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Passing Up Young Bucks Pays Off – Page 32
Message from the Governor

Hunting and Trapping in New York – An Adventure NY Tradition

New York is home to an abundance of big game, small game, and furbearer resources popular with our state’s more than 600,000 resident and non-resident hunters and trappers. With millions of acres of habitat and nearly 5 million acres of open public land, there is a destination and an opportunity for nearly everyone to take to the fields and forests and enjoy New York’s great outdoors.

For many, hunting and trapping means time afield with family and friends. For others it is a chance to reconnect with nature and take part in the age-old traditions of sustainable enjoyment of New York’s abundant natural resources. As the world becomes increasingly disconnected with nature, hunting and trapping provide a cherished opportunity to get outside.

New York’s strong network of volunteer hunter education instructors have a remarkable track record of instilling safe and ethical practices in our hunters. The 2018 hunting seasons matched the lowest on record for hunting accidents, but tragically not without preventable incidents. I urge all hunters to always keep safety foremost on their minds. Wearing hunter orange or pink will help make you visible to other hunters.

The 2019–20 Hunting and Trapping Guide has a wealth of information to keep you informed about the rules and regulations governing the hunting and trapping of wildlife. Within these pages you will also find information about wildlife management, hunter safety, and alternative ammunition choices, along with updates and articles to help you enjoy your time outdoors.

New York is making significant investments to safeguard our shared environment and improve access to state lands. Launched in 2017, the Adventure NY initiative is making strategic investments in new lands and infrastructure to promote outdoor recreation, conserve wildlife, and protect land for healthy and resilient ecosystems. And whether you hike, paddle, birdwatch, or camp, New York’s outdoors have something for everyone. I encourage you to take a daughter, son, spouse, or friend along, be a mentor, and instill an appreciation for our environment.

I wish you all safe and successful seasons as you carry on the tradition of spending time afield in pursuit of the abundant game species that New York has to offer. I further hope you will introduce someone new to hunting and trapping and foster their appreciation for the magnificent natural resources 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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Judy Drabicki, Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources
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James Farquhar, Chief, Bureau of Wildlife
Michael Schiavone, Section Head, Game Management
Colleen J. O’Brien, Editor

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NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
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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Mallard and Canada Goose Bag Limit and Season Length Changes

In response to a long-term decline in mallard breeding populations in the Atlantic Flyway and New York, the bag limit has been reduced from 4 (2 hens) per day to 2 (1 hen) per day. Similarly, Canada goose season lengths and bag limits in much of upstate New York have been reduced from a 50-day season and 3-bird bag limit to a 30-day season and 2-bird bag limit in response to declining migratory populations. For more information on these changes, please visit the DEC webpage (https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28888.html).

Pending Regulations

At the time the Guide went to press, regulations were pending related to CWD, deer feeding, bear hunting, and Orleans County and a portion of Broome County implement change. Be sure to check the DEC website (https://www.dec.ny.gov/) before heading into the field.

WomenHuntFishNY Photo Contest

The winners of the WomenHuntFishNY photo contest:
- **Before the Hunt**: Subject: Carey Killion Photo Credit: Renata Canaday page 11
- **Big Game Hunting**: Rebecca Meigel page 21
- **Group Hunting**: Michelle Sanford & Cathy Sanford page 28
- **Small Game Hunting**: Subject: Susan Janowski Photo Credit: Meghan Marin page 41
- **Youth Hunting**: Subjects: Alexis Nikiel and Aleah Brauen Photo Credit: Deanna Nikiel page 46
- **After the Hunt**: Nikki Boxler page 59

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About This Guide

This high-quality guide is offered to you by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

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Graphic Design:
Jon Gulley, Dane Fay, John Corey, Evelyn Haddad, Chris Sobolowski

This guide is also available online at eRegulations.com
Important Numbers

DEC Regions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Offices</th>
<th>Wildlife</th>
<th>Law Enforcement</th>
<th>Hunter Ed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>65561 State Hwy 10, Suite 1 Stamford, NY 12167-9503</td>
<td>(607) 652-7367</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<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>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>270 Michigan Ave. Buffalo, NY 14203-2999</td>
<td>(607) 776-2165</td>
<td>—</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>182 East Union St., Suite 3 Allegany, NY 14706</td>
<td>(716) 851-7010</td>
<td>(716) 851-7050</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 (1-866-426-3278)
- Lifetime License Information: (518) 402-8843
- Hunter Ed: 1-888-HUNT ED2
- Reporting Banded Waterfowl: www.reportband.gov
- Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP): 1-888-427-5447 www.newyorkhip.org
- Information on NY SAFE Act: 1-855-LAW-GUNS
- Law Enforcement (ECOs): 1-877-457-5680
New York Land & Camps

Camp Fish Creek - $49,995
Williamstown, NY: 5 acres with new camp shell on the river.

Camp Mad River - $69,900

Camp Carleton - $59,995
Camden, NY: Off-grid camp on 10.5 acres with well. Land has great hunting history.

On Carleton Pond - $35,995
Camden, NY: 5.3 acres on pond with hemlock and pine forest. Near state land.

Camp Corbett Hill - $59,900
Orange, NY: Southern Tier camp on 8.5 acres borders state land.

Near Salmon River - $49,900
Redfield, NY: 28.76 acres bordering two state forests with marketable timber.

Camp Mad River - $69,900

Southern Tier - $29,995
North Norwich, NY: 12 acre base camp lot bordering state hunting land.

Adirondack Lodge - $695,900
Santa Clara, NY: Hunting Lodge on 503 acres, borders thousands of acres of state land.

Camp Titus - $139,900
Malone, NY: Barn on 143 acres with trails and hunting blinds.

Camp St. Regis - $159,900

Camp Kempshall - $395,000

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Over the past 30 years, national statistics show a steady decline in the number of hunters, trappers, and anglers, and the significant revenue these activities help to generate. In response, many state fish and wildlife agencies and conservation organizations have developed recruitment, retention, and reactivation (R3) initiatives designed to reverse the trend of declining participation rates. Here in New York, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is targeting a growing group of new hunters bucking the national trend—women.

According to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation, women are the fastest growing demographic of new hunters. While overall numbers of hunters are declining, the number of female hunters is holding steady and in some cases, rising. New York currently has approximately 53,000 women licensed to hunt.

As part of DEC’s R3 efforts, extensive outreach is being conducted to better understand the diverse values, interests, and motivations of women who hunt and to address the challenges of recruiting and retaining female hunters. In 2018, DEC hosted a “WomenHuntFishNY” photo contest encouraging New York’s women hunters to share their unique perspectives and experiences afield. DEC received more than 2,000 entries, many accompanied by personal stories offering valuable insight to guide future recruitment efforts. Many of the photos submitted, including the contest winners, can be found in this guide.

In addition to providing the primary funding source for the state’s fish and wildlife conservation efforts, hunting, fishing, and trapping are critical management tools for DEC biologists. A prime example is the effort to manage overabundant deer populations. Increasing participation also helps connect more people to nature, raising our collective environmental conscience to groom and grow the ranks of future stewards and conservationists.

This hunting season, I encourage New York’s strong hunting, fishing and trapping community to introduce someone new to the many wonders our state’s great outdoors have to offer. Increasing inclusion will ensure the rich traditions of hunting, fishing and trapping continue to be a vital part of New York’s culture for generations to come.

Good luck and be safe.

Basil Seggos
Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Recognizing and Encouraging the Women Who Hunt in New York

Recent national surveys have found that women continue to be the fastest growing demographic of new hunters, and we see the same trend happening within New York State. The same surveys have found that, generally, women’s motivations for hunting are to:

1. Spend time with family;
2. Put organic, free range, locally sourced food on the table;
3. Spend time in the outdoors.

NYS DEC is encouraging women to become hunters, supporting those who already hunt, and getting women back into the sport who may not be active anymore. The Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program is a 3-day workshop designed to teach adult women a variety of outdoor skills, including big game hunting, small game and turkey hunting, firearm proficiency and safety, archery, crossbow, trapping, and wild game cooking. Beyond BOW (BBOW) programs are smaller scale classes and workshops that build on the skills women learn at the BOW workshop. Some BBOW programs include rifle marksmanship, shotgun target shooting, Hunting 101, and much more. The Hunter Education Program along with BOW, is offering several women-only Hunter Education courses throughout the State. Women often face unique barriers to becoming hunters, such as a lack of mentors and female role models, lack of shooting experience, access to ranges, access to land, availability of gear, etc. and DEC and BOW are working to break down some of those barriers. By offering women the opportunity to meet a community of fellow hunters and learn in a supportive atmosphere, we hope to keep building on the growing number of sportswomen in NYS.

