Wisconsin Deer Hunting

For more detail, refer to the 2017 Deer Hunting Regulations or visit dnr.wi.gov, search keyword “deer regulations.”

Notice: Hunters are no longer required to validate or attach deer tags, but must carry proof in the field. See page 3.

Hunting Season Dates

► Archery & Crossbow: Sept. 16 - Jan. 7, 2018
► Youth firearm: Oct. 7 & 8; see page 10
► Gun hunt for hunters with disabilities: Oct. 7 - 15; see page 10
► November gun deer hunt: Nov. 18 - 26
► Muzzleloader hunt: Nov. 27 - Dec. 6
► Statewide Dec. antlerless-only (for all weapon types): Dec. 7 - 10
► Antlerless-only Holiday Hunt (applies to all weapon types in units where offered): Dec. 24 - Jan. 1, 2018

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1. **Get Licensed**

Choose from three general license types or select a license package that suits your needs.

- **Gun Deer License (legal firearm, bow or crossbow during a firearm season only):** Includes one gun buck tag and Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tag(s).

- **Crossbow License (crossbow only)*:** Includes one bow/crossbow buck tag and Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tag(s).

- **Archer License (bow only)*:** Includes one bow/crossbow buck tag and Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tag(s).

*Hunters who purchase both an archer and a crossbow license will receive only one set of deer tags.

When purchasing a license, proof of hunter education is required for those born after Jan. 1, 1973, unless participating in the hunting mentorship program or unless the hunter has completed military basic training.

**Buy licenses and select tags through Go Wild!**

1. Online at gowild.wi.gov;
2. At a license agent; or
3. At a DNR service center (visit dnr.wi.gov and search “service centers”).
2. Carry proof of your license and tags

You are no longer required to validate or attach a paper carcass tag to the deer, but you must still carry proof of your license and deer tags. Forms of proof of a tag include:

► an original or reprinted paper copy;
► a Go Wild authenticated Wisconsin driver’s license;
► a Go Wild conservation card; or
► a department-issued digital PDF file displayed on an electronic device.

This booklet provides a summary of Wisconsin’s basic deer hunting regulations. Additional rules and regulations can be found in the Deer Hunting Regulations, available online at dnr.wi.gov, search “deer regulations”.

3
KNOW WHERE YOU ARE HUNTING

► Tags may be filled only where valid as indicated on the tag. Know your:

- **Zone:** Forest (Zone 1) or Farmland (Zone 2).
- **Unit (DMU):** counties in most cases. Also, know if you are hunting within the boundaries of a designated metro sub-unit.
- **Land type:** public access or private land.

► **Know your tag number:** You must have your tag number to register your deer. Meat processors and taxidermists may also require a record of the tag number and/or registration confirmation number.

- **Look up your tag number** in the My GameReg section of your Go Wild account at GoWild.WI.gov.

What you need to know about CWD

If you hunt in a CWD-affected area, special baiting and feeding restrictions may apply. Find an up-to-date map of areas where baiting and feeding is prohibited online at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), search “baiting and feeding.” To get your deer tested for CWD, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search “CWD sampling” for a list of sampling stations.
**2017 Deer Season Structure and Management Zones**

*Highly Visible Clothing Requirement*

During any firearm deer season, hats and outer clothing are required to be at least 50% blaze orange or fluorescent pink for all hunters except waterfowl hunters.
3. **Know your deer tags**

Along with a license, an unfilled deer tag is required for harvesting one buck or one antlerless deer (depending on the type of tag). Three main deer tag types are offered; some are included with a license, and others are available for purchase. You may also be eligible for other antlerless tag types listed in the deer hunting regulations.

**Buck deer tag:** included with each deer license. Valid in any Deer Management Zone, Deer Management Unit (DMU), and land type statewide using the weapon specified.

**Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer tag:** included with each deer license. Available and valid only in the zone, unit and land type specified on the tag, but are not weapon-specific.

**Bonus antlerless deer tag:** these are extra tags for purchase and are not included with a deer hunting license. The cost for each tag is $12 for residents, $20 for non-residents and $5 for youth ages 10 and 11. Where available, sold at the rate of one per hunter per day until sold out. Bonus tags are zone, unit and land type-specific, but are not weapon-specific.
Keep in mind that even with electronic forms of proof of deer tags available, hunters will need the unique tag number to begin the harvest registration process.
4. Register that deer—it’s required!

► Register your deer through GameReg by 5 p.m. the day after recovery. All registration is electronic.

- Register online (fastest and easiest method): gamereg.wi.gov (available 24 hours).
- Register by phone: 1-844-426-3734 (1-844-GAMEREG) (available 24 hours). When prompted, enter into your keypad the 3-digit number corresponding to the county of kill. For example, for Adams County, enter A-D-A by pressing “232.” Find a list of county numbers on the last page of the deer hunting regulations.

- Register in person: find a station that offers a phone or computer for registration at dnr.wi.gov, search “registration stations” or by calling 888-936-7463.

► Have your deer tag number handy to enter at the start of the registration process.

► You will receive a 10-character confirmation number for your records once your deer has been successfully registered. For white-tailed deer, all confirmation numbers begin with “W” and are issued in the format W12-345-6789.

► You are no longer required to keep the tag with the meat until all meat has been consumed.

► Learn more about GameReg at dnr.wi.gov, search “GameReg.”