

WATERFOWL & MIGRATORY BIRDS

Unless otherwise noted, possession limit = 3x daily limit

	Daily Limit	
Crow	Thrs., Fri., Sat., Sun. only; Aug. 21 - Mar. 22, 2026	No limit
Starling & English Sparrows	Closed during regular firearms deer seasons	No limit
Doves	Sept. 1 - Nov. 28 and Dec. 20- Jan. 3, 2026	15
Woodcock	Oct. 18 - Nov. 28 and Dec. 15 - Dec. 24	3

Seasons for Ducks, Mergansers, Coots, Canada Geese, Light Geese, Brant and webless birds can be found on the Game Commission's website and in the Hunting & Trapping Digest.

Migratory Game Bird Hunting Hours Table can be found on the Game Commission's website and in the Hunting & Trapping Digest.

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

FUR TAKING with appropriate license/permits

<u>Hunting</u>	<u>Daily/Season Limit</u>	
Coyotes	No limit	
No closed season. During any big game season, coyotes may be taken while lawfully hunting big game or with a furtaker license.		
Foxes	Sundays permitted. Oct. 25 - Feb. 21, 2026	No limit
Cannot be hunted during regular firearms deer season.		
Raccoons	Oct. 25 - Feb. 21, 2026	No limit
Cannot be hunted during regular firearms deer season.		
No Sunday hunting except <u>Nov. 16</u> , <u>Nov. 23</u> and <u>Nov. 30 at night</u> .		
Opossums, Striped Skunks and Weasels	No limit	
July 1-June 30, 2026, except during regular firearms deer season.		
No Sunday hunting except <u>Nov. 16</u> , <u>Nov. 23</u> and <u>Nov. 30 at night</u> .		
Bobcats	No Sunday hunting. Jan. 10 - Feb. 4, 2026	1/1
WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E		
Porcupines	Oct. 11 - Nov. 28	3/10
May not be hunted at night.		
<u>Nov. 16</u> and <u>Nov. 23</u> included, and Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Jan. 31, 2026		

TURKEY

Fall Season - bearded or unbearded birds (Shotgun and archery only, statewide) 1 bird limit

WMU 5A and 5B	Nov. 1 - Nov. 4
WMUs 1B, 3D, 4C and 4E	Nov. 1 - Nov. 8
WMUs 1A, 2G, 3A, 4A, 4B and 4D	Nov. 1 - Nov. 15
WMUs 2A, 2F, 3B and 3C	Nov. 1 - Nov. 15 and Nov. 26 - Nov. 28
WMU 2B, 2C, 2D and 2E	Nov. 1 - Nov. 21 and Nov. 26 - Nov. 28
WMUs 5C and 5D	Closed to fall turkey hunting

Up to 2 bearded birds (1 daily) with proper licenses

Jr. and Mentored Hunters under 16	Apr. 25, 2026
Statewide (hours vary)	May 2 - May 30, 2026

Review the complete Digest: <http://bit.ly/PGCDigest>

This guide is not the Game & Wildlife Code or its attendant regulations and should not be considered final on legal interpretation.

SMALL GAME

Unless otherwise noted, possession limit = 3x daily limit

	Daily Limit	
Squirrel-Jr. Hunt (Combined)	Sept. 13 - Sept. 27	6
Squirrel (Combined species)	Sept. 13 - Nov. 28, Nov. 16 & Nov. 23 included, and Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 28, 2026	6
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 18 - Nov. 28, Nov. 16 & Nov. 23 included, and Dec. 15 - Dec. 24	2
Rabbit - Jr. Hunt (Cottontail)	Oct. 4 - Oct. 18	4
Rabbit (Cottontail)	Oct. 18 - Nov. 28, Nov. 16 & Nov. 23 included, and Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 28, 2026	4

Pheasant - Jr. Hunt# Oct. 11 - Oct. 18 2

Pheasant# Oct. 25 - Nov. 28, Nov. 16 & Nov. 23 included, and Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 28, 2026 2

#with required permit

Taking of pheasants in any Wild Pheasant Recovery Area must be authorized by an executive order.

Bobwhite Quail	Sept. 1 - Nov. 28, No limit
<i>Season closed around Letterkenny Focus Area</i>	<u>Nov. 16</u> & <u>Nov. 23</u> included, and
	Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and
	Dec. 26 - Mar. 31, 2026
Snowshoe or Varying Hare	Dec. 26 - Jan. 1, 2026 1
Season limit 3	
Woodchuck	
July 1-June 30, except during regular firearms deer seasons.	
No hunting on Sundays, except <u>Nov. 16</u> and <u>Nov. 23</u> .	No limit

DEER with required licenses/permits

One antlered deer per hunting license year. One antlerless deer with each required license or permit.

