

# **2015**

# **Deer Season Information**

July 21, 2015



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### **New for 2015**

- A deer license purchased after the opening day of the season is valid the first day after it is issued. A deer license purchased before legal shooting hours begin is valid when the season opens.
- Residents of veterans' homes may take deer of either sex regardless of permit area designation during the firearms and muzzleloader seasons.
- Residents who are 84 or older may take deer of either sex regardless of permit area designation during any season.
- Hunters age 60 and over may use a magnifying scope during the muzzleloader season.
- Deer areas 234, 237, and 286 have been designated Youth-only Antlerless. Except residents of veterans' homes and hunters age 84 and up, no antlerless deer may be taken in these areas by adult hunters (including bowhunters and individuals with disabled permits).
- An early antlerless season will be held throughout deer permit areas 346 and 349 (i.e. not a sub-permit area hunt).

## 2015 Deer Season Dates

SEASON	DATE
<b>Archery</b>	Sept. 19- Dec. 31
<b>Firearm - Statewide "A" Season license</b> 100 Series deer areas 200 Series deer areas 300 Series deer areas  <b>Firearm - "B" Season license</b> Late-season Southeast only   Metro Deer Management Area (Deer Area 601)  SE and NW Youth Season  Early Antlerless Season	Nov. 7 – 22 Nov. 7 - 15 Nov. 7 - 15   Nov. 21 – 29   Nov. 7 – 29  Oct. 15 - 18  Oct. 15 - 18
<b>Muzzleloader</b>	Nov. 28 - Dec. 13

## **Chronic Wasting Disease**

As of publication, no surveillance sampling of hunter-harvested deer for CWD is planned for 2015. Hunters should check for disease monitoring updates on the DNR website (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting/deer/cwd/index.html>) prior to the deer season for any updates.

### ***Human Health***

The National Center for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) have found no scientific evidence that the disease presents a health risk to humans. The disease is found in 19 other states and two Canadian provinces, including Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota.

### ***Importing Cervid Carcasses from Other States***

To help prevent the spread of CWD, hunters cannot bring whole cervid (deer, elk, moose, caribou) carcasses into Minnesota from areas of other states or provinces where CWD has been found in wild deer or elk. The Minnesota Board of Animal Health regulates the areas that are restricted. Their website is updated as often as new positive animals are discovered. Most recently, counties in Wisconsin, Missouri, and Iowa have been added. The most current list can be found here, <http://mn.gov/bah/board/rules/import-regulations.html>. Click on the 'cervidae' link. From these areas, hunters may bring only the following parts into Minnesota:

- Meat that is boned out or that is cut and wrapped (either commercially or privately)
- Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached
- Hides and teeth
- Antlers or clean (no brain tissue attached) skull plates with antlers attached
- Finished taxidermy mounts
- Nonresidents transporting whole carcasses on a direct route through Minnesota are exempt from this regulation.

### Tagging Deer on Archery, Firearm, and Muzzleloader Licenses

- In managed and intensive areas, hunters can tag deer on any combination of deer licenses so long as they adhere to the statewide bag limits.
- You cannot do this in bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice deer areas where the limit is one deer total per year.
- Even though people can hunt deer throughout the state during multiple seasons, hunters are limited to one buck per calendar year.
- The one-buck provision applies statewide.

### Firearm Deer License Types

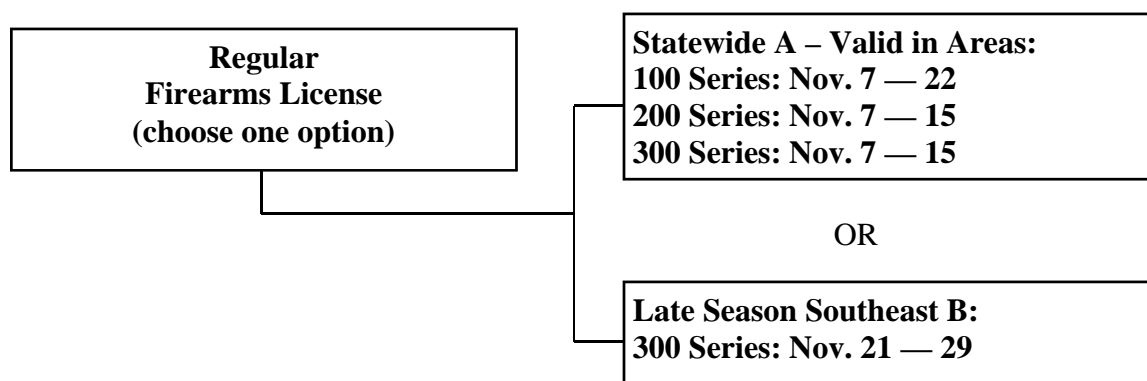
Two license types are available in the traditional firearm zones (1A, 2A, 3A, 3B):

*Statewide Season Option A and Late-Season Option B.*

- Statewide “A”: Valid in any open area during the Statewide A Season, which begins November 7<sup>th</sup>, or
- Late Southeast Season “B”: Valid only during the traditional 3B season in southeastern Minnesota, which begins November 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Statewide A license is valid in any season that opens on November 7th. So, a person can hunt deer throughout the state and is not limited to ‘zone’ boundaries. In fact, the easiest thing to do is not think about areas in terms of zone; rather, think about them in terms of a 100, 200, or 300 series deer area. Hunters are free to move from area to area but are reminded to know the season length and bag limit in the area they are hunting. The late-season southeast B license is the traditional zone 3B season that has existed since the 1970’s.

### Firearm Deer License Options (A or B)



## Landowner Deer License

The 3 landowner licenses (archery, firearm, muzzleloader) have been consolidated into just 1. If you obtain a landowner license, it can be used in any open season on your property to take one antlerless deer only; however, you still have to abide by the season regulations. For example, you can't shoot the deer with a rifle during the archery season.

Holders of landowner license can purchase bonus permits for antlerless deer without buying a regular deer license

## Mandatory Deer Registration

Deer must be registered within 48 hours after the deer was taken **and before the deer is processed either privately or personally.**

1. **Walk-in big game registration stations.** This process is unchanged from previous years. Registration stations display large, orange "Big Game Registration" signs. The person whose tag is on the deer must personally present the deer at an official registration station and receive a big game possession tag. The tag must be attached to the hind leg, ear, or antler where the site tag was attached. You can find a complete list of all stations at any DNR wildlife office or on the DNR website.
2. **Telephone.** This is typically called Interactive Voice Response (IVR). The system will accept either key punch or voice (e.g., press or say 1). You are asked to record a confirmation number so you must have a pen to complete the registration process. To register your deer using the IVR system, following the steps below. These steps are also printed on your deer license.
  - a. Dial 1-888-706-6367 to get into the system
  - b. Enter the **Harvest Registration Number** that appears on the license. It's a 9-digit number that links back to the person and license type. This is the large and bold number printed on your deer license and is NOT your MDNR number.
  - c. Enter the 3-digit area where the deer was killed. The system will only accept valid deer permit areas. If you harvested the deer while participating in a special hunt, please use the special hunt area number identified in the regulations handbook.
  - d. Enter the date the deer was killed.
  - e. Enter the type of deer – adult male, adult female, fawn male, fawn female.
  - f. The system will then give you a confirmation number that must be written on the license in the appropriate area.
3. **Internet.** Go to [www.mndnr.gov](http://www.mndnr.gov) to register your deer. The questions will be identical to phone registration. You will be given a confirmation number, which must be recorded on the license in the appropriate area.

### *Specific information for telephone and internet deer registration*

- The site tagging regulations have not changed. Refer to the regulations book for site tagging information.
- When the system asks for deer type, please use the following information:

- Adult male – male deer with antlers at least 3” long.
- Fawn male – this is a 6 month old male deer, more commonly known as a “button buck” and weigh less than 75 pounds dressed.
- Adult female – this is an adult doe at least 18 months old. Typically, they have a longer nose and larger body (over 75 pounds dressed weight) than younger antlerless deer.
- Fawn female - this is a 6 month old female deer. They typically have a short nose and weigh less than 75 pounds dressed.
- A harvest registration number can only be used once. The system will not accept multiple registrations using the same number.
- Since the system will recognize the license type, it will only ask questions valid to that license. Here are a few examples:
  - Regular Firearms License – Will ask all 4 deer types but will not ask season because it’s only valid during the firearm season.
  - Bonus Permits – Will only ask 3 deer types (adult female, fawn male, fawn female) but will also ask season (archery, firearm, muzzleloader).

