

WATERFOWL & MIGRATORY BIRDS
with required licenses/permits
Unless otherwise noted, possession limit = 3x daily limit
Except for crows, migratory bird hunting is closed on Sundays.

Table with 3 columns: Species, Dates, and Daily Limit. Rows include Doves, Woodcock, and Seasons for Ducks, Mergansers, Coots, Canada Geese, Light Geese, Brant and webless birds.

Applications for Goose Blinds and Other Special Hunts may be submitted online at HuntFish.PA.gov or at any Game Commission region office or Harrisburg headquarters.

LICENSE YOUR DOG
pa.gov/doglicense
love YOUR DOG?

FURTKING with required licenses/permits

Table with 3 columns: Species, Dates, and Daily/Season Limit. Rows include Coyotes, Foxes and Raccoons, and Opossums, Striped Skunks and Weasels.

Table with 3 columns: Species, Dates, and Daily/Season Limit. Rows include Bobcats and Porcupines.

TRAPPING

Table with 3 columns: Species, Dates, and Daily/Season Limit. Rows include Minks & Muskrats, Coyotes, Foxes, Opossums, Raccoons, Striped Skunks and Weasels, Coyotes & Foxes, Beavers, Bobcats, Fishers, and River Otters.

TURKEY with general license

Table with 3 columns: Season, Species, and Limit. Rows include Fall Season (Bearded or unbearded birds) and Spring Season (Hours vary, bearded birds).

This guide is not the Game & Wildlife Code nor its attendant regulations and should not be considered final on legal interpretation.
Review the complete digest: bit.ly/PGCDigest

SMALL GAME with general license

Table with 3 columns: Species, Dates, and Daily Limit. Rows include Squirrel-Jr. Hunt, Squirrel, Ruffed Grouse, Rabbit - Jr. Hunt, Rabbit, Pheasant - Jr. Hunt, Pheasant, Bobwhite Quail, Crow, Snowshoe Hare, and Woodchuck.

DEER with required licenses/permits

Table with 3 columns: License Type, Dates, and Limit. Rows include Ag Tag, Archery, Muzzleloader, Special Firearms, Regular Firearms, Flintlock, and Extended Firearms.

ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSES

Table with 3 columns: Round, Dates, and Limit. Rows include Round 1, Round 2, Round 3, and Round 4.

All hunting seasons, except migratory game bird seasons, include all Sundays within them. Sunday hunting is limited in some state parks & preserves. Written landowner permission is recommended: bit.ly/PGCDigest.

BEAR bear license required

Table with 3 columns: License Type, Dates, and Limit. Rows include Archery, Muzzleloader, Special Firearms, Regular Firearms, and Extended Firearms.

2026-27 PENNSYLVANIA HUNTING & TRAPPING
All hunting seasons, except for migratory game bird seasons, include all Sundays within them.

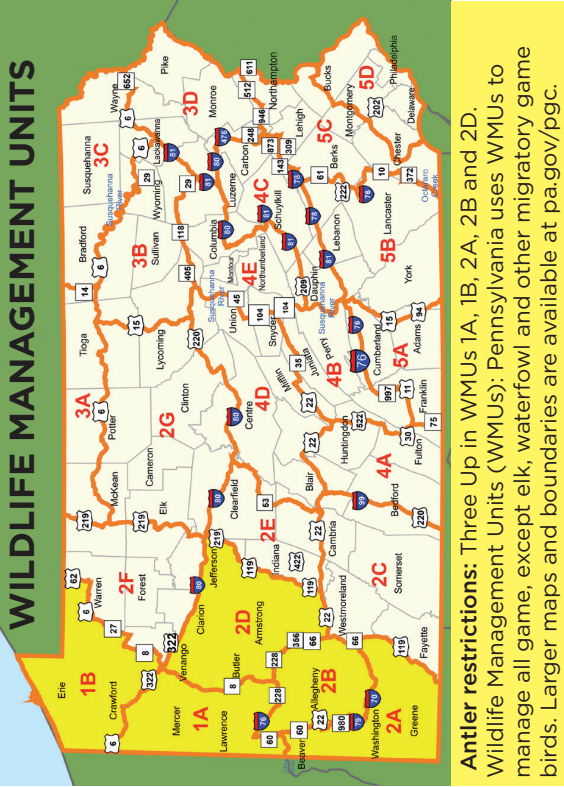
REPORT VIOLATIONS

Poachers are thieves, help us catch them!
Calls are answered by a secure recording device.
1-888-PGC-8001
bit.ly/OGT-PGC

REPORT YOUR HARVEST

Every time a hunter or trapper reports a harvest, wildlife management gets better.
Please have your Customer Identification number (hunting license number) and field harvest tag handy.
DEER, TURKEY, FISHER, BOBCAT, OTTER AND SNOW GEESE
1. ONLINE: HuntFish.PA.gov
2. PHONE: Toll-free 1-800-838-4431.
3. MAIL: Available for turkey and deer only. Use tear-off report card in your digest. No postage necessary if mailed in the U.S.
BEAR and ELK
Use directions on the license.

