

Dear Sports Enthusiast,

Thank you for being part of the sportsman and outdoor legacy in our great Commonwealth.

Like you, I enjoy the endless opportunities provided by thousands of acres of forest land across our region. It's a great tradition, and I encourage you to help continue it for future generations.

This newsletter includes information about Chronic Wasting Disease, an expansion of the Game Commission's Mentored Hunting Program, last year's bear harvest, hunter-trapper education options, the Hunters Sharing the Harvest Program and more.

I hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact my office or visit my website at **www.RepCauser.com**. It is always wonderful to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Maily Causer

Rep. Marty Causer 67th Legislative District



Touring the Oswayo Fish Hatchery

I was glad to join the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) for a tour and discussion at the Oswayo Fish Hatchery in May. This is an outstanding facility that raises some of the best trout in our state. Special thanks to hatchery manager DJ Beckey for leading the tour, along with PFBC Commissioner Bill Brock and Executive Director Tim Schaeffer. We were also joined by Sen. Cris Dush, Rep. Brian Smith and Potter County Commissioner Bob Rossman.



Increased PILT to Support Local Communities

A new state law will increase the payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) on state lands managed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC).

The PILT provides much-needed compensation to communities that have a high amount of state-owned land that is not subject to property taxes.

Under Act 54 of 2024, each of the three agencies would pay \$9 per acre of land, split evenly among the county, municipality and school district in which the land is located. That's an increase of \$1.80 over the current rate. The increase will be funded through slot machine revenue.

In addition to the immediate increase in the PILT rate, the law will also require the rate to be adjusted for inflation every five years, starting in 2030-31, ensuring our communities are more consistently and fairly compensated for the value of this land.

Though the rates were adjusted last year, prior to that, it had been six years since the DCNR rate was increased and more than 15 years since the PGC and PFBC rates had been increased.

PGC Expands Mentored Hunting Program

Continuing its efforts to get more people involved in hunting in the Commonwealth, the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners recently approved a plan to allow mentors hunting with a mentored youth to accompany up to two additional hunters, be they mentored youth, junior hunters or mentored adults.

Previously, no additional junior or mentored hunters could accompany a mentor hunting with a mentored youth. There was a required one-to-one mentor/mentee ratio. That limit has now changed to three.

The requirement that limits mentors and mentored youth to possessing only one sporting arm between them remains. The

mentor must carry the sporting arm at all times while moving. Junior hunters and mentored adults may possess their own sporting arms while accompanied by a common mentor.

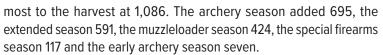
This change will be in place in time for the fall hunting seasons.

Learn more about mentored hunting at **www.pgc.pa.gov**.

2023 Bear Harvest

The Pennsylvania Game Commission announced 2,920 bears were taken during the various seasons in 2023.

Hunters took bears in 58 of the state's 67 counties and 20 of 22 Wildlife Management Units (WMUs). Hunters got bears in all seasons, too. The traditional statewide firearms bear season contributed the



The largest bear harvested was a 691-pounder taken in the extended rifle season in Porter Township, Pike County, by Mitchell Jonathan of Quakertown. But five other hunters got bears exceeding 600 pounds, and all of the top 10 heaviest bears weighed at least 576 pounds.

Totals for bears taken in our area are as follows: Potter, 155; McKean, 90; and Cameron, 85.



Responding to the continued spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in the state's deer population, the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) is expanding three of its disease management areas (DMAs) for the 2024-25 hunting season.

As of early June, 440 deer tested positive for CWD in the 2023-24 sampling year, 291 of them harvested by hunters. Both numbers are up from the year before when 426 deer overall, 243 of them harvested by

hunters, tested positive.

While two of the affected DMAs are down state (DMAs 2 and 8), DMA 3 – which includes portions of Elk County, as well as Armstrong, Cambria, Clarion, Clearfield, Indiana and Jefferson counties – is also being expanded due to detection of CWD in a road-killed fawn in Armstrong County. The commission conducts road-killed deer surveillance year-round, so there is potential for the boundaries to change prior to the hunting seasons. Be sure to check online for the most up-to-date boundaries.

As with previous years, most of the deer that tested positive for CWD in the 2023-24 hunting season came from DMA 2, located in southcentral Pennsylvania, and were concentrated in the Established Area (EA) that covers portions of Bedford, Blair, Franklin, Fulton and Huntingdon counties. This area, where CWD is considered established within the deer population, has produced nearly 90% of Pennsylvania's CWD-positives since the disease first was detected here in 2012.

This is also where a CWD research study is taking place, specifically in Bedford and Fulton counties. This was the second year of the study and in total, crews captured and collared 95 deer. This multi-year project is conducted in cooperation with the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Penn State University and the Wildlife Futures Program at Penn Vet.

