

2011 Deer Hunting Regulations

Seasons

Archery	Sept. 15 - Dec. 31
Mule Deer Conservation Area	Sept. 15 - Dec. 31
October Antlerless	Oct. 1-10
November Firearm	Nov. 12 - 20
* Earn-a-Buck Firearm	Nov. 12 - 22
Muzzleloader	Dec. 1 - 31
Season Choice	Sept. 15 - Jan. 18, 2012 with bow Dec. 1 - 31 with muzzleloader Nov. 12 - 20, Dec. 26 - Jan. 18, 2012 with firearm Nov. 12 - 22 with firearm in Earn-a-Buck units
Youth and landowner	Sept. 15 - Dec. 31 with bow Dec. 1 - 31 with muzzleloader Nov. 12 - 20 with firearm Nov. 12 - 22 with firearm in Earn-a-Buck units Dec. 26 - Jan. 18, 2012 with bow or firearm

* Elkhorn, Wahoo, Missouri, Blue Northwest and Blue Southeast units only

Legal Weapons -- Firearm Permits:

- Rifles* .22-caliber or larger that deliver at least 900 foot-pounds of energy at 100 yards
- Handguns* or muzzleloading handguns that deliver at least 400 foot-pounds of energy at 50 yards
- Muzzleloading rifles .44-caliber or larger
- Muzzleloading muskets .62-caliber or larger, firing a single slug
- Shotguns* of 20 gauge or larger that fire a single slug
- The following archery equipment** is legal: shoulder-fired, nonelectronic crossbows with a draw weight of at least 125 pounds, longbows, recurve bows, and compound bows (no minimum weights).

* Semi-automatic firearms capable of holding more than six cartridges are not allowed.

** Arrows must have a sharpened hunting head with a blade of at least 7/16-inch cutting radius from the center of the arrow shaft. Arrows containing poison or stupefying chemical or having an explosive tip are illegal.

Muzzleloader Permits:

Muzzleloading rifles, muskets and muzzleloading handguns as defined for firearm permits.

Archery Permits:

Archery equipment as defined for firearm permits.

Crossbow Now Legal Archery Equipment -- Starting in 2011, crossbows are legal archery equipment for hunting big game and turkey. A disability permit is not required.

Sights -- It is unlawful to use any electrical device to amplify natural light or to project a light beam or image to a target, including night-vision or infrared scopes and laser sights. Red-dot and illuminated reticle sights and scopes are permitted. Magnifying and variable-power scopes are allowed.

Bag Limit -- As stated on the permit.

Shooting Hours -- It is legal to shoot 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

Permit -- A permit or tag is valid only in the area for which it is issued and must be signed by the permittee. It is unlawful to borrow a permit or tag or to transfer or loan a permit or tag to another person. It is unlawful to apply for, obtain, or possess more than two permits that allow taking of antlered deer in any calendar year (not including depredation or lottery permits).

Youth Permit Requirements -- Youths age 16 may hunt with youth deer permits provided they are age 15 when they apply and are not more than 15 on Sept. 15, 2011.

Habitat Stamp -- Residents age 16 and older and all nonresidents must carry proof of a valid Nebraska habitat stamp while hunting big game. Only one habitat stamp is necessary for all hunting in any calendar year. Individuals with valid, fee-exempt permits are not required to purchase a habitat stamp to hunt big game. A 2011 stamp is valid for deer hunting in January 2012.

Firearm Season Open to Archers -- Starting in 2011, the archery deer season is open during the November firearm season and archery equipment is allowed on all firearm deer permits, except muzzleloader.

NEW

Unlawful Hunting Methods -- It is unlawful to:

- chase, run, or harass any deer with any motor vehicle or to shoot, shoot at, or take any deer from a motor vehicle while the vehicle is underway or moving.
- shoot from the right-of-way of a public road.
- carry a firearm on a snowmobile, except when it is unloaded and in a case.
- hunt from or with a snowmobile.
- use a spotlight or other artificial light from a vehicle or vessel while having in possession or control any firearm, crossbow or bow and arrow.
- use two-way radios or any other electronic devices to transmit information about the location of any game animal or game bird to or from a conveyance of any type (vehicles, aircraft, boats, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, etc.).

