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

In addition to the general hunting regulations for manner of take listed on page 14, it is unlawful to hunt big game with:
• Dogs or aircraft of any kind, including drones.
• The aid of a pre-established bait pile.
• A firearm or bow aided by any artificial light or a laser that projects a beam toward the target (use of illuminated reticle scopes, red dot scopes, or illuminated sight pins is allowed, provided no light is projected toward the target).
• An autoloading firearm with a capacity of more than 6 shells (one which requires that the trigger be pulled separately for each shot), except an autoloading pistol with a barrel length of less than 8 inches.
• A firearm using rimfire ammunition.
• A shotgun of less than 20 gauge or any shotguns loaded with shells other than those carrying a single projectile (riffling in the barrel or choke is allowed).
• A bow with a draw weight of 35 lbs or less.
• Arrows with barbed broadheads; arrowheads less than 7/8 inches at the widest point or with less than 2 sharp cutting edges.
• Double-barreled muzzleloaders or percussion cap revolvers during the special muzzleloading seasons.
• An air gun or air bow.

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

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

Tagging
After killing a deer or bear:
1. Ensure that you select the proper tag for the harvested deer or bear.
2. Immediately fill in all information and sign the carcass tag with ink that won’t erase.
3. Immediately cut or mark the month and date of kill on the tag reverse.
4. Write the date of kill on the report panel.
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.

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).

### Broadheads for Big Game

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Legal</th>
<th>Illegal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Blade</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Fixed Blade Legal" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Fixed Blade Illegal" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Blade</td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Mechanical Blade Legal" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Mechanical Blade Illegal" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(shown in position of being withdrawn from an animal)</td>
<td>Blades pivot forward (no longer barbed)</td>
<td>Blades do not pivot (remain barbed)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Muzzleloader Hunting

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

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

### Bowhunting

Bowhunting opportunities include both the bowhunting and regular seasons:

- Hunters must possess a current bowhunting or junior bowhunting privilege to participate during the bowhunting seasons.
- The bowhunting privilege is not required to hunt with a bow during regular seasons, but hunters must possess proof of eligibility (either a valid bowhunter education certificate or prior bowhunting license).
- Bow/Muzz either-sex or antlerless-only tags may not be used during the regular seasons except by junior bowhunters or in WMUs 1C and 3S.
- In WMUs 4J and 8C, only bows may be used to take deer during the regular and bowhunting seasons.
- Suffolk (WMU 1C) and Westchester (WMU 3S) counties have separate regular seasons restricted to bows for taking deer.
Crossbow Use

Crossbow opportunities include portions of bow seasons in addition to muzzleloader and regular seasons:

- Crossbows may be used to take deer or bear during muzzleloader seasons and a portion of the early bow seasons (see maps on pages 24 and 39) by hunters with a valid hunting or junior hunting (ages 14-15 only) license and a current muzzleloader privilege.
- Crossbows may be used to take deer during the regular season and bear during early bear and regular seasons by hunters with a valid hunting or junior hunting (ages 14-15 only) license.
- See page 23 for the required Crossbow Certificate of Qualification.

Barbed Broadheads

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

Junior Youth Hunter Essay Winner
(Grades 6 through 8)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Here Are Some Things You Can Do:

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

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

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

Report sick and abnormal deer to DEC
DEC would like to examine any deer that are very thin, drooling, standing with legs splayed and head lowered, listless, circling, or are easily approached. Contact the DEC Regional Wildlife Office near you (see page 6) or visit http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/958.html.

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

DEC is proposing to prohibit importation of whole cervid carcasses from all areas outside of NY. Before the 2018 big game hunting season, check DEC regulations online (www.dec.ny.gov) for an up-to-date listing of new CWD rules.

You cannot tell a CWD-positive deer by appearance alone
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 of Qualification card dated on or after April 1, 2014 OR the completed Crossbow Certificate of Qualification located below.

Crossbow safety information

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

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

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

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Crossbow Certificate of Qualification

I certify that I have read and understand the safety recommendations, license requirements and legal specifications for crossbow use in New York.

________________________________________
Print Name

________________________________________
Signature

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

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

DONATE VENISON. We are asking hunters for as little as 2 pounds of venison. Entire deer donations are very welcome, but not required.

