

Big Game Hunting

FIRST READ GENERAL HUNTING INFORMATION ON PAGE 11

Maps Showing Season Dates

Bear — page 24

Deer — page 24-25

Legal Implements: See page 23.

HUNTING HOURS

Big game hunting hours are sunrise to sunset. Sunday hunting is allowed in all areas of New York. For hunting on state parks, confirm regulations with the park before hunting.

LEGALLY ANTLERED DEER

A legally antlered deer must have at least one antler that is three inches or longer.

DEFINING "EARLY" AND "LATE" SEASONS FOR DEER AND BEAR

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

BAG LIMITS

Bear

Resident and Nonresident-hunters may take one bear by gun or bow each license year. See map on page 24 for areas open to bear hunting.

In the Southern Zone, you 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.

Deer

The number of deer a hunter may take depends upon the licenses and privileges purchased. See page 26 for a detailed description of deer hunting license privileges and tags.

MANNER OF TAKING

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 archery seasons.
- Make, set or use a salt lick on land inhabited by deer or bear.

It is **unlawful** to hunt big game with:

- A firearm or bow aided by any artificial light or a laser that projects a beam 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.
- 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 (see page 22).
- Dogs.
- Aircraft of any kind.
- Bait.

JUNIOR ARCHERY: See page 8.

LONG ISLAND OPPORTUNITIES

Deer hunting from October-December is archery only. All hunting on state land requires a DEC permit. During the January firearms season, shotgun and muzzleloader are the only legal implements, and a special permit is required. For exact dates and permit information, send a self-addressed envelope to Deer Info, NYS DEC, SUNY Bldg. 40, Stony Brook, NY 11790-2356 or visit our website (www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wma/lihunt.htm)

PROHIBITED SALE OF DEER OR BEAR MEAT

It is **unlawful** to sell deer or bear flesh. Other than flesh, the parts from legally taken and reported bear may be sold only if tagged prior to sale. Tag shall be provided by the hunter or the buyer and include the hunter's license number, date of birth, signature, printed name and the town and county location of kill.

TAGGING, TRANSPORTING AND REPORTING

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

Tagging

Here's what you must do immediately upon killing a deer or bear:

1. Fill in all information on the carcass tag and report tag with ink that won't erase.
2. Detach the carcass tag from the report tag. Once filled in, the tag may not be altered.
3. Keep the report tag, you will need it when you report your deer or bear.
4. For deer, the month and date must

also be cut or marked in ink on the margin of the deer carcass tag.

5. You do not need to attach the tag to the carcass while it is being dragged or physically carried from the place of kill to a camp or point where transportation is available.
6. Once you get to the camp or vehicle, attach the tag to deer or bear immediately.
7. Keep the tag attached to the carcass until it is cut up and prepared for consumption.

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

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, an additional tag supplied by the taker bearing the names and addresses of the consignee and taker must be attached to the carcass.
- 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 license number, 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 is required for each portion.
- 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 license number, 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).

Reporting

If you take a deer in a portion of Oneida or Madison County that is in the CWD containment area, see page 31 for special reporting requirements.

Deer or Bear --Hunters who harvest a deer or bear are required by law to report their take via the toll free DECALS game reporting system within 48 hours by calling 1-866-426-3778 (1-866-GAMERPT). Page 7 of this guide explains reporting in more detail. It will be important to have your deer or bear report tag (small tag attached to the right side of the carcass tag) with you when making this call. You will be asked for information from this tag during the report call.

Northern Zone Bear -- Hunters who harvest a bear in the Northern Zone will be asked to submit part of the lower jaw or a tooth of the bear to determine the age of the bear. A collection packet including a postage paid return jaw envelope and information explaining collection will be mailed to each hunter that reports a bear. There are many cooperating taxidermists within New York that can remove and submit teeth, so check with your taxidermist. Generally, taxidermists do not use teeth or the lower jaw for their mounts.

Southern Zone Bear -- DEC wildlife staff would like to examine bears before they are skinned or butchered. Wildlife staff will make every attempt to contact hunters in order for the bear to be checked. **At no time is a hunter expected to sacrifice the quality of the meat or hide of a bear for examination.**

When reporting a bear, hunters will be asked to provide name, phone number and location or address where the bear can be examined. If staff are not available in the

Catskill region, bears can be examined at cooperating taxidermists and meat cutters. Bears may also be examined in Sullivan County at the Monticello Fire Department.

MUZZLELOADING

Deer--may only be taken as shown on the map on page 25.

Bear--may only be taken as shown on the map on page 24.

All Areas

All hunters participating in the muzzleloading season must follow these requirements in addition to the other regulations in this guide.

- Each resident hunter must have purchased a current year Muzzleloading privilege with his/her big game license.
- Each nonresident hunter must have a current year Muzzleloading License.
- The legal firearm for this season is a muzzleloading rifle or pistol (including smooth-bore muzzleloaders) loaded through the muzzle, shooting a single projectile and having a bore of .44 inches or larger. **Double-barreled muzzleloaders and percussion cap revolvers are not legal during the special muzzleloading season.** If you hunt with a single-shot muzzleloading pistol, you must have a New York State Pistol License.
- Hunters 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 the legal muzzleloading firearm.
- You **may use** fiber-optic sights and scopes on a muzzleloading firearm at any time.

BOBCATS AND COYOTES

Big game hunters who desire to take a bobcat or coyote must possess a Junior, Conservation Legacy, Super Sportsman, Sportsman, Small/Big Game, Small Game, Nonresident Hunting or Nonresident Super Sportsman license. Bobcat pelts must be tagged according to procedures described under "Trapping—Pelt Sealing" (see page 33). The sample Furbearer Possession Tag on page 32 of this Guide

may be used for legal possession until DEC seals the pelt.

BOWHUNTING

Bowhunting opportunities include both the regular and archery seasons. Residents may use a bow to take legally antlered deer and bear during the regular season provided the taker possesses both a valid big game license and either a current bowhunting privilege or a valid bowhunter education certificate. Residents may take deer of either sex during the archery season provided the taker possesses a big game license and bowhunting privilege, or a Junior Archery license. Nonresidents should refer to BAG LIMITS on page 26 for information on hunting with a bow during regular and archery seasons.