Ag Tag (Antlerless only)	Aug. 1 - Apr. 15, 2026
Statewide: agricultural deer control harvest permit required	
Archery (Antlered and Antlerless)	with required archery license Sept. 20 - Nov. 28, Nov. 16 & Nov. 23 included, and Dec. 26 - Jan. 24, 2026
WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	
Statewide	
Muzzleloader (Antlerless only)	Oct. 18 - Oct. 25
Statewide with required muzzleloading license	
Special Firearms (Antlerless only)	Oct. 23 - Oct. 25
Statewide: participation restricted, check Digest for eligibility	
Regular Firearms (Antlered & Antlerless)	Nov. 29 - Dec. 13, Sun., Nov. 30 included
Flintlock (Antlered & Antlerless) with required muzzleloading license	Dec. 26 - Jan. 19, 2026
Statewide	
WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	
Extended Regular Firearms (Antlerless only)	Dec. 26 - Jan. 24, 2026
WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D & DMAP	
DMAP properties require a valid DMAP permit	
WMUs 4A, 4C, 4D and 5A	
Jan. 2 - Jan. 19, 2026	

ANTLERLESS DEER APPLICATIONS

Round 1 - Personal limit of 1
Mon., June 23; 8 a.m.; Residents Only, one license guaranteed
Mon., July 14; 8 a.m.; All License Buyers

Round 2 - Personal limit up to 2
Mon., July 28; 8 a.m.; All License Buyers

Round 3 - Personal limit up to 3
Mon., Aug. 11; 8 a.m.; All License Buyers
DMAP sales also begin at this time.

Round 4 - Personal limit up to 6; WMUs 5C & 5D limit up to 15
Mon., Aug. 25; 8 a.m.; All License Buyers

BEAR bear license required

Only one bear may be taken during the license year. Bear must be checked within 24 hours of harvest.

Archery	Sept. 20- Nov. 28, <u>Nov. 16</u> & <u>Nov. 23</u> included
WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	
WMU 5B	Oct. 4 - Nov. 21, Sun., <u>Nov. 16</u> included
Statewide	Oct. 18 - Oct. 25
Muzzleloader - Statewide	Oct. 23 - Oct. 25
Special Firearms - Statewide	Oct. 23 - Oct. 25
<i>participation restricted, check Digest for eligibility</i>	
Regular Firearms - Statewide	Nov. 22 - Nov. 25, Sun., <u>Nov. 23</u> included
Extended Firearms	
WMUs 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4E & 5A	Nov. 29 - Dec. 6, Sun., <u>Nov. 30</u> included
WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C and 5D	Nov. 29 - Dec. 13, Sun., <u>Nov. 30</u> included



PENNSYLVANIA HUNTING & TRAPPING 2025-2026

Review the complete Digest: <http://bit.ly/PGCDigest>



REPORT VIOLATIONS

Poachers are thieves, help us catch them!

Calls are answered by a secure recording device.

- 1-888-PGC-8001
- <http://bit.ly/PGCOGT>

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

- ONLINE: www.HuntFish.PA.gov
- PHONE: Toll-free 1-800-838-4431.
- 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.

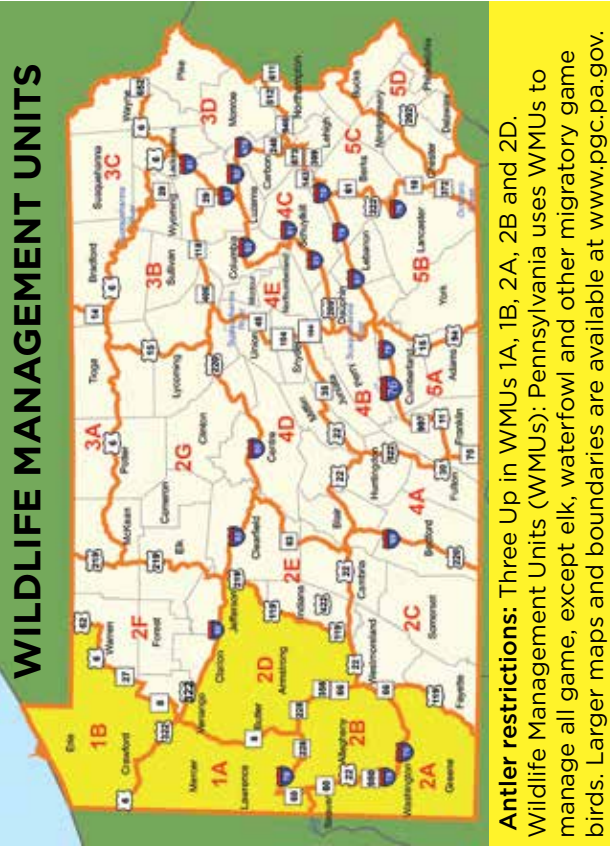
1-833-PGC-HUNT 1-833-PGC-WILD

(1-833-742-4868) (1-833-742-9453)