NEW

Minimum Age -- 10 years of age for deer hunting.

Get Permission -- Permission is required to hunt on private land. It is unlawful to hunt with a rifle within 200 yards of an occupied dwelling or feedlot without specific permission for that purpose or within 100 yards using other methods.

Checking -- Deer taken during the November firearm season and the Earn-a-Buck season must be delivered to the check station by the permit holder and checked by 1 p.m. on the day following the close of the season. All other deer must be checked via Telecheck within 48 hours of time the deer was taken. The carcass may be separated into halves or quarters, provided that evidence of sex is retained on each hind quarter or half. Head and hide must accompany the carcass to the check station. The permit and check station seal number must be retained while transporting deer to a point of permanent storage or processing.

Telecheck -- Electronic checking allows hunters to check deer by telephone or Internet 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All deer harvested outside the November firearm seasons must be checked via Telecheck. To use Telecheck, call (800) 405-7700 or visit NEdeercheck.com.

Baiting -- It is unlawful to take deer within 200 yards of a site upon which feed, feed or mineral supplement, or bait has been placed within the previous 60 days. This does not include placement of food or food/mineral supplement in the active operation of husbandry for domesticated livestock other than domesticated cervidae (family in which deer belong). It does not prevent the take of animals on or near planted food plots. It does not allow adjacent landowners to bait an area and prevent the take of animals on property owned by others.

Tagging -- Immediately after a deer is taken, the hunter must punch or notch his or her permit or bonus tag, showing date taken and sex of the animal. Punching or notching automatically cancels the permit or tag. The permit or tag must be canceled before a deer may be transported or possessed. The canceled permit or tag must be kept with the hunter and/or the deer at all times. When the animal is not with the hunter, the permit or tag must remain with the deer.

Possession -- There is no restriction on the length of time game birds or game animals may be possessed. However, it is unlawful to possess more than a possession limit of game birds or game animals.

Hunter Education -- Hunter education is required for hunters ages 12 through 29 hunting deer with a firearm or crossbow. Bow hunter education is required for those ages while hunting deer with a bow and arrow. These

hunters must carry proof of firearm hunter education certification if hunting with a firearm or crossbow or proof of bow hunter education if hunting with bow and arrow.

Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate -- Persons age 12-29 who have not completed a firearm hunter and/or bow hunter education course may obtain an Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate from Game and Parks. The certificate may be obtained once in a person's lifetime, expires on Dec. 31 and may be renewed once. The fee is \$5.

Accompaniment -- All deer hunters age 10-15 and all hunters using the Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate must be accompanied by a licensed hunter age 19 or older when hunting. The accompanying person, if age 19-29, must be certified in firearm hunter education if hunting with a firearm or crossbow, or bow hunter education if hunting with bow and arrow. He or she must be at all times in unaided visual and verbal communication with the hunter. There may be no more than two hunters using the certificate accompanied by the experienced hunter at any time..

Hunter Orange -- Any persons hunting deer under the authority of a firearm permit during an authorized firearm season must display on his or her head, chest and back at least 400 square inches of hunter orange material. Archery deer hunters must do the same while archery hunting during the November firearm deer season and during the Dec. 26-Jan. 18 antlerless deer season.

Sale of Parts -- It is lawful to sell the hide, hair, hooves, bones, and antlers of any deer which is taken legally. The sale or purchase of deer meat is unlawful.

Hunting of Other Wildlife -- During the November firearm deer season, only hunters with a valid unfilled deer permit may hunt wildlife other than deer with centerfire rifles or centerfire handguns, provided they are hunting in the deer management unit for which their deer permit is valid. Fall turkey permit holders – wearing hunter orange required only for hunting during the November firearm deer season – may hunt turkeys, with legal shotguns or archery weapons, during the November firearm deer season.

Closures on Federal Lands -- McKelvie National Forest, Bessey National Forest and Valentine National Wildlife Refuge are closed to the use of antlerless deer permits and bonus antlerless tags on Season Choice, November Firearm and October Antlerless permits.

Federal and State Land Closures -- Public lands in the Pine Ridge Unit are closed to antlerless mule deer harvest.