A bow may also be used to fill a deer management permit during the early archery season in the Southern Zone, the Southern Zone regular season and the late archery season. In WMUs 4J and 8C only bows may be used to take deer (either sex) during the regular and archery seasons. Suffolk (WMU 1C) and Westchester counties (WMU 3S) have separate regular seasons restricted to bows for taking deer (either sex).

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. Broadhead examples below compare one that is barbed to three that are legal. **Broadheads with retractable blades are legal.**



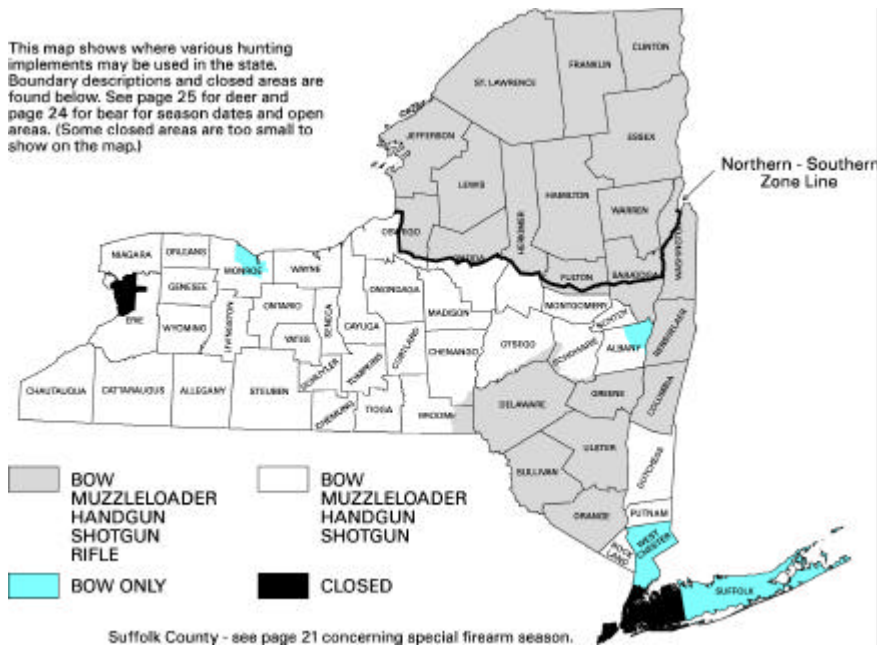
Feed 4 for \$1.00 with DECALS



Every dollar donated to the Venison Donation Coalition, Inc. will provide 4 servings of nutritious venison to those in need. Donate a dollar or more when you buy your license this year. You don't have to be a sportsman to participate, so tell all your friends and family they too can donate where licenses are sold. Just inform a DECALS license agent you wish to make a donation to support the Venison Donation Coalition Inc. in their efforts to feed the hungry.

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. See page 25 for deer and page 24 for bear for season dates and open areas. (Some closed areas are too small to show on the map.)



IMPLEMENT DESCRIPTIONS—The following describes equipment requirements for Big Game Hunting. See map at left to determine where each can be used.

Bow—Long (stick), recurve or compound bow with a draw weight of 35 lbs or greater. A legal arrowhead is nonbarbed, has 2 or more cutting edges and is at least 7/8 inches wide.

Muzzleloader—Firearm loaded through the muzzle, a minimum bore of .44 inches and shooting a single projectile. Scopes may be used at any time. See page 22 for special requirements during the muzzleloading season.

Handgun*—Any centerfire pistol or revolver. Barrel length maximum is 16 inches.

Shotgun*—Must be 20 gauge or larger and fire a single projectile. Rifling in the barrel or choke is allowed.

Rifle*—Any centerfire rifle.

It is **illegal** to hunt with:

- * a fully automatic firearm;
- * a semi-autoloading firearm that holds more than 6 shells (except an autoloading pistol with a barrel length under 8 inches);
- * any firearm equipped with a silencer.

Meat Unfit for Consumption

If a deer or bear is found to be unfit for human consumption, a special permit may be issued that allows the hunter to take another deer or bear provided the season is still open. A permit will not be issued if meat is unfit due to hunter neglect. Call a wildlife or law enforcement office listed on page 3.

BIG GAME BOUNDARY DESCRIPTIONS

Complete descriptions of all wildlife management units are available on DEC's web site or from Wildlife Offices (see page 3).

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, then southerly along Rt. 11 to its intersection with Rt. 49 in the village of Central Square, then easterly along Rt. 49 to its junction with Rt. 365 in the city of Rome, then easterly along Rt. 365 to its junction with Rt. 28 in the village of Trenton, then easterly along Rt. 28 to its junction with Rt. 29 in the village of Middleville, then easterly along Rt. 29 to its junction with Rt. 4, then northerly along Rt. 4 to its junction with Rt. 22, then northerly and westerly along Rt. 22 to the eastern shore of South Bay on Lake Champlain in the village of Whitehall, then northerly along the eastern shore of South Bay to the New York-Vermont boundary.

CLOSED AREAS: The following are closed areas 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 city.

Bow, Muzzleloader, Handgun, shotgun, rifle: All of Catskill Region* and Southern Zone areas of Fulton, Saratoga and Washington counties. All of Columbia, Delaware, Orange and Rensselaer counties. All of Northern Zone (see description of Northern-Southern Zone Line).

BOW, MUZZLELOADER, HANDGUN, SHOTGUN: Southern Tier, Central and Western Region** and the Eastern Region*** (except the Catskill Region and Columbia, Fulton, Orange, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Washington counties).

