public for hunting and trapping. See the Fort Drum Fish and Wildlife Management Program website for more information: www.FortDrum.iSportsman.net (search for “wildlife”) or call (315) 772-9636.
• New York City Watershed Lands: The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) allows trapping, as well as deer, bear, turkey, and small game hunting on specially designated city water supply lands. Hunters and trappers must possess the appropriate, valid New York State sporting license and a valid access permit to hunt or trap on designated hunting and trapping areas on city water supply lands. For more information, including maps, go to http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/recreation/hunting_and_trapping.shtml.

State Parks
Many state parks offer waterfowl, small game and big game hunting. For more information, contact the appropriate DEC regional office (see page 6) or visit the state parks website (http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/). Call each state park to find out specific hunting and access regulations. For a listing of state parks that allow deer hunting, visit the DEC website: http://www.dec.ny.gov/foreout/7844.html

DEC Public Campgrounds
Camping is sometimes available during the big game season. Reservations for DEC campgrounds can be made by calling 1-800-456-CAMP or online at reserveamerica.com.

Licensed Guides
For information on licensed professional guides in New York, contact NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, NY 12233-2560 or phone (518) 402-8838.

Native American Tribal Lands
Some tribal governments have made provisions for limited public hunting, trapping and fishing access, while others do not permit non-tribal members to hunt, trap or fish on their land. Check with the governing tribal office to determine the requirements for hunting, trapping and fishing within the reservation boundaries. A special permit is required.

Use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and off-road vehicles (ORVs) is restricted on most state land.
Maps Showing Season Dates

- **Legal Implements:** see page 24
- **Deer:** see page 25
- **Bear:** see page 39

Hunting Hours

Big game hunting hours are sunrise to sunset (see page 77). Sunday hunting is allowed in all areas of New York. For hunting on Wildlife Management Areas or in state parks, confirm regulations for the area before hunting.

Legally Antlered Deer

A legally antlered deer must have at least one antler that is three inches or longer. Special regulations apply in the Antler Restriction areas. See page 24 for details.

Defining “Early” and “Late” Seasons for Deer and Bear

When you see the term “early” muzzleloader or bowhunting season, it means before the regular season for that particular zone. “Late” means after the regular season for that zone.

Manner of Taking

Big game may be taken with centerfire rifles, shotguns, handguns, muzzleloading firearms, bows, and crossbows during appropriate seasons and in areas designated (see maps, pages 24 and 25). You may use decoys, calls and attractant scents to hunt big game.

It is unlawful to:

- Take big game while the deer or bear is in water.
- Possess a firearm of any description when bowhunting or accompanying a person bowhunting during special bowhunting seasons.
- Possess a firearm other than a muzzleloading firearm when hunting deer or bear or when accompanying a person hunting deer or bear during a special muzzleloading season.
- Make, set or use salt licks or other attractants, whether block, liquid or powder that contains ANY amount of salt, upon lands inhabited by deer or bear at any time of year.

In addition to the general hunting regulations for manner of take listed on page 14, it is unlawful to hunt big game with:

- Dogs or aircraft of any kind, including drones.
- The aid of a pre-established bait pile.
- A firearm or bow aided by any artificial light or a laser that projects a beam toward the target (use of illuminated reticle scopes, red dot scopes, or illuminated sight pins is allowed, provided no light is projected toward the target).
- An autoloading firearm with a capacity of more than 6 shells (one which requires that the trigger be pulled separately for each shot), except an autoloading pistol with a barrel length of less than 8 inches.
- A firearm using rimfire ammunition.
- A shotgun of less than 20 gauge or any shotshell loaded with shells other than those carrying a single projectile (rifling in the barrel or choke is allowed).
- A bow with a draw weight of 35 lbs or less.
- Arrows with barbed broadheads; arrowheads less than 7/8 inches at the widest point or with less than 2 sharp cutting edges.
- Double-barreled muzzleloaders or percussion cap revolvers during the special muzzleloading seasons.
- An air gun or air bow.

Prohibited Sale of Deer or Bear Meat

It is unlawful to sell deer or bear meat. Other than meat, the parts (e.g., hides, skulls, claws, antlers, and taxidermy mounts or rugs) from legally taken and reported deer and bear may be sold. Bear gallbladders and bile shall not be possessed or sold unless a valid bear tag (original or copy) is attached.

Tagging, Transporting and Reporting

Deer and bear are in legal possession only when tagged with the appropriate portion of the hunting license, deer management permit or other license provided for that purpose.

Tagging

After killing a deer or bear:

1. Ensure that you select the proper tag for the harvested deer or bear.
2. Immediately fill in all information and sign the carcass tag with ink that won’t erase.
3. Immediately cut or mark the month and date of kill on the tag reverse.
4. Write the date of kill on the report panel.
5. Attach the tag to the carcass upon arrival at your camp, home or vehicle. You do not need to attach the tag while it is being dragged or physically carried from the place of kill to a camp or point where transportation is available.
6. Report your harvest online, by phone or mobile app within 7 days as required by law. See page 8 for details.

After you have used your last deer tag, you may help others hunt deer. You may not carry a firearm, crossbow or bow, and you must have your hunting license with you.

Transporting

Deer and bear may be transported either inside or outside the vehicle.

- A deer carcass with head and deer carcass tag attached may be transported with the taker in attendance.
- If someone other than the taker is transporting the deer or bear, the taker must attach an additional tag to the carcass and include the names and addresses of both the taker and the transporter. The tag may be handwritten in ink or typed on any paper.
- All portions of deer or bear meat being transported by the taker shall be individually tagged and the tags shall include the name, address, big game DOC #, the date that the portions were cut, and the signature of the taker. Packaged or boxed portions of venison need only one tag and must be labeled with the date and location of cut.

Central NY Opportunities

See http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/82382.html for information on the Deer Management Focus Area in Tompkins County. Expanded antlerless bag limits and a January antlerless season in this area provide additional opportunities for hunters and help to reduce deer-related conflicts.

Long Island Opportunities

All hunting on state-managed land requires a DEC permit. The archery deer season runs from October through January. There is a January firearms season during which shotguns and muzzleloading firearms can be used. Firearms users must obtain a landowner’s endorsement to hunt during this season, and may also need a town permit. For more information on LI hunting opportunities visit our website, http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8373.html.

Continued on page 20
Hunt and trap New York’s only

National Forest
It’s All Yours!

Enjoy over 16,000 acres of hunting and trapping on the FINGER LAKES NATIONAL FOREST

- Thousands of acres managed for habitat diversity through logging practices creating a mix of early successional habitat and older aged forests benefitting a variety of game species
- Thundering gobbles along oak lined ridges
- Mature bucks browsing through mixed hardwoods
- Fluttering woodcock in early successional habitat

Youth deer season - October 6-8, 2018
Youth turkey season - April 20-21, 2019

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Hector, NY • 607-546-4470 • www.fs.usda.gov/gmfl

US Forest Service Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests

EXPERIENCE…
Sweeping vistas of the worldfamous Finger Lakes
Flowing headwater streams in mature hemlock forests
Vibrant open grasslands teaming with diverse wildlife species

Experience New York’s only
It’s All Yours!

Thousands of unique opportunities await you on the 16,000 acre FINGER LAKES NATIONAL FOREST!

National Trails Day – Saturday, June 3, 2017
Public Lands Day – Saturday, September 30, 2017

US Forest Service Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests

@gmfl_nfls

The Lowcountry Awaits
PROFESSIONAL FISHING GUIDE
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Continued from page 18

“venison” on the outside of the box. If someone other than the taker is transporting the portions, an additional tag signed by the taker with the names and addresses of the consignee and taker are required for each portion.

- Non-resident hunters: If your home state prohibits the importation of whole deer carcasses from New York, you will need to follow the above guidelines for transportation of individual or packaged portions of deer meat while in New York State.
- A deer carcass minus the head may be transported as above, but evidence of the sex of the deer must be intact. The deer carcass tag must be affixed to the carcass, and a tag supplied by the taker must also be attached showing the name and address of the taxidermist where the head was sent.
- Heads of male deer may be transported to a taxidermist only if a tag supplied by the taker is attached bearing the taker’s signature, address, big game DOC #, number of points on each antler and the name and address of the taxidermist.
- The head of a doe with antlers that are 3 inches or more can be removed for mounting. Follow the same procedure that you would use for a buck you are having mounted (see above).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Broadheads for Big Game</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Blade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Blade (shown in position of being withdrawn from an animal)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Muzzleloader Hunting**

Muzzleloading firearms may be used during the muzzleloader and regular seasons, and during the January Firearms season on Long Island.

- Hunters must possess a current muzzleloader privilege to participate during the muzzleloader seasons.
- The muzzleloader privilege is not needed for hunters to use a muzzleloading firearm during regular seasons.
- Muzzleloaders may not be used in WMUs 3S, 4J, 8C, and may only be used in 1C during the Special Firearms season in January.
- Bow/Muzz either-sex or antlerless-only tags may not be used during the regular seasons, except in WMUs 1C and 3S.
- Hunters participating in the muzzleloader season shall not have in their possession, or be accompanied by a person who has in his or her possession, a bow or firearm other than a legal muzzleloading firearm or crossbow.

**Bowhunting**

Bowhunting opportunities include both the bowhunting and regular seasons:

- Hunters must possess a current bowhunting or junior bowhunting privilege to participate during the bowhunting seasons.
- The bowhunting privilege is not required to hunt with a bow during regular seasons, but hunters must possess proof of eligibility (either a valid bowhunter education certificate or prior bowhunting license).
- Bow/Muzz either-sex or antlerless-only tags may not be used during the regular seasons except by junior bowhunters or in WMUs 1C and 3S.
- In WMUs 4J and 8C, only bows may be used to take deer during the regular and bowhunting seasons.
- Suffolk (WMU 1C) and Westchester (WMU 3S) counties have separate regular seasons restricted to bows for taking deer.
Crossbow Use
Crossbow opportunities include portions of bow seasons in addition to muzzleloader and regular seasons:
- Crossbows may be used to take deer or bear during muzzleloader seasons and a portion of the early bow seasons (see maps on pages 24 and 39) by hunters with a valid hunting or junior hunting (ages 14-15 only) license and a current muzzleloader privilege.
- Crossbows may be used to take deer during the regular season and bear during early bear and regular seasons by hunters with a valid hunting or junior hunting (ages 14-15 only) license.
- See page 23 for the required Crossbow Certificate of Qualification.

Barbed Broadheads
Barbed broadheads are illegal for hunting big game. A barbed broadhead is one in which the angle formed between the trailing or rear edge of any blade and the shaft is less than 90 degrees. A notch at the base of the blade extending no more than two millimeters from the shaft shall not be considered a barb. Broadheads with mechanical blades are legal if the blades DO NOT form a barb or hook when the arrow is pulled from the flesh of a deer or bear. (See graphic on page 20.)

Junior Youth Hunter Essay Winner
(Grades 6 through 8)

“You got it. I believe in you and your shot.”
By Kayla Atherton, Grade 8

With a sharp intake of breath, I steadied the rifle in my hand, and pinpointed the deer right behind its shoulder... wait, wait, wait. Hold-up a minute. Let’s back-up to about 4 hours earlier when I was just about to head out with my grandfather to our hunting blind for my first youth deer hunt experience.

It was beautiful outside for an autumn day, not too chilly, but just right for an October deer hunt. As I admired my surroundings, my grandpa handed me a bag filled with snacks of his choice, which included apples, peanut butter M&Ms, and a solid pound of Kit-Kats and Hershey bars. I felt like I hit the jackpot and it wasn’t even Halloween yet!

We slowly made our way through the dried golden rod to the hunting blind that was just above a small valley. We settled ourselves in for the late afternoon and my grandpa said, “We better break out the candy. It’s gonna be awhile.”

We waited patiently for the next 3 ½ hours with only a couple of does below us. Finally, a buck revealed himself from the trees! I couldn’t have been more excited in my life!

“Get ready now, Kayla,” my grandpa whispered, also quite excited. “Now aim slightly behind the shoulder,” he repeated.

“I don’t know if I can make that shot,” I replied, with a bit of worry in my voice.

“You got it. I believe in you and your shot,” my grandpa encouraged.

Before I knew it, I took a deep breath, aimed, and pulled the trigger - BANG! The gun shuddered in my hands. We scurried across the valley, not knowing if I made the shot, then I literally stumbled onto the deer. The shot was slightly high, but right behind the buck’s shoulder. I jumped for joy and hugged my grandpa. The six-point buck was my first. My grandpa’s eyes shone with pride. I know this hunt was one I would always remember thanks to my grandpa and his confidence in me.
CWD is a serious threat to New York’s wild deer and moose and captive deer, elk, and reindeer.

**What is CWD?**
A contagious, fatal disease of cervids (deer, elk, moose, and reindeer/caribou) that is caused by an abnormal protein called a prion. It causes holes to form in the brain. Animals become diseased from direct contact with live infected animals, animal parts, or contaminated soil and plants. Animals shed prions in urine, feces, and saliva before they die. An infected deer can look healthy for months to years before dying.

**Where is CWD?**
The disease has been found in 25 states and three Canadian provinces. New York discovered CWD in Oneida County in 2005 in captive and wild deer, but no new cases have been found in the state since then despite intensive surveillance.

**Why is CWD a Problem?**
There is no cure, vaccine, or genetic resistance to CWD. Prions can last in the environment for decades. Once CWD is established in an area, eliminating the disease is virtually impossible. Although there are no known human cases, the Centers for Disease Control recommends no one consume a CWD-positive animal.

**How Can I Help?**
Don’t let CWD into the state again! Know your regulations [http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8325.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8325.html).

**Here Are Some Things You Can Do:**

**Debone your harvest if you hunt outside of New York**
Meat, hide and cape, antlers, cleaned skull cap with antlers attached, finished taxidermy mounts, tanned hides, and cleaned upper canine teeth are permitted. Improperly imported whole carcasses will be ticketed and the entire animal will be confiscated and destroyed. If you have a CWD-positive harvest from another state, please contact your DEC Regional Wildlife Office. DEC can assist with safe disposal of the animal and recommend disinfection methods.

**Take precautions when handling deer**
Wear rubber or latex gloves when field dressing or processing. Remove internal organs with knives or utensils dedicated for hunting. If you use lead ammunition, bury or landfill the organs to ensure scavengers, like bald eagles, do not accidentally ingest lead fragments. Trim generously around the wound channel and bag remaining carcass waste for the landfill.

**Do not feed wild deer**
Feeding is illegal year-round. Concentrating deer around food sources can spread diseases like CWD.

**Report sick and abnormal deer to DEC**
DEC would like to examine any deer that are very thin, drooling, standing with legs splayed and head lowered, listless, circling, or are easily approached. Contact the DEC Regional Wildlife Office near you (see page 6) or visit [http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/558.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/558.html).

