

Deer - Bucks-Only Firearms Season

Daily Bag Limit: 1

Opening Date: November 21

Closing Date: December 3

Only deer having one or both antlers 3 inches or more in length above the hairline are legal during the bucks-only season (see concurrent hunting during bucks-only season for antlerless deer on page 15).

Two deer may be taken with a gun or bow during the bucks-only season -- the first deer must be taken on one of the following valid base licenses or license combinations: resident (Class X, Class XJ, Class AB-L, Class A-L, Classes A+CS, or Classes Q+CS); or free license: Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW or Senior Citizen; or nonresident (Classes XXJ+CS/LE or Classes E+CS/LE). Underage residents and resident landowners (see page 7) may take a first antlered deer without a license. A second deer may only be taken with a Class RG, Class RRG, or by resident landowners hunting on their own property.

A hunter may take no more than three antlered deer per year in all seasons combined.

Legal firearms for hunting deer during the bucks-only season shall include:

- a rifle using center-fire 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. A Class A-1 handgun license is required.
- a shotgun loaded with solid ball ammunition.

Bucks-Only Firearms Counties

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

-  **Open:** Bucks-Only Firearms Season November 21 - December 3, 2005
-  **Closed:** to all firearms deer hunting



Antlerless deer may be taken on Class N/NN or RG/RRG licenses on private land in 41 specified counties or parts thereof during Bucks-Only season (see pages 15 and 16).

Bucks-Only Firearms Season - Deer

Concurrent hunting during Bucks-Only Deer Season

Antlerless deer hunting is legal on private land in 41 counties or portions thereof and Lewis Wetzel, McClintic and Hughes River WMAs during the bucks-only season (November 21 thru December 3). To hunt antlerless deer during the bucks-only season, a valid Class N or NN license (antlerless permit) is required for all hunters, regardless of age, except for resident landowners (see page 7) hunting on their own land. Hunters may take only one deer per day, therefore, a buck and an antlerless deer may not be taken on the same day.

Small game hunting is prohibited during the first three days of bucks-only season in all counties having a bucks-only 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 seasons beginning November 24, 2005. While hunting small game during the bucks-only 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 limit of deer, a hunter shall not be afield with any firearm with solid ball ammunition or shot shells containing larger than No. 4 shot unless legally hunting bear. Waterfowl hunters may use nontoxic shot larger than No. 4.

It is illegal to hunt small game during the bucks-only deer season with any centerfire rifle, with any rimfire rifle 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 bucks-only deer hunting.

Archery hunting for deer is legal during bucks-only season. A bow may be substituted for a firearm to take antlered deer, or if hunting on a Class N or NN license, antlerless deer may be taken during the bucks-only season on private land in specified counties (see pages 10-12).

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.

Additional Deer Gun Licenses

Class RG and Class RRG

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

Only one deer may be taken with a Class RG or Class RRG license. The Class RG and Class RRG licenses must be purchased before November 21, 2005, prior to the opening of bucks-only season. The Class RG and Class RRG licenses are valid for buck hunting in all counties open to bucks-only season.

To take an additional deer, all residents except resident landowners (see page 7) while hunting on their own land are required to purchase a Class RG gun license. All nonresidents are required to purchase a Class RRG gun license if they choose to take an additional deer. (See license requirements on page 8.)

During the bucks-only season, hunting on the Class RG or Class RRG gun licenses can begin on the day after legally checking the first antlered or antlerless deer. If used for antlerless deer, **the first antlerless deer must have been checked by using a valid Class N or NN license or as a landowner.**

A Class RG or Class RRG gun license not used in the bucks-only season is valid to take an additional deer in the antlerless (Class N) or muzzleloader seasons in specified counties. (See antlerless and muzzleloader sections).

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 the **Hillcrest WMA**, located in Hancock County will have a bucks-only muzzleloader season November 21 - December 3, 2005. Only single shot muzzleloaders, including "in-lines", of .38 caliber or larger are legal. A muzzleloader with telescopic sights is legal. **These two areas will not be open to the traditional rifle bucks-only firearms season.** All muzzleloader license requirements and bag limits apply. (See pages 8, 12 and 21.)

McClintic Wildlife Management Area

All antlered deer taken on McClintic WMA must have a minimum outside antler spread of 14 inches (ear tip to ear tip).