Venison Donation Coalition

DONATE VENISON • FEED FAMILIES

HOW YOU CAN HELP:
DONATE VENISON.

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.)

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 Identification

Antler Point Restriction

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

Antlerless Deer

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

Regular & Bowhunting Deer Seasons

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

2018

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

SOUTHERN ZONE
- Early Bowhunting: Crossbow: Not in WMUs 4J or 8C
- Regular: (opens Saturday) Oct. 6 - 8, 2018
- Late Bowhunting: Oct. 1 - Nov. 16
- Antlered Only: Oct. 13 - Dec. 31
- Deer of Either Sex: Oct. 13 - Dec. 18
- Antlered Only: Oct. 13 - Dec. 18

Youth Firearms Season

Season Dates: Oct. 6 - 8, 2018

Area Open:
Northern and Southern Zone, except bowhunting only WMUs

Eligible Hunters:
Youth 14-15 years of age

Bag Limit:
One deer (anted or antlerless)

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

Youth Firearms Season

May be used to hunt deer during the Northern and Southern Zone Regular Seasons.

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

Crossbows

May be used to hunt deer during the Northern and Southern Zone Regular Seasons.

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

Muzzleloading Deer Seasons

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

2018

Northern Zone
- Deer of Either Sex: Dec. 3 - Dec. 9
- Antlered Only: Dec. 3 - Dec. 9

Southern Zone

Crossbows

May be used to hunt deer during the Northern and Southern Zone Muzzleloader Seasons.

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

Antler Point Restrictions

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tag Name</th>
<th>Tag Can Be Used In</th>
<th>Tag Is Valid For</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular Season Deer Tag</strong>&lt;br&gt;Only you may hunt with this tag. No transferring tag to another hunter.</td>
<td><strong>Regular Season</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Northern Zone&lt;br&gt;- Southern Zone</td>
<td><strong>Antlered Deer Only</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Except:</strong> May be used for Antlered or Antlerless Deer as follows:&lt;br&gt;- In Westchester County (WMU 3S)&lt;br&gt;- In Suffolk County (WMU 1C)&lt;br&gt;- In areas restricted to bowhunting only (WMUs 4J and 8C)&lt;br&gt;- In late seasons (with bowhunting or muzzleloading privilege)&lt;br&gt;- By Junior Hunters during the Youth Deer Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Westchester County</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Regular (bowhunting only)</td>
<td><strong>Suffolk County</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Regular (bowhunting only)&lt;br&gt;- Special Firearms (special permit; see page 18)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Late Season Bowhunting (privilege required)</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Northern Zone&lt;br&gt;- Southern Zone</td>
<td><strong>Late Season Muzzleloading (privilege required)</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Northern Zone (check open areas and dates on map on page 25)&lt;br&gt;- Southern Zone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Deer Season</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag</strong>&lt;br&gt;Only you may hunt with this tag. No transferring tag to another hunter.</td>
<td><strong>Bowhunting Season (privilege required)</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Northern Zone&lt;br&gt;- Southern Zone</td>
<td><strong>Antlered or Antlerless Deer</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Bowhunting OR Muzzleloading seasons only</strong> (including the regular season in Westchester County and any season in Suffolk County)&lt;br&gt;Junior Bowhunters will receive this tag, which will be valid in the special bowhunting seasons and during the regular season.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Except:</strong>&lt;br&gt;- May be used for antlered deer only during muzzleloading seasons in certain Northern Zone WMUs (see map page 25).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Muzzleloading Season (privilege required)</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Northern Zone (check open areas and dates on map on page 25)&lt;br&gt;- Southern Zone</td>
<td><strong>Westchester County</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Regular (bowhunting only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suffolk County</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Regular (bowhunting only)&lt;br&gt;- Special Firearms (special permit; see page 18)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Not valid during the Northern or Southern Zone Regular Seasons or Youth Hunt.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bow/Mz Season Antlerless Tag</strong>&lt;br&gt;Only you may hunt with this tag. No transferring tag to another hunter.</td>
<td><strong>Bowhunting Season (privilege required)</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Northern Zone&lt;br&gt;- Southern Zone</td>
<td><strong>Antlerless Deer Only</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Bowhunting OR Muzzleloading seasons only</strong> (including the regular season in Westchester County and any season in Suffolk County)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Except:</strong>&lt;br&gt;- May not be used during muzzleloading seasons in certain Northern Zone WMUs that are Antlered Deer Only areas (see map page 25).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Muzzleloading Season (privilege required)</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Northern Zone (check open areas and dates on map, page 25)&lt;br&gt;- Southern Zone</td>
<td><strong>Westchester County</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Regular (bowhunting only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suffolk County</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Regular (bowhunting only)&lt;br&gt;- Special Firearms (special permit; see page 18)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Not valid during the Northern or Southern Zone Regular Seasons or Youth Hunt.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deer Management Permit Deer Tag</strong></td>
<td>Any Open Deer Season</td>
<td><strong>Antlerless Deer Only</strong>&lt;br&gt;Valid ONLY for the WMU specified and printed on the DMP Deer Tag (Deer Management Permit) See page 29.&lt;br&gt;<strong>This is the only tag that can be transferred to another hunter (see page 29 for How to Transfer a DMP Deer Carcass Tag).</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Deer Management Permits (DMPs)

