

DEER Buck Firearms Season

Daily Bag Limit: 1

Opening Date: November 20

Closing Date: December 2

Only deer having one or both antlers more than 3 inches in length above the hairline are legal during the buck firearms season (see concurrent hunting for antlerless deer during buck firearms season on page 29).

Two deer may be taken with a gun, crossbow or bow during the buck firearms season. One may be taken on one of the following valid base licenses or license combinations: resident license (Class X, Class XJ, Class AHJ, Class AB-L, Class A-L, Class XS, Classes A+CS or Classes AH+CS); or free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Class DT or Senior Citizen); or nonresident license (Classes E+CS/LE, Classes AAH+CS/LE, Classes XXJ+CS/LE, Classes AAHJ+CS/LE or Class DT). Underage residents and resident landowners hunting on their own land (see page 10) may take an antlered deer without a license. An additional deer may only be taken with a Class RG stamp, Class RRG stamp, Class DT license or by resident landowners hunting on their own property. Class DT license holders must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or with written consent of the parent or guardian, any other competent licensed adult 21 years of age or older.

A hunter may take no more than three antlered deer per calendar year in all archery, crossbow and firearms seasons combined.


A hunter may take no more than one antlered deer per day.


Legal firearms for hunting deer during the buck firearms season shall include:

- a rifle using centerfire ammunition.
- a rifle using .25 caliber or larger rimfire ammunition.
- a muzzleloading rifle, with or without scope, and muzzleloading pistol of .38 caliber or larger.
- a handgun using a straight-walled case of .357 magnum cartridge or larger or a bottle-necked case of .24 caliber or larger (see page 6). A Class A-1 handgun stamp is required.
- a shotgun loaded with solid ball ammunition.

Buck Firearms Season Counties

All counties except Logan, McDowell, Mingo, and Wyoming are open.

 **Open:** Buck Firearms Season November 20 – December 2, 2017 (See pages 16-17 for special public land regulations)

 **Closed:** to all firearms deer hunting



Additional Buck Firearms Season Gun Stamps

Class RG and Class RRG

During a calendar year, a resident may purchase only one Class RG stamp and a nonresident may purchase only one Class RRG stamp.

Only one deer may be taken with a Class RG or Class RRG stamp. The Class RG and Class RRG stamps must be purchased prior to the opening of buck firearms season. The Class RG and Class RRG stamps are valid for buck hunting in all counties open to buck firearms season.

To take an additional deer, all residents, except resident landowners (see page 10) hunting on their own land or holders of a Class DT license, are required to purchase a Class RG stamp. All nonresidents are required to purchase a Class RRG stamp or possess a Class DT license if they choose to take an additional deer (see license requirements on page 11).

There are 23 counties or parts thereof (see pages 14, 19 and 21) that require buck firearms season hunters to take an antlerless deer during the antlerless firearms deer season from one of these counties prior to harvesting a second antlered deer during the buck firearms season.

Deer taken on a base license or license stamp combination or Class RG or RRG stamps may be electronically registered in any order.

Concurrent Hunting during Buck Firearms Deer Season

Antlerless deer hunting is legal on private land in 51 counties or parts thereof and all public lands having an antlerless season November 20 – December 2, 2017. To hunt antlerless deer during the buck firearms season, a valid Class N or NN stamp or Class DT license is required for all hunters except for resident landowners (see page 10) hunting on their own land. **A hunter may harvest two deer per day, but only one antlered deer may be harvested per day. The first deer does not have to be electronically registered prior to harvesting the second deer in the same day. However, all deer legally harvested must be electronically registered and legally tagged prior to hunting during a subsequent day.**

Small game hunting is prohibited during the first three days of buck firearms season in all counties having a buck firearms season; provided, waterfowl hunting is legal on lakes, rivers and waterways during the open waterfowl season, bear hunting is legal in specified counties, and coyote hunting is legal. Small game hunting is legal during open small game seasons beginning November 23, 2017. While hunting small game during the buck firearms season, No. 4 shot or smaller and slugs may be carried with a shotgun only if the hunter is legally hunting deer or bear.

A combination rifle-shotgun (over-under, etc.) is legal for deer hunting and concurrent small game hunting.

After killing the legal daily or season bag limit of deer, a hunter shall not be afield with any firearm with solid ball ammunition (unless legally hunting bear) or shot shells containing larger than No. 4 shot. Waterfowl hunters may use nontoxic shot larger than No. 4.

It is illegal to hunt small game during the buck firearms season with any centerfire, with any rimfire larger than .22 caliber, or with a shotgun using solid ball ammunition or shot larger than No. 4 in a county that is not open to buck firearms season.

Archery and crossbow hunting for antlered and antlerless deer is legal during buck firearms season subject to all archery and crossbow deer hunting regulations. A bow or a crossbow may be substituted for a firearm to take antlered deer, or if hunting on a Class N or NN stamp or Class DT license, antlerless deer may be taken during the buck firearms season on private land in specified counties and on specified public lands (see pages 17-19).

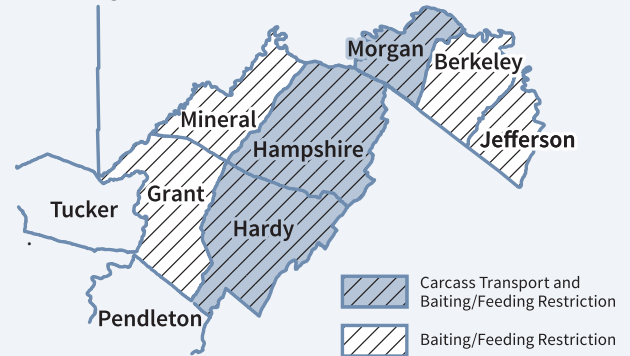
All persons hunting during a deer firearms season, except those engaged in farming activities on their own land and waterfowl hunters, must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange as an outer garment.

BIOLOGICAL GAME EXAMINATION STATIONS

See page 12 for requirements of harvested deer in Hampshire, Mason and Upshur counties to be brought to a Biological Game Examination Station.

WEST VIRGINIA CWD CONTAINMENT AREA

See page 13 for special regulations regarding deer carcass transport, designated CWD sampling stations and baiting and feeding of wildlife within the West Virginia CWD Containment Area.



Special Seasons and Restrictions

Wilson Cove Deer Study Area and Hillcrest Wildlife Management Area

Wilson Cove Deer Study Area, located in Hardy County on the George Washington National Forest, and Hillcrest WMA, located in Hancock County, will have a deer muzzleloader season November 20 – December 2, 2017 (Sunday hunting is prohibited). During this period, only single shot muzzleloaders, including “in-lines” of .38 caliber or larger, and crossbows are legal for deer hunting on these areas. These two areas will not be open to the traditional buck firearms season. All muzzleloader season license requirements apply and harvested deer must be electronically registered as a Muzzleloader Season harvest (see pages 10-11, 18 and 30). The annual antlered deer bag limit is one deer for archery, crossbow and muzzleloader seasons combined (see page 18).

Older-aged Deer Management Areas

All antlered deer taken on Beech Fork Lake, Bluestone Lake, Burnsville Lake and McClintic WMAs, and Coopers Rock and Calvin Price State Forests must have a minimum outside antler spread of 14 inches (ear tip to ear tip). The annual antlered deer bag limit is one deer for all archery, crossbow and firearms seasons combined. It is illegal to bait or feed wildlife on these areas (see page 11).