Last fall, DEC held the first ever WomenHuntFishNY photo contest to get real photos of real women hunting, for use in future publications and marketing. The bigger motivation of the photo contest was to provide women with the opportunity to share their experiences, and represent sportswomen in a realistic and positive light, in the hopes of encouraging other women to become hunters and conservationists. Over 1,800 women responded, submitting over 2,000 photos, many of which you can see in this guide! Hundreds of hunting stories and submissions expressed how excited women are to have the opportunity to support and encourage other fellow hunters. The DEC will continue efforts to Recruit, Retain and Reactivate (R3) women who hunt in New York.

To receive email updates for all BOW and BBOW events and workshops, please visit our webpage www.dec.ny.gov/education/68.html and sign up for DEC Delivers.
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). To find an agent near you visit www.dec.ny.gov/permits. 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 of 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 present either:
1. Proof that he or she successfully completed an approved bowhunter education course. (Note: Approved courses are International Bowhunter Education Program courses or an equivalent course. If in doubt, call toll free — 1-888-HUNT-ED2) OR
2. Proof that he or she previously held a NYS bowhunting license or stamp issued in 1980 or later; if proof is from prior to 1980, he/she must take an additional 7-hour minimum bowhunter education course.

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

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licenses, Privileges and Permits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting (Ages 16+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privileges: Hunt small game species with gun, bow or crossbow (see page 23). Hunt deer or bear with gun, muzzleloader, bow (with proof of bow education or a bow privilege), or crossbow (see page 23) during the regular season, or hunt with shotgun or muzzleloader during the January firearms season (permit required — see page 18) in Suffolk County (WMU 1C). You may hunt frogs with a valid hunting or fishing license.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifications: Hunter Education Certificate OR previous hunting license. Certificates to possess firearms do not qualify.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> Those less than 18 years of age who are hunting big game for the first time as a holder of a hunting license must be accompanied for the entire season by a parent or legal guardian, or a person 18 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37) with at least one year’s experience hunting bear or deer. Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 37.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prices:</strong>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ages 12–13: Hunt small game species with gun or bow during appropriate seasons when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian, or person 21 years of age or older with written permission from parent or guardian (see permission form on page 37).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ages 14–15: Hunt small game with gun, bow or crossbow (see page 23) when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian or person 18 years of age or older with written permission from parent/guardian. Hunt deer or bear with a gun, bow (with proof of bow education or a bow privilege) or crossbow (see page 23) during the regular season, or hunt with shotgun or muzzleloader during the January firearms season (permit required — see page 18) in Suffolk County, when accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or “youth mentor” 21 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 37.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Qualifications:</strong> Hunter 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 (<a href="https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6405.html">https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6405.html</a>) to hunt migratory game birds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bowhunting Privilege (Ages 16+*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Privileges: Hunt deer and bear with a bow during bowhunting seasons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifications: Current year NYS hunting license, PLUS acceptable Bowhunter Education Certificate, OR NYS Bowhunting Stamp issued in 1980 or later, OR NYS Junior Bowhunting License issued 1980 or later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note: To hunt deer or bear with a bow during the regular season, hunter must possess both a valid hunting license and either a current bowhunting privilege or a valid Bowhunter Education Certificate. This includes Westchester and Suffolk counties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prices:</strong>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ages 12–13: Hunt deer and bear with a bow during the bowhunting season or the regular season or bear during the early bear season when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian, or a “youth mentor” 21 years or older and designated in writing (see permission form on page 37). Youth hunter will receive a deer of either sex carcass tag for use in the regular season, instead of a regular season buck tag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ages 14–15: Hunt deer and bear with a bow during the bowhunting season and the regular season when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian or “youth mentor” 18 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 37.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Qualifications:</strong> Current year NYS hunting license, PLUS acceptable Bowhunter Education OR previous Junior Bowhunting License. Must be accompanied by parent/legal guardian to purchase.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Bowhunting (Ages 12–15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prices:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ages 12–15: Hunt deer and bear with a bow during the bowhunting season or the regular season or bear during the early bear season when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian, or a &quot;youth mentor&quot; 21 years or older and designated in writing (see permission form on page 37). Youth hunter will receive a deer of either sex carcass tag for use in the regular season, instead of a regular season buck tag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ages 14–15: Hunt deer and bear with a bow during the bowhunting season and the regular season when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian or &quot;youth mentor&quot; 18 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 37.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Qualifications:</strong> Current year NYS hunting license, PLUS acceptable Bowhunter Education OR previous Junior Bowhunting License. Must be accompanied by parent/legal guardian to purchase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muzzleloader Privilege (Ages 14+)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Privileges: Hunt deer and bear with a muzzleloading firearm during muzzleloading season, and the January special firearms season in Suffolk County (WMU 1C). Hunt deer and bear with a crossbow (see page 23).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifications: Current year NYS hunting license.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prices:</strong>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16–69 (NYS Resident) $15</td>
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<tr>
<td>70+ (NYS Resident) FREE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Disabled1 $15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patriot2 FREE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native American3 FREE</td>
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<td>16+ (Non-Resident) $30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native American3 FREE</td>
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<tr>
<td>14+ (Non-Resident) $30</td>
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To hunt turkey, all hunters must possess a turkey permit. There are no exceptions.

Trapping

- **Privileges:** Set traps for species during their appropriate seasons (see page 55 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licenses, Privileges and Permits</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer Management Permit Application (Ages 12+)</td>
</tr>
<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 1/2&quot; long) in a specified Wildlife Management Unit. See DMP information on pages 28–29. Application deadline is October 1 annually.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Qualifications:</strong> 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16–15 (NYS Resident)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Disabled1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patriot2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–15 (Non-Resident)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16+ (Non-Resident)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey Permit (Ages 12+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Privileges:</strong> 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Qualifications:</strong> Current year NYS hunting license. Turkey tags are included with a Lifetime License (formerly Lifetime Sportsman).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–15 (NYS Resident)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16–69 (NYS Resident)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70+ (NYS Resident)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Disabled1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patriot2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native American3</td>
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<tr>
<td>12–15 (Non-Resident)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trapping</td>
</tr>
<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 1/2&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>
<tr>
<td>10+ (NYS Resident)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Disabled1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patriot2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–15 (Non-Resident)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 a 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.

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**Women Hunt Fish NY – Photo Contest Winner**

**Before the Hunt**

Photo Credit: Renata Canaday

Subject: Carey Kiliman & dog Sally

Location: Genesee County, NY

Home County: Erie County, NY

“Dog training for a NAVHDA Finger Lakes Chapter. Our Chapter does a lot to promote hunting and gun safety to our local youth hunters and we encourage and get good participation from a few young ladies! The Chapter is also looking to have Carey, the Chapter Secretary, (once she gets past surgery recovery) work on plans for a western New York hunting workshop geared specifically for women.”

**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 Holders should expect to receive their annual carcass tags in the mail by no later than Sept. 1 annually. License Issuing Agents will replace licenses and tags free of charge between Sept. 1 and Nov. 1. After Nov. 1, there will be a charge up to $15. If you have a lifetime license card, you will only have to replace carcass tags at a fee of $10.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lifetime License (Sportsman) (combined hunting and fishing licenses, includes turkey permits):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For a person age 0–4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For a person age 5–11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For a person age 12–69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For a person age 70 or older</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

See page 13.
Residency continued from page 10

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 it was 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.

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.

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 backtag.