**Avoid natural deer urine products**
Commercially produced urine products are not tested for prions. Choose synthetic alternatives. You don’t want to contaminate your favorite hunting spot!
Crossbow Hunting Qualifications and Safety Information

Crossbows may be used by any person age 14 or older to hunt deer, bear, unprotected wildlife and most small game species except waterfowl and other migratory game birds. Crossbows may not be used to take carp or any other fish.

Hunters who plan to hunt with a crossbow must have in their possession while afield either their completed Hunter Education Certificate of Qualification card dated on or after April 1, 2014 OR the completed Crossbow Certificate of Qualification located below.

Crossbow safety information

• Before shooting your crossbow, read and thoroughly understand your crossbow owner’s manual.
• Make sure your fingers are well AWAY (below rail) from the path of the bow string and cables.
• Never dry-fire a crossbow (cock and fire without an arrow placed on the rail).
• Make sure the crossbow limbs are free of obstructions before shooting.
• Never carry a cocked crossbow with an arrow in it while walking.
• If hunting from a tree stand, always cock (but do not load) the crossbow on the ground before climbing into the stand.
• Once seated and secured in the tree stand, pull up your unloaded crossbow with a haul line.
• Do not place an arrow on the crossbow until you are safely secured in your stand.
• Never use a cocking device to uncock a crossbow.
• To uncock a crossbow, shoot an arrow tipped with a field point into the soft ground or a target.
• Always identify your target and the area beyond it before shooting.
• To prevent wounding game, practice often and do not take shots at game that are beyond your effective range, generally less than 30–40 yards, similar to a modern compound bow.
• To better understand how an arrow functions and the skill required for hunting with an arrow, DEC recommends all crossbow hunters take a bowhunter education course.

Practice safely, practice often, and learn the capabilities and limitations of the crossbow and the arrow it shoots.

Suggested references to review
NYSDEC Crossbow Hunting Qualifications:
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/98061.html

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Crossbow Certificate of Qualification
I certify that I have read and understand the safety recommendations, license requirements and legal specifications for crossbow use in New York.

Print Name

Signature

DEC ID# (this is your back-tag number) Date

Fill in, cut out, and carry afield with your hunting license while hunting with a crossbow.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: DONATE VENISON!
We are asking hunters for as little as 2 pounds of venison. Entire deer donations are very welcome, but not required.
info@VenisonDonation.org
www.venisondonation.org

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Complete descriptions of all wildlife management units are available on DEC’s website www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8302.html

**Northern-Southern Zone Line**

A line commencing at a point at the north shore of the Salmon River and its junction with Lake Ontario and extending easterly along the north shore of that river to the Village of Pulaski, thence southerly along Route 11 to its intersection with Route 49 in the Village of Central Square, thence easterly along Route 49 to its junction with Route 365 in the City of Rome, thence easterly along Route 365 to its junction with Route 28 in the Village of Trenton, thence easterly along Route 28 to its junction with Route 29 in the Village of Middleville, thence easterly along Route 29 to its junction with Route 4, thence northerly along Route 4 to its junction with Route 22, thence northerly and westerly along Route 22 to the eastern shore of South Bay on Lake Champlain in the Village of Whitehall, thence northerly along the eastern shore of South Bay to the New York-Vermont boundary.

### Closed Areas

The following closed areas are specific portions of the state where the taking of deer and bear is prohibited by the Environmental Conservation Law. This section does not include areas covered by town laws, local ordinances or posting by landowners.

**Albany County**

Area around Alcove Reservoir: bounded by Albany County Rt. 111 from Rt. 143 to Albany-Greene County line to Albany County Rt. 411 to Rt. 143 to point of beginning. Closed except to landowners and lessees of lands in the area actually occupying and cultivating such lands.

**Erie County**

Area around Buffalo: bounded by Tonawanda Creek from East Branch Niagara River to Rt. 78 to Greiner Rd. to Rt. 268 to Rt. 5 to Ransom Rd. to Rt. 33 to Rt. 78 to Rt. 20 to Rt. 20A to Lake Erie.

**Herkimer County**

Area along Big Moose Lake: bounded by Judson Rd. from Herkimer-Hamilton County line to Higby Rd. to Big Moose Rd. to Martin Rd. and along it to its eastern end and then to the lake shore and back (starting westerly) along the shore to Herkimer-Hamilton County line and along it to Judson Rd.

**Herkimer and Hamilton Counties**

Area bounded by Rt. 28 from Old Forge to Inlet and by South Shore Rd. from Inlet to Old Forge.

**Nassau County**

All of Nassau County.

**New York City**

All of the city.

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**Legal Implements for the Regular Deer Season, Early and Regular Bear Season**

This map shows where various hunting implements may be used in the state. Boundary descriptions and closed areas are found below. (Some closed areas are too small to show on the map.)

**Boning Out Deer**

Some hunters who take a deer in remote areas may wish to bone out the meat and pack out the meat. This is lawful but you must retain the carcass tag with the boned out meat.

**Antler Restriction Program**

A mandatory antler point restriction exists in WMUs 3A, 3C, 3H, 3J, 3K, 4G, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4S, and 4W in Southeastern New York (see deer hunting season maps). This program will continue as DEC encourages hunters elsewhere to practice voluntary restraint. Over time, as more and more hunters in the broader region opt to pass on young bucks voluntarily, it may be appropriate to lift the restrictions.

**Antler Identification**

**Antler Point Restriction**

- At least 1 antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1" long
- Applies to all public and private land and all seasons
- Hunters aged 12-16 are exempt and may take any buck with antlers 3" or longer

**Antlerless Deer**

- Adult does, doe fawns, buck fawns (button bucks), adult bucks without antlers, or with antlers less than 3" long
- May be taken with appropriate antlerless-only or either-sex tags
Deer Hunting

Regular & Bowhunting Deer Seasons
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

2018

NORTHERN ZONE
Early Bowhunting--All WMUs
Crossbow
Regular
Late Bowhunting--Only WMUs 5A, 5G, 5J, 6A, 6C, 6G, and 6H
Sept. 27 - Oct. 19
Oct. 10 - Oct. 19
Oct. 20 - Dec. 2

SOUTHERN ZONE
Early Bowhunting
Crossbow--Not in WMUs 4J or 8C
Regular (opens Saturday)
Late Bowhunting
Oct. 13 - Oct. 19
Dec. 3 - Dec. 9

WESTCHESTER COUNTY (3S)
Regular--Bowhunting Only Oct. 1 - Dec. 31

SUFFOLK COUNTY (1C)
Regular--Bowhunting Only
Special Firearms-(Permit Req.)
Oct. 1, 2018 - Jan. 31, 2019
Jan. 6 - Jan. 31, 2019

Youth Firearms Season
Season Dates Oct. 6 - 8, 2018

Area Open
Northern and Southern Zone, except bowhunting only WMUs

Eligible Hunters
Youth 14-15 years of age

Bag Limit
One deer (antlered or antlerless)

Tags
Regular (either-sex), DMP and DMAP (antlerless-only);
Bow/Muzz tags are not valid

Crossbows
May be used to hunt deer during the Northern and Southern Zone Regular Seasons.
May not be used to hunt deer:
- during the Youth Firearms Season; or
- anytime in WMUs 1C (Suffolk County), 3S (Westchester County), 4J or 8C.

Antler Point Restrictions
During all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least one antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long. Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.

No Deer Hunting

Muzzleloading Deer Seasons
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

2018

Northern Zone
Deer of Either Sex Oct. 13 - Oct. 19
Antlered Only Oct. 13 - Oct. 19
Deer of Either Sex Dec. 3 - Dec. 9

Southern Zone
Deer of Either Sex Dec. 10 - Dec. 18

Antler Point Restrictions
During all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least one antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long. Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.

No Muzzleloading Season

Crossbows
May be used to hunt deer during the Northern and Southern Zone Muzzleloader Seasons.
May not be used to hunt deer:
- anytime in WMUs 1C (Suffolk County), 3S (Westchester County), 4J or 8C.
## Deer Tag Descriptions

For all season dates, see page 25. See page 12 for privilege information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tag Name</th>
<th>Tag Can Be Used In</th>
<th>Tag Is Valid For</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular Season Deer Tag</strong>&lt;br&gt;Only you may hunt with this tag. No transferring tag to another hunter.</td>
<td>Regular Season&lt;br&gt;- Northern Zone&lt;br&gt;- Southern Zone&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Westchester County</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Regular (bowhunting only)&lt;br&gt;- Special Firearms (special permit; see page 18)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Suffolk County</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Regular (bowhunting only)&lt;br&gt;- Special Firearms (special permit; see page 18)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Late Season Bowhunting (privilege required)</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Northern Zone&lt;br&gt;- Southern Zone&lt;br&gt;<strong>Late Season Muzzleloading (privilege required)</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Northern Zone&lt;br&gt; (check open areas and dates on map on page 25)&lt;br&gt;- Southern Zone&lt;br&gt; <strong>Youth Deer Season</strong>&lt;br&gt;-</td>
<td><strong>Antlered Deer Only</strong>&lt;br&gt; <em>Except:</em> May be used for Antlered or Antlerless Deer as follows:&lt;br&gt;- In Westchester County (WMU 3S)&lt;br&gt;- In Suffolk County (WMU 1C)&lt;br&gt;- In areas restricted to bowhunting only (WMUs 4J and 8C)&lt;br&gt;- In late seasons (with bowhunting or muzzleloading privilege)&lt;br&gt;- By Junior Hunters during the Youth Deer Hunt&lt;br&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag<br>Only you may hunt with this tag. No transferring tag to another hunter. | **Bowhunting Season (privilege required)**<br>- Northern Zone<br>- Southern Zone<br>- **Muzzleloading Season (privilege required)**<br>- Northern Zone<br> (check open areas and dates on page 25)<br>- Southern Zone<br>**Westchester County**<br>- Regular (bowhunting only)<br>**Suffolk County**<br>- Regular (bowhunting only)<br>- Special Firearms (special permit; see page 18)<br>**Not valid during the Northern or Southern Zone Regular Seasons or Youth Hunt.**<br> | **Antlered or Antlerless Deer**<br> **Bowhunting OR Muzzleloading seasons only** (including the regular season in Westchester County and any season in Suffolk County)<br> Junior Bowhunters will receive this tag, which will be valid in the special bowhunting seasons and during the regular season.<br> *Except:*<br>- May be used for antlered deer only during muzzleloading seasons in certain Northern Zone WMUs (see map page 25).<br> |

| Bow/Mz Season Antlerless Tag<br>Only you may hunt with this tag. No transferring tag to another hunter. | **Bowhunting Season (privilege required)**<br>- Northern Zone<br>- Southern Zone<br>- **Muzzleloading Season (privilege required)**<br>- Northern Zone<br> (check open areas and dates on page 25)<br>- Southern Zone<br>**Westchester County**<br>- Regular (bowhunting only)<br>**Suffolk County**<br>- Regular (bowhunting only)<br>- Special Firearms (special permit; see page 18)<br>**Not valid during the Northern or Southern Zone Regular Seasons or Youth Hunt.**<br> | **Antlerless Deer Only**<br> **Bowhunting OR Muzzleloading seasons only** (including the regular season in Westchester County and any season in Suffolk County)<br> *Except:*<br>- May not be used during muzzleloading seasons in certain Northern Zone WMUs that are Antlered Deer Only areas (see map page 25).<br> |

| Deer Management Permit Deer Tag | Any Open Deer Season | **Antlerless Deer Only**<br> **Valid ONLY for the WMU specified and printed on the DMP Deer Tag (Deer Management Permit)** See page 29.<br>**This is the only tag that can be transferred to another hunter**<br>(see page 29 for How to Transfer a DMP Deer Carcass Tag).<br> |
Moose In New York
Moose are protected in New York and cannot be hunted. DEC and its research partners are currently conducting a multi-year research project to obtain information on the status of New York State’s moose population, health of the moose, and the factors that influence moose survival and reproductive rate. The goal of the moose study is to gather data that will be used to create a moose management plan for New York State. See www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6964.html#Research for more information.

Report your Moose Sightings
If you have seen a moose, DEC wants to know about it. Your observations help DEC track moose distribution in New York. To report a moose sighting, go to www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6964.html#Sightings.

Meat Unfit for Consumption
If a deer, bear or turkey is found to be unfit for human consumption, a special permit may be issued that allows the hunter to take another deer, turkey, or bear, provided the season is still open. The entire animal, including the antlers, must be forfeited to get a permit. A permit will not be issued if meat is unfit due to hunter neglect. Call a wildlife or law enforcement office listed on page 6.
Deer Hunting

Deer Management Permits (DMPs)

Hunters possessing a DMP may take one antlerless deer per permit in addition to any deer that may be taken with a regular hunting license or bowhunting and muzzleloading privileges.

- DMPs may not be used for legally antlered deer (at least one antler 3” or longer).
- DMPs may only be used in the WMU for which they are issued.
- Hunters may transfer or receive up to 2 DMPs from other hunters (see page 29).
- Refer to chart on page 26 for information on when DMPs may be used.

Applying for a deer management permit (DMP)

- DMP Application Deadline: Close of business on October 1, 2018
- You may apply for DMPs at all license-issuing outlets, by phone or online beginning on August 1, 2018.
- DMPs are available to all hunters age 14 years or older who purchase or possess a regular hunting license (12 years old for Junior Bowhunting license holders).

Chances of DMP Selection

Your chances of selection for first and second DMPs by Wildlife Management Unit are available online at http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/30409.html, posted at all License Issuing Outlets or by calling our Deer Management Permit hotline at 1-866-472-4332. Chances of DMP selection remain the same throughout the entire DMP application period.

- There is a $10 non-refundable application fee for all applicants. The fee is waived for holders of Lifetime Sportsman licenses purchased prior to 10/1/2009, and Junior Hunters and Junior Bowhunters.
- Know your Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) before you apply. If you are unsure of your unit, see the WMU maps on pages 66–73 of this guide or visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8302.html for written boundary descriptions. You may also call the DMP Hotline for additional information at 1-866-472-4332.
- You may apply for up to two DMPs. Both must be applied for at the same time. Application can be for DMPs in the same WMU or different WMUs.
- Disabled veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 40% or greater (who are residents of New York) will receive preference on DMPs. Annually, you must bring a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs, dated in the current year, with your case number and your disability percentage. If you are claiming permanent disabled status, the letter must clearly state that the 40% or more service-related disability is permanent.
- Landowners: If you own 50 or more contiguous acres of land within the WMU you will be hunting in, you will receive preference on DMP selection. Annually, you must bring your tax map identification number and SWIS code (found on your tax bill) with you when you apply. Be sure to tell the license-issuing agent PRIOR to applying that you are a landowner. Lessees do not qualify as landowners. A spouse of a landowner may receive landowner preference, but both husband and wife may not apply as a landowner for the same parcel of land.
- Corporate ownership: only one person may be designated by a corporation as the landowner each year no matter how many 50-acre parcels are owned. The corporation must submit an original letter or certified copy of a resolution, dated in the current year, designating the individual and must include the tax map ID and SWIS code information.
- Group ownership: regardless of how many co-owners, only one person may apply per 50+ acre parcel. Additional 50+ acre parcels in the same WMU require separate tax IDs.
- Preference points:
  - Preference points are won and lost on first permit selection only.
  - If you do not receive a DMP in your first choice WMU, you will receive a preference point for the following year.
  - Preference points do not guarantee selection. Any preference points contained in your file are automatically applied to your first-choice WMU selection. If you do NOT receive your first choice, the points are applied to your second choice but will remain in your file for the following year, regardless of your second choice selection results.