BOW ONLY AREAS
Parts of Albany County (WMU 4J), Monroe County (WMU 8C), Suffolk County (WMU 1C), Westchester County (WMU 3S)

*Catskill Region: Greene, Sullivan and Ulster Co.; Broome and Chenango Co. east of the Susquehanna River; Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Co. south of the line extending along mainline D&H R.R. tracks from Chenango Co. line to Richmondville, then along Rt. 10 to Stamford, then along Rt. 23 to Schoharie Co. Rt. 14 to Rt. 30, then north along Rt. 30 to Rt. 990V and east along Rt. 990V to Schoharie Co. Rt. 3 to Albany Co. line.

**Southern Tier, Central and Western Region: westerly of the line formed by the Susquehanna River from its intersection with the NY-PA State boundary to its confluence with the Unadilla River, by the Unadilla River to its intersection with the Herkimer-Otsego Co. boundary, by the Otsego-Herkimer Co. boundary and by the Oneida-Herkimer Co. boundary to the Northern Zone line.

***Eastern Region: All of the Southern Zone east of a line extending along the Susquehanna River from the PA-NY boundary to the Unadilla River, along the Unadilla River to the Herkimer-Otsego Co. boundary, and along the Herkimer-Otsego Co. boundary and the Oneida-Herkimer Co. boundary to the Northern Zone line.



BLACK BEAR SEASONS

Hunting Hours

Sunrise to Sunset

Last year's license is required when hunting prior to October 1.

Know of any active bear dens? DEC wants to know about occupied dens. Please call the nearest wildlife office. (See page 3.)



IMPORTANT NOTES

In November 2004 additional WMUs were added to the legal bear hunting areas in the Southern Zone. In the Catskill range WMUs 4O and 4P are now open to bear hunting as well as WMUs 9J, 9K, 9M, 9N, 9P, 9W & 9S (except Allegheny State Park) in the Allegheny range.

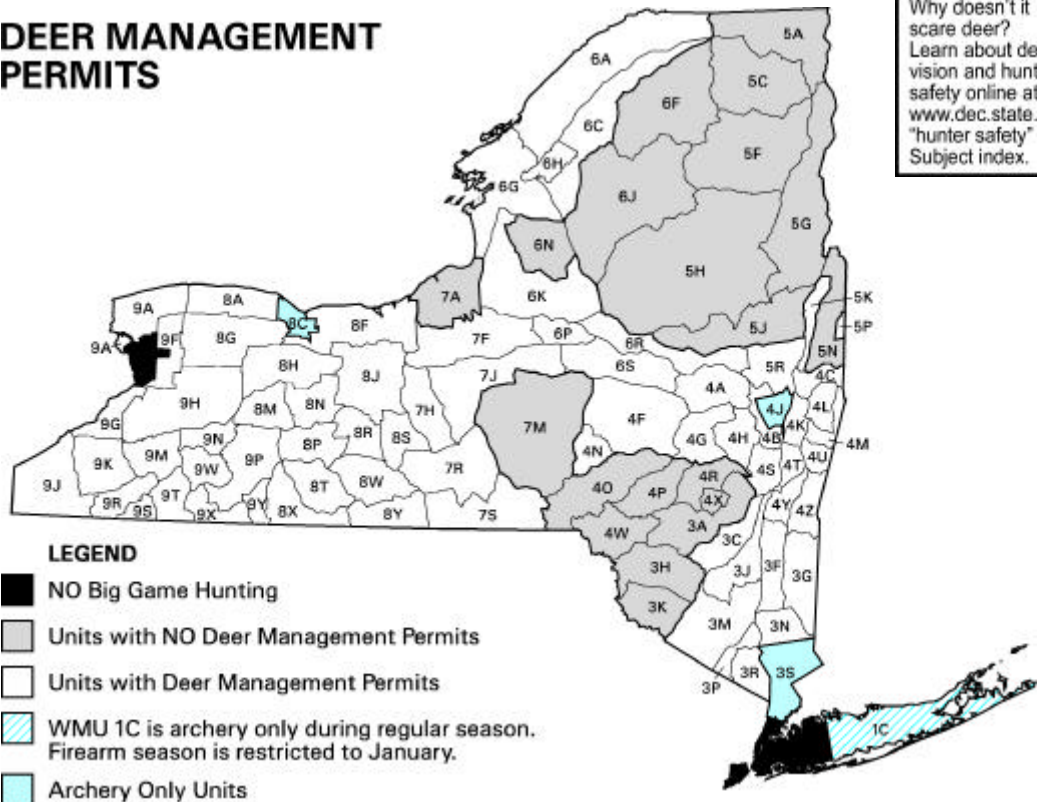
Black bear regular hunting seasons within the Southern Zone have been adjusted in response to changes in Southern Zone regular deer hunting season. The Catskill regular bear season will begin on the Monday following the opening of the regular deer hunting season. The Allegheny regular bear season will begin on the Saturday following the opening of the regular deer hunting season.

YOU are in Control of where the other guy shoots when you wear HUNTER ORANGE

Why doesn't it scare deer? Learn about deer vision and hunter safety online at www.dec.state.ny.us/hunter_safety in the Subject index.