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

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

Applying for a deer management permit (DMP)

- **DMP Application Deadline:** Close of business on October 1, 2018
- You may apply for DMPs at all license-issuing outlets, by phone or online beginning on August 1, 2018.
- DMPs are available to all hunters age 14 years or older who purchase or possess a regular hunting license (12 years old for Junior Bowhunting license holders).
- You may apply for up to two DMPs.
- Both must be applied for at the same time. Application can be for DMPs in the same WMU or different WMUs.

**Disabled veterans** with a service-connected disability rated at 40% or greater (who are residents of New York) will receive preference on DMPs. Annually, you must bring a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs, dated in the current year, with your case number and your disability percentage. If you are claiming permanent disabled status, the letter must clearly state that the 40% or more service-related disability is permanent.
- **Landowners:** If you own 50 or more contiguous acres of land within the WMU you will be hunting in, you will receive preference on DMP selection. Annually, you must bring your tax map identification number and SWIS code (found on your tax bill) with you when you apply. Be sure to tell the license-issuing agent PRIOR to applying that you are a landowner. Lessees do not qualify as landowners. A spouse of a landowner may receive landowner preference, but both husband and wife may not apply as a landowner for the same parcel of land. Corporate ownership: only one person may be designated by a corporation as the landowner each year no matter how many 50-acre parcels are owned. The corporation must submit an original letter or certified copy of a resolution, dated in the current year, designating the individual and must include the tax map ID and SWIS code information.
- **Group ownership:** regardless of how many co-owners, only one person may apply per 50+ acre parcel. Additional 50+ acre parcels in the same WMU require separate tax IDs.
- **Preference points:**
  - Preference points are won and lost on first permit selection only.
  - If you do not receive a DMP in your first choice WMU, you will receive a preference point for the following year.
  - If you were rejected for a first permit in 2017 and have a preference point for the 2018 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.

**DMP selection order**

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

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

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/4332.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.
How to Transfer a DMP Deer Carcass Tag

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: To report a deer taken on a transferred DMP, the hunter who took the deer must call the automated reporting system (1-866-426-3778) or report online at www.dec.ny.gov using the transferred DMP carcass tag DOC# and his/her own date of birth, along with other required information (see page 13).
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, health of the moose, and the factors that influence moose survival and reproductive rate. The goal of the moose study is to gather data that will be used to create a moose management plan for New York State. See www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6964.html#Research for more information.

Report your Moose Sightings

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

Meat Unfit for Consumption

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

Become a Sportsman Education Instructor!

APPLY TODAY!
1-888-HUNT-ED2 (1-888-486-8332)
www.dec.ny.gov/otdoor/9189.html

Teach the Values and Traditions of Hunting and Trapping


Instructors needed for:
• Hunter Education
• Bowhunter Education
• Trapper Education
• Waterfowl Hunter Education

APPLY TODAY!