#### **Firearm and muzzleloader lottery/special hunt permits**

- Hunters can apply using both their firearm and muzzleloader licenses.
- You can apply for 1 firearm and 1 muzzleloader lottery/special hunt area.
- You cannot apply for 2 firearm and/or 2 muzzleloader lottery/special hunt areas.
- The deadline for both applications is Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015. **Any hunter who purchases a license prior to the deadline and declares a lottery deer area will be automatically entered into the lottery. Hunters who do not want to harvest an antlerless deer should purchase a license after the deadline.**
- If you are successful in a lottery deer area using both licenses, you can still only take 1 deer. The bag limits are not changing.
- Your permit will be valid for either the firearm or muzzleloader season; however, you must have the appropriate license for that season.
- In the case of special hunts (e.g., State Parks), you may draw both a firearm and muzzleloader permit, in which case you must adhere to the bag limits established by that special hunt and the weapon type indicated for that special hunt.

#### ***Additional information about firearm and muzzleloader either-sex permits***

While the new ELS terminals allow for multiple applications, there is no way to drop someone from the lottery after they’ve drawn one permit. Consequently, there will be cases where an individual has an either-sex permit for both firearm and muzzleloader seasons. Since you can’t kill 2 deer in a lottery area, you may not be able to use the permit (generally muzzleloader). Unfortunately, this is the trade-off to allowing multiple applications, which is something hunters repeatedly requested.

Individuals who are successful in both lotteries need to clearly understand that if the permit is filled during the firearm season, your muzzleloader either-sex permit is no longer valid. The statewide bag limits still apply, regardless of the permit in your pocket. You can still hunt statewide during the muzzleloader season in any managed or intensive area, but as in previous years, you are done in all lottery, hunters choice, youth-only antlerless and bucks only areas (this has not changed).



A hunter with an either-sex permit may use the permit during either the regular firearms or muzzleloader season as long as the appropriate parent license (firearms or muzzleloader) for that season is in possession

### ***Preference and Permit Distribution***

Since you can apply using both licenses, you'll accrue preference for both license types. Consider the following scenario, you've been applying for 3 years in a lottery area with only a few permits so you have a preference '3' on your 212-firearms license. You decide to apply for a fourth year and now have a good chance of drawing the permit. This year, you also decide to apply in the same area using your 203-muzzleloader license. Since you've never done that before, you have a preference '0' and are at the bottom of the list. Now consider a hunting partner who's been putting in using his muzzleloader license for the last 2 years and has a preference '2' on his license. He'll likely draw the muzzleloader permit and you won't; however, you may draw the firearm license.

Basically, the system is set up to benefit applicants who've been historically selecting a hunt.

### **Gun Transportation Law**

A person may not transport a firearm, including a handgun, in or on a motor vehicle unless the firearm is:

- Unloaded and cased;
- Unloaded and in the closed trunk of a motor vehicle; or
- Carried under a valid permit to carry a pistol or handgun.

Under the following circumstances, a person may transport unloaded, uncased firearms (excluding pistols) in a motor vehicle, including ATVs:

- While at a shooting range with permission
- While lawfully hunting on private or public land or while travelling to or from a site the person intends to hunt or has lawfully hunted that day.

Firearms must be transported unloaded and cased:

- Within Anoka, Hennepin, or Ramsey counties.
- Within the boundaries of a home rule, charter, or statutory city with a population of 2,500 or more.
- On school grounds or in areas otherwise restricted under other laws.

\*Unloaded means both the chamber and the magazine are empty.

## **Deer Baiting**

Hunting deer with bait is illegal so hunters are not allowed to take deer with the aid or use of bait.

“Taking” includes attempting to take.

### **Definitions**

- Bait – includes grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, hay, or other food that is capable of attracting or enticing deer and has been placed by a person.
- Baiting – means placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering bait that is capable of attracting or enticing deer. **Important** – Liquid scents (example – doe in heat), sprays, salt and minerals are not bait if they do not contain liquid or solid food products.
- Hunters are strongly encouraged to read the ingredient label on all products prior to use. Many products contain food or attractants such as grains, fruits, and sugar derivatives (glucose, dextrose, and fructose). If a salt or mineral product has anything other than salt or mineral in it, it is illegal to use for hunting.

### **General Information**

A person otherwise in compliance with this section who is hunting on private or public property that is adjacent to the property where bait or food is present is not in violation if the person has not participated in, been involved with, or agreed to baiting or feeding wildlife on the adjacent property.

- Removal of bait – All bait must be completely removed for ten days prior to hunting.
- Agricultural crops from normal or accepted farming, forest management, wildlife food plantings, orchard management, or other similar land management activities are not bait. **Important** – This exclusion does not apply to agricultural crops that have been reintroduced and concentrated where a person is hunting.
  - Example – A person has an abundance of an agricultural crop and intends to use it as “green manure” or fertilizer. A person may reintroduce the agricultural crop to the field by spreading it out over a previously planted field. If the landowner piles or concentrates the agricultural crop where they hunt deer, it would be considered bait.
- Penalties for baiting violations – Revocation
  - A person may not obtain any deer license or take deer under a lifetime license for one year after the person is convicted of hunting deer with the aid or use of bait. A second conviction within three years would result in a 3 year revocation.
  - The revocation period doubles if the conviction is for a deer that is a trophy deer scoring higher than 170 inches.

### **Baiting versus Food Plots**

- Baiting significantly increases the risk of disease transmission, by concentrating animals and promoting nose-to-nose contact.
- Baiting attracts and holds large numbers of deer on private parcels creating a privatization of the deer herd.
- Food plots are dispersed over a much larger area than bait piles and allow animals to use them at more natural intervals. Food plots become part of an animal’s natural habitat. Bait piles can be replenished over and over in the same location and alter a deer’s natural movement. By placing bait, one hunter can effectively nullify another hunter’s attempt to harvest a deer.
- Food plots can be sustainable throughout the season – they don’t disappear after a person has harvested a deer and they provide food and shelter for a variety of other wildlife.

## Shining

### *With a firearm or bow:*

A person may not cast the rays of a spotlight, headlight or other artificial light onto a highway or into a field, woodland, or forest to spot, locate or take a wild animal while possessing either individually or as one of a group, a firearm, bow or other implement that could be used to take big game, small game or unprotected species.