DEER MANAGEMENT PERMITS



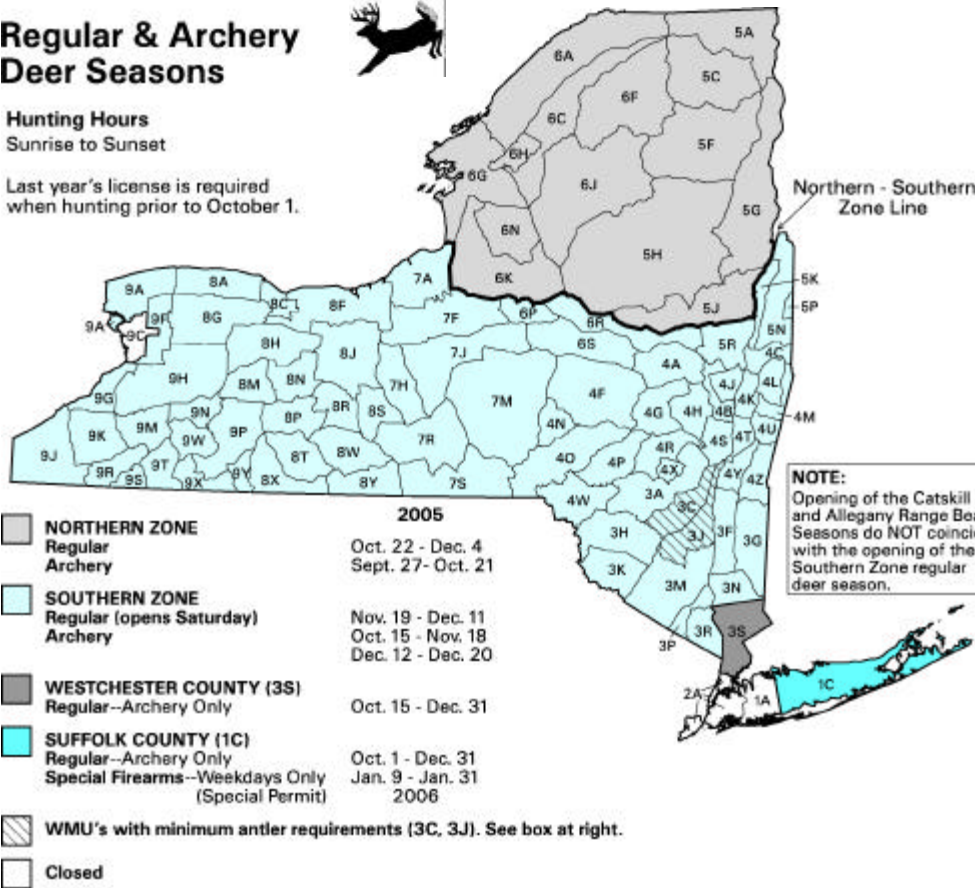
Deer Management Permits (DMPs) may be used during all Southern Zone seasons (using valid weapons with appropriate privileges), including all Westchester and Suffolk County seasons. DMPs are valid in the regular season and late muzzle-loading season in the Northern Zone (DMPs are not valid in the late September season in the Northern Zone).

Regular & Archery Deer Seasons



Hunting Hours
Sunrise to Sunset

Last year's license is required when hunting prior to October 1.



NOTE: Opening of the Catskill and Allegany Range Bear Seasons do NOT coincide with the opening of the Southern Zone regular deer season.

New Regulations on Antler Restrictions

A pilot program is now in place to improve the age structure of bucks in two WMUs located primarily in Ulster County.

The new regulations REQUIRE that bucks taken in WMUs 3C and 3J have:

At least one antler with 3 points (or more) which are at least one inch long.

This restriction applies to the archery, regular and muzzle-loading seasons.

Important: Hunters under 17 years of age are exempt from this restriction. A hunter under 17 may still take any buck with at least one antler that is 3 inches long or longer.

Why is this change being made?

For nearly 100 years, a "legal buck" has been a deer with at least one antler that is 3 inches long or longer. However, in recent years, other states have experimented with programs to change the age structure of bucks. In simple terms, these programs produce bucks that live longer. These programs have been well received in other locations, and it is time to examine this form of deer management in New York State.

In 2005, DEC predicts that there will be a reduction in the buck take in these two WMUs. However, in 2006 DEC predicts that the total buck take will return to normal, but there will be a larger number of older bucks seen and taken by hunters.

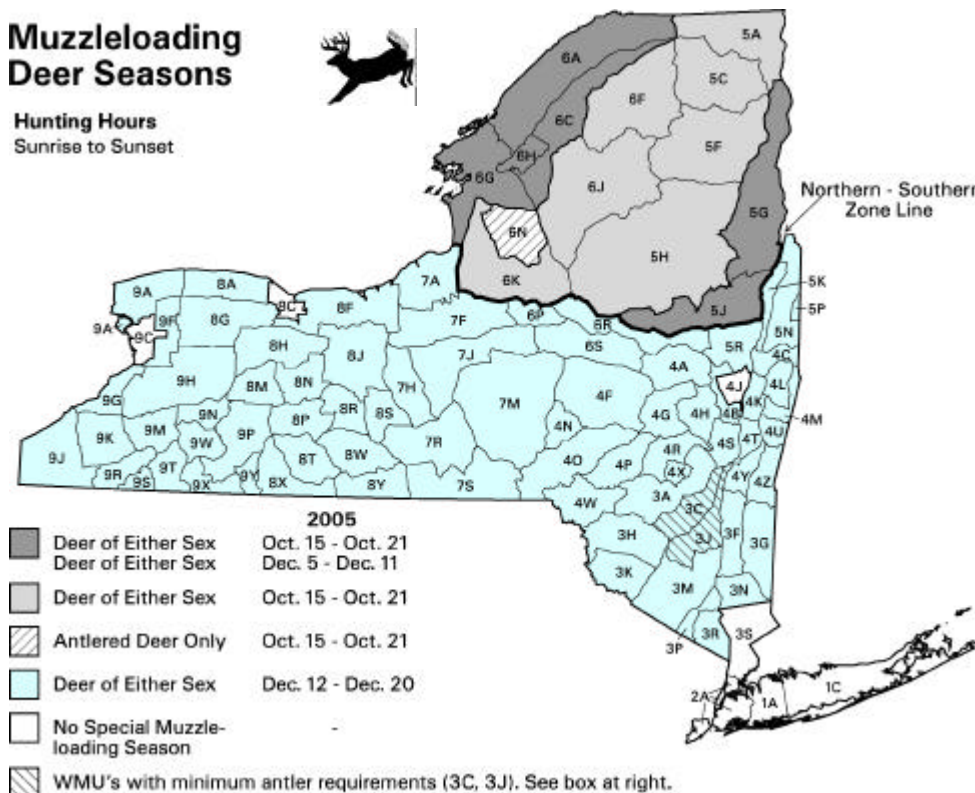
The pilot program in WMUs 3C and 3J has strong local support. It will provide important information for both hunters and the DEC, and the results will be widely shared once they are available.