Deer Hunting Privileges and Tags
Resident and non-resident hunter 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.

General License Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stamps / Donations</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Habitat &amp; Access Stamp</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venison Donation</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>$1 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Duck Stamp</td>
<td>16+</td>
<td>$25</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.

Habitat & Access Stamp
Donations are used to create or improve fish and wildlife habitat and improve access to those resources for recreational or educational activities.

Venison Donation
Help feed the hungry by supporting NY’s venison donation program.

Federal Duck Stamp
Available at most post offices and some sporting goods stores.

Available at most post offices and some sporting goods stores. 16+ $25

Habitat & Access Stamp
Donations are used to create or improve fish and wildlife habitat and improve access to those resources for recreational or educational activities.

Venison Donation
Help feed the hungry by supporting NY’s venison donation program.

Free Hunting, Fishing and Trapping 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.

Active members of the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserve Forces or certain members of the US Armed Forces—see pages 28–29.

Available any time for replacement.

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

Fill out both sides immediately upon harvest

05/31/1982
Issued 06/24/2019 10:52 AM

Doc# 1234-5678-9013
Jane Doe
ID # 314114431020

REG SEASON DEER - RES
Date _______________________
County _____________________
Town ______________________

Kill Info
Muzzleloading
Reg Season
Bowhunting

Antler Pts L ___ R ___
Sex M F

11-19-19
12:00 AM

It is against the law to improperly or incompletely fill out your carcass tag.

Remember: Take It • Tag It • Report It

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 a 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.

### Hunt Safe — Hunt Smart

- Assume every gun to be loaded.
- Control the muzzle in a safe direction.
- Keep finger off the trigger until firing.
- Be sure of your target and beyond.
- Wear hunter orange.

### To take

Means to pursue, shoot, 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.

### Manner of Taking

**It is illegal to take or hunt wildlife:**

- While in or on a motor vehicle (except by special permit—see page 12)
- With the aid of a vehicle’s lights
- On or from any public road
- With any firearm equipped with a silencer
- With any firearm which continues to fire as long as the trigger is held back (an automatic firearm)
- With any semi-automatic firearm with a capacity to hold more than 6 rounds, except:
  1. Firearms using .22 or .17 caliber rimfire ammunition, or
  2. Firearms altered to reduce their capacity to no more than 6 shells at one time in the magazine and chamber combined, or
  3. Autoloading pistols with a barrel length of less than 8 inches
- With a spear
- With a bow equipped with any mechanical device which is attached to the bow (other than the bowstring) for drawing, holding or releasing the bowstring except for a person with a physical disability in possession of a Modified Longbow Authorization (compound bows are legal)
- With a spear gun or modified crossbow except for a person with a physical disability in possession of a Modified Crossbow Permit
- With an arrow with an explosive head or shaft.
- With any device designed or intended to deliver drugs to an animal
- With a crossbow if you are under 14 years old

**Baiting**—It is illegal to hunt with the aid of bait or over any baited area when hunting big game, upland game birds, turkey or waterfowl.

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

### 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.
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.

General Hunting Regulations

Hunter Education Requirements

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

Places to Hunt in New York
For information about areas 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?
• ASK if friends can join you.
• Exercise safety—always!
• Thank the landowner.

Many landowners use “ASK permission” stickers (see page 16) 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 Central Office, 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. DEC Forestry staff and Forest Rangers can provide details on state forest lands and forest preserve lands. In some instances, written permission or permits are required to use state lands. 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, forest preserve lands and conservation easement lands for motor vehicle use by people with a qualifying mobility disability. For a list of these opportunities, along with information on how to obtain a motorized access permit, please visit the DEC website 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.

Lands and forests
The Division of Lands and Forests manages nearly five million 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) of the county where you would like to hunt or trap for more information.

For further information on Forest Preserve lands, please visit the DEC website at: www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4960.html

Conservation easements
Conservation easements are tracts of privately owned property on which New York State has acquired certain public recreation rights. These rights are outlined in the easement document as well as in a recreation management plan jointly developed by the DEC and the landowner. Public hunting and trapping is allowed on many conservation easements, but due to

ASK Permission
"ASK Permission" stickers, a brochure explaining the program, Landowner Permission forms, and information about fish and wildlife conservation are available for free from DEC Regional Wildlife Offices or by writing:
NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754
OR ONLINE at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8371.html

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

For more information on wilderness management areas, please visit the DEC website at: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8295.html

Note: The text provided is a summary of the content from the New York Hunting & Trapping Guide. For detailed information, please refer to the original guide.
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) of the county where you would like to hunt or trap for details on how to properly access the property and the hunting and trapping regulations unique to the easement. For further information on DEC held Conservation Easements, please visit the DEC website at: www.dec.ny.gov/lands/41156.html

State forest (reforestation land) Outside the Adirondacks and Catskills, State Forest lands are the most common type of state lands. Many recreational activities can be pursued on these lands, including hunting and trapping. 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 (see page 6). For further information on State Forest Lands, please visit the DEC website at: www.dec.ny.gov/lands/40672.html

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 sight ing-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 (ATV), 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).

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 (www.parks.ny.gov). 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: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/88898.html

Other Areas to Hunt
• Finger Lakes National Forest (federal): Located east of Seneca Lake in Schuyler and Seneca counties. Small and big game hunting opportunities. Special hunting permits are not required.
• Fort Drum Military Base (federal): Wildlife Management Unit 6H, located in Jefferson and Lewis counties. Over half of the 107,000-acre U.S. Army military installation is open to the public for hunting and trapping. See the Fort Drum Fish and Wildlife Management Program website for more information: https://fortdrum.isportsman.net/ or call (315) 772-9303.
• 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 visit Montezuma’s website at: www.fws.gov/refuge/Montezuma/visit/visitor_activities.html
• 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. For further information visit: www.fws.gov/refuge/iroquios/
• 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
• 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: www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/recreation/hunting-trapping/page

DEC Campgrounds
DEC operates 52 public campgrounds in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. Hunting is not permitted within these campgrounds, although some campgrounds allow camping during big game season. Unloaded firearms are allowed on public campgrounds only during the spring and fall hunting seasons for hunting. A valid hunting license is needed. Firearms cannot be discharged in the campground or day use facilities at any time. For more information on DEC’s campgrounds visit: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7825.html

Campgrounds outside the Forest Preserves are operated by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) (see State Parks below).

For all campgrounds, reservations can be made by calling 1-800-456-CAMP or online at https://newyorkstateparks.reserveamerica.com

Licensed Guides
For information on licensed professional guides in New York, contact NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, NY 12233-2560 or visit the DEC website at: www.dec.ny.gov/permits/30969.html.

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.
Big Game Hunting

Please read General Hunting Regulations first. See page 14.

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 betaken 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 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 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 shotgun loaded with shells other than those carrying a single projectile (riffing in the barrel or choke is allowed).
- A bow with a draw weight less than 35 lbs.
- 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.

Central NY Opportunities

See 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.

Tagging and Reporting

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. This will help you when reporting a harvest.
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.

Continued on page 20

Tagging, Reporting and Transporting

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.

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.

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DEC Region 7
Small game, turkey, trophy
white-tailed deer
can be found
in the 900+
square miles of
Chenango.

Call for your FREE
outdoor recreation Map/Guide.

www.visitchenango.com or call 607-334-1400

facebook.com/ChenangoTourism @CmrcChenango NYSDEC

GET UP TO A
$20,000 BONUS
FOR ENLISTING.

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NATIONAL
GUARD

NYARMYNATIONALGUARD.COM
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 “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>Type</th>
<th>Legal</th>
<th>Illegal</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Blade</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Legal Fixed Blade" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Illegal Fixed Blade" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Blade</td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Legal Mechanical Blade" /></td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Illegal Mechanical Blade" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Blades pivot forward (no longer barbed)
- Blades do not pivot (remain barbed)

**Broadheads for Big Game**
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.)
Chronic Wasting Disease: What You Need To Know

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.

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.

Dec is proposing to prohibit importation of whole cervid carcasses from all areas outside of NY. Before the 2019 big game hunting season, check DEC regulations online (www.dec.ny.gov) for an up-to-date listing of new CWD rules.