### *Shining lights generally*

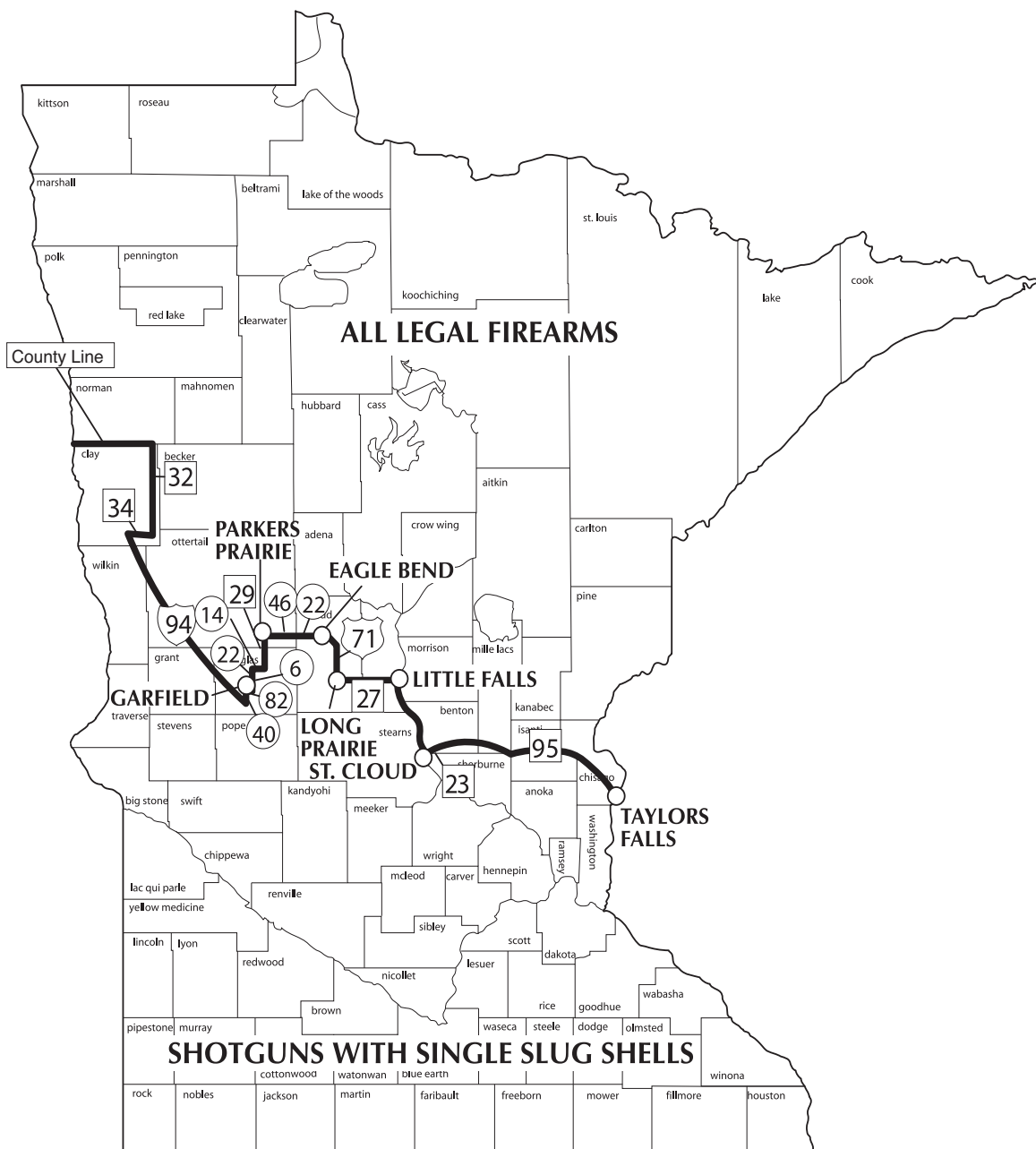
- Without implements to take wild animals, from two hours after sunset until sunrise, no person may cast the rays of a spotlight, headlight or other artificial light on a highway or into a field, woodland or forest to spot or locate a wild animal.
- A person may not cast rays of a spotlight, headlight or other artificial light on land that is marked with signs prohibiting the shining of lights.
  - The signs must: 1) display letters that are at least 2 inches in height and state “no shining” or similar terms; and 2) be placed at intervals of 500 feet or less along the boundary of an area.
- A person may not cast an artificial light onto fenced, agricultural land or a residential property or building sites from a motor vehicle.
- The exceptions to this regulation are:
  - Without a firearm or a bow, a person who is on foot may use a handheld artificial light to retrieve wounded or dead big game animals.
  - A person taking raccoons or tending traps in accordance with all other regulations in the hunting regulations; and
- A person hunting for coyote or fox from Jan. 1 to March 15 may use an artificial handheld light under all of the following conditions:
  - While on foot and not within a public right of way
  - Using a shotgun
  - Using a calling device
  - Not within 200 feet of a vehicle

## Venison Donation Program

- The venison donation program was established in 2007. Funding comes from a \$1 surcharge on bonus permits. The program allows hunters to donate deer that they have shot for distribution to food shelves.
- There is no cost to the hunter to donate a deer and there is minimal paperwork that must be completed prior to making a donation.
- Deer must be donated at eligible processors and that list will certainly evolve. The Department of Agriculture will maintain the list and there will be a link on the DNR website. The direct MDA link is here,  
<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/licensing/inspections/meatpoultryegg/venisondonation.aspx>

## Legal Cartridges and the Rifle-Shotgun Line

- All centerfire cartridges, .220 or larger are legal for big game hunting.
- Loaded with single projectile and has a soft point or expanding bullet type.
- Rimfire cartridges (.22 LR, .22 Magnum) are not legal for big game hunting.
- Examples of small caliber legal cartridges include the .220 Swift, 22-250, and .223.
- Regardless of caliber, hunters are advised to choose bullets that are suitable for humanely taking big game.
- The shotgun-rifle line **has not changed** and is illustrated below.



## Bag Limits

Bag limits can be confusing if you move around a lot and take deer in more than one area. However, the licensing system is designed to provide for maximum flexibility and allows people to travel and hunt statewide. The trade-off for this flexibility is time spent learning how many deer you can take in an area. The licensing structure is designed to minimize the over-harvest of deer in local areas and it is the hunter's responsibility to know the bag limit for the areas they hunt. The alternative to flexibility is to limit the number and type of licenses a person can buy, which is the opposite of what hunters have requested. Below is a general explanation of statewide bag limits and what you can and cannot do.

- Only one buck is allowed per calendar year, without exception.
- Although you can buy 3 licenses, the bag limits for individual areas may not allow you to fill all 3 licenses. In 2015, hunters may only harvest one deer in over 90% of the state's permit areas.
- Most Minnesota deer hunters only tag 1 deer. For example, in 2011 individual hunters tagged:
  - 1 deer – 88.1%
  - 2 deer – 10.2%
  - 3 deer – 1.2%
  - 4 deer – 0.3%
  - 5 deer – 0.08%
- The total allowable bag limit is 5 deer. Exceptions to the statewide bag limit include the metro deer management area, landowner licensee farms and early antlerless areas. Special hunts contribute to the 5-deer yearly bag limit.
- Deer area limits are as follows:
  - Bucks-only – 1 legal buck per year. You may not harvest another deer in any bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery, or hunter choice areas.
  - Youth-only Antlerless – 1 legal buck per year for all adult hunts with the exception of hunters who are residents of veterans' homes or aged 84 and older. Only licensed youth may harvest and tag 1 deer of either sex (cross-tagging is not allowed). You may not harvest another deer in any bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery, or hunter choice areas.
  - Lottery – 1 deer per year. You may not harvest another deer in any bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery, or hunter choice areas.
  - Hunter Choice – 1 either-sex deer per year. You may not harvest another deer in any bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery, or hunter choice areas.
  - Managed – 2 deer per year, using any combination of licenses and permits.
  - Intensive – 5 deer per year, using any combination of licenses and permits.
  - Metro – unlimited number of antlerless deer.
- You can mix and match seasons, areas, and permit types to fill your tags.
- Bonus permits are **not allowed** in any bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice deer area.
- Disease management permits are not available for 2015.
- Examples of what you **CAN** do:
  - 1 bucks-only and 2 managed and 2 intensive = 5
  - 1 lottery and 2 managed and 2 intensive = 5.
  - 1 hunter choice and 2 managed and 2 intensive = 5.
  - 1 hunter choice and 1 managed and 3 intensive = 5.
  - 1 managed and 4 intensive = 5.

- 2 managed and 3 intensive = 5.
- Examples of what you **CAN'T** do:
  - 1 bucks-only and 1 lottery.
  - 1 lottery and 1 hunter choice.
  - 2 lottery.
  - 2 hunter choice.
  - 2 managed and 4 intensive.
  - 3 managed.
- Important points:
  - You can only take 1 deer in any one bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice deer area. In other words, you can't kill deer in 2 different bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice deer areas.
  - You can take up to 2 deer total in any 2 managed areas. In other words, you can't kill 2 deer in 3+ different managed areas.
  - You can take up to 5 deer in any of the intensive areas. Again, mix and match but don't exceed the general limit.

## **Antlerless deer harvest information**

- **In bucks-only areas (Yellow), except for residents of veterans' homes and hunters who are 84 or older, no antlerless harvest is allowed by any hunter during any season.**
- **In youth-only antlerless areas (Yellow with Hatching ///), no antlerless harvest is allowed by any adult hunter during any season with the exception of residents of veterans' homes or hunters who are 84 or older. Only youth may take and tag a deer of either sex.**
- **In lottery deer areas (Blue), all firearm and muzzleloader hunters must apply by Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> if they want to take an antlerless deer.** Hunters interested in obtaining one of these permits should apply using either their firearm and/or muzzleloader license. In order to fairly distribute permits, they will be allocated in proportion to the number of applicants. For example, if 100 permits are offered and 25% of the applicants are muzzleloader hunters, then 25 permits will be allocated for the muzzleloader season. This way, muzzleloader hunters compete with other muzzleloader hunters and not firearm hunters who likely have more preference points. Again, this is being done to reduce the number of antlerless deer harvested.

If successful, the permit will be valid during either season as long as the permit holder purchases the appropriate parent license for that season (e.g., you must have a muzzleloader license to hunt during the muzzleloader season).