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

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

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

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

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

Reducing harvest of yearling (1.5-year-old) bucks is often a goal for co-ops. Bucks that are 2.5-years-old or older provide substantially more meat and larger antlers, and tend to create more rubs, scrapes, and vocalizations during the rut than their yearling counterparts. When groups of hunters choose not to harvest yearling bucks, they can substantially reduce the amount of effort needed to observe and take older bucks. For a co-op in Yates County, NY, hunters agreed to try to harvest only bucks that have an outside spread of 14 inches or greater, which excluded the great majority of yearling bucks while leaving available the great majority of older bucks. As a result of their self-imposed restriction, the rate at which the hunters saw older bucks nearly doubled within five years, and the hunting effort needed to see an older buck has declined substantially, even more so in 2017 (Figure 1). With such positive results, co-op organizer John Hammer said, “Our co-op continues to grow each year as non-member property owners join after seeing more and larger bucks on their properties as the result of their neighbors letting young bucks go.”

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

Figure 1. Hours of hunting per deer seen for Yates County Deer Management Cooperative from 2007 to 2017.

Colleen Kimble – successful deer harvest 2017

Let YOUNG BUCKS GO and watch them GROW

YOUR CHOICE MAKES A DIFFERENCE!
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.

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

above the co-op minimum for their individual properties, and this has left everyone satisfied.”

Many co-ops also seek to improve habitat conditions for deer and other wildlife. Co-ops can enhance natural forage and cover for deer by creating young forest, fostering open areas with native forbs and shrubs, and pruning or planting native fruit and nut trees. Too, many co-ops participate in DEC’s Deer Management Assistance Program to meet their antlerless harvest goals, bringing the co-op’s deer population into better balance with the habitat.

This upcoming season, consider knocking on some doors or making a few phone calls to hunters on neighboring properties. You may just find out that they are seeking the same opportunity to let young bucks go and watch them grow!

Note: DEC thanks the Yates County Deer Management Cooperative for sharing data and their experience working together to manage white-tailed deer.

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

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

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

www.dec.ny.gov/animals/1155.html
### Future Big Game Season Dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Northern Zone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early Bear</strong> <em>(some WMUs, see page 39)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The first Saturday after the second Monday in September through the Friday immediately preceding the early muzzle-loading season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early Bowhunting—Bear</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The first Saturday after the second Monday in September through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early Bowhunting—Deer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 27 through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Early Muzzleloading—Deer and Bear</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 consecutive days beginning on the first Saturday after Columbus Day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Regular—Deer and Bear</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44 consecutive days beginning on the second Saturday after Columbus Day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Late Bow and Muzzleloading—Deer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 consecutive days immediately following the regular season</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Big Game Firearms Hunt—Deer and Bear</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbus Day Weekend; Saturday through Columbus Day (Monday)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Southern Zone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early Bear</strong> <em>(some WMUs, see page 39)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>16 consecutive days beginning on the first Saturday after Labor Day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Early Bowhunting—Deer and Bear</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1 through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Regular—Deer and Bear</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 days beginning the third Saturday of November</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Late Bow and Muzzleloading—Deer and Bear</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9 consecutive days immediately following the regular season</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Big Game Firearms Hunt—Deer and Bear</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbus Day Weekend; Saturday through Columbus Day (Monday)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Westchester County (WMU 3S)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular—Deer and Bear (bowhunting only)</strong></td>
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<td>October 1 through December 31</td>
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<tr>
<th>Suffolk County (WMU 1C)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Regular—Deer (bowhunting only)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1 through December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special Firearms Season—Deer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The first Sunday in January through January 31</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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. A collection packet including instructions and a postage-paid return envelope will be mailed to each hunter that reports taking a bear. There are many cooperating taxidermists in New York that can extract the requested premolar teeth, weigh bears, and submit the data to DEC on your behalf, so check with your taxidermist. Generally, taxidermists do not use teeth or the lower jaw when preparing mounts or rugs. All successful hunters are still required to report their bear harvest online or via the automated phone system.

Attention Bear Hunters and Taxidermists

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

Know of Any Active Bear Dens?

DEC wants to know about occupied dens. Please call the nearest DEC wildlife office. See page 6.

New York State Bear Management Cooperators Program

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

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

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

“Living with New York Black Bears”

(Great Outdoors Multimedia 2007).

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

Available for viewing or loan from your local library or local DEC Regional Wildlife Office.