White-tailed deer in the end stages of CWD. It is emaciated, drooling, and easily approached.

White-tailed deer in the end stages of CWD. It is emaciated, drooling, and easily approached.
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 or 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.

Attention Crossbow Hunters

Promoting Your Right to Hunt Statewide With the "B Bow" of YOUR Choice During the Entire Bow Season

Crossbows became a legal hunting implement in 2014. Crossbows are permitted during a portion of the bow season but have restrictions on maximum draw weight, width and are prohibited in “Archery Only” areas. Hunters also must use the Muzzleloader Privilege instead of the Bow Privilege.

New York Crossbow Coalition is dedicated to seeing the Crossbow Classified as a Bow and allowing its use during the entire Archery Season without restriction.

For the latest information on Crossbow Legislation in NY, go to our web page and sign up for our email alerts and follow us on Facebook or mail a request for information at the address below.

New York Crossbow Coalition

PO Box 316
Pulaski, NY 13142

www.nycrossbowcoalition.com
info@nycrossbowcoalition.com

Join NY’s Full Inclusion Archery Organization TODAY!

Twitter: @NYCrossbow

Facebook: on facebook
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.

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.)

* The use of rifles for Big Game Hunting in Orleans County and a portion of Broome County is set to expire Oct 1, 2019. At press time, legislation was pending that would continue the allowance. Please check the DEC website before going afield.

Boning Out Deer
Some hunters who take a deer in remote areas may wish to bone out the deer 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 tagged with your DMP or Bow/Muzzleloading antlerless or either-sex tags.
**Deer Hunting**

### Muzzleloading Deer Seasons

**Hunting Hours:** Sunrise to Sunset

#### 2019

#### Northern Zone
- **Deer of Either Sex**
  - Oct. 19 - Dec. 25

#### Southern Zone
- **Deer of Either Sex**
  - Dec. 9 - Dec. 17

**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**

### Youth Firearms Season

**Season Dates**
- Oct. 12-14, 2019

**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

### 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.**

### Crossbows

- 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.

### Regular & Bowhunting Deer Seasons

**Hunting Hours:** Sunrise to Sunset

#### 2019

#### Northern Zone
- **Deer of Either Sex**
  - Oct. 9 - Dec. 19

#### Southern Zone
- **Deer of Either Sex**
  - Dec. 9 - Dec. 17

**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**
Deer Hunting

Deer Tag Descriptions

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tag Name</th>
<th>Tag Can Be Used In</th>
<th>Tag Is Valid For</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Regular Season Deer Tag</td>
<td>Regular Season</td>
<td>Antlered Deer Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Northern Zone</td>
<td>Except: May be used for Antlered or Antlerless Deer as follows:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Southern Zone</td>
<td>• In Westchester County (WMU 3S)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Westchester County</td>
<td>• In Suffolk County (WMU 1C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Regular (bowhunting only)</td>
<td>• In areas restricted to bowhunting only (WMUs 4J and 8C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Suffolk County</td>
<td>• In late seasons (with bowhunting or muzzleloading privilege)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Regular (bowhunting only)</td>
<td>• By Junior Hunters during the Youth Deer Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Special Firearms (special permit, see page 18)</td>
<td>• IF you have a non-ambiguous permit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Late Season Bowhunting (privilege required)</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Northern Zone</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>• Southern Zone</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Late Season Muzzleloading (privilege required)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Northern Zone</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(check open areas and dates on map on page 25)</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Southern Zone</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth Deer Season</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag</td>
<td>Bowhunting Season (privilege required)</td>
<td>Antlered or Antlerless Deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Northern Zone</td>
<td>Bowhunting OR Muzzleloading seasons only (including the regular season in Westchester County and any season in Suffolk County) Junior Bowhunters will receive this tag, which will be valid in the special bowhunting seasons and during the regular season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Southern Zone</td>
<td>Except:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Muzzleloading Season (privilege required)</td>
<td>• May be used for antlered deer only during muzzleloading seasons in certain Northern Zone WMUs (see map page 25).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Northern Zone</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(check open areas and dates on map on page 25)</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Southern Zone</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Westchester County</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Regular (bowhunting only)</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Suffolk County</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Regular (bowhunting only)</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Special Firearms (special permit; see page 18)</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not valid during the Northern or Southern Zone</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Regular Seasons or Youth Hunt.</strong></td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEER CARCASS TAG

For information on which tags may be used when hunting with a crossbow, see page 21.
Deer Hunting

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, moose health, and the factors that influence moose survival and reproductive rates. 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 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.

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.

“Celebrate the deer hunting tradition by attending a Whitetails Unlimited event near you.”
~ Travis “T-Bone” Turner
Whitetails Unlimited spokesperson and co-host of Michael Waddell’s Bone Collector TV Show.

For information, please call WTU’s New York Field Director Bill Bailey at (413) 244-2304. www.whitetailsunlimited.com

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3-Day Turkey Special ~ $750/Person
~ Both Include Meals & Lodging! ~
315.360.7113
www.BigGameHuntingNY.com
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Richfield Springs, NY

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5-Day Guided Deer/Bear Combo ~ $1000
3-Day Turkey Special ~ $750/Person
~ Both Include Meals & Lodging! ~
315.360.7113
www.BigGameHuntingNY.com
P.O. Box 1526
Richfield Springs, NY
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, 2019
• You may apply for DMPs at all license-issuing outlets, by phone or online beginning on August 1, 2019.
• 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.

Chances of DMP selection

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Deer Hunting

Women Hunt Fish NY – Photo Contest Winner

Group Hunting

Subjects: Michelle Sanford (daughter-in-law) & Cathy Sanford (mother-in-law)
Location: Broome County, NY
Home County: Broome County, NY

“I am entering not because we shot the biggest deer around but to promote women hunting and to prove that anyone can do it along with having so much fun! I have been with my husband for 6 years now and I have always gone along great with his family, but there is something special about hunting season that really brings us together as a family! I Love to hunt but hunting with my mother-in-law is something really special to me! To be able to provide for my family as well as grow an amazing relationship with my other family is awesome! From freezing our butts off in the cold to vacuum sealing it in the kitchen we are always having fun and being safe!”

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 without Preference Points
3. NYS Residents and Non-residents with 1–2 Preference Points
4. NYS Residents without Preference Points
5. Non-residents without Preference Points

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.
- If you were rejected for a first permit in 2018 and have a preference point for the 2019 hunting season, this information is stored in DECALS and will be available to all license-issuing agents.
- 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.
Additional DMP opportunities

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: 518-437-2600
- 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.

How to Transfer a DMP Deer Carcass Tag

Hunter Jane Doe wants to transfer her DMP tag to hunter Pete Moss.

- Step 1. Jane Doe signs the bottom of her DMP tag.
- Step 2. Jane Doe 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.
  - Hunters are allowed to receive only two transferred DMPs per year.
  - DMPs can be transferred from the receiving hunter back to the original hunter or to another. The other hunter must record the DOC# on his/her reporting panel, as in Step 3 above, to complete the transfer.

Remember: Hunting licenses are not transferable. Only DMP carcass tags can be used by another. 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).

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518-758-6968
Deer Hunting

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, depending on demand. Hunters may apply in person at DEC’s 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, 2719 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.

Become a Hunter Education Program Instructor

“I volunteer my time to the Hunter Education Program because I get more out of it than I give. Those few hours give me a greater appreciation for all things conservation. The smiles of a child that can now go afield with purpose, men and women who will get to put fresh game on their tables, and a new group of people with a greater understanding of the wildlife and nature around them.”

Ann Wilcox-Swanson, Instructor

Qualifications
- At least 18 years of age
- Hunting experience preferred
- Good communication skills
- Good moral character

APPLY TODAY! 1-888-HUNTED2 www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9189.html
Deer Hunting

THE WEIGHT OF YOUR COOLER IS NOT THE ONLY MEASURE OF YOUR HUNT

Maybe that big buck was just a bit too far away. Or, he might have been just over on someone else’s property. Perhaps you were close to running out of daylight.