- **In hunter choice areas (Brown), there is no lottery. The license is valid for 1 either-sex deer per year in one hunter choice area.**

**Note - If you take an antlerless deer in either a lottery, or a hunter choice area, you will have used your license and you cannot take another deer in any of those areas (or any other bucks-only/lottery/hunter choice areas) or a buck anywhere during that year.**

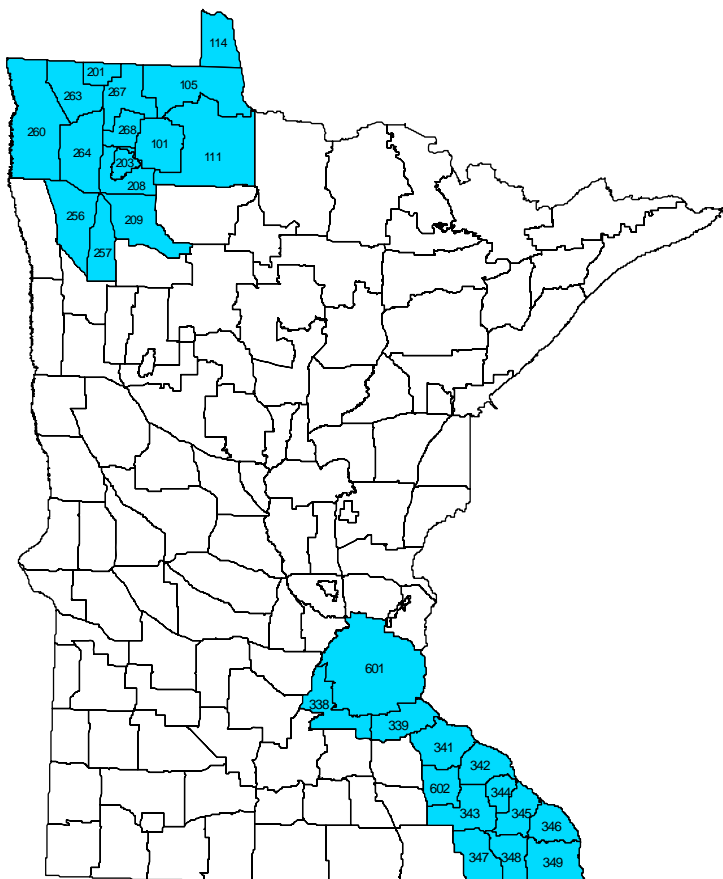
## Youth Deer Season

The following deer areas are open October 15-18 for taking either sex deer by firearms for youth 10-15 years old at the time of the hunt. Participant numbers are not limited and there is no special permit.

Deer areas 101, 105, 111, 114, 201, 203, 208, 209, 256, 257, 260, 263, 264, 267, 268, 338, 339, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, and 601).

The following regulations apply to this hunt:

- An adult parent/guardian/mentor aged 18 or older must accompany the youth hunter at all times during the hunt. The adult does not need to be licensed.
- The blaze orange requirements apply to all hunters and trappers and all adult mentors of youth hunters in areas open to youth firearm deer hunting during this season.
- The accompanying adult cannot hunt and party hunting is not allowed (youth must tag their own deer).
- Participating youth 12 years of age and older must have a firearm safety certificate or apprentice hunter validation. Participating youth must possess a valid youth firearm deer license.
- The bag limit is one deer. In bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice areas, youth hunters must use their youth license. In managed or intensive areas, they may use their youth license or 1 bonus permit if they take an antlerless deer.
- If the youth harvests a buck, the deer must be tagged with their youth license.
- Participation in the youth season does not affect eligibility to participate in the regular deer season; however, the harvested deer counts against the annual bag limit for that area.





**Early Antlerless Season**

For 2015, DNR will be implementing an early antlerless hunt in permit areas 346 and 349 to address localized areas of high deer density.

In these permit areas, there continue to be “hot spots” where deer densities remain high and the present season framework has not reduced densities or depredation to acceptable levels.

***The following regulations apply to this hunt:***

- Participation requires an early antlerless permit in addition to a parent (archery, firearms, or muzzleloader) license.
- The season will be held October 15-18 in designated sub-permit area zones.
- There is a 5 deer bag limit (this is in addition to the statewide bag limit for hunters).

## Explanation of what hunters can do in each type of area

### **BUCKS-ONLY**

This designation allows for taking one legal buck per year; with the exception of hunters who are residents of veterans' homes or who are 84 or older, no antlerless deer may be harvested by any hunters during any season (including youth, bowhunters, and individuals with disabled permits). Bonus permits are not allowed and if you take a deer in one bucks-only area, you cannot take another deer in another bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice deer area.

#### **License types:**

- **Regular Archery:** May take a buck in the deer area<sup>1</sup>.
- **Regular Firearms:** May take a buck in the deer area<sup>1</sup>.
- **Regular Muzzleloader:** May take a buck in the deer area<sup>1</sup>.
- **Youth:** May take a buck in the deer area.
- **Disabled permit holders:** May take a buck in the deer area<sup>1</sup>.

#### **Bag limit:**

- One buck per year in one bucks-only area. You cannot take extra deer in additional bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery, or hunter choice areas.
- Bonus permits **are not** allowed in bucks-only deer areas
- The one deer bag limit applies across seasons. You can only kill 1 deer per year total.

The following deer areas have been designated as BUCKS-ONLY for 2015:

<b>Bucks-only</b>	
<b>Area Number</b>	
103	176
108	177
111	178
118	181
119	183
152	199
169	203

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<sup>1</sup> Residents of veterans' home or hunters 84 and older may harvest a deer of either sex.

## ***YOUTH-ONLY ANTLERLESS***

This designation allows for taking one legal buck per year; except for residents of veterans' homes or hunters who are 84 or older, no antlerless deer may be harvested by any adult hunters during any season (including youth, bowhunters, and individuals with disabled permits). Licensed youth may harvest and tag a deer of either sex but no cross-tagging is allowed. Bonus permits are not allowed and if you take a deer in one youth-only antlerless area, you cannot take another deer in another bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice deer area.

### **License types:**

- **Regular Archery:** May take a buck in the deer area<sup>2</sup>.
- **Regular Firearms:** May take a buck in the deer area<sup>2</sup>.
- **Regular Muzzleloader:** May take a buck in the deer area<sup>2</sup>.
- **Youth:** May take a deer of either sex in the deer area. Youth hunters must take and tag their own antlerless deer.
- **Disabled permit holders:** May take a buck in the deer area<sup>2</sup>.

### **Bag limit:**

- **Adults:** One buck per year in one youth-only antlerless area<sup>2</sup>. You cannot take extra deer in additional bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery, or hunter choice areas.
- **Youth:** One deer of either sex in one youth-only antlerless area. You cannot take extra deer in additional bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery, or hunter choice areas.
- Bonus permits **are not** allowed in bucks-only deer areas
- The one deer bag limit applies across seasons. You can only kill 1 deer per year total.

The following deer areas have been designated as YOUTH-ONLY ANTLERLESS for 2015:

<b>Youth-Antlerless Only</b>
<b>Area Number</b>
234
237
286

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<sup>2</sup> Residents of veterans' home or hunters 84 and older may harvest a deer of either sex.

## LOTTERY

Firearm and muzzleloader hunters who hunt in a lottery deer area and want to take an antlerless deer must apply for either-sex permits through the lottery system. The application deadline is Sept. 10, 2015 and lottery winners will receive permits via U.S. mail. A person can apply using both their firearm **and** muzzleloader licenses. Successful applicants will receive a permit that is valid for that area only. The permit will be valid for either season provided you are licensed to hunt that season. No bonus permits are allowed in lottery deer areas, regardless of weapon type. Leftover lottery permits will be available from ELS agents on a first come, first served basis at 5pm on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

### License types:

- **Regular Archery:** May take one deer of either sex without applying in the lottery.
- **Regular Firearms:** May take a buck in the deer area but must apply for an either-sex permit through the lottery system if interested in taking an antlerless deer. The application deadline is Sept. 10, 2015. If successful in the lottery, the bag limit is one deer of either sex.
- **Regular Muzzleloader:** May take a buck in the deer area but must apply for an either-sex permit through the lottery system if interested in taking an antlerless deer. The application deadline is Sept. 10, 2015. If successful in the lottery, the bag limit is one deer of either sex. **There is no exemption for people who only buy a muzzleloader license. You must apply for the lottery.**
- **Youth:** May take an either-sex deer without applying in the lottery. Youth hunters must take and tag their own antlerless deer.
- **Disabled permit holders:** May take an either-sex deer without applying in the lottery but may not tag an antlerless deer for other hunters.
- **Residents of veterans' homes or hunters 84 and older:** May take an either-sex deer without applying in the lottery but may not tag an antlerless deer for other hunters.