A critical part of this research is testing deer that have been ear tagged or collared. If you find or harvest a tagged deer, please call the number on the ear tags so samples can be collected.

CWD is an always-fatal neurological disease affecting cervids, including deer and elk. There is no vaccine and no cure for animals that get it.

Learn more about CWD surveillance efforts by visiting **www.pgc. pa.gov/cwd**.

If you are receiving this Sportsmen Report for the first time – and you want to receive it again – please fill out the coupon below or log into my website and sign up at www.RepCauser.com/huntfish . Your information will not be provided to any third party.		
STREET ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
PHONE:		
EMAIL ADDRESS:		

2024–25 Hunting Season and Bag Limits

WATERFOWL & MIGRATORY BIRDS

Unless otherwise noted, possession limit = 3x daily limit

Daily Limit

Crow - Thrs., Fri., Sat., Sun. only; Aug. 22 - Mar. 23, 2025 No limit

Starling & English Sparrows Closed during regular firearms deer season Sept 2 - Nov 29 and 15

Doves Dec. 21 - Jan. 4, 2025

Woodcock Oct. 19 - Nov. 29 and Dec. 16 - Dec. 24

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.

FURTAKING with appropriate license/permits

Hunting Daily/Season Limit

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. 26 - Feb. 22, 2025 Cannot be hunted during regular firearms deer season.

Oct. 26 - Feb. 22, 2025 Raccoons No limit Cannot be hunted during regular firearms deer season. No Sunday hunting except Nov. 17, Nov. 24 and Dec. 1 at night.

Opossums, Striped Skunks and Weasels July 1-June 30, 2025, except during regular firearms deer season.

No Sunday hunting except Nov. 17, Nov. 24 and Dec. 1 at night. Bobcats No Sunday hunting. Jan. 11 - Feb. 5, 2025 WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

3/10 **Porcupines** Oct. 12 - Nov. 29 Nov. 17 and Nov. 24 included, and May not be hunted at night. Dec. 16 - Dec. 24 and

Dec 26-Feb 1 2025

Trapping

Minks & Muskrats Nov. 23 - Jan. 12, 2025 No limit

Coyotes, Foxes, Opossums, Raccoons, Striped Skunks and

Weasels Oct. 26 - Feb. 23, 2025 No limit Coyotes & Foxes

(Cable Restraints)

Dec. 26 - Feb. 23, 2025 No limit Dec. 21 - Mar. 31, 2025 **Beavers**

WMUs 1A and 1B (Combined) 20/60 20/40 WMUs 2A, 2B, and 3C (Combined) 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. 21 - Jan. 12, 2025

 $WMUs\ 2A,\ 2B,\ 2C,\ 2D,\ 2E,\ 2F,\ 2G,\ 3A,\ 3B,\ 3C,\ 3D,\ 4A,\ 4B,\ 4C,\ 4D$ and 4E

Fishers with required permit Dec. 21 - Jan. 12, 2025 1/1 WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and

River Otters with required permit Feb. 15 - Feb. 22, 2025 WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3B, 3C, 3D and 4E

TURKEY

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

WMU 5A and 5B Nov. 2 - Nov. 5 WMUs 1B, 3D, 4C and 4E Nov 2 - Nov 9

WMUs 1A, 2G, 3A, 4A, 4B and 4D Nov. 2 - Nov. 16

WMUs 2A, 2F, 3B and 3C Nov. 2 - Nov. 16 and Nov. 27 - Nov. 29

WMU 2B, 2C, 2D and 2E Nov. 2 - Nov. 22 and Nov. 27 - Nov. 29

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. 26, 2025 Statewide (hours vary) May 3 - May 31, 2025

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

Squirrel-Jr. Hunt (Combined) Sept. 14 - Sept. 28 6 Squirrel (Combined species) Sept. 14 - Nov. 29. Nov. 17 & Nov. 24 included, and

Dec. 16 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 28, 2025

Ruffed Grouse Oct. 19 - Nov. 29, Nov. 17 & Nov. 24 included, and Dec. 16 - Dec. 24

Rabbit - Jr. Hunt (Cottontail) Oct. 5 - Oct. 19 Rabbit (Cottontail) Oct. 19 - Nov. 29.

Nov. 17 & Nov. 24 included, and Dec. 16 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 28, 2025

Pheasant - Jr. Hunt# Oct. 12 - Oct. 19 2 Oct. 26 - Nov. 29, Pheasant# *with required permit Nov. 17 & Nov. 24 included, and Dec. 16 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 28, 2025

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

No limit Bobwhite Quail Sept. 2 - Nov. 29. Season closed around Nov. 17 & Nov. 24 included, and Letterkenny Focus Area Dec. 16 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Mar. 31, 2025

Dec. 26 - Jan. 1, 2025

Snowshoe or Varying Hare

Woodchuck

1/1

July 1-June 30, except during regular firearms deer seasons. No hunting on Sundays, except Nov. 17 and Nov. 24. No limit licenses/permits

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

Archery (Antlered and Antlerless) with required archery license

WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D Sept. 21 - Nov. 29, Nov. 17 & Nov. 24 included, and

Dec. 26 - Jan. 25, 2025 Statewide Oct. 5 - Nov. 22.