In any case, you didn’t take the shot.

And the only thing you came home with was a smile on your face. But, by any measure, that was more than enough.

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Passing Up Young Bucks Pays Off
Hunters Voluntarily Choosing to Pass Up Young Bucks Pays Dividends

In the southeastern Hudson Valley (Wildlife Management Units 3F, 3G, 3N, and 4Z), the proportion of older bucks in the deer harvest has never been higher. In recent years, two of every three antlered bucks taken by hunters were 2.5 years old or older, and this remarkable accomplishment happened with hunters freely able to choose what type of buck they want to harvest.

For decades, hunters in this area were accustomed to taking mostly small-bodied, small-antlered yearling bucks, and these 1.5-year-old bucks comprised 65-75 percent of the buck take each year. Around 2000, that tradition really began to change. By 2008, the balance had solidly tipped towards older bucks with more than 50 percent of the annual buck take being 2.5-years or older with larger bodies and larger antlers. In recent years, the ratio has fully flipped with 65-75 percent of bucks being older-aged bucks.

To be sure, other things have happened with this deer population. Overall, there are fewer deer in this area than 20 years ago, and as a result, hunters are seeing and taking fewer deer than they did previously. However, the smaller population size doesn’t explain the shift towards older bucks in the harvest.

Some might suggest the shift towards older bucks is due to fewer hunters or reduced harvest rate which could result in greater survival of young bucks. While we don’t have data specific to these variables for the southeastern Hudson Valley, we know the number of deer hunters statewide has been fairly stable for the past decade. Too, we can reasonably assume that if shifts in hunting pressure and harvest rate were the primary drivers affecting buck age structure, the same would be true for the adult does. However, the proportion of older does in the female deer harvest has stayed virtually unchanged for the past 40 years.

We know many hunters across New York are voluntarily opting to pass up shots at young, small-antlered bucks. The effects of hunter choice in the southeastern Hudson Valley are dramatic and a great example for hunters everywhere of what can be accomplished when hunters choose to Let Young Bucks Go and Watch Them Grow!
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.
Deer Hunting

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 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
• 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
• Moose Observations
www.dec.ny.gov/animals/1155.html

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RETURN SAFELY to your family.

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### Future Big Game Season Dates

#### Northern Zone

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

#### Southern Zone

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

#### Westchester County (WMU 3S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular—Deer and Bear (bowhunting only)</td>
<td>October 1 through December 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Suffolk County (WMU 1C)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular—Deer (bowhunting only)</td>
<td>October 1 through December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Firearms Season—Deer</td>
<td>First full week in January, through January 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Special Seasons Designated for Young Hunters**

**Share Your Knowledge, Reconnect to Nature — Take a Junior Hunter Afield During These Special Seasons!**

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. Hunters age 12–16 are exempt from antler point restrictions and may take any buck with antlers 3” or longer. 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 youth turkey and big game hunts. During the youth waterfowl hunt the accompanying adult must have a federal duck stamp and may carry a firearm if the respective regular season is open.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Hunts</th>
<th>Tentative Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Pheasant Hunt</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern and Eastern New York</td>
<td>September 28–29, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western New York</td>
<td>October 12–13, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Island</td>
<td>October 26–27, 2019</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Waterfowl Hunt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Waterfowl Hunting Zone</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeastern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeastern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Champlain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Island</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Wild Turkey Hunt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary) and Suffolk County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Firearms Deer and Bear Hunt*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary; excluding bowhunting-only WMUs)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**New York is on Target!**

The National Archery in the Schools Program…

...Is an archery program for grades 4-12

...Includes instructor training

...Uses standardized equipment

...Has 40,000 students participate annually

For more information, please contact Jill Trunko at 518-402-8967, or jillian.trunko@dec.ny.gov

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**Take them outside the classroom. Way outside.**

The NYSDEC has partnered with the Archery Trade Association to bring you a curriculum that includes over 20 introductory lessons to bowhunting for students ages 11-17. Contact Jill Trunko (518-402-8967) to bring Explore Bowhunting to your school!
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 fluorescent orange or pink: a shirt or jacket with 250 sq inches of solid/patterned fluorescent orange or pink (the pattern must be no less than 50% fluorescent orange or pink) OR a hat with no less than 50% of the exterior consisting of solid fluorescent orange or pink AND visible from 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.

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

Isabella Tolosi, age 13, 2018 Youth Turkey Hunt, Columbia County (photo Ed Tolosi, father)

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 __________________________ Telephone Number __________________________

(Print today’s date above.) (Print phone number above.)

Attention Young Hunter or Trapper: carry this form with you while afield.
Go Non-Lead
Better for You — Better for Wildlife

Venison and bear meat are fantastic table fare providing a healthy, natural, locally-sourced alternative to meats and other proteins purchased in stores. Knowing where your food comes from and that it is free of additives is important to many hunters and their families.

Traditional lead-based bullets which have been in popular use for big game hunting can fragment and leave small unseen particles in your meat, often a distance from the wound channel, exposing you to lead. In addition, portions of the carcass (gut piles) left in the field can expose scavenging animals to lead sometimes with deadly results. Lead is a well-known toxin to people and animals and even in small amounts can have adverse health effects. This is especially true for many birds like eagles.

Non-lead alternative ammunition is available in most popular big game calibers as well as for shotguns and muzzle-loading firearms. The performance is excellent and the cost continues to come down as more people give it a try. You can expect to pay about the same for it as any premium quality ammunition. Best of all, you will help ensure that the high quality, locally sourced and delicious table fare you worked hard for will be just that. And you will be reducing risks to the wildlife around you. It’s a win-win.

Tree Stand Safety

- Read the manufacturer’s instructions. Check stands for worn/missing parts (including straps and chains) every season. Replace accordingly.
- Use a full-body harness with a foot strap (to relieve harness leg pressure and avoid suspension trauma). Stay connected to a lifeline 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.
- Once you are secured in your stand, use a strong haul line to raise/lower your unloaded implements and quiver. Do not tie the haul line around the trigger or trigger guard. Haul unloaded guns, bows, and cocked (but unloaded) crossbows pointed down.
- Tell a reliable person where you will be hunting and when you will return. A map showing your stand location makes it easier 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.

HUNT SAFE – HUNT SMART
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9186.html

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.
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, via the mobile app, 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), via the mobile app, 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 2019 NYS Black Bear Cooperator Patch. Samples will be aged in the summer of 2020. 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.

*See map on page 24 for information on legal implements during the early and regular bear seasons.
Small game includes upland and migratory game birds, small game mammals, certain fur-bearers, and reptiles and amphibians.

Please read general hunting regulations first on 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 47–52 for additional information on migratory game birds.
- Air guns (see page 14) may be used to hunt squirrels, rabbits, hares, ruffed grouse, and fur-bearers 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 spade-foot 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.

If you choose to eat snapping turtles, you should carefully trim all fat and discard fat, liver and eggs prior to cooking to reduce exposure to contaminants. For information on these health advisories, call 1-800-458-1158 or visit the website http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/health_advisories/.

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.

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.

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.
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.
Keep Your Hunting Dog Safe

- Keep your dog visible and identifiable! Blaze orange isn't just for you.
- Watch for hypothermia, especially if dogs are going to be in the water.
- If the weather is warm, watch your dog carefully for signs of heat exhaustion, including heavy panting, drooling, weakness and confusion.
- Provide only small meals or snacks prior to the hunt and throughout the day. Overfeeding can lead to bloat and gastric torsion.
- Make sure your dog has access to plenty of fresh water.
- Carry a dog first aid kit.


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!
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.

Ruffed Grouse Hunting
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

**Grouse Hunters Needed!**

Must register with Harvest Information Program (HIP) to shoot woodcock: https://www.newyorkhip.org/ or 1-888-427-5447

**Easy as 1-2-3!**

1. Collect 1 central tail feather
2. Pluck 2-5 rump feathers
3. Collect outer 3 wing feathers

DEC is embarking on a study of ruffed grouse age and sex composition. You can help by sending a sample of rump, wing, and tail feathers from all NY harvested ruffed grouse.