### Bag limit:

- One deer per year in one lottery area. You cannot take extra deer in additional bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery, or hunter choice areas.
- Bonus permits **are not** allowed in lottery deer areas
- The one deer bag limit applies across seasons. You can only kill 1 deer per year total.

The following deer areas have been designated as LOTTERY for 2015:

Area Number	Number of Permits	Area Number	Number of Permits	Area Number	Number of Permits
101	25	232	250	273	1300
105	150	235	75	274	250
110	350	238	50	275	250
117	25	242	500	276	1200
122	250	246	1000	278	200
126	400	247	1000	279	600

127	150	249	1500	280	200
155	1000	250	300	281	500
156	300	251	100	282	25
157	1500	252	400	283	200
159	250	253	300	284	300
171	300	258	1000	285	300
172	1000	259	1700	288	500
173	300	260	100	289	200
179	500	261	250	290	400
180	800	262	150	291	800
184	2000	263	300	294	500
197	200	266	150	295	300
208	100	267	100	296	300
210	1000	268	100	297	100
221	1000	269	250	298	100
222	1500	270	100	299	400
224	150	271	250		
229	300	272	100		
<b>Grand Total Permits</b>				<b>32500</b>	

## **HUNTER CHOICE**

This designation allows for taking one either-sex deer per year without making a lottery application. Bonus permits are not allowed and if you take a deer in one hunter choice area, you cannot take another deer in another bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice deer area.

### **License types:**

- **Adult license holders (Archery, Firearm, Muzzleloader):** May take one deer total of either sex without applying in the lottery.
- **Disabled permit holders:** May take one deer total of either sex without applying in the lottery.
- **Youth licenses:** May take one deer total of either sex without applying in the lottery.

### **Bag limit:**

- One either-sex deer per year in one hunter choice deer area. You cannot take extra deer in additional bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice deer areas.
- The one deer bag limit applies across seasons. You can only kill 1 deer per year total.

The following deer areas have been designated as HUNTER CHOICE for 2015:

<b>Hunter Choice</b>		
<b>Area Number</b>		
201	240	293
209	248	338*
213	254	339*
218	255	341*
219	256	342*
223	257	344*
225	264	345*
230	265	347*
233	277	348*
239	292	
*Includes both A and B Seasons		

## **MANAGED**

These deer areas have a two deer limit with all permits available over the counter. There is no lottery procedure or application. Hunters who purchase a firearm license and hunt in a managed deer area will be able to take a deer of either sex. Hunters may use bonus permits, which are valid for antlerless deer only.

### **License types:**

- **All License Holders (Adult or Youth Archery, Firearm, Muzzleloader):** The license will be valid for a deer of either-sex in any managed deer area. Hunters may also purchase bonus permits for one-half the cost of the regular license, valid for antlerless deer in any managed deer area within that zone. Hunters can use any combination of licenses and permits but can only kill 2 deer per year in all managed areas combined.

### **Bag limit:**

- Using any combination of licenses and permits, the bag limit is 2 deer/year total.
- You cannot take more than 2 deer in any managed deer areas. For example, you can take 1 deer each in deer areas 114 and 287 but you cannot take two deer in each of those deer areas.
- Only one buck is allowed per hunter, per calendar year, without exception.

The following deer areas have been designated as MANAGED for 2015:

<b>Managed</b>		
<b>Area Number</b>		
114	227	287
214	236	343*
215	241	
*Includes both A and B Seasons		

## **INTENSIVE**

These deer areas have a 5 deer limit with all the permits available over the counter. There is no lottery procedure or application. Hunters who purchase a firearm license and hunt in an intensive deer area will be able to take a deer of either-sex. Hunters can also purchase bonus permits, which are valid for antlerless deer in any intensive deer area for which they have a valid license. Bonus permits may be purchased throughout the season and are valid at the same time as the regular license.

### **License types:**

- **All License Holders (Adult or Youth Archery, Firearm, Muzzleloader):** The license is valid for a deer of either-sex in any intensive deer area. Hunters may also purchase bonus permits for one-half the cost of the regular license. Bonus permits are for antlerless deer only in any managed or intensive deer area throughout the state.

### **Bag limit:**

- Using any combination of licenses and permits, up to 5 deer total may be taken in Intensive deer areas.
- The individual bag limit for a person (**excluding** no limit areas, landowner licensee farms, and sub-permit area early antlerless zones) is 5 deer. For example, if you take 1 in a lottery, 2 in a managed, you may take 2 more in any intensive area.
- Only one buck is allowed per hunter, per calendar year, without exception.

The following deer areas have been designated as INTENSIVE for 2015:

Intensive
Area Number
182
346*
349*

\*Denotes both the A and B seasons.

## **NO LIMIT ANTLERLESS**

There is no limit to the number of antlerless deer that may be taken in the metro deer management area (601). Any license or permit is valid during the open season.



## **SPECIAL REGULATIONS IN 300-SERIES DEER AREAS ONLY**

### ***Regulation Overview***

- A 4-point (to one side) antler point restriction regulation throughout all 300-series deer areas.
- Ban on cross-tagging of bucks during all seasons.
- 3A season lengthened to 9 days as a component of the antler point restriction regulation.

### ***Antler Point Restriction***

- A buck must have at least one 4-point antler in order to be legally harvested. Bucks with less than one 4-point antler are not legal to harvest. See below for examples of a legal buck.
- This DOES NOT mean an 8-point deer. It simply means 4 points on ONE SIDE. A legal deer could be a 4x0, 4x1, 4x2, 4x3, 4x4, etc.
- The regulation is in effect during the archery, 3A, 3B, and muzzleloader seasons.
- Adult hunters cannot tag a buck for a youth hunter.
- Youth hunters aged 10-17 are exempted from the antler point regulation. They do not have to comply and can take any antlered buck.

### **Examples of legal bucks in Zone 3**



Five point buck with  
four points on one side



Seven point buck with  
four points on one side



Side view of a buck with  
four points on each side

### ***No Buck Cross-Tagging in Zone 3 only***

This is most commonly referred to as party hunting. The intent of this regulation is not to break up the hunting party or force hunters to leave the field once they are successful. This regulation simply requires the hunter to shoot and tag their own antlered buck. Specifically,

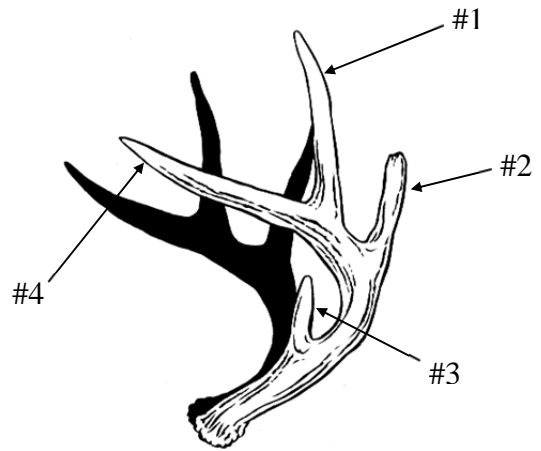
- A person cannot take and tag an antlered buck for another member of their party. This applies to all hunters, license types, and seasons.
- It remains legal to take and tag antlerless deer for members of the party. This is a population management strategy and may lead to slight increases in antlerless deer harvest.

## ***Counting Points in Antler Point Restriction Areas***

### **How to count points**

A deer must have a minimum of four antler points on one side to be taken.

1. An antler point, if it is at least 1-inch long
2. Any broken tine that is at least 1-inch long
3. The brow tine, if it is at least 1-inch long
4. The end of the main beam



## Special hunts with Earn-A-Buck Regulations

### *General Information*

- You cannot take a doe somewhere else in the state and hunt bucks only at the park or other special hunt.
- In order to tag a buck, you must tag one or more (depending on the hunt rules) antlerless deer in the hunt area first.
- You do not have to register the antlerless deer prior to taking the buck, but you do need to validate your site tag and have it available for inspection by a Conservation Officer. If you are found with a buck and no antlerless deer, you will be in violation of the hunt rules and subject to a citation and confiscation of any deer, and possible confiscation of your firearm.
- There will be no special validation for buck hunting. It will be the responsibility of the hunter to observe the rules and take their deer in the proper order.
- If you have already filled your buck license, you may still hunt antlerless deer at the park or special hunt area.