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.PA.GOV/PGC



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNITS



CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Pennsylvania has **nine active Disease Management Areas** (DMAs) and one CWD Established Area (EA) where Chronic Wasting Disease has been found in deer.

If you plan to hunt in a DMA or EA this season, **regulations are in place** to limit the human-associated spread of CWD. These include bans on feeding deer, the use and possession of cervid urine-based attractants, and export of high-risk parts. Placing on the landscape any high-risk cervid parts from deer killed outside of Pennsylvania or within a DMA or EA is prohibited. Any hunter who harvests a deer out-of-state or within a DMA or EA may take it directly to a cooperating processor or taxidermist anywhere in the state.

Hunters within DMAs are encouraged to get their **harvested deer tested** using head collection containers throughout DMAs and the EA. 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 for CWD for free. **Test results** can be obtained by calling the CWD hotline (1-833-INFOCWD) or by using the Game Commission's CWD Test Results page at <https://pgcdatacollection.pa.gov/CWDResultsLookup>.

Maps showing DMA and EA boundaries and information on the location of cooperating processors and taxidermists, and head collection containers can be found on the Game Commission's website at www.arcg.is/1G4TLr.

Questions, comments, and concerns can be directed to the CWD hotline at **1-833-INFOCWD** (1-833-463-6293) or email infocwd@pa.gov.

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 outside of any Disease Management Area (DMA). See 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 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 a concealed firearm. Archery hunters are permitted to carry a muzzleloading firearm only during overlaps of archery deer or bear season with a muzzleloader deer or bear season.

SUNDAY HUNTING

Sunday hunting is **permitted for foxes, coyotes and crows** during open seasons. Additional Sunday hunting opportunities in 2025 are Nov. 16, Nov. 23 and Nov. 30. On these three Sundays, **hunters on private land** must carry written permission from the landowner. Permission should include the landowner's signature, address and phone number as well as the hunter's name, address and CID license number. **Turkeys and migratory game birds** may not be hunted on any Sunday. Aside from these exceptions, Sunday hunting is **unlawful** in Pennsylvania.

1 Sunday, Nov. 16	2 Sunday, Nov. 23	3 Sunday, Nov. 30
Deer (archery), Bear (archery in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C and 5D only), Squirrel, Pheasant, Rabbit, Grouse, Bobwhite Quail, Woodchuck, Crow, Raccoon, Fox, Coyote, Opossum, Striped Skunk, Weasel and Porcupine	Bear, Deer (archery in WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D only) Squirrel, Pheasant, Rabbit, Grouse, Bobwhite Quail, Woodchuck, Crow, Raccoon, Fox, Coyote, Opossum, Striped Skunk, Weasel and Porcupine	Deer, Bear (only in WMUs with Extended Season), Raccoon, Fox, Coyote, Opossum, Striped Skunk and Weasel
	<i>Coyote hunters during any big-game season must follow big-game orange requirements.</i>	<i>Raccoons, foxes, opossums, striped skunks and weasels may be hunted only after legal hunting hours for deer. Coyote hunters during any big-game season must follow big-game orange requirements. Crows may not be hunted during the Regular Deer Firearms season.</i>

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 Nov. 15 through Dec. 15 inclusive when not engaged in lawful hunting or trapping 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 360 degrees. Persons using shooting ranges are exempted.

FLUORESCENT ORANGE

When fluorescent orange is required, the requirement 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.

** 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 and Elk Firearms Seasons | October Muzzleloader Antlerless Deer and Bear Seasons | Extended Antlerless Firearms 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 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.

Wearing Orange

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

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 - visit a check station within 24 hours

Archery (Antlered and Antlerless)	Sept. 13 - Sept. 27
Regular (Antlered and Antlerless)	Nov. 3 - Nov. 8
Late Firearms (Antlered and Antlerless)	Dec. 27 - Jan. 3, 2026