For further information about this program, check the DEC website: www.dec.state.ny.us

Muzzleloading Deer Seasons



Hunting Hours
Sunrise to Sunset



Deer Hunting Bag Limits, Privileges and Tags

The number of deer a hunter may take depends upon which licenses and privileges were purchased. Here is a description of the tags received with each license type. Refer to the chart at the bottom of the page for a description of how and when each tag can be used.

Resident Hunter Licenses:

- (1) **Small Game/Big Game or Sportsman License**-- You will receive a Regular Season Deer Tag.
- (2) **Muzzleloading Privilege***-- You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag.
- (3) **Bowhunting Privilege***-- You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag.
- (4) **Conservation Legacy or Super Sportsman License**-- You will receive:
 - one Regular Season Deer Tag
 - one Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag
 - one Bow/Mz Season Antlerless Tag

NOTE: Hunters who purchase a Small Game/Big Game or Sportsman License PLUS BOTH Muzzleloading and Bowhunting privileges receive the same carcass tags as described in (4) above.

*** Residents must purchase a big game license to be eligible for Bowhunting and Muzzleloading Privileges. If you purchase both privileges, you will receive one Bow/Mz Either Sex Tag and one Bow/Mz Antlerless Tag. Both tags may be used in either season.**

Nonresident Hunters

- (1) **Nonresident Big Game**-- You will receive a Regular Season Deer Tag.
- (2) **Nonresident Bowhunting***-- You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag
- (3) **Nonresident Muzzleloading***-- You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag.
- (4) **Nonresident Super-Sportsman**-- You will receive:
 - one Regular Season Deer Tag
 - one Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag
 - one Bow/Mz Season Antlerless Tag

*** Nonresidents can purchase Bowhunting and Muzzleloading licenses without purchasing a regular big game license. If you purchase both Bowhunting and Muzzleloading licenses, you will receive one Either Sex Deer Tag and one Antlerless Deer Tag. Both tags may be used in either season.**

Tag Type	Valid For	Tag Can Be Used In
Regular Season Deer Tag	Antlered Deer Only Exceptions: Can be used for Antlered or Antlerless Deer 1. During the regular season in Westchester Co., and during any season in Suffolk Co. 2. In areas restricted to longbow only hunting 3. In late seasons (with bow or muzzleloading privilege) 4. September 27-30, 2005 in the Northern Zone with previous season's unused tag and bow privilege	Regular Seasons - Northern Zone - Southern Zone Late Seasons - Archery (with Bow privilege) - Muzzleloading (with Muzzleloading privilege)
Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag	Antlered or Antlerless Deer Exceptions: Can be used for Antlered Deer only during specific muzzleloading seasons in certain Northern Zone WMUs (see map on page 25)	Archery OR Muzzleloading seasons only (including the regular season in Westchester Co. and any season in Suffolk Co.), corresponding to privileges purchased
Bow/Mz Season Antlerless Tag	Antlerless Deer Only Exceptions: Cannot be used during specific muzzleloading seasons in certain Northern Zone WMUs that are for Antlered Deer only (see map on page 25)	Archery OR Muzzleloading seasons only (including the regular season in Westchester Co. and any season in Suffolk Co.), corresponding to privileges purchased
Deer Management Permit	Antlerless Deer Only Valid only for the WMU specified on the DMP (see map on page 24)	Valid in all Southern Zone seasons (with appropriate privileges), including all Suffolk & Westchester county seasons, and in the Northern Zone regular season & late muzzleloading season (not valid in Northern Zone bow season)

Junior Archers will receive a Bow/Mz Either Sex tag which will be valid in the special archery seasons and during the regular season. Junior Archers may also apply for Deer Management Permits.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT (DMP)

Apply at all license issuing outlets when you purchase your regular big game hunting license by close of business on **October 1, 2005**. If you applied for a DMP through DECALS in a previous year, you may also apply by phone or by mail (see p.7). If you are selected for a DMP, you will receive it immediately from the license issuing outlet. You may apply for up to two DMPs (both permits must be applied for at the same time). The permits may be in the same or different WMUs.

Hunters possessing a valid Deer Management Permit may take one antlerless deer per permit, in addition to a deer that may be taken with a regular big game license. Legally antlered deer (at least one antler 3" or longer) may not be taken on DMPs. See chart on page 26 for more information on when you can use your DMP tag. Junior Archers may use their permits during the special archery seasons or during the regular season.

There will be a \$10 DMP application fee for Resident Small & Big Game and Nonresident Big Game license holders. The application fee is waived for Resident Sportsman, Super-Sportsman, Conservation Legacy, Junior Archery and Nonresident Super Sportsman license holders.

Lifetime license holders can apply for a DMP at any license issuing outlet or by phone.

When applying for a DMP, remember:

- **Application Deadline - Close of business on October 1, 2005.**
- **Know your Wildlife Management Unit (WMU).** When you apply for your permit, you will be asked for the WMU you will be hunting in. If you are unsure of your WMU number, see the Wildlife Management Unit map on pages 4-5 of this guide or visit our website at www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/wmunits.html for written boundary descriptions. Written boundary descriptions are also available at most license issuing outlets and DEC regional offices.
- **Disabled Veterans** with a service-connected disability rated at 40% or greater (and a resident of New York State), will receive preference on DMPs. *Annually, you must bring a Veteran's Administration letter with your case number with you when you apply.* If disability is PERMANENT, the letter must clearly state "PERMANENT service-connected disability of 40% or greater". If you have already submitted proof of permanent status, you will not need to submit another letter.
- **Landowners** who own 50 or more contiguous acres of land within the WMU you will be hunting in, will receive preference on DMP selection. *Annually, you must bring your tax map identification number & SWIS code (found on your tax bill) with you when you apply.* Lessees do not qualify as landowners. A spouse of a landowner may apply for a DMP, but both husband and wife may not apply as landowners for the same parcel of land.
- **Corporate ownership:** Only one person can 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 designating the individual who has been chosen to apply as the landowner.
- **Preference Credits** - If you were rejected for a permit in 2004 and have a preference credit for the 2005 hunting season, this information will be stored in the centralized computer system and will be available to all license issuing agents.
- If you do not receive a DMP in your **first** choice WMU this year, you will receive a preference credit, even if you receive a permit in your second WMU. If you are rejected for a DMP, you cannot reapply during the initial DMP issuance period.
- **If you have any additional questions, call our Deer Management Information Hotline at 1-866-472-4332.**