DMP selection order

During the instant issuance, an applicant’s chances of selection are determined by an applicant’s category. The categories, in priority order, are as follows:

1. Landowners (50 or more acres of land within a WMU) and Disabled Veterans (40% or more service-related disability). All applicants in this category will receive their first-choice DMP.
2. NYS Residents and Non-residents with 3 Preference Points
3. NYS Residents with 1–2 Preference Points
4. NYS Residents without Preference Points
5. Non-residents with 1–2 Preference Points
6. Non-residents without Preference Points
Additional opportunities for DMPs

**Bonus DMPs:** If you fill a DMP in bowhunting-only WMUs 1C, 3S, 4J and 8C, you can apply for a bonus permit for another antlerless deer. Bonus permits may only be obtained from regional wildlife staff at predetermined locations. For complete information, visit our website or call a DEC Regional Wildlife Office as follows:

- WMU 1C: 1-631-444-0310
- WMU 3S: 1-845-256-3098
- WMU 4J: 1-518-357-2154
- WMU 8C: 1-585-226-5380

**Leftover DMPs:** If there are still permits remaining after the initial DMP instant-issuance period closes on October 1 and the back-end correction selections have occurred, the remaining DMPs may be available on a first-come/first-served basis, beginning on or around November 1. These DMPs are only available in person at license-issuing agents. Leftover DMPs will not be available by phone or online. The Wildlife Management Units with permits available will be announced by news release and on our website (www.dec.ny.gov). If you already applied for a Deer Management Permit during the initial application period, there is no additional application fee. If you are applying for the first time this hunting season, you will have to pay a $10 application fee. Fee is waived for Resident and Non-resident Junior Hunters and Junior Bowhunters, and for Lifetime license holders who purchased prior to October 1, 2009. You will be allowed up to two DMPs during the first-come/first-served application period in addition to any you may have received during the initial application period.

**Deer Management Assistance Program**

The Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) enables wildlife biologists to help landowners and resource managers implement site-specific deer management on their lands. In doing so, DEC issues a special permit for use only during the open deer hunting seasons and a determined number of antlerless deer tags to landowners or resource managers whose property is in need of site-specific deer management efforts. Hunters are expected to report their harvest. For more information on the program, refer to http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/33973.html.

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**How to Transfer a DMP Deer Carcass Tag**

Hunter Art Fern wants to transfer his DMP tag to hunter Pete Moss.

**Step 1:** Art Fern signs the bottom of his DMP tag.

**Step 2:** Art Fern gives the DMP tag to Pete Moss.

**Step 3:** Pete Moss records the DOC# of the DMP tag on his reporting panel, completing the transfer.

**Step 4:** If Pete Moss takes an antlerless deer with the transferred DMP, he is required to report the deer by calling the automated reporting system (1-866-426-3778) or by reporting online at www.dec.ny.gov using the transferred DMP DOC# and his/her own date of birth.

**Remember:** Hunting licenses are not transferable. Only DMP carcass tags can be used by another hunter. A hunter must be in physical possession of a DMP when taking antlerless deer pursuant to a DMP. It cannot be “shared” by a group afield.

**Note:** To report a deer taken on a transferred DMP, the hunter who took the deer must call the automated reporting system (1-866-426-3778) or report online at www.dec.ny.gov using the transferred DMP carcass tag DOC# and his/her own date of birth, along with other required information (see page 13).
DMAP Tags

The DEC Office in Sherburne, Chenango County, will have DMAP tags available for use only on Beaver Meadow State Forest in Chenango County this hunting season for interested hunters with a valid license. Tags are valid only for antlerless deer and will be loaned out on a weekly basis, determined by lottery drawing, depending on demand. Hunters may apply in person at DECs Sherburne Lands and Forests office. Find the application on the DEC website, http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/66900.html, contact Info.R7@dec.ny.gov or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the DEC Lands and Forests office in Sherburne requesting an application: NYS DEC, Division of Lands and Forests, 2715 State Hwy 80, Sherburne, NY 13460.

Eurasian Boar

Eurasian boars are a destructive invasive species that damage habitat and crops, and threaten native wildlife and domestic livestock. DEC and USDA have worked hard to eradicate these animals from the state’s landscape. We are now working to prevent their reintroduction into New York.

- It is illegal to possess, sell, distribute, trade or transport Eurasian boars or their hybrids.
- It is illegal to import, breed or release Eurasian boars or their hybrids.
- It is illegal to hunt, trap or take free-ranging Eurasian boar or their hybrids.

Although DEC’s eradication efforts have been very successful to date, we must remain vigilant. Anyone who sees a Eurasian boar should report it to DEC as soon as possible by emailing wildlife@dec.ny.gov or calling 518-402-8883.
Hunting in Africa

With our tailor made African adventures we offer safaris into some of the best and unforgettable hunting concessions and private game ranches in Africa.

We are situated twenty kilometers from Thabazimbi in the Limpopo province on the foot of the Kransberg mountain range. We cater for the professional bow or rifle Hunter within in the local & international Trophy Hunting markets. Both markets play pivotal role in conservation and animal management.

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Thabazimbi in the Limpopo province...
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Throughout New York, hunters are banding together to create deer management cooperatives, or co-ops. A co-op is a group of hunters who work together to accomplish goals over a collective acreage of land.

Reducing harvest of yearling (1-5-year-old) bucks is often a goal for co-ops. Bucks that are 2.5-years-old or older provide substantially more meat and larger antlers, and tend to create more rubs, scrapes, and vocalizations during the rut than their yearling counterparts. When groups of hunters choose not to harvest yearling bucks, they can substantially reduce the amount of effort needed to observe and take older bucks.

For a co-op in Yates County, NY, hunters agreed to try to harvest only bucks that have an outside spread of 14 inches or greater, which excluded the great majority of yearling bucks while leaving available the great majority of older bucks. As a result of their self-imposed restriction, the rate at which the hunters saw older bucks nearly doubled within five years, and the hunting effort needed to see an older buck has declined substantially, even more so in 2017 (Figure 1). With such positive results, co-op organizer John Hammer said, “Our co-op continues to grow each year as non-member property owners join after seeing more and larger bucks on their properties as the result of their neighbors letting young bucks go.”

It is not necessary to prohibit harvest of all yearling bucks to achieve similar results. In fact, about 19% of the adult bucks harvested by the Yates County Co-op members were yearlings (Figure 2). Many co-ops allow youth, first-time, and senior hunters to harvest any buck they choose. Co-ops also have the flexibility to change buck harvest criteria based on member input. “Some members have pushed to raise our minimum width requirement over the years, possibly to 16”, while other members have resisted,” John said. “So we haven’t changed it. Instead, we’ve given our members the freedom to adopt additional harvest standards...”
The 10 Commandments of Firearm Safety

1. **Watch that muzzle!** Keep it pointed in a safe direction at all times.
2. **Treat every firearm with the respect due a loaded gun.** It might be loaded, even if you think it isn’t.
3. **Be sure of your target and what is in front of it and beyond it.** Know the identifying features of the game you hunt. Make sure you have an adequate backstop—don’t shoot at a flat, hard surface or water.
4. **Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.** This is the best way to prevent an accidental discharge.
5. **Check your barrel and ammunition.** Make sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions, and carry only the proper ammunition for your firearm.
6. **Unload firearms when not in use.** Leave actions open, and carry firearms in cases and unloaded to and from the shooting area.
7. **Point a firearm only at something you intend to shoot.** Avoid all horseplay with a gun.
8. **Don’t run, jump, or climb with a loaded firearm.** Unload a firearm before you climb a fence or tree, or jump a ditch. Pull a firearm toward you by the butt, not the muzzle.
9. **Store firearms and ammunition separately and safely.** Store each in a secured location beyond the reach of children and careless adults.
10. **Do not consume alcoholic beverages before or during shooting.** Also avoid mind- or behavior-altering medicines or drugs.

---

**AB3 Hunter Rifle**
Blued barrel & action, walnut stock, 60° throw bolt-action, detachable double-stack magazine

**AB3 Composite Stalker**
Matte blued barrel and action, black synthetic stock, 60° throw bolt-action, detachable double-stack magazine

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**Figure 2.** Percentage of adult buck harvest by age class for a Yates County Deer Management Cooperative and surrounding Wildlife Management Units (8N, 8R) from 2015 to 2017.

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**Confidence goes a long way.**

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**NY_Hunt_Regs_2018_Browning_bleed.indd** 6/7/18 4:21 PM

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**1.5 years old**
**2.5 years old**
**3.5 years old**

Photos courtesy Charles Alsheimer
Doe or Fawn?
During the fall, it can often be difficult to distinguish adult does and fawn deer, particularly if seen alone. In recent years, about 30% of the total antlerless deer harvest has been fawns (5–7 months old), split roughly as 13% doe fawns and 17% buck fawns. Though fawns provide excellent table fare, some hunters prefer to target adult deer. Taking adult female deer contributes to management objectives, and passing buck fawns may allow some of them to be available later as antlered bucks. By learning the differences between antlerless deer, hunters can make more informed harvest choices.

Hunting Tips
- Button bucks often travel alone, but adult does rarely do. Wait until several antlerless deer are present before making a harvest decision.
- It is easier to identify sex and age when animals are standing still or moving slowly.
- Harvest antlerless deer early in the season when differences between fawns and adult does are most noticeable.

Fawn
- Characteristics of Fawns Body about as long as tall (square)
- Short neck and compact nose/head
- Eyes look large for head
- Doe fawns have a more rounded head shape between their ears
- Buck fawns’ heads appear flattened and may have visible antler nubs or “buttons”

Adult Doe
- Body longer than tall (rectangle)
- Long neck and elongated nose

DEC is Looking for “Citizen Scientists” to Help Monitor Wildlife Populations
There are several surveys where hunters can record their wildlife observations while afield. Visit the DEC website to learn more about opportunities to help us track deer, turkeys, grouse, and more!
- Bowhunter Sighting Log
- Grouse and Woodcock Hunting Log
- Grouse Drumming Survey
- Summer Turkey Sighting Survey
- New England Cottontail Survey
- Furbearer Observations
www.dec.ny.gov/animals/1155.html
### Future Big Game Season Dates

#### Northern Zone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early Bear</strong></td>
<td>The first Saturday after the second Monday in September through the Friday immediately preceding the early muzzle-loading season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early Bowhunting—Bear</strong></td>
<td>The first Saturday after the second Monday in September through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early Bowhunting—Deer</strong></td>
<td>September 27 through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early Muzzleloading—Deer and Bear</strong></td>
<td>7 consecutive days beginning on the first Saturday after Columbus Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular—Deer and Bear</strong></td>
<td>44 consecutive days beginning on the second Saturday after Columbus Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Late Bow and Muzzleloading—Deer</strong></td>
<td>7 consecutive days immediately following the regular season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Big Game Firearms Hunt—Deer and Bear</strong></td>
<td>Columbus Day Weekend; Saturday through Columbus Day (Monday)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Southern Zone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early Bear</strong></td>
<td>16 consecutive days beginning on the first Saturday after Labor Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early Bowhunting—Deer and Bear</strong></td>
<td>October 1 through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular—Deer and Bear</strong></td>
<td>23 days beginning the third Saturday of November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Late Bow and Muzzleloading—Deer and Bear</strong></td>
<td>9 consecutive days immediately following the regular season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Big Game Firearms Hunt—Deer and Bear</strong></td>
<td>Columbus Day Weekend; Saturday through Columbus Day (Monday)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Westchester County (WMU 3S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular—Deer and Bear (bowhunting only)</strong></td>
<td>October 1 through December 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Suffolk County (WMU 1C)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular—Deer (bowhunting only)</strong></td>
<td>October 1 through December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special Firearms Season—Deer</strong></td>
<td>First full week in January, through January 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Once again, DEC is providing a special youth deer season over the three-day Columbus Day weekend. Junior hunters (ages 14–15) will be eligible to take one deer of either sex with a firearm during this season and may use a Deer Management Permit, Deer Management Assistance Program tag, or a regular season tag. Junior hunters may not use a crossbow to take a deer during this hunt. Rules of the Junior Hunter Mentoring Program (page 37) also apply.

DEC also offers special opportunities for junior hunters (ages 12–15) for waterfowl, wild turkey, and pheasants.

For all youth hunts, junior hunters must be accompanied by an adult hunter. Both the junior and adult hunters are required to have a hunting license for the youth deer season, a hunting license and a turkey permit for the turkey hunt, and a hunting license and current HIP registration for the waterfowl hunt.

Adults are not allowed to possess a firearm, crossbow or bow or to harvest an animal while accompanying a junior hunter during the special seasons.

Crossbows may only be used by licensees who are 14 years of age or older.

### Youth Hunts

#### Youth Pheasant Hunt
- **Northern and Eastern New York**: September 29-30, 2018
- **Western New York**: October 13-14, 2018
- **Long Island**: October 27-28, 2018

#### Youth Waterfowl Hunt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waterfowl Hunting Zone</th>
<th>Tentative Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeastern</td>
<td>September 22-23, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeastern</td>
<td>September 22-23, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Champlain</td>
<td>September 29-30, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>October 13-14, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Island</td>
<td>November 10-11, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Youth Wild Turkey Hunt
- **Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary) and Suffolk County**: April 20-21, 2019

#### Youth Firearms Deer and Bear Hunt*
- **Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary; excluding bowhunting-only WMUs)**: Columbus Day Weekend; October 6-8, 2018

---

Dutchess County sportsmen hosted a youth pheasant hunt for the 23rd year. Three dozen volunteers helped coordinate the event. About a dozen dog handlers were present to take turns taking 35 junior hunters afield. The young hunters met with success and took several birds. ECOs were also on hand to provide guidance to the young hunters.

*Photo courtesy of Bill Conners*
Junior Hunter Mentoring Program

12- and 13-year-old junior bowhunters can hunt deer and bear with a bow if they meet the following requirements:
- Have completed a course in both Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education
- Purchase a Junior Bowhunting License
- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a “youth mentor” who is 21 years or older and designated in writing by the junior hunter's parent or legal guardian (use the form below)
- The adult accompanist needs to have at least 3 years of experience in hunting deer or bear by longbow AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.
- The parent, guardian or youth mentor must maintain physical control over the minor at all times while hunting.