To request more information and supplies, please call 518-402-8929 or email wildlife@dec.ny.gov.
General Regulations
• 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, Possession and Reporting
• 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

Turkey Hunting 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.

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SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY. GO ONLINE OR CALL FOR DETAILS.

2019–2020 New York Hunting & Trapping Guide
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, 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".

Erika Lazar, age 15, 2018 Youth Turkey Hunt in Columbia County. (photo by Billy Lazar, father)
BE TICK SAFE!

Ticks can spread disease, but not all bites will make you sick. Deer ticks may carry Lyme disease, the most common tick-borne disease in New York.

QUESTIONS?

- Contact the NYS Department of Health or your healthcare provider if you have symptoms of fever, rash, body aches or fatigue after a tick bite.
- See www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/lyme/

TICK REMOVAL

- Using tweezers, grab the tick as close to your skin as possible.
- Pull upward with steady, even pressure.
- Clean the bite area with soap and water, rubbing alcohol, or hydrogen peroxide.

Check yourself, your children and pets for ticks daily.
**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 birds 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: https://www.nyshipp.org/ or call 1-888-427-5447. HIP registration is valid from August 1 through June 30 annually (not the same as your hunting license!).

If you are 16 years or older and you hunt waterfowl, then 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.

**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 fish-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.

**Special Snow Goose Harvest Program**

Waterfowl hunters in New York have a special opportunity to harvest snow geese in most areas of the state from January 16 through April 15, 2020. 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 2019–20, go to: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/50514.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.
Migratory Game Birds

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
NY State 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 that 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, 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 a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may, with a permit issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation, take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance. “Paraplegic” means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease or injury to the spinal cord.
• From or by means of any motorboat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased. Motorboats and sailboats under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds; however, crippled birds may not be shot from such craft under power except in the Special Sea Duck Area described in the Hunting Seasons Table.
• By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
• By using recorded migratory bird calls or sounds or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls. This does not apply to the taking of snow geese in any area or zone, or taking of Canada geese in September, when all other waterfowl seasons are closed.
• By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the range of hunters.
• By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement) or on or over any baited area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation. Migratory game birds may be taken on or over standing crops, flooded harvested crop lands, grain crops properly shocked on the field where grown or grains found scattered solely as a result of the normal agricultural planting or harvesting.

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.

Possession, tagging, shipment and importation
The possession limit is the maximum number of migratory game birds that any person may possess in total in his/her automobile or principal means of land transportation, personal abode, or in his/her name at any migratory bird preservation facility, post office or common-carrier facility. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit for all waterfowl species except snow goose.

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.
**Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits**

**2019–2020 Waterfowl Seasons**

- **Northeast**
  - Youth Days*: Sept. 21 & 22
  - Ducks** and Coots: Oct. 5 - Oct. 27
  - Snow Geese***: Oct. 1 - Apr. 15
  - Brant: Oct. 5 - Nov. 3

- **Lake Champlain**
  - Youth Days*: Sept. 28 & 29
  - Ducks** and Coots: Oct. 10 - Nov. 1
  - Snow Geese***: Oct. 1 - Dec. 31
  - Brant: Oct. 10 - Nov. 8

- **Long Island**
  - Youth Days*: Nov. 9 & 10
  - Ducks** and Coots: Nov. 23 - Dec. 29
  - Snow Geese***: Nov. 23 - Mar. 8
  - Brant: Dec. 28 - Jan 26

- **Western**
  - Youth Days*: Oct. 5 & 6
  - Ducks** and Coots: Nov. 30 - Jan. 5
  - Snow Geese***: Oct. 1 - Apr. 15
  - Brant: Oct. 5 - Nov. 3

- **Southeastern**
  - Youth Days*: Sept. 21 & 22
  - Ducks** and Coots: Oct. 19 - Dec. 22
  - Snow Geese***: Oct. 1 - Apr. 15
  - Brant: Oct. 5 - Nov. 3

---

**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>* Three times the daily limit — see map page 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow Geeseb</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brant</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a 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 2 mallards (1 of which may be hens), 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 2 scaup, 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.

b Cackling geese and white-fronted geese may be taken as part of the Canada goose daily and possession limits. Snow geese and Ross’ geese may be taken as part of the snow goose limits.

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**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!

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**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

### 2019-2020 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 2019–2020

<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><strong>Upstate New York</strong>&lt;sup&gt;1,2&lt;/sup&gt;</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><strong>Long Island</strong>&lt;sup&gt;2,3&lt;/sup&gt;</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><strong>Bag Limit</strong></td>
<td>3/day 9 in possession</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>8/day 24 in possession</td>
<td>8/day 24 in possession</td>
<td>8/day 24 in possession</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shooting Hours</strong></td>
<td>Sunrise to Sunset</td>
<td>Sunrise to Sunset</td>
<td>1/2-Hr Before Sun rise 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><strong>Non-Toxic Shot</strong></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><strong>HIP Registration</strong></td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>NOT Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required</td>
<td>Hunting on Fri., Sat., Sun. &amp; Mon. ONLY; Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required; Rifles and electronically amplified bird calls or sounds permitted</td>
<td>Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required</td>
<td>Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required</td>
<td>Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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).
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 49, 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 Cattaraugus Boundary Road to Exit 48 in Batavia, then south along State Route 98 to State Route 20; that part of WMU 3S lying north of Route I-95.

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, 3G, 4H, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4W, 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 Cattaraugus Boundary Road to Exit 48 in Batavia, then south along State Route 98 to State Route 20; that part of WMU 3S lying north of Route I-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.

Don’t let the next DU event pass you by. When you attend your local event, you can have a great time while helping us fill the skies with waterfowl. To find an event near you, visit ducks.org/events.
Choosing the “Best” Duck Season Dates

Choosing the “best” duck season dates has long been a contentious topic among duck hunters. Depending on which species you’re interested in pursuing or the types of habitat you hunt (shallow marshes, deep water, fields, etc.), the “best” season dates for each zone can vary from person to person. DEC, the New York Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Cornell University, and the center for Conservation Social Sciences developed a new process that includes input from duck hunters and the best available data on duck abundance to determine the optimal duck season dates in each zone. Last fall, we began the process by surveying about one-third of the duck hunters in New York State to identify what duck hunters in each zone value and what drives their duck hunting satisfaction.

With information on duck hunter values in hand, DEC worked with Cornell University and the Lab of Ornithology to develop zone-specific, weekly estimates of migration and relative abundance for 12 species of ducks that frequently occur in the hunter’s bag (the map to the right is an example of the data used for Wood Duck abundance during the week of October 11th). After estimating duck abundance and migration trends at the zone scale, DEC worked with the waterfowl task forces in each zone to develop 5-10 unique season date “alternatives” that would create opportunity for different species groups (e.g., a duck season geared toward mallards and black ducks) or to capture more opportunity (e.g., a season that includes the maximum number of holidays and weekends). Finally, to determine the optimal season, DEC and Cornell University used the results of the hunter survey in conjunction with the migration and abundance data to determine which of the season alternatives developed by the hunter task forces best matched the values of duck hunters in each zone.

Below are the optimal duck season date structures identified for each zone. DEC intends to implement these date structures for the next 5 hunting seasons (2019-2020 through 2023-2024), barring any changes to the number of days allowed by the federal framework. For detailed information on season dates for a specific zone, please visit the DEC website: https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/40737.html.

### 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 28, east along Route 28 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 31 to Route 13, north along Route 13 to Route 49, east along Route 49 to Route 365, east along Route 365 to Route 28, east along Route 28 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.

### Waterfowl Hunting Zones

#### Northeastern Zone
- Beginning on the 1st Saturday in October, running for 23 days, ending on a Sunday, and a second split beginning the 1st Saturday following the closure of the 1st split, running 37 days, and ending on a Sunday (e.g. Oct 5, 2019–Oct 27, 2019 and Nov 2, 2019–Dec 8, 2019).
- Beginning the 3rd Saturday in October, running for 44 days, ending on a Sunday, and a second split beginning the 1st Saturday following the closure of the 1st split, running 37 days, and ending on a Sunday (e.g. Oct 19, 2019–Nov 10, 2019 and Nov 30, 2019–Jan 5, 2020).
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Coyote Hunting
Statewide except Long Island and New York City: Oct. 1–Mar. 29

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

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.