Additional Information Pertaining to Deer Management Permits

Bonus DMPs: If you fill a DMP in archery-only WMUs 1C, 3S, 4J and 8C, you can apply for a bonus permit for a deer of either sex. Bonus permits may only be obtained from regional wildlife staff at predetermined locations. For complete information, visit our website or call the DEC regional wildlife office as follows: WMU 1C - call 1-631-444-0310, WMU 3S - call 1-845-256-3098, WMU 4J - call 1-518-357-2049, WMU 8C - call 1-585-226-5380.

Leftover DMPs: If there are permits remaining after the initial DMP Instant Lottery issuance period closes on October 1, the remaining DMPs may be available on a **first-come/first-served** basis, beginning on or around November 1, 2005. These DMPs are only available in person at License Issuing Agents. Leftover DMPs will not be available by phone or by mail. The Wildlife Management Units with permits available will be announced by news release and on our website (www.dec.state.ny.us). 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 if you have a Resident Small & Big Game License or a Nonresident Big Game License. The fee is waived for other license holders. 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.

Order of Selection for DMPs during the Instant Lottery: During the Instant Lottery, an applicant's chances of selection are determined by which category an applicant falls in. The categories, in priority order, are as follows.

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

NOTE: All applicants with three or more Preference Points prior to selection will receive their first choice WMU.

Deer Management Permit Chances of Selection by Wildlife Management Unit

NYS RESIDENTS *(WMUs 3A,3H,3K,4O,4P,4R,4W,4X,5A,5C,5F,5G,5H,5J,5N,6F,6J,6N,7A,7M are closed for DMPs in 2005)*

1st Permit Selection for Residents with 0 Preference Points *		2nd Permit Selection for Residents with 0 Preference Points*	
Chances	Wildlife Management Unit	Chances	Wildlife Management Unit
LOW (less than 1/3 of applicants will receive a DMP)	4K, 4M, 4N 6S 8S, 8T, 8W, 8X, 8Y 9P, 9R, 9S, 9T, 9X	LOW (less than 1/3 of applicants will receive a DMP)	3G 7R 8R 9G
MEDIUM (1/3 to 2/3 of applicants will receive a DMP)	3C 6G, 6H, 6P, 6R 8M, 8P, 9J, 9K, 9M, 9N, 9W	MEDIUM (1/3 to 2/3 of applicants will receive a DMP)	4Y, 4Z 8F, 8J 9A
HIGH (more than 2/3 of applicants will receive a DMP)	3F, 3G, 3J, 3M, 3N, 3P, 3R 4B, 4T, 4U, 4Y, 4Z 7F, 7H, 7J, 7R, 7S 8A, 8F, 8G, 8H, 8J, 8N, 8R 9A, 9F, 9G, 9H, 9Y	HIGH (more than 2/3 of applicants will receive a DMP)	3F, 3N, 3R 7H 8A, 8G, 8H, 8N 9F
HIGH (Archery Only)	1C, 3S, 4J, 8C	HIGH (Archery Only)	1C, 3S, 4J, 8C
PREFERENCE POINTS REQUIRED*	4A, 4C, 4F, 4G, 4H, 4L, 4S 5K, 5P, 5R 6A, 6C, 6K	PREFERENCE POINTS REQUIRED*	3M 4B, 4T 7F
NONE	Note: WMUs 3A, 3H, 3K, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4W, 4X, 5A, 5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 5N, 6F, 6J, 6N, 7A & 7M are CLOSED for all DMP issuance in 2005.	NONE (No 2nd DMPs available in these WMUs)	3C, 3J, 3P 4A, 4C, 4F, 4G, 4H, 4K, 4L, 4M, 4N, 4S, 4U 5K, 5P, 5R 6A, 6C, 6G, 6H, 6K, 6P, 6R, 6S 7J, 7S 8M, 8P, 8S, 8T, 8W, 8X, 8Y 9H, 9J, 9K, 9M, 9N, 9P, 9R, 9S, 9T, 9W, 9X, 9Y

* Preference Points increase your chances of receiving a DMP, but do not assure DMP issuance.

Landowners (50 or more contiguous acres in a WMU), Disabled Veterans (40% or greater service-connected disability) and customers with 3 Preference Points will receive their FIRST choice DMP in open WMUs.

NONRESIDENTS *(WMUs 3A,3H,3K,4O,4P,4R,4W,4X,5A,5C,5F,5G,5H,5J,5N,6F,6J,6N,7A,7M are closed for DMPs in 2005)*

1st Permit Selection for Nonresidents with 0 Preference Points *		2nd Permit Selection for Nonresidents with 0 Preference Points *	
Chances	Wildlife Management Unit	Chances	Wildlife Management Unit
LOW		LOW	
MEDIUM (1/3-2/3 will receive a DMP)	9Y	MEDIUM (1/3-2/3 will receive a DMP)	8G
HIGH (more than 2/3 of applicants will receive a DMP)	3F, 3G, 3M, 3N, 3R 4B, 4T, 4Y, 4Z 7F, 7H, 7R 8A, 8F, 8G, 8H, 8J, 8N, 8R 9A, 9F, 9G	HIGH (more than 2/3 of applicants will receive a DMP)	3N, 3R 8H, 8N 9F
HIGH (Archery Only)	1C, 3S, 4J, 8C	HIGH (Archery Only)	1C, 3S, 4J, 8C
NONE (No 1st DMPs available for Nonresidents in these WMUs)	3C, 3J, 3P 4A,4C,4F,4G,4H,4K,4L,4M,4N,4S,4U 5K, 5P, 5R 6A, 6C, 6G, 6H, 6K, 6P, 6R, 6S 7J, 7S 8M, 8P, 8S, 8T, 8W, 8X, 8Y 9H, 9J, 9K, 9M, 9N, 9P, 9R, 9S, 9T, 9W, 9X	NONE (No 2nd DMPs available for Nonresidents in these WMUs)	3C, 3F, 3G, 3J, 3M, 3P 4A, 4B, 4C, 4F, 4G, 4H, 4K, 4L, 4M, 4N, 4S 4T, 4U, 4Y, 4Z 5K, 5P, 5R 6A, 6C, 6G, 6H, 6K, 6P, 6R, 6S 7F, 7H, 7J, 7R, 7S 8A, 8F, 8J, 8M, 8P, 8R, 8S, 8T, 8W, 8X, 8Y 9A, 9G, 9H, 9J, 9K, 9M, 9N, 9P, 9R, 9S, 9T 9W, 9X, 9Y