1-833-PGC-HUNT (1-833-742-4868)
VISIT US ONLINE AT PA.GOV/PGC
Social media icons for Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and Twitter.



CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal brain disease caused by a misfolded protein known as a prion. CWD is a threat to deer and elk in Pennsylvania and there is no known cure. At the time of this printing, CWD has been detected in wild white-tailed deer in Wildlife Management Units 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B.

To limit the human-associated spread of CWD, statewide, **high-risk cervid parts must be disposed of through a commercial trash service or other method approved by the Game Commission, or can be left at the harvest location.** Burying high-risk parts is recommended if leaving them at the harvest site. This minimizes the chance they will be spread on the landscape.

High-risk parts include the head (brain, eyes, tonsils and lymph nodes), spinal cord/backbone, spleen, upper canine teeth (with root or other soft tissue if present), any object containing visible brain or spinal cord tissue, unfinished taxidermy mounts, and brain-tanned hides.

Hunters are encouraged to submit the head of their harvested deer for free CWD testing. Head-collection bins can be located by visiting arcg.is/1G4TLr. Hunters can drop their deer's head, double-bagged, into a bin with the harvest tag filled out and attached to the deer's ear to have it tested. Antlers will not be returned. **Test results** can be obtained after two or three weeks by calling the CWD hotline (1-833-INFOCWD) or by using the Game Commission's CWD Test Results page at pgcdatacollection.pa.gov/CWDResultslookup.

The Game Commission may enact feeding prohibitions to address CWD threats. Any such restrictions can be found at arcg.is/1G4TLr. Rehabilitation of wild cervids is restricted in CWD-positive WMUs.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Baiting: It is unlawful to hunt in or around any area where artificial or natural bait has been used within the past 30 days. Baiting of deer is allowed conditionally on private property in the Southeast Special Regulations Area. See the Hunting & Trapping Digest for details.

Mistake Kill: Any person who kills any wildlife while hunting or trapping by accident or mistake shall immediately field-dress any edible game and deliver the carcass to a state game warden in the county where it was killed.

Road Hunting: It is unlawful to 1) hunt from a vehicle, or assist another while hunting from a vehicle; 2) shoot at wildlife that are on a public road or right-of-way open to public travel; 3) shoot across a road unless the line of fire is high enough to preclude any danger to road users; and 4) alight from a vehicle and shoot at any wildlife until the shooter is at least 25 yards from the traveled portion of the roadway.

Safety Zones: It is unlawful to hunt, shoot at, trap, take, chase or disturb wildlife within 150 yards of any occupied residence, camp, industrial or commercial building, farmhouse or farm building, or school or playground without the permission of the occupants. The safety zone for archery hunters statewide, including those using crossbows, is 50 yards.

Spotlighting Wildlife: It is unlawful to shine a light on wildlife after 11 p.m., during regular firearms deer season, or while in possession of a device capable of killing wildlife.

Tagging Big Game: Hunters harvesting big game must follow instructions printed on the harvest tags supplied with licenses. Big game must be tagged immediately after harvest and before the carcass is moved. The tag must be attached to the ear of a deer or bear, or the body of an elk and remain attached until the animal is processed for consumption or prepared for mounting. Turkey tags must be attached to the bird's leg.

Dual Carry: Possession of any firearm while archery hunting is prohibited unless the individual possesses a License to Carry Firearms, and then only those firearms authorized by the permit. Archery hunters are permitted to carry a muzzleloading firearm only during overlaps of an archery deer or bear season with a muzzleloader deer or bear season.

LICENSE BUYERS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING CHANGES

Sunday hunting has expanded. All hunting seasons, except for migratory game bird seasons, include all Sundays within them. 🍃 Hunters are no longer prohibited from transporting deer between any locations but must properly dispose of high-risk parts. 🍃 Ag Tag hunters can use any devices authorized for hunting deer in the regular firearms deer season. 🍃 Regulations for baiting in the Southeast Special Regulations Area are changed and now include federal lands. 🍃 The spring gobbler bag limit is reduced to one to offset possible additional harvest due to the inclusion of Sundays. 🍃 Bear check stations are only open on the first two days of the regular firearms bear season and select days of the extended seasons. 🍃 The black bear archery season for WMUs 3C and 3D will be longer in response to bear-human conflicts in these areas. 🍃 A new elk firearms season in early October will limit crowding. The late firearms season will be later in January to avoid conflict with major holidays. 🍃 Big-game harvest tags now are issued to mentored hunters under 7 years old at the time they purchase a permit. 🍃 Squirrel, ruffed grouse, rabbit, pheasant, bobwhite quail, and woodchuck seasons will remain open during the regular firearms deer season. 🍃 The daily bag limit for Atlantic Population Canada goose is increased to three for the regular season. 🍃 Trappers can use snap traps for weasels and larger body-gripping traps for beavers and river otters. 🍃 WMU 5A will be open to bobcat hunting and trapping. WMUs 2G, 3A and 4C will be open to river otter trapping. 🍃 Sundays are included in the closed period for non-motorized vehicles, conveyances, and animals on state game lands. 🍃 Non-hunters must wear fluorescent orange on state game lands from Oct. 1-Jan. 31 and April 20-May 31. View the complete digest at bit.ly/PGCDigest.

