DEER HUNTING

2020-21 DEER HUNTING ZONES and SEASONS

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DEER BAG LIMITS

Only one antlered deer may be harvested statewide, regardless of zone or method.

**ZONE 1**

A hunter may harvest an unlimited number of antlerless deer in Zone 1 using the statewide deer permit and additional deer permits.

**ZONE 2**

A hunter may harvest no more than four deer in Zone 2.

**ZONE 3**

A hunter may harvest no more than four deer in Zone 3. A firearm or air gun cannot be used to take more than one antlerless deer.

**ZONE 4**

A hunter may harvest no more than two deer in Zone 4. Only one can be antlerless. Antlerless deer cannot be harvested during the modern gun season, the early muzzleloader season or the first six days of the late muzzleloader season. The statewide bag limit of one antlered deer still applies.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The statewide deer permit and youth deer permit allow for the harvest of up to four deer. Hunters may take up to one antlered deer and three antlerless deer, or four antlerless deer using the statewide deer permit.
- The statewide season limit for antlered deer is one per hunter.
- A hunter may take as many deer as allowed for each zone. In order to take more than four deer statewide, an additional deer permit must be purchased.
- An additional deer permit allows a hunter to take up to two additional deer beyond the four deer allowed by the statewide or youth deer permits. Zone bag limits apply. Hunters who did not harvest an antlered deer using their statewide or youth deer permits can take one antlered deer and up to one antlerless deer, or up to two antlerless deer with the additional deer permit.
HUNTING EQUIPMENT

RESTRICTIONS

MODERN GUN SEASON

During modern gun deer season, hunters may hunt with any centerfire rifle or pistol, including air guns of .35 caliber or larger charged by an external tank, muzzleloaders, and archery and crossbow equipment, and must follow season restrictions, zone guidelines and other hunting requirements.

All hunters, including archery and crossbow hunters, and persons accompanying hunters, must wear hunter orange clothing during modern gun season.

Persons ages 15 and younger hunting deer with a firearm must be accompanied by an adult who shall be in a position to take immediate control of the youth's firearm at all times.

ARCHERY SEASON

Hunters using archery equipment during a deer, elk or bear firearms season must follow all firearms deer season restrictions, zone guidelines and other hunting requirements, and must wear hunter orange clothing. The only exception is on state-owned or managed WMAs where firearms hunting for deer or elk is prohibited.

CROSSBOW SEASON

Hunters using crossbows during a deer, elk or bear firearms season must
follow all firearms deer season restrictions, zone guidelines and other hunting requirements, and must wear hunter orange clothing. The only exception is on state-owned or managed WMAs where firearms hunting for deer or elk is prohibited. A legal resident hunter age 65 years or older and a youth hunter age 15 or younger may hunt deer with a crossbow from the first Saturday in September through the third Monday in January.

MUZZLELOADER SEASON
Muzzleloaders, archery and crossbow equipment may be used during this season. All hunters must comply with the hunter orange clothing law. Youths 15 and younger hunting deer with a muzzleloader must be accompanied by an adult who shall remain able and in a position to take immediate control of the youth’s muzzleloader at all times.

TREE STANDS
Construction and use of tree stands on private lands is regulated by landowners.

![Hunter orange required!]
Hunters and people accompanying them must wear solid, unbroken hunter orange color visible from all sides on the head, back and chest when hunting for any species during modern gun, muzzleloader and youth gun deer seasons, or a firearm elk or firearm bear season. However, hunter orange is not required when hunting waterfowl or doves during a gun deer, elk or bear season, or when hunting furbearers at night during a legal furbearer season.

**Q:** Can a hunter take a deer for someone else?

**A:** No. Hunters must claim any deer they take as their own. They must use their own license/permit and harvest log, and telecheck the deer using their own Social Security number.

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### LEGAL DEER HUNTING EQUIPMENT

**MODERN GUN EQUIPMENT**
- Any caliber centerfire rifle or centerfire handgun.
- Rifle, handgun or shotgun magazines may not be capable of holding more than 10 rounds.
- Rifles or handguns may not be fully automatic (capable of firing more than one round with one trigger pull).
- Full metal jacketed or tracer bullet ammunition is prohibited.
- Shotguns, no larger than 10-gauge, shooting slug ammunition only (includes saboteted bullets).
- Muzzle-loading rifles, handguns, or shotguns shooting round balls, conical bullets, or saboteted bullets.
- Air guns of .35 caliber or larger charged by an external tank, shooting single projectile ammunition designed to expand upon impact.

**ARCHERY EQUIPMENT**
- Longbows, recurves and compound bows of any draw weight (no minimum).
- Wood, carbon or metal arrows, but arrows may not be chemically treated.

**CROSSBOW EQUIPMENT**
- Crossbows of any draw weight (no minimum), with a working safety.
- Wood, carbon or metal arrows (bolts), but arrows (bolts) may not be chemically treated.
- Fixed blade or mechanical broadheads at least 7/8” (when blades extended), but broadheads may not be chemically treated.

**MUZZLELOADING EQUIPMENT**
- Muzzle-loading rifles or handguns of any caliber, shooting round balls, conical bullets or saboteted bullets.
- Muzzle-loading firearms equipped with open sights or telescopic sights (scopes).
- Muzzle-loading shotguns no larger than 10-gauge, shooting round balls, conical bullets or saboteted bullets.

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### YOUTH DEER HUNTING

**YOUTH DEER HUNTING**
Youths may hunt deer during any open season, including two special deer seasons for resident and nonresident hunters who have not reached their 16th birthday.

Adults accompanying youth deer hunters during either of these hunts may not use firearms to take deer.

Adults accompanying youth hunters are not required to possess a hunting license or deer permit if the adult is not deer hunting, but by law, the hunter and the accompanying adults must wear hunter orange clothing.

**YOUTH-ONLY GUN SEASON/ FREE YOUTH DEER HUNTING WEEKEND**
The first special youth deer season is on the second weekend of October.

Youth hunters may take deer with firearms, or any other legal method, statewide. During the October youth-only firearms season, the appropriate hunting license and deer permits are required for hunters ages 12-15. Youth hunters younger than age 12 are not required to have a hunting license or deer permit. On the first weekend following Christmas, resident and nonresident youth 15 years of age and younger, who are accompanied by an adult, are eligible to participate in the free youth weekend. Youth hunters may hunt deer with firearms, or any other legal method, statewide without a hunting license or deer permit. All bag limits, zone restrictions and deer hunting requirements apply during the special youth deer seasons.
To be eligible for next year's trophy list a hunter must take a white-tailed deer in Kentucky this season that officially net scores 160 or higher typical, or net scores 185 or higher non-typical, as determined by the Boone and Crockett scoring system. No later than May 1, send the completed and signed score sheet with a photo to Kentucky Hunting & Trapping Guide, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601. Include the county in which the deer was taken, and the equipment used to harvest the deer. Please send a copy as score sheets and photos will not be returned. Emailed submissions to info.center@ky.gov also will be accepted. To get a list of official Boone and Crockett Club scorers in Kentucky visit: www.boone-crockett.org.

This list includes deer scored and reported to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. It is possible that unreported bucks taken last year in Kentucky may have scored 160 typical or 185 non-typical or higher.

**How to Get on Next Year's Trophy List**

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