* Preference Points increase your chances of receiving a DMP, but do not assure DMP issuance.

Landowners and customers with 3 Preference Points will receive their FIRST choice DMP in open WMUs.

Southern Zone Season Changes

Big Game Season Changes in the Southern Zone for 2005:

The opening day of the Southern Zone regular deer season has been changed from Monday to Saturday. The season will close on a Sunday. This change allows young hunters and others who are unable to take time off from work or school to hunt on opening day. DEC hopes this opportunity will be actively embraced by young hunters. Other changes include opening the archery season on the third Saturday in October, and extending the late archery and muzzleloader seasons to nine days.

Also, a pilot program to expand the age structure of the buck population will be implemented in two Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) located primarily in Ulster County. This new harvest strategy will require that bucks taken in WMUs 3C and 3J have at least three antler points on a side to be legal. Young hunters, under the age of 17, would be exempt from the three point requirement. For more information, see page 25.

In response to lower deer harvests throughout a large portion of the State in 2004, DEC wildlife biologists have reduced the number of deer management permits (DMPs) in many areas. Approximately 320,000 DMPs will be available this fall, representing a decline of about 40 percent from the 2004 levels. This change reflects the lower deer numbers throughout most of the Southern Zone.

DEC also considered establishing an early muzzleloading season this year. For now, this proposal has been set aside until deer numbers recover when this season could have more value as an additional management tool.

Specific changes are as follows:

- **Early Archery Season** - First Saturday in October after Columbus Day to the day before the Regular Season.

For 2005: October 15 through November 18;

- **Regular Season** - Third Saturday in November for 23 days. Closes on a Sunday.

For 2005: November 19 - December 11 (includes four weekends);

- **Late Archery and Muzzleloader Seasons** - First day after the close of the regular season running for nine days.

For 2005: December 12 - December 20 (Any remaining tags are valid);

- **Antler Restriction Pilot Study** - WMUs 3C and 3J (all seasons). Limits harvest of antlered deer to those with at least three antler points on one side. Smaller antlered bucks cannot be taken. Hunters under the age of 17 are exempt and may take a buck with an antler or antlers measuring three inches or more in length; and

- **Black Bear Regular Seasons**

Catskill Range: November 21 - December 11

Allegany Range: November 26 - December 11

Additional information on upcoming hunting seasons will be posted on the Department's website at www.dec.state.ny.us as it becomes available.

How to Transfer a DMP Deer Carcass Tag

DMP carcass tag of Hunter Art Fern

License tag of Hunter Pete Moss

- Hunter Art Fern of this DMP carcass tag must sign bottom tag. This allows this DMP carcass tag to be transferred
- This DMP carcass tag is given to Pete Moss.

REMEMBER: *Hunting licenses are not transferrable. Only DMP carcass tags can be used by another hunter.*

- Hunter Pete Moss must record on his license the DOC # from the DMP carcass tag being transferred to him.
- Hunter Pete Moss is allowed only two transferred DMPs per year whether he uses the tag(s) or not.
- If Hunter Pete Moss does not use the DMP carcass tag, he can give it back to Art Fern or give it to another hunter. The other hunter must then record the Doc # from the DMP carcass tag on his/her license.

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) using the transferred DMP carcass tag Doc# and his/her own date of birth, along with other required information (see page 7).

CWD, General Handling Precautions and Safe Field Dressing

Chronic Wasting Disease in New York State

What is Chronic Wasting Disease?

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is found in some deer and elk populations in North America. It is a slow and progressive disease of the central nervous system of free ranging and captive deer and elk that leads to the eventual death of the animal. It is believed to be caused by an abnormal form of protein called a prion that is found in the brain, tonsils and some lymphoid tissues of infected animals.

Signs of the illness appear in the last stage before death. They include progressive weight loss, behavioral changes, abnormal head postures and drooping ears. Deer showing these symptoms should be reported to DEC.

The mode of transmission of CWD has not been identified. Evidence suggests that CWD can pass from animal to animal by direct contact or through the contamination of feed with saliva, urine and feces.

There is currently no evidence that CWD can be transmitted to humans or domestic animals or livestock. Health officials do advise hunters NOT to consume meat from animals known to exhibit signs of the disease. Please refer to general precautions on handling of game listed below.

Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance and Monitoring

In April of 2002, the DEC initiated a program to collect tissue samples from wild white-tailed deer populations throughout New York State to test for the presence of chronic wasting disease. DEC has collect-

ed more than 3,700 samples and submitted these to United States Department of Agriculture approved laboratories for CWD testing.

DEC implemented intensive monitoring efforts after CWD was found in two captive white-tailed deer herds in Oneida County – the first incidents of CWD in New York State. On April 8, 2005, the State Department of Agriculture and Markets (DAM) completed testing of the captive deer and found a total of five positive results for CWD in the two captive herds.

When CWD was discovered in two captive herds, DEC immediately implemented an adaptive response plan of intensive sampling in the area surrounding the captive facilities to determine if the disease had spread into the adjacent wild population. CWD was detected in two wild deer from Oneida County. The first positive result in a wild deer was announced on April 27, 2005 and came from a yearling white-tailed deer sampled from the Town of Verona. The second positive result was from a three year old doe, located within a mile of the location where the initial positive result was detected. These are the first known occurrences of CWD in wild deer in New York State.

