

DEER Muzzleloader Season

Daily Bag Limit: 2

Opening Date: December 14

Closing Date: December 20

Two deer may be taken with a muzzleloader or crossbow during the muzzleloader 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+BG or Classes AH+CS+BG); or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Class DT or Senior Citizen); or nonresident license (Classes E+CS/LE+VV, Classes AAH+CS/LE+VV, 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 a muzzleloader season deer without a license. An additional muzzleloader season deer may only be taken with a Class RM or RRM stamp, a Class DT license or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. Class DT license holders must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or with written consent of the parent or guardian, or any other competent licensed adult 21 years of age or older.

Muzzleloader season hunting for antlered deer is legal in all counties open to the buck firearms season. A deer of either sex may be taken in the muzzleloader season in all counties or parts thereof open to the Class N season. One additional deer may be taken on a Class RM or RRM stamp or a Class DT license in all counties having the muzzleloader season (see pages 14-16 and 31).

In the muzzleloader season, only single-shot muzzleloaders, including "in-lines" of .38 caliber or larger and crossbows are legal. Telescopic sights are legal. A firearm that has been converted into a muzzleloader by use of a plug, or a double-barreled or swivel-barreled muzzleloader is illegal for deer hunting during the muzzleloader season.

When being transported in or on a vehicle, muzzleloaders will be considered unloaded: when uncapped; when the priming charge is removed from the pan; or if they have an electronic ignition with the battery removed.

A hunter may take no more than three antlered deer during the regular deer seasons and the following Mountaineer Heritage Season combined.

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.

Use of Class RM and Class RRM Stamps and Class DT Licenses in the Muzzleloader Season

Only one Class RM or RRM stamp may be used in the muzzleloader season.

Only one deer may be taken with a Class RM or RRM stamp. The Class RM and RRM stamps must be purchased prior to the opening of the muzzleloader season.

To take an additional muzzleloader season deer, all residents, except resident landowners (see page 10) hunting on their own land and hunters who possess a Class DT license are required to purchase a Class RM stamp. All nonresidents, except holders of a Class DT license, are required to purchase a Class RRM stamp if they choose to take an additional muzzleloader deer.

Class RM and Class RRM stamps or a Class DT license may be used to take one additional deer in the muzzleloader season in all counties having the muzzleloader season (see page 30). See pages 17-18 for muzzleloader season regulations on WMAs and other public lands.

Deer taken on a base license or license stamp combination or Class RM or RRM stamps may be checked in any order.

Class RM, RRM stamps or Class DT licenses may be used to take one antlered deer in all counties having the muzzleloader season OR;

Class RM, RRM stamps or Class DT licenses may be used to take one either-sex deer in the 47 counties or parts thereof having a Class N or NN antlerless season bag limit of one unlimited or three antlerless (Class N) deer (see muzzleloader map page 31). See pages 17-18 for muzzleloader regulations on WMAs and other public lands.

Concurrent waterfowl hunting is legal (see separate WVDNR Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations publication).

There are 11 counties or parts thereof (see pages 14, 19 and 21) that require hunters to take an antlerless deer within the county, which may be taken during any regular deer season open to antlerless deer hunting, before killing a second antlered deer within the county. This regulation applies across all the combined regular deer seasons and the Mountaineer Heritage Season.

WEST VIRGINIA CWD CONTAINMENT AREA

See pages 12-13 for special regulations regarding deer carcass transport, designated CWD sampling stations and baiting and feeding of wildlife within the West Virginia CWD Containment Area.

Concurrent Hunting during Muzzleloader Season

A crossbow, but not a bow, can be substituted for a muzzleloader during the muzzleloader season. Concurrent archery and crossbow hunting for antlered and antlerless deer is legal during the muzzleloader season subject to all archery and crossbow deer hunting regulations.

Concurrent hunting is permitted during the muzzleloader season. It is illegal to be afield with solid-ball ammunition or shot larger than No. 4 during the muzzleloader season except for those persons legally hunting bear, and for waterfowl hunters using nontoxic shot. All persons hunting during deer firearms seasons (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.

It is legal to hunt small game with .22 caliber or smaller rimfire during the muzzleloader season.

Muzzleloader Season Counties

Logan, McDowell, Mingo, and Wyoming counties are closed to all firearms deer hunting.

-  **Open:** to antlered only muzzleloader season hunting on base license and Class RM, RRM stamps or Class DT licenses
-  **Open:** to either-sex muzzleloader season hunting on base license, and antlered deer only on Class RM, RRM stamps or Class DT licenses
-  **Open:** to either-sex muzzleloader season hunting on base license and Class RM, RRM stamps and Class DT licenses
-  **Closed:** to all firearms deer hunting

See pages 23-25 for more detailed descriptions and maps of Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Raleigh and Wayne counties.

See pages 17-18 for exceptions and special regulations on WMAs and other public lands.

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 muzzleloader season November 23 – December 6, 2020. During this period, only single shot muzzleloaders, including “in-lines” of .38 caliber or larger, and crossbows are legal for hunting deer 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 and 18). The annual antlered deer bag limit is one for archery, crossbow, muzzleloader and Mountaineer Heritage seasons combined (see page 18).

Older-aged Deer Management Areas

All antlered deer taken on Beech Fork Lake, Bluestone Lake, Burnsville Lake, Little Kanawha River 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 for archery, crossbow and firearms seasons combined. It is illegal to bait or feed wildlife on all public lands at any time (see page 11).