14- and 15-year-old junior hunting license holders can hunt deer and bear with a gun if they meet the following requirements:
- Have completed a course in Hunter Education
- Purchase a Junior Hunting License
- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a “youth mentor” who is 21 years or older designated in writing (use the form below)
- The adult accompanist needs to have at least 3 years of hunting experience AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.
- The parent, guardian or youth mentor must maintain physical control over the minor at all times while hunting.
- The Junior Hunter must stay on the ground and cannot use an elevated (tree) stand.
- Both junior hunter and adult accompanist must wear hunter orange: Shirt or jacket with 250 sq. inches of solid/patterned orange (the pattern must be at least 50% orange) OR a hat with at least 50% orange visible in all directions.

14 and 15-year-old junior bowhunters and first-time 16 and 17-year-old big game hunters must:
- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or person 18 years or older designated in writing (use form below)
- The adult accompanist needs to have at least 1 year of hunting experience AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.

Trapping Mentoring Program

Trappers under 12 years of age:
- May accompany and assist a licensed trapper who has at least 3 years of trapping experience
- May assist the licensed trapper in all aspects of trapping without possessing a trapping license
- The licensed trapper may be a parent or legal guardian, or someone 18 years or older designated in writing (use the form below)
- If trapping on your own and you are under 12 years, you will need to successfully complete New York’s Trapper Education Program
- To continue trapping once you are 12 years, you need to take the class.

Share Your Hunting and Trapping Photos With Us!

Help us celebrate the successes of young and first-time hunters and trappers by submitting photographs to DEC’s Hunting and Trapping Photo Gallery. Instructions for submitting photographs are included on the photo gallery webpage.

www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/54055.html

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Mentored Youth Hunter and Trapper Permission Form

Use this form to designate a licensed adult hunter or trapper to accompany young hunters or trappers.

I, __________________________, am the parent/legal guardian

(Print name of parent or legal guardian above.) (Please circle one.)

of __________________________, and I hereby give permission for him or her

(Print name of young hunter/trapper above.)

to be accompanied by __________________________, whom I acknowledge meets

(Print name of adult hunter/trapper above.)

the legal age, experience, and licensing requirements to function as a mentor during hunting and trapping seasons.

Signature: __________________________

(Parent or legal guardian sign above.)

Date __________________________

(Print today’s date above.)

Telephone Number __________________________

(Print phone number above.)

Attention Young Hunter or Trapper: carry this form with you while afield.
Is It Time to Try a Better Bullet?

The damaging effects of lead exposure to humans and wildlife are well known. Lead fragments left behind when you harvest your trophy game animal can remain in the meat and within a gut pile exposing you and scavenging wildlife to lead consumption. While there have been no reports directly linking consumption of wild game taken in New York to sickness in humans, health officials advise there is no safe dose, particularly in young children. Many wildlife species are especially sensitive to lead poisoning, becoming debilitated even with small doses.

Today’s alternative monolithic bullets, typically made of copper, perform exceptionally well at taking game, and as availability increases, can be had at a cost similar to premium ammunition.

Now is a good time to ensure your wild game meat is of the highest quality, and what is left behind doesn’t continue to kill long after the shot is over. It’s a good time to try a better bullet.

Fragmentation vs. Mushrooming

Comparison of two .270-caliber bullets shot into a modified rain barrel for collection to simulate performance on game. The copper jacket lead-core bullet (left) is heavily fragmented compared to the solid copper bullet (right) that retained its original shape upon impact.

Shotgun slugs made of copper fold into “petals,” expanding the slug’s surface area better than slugs made of lead.

CT-scan showing lead fragments (appearing white) in 20 one-pound packages of ground venison.

Radiograph of a deer’s chest illustrating fragmentation of a lead ballistic tip rifle bullet.

Non-Lead Ammunition for...

- Good Hunting
- Improved Conservation
- High-Quality Meat
- Safer Consumption

FIREWOOD WARNING

Your firewood may be hiding invasive pests that are killing our trees and forever changing the forests we love. Protect our trees. Buy Local, Burn Local.

- It is illegal to bring untreated* firewood into New York State
- It is illegal to transport untreated firewood more than 50 miles from its source or origin
- When transporting firewood, you must carry proof of source (receipt from a vendor), origin (self-issued certificate from DEC website), or treatment (label showing treatment method)

Failure to follow these regulations may result in a ticket. For questions or to report any invasives you find, call toll-free 1-866-640-0652

State and federal quarantines exist that further restrict the movement of firewood. For more information please visit www.dec.ny.gov and search for “invasive insects”.

* Treated firewood has been heated to 160°F for 75 minutes to eliminate pests living inside the wood. Treated firewood can be moved without restriction.

What’s lurking in your firewood?
Bear Hunting

- Resident and non-resident hunters may take one bear per year.
- In the Southern Zone, hunters may not shoot a cub or a bear that should be known to be a cub, shoot any bear from a group of bears, or shoot or take a bear from its den.
- Hunters may use and carry up to 1.5 fluid ounces of a liquid scent or lure, though such scent or lure may not be placed in a manner that it may be consumed as bait.
- Hunting bear with the aid of bait is prohibited.

Bear age and weight data
Hunters who harvest bears in New York are asked to submit a premolar tooth or part of the lower jaw of the bear for DEC to determine the bear’s age and to record the dressed weight of the bear (see www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/45598.html for more information). A collection packet including instructions and a postage-paid return envelope will be mailed to each hunter that reports taking a bear. There are many cooperating taxidermists in New York that can extract the requested premolar teeth, weigh bears, and submit the data to DEC on your behalf, so check with your taxidermist. Generally, taxidermists do not use teeth or the lower jaw when preparing mounts or rugs. All successful hunters are still required to report their bear harvest online or via the automated phone system.

Attention Bear Hunters and Taxidermists
Bear gallbladders and bile shall not be possessed or sold unless a valid bear tag (original or copy of bear carcass tag) is attached. A new law now also requires taxidermists to keep records of all bear gallbladders and bile received or sold.

Know of Any Active Bear Dens?
DEC wants to know about occupied dens. Please call the nearest DEC wildlife office. See page 6.

New York State Bear Management Cooperator Program
The Bureau of Wildlife is requesting the assistance of successful black bear hunters in New York State.

Hunters who harvest a bear in New York are required to report their harvest through the DECALS telephone system at 1-866-426-3778 (1-866-GAMERPT) or use the new online Harvest Reporting System at www.dec.ny.gov. Successful bear hunters will be sent a tooth collection packet with premolar removal and submission instructions. Hunters may be contacted by a DEC wildlife biologist to examine your bear and extract a premolar tooth for aging.

Report your bear and return a bear tooth to receive a commemorative 2018 NYS Black Bear Cooperator Patch. Samples will be aged in the summer of 2019. Cooperators will receive patches and letters indicating the age of their bear in early fall 2019.

“Living with New York Black Bears”
(Great Outdoors Multimedia 2007).

Take an inside look at the mysterious world of black bears and learn some secrets to sharing the landscape with bears. This video will explore the history of black bears, the challenges that face New York black bear biologists, and how landowners can responsibly and safely share their neighborhood with bears.

Available for viewing or loan from your local library or local DEC Regional Wildlife Office.
Small Game includes upland and migratory game birds, small game mammals, certain fur-bearers, and reptiles and amphibians.

Please read general hunting regulations first. See page 14.

General Regulations

- You may not use a rifle or handgun to hunt pheasant or migratory game birds. See page 44 for more information on turkeys.
- See pages 47–50 for additional information on migratory game birds.
- Air guns (see page 14) may be used to hunt squirrels, rabbits, hares, ruffed grouse, and furbearers that may be hunted (e.g., raccoons and coyotes) and unprotected species (see page 15). Air guns may not be used to hunt waterfowl, pheasant, wild turkey, or big game.
- Crossbows may not be used to take waterfowl or other migratory game birds. Crossbows may not be possessed afield in the Northern Zone when hunting small game (except coyotes) with the aid of a dog or when accompanied by a dog. Crossbows may be used to take any other small game or upland game birds during their respective open seasons except in Westchester and Suffolk counties.
- In Wildlife Management Unit 2A, hunting is permitted by falconry only.

Reptiles and Amphibians

**Frogs**—“Frogs” are defined as eastern spadefoot toad, eastern American toad, Fowler’s toad, northern cricket frog, northern gray treefrog, northern spring peeper, western chorus frog, bullfrog, green frog, mink frog, wood frog, northern leopard frog, southern leopard frog, and pickerel frog.

A fishing or hunting license is required to take frogs with a spear, club, hook, or by hand. A hunting license is required to take frogs with a gun, bow or crossbow.

**Snakes, Lizards, and Salamanders**—You may not harvest, take, or possess any native snakes, lizards, or salamanders at any time.

**Turtles**—The only turtle species for which there is an open hunting season is the snapping turtle. You may not harvest, take, or possess any other turtle species at any time.

The final diamondback terrapin season was April 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018, with licenses expiring June 4, 2018. You may no longer take or possess diamondback terrapins.

**Snapping turtles**—A hunting license is required to take snapping turtles. The only legal implement for taking snapping turtles is a gun, bow or crossbow.

Falconry Seasons

To hunt small game species with trained raptors, you must possess a Falconry License and a hunting license. Licensed falconers may take small game from October 1 through March 31 in any area of the state open to hunting these species EXCEPT:

- Waterfowl may be taken only during the regular firearm hunting season or during a specific period outside of the firearms seasons as specified by DEC.
- Common crow may only be taken during the open firearms season.
- A licensed falconer may take both male and female pheasants anywhere in the state when hunting under a Falconry License.

For more information on falconry, contact the DEC Special Licenses Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4752 or call 518-402-8985.

Spruce Grouse vs. Ruffed Grouse

Male spruce grouse are very distinctive (mostly black with white markings and a red comb over each eye), but female spruce grouse are similar in color to ruffed grouse. By knowing the differences, hunters can avoid accidentally shooting spruce grouse. Loss of a female spruce grouse could be a significant setback for a small local population.

In New York State, the spruce grouse is an endangered species and not legal to hunt. Spruce grouse exist in lowland conifer forests in the Adirondacks. Although ruffed grouse occur in upland hardwoods statewide, during the fall and winter ruffed grouse may be found in spruce grouse habitat. Small game hunters in the Adirondack region must learn to distinguish between these species so that spruce grouse are not shot by mistake.
Small Game Hunting

Use of Hunting Dogs

Dogs may be used to hunt small game, except:

• You may not use dogs to hunt wild turkey in the spring.
• In the Northern Zone, if you are hunting with a dog, or accompanied by a dog, you may not possess a rifle larger than .22-caliber rimfire or possess a shotgun loaded with slug, ball or buckshot unless you are coyote hunting with a dog. In the Northern Zone, crossbows may not be possessed afield when hunting small game (except coyotes) with the aid of a dog or when accompanied by a dog.

Training

You may train dogs on raccoon, fox, coyote, and bobcat from July 1 through April 15. You may train dogs on other small game only from August 15 through April 15. You may train dogs at any time on lands you own, lease, or have written permission to use, if you are not training on wild game. You may only use blank ammunition when training dogs, except during an open season.

Control

Hunting dogs should remain under control of the hunter or trainer, especially on lands inhabited by deer. Do not allow your dogs to pursue game on any posted land without the landowner’s permission. Do not shoot dogs; report stray dogs to a local Environmental Conservation Officer or your local animal control officer.

Reptile and Amphibian Hunting Seasons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Open Season</th>
<th>Open Area</th>
<th>Size Limit</th>
<th>Daily Bag</th>
<th>Season Bag</th>
<th>Hunting Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frogs</td>
<td>June 15–Sept. 30</td>
<td>All wildlife management units except that (1) leopard frogs shall not be taken in Wildlife Management Units 1A, 1C, or 2A, and (2) northern cricket frogs and eastern spadefoot toads shall not be taken in any area of the state.</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Any time of the day or night, except that no person shall use a gun to take frogs when hunting at night (sunset to sunrise).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapping Turtles</td>
<td>July 15–Sept. 30</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>The upper shell (carapace) must be 12 inches or longer, measured in a straight line.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Any time of the day or night</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Possession and Release of Game Birds

It is illegal to possess or release migratory game birds and upland game birds without the proper license(s) from DEC. Before you take possession of any captive-reared or wild game birds, contact the DEC Special Licenses Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4752 or call 518-402-8985 or e-mail speciallicenses@dec.ny.gov.
Attention

The New England cottontail was a candidate for the federal Endangered Species Act, but as a result of ongoing conservation activities, it was determined that this was not necessary. It's important that we continue to collect information on this species and conduct conservation activities and you can help! If you hunt or own property in WMUs 3F, 3G, 3N, 3S, 4C, 4K, 4L, 4Z, 4U, 4T, or 4Y and would like to assist with survey efforts or habitat management, please call 518-402-8929 or email wildlife@dec.ny.gov!

Cottontail Rabbit Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

Season Dates 2018/2019  Daily Bag Limits
Oct. 1–Mar. 17  6
Oct. 1–Feb. 28  6
Nov. 1–Feb. 28  6

Varying Hare Rabbit Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

Season Dates 2018/2019  Daily Bag Limits
Oct. 1–Mar. 17  6
Jan. 1–Jan. 31  2
Dec. 10–Feb. 28  2
Closed

Got Hare?

DEC wants to learn more about the distribution of hare. You can report your observations online at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/30770.html or e-mail us at wildlife@dec.ny.gov! Thanks for your help!

Gray, Black & Fox Squirrel Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

Season Dates 2018/2019  Daily Bag Limits
Sept. 1–Feb. 28  6
Nov. 1–Feb. 28  6

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Small Game Hunting

Small Game Hunting

Pheasant Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

- Cocks only
- Cocks & hens
- Cocks only east of Shinnecock Canal & Inlet

2018/2019 Regular Season Dates

- Oct. 20–Dec. 31
- Oct. 20–Feb. 28
- Oct. 1–Feb. 28
- Nov. 1–Dec. 31

2018 Youth Hunt Dates

- Oct. 20–Dec. 31
- Oct. 20–Feb. 28
- Oct. 1–Feb. 28
- Nov. 1–Dec. 31

Bag Limits Daily Season

- 2 —
- 2 —
- 2 —
- 2 —

2018/2019 Season Dates

- Oct. 20–Dec. 31
- Oct. 20–Feb. 28
- Oct. 1–Feb. 28
- Nov. 1–Dec. 31

Daily Bag Limits

- 4
- 4
- Closed

Attention

If you would like to raise and release pheasants to increase pheasant hunting opportunities, please e-mail us at wildlife@dec.ny.gov and type "pheasants" in the subject line or call (607) 273-2768. For a list of hunting areas where pheasants are released, contact a DEC Regional Wildlife Office (on page 6) or visit our website at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9349.html

Bobwhite Quail Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

- Cocks only
- Cocks & hens
- Cocks only east of Shinnecock Canal & Inlet

Season Dates 2018/2019

- Oct. 1–Feb. 28
- Nov. 1–Dec. 31
- Closed

Bag Limits Daily Season

- 4 10
- 6 40
- Closed

Youth Pheasant Hunt

Junior hunters (ages 12–15) must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter. Only the junior hunter may carry a firearm.