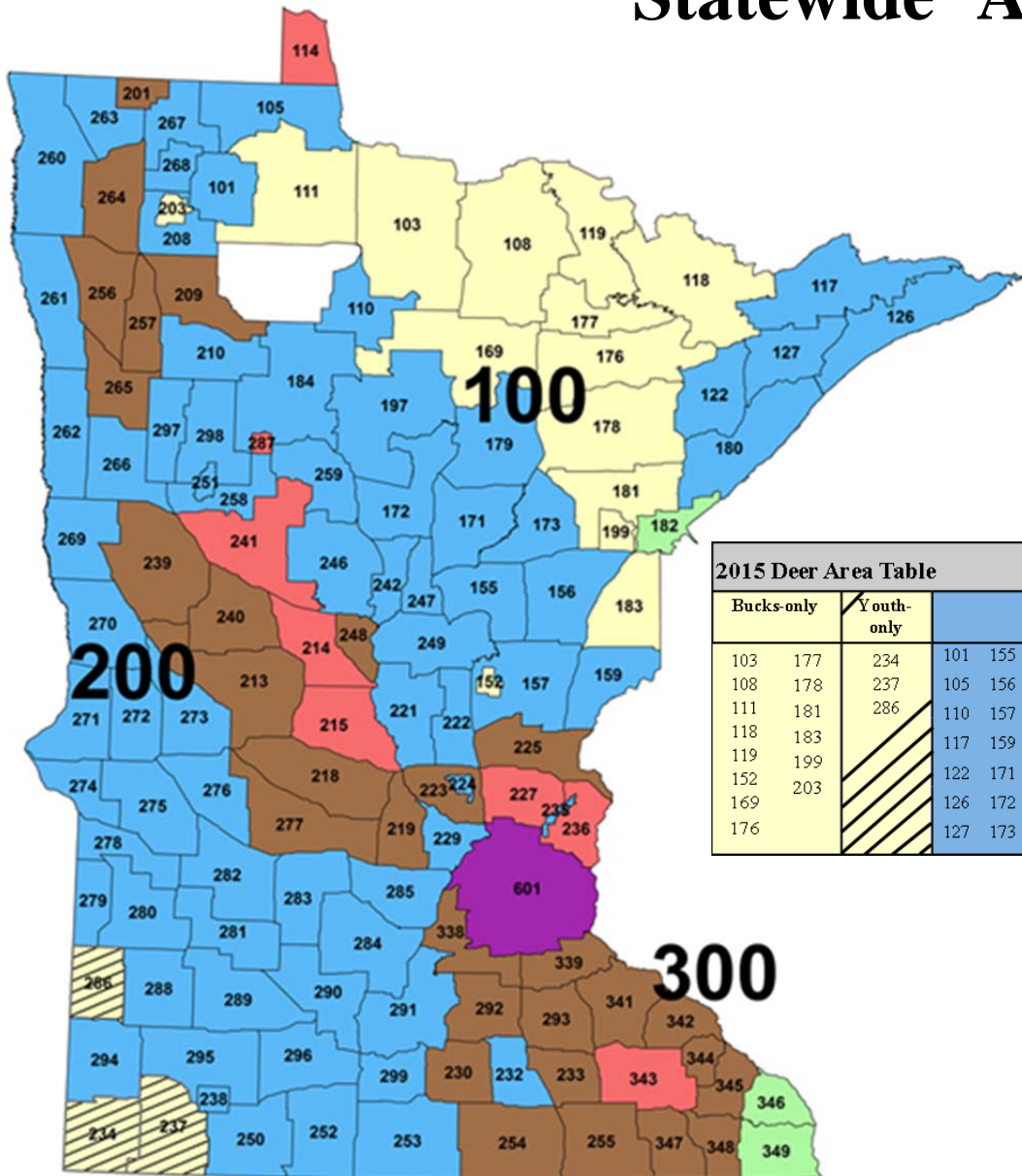
### *Licenses*

- Hunters should plan on having at least two tags in their possession when they arrive to hunt.
- One of those tags must be valid for taking an antlerless deer and the other for taking a buck.
- Hunters who are only interested in taking an antlerless deer need only bring one license.

### *Party Hunting*

- Party hunting is legal in earn-a-buck areas.
- You can shoot a deer for a member of your party; however, only the person whose tag is on the antlerless deer will be authorized to tag a buck.
- If you shoot an antlerless deer that is tagged by someone else, you cannot tag a buck with your license. An antlerless deer must be first tagged with your license before you tag a buck.
- Realistically, hunters should tag their first antlerless deer with their own license. If they have the opportunity to harvest another antlerless deer, they should then tag it with another person's license.

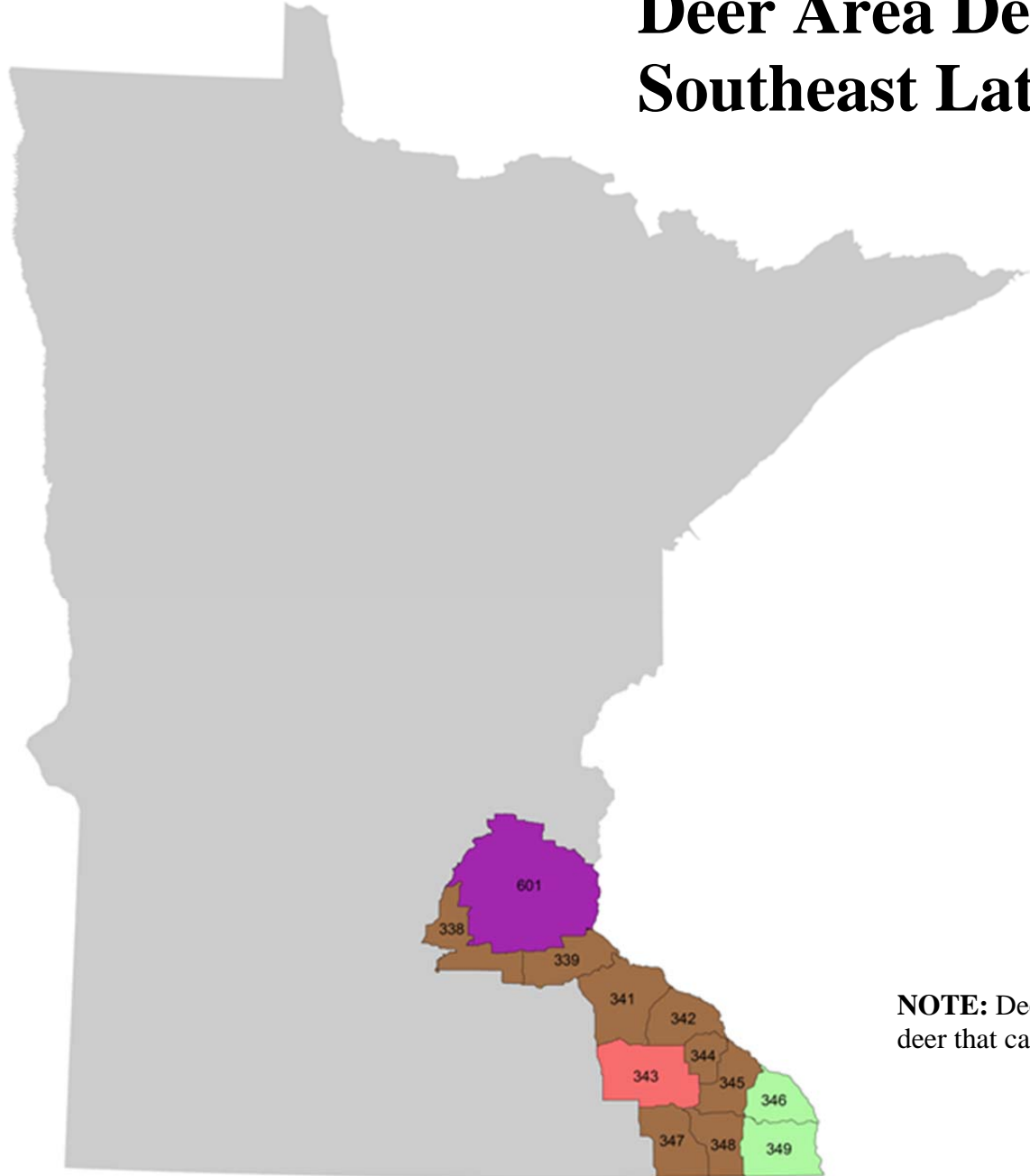
# Deer Area Designations Statewide 'A' Season Map



