

WATERFOWL & MIGRATORY BIRDS		
with appropriate license/permits		
Unless otherwise noted, possession limit = 3x daily limit		
*Except for crows, starlings and English sparrows, migratory bird hunting is closed on Sundays.		
	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		
*See Sunday Hunting		
Hunting	Daily/Season Limit	
Coyotes	No closed season.	No limit
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.		
Opossums, Striped Skunks and Weasels	July 1-June 30, 2026	No limit
Cannot be hunted during regular firearms deer season.		
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.		Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Jan. 31, 2026
Trapping		
Minks & Muskrats	Nov. 22 - Jan. 11, 2026	No limit
Coyotes, Foxes, Opossums, Raccoons, Striped Skunks and Weasels	Oct. 25 - Feb. 22, 2026	No limit
Coyotes & Foxes	(Cable Restraints) Dec. 26 - Feb. 22, 2026	No limit
Beavers	Dec. 20 - Mar. 31, 2026	
WMUs 1A and 1B (Combined)		20/60
WMUs 2A, 2B, and 3C (Combined)		20/40
WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 3A, 3B, 3D, 5C, and 5D (Combined)		20/20
WMUs 2G, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A, and 5B (Combined)		5/5
Bobcats	with required permit Dec. 20 - Jan. 11, 2026	1/1
WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E		
Fishers	with required permit Dec. 20 - Jan. 11, 2026	1/1
WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E		
River Otters	with required permit Feb. 14 - Feb. 21, 2026	1/1
WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3B, 3C, 3D and 4E		

TURKEY		
*See Sunday Hunting		
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		
Spring Season - hours vary, check Digest		
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		
*See Sunday Hunting		
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, Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 28, 2026	6
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 18 - Nov. 28 and Dec. 15 - Dec. 24	2
Rabbit - Jr. Hunt (Cottontail)	Oct. 4 - Oct. 18	4
Rabbit (Cottontail)	Oct. 18 - Nov. 28, Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 28, 2026	4
Pheasant - Jr. Hunt#	Oct. 11 - Oct. 18	2
Pheasant#	Oct. 25 - Nov. 28, 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, Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Mar. 31, 2026	No limit
Snowshoe or Varying Hare	Dec. 26 - Jan. 1, 2026	1
Season limit 3		
Woodchuck	July 1 - June 30	
Cannot be hunted during regular firearms deer season.		
No limit		

DEER	
with required licenses/permits	
*See Sunday Hunting	
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	WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D Sept. 20 - Nov. 28 and Dec. 26 - Jan. 24, 2026
Statewide	
Oct. 4 - Nov. 21 and Dec. 26 - Jan. 19, 2026	
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
Flintlock (Antlered & Antlerless) with required muzzleloading license	Statewide Dec. 26 - Jan. 19, 2026
WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	
Dec. 26 - Jan. 24, 2026	
Extended Regular Firearms (Antlerless only)	WMUs 2B, 5C, 5D and DMAP Dec. 26 - Jan. 24, 2026
DMAP properties require a valid DMAP permit	
WMUs 4A, 4C, 4D and 5A	Jan. 2 - Jan. 19, 2026
ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSES	
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	
SUNDAY HUNTING UPDATE	
Sunday hunting opportunities changed on July 28, 2025. Visit pa.gov/sundayhunting to learn more.	
BEAR	
bear license required	
*See Sunday Hunting	
Only one bear may be taken during the license year. Bear must be checked within 24 hours of harvest.	
Archery	WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D Sept. 20- Nov. 28
WMU 5B	
Statewide	
Oct. 4 - Nov. 21	
Muzzleloader - Statewide	Oct. 18 - Oct. 25
Special Firearms - Statewide	Oct. 23 - Oct. 25
participation restricted, check Digest for eligibility	
Regular Firearms - Statewide	Nov. 22 - Nov. 25
Extended Firearms	
WMUs 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4E & 5A	
WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C and 5D	
Nov. 29 - Dec. 6	
Nov. 29 - Dec. 13	



PENNSYLVANIA HUNTING & TRAPPING

2025-2026

UPDATED July 28, 2025 with new opportunities for Sunday hunting.



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

1. ONLINE: www.HuntFish.PA.gov

2. PHONE: Toll-free 1-800-838-4431.

3. 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

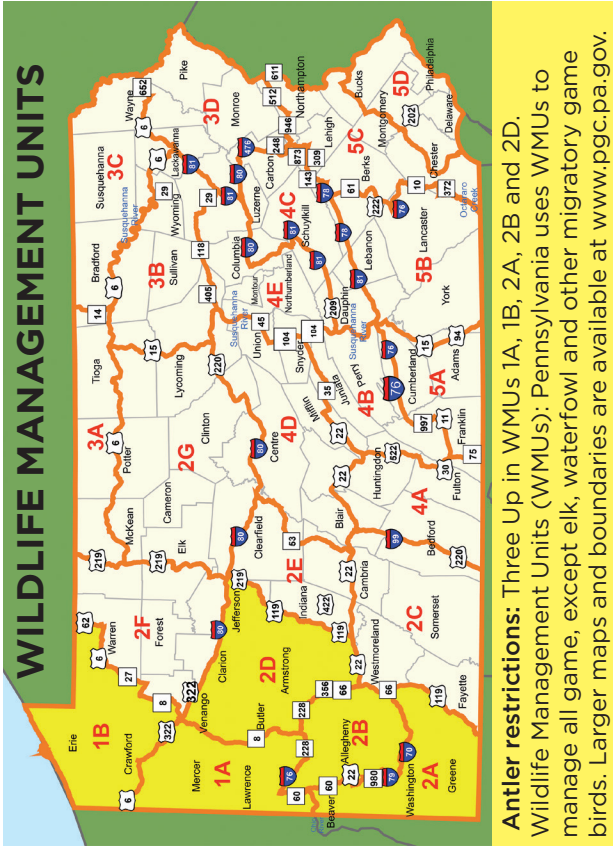
Use directions on the license.

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

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

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.PA.GOV/PGC





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 (Updated July 28, 2025)

A new law taking effect on Sept. 7, 2025 removes the prohibition on Sunday hunting that long existed in Pennsylvania statute. With the change, the Game Commission has taken action to add Sundays to already-established seasons, providing new opportunities soon after the new law takes effect. Ten new Sundays have been added.

For 2025, Sunday hunting days have been added
SEPT. 14 – DEC. 7

Within this span, Sundays that occur within an established season have been included into the season and are open to hunting. Sundays must fall between the established opening and closing days of a season to be open to hunting. If a season has been set to close on a Saturday, the next day is not open to hunting. The firearms deer season, for example, still will end on Saturday, Dec. 13. **Migratory game birds** may not be hunted on any of these Sundays. In addition to these new Sunday hunting dates, the previously approved Sundays for **foxes, coyotes and crows** remain in place for the 2025-26 seasons. On Sundays open to hunting, **hunters on private land are required to obtain written permission** from the landowner. For the 2025-26 season, Sunday hunting within **state parks** will be limited to Nov. 16, 23, and 30. **State forests** will continue to permit hunting on all Sundays approved by the Game Commission.

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 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		*See Sunday Hunting
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	