General Regulations
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.

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

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.

If you take a bobcat, you must:
1. Complete a Furbearer Possession Tag
2. Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

Season Dates 2019/2020
- Oct. 25–Feb. 15
- Oct. 25–Nov. 15
- Closed

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.

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.
Definition of Trapping

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. 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 58.
- During beaver or otter season, foothold traps up to 7¼” are allowed if set under water.

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.

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

**Trappers, furbearer hunters, and members of the public who assist with DEC furbearer management activities are eligible to receive a special patch! You can receive a patch if you:**

- Voluntarily turn in an incidentally trapped animal; turn in a road-killed fisher, bobcat, marten, otter, or weasel; report a violation involving a furbearer species that results in a conviction; provide data in response to a DEC request or to assist with a DEC study; or promote trapping or furbearer hunting in NY. Carcasses are used for staff training, biological data, trapper education, and outreach programs.
- Contact your regional furbearer biologist (see page 60) for more information about getting a patch.

For advertising inquiries, please call (413) 884-1001
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
    » foothold trap that measures 4½ 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.

- **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 pelt seals 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.

Buying and Selling Fur
- Species requiring a pelt seal cannot be bought or sold or given to another person unless they have the plastic pelt seal attached.
- 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.

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.

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.
- You must attempt to release any animals that are accidentally captured when the season is closed or if the area is not open for trapping that species.
- If the animal is injured to the extent you believe it will not survive, humanely dispatch it. If you are not sure, contact a DEC Regional Wildlife Office for assistance.
- When you find an unintentionally captured animal dead in the trap, or when you must dispatch an unintentionally captured animal due to a serious injury, you may remove it and lay it in the vicinity of the trap. There are no legal provisions for you to keep it, and you may not possess it even to take it back to your vehicle without permission from DEC.
- DEC seeks information on all accidentally taken bobcat, otter, fisher and marten as well as other species of unusual nature. If the animal is dead, a DEC biologist will want to collect the carcass. Using the location and carcass data, biologists will be able to track the status of these species and study the age and reproductive data from the individual. The pelts from these carcasses will also be utilized in our trapper education classes.
- Remember, you must contact the Regional Wildlife Office or an ECO as soon as possible to report the catch. You will receive instructions on what to do and information to provide.
Fisher & Marten Trapping

To trap fisher or marten you must obtain a free annual trapping permit from a Regional Bureau of Wildlife Office (see page 60).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season Dates 2019</th>
<th>Species &amp; Bag Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1–Nov. 30</td>
<td>Fisher and Marten. Season limit of 6 martens. There are no bag limits for fisher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25–Oct. 30</td>
<td>Fisher only. There are no bag limits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25–Dec. 10</td>
<td>Fisher only. There are no bag limits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>Fisher and Marten</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season Dates 2019/2020</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25–Feb. 15</td>
<td>There are no bag limits for these species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25–Nov. 15</td>
<td>There are no bag limits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Mink & Muskrat Trapping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season Dates 2019/2020</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25–Apr. 15</td>
<td>There are no bag limits for these species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 25–Feb. 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 10–Apr. 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 15–Feb. 25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bobcat Trapping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season Dates 2019/2020</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25–Feb. 15</td>
<td>There are no bag limits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25–Nov. 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beaver Trapping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season Dates 2019/2020</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1–Apr. 7</td>
<td>There are no bag limits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 10–Apr. 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 25–Feb. 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 25–Mar. 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

River Otter Trapping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season Dates 2019/2020</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1–Apr. 7</td>
<td>There are no bag limits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 10–Feb. 28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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
Permit Requirements for Fisher and Marten

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 free special annual 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 Annual 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 Annual 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.

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>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td>21 S Putt Corners Rd, New Paltz, NY 12561</td>
<td>845-256-3088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>65561 State Hwy 10, Stamford, NY 12167</td>
<td>607-652-2302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 6F, 6J</td>
<td>Contact any Regional Wildlife Office to obtain a free annual permit to trap fisher in any WMU with an open season (other than those listed for fisher/marten).</td>
<td>232 Golf Course Rd, Warrensburg, NY 12885</td>
<td>518-623-1240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td>317 Washington St, Watertown, NY 13601</td>
<td>315-785-2534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1285 Fisher Ave, Cortland, NY 13045</td>
<td>607-753-3095, x. 247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td>7291 Coon Rd, Bath, NY 14810</td>
<td>607-622-8271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>182 E Union St, Suite 3, Allegany, NY 14706</td>
<td>716-372-0645</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Or apply by email to: wildlife@dec.ny.gov and type “Fisher/Marten Permit” in the subject line.
Changes in the Fisher Population

What Drives Changes in the Fisher Population in the Northern Zone?

DEC Embarks on Fisher Demographics Project

The New York State Fisher Management Plan, adopted in 2016, outlined the goals and objectives for fisher management for the next 10 years. The plan highlighted high-priority research needs including determining factors influencing recent changes in the Central Adirondack fisher population.

To better understand what drives changes in fisher populations in the Central Adirondacks specifically, and more widely across the Northern Zone, from 2019-21 DEC will partner with researchers at SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry to estimate key demographic parameters for fishers including adult survival and reproductive rates. Fishers will be live-trapped, adult females will be fitted with GPS collars, and adult males will be fitted with conventional VHF collars. Juveniles will be ear-tagged only.

GPS collars on adult female fisher will be used to locate and monitor maternal dens. The combination of real-time GPS location data as well as trail cameras deployed at maternal den sites will be used to estimate kit production and survival. These den attendance patterns will be examined relative to conditions that may influence kit survival such as temperature, snow, and storm events. Location and activity data from these collars will also be used to monitor adult fisher habitat use and survival.

Ultimately, data on the reproductive potential of Northern Zone fisher populations and a better understanding of population dynamics will be used to inform season setting and ensure sustainable harvest opportunities for this important fur bearer resource.

Report Your Furbearer Sightings!

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

You can report your observations online, and you 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!

Photo courtesy of Natalie Werner, sighting in Allegany County

DEC Fish and Wildlife Technician Cody Nichols measures a collared fisher.
Q: Can I shoot deer at first light during deer season?
A: No. For deer and bear hunting, legal shooting is between the minute of local sunrise to the minute of local sunset, NOT just when it’s light enough. This applies to all implements - firearms, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows. Sunrise/set charts are in this guide.

Q: What are NY “Hunter Orange” requirements?
A: Junior hunters and mentors are required to wear at least 250 inches of fluorescent orange/pink solid/patterned 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: 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: If I don’t have 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: 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# and wear 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 hunting areas may require additional paperwork.

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

Q: Can our hunting party “share” Deer Management Permits (DMPs) on a deer drive?
A: Only the person possessing a properly consigned DMP may take an antlerless deer, regardless of how many have the tag consigned to them. See the DMP consignment rules for more info.

Q: Why can NY stores sell deer bait and salt blocks when it is illegal to use them for hunting?
A: The law does not prohibit the sale, it prohibits the use of 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. Use of these products may also help spread diseases.

Q: Can I shoot or hunt while sitting on my ATV, even if it is turned off and not on a road?
A: No. It is illegal to possess a loaded firearm in or on a motor vehicle, including ATVs, UTVs, cars, trucks, tractors, snowmobiles. An exception is in boats, but it only applies when hunting migratory waterfowl.

Q: Why aren’t food plots considered bait?
A: The law exempts food plots as “areas established by standard agricultural production practices”, and they are not illegal to hunt over.

Q: Can I hunt small game with a rifle in counties where deer hunting with a rifle is prohibited?
A: Yes, but if any deer season is open, you can only use a rimfire rifle .22 caliber or smaller or centerfire rifles less than .22 caliber. You may not possess rifles afield on Long Island or Westchester Co.