STATE GAME LANDS

On State Game Lands, it is lawful to hunt, trap and fish, as well as pick berries or mushrooms.

Hunting blinds or stands may be used provided they do not cause damage to trees, and are not placed out earlier than two weeks prior to deer season, and must be removed no later than two weeks after the close of deer season. Portable hunting blinds or stands must be marked with a durable identification tag that legibly includes the owner's first name, last name and legal home address or must bear the Equipment ID number issued by the Commission for this purpose.

State Game Lands are set aside for hunting and trapping and the preservation and maintenance of wildlife habitat. While on a game lands, it is unlawful to:

- Camp or use campsites.
- Start a fire. Small open fires for cooking or warming purposes are permitted, except when the Fire Index Rating used by the Bureau of Forestry, DCNR, is high, very high or extreme. Fires must be contained and tended at all times.
- Ride a nonmotorized vehicle, conveyance or animal, except on roads normally open to public travel, or designated routes as posted, or while lawfully engaged in hunting, trapping or fishing.
- Consume, possess or transport an alcoholic beverage.
- Feed wildlife or place any food, fruit, hay, grain, chemical, salt or other minerals.
- Use State Game Lands for any personal, organizational or commercial purpose other than the intended use.
- Engage in dog training activities on small game from the Monday prior to the start of the youth pheasant season until the opening of the statewide pheasant season.
- Be present on State Game Lands from Oct. 1 through Jan. 31 inclusive and April 20 through May 31, inclusive, when not engaged in lawful hunting, trapping or fishing and fail to wear a minimum of 250 square inches of fluorescent orange material on the head, chest and back combined, or, in lieu thereof, a hat of the same colored material. Orange material must be visible from 360 degrees.

FLUORESCENT ORANGE

When fluorescent orange is required, the required amount for that season must be **worn at all times** while hunting, and when moving from one hour prior to the start of legal hunting hours and for one hour past the closing of legal hunting hours. When not required, the use of orange is strongly recommended, especially while moving.

In firearms seasons for deer, bear or elk (regular, special or extended), orange is required, regardless of the sporting arm carried. No fluorescent orange is required **during archery seasons** when archery hunting for deer, bear or elk, or when hunting waterfowl, doves, turkeys, furbearers* or crows. Hunters participating in the after-Christmas flintlock season are not required to wear fluorescent orange.

** Fluorescent orange is required when hunting coyotes during any big-game season, if orange is required during that season, including from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.*

• **Woodchuck Hunting**
Woodchuck hunters must wear a hat made of solid fluorescent orange that is visible from 360 degrees.

• **All Small Game Seasons**
• **Deer, Bear & Elk Regular Firearms Seasons**
• **October Muzzleloader Antlerless Deer & Bear Seasons**
• **Special Firearms Antlerless Deer & Bear Seasons**
• **Extended Firearms Antlerless Deer & Bear Seasons**
During the above seasons, hunters must wear a minimum of 250 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material on the head, chest and back combined and it must be visible from 360 degrees. An orange hat and vest satisfies this requirement.

• **Blinds & Enclosed Tree Stands**
When using a blind or enclosed tree stand during the regular firearms deer, bear or elk seasons, a minimum of 100 square inches of fluorescent orange material (orange alert band) must be displayed within 15 feet of the blind or stand and visible from 360 degrees. This is in addition to wearing orange while inside. Refer to the turkey section of the digest for details on blind use while turkey hunting.

• **Camouflage Fluorescent Orange**
Camouflage fluorescent orange may satisfy orange regulations when 250 square inches of safety material is required if the orange content is at least 250 square inches. When a hat containing 100 square inches of orange is specified, the cap must be solid fluorescent orange.

LEGAL HUNTING HOURS

Legal hunting hours for all small and big game are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Please consult the digest for tables of lawful hunting hours, including migratory game birds, and the accompanying Pennsylvania Meridian Map.

ELK elk license required

One elk per license year - elk licenses are awarded by lottery

Archery	Sept. 12 - Sept. 27
First Regular	Oct. 3 - Oct. 11
Second Regular	Oct. 31 - Nov. 8
Third Regular	Jan. 9 - Jan. 17, 2027
A valid Pennsylvania hunting license is required to apply for an elk license; both a hunting license and an elk hunting application can be purchased in the same transaction. Application deadline is 11:59 P.M. July 12, 2026 at any license issuing agent.	