Sun., Nov. 17 included, and Dec. 26 - Jan. 20, 2025

Muzzleloader (Antlerless only) Statewide with required muzzleloading license

Special Firearms (Antlerless only) Oct. 24 - Oct. 26 Statewide: participation restricted, check Digest for eligibility

Regular Firearms (Antlered & Antlerless)

Nov. 30 - Dec. 14, Sun., Dec. 1 included

Flintlock (Antlered & Antlerless) with required muzzleloading license

Statewide Dec. 26 - Jan. 20, 2025 WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D Dec. 26 - Jan. 25, 2025

Extended Regular Firearms (Antlerless only)

WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D Dec. 26 - Jan. 25, 2025 WMUs 4A, 4D and 5A Jan. 2 - Jan. 20, 2025

ANTLERLESS DEER APPLICATIONS

Round 1 - Personal limit of 1

Mon., June 24; 8 a.m.; WMUs 1B, 2G & 3A; Residents Only Thrs., June 27; 8 a.m.; All WMUs; Residents Only Mon., July 8; 8 a.m.; All WMUs; All License Buyers

Round 2 - Personal limit up to 2

Mon., July 22; 8 a.m.; All License Buyers

Round 3 - Personal limit up to 3

Mon., Aug. 12; 8 a.m.; All License Buyers DMAP sales also begin at this time.

Round 4 - Personal limit up to 6

Mon., Aug. 26; 8 a.m.; All License Buyers

bear license BEAR required

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

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WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D Sept 21 - Nov 29 Nov. 17 & Nov. 24 included

Oct. 5 - Nov. 22.

WMU 5B Sun., Nov. 17 included

Statewide Oct. 19 - Nov. 9

Oct. 24 - Oct. 26 Muzzleloader - Statewide

Special Firearms - Statewide Oct. 24 - Oct. 26 participation restricted, check Digest for eligibility

Regular Firearms - Statewide Nov. 23 - Nov. 26.

Sun., Nov. 24 included

Extended Firearms

WMUs 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4E & 5A Nov. 30 - Dec. 7,

Sun., Dec. 1 included WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C and 5D Nov. 30 - Dec. 14.

Sun., Dec. 1 included

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Attention **First-Time Hunters!**

Hunter-Trapper Education courses are required for all first-time hunters and trappers before they can buy a license in the Commonwealth. The Pennsylvania Game Commission offers both in-person and online

The course covers responsible hunting basic shooting, wildlife conservation and management, outdoor safety and survival, hunting techniques, trapping and furtaking basics, and hunting safety.

The following options are available:

- PGC's Basic Hunter-Trapper Education In-Person Course is offered free of charge to anyone age 11 and older. Classes are held in various locations across the Commonwealth. A schedule is available at www.pgc.pa.gov.
- This interactive online version of PGC's Basic Hunter-Trapper Education Course is offered to Pennsylvania residents age 11 and older. The fee for this course is \$49.95.
- PGC's official online course is offered to Pennsylvania residents age 16 or older. The fee for this course is \$34.95.
- The National Rifle Association offers a free online hunter education course to Pennsylvania residents age 11 and older.

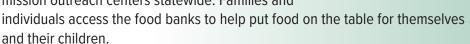


Visit **www.pgc.pa.gov** for more information.

Hunters Sharing the Harvest

Did you know Pennsylvania has a venison donation program to help families in need?

Each season, Hunters Sharing the Harvest (HSH) aims to donate over 100,000 pounds of venison to more than 5,000 food banks, soup kitchens and mission outreach centers statewide. Families and



Since 1991, HSH has coordinated the processing and distribution of approximately 2.5 million pounds of donated deer meat and wild game from hunters and municipal herd reduction sources to hungry people throughout Pennsylvania.

An average-sized deer, for example, will provide enough high-protein, low-fat meat for 200 servings. Thanks to program sponsors, hunters can donate venison at no charge.

To learn more about the program, and find participating processors, visit www.sharedeer.org or call 866-474-2141.



Among the many resources available at my offices in Bradford, Coudersport and Kane are several publications of interest to the region's sportsmen and women. Stop by during office hours for the following publications:

- Fish and Boat Code (Title 30)
- PA Fishing Summary
- Game and Wildlife Code (Title 34)
- PA Hunting and Trapping Digest
- PA Laws Relating to Firearms
- Personal Firearms Inventory

- A Guide to Purchasing Firearms
- PA Firearms Laws and Commonly Asked Questions
- PA Hunting and Trapping Pocket Guides
- Targets





Sportsmen's Report