Q: If the trapping season is open, can I also hunt for that species?
A: It depends on the season and species. Some furbearers may only be trapped, while some can also be hunted, but with different seasons. Coyote is a good example.

Q: I found a live wild animal in a trap, what can I do?
A: Unless you own the trap or have permission from the trap owner (and are licensed to trap), it is illegal to release, dispatch or steal a trapped fur bearer or tamper with legally set traps. If concerned, contact an ECO.

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: Simply removing the bolt does not meet the requirement. A crossbow must be decocked to be legally possessed in or on a motor vehicle. When legally 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: I wounded a deer and heard there are trained dogs that can help me find it. What should I do?
A: DEC-licensed leashed tracking dog handlers may help you find the deer. They are volunteers and do not charge for their service. More info at “deersearch.org” or call the ECO Dispatch Center.

Q: May I carry a child younger than 12 with me while hunting? What about a spouse?
A: 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, call an ECO.

Q: Can I purchase a resident hunting license?
A: Residency is a fixed, permanent and principal home to which a person always intends to return. Simply owning land or paying taxes does not make one eligible for resident license fees. More information on residency is found in the front of this guide.

Q: Can I target shoot on DEC lands?
A: Many DEC state lands, including State Forests and Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) have specific rules – call ahead. You may not damage live trees and must remove all litter.

Q: Can a felon legally hunt with a muzzleloader?
A: Not without a specific court order that may permit this. Contact your local ECO, as it greatly depends on individual details.

Q: Can I carry a handgun while bowhunting deer/bear during the special bowhunting seasons?
A: No, you may not possess a firearm of any type while bowhunting during those seasons. Possession of a handgun in NY requires a NY Pistol Permit. NY does not recognize any permits from other states.

Q: May I transport an entire deer carcass into NY from another state?
A: Chronic Wasting Disease regulations ban importation of whole carcasses and certain parts, depending on the originating state. See the CWD pages of this guidebook.

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.
ECO Anthony Drahms got a complaint in March that trespassers illegally shot two “white deer” in November, hoping to sell them to taxidermists. None would buy the deer and they went to waste. Arrests were made for several violations.

Opening weekend tips from concerned sportsmen led ECO Brian Canzeri to make several arrests and seize these deer for violations including hunting over bait, shooting from a highway, taking over the limit and using tags of another.

ECOs Jeremy Fadden (pictured) and Corey Hornicek responded to a call of a bear running through the Village of Haverstraw. They worked with DEC Wildlife staff to tranquilize, tag and release the bear to a rural area.

ECO Kimberly Robles checks deer carcass tags during opening weekend. As with most checks, no violations were found. The hunters shared stories from a day afield, asked questions and passed along tips about a local poaching suspect.

Lt. Liza Bobseine, ECO Kurt Bush and ECO Brian Canzeri participated in an Albany area public outreach event to teach the public about ECOs, what they do, the DEC and the importance of protecting our environment and natural resources.

ECOs around the state participate as mentors in various spring turkey youth hunts sponsored by sportsmen groups. ECO Lieutenant Matt Lochner provided tips and support, leading to this lucky youth harvesting a nice gobbler.
Environmental Conservation Officers

Report All Poachers and Polluters

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 you 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 suspected violations.

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 suspected violations.

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/
The Young Forest Initiative: Four Years Later

The Young Forest Initiative was launched by DEC in 2015 to increase habitat management on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) for wildlife that needs young forest, including popular game species like American woodcock, ruffed grouse, wild turkey, and snowshoe hare. Young forest provides important food, cover, and nesting places for these and many other species.

So, where are we today? During the past four years, DEC biologists and foresters have been working together gathering data on habitat and wildlife at WMAs, developing Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) for each area, and starting on-the-ground work. Forty-four HMPs have been completed, and several more WMAs have drafts currently underway. To date, nearly 700 acres of young forest work has been completed, 1,200 acres are currently under contract for management, and plans are in place for an additional 1,500 acres. In the years ahead, staff will continue to monitor forest regeneration and wildlife’s response to the management.

How can you help? Consider being a citizen scientist while afield. Grouse and woodcock hunters and spring turkey hunters are encouraged to participate in the annual fall grouse and woodcock hunting log and spring grouse drumming survey. These surveys help DEC track ruffed grouse and American woodcock populations. Not a small game enthusiast? Deer are often attracted to young forest areas to take advantage of the thick cover and abundant browse within easy reach. However, too many deer in an area can impact the forest regeneration, stunting growth of the young saplings and affecting which tree species can survive. Hunting helps keep the population in balance, allowing a diversity of seedlings to grow into healthy trees for the next forest generation. Consider participating in the Bowhunter Sighting Log to help monitor changes in populations of deer, turkeys, and other wildlife. To learn more about citizen scientist opportunities, visit www.dec.ny.gov/animals/1155.html.

To learn more about young forest or to view the HMP for a WMA of interest, please visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7768.html.

Win a $100 Gift Card!

Take the monthly

And be entered to win a $100 gift certificate to your sporting good retailer of choice.

Your anonymous participation advances fish and wildlife conservation, helps protect your right to hunt, fish and shoot, and guides companies in developing better outdoor products.
Regional Maps

Public Lands & Management Areas
- Wildlife Management Units
- Adirondack/Catskill Park
- Federal Lands
- State Park
- Wildlife Management Area
- DEC Lands
- Conservation Easement Lands

Map produced by NYSDEC DFW, 3/15/2019

Lake Ontario

Canada
Did you know in 2018, DEC Forest Rangers:
- Searched for 171 lost people
- Rescued 160 people who were injured
- Recovered 15 people who died while in the woods or on water

DON’T BE A STATISTIC, BE PREPARED!
https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28708.html
- Let someone know where you are going, what you are doing and when you plan to return.
- Bring a cell phone. Keep it charged. Call 9-1-1 to tell the operator you are lost or injured.
- Wear and/or carry proper clothing for the worst possible weather. Weather will happen!
- Carry plenty of drinking water, a water purification kit, food and necessary medications
- Bring two flashlights that use the same batteries, one that is hands-free such as a head lamp.
- Bring matches or a fire starter. Know how to make a fire in the rain or snow. Put the fire out when you leave.
- Carry a temporary shelter such as a nylon tarp or large heavy duty trash bag
- Bring a map of the area you are visiting and compass and know how to use each. A GPS can work well if you know how to use it and the batteries are charged.

https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/41086.html
518-402-8839 or 518-408-5250
Map produced by NYSDEC DFW, 3/15/2019
FIREWOOD WARNING
What's lurking in your firewood?
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).

* 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.

Failure to follow these regulations may result in a ticket.

For questions, call toll-free: 1-866-640-0652

State and federal quarantines exist that further restrict the movement of firewood. For more information, 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.

FIREWOOD WARNING

2019–20 Habitat & Access Stamp

Invest in the future of New York’s wildlife habitat and outdoor recreational opportunities by purchasing a $5.00 Habitat & Access Stamp!

All funds from stamp purchases are deposited directly into the DEC Habitat Conservation and Access Account (HCAA) and used for projects aimed towards conserving habitat and increasing access to public and private lands for outdoor recreational access.

Whether you are a hunter or angler, birder or photographer, the purchase of a Habitat & Access Stamp is the perfect way to conserve New York’s remarkable wildlife heritage. Buy today at your local license issuing agent, online (www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6101.html) or by phone (1-866-933-2257).
Did you know in 2018, DEC Forest Rangers:

- Patrolled 27,482 miles of trails by foot, snowshoe or skis.
- Inspected 10,457 occupied state land campsites.
- Snowmobile patrol 19,604 miles of trails and checked 18,840 snowmobiles for safety compliance.
- Made 1,650 arrests for violations of state land use regulations

https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/41086.html
518-402-8839 or 518-408-5250

Map produced by NYSDEC DFW, 3/15/2019
**HUNTING PRODUCTS**

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- Deer blinds over food plots
- Comfortable private suites
- Affordable rates

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Glen Cove, NY 11542
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518-854-9840 (May-Dec)

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