Attention

You may not shoot woodcock unless you have registered in the Harvest Information Program. To register, go to www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6405.html or call 1-888-427-5447. (See woodcock season dates, page 50.)

Attention

DEC is seeking grouse hunters to participate in a survey to help monitor ruffed grouse populations. For more information, please e-mail us at wildlife@dec.ny.gov and type "grouse log" in the subject line, call (518) 402-8883, or visit www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9351.html

Ruffed Grouse Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

Season Dates 2018/2019

- Sept. 20–Feb. 28
- Oct. 1–Feb. 28
- Closed

Daily Bag Limits

- 4
- 4
- Closed

**General Information**
- You may buy only one turkey permit per year.
- If you have filled your bag limit, you may call turkeys for another hunter, but you may not carry a bow, crossbow, or firearm. You may call turkeys to aid another hunter only if you are licensed to hunt wild turkey in New York and have a valid turkey permit.
- If you have taken a turkey that is unfit for consumption, authorized DEC staff may issue a special permit to take another. You will have to surrender the carcass. Call your wildlife or law enforcement office (see page 6).

**Manner of Taking**
- You must carry your hunting license and turkey permit while you hunt.
- You may hunt with a bow or crossbow; however, crossbows may not be used to take wild turkeys in Westchester or Suffolk counties.
- You may hunt with a shotgun or handgun only when using shot no larger than #2 and no smaller than #8.
- You may not take a turkey with a rifle or air gun, or with a handgun firing a bullet.
- You may use a muzzleloading shotgun.
- You may not hunt with a dog during the spring season. You may hunt with a dog during the fall season.
- You may not use bait to hunt turkey.
- You may not use an electronic calling or amplifying device to locate or hunt turkeys during the open season.
- You may use decoys.
- A scope of any type is allowed.

**Tagging and Possession**
- Immediately after taking a wild turkey, you must fill out the appropriate carcass tag in ink, mark or cut out the date and month of kill, sign the back, and attach it to the carcass.
- The carcass tag must stay attached to the turkey carcass until it is prepared for eating.
- You may give your turkey to another person.
- You must attach a tag with the following information to the turkey carcass:
  - Your name
  - Your address
  - Your hunting license number
  - Turkey permit carcass tag number
  - The recipient’s name
  - The recipient’s address
- You must report your harvest within 7 days via phone (1-866-GAMERPT), online (www.dec.ny.gov) or through our HuntFishNY mobile app (see page 8).

**Turkey Hunters Needed for Grouse Survey**
DEC is seeking spring turkey hunters to participate in a survey to help monitor grouse populations.

For more information:
- E-mail us at wildlife@dec.ny.gov and type “Grouse Drumming Survey” in the subject line, or
- Call 518-402-8883, or
- Visit www.dec.ny.gov and search for “drumming survey.”

**Reward**
Protect wild turkeys against illegal hunting. Their future depends on you!
The National Wild Turkey Federation is offering a $200 reward to anyone giving information and testimony leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone illegally hunting or killing a wild turkey in New York State.

1-844-DEC-ECOS

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- 3” SERRATED
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Fall Turkey Season
- You may take a bird of either sex.
- There is one carcass tag for the fall season and it may be used in any fall turkey hunting zone. Immediately after taking a turkey, you must fill out the carcass tag in ink and attach it to the bird.
- If you take a turkey, save one of its legs. You will receive instructions about what to do with the leg when you report your harvest. The legs are used for age and sex information.

Spring Turkey Season
- In the spring, you may take two bearded birds. You may only take one bird per day.
- Fill out the carcass tag and attach it to the bird.
- You do not need to save and send in turkey legs in the spring. You do need to take careful spur, beard, and weight measurements for harvest reporting.
  1. Spur measurements: Spurs should be measured from the tip of the spur to the base of the spur, where it emerges from the scaly part of the leg. Measure to the nearest ¼ inch. Do not measure to the forward edge of the leg, only to the base of the spur.
  2. Beard measurements: Beards should be measured from the tip of the beard to the base, where it emerges from the skin. Put the end of your ruler against the base of the beard and extend the beard along the body of the ruler. Measure to the nearest ¼ inch.
  3. Record the weight of the turkey to the nearest pound.

Spring Youth Hunt
Eligible hunters are 12–15 years of age and hold a Junior Hunting License and a Turkey Permit.
All youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult, as required by law for a Junior Hunting License (see pages 36 and 37).
The accompanying adult must have a current hunting license and Turkey Permit. He/she may assist the youth hunter (including calling), but may not carry a firearm, crossbow or bow, or kill or attempt to kill a wild turkey during the youth hunt. Crossbows may only be used by licensees who are 14 years of age or older.
The bag limit for the youth hunt is one bearded bird. This bird becomes part of the youth’s regular season bag limit of two bearded birds. A second bird may be taken beginning May 1.
All other wild turkey hunting regulations remain in effect.

Turkey Hunting Tips
Successful turkey hunters sit and call.
Don’t wear red, white, blue or black.
Most turkey hunting injuries happen when one hunter stalks another hunter. DON’T TRY TO STALK TURKEY!
Assume anything that sounds like a turkey is a human (calls, footsteps).
If you see another hunter:
- Don’t move, or wave or nod.
- Don’t make turkey or animal sounds.
- Do speak up clearly, saying “STOP.”
If you see a turkey:
Be 100% sure of your target and beyond.
To prevent another hunter from mistaking you for a gobbler, avoid using a turkey “reaper fan”.

NYS 4-H Shooting Sports
Cornell Cooperative Extension
50 West High Street
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
518-885-8995

4-H Shooting Sports is a statewide youth development program focusing on the safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment. Six disciplines are offered:
Archery, Muzzleloading, Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun & Hunting
All disciplines are taught by certified instructors. Youth gain knowledge and understanding while developing valuable vocational and life-long recreational skills. Contact Saratoga County Cornell Cooperative Extension or visit NYS 4-H Shooting Sports on the web for more information.
http://www.NYS4HShootingSports.org

Wild Harvest Table
A resource for game and fish recipes, nutrition information, and preparation techniques.
http://wildharvesttable.com
My Turkey Hunting Mentor
By Cody Blatner, Grade 9

I was fifteen years old and had hunted several youth spring turkey hunts without success. However, I learned a lot with my dad as my mentor. I learned when to call and when to be silent and have patience. I also learned how to sit still even as mosquitoes tried desperately to eat through my head net and gloves.

My dad and I were able to roost several gobblers the night before on some nearby state land. The next morning, we arrived back on the state land at around 3:45 a.m. It was cold and crisp with just enough moonlight to navigate.

I gave a few owl hoots and a turkey immediately gobbled straight ahead on a distant ridge. After several minutes, I gave several more hoots and another turkey gobbled to my left on another smaller ridge. I wanted to continue to call but worried about attracting predators, other hunters, or hens.

I set up my hen decoy and selected a large tree for us to rest against. As I waited for it to get light, I listened to the woods come alive around me. I could smell damp earth and wild leeks. A pileated woodpecker pounded on a nearby tree, and as I heard the caw of a distant crow, I knew it was finally time to call.

My dad gave a series of soft tree yelps and the turkey triple gobbled. I heard the wing beats and breaking branches as the turkey pitched down toward my location. I raised my gun into position while my dad gave a few soft clucks on his favorite mouth call. The turkey gobbled again and the ground seemed to shake. I heard the leaves crunching as the tom suddenly approached in full strut. The sun was shining on its tail feathers and its head was fire engine red and blue.

As the turkey faced me with its head tightly tucked in, my heart was pounding. My dad gave a series of yelps and the turkey broke strut with its head extended like a periscope. My red dot was on the base of his head and I fired. The turkey folded backwards from a load of copper-plated shot from my twenty gauge. After tagging my prize, I was finally able to wrap my hands around the legs of my first spring gobbler. I did a partial mount with my dad’s help and my mom prepared a great turkey dinner! I will always have memories of that special day.
What is a “Migratory Game Bird”?  
Under state and federal laws and regulations, all of the following are considered migratory game birds in New York:
- All wild ducks, mergansers, geese, and brant (“waterfowl”)
- All coot, rails, and gallinules (moorhens)
- Woodcock and snipe

Crows are not considered migratory game birds under federal regulations, but most of New York’s migratory game bird hunting regulations apply to crows. You should assume they are the same except where differences are noted.

Mourning doves are considered migratory game birds under federal regulations but are not defined as such under New York State law so no hunting season has been established for this species.

Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits

Migratory game bird hunting regulations are set by the federal government in consultation with state agencies. Due to a change in the federal regulation setting process, migratory game bird seasons are now finalized by mid-June or early July. Final season dates and bag limits are now available in time to be published in the annual hunting guide; pocket references for migratory game bird seasons are also available from regional DEC offices upon request or by emailing wildlife@dec.ny.gov.

License Requirements
To hunt any migratory game bird in New York, you need a hunting license unless you qualify to hunt without a license.

To hunt any migratory game bird in New York except crows, you must register in New York’s Harvest Information Program (HIP). This applies to all hunters, including junior hunters and people who qualify to hunt without a license. To register, go to: www.NY-HIP.com or call 1-888-427-5447. HIP registration is valid from July 1 through June 30 annually (not the same as your hunting license).

Duck Stamp
If you are 16 years or older and you hunt waterfowl, you also need a federal migratory game bird hunting stamp (“duck stamp”). The stamp is not needed to hunt coot, rails, gallinules, woodcock, snipe or crows. You may buy a duck stamp at most post offices and many sporting goods stores. They may also be ordered on-line (www.duckstamp.com) or by phone (1-800-852-4897). The stamp must be signed in ink across the face to be valid for hunting.

Consumption of Wild Waterfowl
The New York State Department of Health recommends that you remove the skin and fat of wild waterfowl before cooking, and eat no more than two meals containing waterfowl per month (with the exception of mergansers). Mergansers are fishing-eating birds that tend to be the most heavily contaminated waterfowl and should not be eaten.

Recent data indicate that waterfowl residing in the Hudson River between Hudson Falls and Troy have higher PCB levels than waterfowl from other portions of the Hudson River and are likely to have higher PCB levels than waterfowl from other areas of the state. Because PCBs may have a greater effect on young children or an unborn child, it is particularly important for women under 50 and children under 15 to minimize their PCB exposure. For more information, visit: https://www.health.ny.gov.

Waterfowl Hunting in Populated Areas

Some excellent waterfowl hunting opportunities occur in shoreline areas of New York that are becoming more populated and developed. Waterfowl hunters have special privileges in New York, but please consider the possible concerns that nearby homeowners may have about noise, safety or invasion of privacy before you go afield. Avoiding such conflicts will help ensure that waterfowl hunting remains an accepted tradition in fast-developing shoreline areas. For more information, go to: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/94213.html.

DEC, in cooperation with the South Shore Waterfowlers Association (SSWA), has produced A Pocket Reference for Police Officers and Waterfowl Hunters that summarizes the state laws that pertain to waterfowl hunting in general and includes a “code of ethics” for waterfowl hunters to help ensure that waterfowl hunting remains a viable recreational opportunity in New York. For a copy, call (518) 402-8883 or email wildlife@dec.ny.gov.

Special Snow Goose Harvest Program

Waterfowl hunters in New York will have a special opportunity to harvest snow geese in most areas of the state from January 16 through April 15, 2019. This additional opportunity is offered because of concerns about impacts that snow geese are having on natural ecosystems. For more information, including harvest regulations for 2018–19, go to: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/5054.html.

General Regulations
Following is a summary of state and federal rules that apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting and storing of all migratory game birds in New York. For more complete information, consult the specific federal (50 CFR Part 20) and state (6 NYCRR Part 2.30) regulations. You can link to both of these from: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28175.html.

Definitions
Migratory game birds are wild ducks, geese, brant, coot, rails, gallinules, woodcock and snipe. Migratory waterfowl are wild ducks, geese, brant and coot.

License requirements
All migratory game bird hunters must carry a valid New York State hunting license, except for persons not required to have a hunting license. All migratory game bird hunters in New York must also register annually with New York’s Harvest Information Program (HIP) and carry proof of compliance whenever going afield. To register, call toll-free 1-888-4ASKHIP (1-888-427-5447) or visit the website: www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6405.html. You will be given a confirmation number that you can record on the back of your hunting license as proof of participation in HIP. HIP registration is valid from July 1–June 30 annually.

Migratory bird hunting stamp
Each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must carry on his/her person a valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (“duck stamp”) signed in ink across the face. Stamps do not have to be attached to your license. Duck stamps are not required to hunt coot, rails, gallinules, woodcock or snipe. Duck stamps are not required of minors 12 to 15 years of age hunting migratory waterfowl in New York State.
Federal duck stamps are sold at most post offices and many sporting goods stores and cost $25.00 each. They may also be ordered by calling 1-800-852-4897 or visiting the website www.duckstamp.com. There is a shipping and handling fee for phone or Internet orders.

Hunting hours
Woodcock may be taken from sunrise to sunset. All other migratory game birds may be taken from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset in all hunting zones. Canada geese may be taken until one-half hour after sunset during the September seasons, except on Youth Waterfowl Hunt Days, when hunting hours end at sunset. Snow geese may be taken until one-half hour after sunset during January 15–April 15 whenever all other waterfowl hunting seasons are closed.

Non-toxic shot requirement
Non-toxic shot is required for hunting any migratory game bird, except woodcock, everywhere in New York State. Possession or use of shells loaded with shot other than steel, bismuth-tin, iron-tungsten, iron-tungsten-nickel, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-tin-iron, tungsten-tin-bismuth, tungsten-tin-iron-nickel or other shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is strictly prohibited when hunting waterfowl, snipe, rails or gallinules.

Duck hunting blinds
NYS Navigation Law Section 33-b requires that duck blinds placed in the waters of lakes within New York State be prominently marked with the owner’s full name and address. All duck blinds placed in lakes must be removed no later than March 15 annually.

Prohibitions on methods of take
No person shall take migratory game birds:
• With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, crossbow, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fiishhook, 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 removal without disassembling the gun. This does not apply to the taking of snow geese in any area or zone, or taking of Canada geese during September, when all other waterfowl seasons are closed.
• 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 of or between the place of taking and:
  • His or her automobile or principal means of land transportation
  • His or her personal abode or temporary place of lodging
  • Migratory bird preservation facility
  • Post office or common-carrier facility

Wanton waste/possession of live birds
No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird and retain it in his/her actual custody. Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be killed immediately and included in the daily bag limit.

Field possession limit
No more than one daily bag or aggregate daily bag limit of migratory game birds may be possessed or transported, tagged or untagged, at or between the place of taking and:
• His or her automobile or principal means of land transportation
• His or her personal abode or temporary place of lodging
• Migratory bird preservation facility
• Post office or common-carrier facility

No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird and then transport the bird from the field. The head or one fully feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported.