Bucks-only		Youth-only	Lottery										Hunter Choice				Managed	Intensive
103	177	234	101	155	179	222	246	258	267	274	282	291	201	233	264	342	114	182
108	178	237	105	156	180	224	247	259	268	275	283	294	209	239	265	344	214	346
111	181	286	110	157	184	229	249	260	269	276	284	295	213	240	277	345	215	349
118	183		117	159	197	232	250	261	270	278	285	296	218	248	292	347	227	Unlimited Antlerless
119	199		122	171	208	235	251	262	271	279	288	297	219	254	293	348	236	
152	203		126	172	210	238	252	263	272	280	289	298	223	255	338		241	601
169			127	173	221	242	253	266	273	281	290	299	225	256	339		287	
176													230	257	341		343	

# Deer Area Designations

## Southeast Late 'B' Season Map



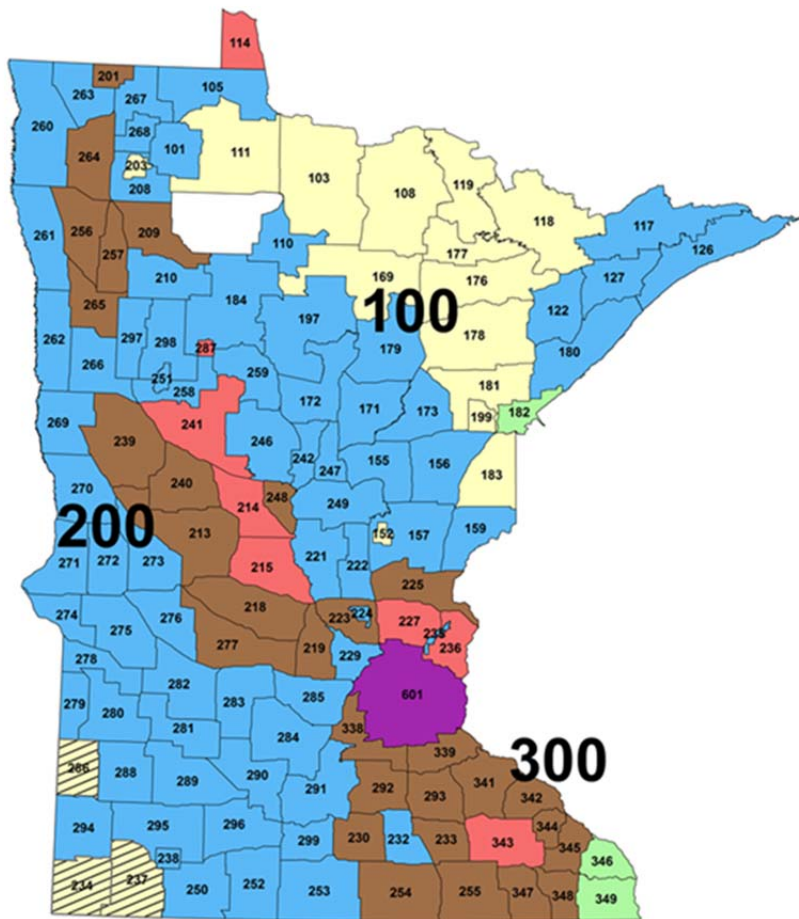
2015 Late Southeast B Season Deer Area Table		
Hunter Choice	Managed	Intensive
338	343	346
339		349
341		Unlimited Antlerless
342		
344		
345		
347		601
349		

**NOTE:** Deer Area 601 has no limit on the number of antlerless deer that can be taken

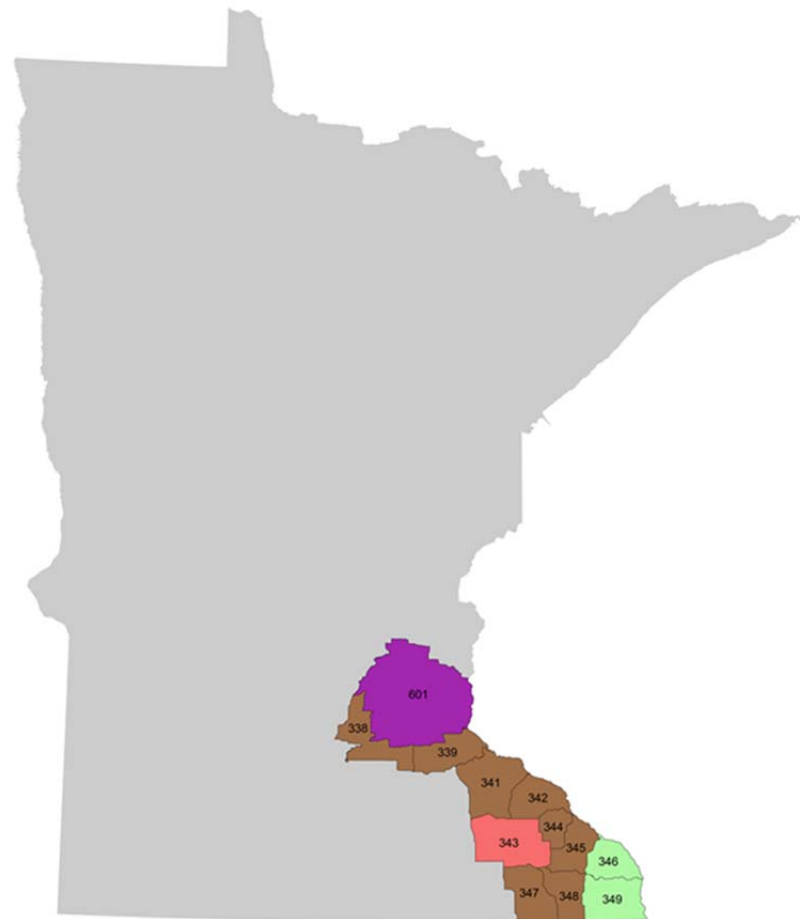
## Condensed Guide to Buying a Deer License (3 Steps)

**STEP 1.** From the map, select the season (Statewide A or late southeast B) and deer area you plan to hunt.

Statewide 'A'

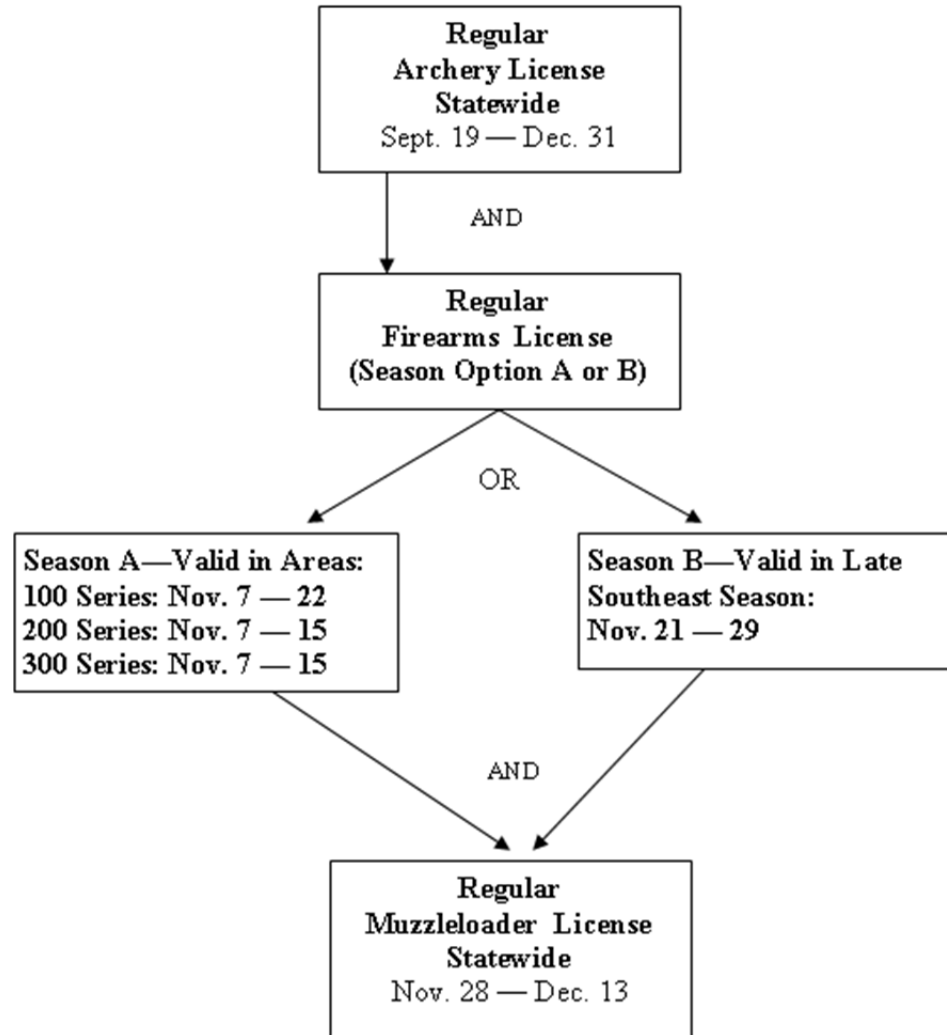


Late Southeast 'B'



