

# 2012 Youth Deer Hunt a Success!



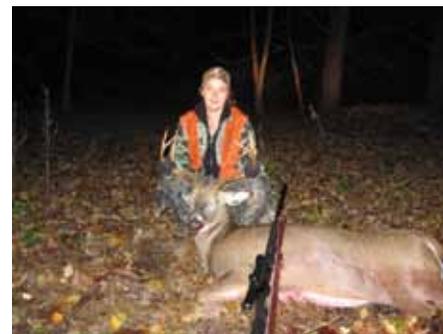
This past Columbus Day weekend (October 6-8, 2012) marked the state's first youth firearms deer hunt. During the special weekend hunt, 14- or 15-year-old junior hunters with a big game license were eligible to take one deer of either sex with a firearm when accompanied by a licensed, experienced adult. In total, junior hunters reported taking nearly 760 deer.

The youth hunt was a great opportunity for junior hunters to learn about New York's hunting traditions; feedback from young hunters who participated was enthusiastic and overwhelmingly positive. No hunting-related shooting incidents were reported during the hunt, either. (Editor Dave Nelson reminds all hunters that wearing hunter orange saves lives!)

Here are photos of just a few of the junior hunters who participated in the youth hunt. Visit DEC's Big Game Hunting Photo Gallery at [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/85926.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/85926.html) to see more of this year's successful hunters. Congratulations to all who participated.



On October 8, Alexis Dekanek took this 8-point buck on her family's farm in Herkimer County. This was her first deer hunt.



Olivia Yeaple took this 8-point buck with a shotgun.



Hannah Hayes of Honeoye Falls took her first buck on October 6.



On October 6, Michael Cook from Parishville took this 8-point buck.



Fourteen-year-old Rhiannon Goetze shot this impressive buck, her first deer, in Monroe County.



Charles "Chas" Decker from Bloomville harvested this 7-point buck, which was his first deer.