For more information on regulations pertaining to possession, tagging, shipment and importation of legally killed migratory game birds, consult the specific federal and state regulations cited above.

Caution/dual violation
More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges and state wildlife management areas (WMAs) open to public hunting. Violation of New York State migratory bird hunting regulations is also a violation of federal regulations.
### 2018–2019 Waterfowl Seasons

**Northeast**
- **Youth Days**: Sept. 22 & 23
- **Ducks** and Coots: Oct. 6 - Oct. 28
- **Snow Geese**: Oct. 1 - Apr. 15
- **Brant**: Oct. 6 - Dec. 4

**Western**
- **Youth Days**: Oct. 13 & 14
- **Ducks** and Coots: Oct. 27 - Dec. 8
- **Snow Geese**: Oct. 1 - Apr. 15
- **Brant**: Oct. 6 - Dec. 4

**Southeastern**
- **Youth Days**: Sept. 22 & 23
- **Ducks** and Coots: Oct. 6 - Oct. 14
- **Snow Geese**: Oct. 1 - Apr. 15
- **Brant**: Oct. 6 - Dec. 4

**Long Island**
- **Youth Days**: Nov. 10 & 11
- **Ducks** and Coots: Nov. 22 - Nov. 23
- **Snow Geese**: Nov. 10 - Dec. 30
- **Brant**: Nov. 22 - Nov. 23

**Lake Champlain**
- **Youth Days**: Sept. 29 & 30
- **Ducks** and Coots: Oct. 13 - Oct. 21
- **Snow Geese**: Oct. 1 - Dec. 31
- **Brant**: Oct. 6 - Dec. 4

**Leg Band Reporting**

Please report band recoveries online at [WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV](http://WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV) or by sending your information to: Bird Banding Lab, 12100 Beach Forest Road, Laurel, MD 20708. The call center supporting the 1-800 toll-free phone number was discontinued in June 2017. Reporting banded birds helps in their management. Thanks for your support!

### Bag Limits

The daily bag limit is the maximum number of birds of each species that any person may take or possess in the field during any one day. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit for all migratory game birds except snow geese.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Daily Limit</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ducks</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coot</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Geese</td>
<td>See map</td>
<td>See map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow Geese</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brant</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The daily limit of 6 ducks includes all mergansers and sea ducks (scoters, eiders and long-tailed ducks) and may include no harlequin ducks and no more than 4 mallards (2 of which may be hens), 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks, 2 pintail, 2 scap, 2 redheads, 2 canvasback, 4 scoters, 4 eiders, 4 long-tailed ducks or 2 hooded mergansers. For all other duck species found in New York, the daily limit is no more than 6.
- Cackling geese and white-fronted geese may be taken as part of the Canada goose daily and possession limits. Snow goose and Ross’ geese may be taken as part of the snow goose limits.

### Attention Boaters!

New regulations are now in effect for all DEC boat launch facilities. Before you launch your boat or leave a site, you are required to:

- **Clean all visible plant and animal material from your boat, trailer and associated equipment.**
- **Drain your boat’s bilge, livewell, baitwell, and other water-holding compartments.**
Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

### 2018-2019 Canada Goose Seasons

For written descriptions of Goose Hunting Areas and Waterfowl Hunting Zones, see pages 51 & 52.

### Woodcock, Crow, Snipe, Rail and Gallinule Hunting Season Dates, Bag Limits, and Regulations for 2018–2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulations</th>
<th>Woodcock</th>
<th>Crow</th>
<th>Snipe</th>
<th>Virginia &amp; Sora Rails</th>
<th>Gallinules</th>
<th>Clapper &amp; King Rails</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upstate New York</td>
<td>Oct. 1 – Nov. 14</td>
<td>Sept. 1 – Mar. 31</td>
<td>Sept. 1 – Nov. 9</td>
<td>Sept. 1 – Nov. 9</td>
<td>Sept. 1 – Nov. 9</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Island</td>
<td>Oct. 1 – Nov. 14</td>
<td>Sept. 1 – Mar. 31</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bag Limit</td>
<td>3/day</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>8/day</td>
<td>8/day</td>
<td>8/day</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 in possession</td>
<td></td>
<td>24 in possession</td>
<td>24 in possession</td>
<td>24 in possession</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shooting Hours</td>
<td>Sunrise to Sunset</td>
<td>Sunrise to Sunset</td>
<td>1/2-Hr Before Sunrise to Sunset</td>
<td>1/2-Hr Before Sunrise to Sunset</td>
<td>1/2-Hr Before Sunrise to Sunset</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Toxic Shot</td>
<td>NOT Required</td>
<td>NOT Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIP Registration</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>NOT Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Other            | Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required | Hunting on Fri., Sat., Sun. & MON. ONLY; Rifles and electronically amplified bird calls or sounds permitted | Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required | Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required | Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required | n/a                  |

1. Upstate New York includes all of New York State north of the Bronx-Westchester County boundary
2. Long Island includes all of WMUs 1A and 1C (Nassau and Suffolk counties)
3. Hunting season closed in New York City for all species listed in table; New York City includes all of WMU 2A (Bronx, Kings, Queens, New York, and Richmond counties)

### 2018-2019 Canada Goose Seasons

- **Northeast**: Season Dates: Sept. 1 - Sept. 25; Oct. 27 - Dec. 9; Dec. 26 - Jan. 13; Daily Limit: 15; 3; 3; 3
- **West Central**: Season Dates: Sept. 1 - Sept. 25; Oct. 27 - Nov. 26; Dec. 26 - Jan. 13; Daily Limit: 15; 3; 3; 3
- **East Central**: Season Dates: Sept. 1 - Sept. 25; Oct. 27 - Nov. 26; Dec. 24 - Dec. 22; Daily Limit: 15; 3; 3; 3
- **Lake Champlain**: Season Dates: Sept. 1 - Sept. 25; Oct. 13 - Dec. 1; Daily Limit: 8; 3
- **Hudson Valley**: Season Dates: Sept. 1 - Sept. 25; Oct. 27 - Nov. 26; Dec. 4 - Jan. 6; Daily Limit: 15; 3; 3
- **South**: Season Dates: Sept. 1 - Sept. 25; Oct. 27 - Nov. 26; Nov. 24 - Jan. 13; Mar. 1 - Mar. 10; Daily Limit: 15; 5; 5; 5

- **Woodcock, Crow, Snipe, Rail and Gallinule**
- **Regulations**: Woodcock, Crow, Snipe, Virginia & Sora Rails, Gallinules, Clapper & King Rails
- **Bag Limit**: 3/day; 9 in possession; 8/day; 24 in possession; 8/day; 24 in possession; 8/day; 24 in possession; n/a
- **Shooting Hours**: Sunrise to Sunset; 1/2-Hr Before Sunrise to Sunset; 1/2-Hr Before Sunrise to Sunset
- **Non-Toxic Shot**: NOT Required; Required; Required; Required; Required; n/a
- **HIP Registration**: Required; Required; Required; Required; Required; n/a
- **Other**: Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required; Hunting on Fri., Sat., Sun. & MON. ONLY; Rifles and electronically amplified bird calls or sounds permitted; Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required; Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required; Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required; n/a

1. Upstate New York includes all of New York State north of the Bronx-Westchester County boundary
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NY State Goose Hunting Areas

See road boundaries at: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28510.html

1. The Lake Champlain Goose Hunting Area is the same as the Lake Champlain Waterfowl Hunting Zone (see below).
2. The Northeast Goose Hunting Area is the same as the Northeastern Waterfowl Hunting Zone (see below).
3. The West Central Goose Hunting Area consists of the following WMUs: 7A, 7H, 8A, 8C, 8F, 8H, 8J, 8R and 8S. The West Central Goose Hunting Area also includes: that part of WMU 6K lying west of a continuous line extending along the north shore of the Salmon River from US Route 11 to Interstate Route 81, then south along Route 81 to Route 49; those parts of WMUs 7F and 7J lying west of Route 81; and that part of WMU 8G lying north and east of a continuous line extending along the New York State Thruway from Crittenden-Murrays Corners Road (near the Erie-Genesee county line) to Exit 48 in Batavia, then south along Route 98 to Route 20.
4. The East Central Goose Hunting Area consists of the following WMUs: 4A, 4F, 6P, 6R, 6S, 7M and 7P. The East Central Goose Hunting Area also includes those parts of WMUs 7F and 7J lying south of Route 31 and east of Route 81.
5. The Hudson Valley Goose Hunting Area consists of the following WMUs: 3F, 3J, 3M, 4B, 4C, 4J, 4K, 4L, 4S, 4T, 4U, 4Y, 4Z, 5R; that part of WMU 5S lying south of a continuous line extending east along Route 29 to Route 22, north along Route 22 to Washington County Route 153, then east along Route 153 to the New York–Vermont boundary; and that part of WMU 3G lying in Dutchess County.
6. The South Goose Hunting Area consists of the following WMUs: 3A, 3C, 3H, 3K, 3N, 3P, 3R, 4G, 4H, 4O, 4P, 4R, 6W, 7R, 7S, 8M, 8N, 8P, 8T, 8W, 8X, 8Y, 9A, 9C, 9F, 9G, 9H, 9J, 9K, 9M, 9N, 9P, 9R, 9S, 9T, 9W, 9X and 9Y. The South Goose Hunting Area also includes: that part of WMU 8G lying south and west of a continuous line extending along the New York State Thruway from Crittenden-Murrays Corners Road (near the Erie-Genesee county line) to Exit 48 in Batavia, then south along State Route 98 to State Route 20; that part of WMU 3G lying in Putnam County; and that part of WMU 3S lying north of Route 1-95.
7. The Western Long Island Goose Hunting Area is that area of Westchester County and its tidal waters southeast of Interstate Route 95 and that area of Nassau and Suffolk counties lying west of a continuous line extending due south from the New York-Connecticut boundary to the northernmost end of Sound Road (just east of Wading River Marsh); then south on Sound Road to North Country Road; then west on North Country Road to Randall Road; then south on Randall Road to Route 25A, then west on Route 25A to Sunken Meadow Parkway; then south on Sunken Meadow Parkway to the Sagtikos State Parkway; then south on the Sagtikos Parkway to the Robert Moses State Parkway; then south on the Robert Moses Parkway to its southernmost end; then due south to international waters.
8. The Central Long Island Goose Hunting Area is that area of Suffolk County lying between the Western and Eastern Long Island Goose Hunting areas, as defined above and below.
9. The Eastern Long Island Goose Hunting Area is that area of Suffolk County lying east of a continuous line extending due south from the New York-Connecticut boundary to the northernmost end of Roanoke Avenue in the Town of Riverhead, south on Roanoke Avenue (which becomes County Route 73) to State Route 25, west on Route 25 to Peconic Avenue, south on Peconic Avenue to County Route (CR) 104 (Riverleigh Avenue), south on CR 104 to CR 31 (Old Riverhead Road), south on CR 31 to Oak Street, south on Oak Street to Potunk Lane, then west on Stevens Lane, then south on Jessup Avenue (in Westhampton Beach) to Dune Road (CR 89), then due south to international waters.
Waterfowl Hunting Zone Descriptions

Western Zone – That area west of a continuous line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to Interstate Route 81 and then south along Interstate Route 81 to the New York-Pennsylvania boundary.

Northeastern Zone – That area north of a continuous line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to Interstate Route 81, south along Interstate Route 81 to Route 31, east along Route 31 to Route 13, north along Route 13 to Route 49, east along Route 49 to Route 365, east along Route 365 to Route 29, east along Route 29 to Route 22, north along Route 22 to Route 153, east along Route 153 to the New York-Vermont boundary, exclusive of the Lake Champlain Zone.

Lake Champlain Zone – That area east and north of a continuous line extending along Route 11 from the New York-Canada boundary south to Route 9B, south along Route 9B to Route 9, south along Route 9 to Route 22 south of Keeseville, south along Route 22 to the west shore of South Bay along and around the shoreline of South Bay to Route 22 on the east shore of South Bay, southeast along Route 22 to Route 4, northeast along Route 4 to the New York-Vermont boundary.

Southeastern Zone – That area east of Interstate Route 81 that is south of a continuous line extending from Interstate Route 81 east along Route 22 to Route 153, east along Route 153 to the New York-Vermont boundary, exclusive of the Lake Champlain Zone.

Northeastern Zone – That area north of a continuous line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to Interstate Route 81, south along Interstate Route 81 to Route 31, east along Route 31 to Route 13, north along Route 13 to Route 49, east along Route 49 to Route 365, east along Route 365 to Route 29, east along Route 29 to Route 22, north along Route 22 to Route 153, east along Route 153 to the New York-Vermont boundary, exclusive of the Lake Champlain Zone.

Northeastern Zone – That area north of a continuous line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to Interstate Route 81, south along Interstate Route 81 to Route 31, east along Route 31 to Route 13, north along Route 13 to Route 49, east along Route 49 to Route 365, east along Route 365 to Route 29, east along Route 29 to Route 22, north along Route 22 to Route 153, east along Route 153 to the New York-Vermont boundary, exclusive of the Lake Champlain Zone.

Long Island Zone – That area consisting of Nassau and Suffolk counties and their tidal waters, and that area of Westchester County and its tidal waters southeast of Interstate Route 95. (See map page 49.)

Adult Hunter Essay Winner

Duck Delights

By Brian Engel

Some of my most cherished childhood memories are of tagging along with my dad and grandfather through the woods chasing after deer and rabbits. Even as a young boy, long before I had any interest in guns, I looked forward to one day being a dad and taking a son into the wild outdoors. Ironically, I’ve been blessed with four daughters. At times, each has asked the painful question, “Daddy, do you ever wish you had a son?” My answer has always been, “No. We have what we have. I love you the way you are and wouldn’t trade you for anyone.”

Thankfully, each of my girls has taken to the outdoors and enjoys going with me into the field, even if it’s simply to spend time together. Many times though, we’ve come in early because of the cold. I was taught never to be a fair-weather hunter, but what am I to do with my kids? Forgive the matter until they don’t want to go? I made the argument, if they come to love hunting now, they’ll be willing to suffer the elements later. That said, after years of missed opportunities and missed shots with my first two daughters—Madelyn, daughter #3, brought home something for dinner.

Under a starlit sky on the opening day of duck season, we settled into the tall grass along the edge of the swamp and patiently waited for birds to drop in. The day started slowly, but we shared a beautiful sunrise and the sound of turkeys scratching and calling in the cedars on the hill behind us. Without warning or hardly a sound, a flock of mallards flew at us from the north. I didn’t have to tell Madelyn what to do. She shot and a duck went down. Consequently, she did too!

The recoil from her shotgun, being more than expected, made her tumble backwards, over and off the bucket she’d been sitting on. But through the arc of the fall she kept the muzzle pointed up and away in a safe direction. She came up a little limp in the backside and a bit discombobulated, but smiling from ear to ear, and with the safety back on. Once righted, she placed her bottom squarely on the bucket with eyes glued to the water as our friend’s lab, Bailey, retrieved the bird.