What is New York State doing to address CWD in New York?

DEC has established a CWD containment area in Oneida and Madison counties and has adopted regulations to ensure the proper handling of deer and to prevent fur-

ther spread of CWD in the wild herd. DEC may establish additional containment areas if more cases of CWD are found.

In addition to the regulations for the containment area, there are also statewide restrictions on rehabilitation of wild white-tailed deer at facilities that house live deer, regulations specifying record keeping and reporting requirements for taxidermists and restrictions on the sale of deer feed. It is illegal to feed wild white-tailed deer in New York.

DEC will significantly increase its routine testing throughout the state and implement an enhanced testing program in Oneida and Madison counties.

In response to these findings, DEC will continue public outreach in Oneida County and begin statewide informational meetings to help educate citizens on CWD. DEC and DAM will conduct additional outreach and continue to aggressively pursue inspection and enforcement at all captive deer herds across the State.

For more information on CWD visit our website: www.dec.state.ny.us

The World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, and the National Institutes of Health have studied and reviewed CWD. They have not found a link between CWD and any neurological disease affecting humans.

ATTENTION HUNTERS: IF YOU PLAN TO HUNT DEER OR ELK OUTSIDE OF NEW YORK YOU MUST KNOW THE CWD REGULATIONS

Regulations are in place to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease into the wild white-tailed deer and captive deer and elk herds in New York State.

Both the DEC and the Department of Agriculture and Markets have the responsibilities for protecting these herds. These agencies formulated regulations regarding their respective Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plans.

You will need to know what carcass parts you can and cannot bring into New York. The current regulations affect importation from most of the western states and some Canadian provinces and territories.

Please refer to the DEC website www.dec.state.ny.us for the latest information or write to: CWD Regs, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754

ARE THERE ANY PRECAUTIONS FOR HANDLING, PROCESSING OR EATING MEAT FROM DEER?

- Game that is observed to be ill, emaciated or found dead should not be handled and should not be eaten.
- Wear rubber gloves when field dressing carcasses.
- Remove all internal organs and internal fat, especially above the diaphragm.
- Minimize the handling of brain and spinal tissues, and avoid sawing through the spine or skull. Should you decide to take the skull cap, clean it thoroughly with a 50/50 bleach and water solution.
- Use separate, dedicated knives, saws and cutting boards to butcher deer and remove antlers, particularly when cutting through the skull or spinal cord.

- Boning out meat including removal of fat, connective tissue and lymph nodes should be considered.
- Although no CWD risk to humans has been identified from consumption of organ meat, in general consumption of organ meat (including brain, liver, spleen, kidney, heart, eyes, tonsils, lymph nodes) may pose a greater risk of infection with a number of diseases.
- Wash butchering tools and any parts of your body that have been exposed to animal tissue, blood, urine, etc., thoroughly with soap and water.
- Contact your local DEC regional wildlife office (see page 3) if you see or harvest an animal that appears to be sick.
- For more information on CWD and general precautions for hunters refer to: <http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/zoonoses/cwd.htm>

CWD Information for Deer Hunters in Oneida & Madison Counties

Attention Deer Hunters who plan to hunt deer in Oneida and Madison Counties

The discovery of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in the wild white-tailed deer herd in Oneida county has prompted DEC to adopt new regulations to help minimize the spread of this disease. Part of these regulations have established a CWD containment area in portions of Oneida and Madison Counties.

The containment area (see below map) includes the Oneida County municipalities, including the cities of Rome, Sherrill, and Utica, as well as the towns of Annsville, Augusta, Floyd, Kirkland, Lee, Marcy, New Hartford, Trenton, Vernon, Verona, Vienna, Western, Westmoreland, and Whitestown. In addition, the Madison County towns of Lenox, Stockbridge and the city of Oneida are also included. Special regulations impacting how harvested deer and specific deer parts may be possessed, transported and disposed are in effect.

Within this containment area, it is illegal to:

- **Move certain animal parts OUT of the containment area.**
 - Un-butchered deer carcasses.
 - No person will be allowed to remove from the CWD containment area the brain, eyes, spinal cord, tonsils, intestinal tract, spleen, or retropharyngeal lymph nodes (found in the upper neck and jaw area), or any portion of such parts, or any carcass containing such parts.
 - Disposal of all deer carcasses and parts, except those parts removed in the field during normal field dressing, must be at a landfill within the CWD containment area or via a commercial or municipal waste removal operator.
- **Possess any deer killed by a motor vehicle in the containment area.**

No permit for possession of a deer carcass will be issued to the vehicle owner or to any other party.
- **Collect, sell, possess or transport deer urine taken within the containment area.**

- **Butcher the carcass of a deer taken from the CWD containment area prior to a mandatory examination by DEC.**

All wild white-tailed deer taken within the CWD containment area during any open hunting season must be submitted for examination at the DEC check station (see below), no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day after it was taken. Hunters may also obtain check station information by contacting DEC's Watertown office at (315) 785-2261 or DEC's Utica office at (315) 793-2555.

Deer may not be skinned or butchered. No carcass parts, except those removed as part of normal field dressing, may be removed prior to examination.

Any person submitting a deer for examination must allow DEC to collect and retain tissue samples from the deer in order to test for the presence of CWD. Samples collected may include portions of the brain, tonsils, and the retropharyngeal lymph nodes. This may entail the removal of the head. Arrangements to allow retention of trophy heads will be accommodated.

All deer taken in the DEC containment area shown on this map must be examined by DEC.

Oneida Deer Check Station



Directions to Check Station:

This mandatory check station is for deer harvested in the towns within Oneida and Madison counties as indicated on the map to the right.

The check station is located approximately 3 miles southwest of downtown Rome just off of State Route 365 on Hoag Road.

Dates and Hours of Operation Will be From:

9/27 - 12/21 Noon thru 7 PM