I don’t know if I was prouder of Madelyn’s shot, or her keeping her wits about her and controlling her firearm during her fall. It was a perfect morning of good laughs about the bucket tumble.

When we got home, she cleaned the bird, saved some feathers for posterity, and then helped make one of our favorite recipes for dinner, Duck Delights. These pastries of shredded duck with onion, garlic, and cream cheese melt in your mouth.

Our morning was one of the most fulfilling days I’ve ever had afield, or as a parent. I’ve not asked, but I’m hoping Madelyn is looking forward to someday being a mother—and taking a daughter or son into the wild outdoors. And just maybe, an aged grandfather will be lucky enough to tag along.

Duck Delights Recipe

Ingredients:

| • 2 boneless, skinless duck breasts (roughly 12 oz., can use leg meat, or substitute w/goose breast) | • ¼ teaspoon dried rosemary |
| • ¼ teaspoon dried thyme |
| • 1 tablespoon of olive oil |
| • “sprinkling” of onion and garlic powder |

Directions:

Cut fowl into bite-size pieces, combine with the above ingredients, and sauté over medium/low heat. Do not overcook. When cool, shred meat with a fork or your fingers.

In a large mixing bowl combine: 8oz. of softened cream cheese, 1 can of cream of mushroom soup (10 oz), ¼ cup finely chopped carrots, 2 tablespoons of half-half, 2 minced garlic cloves, 1 small onion finely chopped, salt and pepper to taste. Add meat and mix well, so that all ingredients are evenly distributed.

Use 2 tubes of refrigerated crescent rolls (8 oz. each). Separate crescent rolls and lay flat. Place a dollop (about an ice cream scoop) onto roll. Fold over and pinch rolls together making a “pocket/hand pie” and seal. Place rolls on a baking sheet. Brush rolls with melted butter and cover with bread crumbs or crushed croutons to taste. Pre-heat oven and bake at 350 degrees until golden brown, about 20-25 minutes.

Serves 4–6
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Following completion of the New York State Fisher Management Plan, regulations were adopted to:

- Reduce the fisher (and marten) trapping season from 46 days to 30 days in select Adirondack Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) in the Northern Zone (yellow area on the map).
- Establish a 6-day fisher trapping season in selected WMUs in Central/Western New York (blue area on the map).
- Require a special permit for all fisher trapping. The special permit will enable DEC to collect important data for managing fisher harvests.

**Permit Conditions:**

- To trap fisher anywhere in the state or marten in Adirondack WMUs, obtain a Special Free Fisher Permit or combination Fisher/Marten Permit (yellow area on map) from DEC regional Bureau of Wildlife offices as outlined in the table below.
- Submit the skull or lower jaw of all harvested fishers and the entire carcass of all harvested martens at the time of pelt sealing.
- Complete and submit a trapping activity log, even if you did not trap, within 10 days after the close of the season.

**To Obtain a Free Fisher or Fisher/Marten Permit:**

Only one fisher or fisher/marten permit is needed to trap these species anywhere in New York where the season is open.

Contact your Regional Wildlife Office (see table below), or apply by e-mail. You must provide the following information:

- Name
- Species (fisher or fisher/marten)
- Mailing address
- DEC ID # (from your trapping license or backtag)
- Phone number and/or e-mail address

Apply by e-mail to: wildlife@dec.ny.gov, type “Fisher/Marten Permit” in the subject line. Please be sure to include the information listed above and the primary county where you plan to trap.

**Permit Requirements for Fisher and Marten**

**Fisher and Marten Trapping**

Fisher and Marten pelts must be sealed.

**Season Dates 2018**

- Oct. 25–Dec. 10: Fisher only. There are no bag limits.
- Nov. 1–Nov. 30: Fisher and Marten. Season limit of 6 martens. There are no bag limits for fisher.
- Oct. 25–Oct. 30: Fisher only. There are no bag limits.
- Closed

Apply in person or by phone to any office listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEC Region</th>
<th>Fisher/Marten</th>
<th>Fisher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Contact any Regional Wildlife Office to obtain a free permit to trap fisher in any WMU with an open season (other than those listed for fisher/marten).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 6F, 6J</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Or apply by email to: wildlife@dec.ny.gov and type “Fisher/Marten Permit” in the subject line.
To hunt furbearers, you must possess a resident or non-resident hunting license. A trapping license does not allow you to hunt furbearers. Furbearers may be hunted with a bow, crossbow or firearm as described below.

- You may hunt red and gray fox, coyote, bobcat, raccoon, skunk, mink, weasel and opossum.
- If you take a bobcat, it must be tagged and sealed.
- You may use a call, including an electronic call.
- Mink may only be hunted in the Southern Zone with a firearm not larger than .22 caliber during their open trapping season. Mink may not be hunted with a firearm in the Northern Zone.
- Muskrat may only be hunted on Lake Champlain during the open trapping season with a firearm not larger than .22 caliber.
- You may not hunt from any motor vehicle, including an ATV or snowmobile.

Except as noted above, you may hunt furbearers using any handgun, shotgun, muzzleloading rifle, bow, crossbow or air gun.

### Possession and Use of Rifles for Hunting Furbearers

1. **Is any deer season open** in the location you wish to hunt (including archery, muzzleloading, regular, late and Focus Area)?
   a. If **NO**, you may use any caliber rimfire or centerfire rifle for hunting furbearers.
   b. If **YES**, can deer be hunted with rifles in that location during the regular season?
      i. If **YES**, you may use any caliber rimfire or centerfire rifle for hunting furbearers during any open deer season.
      ii. If **NO**, you may only possess afield rimfire rifles .22-caliber or smaller, or centerfire rifles LESS THAN .22 caliber (.204, .17, etc.) during any open deer season. Once all deer seasons are closed, the restriction ends, except:

2. You may **NEVER** possess a rifle afield in Westchester, Nassau, and Suffolk counties.

3. In the Northern Zone, it is illegal to carry a rifle larger than .22 caliber rimfire (or .22-caliber or larger centerfire rifles) at any time if accompanied by a dog, except when coyote hunting.

### Bobcat Hunting

**Hunting Hours:** After sunrise on opening day; and at any hour, day or night, for the rest of the hunting season.

Bobcat pelts must be sealed.

### Weasel, Opossum, Skunk, Raccoon and Fox Hunting

**Long Island:** Nov. 1–Feb. 25
**All other areas of New York:** Oct. 25–Feb. 15

There are no bag limits for these species. Hunting Hours: After sunrise on opening day; and at any hour, day or night, for the rest of the hunting season.

**Coyote Hunting**

Statewide except Long Island and New York City: Oct. 1–March 31

There are no bag limits for coyotes. They may be hunted during the day or night.

### Hunting Furbearers at Night

- Spotlights, night vision, thermal and laser devices are permitted for furbearer hunting. They may be attached to the firearm. All laws pertaining to the use of a spotlight apply.
- Hunters should consult with local government officials for any laws that may prohibit the discharge of firearms at night.

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Furbearer Trapping

Definition of Trapping
To trap means to take, kill or capture wildlife, including the shooting or killing of lawfully trapped animals. It also includes all related activities such as placing, setting, staking or checking traps or assisting another person with these activities. You do not need a hunting license to shoot a trapped animal.

Other Definitions
- Public Highway: The traveled portion of a public highway. Culverts, drainage ditches, and the area under bridges are not considered the traveled portion of a public highway.
- Carcass: The body or parts thereof, meat, organs or viscera of an animal, including fish. Feathers (including feathers with attached skin or entire bird wings), hair (with or without skin or hide), and bones that include no attached meat, organs or viscera, are excluded from this definition.
- Suspension: This term applies to animals fully suspended in the air by means of the trap anchoring system (typically a chain, cable or wire). It does not apply to traps set in water or to traps that are directly and firmly attached to an elevated structure, such as a tree.
- Restraining trap: A device used to capture and restrain a mammal. These traps include leg-gripping traps (“foothold traps”), foot encapsulating traps, and cage or box traps.
- Foot encapsulating trap: A trap with the following mechanical attributes: The triggering and restraining mechanisms are enclosed within a housing; the triggering and restraining mechanisms are only accessible through a single opening when set; the opening does not exceed 2 inches in diameter; and the trap has a swivel-mounted anchoring system.
- Cage or box trap: A type of restraining trap that fully encloses a captured animal within wood, wire, plastic, or metal.

Legal Traps
- You must put your name and address or your DEC customer identification number (see your hunting or trapping license) on all your traps.
- Foothold traps larger than 4” set on land must have a pan tension device and be covered when set.
- Teeth are not allowed on foothold traps.
- On land, foothold traps must be 5¾” or smaller (inside jaw spread). For information on how to correctly measure traps, see page 59.
- During beaver or otter season, foothold traps up to 7¼” are allowed if set under water.
- When the beaver or otter season is closed, foothold traps set in water may not be larger than 5¾”.
- A foothold trap larger than 7¼” is never legal to use.
- Body-gripping traps more than 7½” may never be used on land.
- Body-gripping traps more than 7½” may only be used in water during an open beaver or otter season.
- Snares may not be used for trapping.
- Box or cage traps are legal for all species.
- You may not use a cage trap that is designed to take more than one muskrat at a setting.
- During beaver or otter season, body-gripping traps more than 7½” may only be used in water during an open beaver or otter season.
- Snares may not be used for trapping.
- Box or cage traps are legal for all species.
- You may not use a cage trap that is designed to take more than one muskrat at a setting.
- In the Northern Zone, body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure when the fisher and/or marten seasons are closed.

Trapping Methods
Checking traps
- In the Southern Zone: You must check traps once in each 24-hour period.
- In the Northern Zone, follow these rules:
  - WMU 5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 6F, 6J and 6N: Visited once in each 48-hour period
  - WMU 5A, 6A, 6C, 6G, 6H and 6K:
    - Traps set in water during the open season for beaver, otter, mink and muskrat: Visited once in each 48-hour period
    - Body-gripping traps set on land: Visited once in each 48-hour period
    - Restraining traps: Visited once in each 24-hour period

Use of carcasses as bait
Any carcass, as defined above, used as bait and placed or used in conjunction with a foothold trap shall be completely covered at the time the trap is set or visited. Coverings shall include but not be limited to brush, branches, leaves, soil, snow, water, or enclosures constructed of wood, metal, wire, plastic or natural materials, and must completely cover the carcass so that it is not visible from directly above.

Land trapping
- You may not set a trap in such a manner that it causes a captured animal to be fully suspended in the air.
- In the Northern Zone, body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure when the fisher and/or marten seasons are closed.

Water trapping
- You may set a trap in a permanent body of water only when the mink, muskrat, otter, or beaver season is open.
- You may not disturb a muskrat house or den.
- You may not set a trap on or within 5 feet of a muskrat house.

Land or water trapping
- You may use any legal method to kill a trapped animal. You do not need a hunting license to use a firearm to kill a legally trapped animal.
- You may not set or stake a trap prior to 7:00 AM on opening day.
- You are not allowed to set a trap within 100 feet of a house, school, playground or church unless you have permission from the owner of the land where the trap is set.
- You may not set a trap on a public road. You are allowed to set a trap in a culvert or ditch unless the property is posted or the landowner does not allow trapping.

Trapping near beaver dams and lodges
- You may not disturb a beaver lodge or beaver dam.
- You may not set a trap on or within 15 feet of a beaver dam, den or house, measured at ice or water level, except under the following conditions:
  - during an open otter season, traps of any legal size may be set on or within 15 feet of a beaver dam, but not on or within 15 feet of a beaver den or house;
  - during an open or closed otter season, any of the following traps may be set on or within 15 feet of a beaver dam, den, or house:
    - body-gripping trap that measures less than 5.5 inches;
    - foot-encapsulating trap

Place your name & address or Customer ID # on all your traps.
• foothold trap that measures 4 3/4 inches or less;
• cage or box trap.

By limiting the trap sizes that are usable on beaver dams, this regulation provides opportunities for trappers while minimizing the accidental capture of otter.

Pelt Sealing
Otter, bobcat, fisher and marten must have a plastic seal attached to the pelt or unskinned animal before:
• It is sold or ownership is transferred to another person, or
• It is mounted or tanned, or
• It leaves New York State, or
• Ten days have passed since the close of the season where the fur was taken

The plastic pelt seals can be removed when the pelt is processed for taxidermy, tanning or manufacturing.

How to get your pelts sealed: a two-step process
• Step 1: Fill out your furbearer possession tag.
  » A possession tag must be filled out for each animal you take.
  » Possession tags must be filled out immediately after you reach your motor vehicle, camp or home, whichever comes first.
  » Possession tags must stay with the animal or pelt at all times, but they do not need to be attached to the pelt.
  » Furbearer possession tags can be obtained from your Regional Wildlife Office (see page 54) or at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/29046.html

• Step 2: Get your pelt sealed (see below).
  » A completed furbearer possession tag must be submitted to obtain a plastic pelt seal.
  » You can give your pelts to another person (other than a taxidermist) so he or she can get the pelts sealed or get them skinned. You must give that person your trapping license or a copy of your license and your completed possession tags while he or she has your pelts.
  » Only authorized DEC representatives can attach the plastic seal to otter, bobcat, fisher or marten.
  » Call a Regional Wildlife Office (see page 6) to make arrangements to get your otter, bobcat, fisher, or marten sealed. Seals for these species cannot be sent through the mail.
  » Prior to having a marten sealed, you must submit the entire carcass. Prior to having a fisher sealed, you must submit the skull or lower jaw.
  » If the plastic pelt seal is broken or damaged, contact your Regional Wildlife Office for a replacement seal.

All other species may be bought, sold, and transported without restriction.
• Furbearers may be bought or sold either skinned or unskinned.
• People who buy fur do not need a fur buyer’s license in New York.

Rights of Trappers
• No one may disturb a trap lawfully set by another person.
• No one may remove a lawfully trapped animal from another person’s trap.
• No one may harass a trapper while he or she is trapping.

License Responsibilities
• A license is not transferable and can be used only by the person to whom issued.
• A license to trap does not give the holder any right to go on private property without permission of the landowner.
• It is illegal to refuse to show your license on demand to a law enforcement officer or the owner, lessee or person in control of the lands (or their designees) while on their property.

Trapping License Exceptions
All residents must have a valid trapping license in their possession except:
• Resident owners primarily engaged in farming, lessees, and members of their immediate families do not need a trapping license, when trapping on farm lands they are occupying and cultivating, for bobcat, coyote, fox, mink, muskrat, raccoon, opossum, weasel, skunk and unprotected wildlife that may be lawfully taken by trapping. (Note: beaver, otter, fisher and marten are not included.)
• Native Americans living on a reservation do not need a trapping license while trapping on reservation lands.

Incidental and Accidental Captures of Trapped Animals
There are no provisions in the Environmental Conservation Law allowing trappers to possess animals that are taken outside of the open trapping season.

If you find a road-killed bobcat in an area with an open bobcat season, you can possess it if you have a hunting or trapping license, but you must fill out a furbearer possession tag and have the pelt sealed.

Possession of Road-Killed Furbearers
If the trapping or hunting season is open for the species in a WMU, you may keep a dead furbearer found on roads within that WMU. The requirements for possessing road-killed furbearers are the same as for trapping and hunting. For example, if you find a road-killed bobcat in an area with an open bobcat season, you can possess it if you have a hunting or trapping license, but you must fill out a furbearer possession tag and have the pelt sealed.
Furbearer Trapping

Fisher & Marten Trapping
To trap fisher or marten you must obtain a free trapping permit from a Regional Bureau of Wildlife Office.

Species & Bag Limits
Fisher and Marten.
Season limit of 6 martens. There are no bag limits for fisher.
Fisher only. There are no bag limits.
Fisher and Marten
Fisher only. There are no bag limits.

Season Dates 2018/19
- Nov. 1–Nov. 30
- Oct. 25–Oct. 30
- Closed
- Oct. 25–Dec. 10

If you take a fisher or marten you must:
• Complete a furbearer possession tag, AND
• Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

Raccoon, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Skunk, Coyote, Opossum & Weasel Trapping
There are no bag limits for these species.

Season Dates 2018/19
- Oct. 25–Feb. 15
- Oct. 25–Feb. 15
- Nov. 1–Feb. 25, except closed for coyote

* In the Northern Zone (see page 24) body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure if the fisher and marten season is closed.

Skunk, Coyote, Opossum & Weasel Trapping
Closed

Mink & Muskrat Trapping
There are no bag limits for these species.

Season Dates 2018/19
- Oct. 25–Apr. 15
- Nov. 25–Feb. 15
- Nov. 10–Apr. 7
- Dec. 15–Feb. 25

If you take a bobcat you must:
• Complete a furbearer possession tag, AND
• Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

Bobcat Trapping
There are no bag limits.

Season Dates 2018/19
- Oct. 25–Feb. 15
- Oct. 25–Nov. 16
- Closed

Beaver Trapping
There are no bag limits.

Season Dates 2018/19
- Nov. 1–Apr. 7
- Nov. 25–Mar. 15
- Nov. 10–Apr. 7
- Nov. 25–Feb. 15
- Closed

If you take an otter you must:
• Complete a furbearer possession tag, AND
• Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

River Otter Trapping
There are no bag limits.

Season Dates 2018/19
- Nov. 1–Apr. 7
- Nov. 10–Feb. 28
- Closed
How to Measure a Trap

How to measure a body-gripping trap:
Measure the inside distance between the outer frames of the trap. The addition of one or more bars to the inside of the frame does not change the way these traps are measured. The measurement is still the MAXIMUM distance as shown in the top picture.

How to measure a foothold trap:
Measure the inside distance between the jaws excluding the gripping surface as shown. If the jaws have inside laminations, the measurement is the inside distance between the laminations. If the trap has double jaws, measure the inside distance between the outer jaws.

Trigger Regulations for Beaver Trappers

This regulation applies if you:
- Trap in a WMU in the Southern Zone during a closed otter season
- Use a body-gripping trap larger than 8½ inches (these are “330” size traps)

1. Body-gripping trap with off-set parallel trigger:
2. Example of non-legal vs. legal trigger brackets:
   Non-legal: V-notch, four-way trigger
   Legal: square-notch, two-way trigger

3. Examples of acceptable parallel triggers:
4. Tension-adjustable triggers and trigger stops are no longer required.
   The trigger must be 6½” or less.
   Recommended tension: 8 to 12 oz.
   Trigger wires must be joined together.

NOTE:
1. You can bait these traps in any manner. However, the trap must have all of the features noted above.
2. There is no exception for traps set under ice; traps set under ice, whether baited or not, must have all of the design features noted above.
3. There is no tension requirement. However, DEC research showed that 8 to 12 oz. of tension works best for protecting otter and catching beaver.
Regulations for Body-Gripping Traps Set on Land

Body-gripping traps set on land shall not be within 100 feet of a public trail except on Wildlife Management Areas.

A body-gripping trap measuring less than 5½ inches may be set in any manner with or without the use of bait. Body-gripping traps measuring 5½ inches to 6 inches, set without the use of bait, must be set so that no part of the trap is 8 inches or more above the ground. Body-gripping traps measuring more than 6 inches to 7 1/2 inches may never be set in this manner.

**NOTE:** During a closed season for fisher and/or marten in the Northern Zone, body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure.

Body-gripping traps 5½ inches to 7½ inches set with the use of bait, lure, or other attractants may only be used as follows:

- Four or more feet off the ground

- In a container of the following design:
  - Trap recessed minimum of 18 inches
  - Opening height and width 10 inches or less

- In a container of the following design:
  - Only one entrance, facing the ground
  - Container set so entrance is no more than 6 inches from ground
  - Trap recessed minimum of 4 inches

- In a container of the following design:
  - Opening height 6 inches or less
  - Eight-inch minimum spring notches
  - Trap recessed minimum of 4 inches

You may also build an enclosure of natural materials (e.g., logs or rocks).

- Opening height 6 inches or less
- Trap recessed minimum of 8 inches
Tracking River Otters

River otters have historically been found throughout New York. In the early 1900s, populations began to decline due to unregulated harvest, habitat destruction, and water pollution. In 1936, otters became legally protected and the trapping season was closed. Conservation Department (DEC’s predecessor) staff assessed the abundance and distribution of otters, and after almost a decade, a stricter trapping season was reopened. While otter populations stabilized in the eastern half of New York, western regions appeared devoid of substantial otter populations.

During the late 1990s, in an attempt to restore historical populations, 279 otters were captured in the Catskill, Adirondack, and Hudson Valley areas and released at 16 sites across central and western New York. Observations from DEC staff, hunters, trappers, and other outdoor enthusiasts indicate that restoration attempts were successful.

To verify these observations, DEC partnered with SUNY ESF to assess the current status of otters and to develop a harvest-independent technique to monitor changes in otter populations. During the 2017 and 2018 winter field seasons, staff searched for otter sign (tracks, scat, etc.) along designated transects at bridge crossings. In the 2017 season alone, staff surveyed 962 sites and about 239 miles of shoreline across the state!

This survey, along with data provided by trappers and wildlife watchers, will inform the development of a management plan for otters in New York. Highly valued by trappers as a furbearing species and a favorite amongst wildlife watchers, otters must be carefully managed to ensure sustainable populations for future generations. If you see an otter, we want to hear about it! Please report your sighting on DEC’s Furbearer Sighting Survey page at http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/30770.html.

Report Your Furbearer Sightings!

DEC wants to learn more about the occurrence of various furbearers throughout New York such as bobcat, otter, fisher, and weasel. Your observations help biologists understand the distribution and abundance of these elusive or inconspicuous mammals.

You can report your observations online, and can even include photos!

Go to www.dec.ny.gov/animals/30770.html or e-mail us at wildlife@dec.ny.gov

Thanks for your help!
Q: I’m using an “app” that shows land owned by NY State – can I hunt on that land?  
A: State lands are owned by DOT, SUNY, DEC, NY Parks, and others. It is your responsibility to check the rules for each property, as even some DEC lands are off limits to hunting.

Q: What documentation must I carry when hunting?  
A: You must carry your hunting license, plus deer/bear/turkey carcass tags and/or a “duck” stamp with HIP#, plus a back tag (where required). “Hunting license” means the printed license listing privileges or a lifetime license card or NY driver license “Adventure” hunting icon. Special hunts or hunt areas may require additional paperwork.

Q: Why can NY stores sell deer food and salt blocks when it is illegal to use them for hunting?  
A: The law does not prohibit sale, it prohibits the use of deer food and salt blocks as bait to aid in hunting certain species. If the material is placed where the animal may ingest it, it is likely to be considered baiting. Ask your local ECO (page 64 & 65).

Q: Are deer urine scents legal in NY?  
A: As of April 2018, yes. DEC recommends against urine use due to CWD concerns. As they are not meant to be ingested, these scents are not considered bait.

Q: What about food plots, aren’t they baiting?  
A: The law exempts food plots as “areas established by standard agricultural production practices”, and would be considered lawful.

Q: Can I use a carcass tag from a friend or family member on a deer, bear or turkey that I shot?  
A: No - it is unlawful to possess or use tags of another, except properly consigned deer management permits (DMPs or landowner DMAPs). DMP instructions can be found in this guide.

Q: Can I hunt small game with an air gun?  
A: You may use an air gun to hunt any species that may legally be taken with a .22 caliber rimfire rifle, provided the air gun is no smaller than .17 caliber with a muzzle velocity of at least 600 f.p.s.

Q: May I hunt small game with an air gun?  
A: Yes, but if any deer season is open, you can’t use a center fire rifle of .22 caliber or larger.

Q: After reporting my deer, transporting and cutting it up, what do I do with the carcass tag?  
A: The tag stays with the carcass and is not needed after the deer is prepared for consumption. Your actions reflect on all sportsmen, so properly dispose of the entrails, carcass and hide.

Q: How can I transport a crossbow in a vehicle?  
A: A crossbow must be decocked to be legally possessed in or on a motor vehicle. Simply removing the bolt does not meet the requirement. When using artificial lights on lands inhabited by deer, a crossbow must be taken down, securely fastened in a case or locked in the trunk.

Q: Who is required to wear “Hunter Orange” while hunting?  
A: Junior hunters and their mentors are required to wear at least 250 inches of solid/patterned fluorescent orange/pink while hunting deer or bear. There are no requirements for other hunting activities. Orange/pink makes it easier for others to see you in thick brush or at longer ranges.

Q: I wounded a deer and heard there are trained dogs that can help me find it. How do I contact a handler?  
A: DEC-licensed leashless tracking dog handlers may help you find the deer. They are volunteers and do not charge for their service. Visit www.deersearch.org for more information or call the ECO Dispatch Center.

Q: How do I report poaching or other suspected violations of fish & wildlife laws?  
A: Call the “Report Poachers and Polluters” Hotline as soon as possible at 1-844-DEC-ECOS. (1-844-332-3267). You may file a complaint anonymously or keep your name confidential.

Q: What basic steps should I follow when an ECO approaches me while I am afield hunting?  
A: Most importantly, keep firearms pointed in a safe direction with the safety “ON”. Do not try to unload them, which can lead to accidents.

Q: Without permission, how far must I be from a house to discharge an implement?  
A: You must be a minimum of 150 feet to discharge a bow, 250 feet for crossbow and 500 feet for firearms including muzzleloaders. Local laws or ordinances on firearm discharges may also apply.

Q: May I take a child younger than 12 with me while hunting? What about a spouse?  
A: Yes, a person of any age may accompany a hunter afield to observe as long as they do not assist in the taking of wildlife, such as calling animals or actively participating in a deer drive. If unsure, consult an ECO.

Q: If the trapping season is open, does that mean I can hunt for that species?  
A: It depends on the season and species. Some furbears may only be trapped, while some can also be hunted, and some both, but with different seasons.

Please contact your local Environmental Conservation Officers (ECOs) for answers to your specific questions (see pages 64–65).
ECO Mark Klein investigated a suspect whose hunting privileges are revoked in 47 states as part of the International Wildlife Violator Compact. Convicted of shooting these bucks illegally, the man faces additional fines and revocations.

ECO George Wilbur responded to a call about an injured American kestrel fledgling that had fallen from its nesting place. He captured and transported it to a DEC-licensed rehabilitator and later released the bird during an educational event.

ECO George Wilber and Nate Doig after a busy opening day gun season. These deer were seized for violations ranging from shooting 30 minutes early, shooting from a road, hunting with aid of bait, and failure to meet antler restrictions.

ECOs George Wilber and Nate Doig after a busy opening day gun season. These deer were seized for violations ranging from shooting 30 minutes early, shooting from a road, hunting with aid of bait, and failure to meet antler restrictions.

Lt. Ric Warner with one of two alligators captured by DEC on the Tioughnioga River. Releasing non-native species to the wild threatens native species and pose threats to the public. The “gators” now reside at a licensed educational facility.

Lt. Ric Warner assisted DEC Wildlife staff performing bear den surveys. The sow (mother) was tranquilized, blood samples and other biological testing performed, tags or tattoos applied and the family was tucked back in their den.

Lt. Ric Warner assisted DEC Wildlife staff performing bear den surveys. The sow (mother) was tranquilized, blood samples and other biological testing performed, tags or tattoos applied and the family was tucked back in their den.

ECO Kevin Holzle was on patrol opening day of Southern Zone regular season when he encountered this hunter with a buck of a lifetime. Knowing your local ECO and reporting violations is one way you can help bucks grow to this size.
Environmental Conservation Officers

1-844-DEC-ECOS (844-332-3267)

Approximately 250 field ECOs patrol the entire state. Their job includes enforcement of fish and wildlife laws and state environmental quality laws. ECOs rely on the eyes and ears of our dedicated members of the sporting community to report suspected violations. Poachers and other violators are stealing from you, your children and our environment.

As soon as possible, call the hotline to report suspected violations. Dispatchers will assist you in filing a complaint. You may ask to have your name kept confidential or file anonymously. File complaints online at www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/67751.html.

Complaints are forwarded to an ECO for investigation. The sooner you call and the more detailed information you provide, the more likely the violator will be apprehended. Try to remember the “who, what, when, where and how” of the event.

Keep your distance. Do not approach or confront suspects. They may be dangerous, destroy evidence, or simply evade officers if forewarned.

Who did it? Provide names, age, sex, height, weight, clothing or vehicle descriptions, etc.

What occurred? What exactly is the nature of the violation? Examples — taking deer using bait, over limit, shooting from roadway, trespass, using tags of another, after hours, non-resident buying license, etc.

When did it occur? Dates and times. Is it still in progress, ongoing or yet to happen?

Where did it occur? Provide exact street addresses, town/city, GPS locations or other ways the officer can locate the scene, suspects and evidence.

How did it occur? What methods or circumstances were used in the violation?

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

New York State is a member of IWVC, which is an agreement between 47 states to share information regarding hunting, fishing and trapping convictions.

The IWVC gives members the capability to honor each other’s license revocations so a violator convicted in one state may be barred from hunting, fishing or trapping in all member states, at the discretion of each state.

Call NYSDEC Law Enforcement at (518) 402-8816 or visit http://wildlifecrimestoppers.org/
Public hunting and trapping is allowed on the conservation easements shown on these maps, but because rules and regulations are different for each conservation easement, members of the public wishing to hunt or trap on a particular easement property are strongly encouraged to contact the local DEC office (see page 6) before planning a trip.

For more information on Conservation Easements, visit: http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/41156.html
Pennsylvania

Public Lands & Management Areas

- Adirondack/Catskill Park
- Wildlife Management Units
- Federal Recreational Land
- State Park
- DEC Lands
- Wildlife Management Area
- Multiple Use Area
- Conservation Easements

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