**STEP 2.** From the flow chart below, select a license type (Archery, Firearm, Muzzleloader). Information on either-sex permits and bag limits for each deer area are listed in the colored boxes below. Youth hunters, landowners, and hunters with disabilities should refer to the regulations book for specific information.

### 2015 Deer License Options



## How to buy a license by area

**Bucks-only Deer Area (YELLOW):** Any licensed hunter (including those with archery and youth licenses or disability permits) may tag one legal buck with their base license. Without the exception of hunters who are 84 or older or residents of veterans' homes, no antlerless deer may be taken in any bucks-only area. If you take a deer in a bucks-only area, you cannot take another deer in either another bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice area. **Important: Bonus permits are not valid in bucks-only permit areas, regardless of weapon type.**

**Youth-only Antlerless Deer Area (YELLOW WITH HATCHES / / /):** Any licensed hunter (including those with archery or disability permits) may tag one legal buck with their base license. Only licensed youth, residents of veterans' homes, and hunters who are 84 or older may take and tag a deer of either sex. If you take a deer in a youth-only antlerless area, you cannot take another deer in either another bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice area. **Important: Bonus permits are not valid in youth-only antlerless permit areas, regardless of weapon type.**

**Lottery Deer Area (BLUE):** Hunters interested in hunting antlerless deer during either the firearm or muzzleloader season must apply for an either-sex permit through the lottery process. The lottery deadline is Thurs, Sept. 10, 2015, and lottery winners will receive permits via U.S. mail. Regular firearm and muzzleloader hunters must apply for an either-sex permit if they want to hunt antlerless deer. If successful, the either-sex permit will be valid during either the firearm or muzzleloader season; however, you MUST have a valid license for that season. Otherwise, those license holders will be restricted to bucks only. Archery hunters, residents of veterans' homes and hunters 84 or older can take a deer of either sex without applying for an either-sex permit. If you take a deer in a lottery area, you cannot take another deer in either another bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice area. **Important: Bonus permits are not valid in lottery permit areas, regardless of weapon type.**

**Hunter Choice Deer Area (BROWN):** All adult hunters, including archery, firearm, muzzleloader, and disabled permittees can take 1 either-sex deer. If you take a deer in a hunter choice area, you cannot take another deer in either another bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice area. **Important: Bonus permits are not valid in hunter choice deer areas, regardless of weapon type.**

**Managed Deer Area (RED):** Regular archery, firearm, and muzzleloader hunters may tag one deer of either sex with their base license. A total of 2 deer can be taken in managed areas, regardless of license type. Hunters can mix and match licenses and bonus permits so long as they do not exceed 2 deer total per year, no matter how many managed areas they hunt.

**Intensive Deer Area (GREEN):** Regular archery, firearm, and muzzleloader hunters may tag one deer of either sex with their base license. A total of 5 deer can be taken in intensive areas. Hunters can mix and match licenses and bonus permits so long as they do not exceed 5 deer total per year.

**Unlimited Antlerless Area (PURPLE):** Regular archery, firearm, and muzzleloader hunters may tag one deer of either sex with their base license. There is no limit to the number of antlerless deer that may be taken in this metro deer management area. Hunters can mix and match licenses and bonus permits.



## 2015 Deer Bag Limit Explanations

**\*\* A licensed deer hunter may only harvest 1 buck regardless of the number of licenses purchased.\*\***

<b>Bucks-only: Bag Limit - 1</b>  Archery, Firearm and Muzzleloader hunters —1 legal buck	<b>Youth-only Antlerless: Bag Limit - 1</b>  Adult Archery, Firearm and Muzzleloader hunters — 1 legal buck. Youth — 1 deer of either sex	<b>Lottery: Bag Limit - 1</b>  Archery—either-sex  OR  Firearm and Muzzleloader hunters — 1 legal buck OR 1 either sex if successful in lottery	<b>Hunter Choice: Bag Limit - 1</b>  1 deer of either sex	<b>Managed: Bag Limit - 2</b>  1 deer of either sex  AND  1 antlerless deer with purchase of a bonus permit  *Can use any combination of licenses but cannot kill more than 2 deer	<b>Intensive: Bag Limit - 5</b>  1 deer of either sex  AND  up to 4 antlerless deer with purchase of bonus permits  *Can use any combination of licenses but cannot kill more than 5 deer
<b>NOTE:</b> If you take a deer in an area with a 1 deer bag limit, you cannot take another deer in another bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice area.					

**STEP 3.** Obtain lottery application if necessary or purchase your license at one of more than 1,500 ELS vendors located across the state. You can also purchase your license over the internet at [www.mndnr.gov](http://www.mndnr.gov) or by phone at 888-665-4236. The deadline for lottery applications is **Thurs, Sept. 10, 2015.**

# *2015 Deer Season FAQ*

## **DEER SEASON FAQs**

### ***Q: When is my deer license valid?***

A: As of 2015, a deer license purchased after the opening day of the season is valid the first day after it is issued. A deer license purchased before legal shooting hours begin is valid when the season opens.

### ***Q: What is the difference between a license and a permit?***

A: A license is the basic document that allows you to hunt. A permit is something that adds on to what you can do with your original license. For example, if you have a Statewide A license and an either-sex permit for deer area 197, the license allows you to hunt throughout the state and the permit allows you to take a deer of either sex in deer area 197. Similarly, bonus permits are in addition to your regular license and allow you to take additional antlerless deer in specified areas but you must have a license that is valid for the season you are hunting.

### ***Q: What are the Statewide “A” and late southeast “B” firearm licenses?***

A: The statewide “A” license will let you hunt throughout the state in any area that opens on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The late southeast “B” license was retained for the 20,000 people who traditionally hunt the 3B season; this license allows hunters to participate in the season that opens on November 21<sup>st</sup> in southeastern Minnesota. You cannot buy both A& B season firearms licenses.

### ***Q: What is a Bonus Permit?***

A: A bonus permit allows you to take an antlerless deer in managed and intensive deer areas. In order to use one however, you must have a valid license (archery, firearm, or muzzleloader) for that season. You must also adhere to the bag limits for that area.

### ***Q: When I went in to purchase my deer license, the agent asked what deer area I hunt most often, why?***

A: While you won't be restricted to hunting in the deer area you indicate, this information is needed to assess hunter success and compile information about hunter densities. Also, it enables DNR to easily survey hunters based on their location.

### ***Q: I want to hunt the metro deer area (deer area 601), what should I do?***

A: There is nothing special you need to do. If you're interested in the hunting one of these deer areas, simply buy your license and when the agent asks what deer area you primarily hunt, simply indicate your traditional area. The license will automatically be valid in your regular area and the metro. Here are three examples:

1. You typically hunt deer area 184. Go ahead and buy your Statewide “A” season license and tell the clerk 184. You can hunt your traditional area and then still come back and hunt the metro, too.
2. You currently hunt in area 601. Buy your “A” season firearm license and tell the clerk you hunt 601. You will be able to hunt anywhere in the state and enjoy 2 extra weeks in 601.

# *2015 Deer Season FAQ*

3. You currently hunt in southeast Minnesota (either A or B), area 344. Buy your traditional license and tell the clerk you hunt 344. Your license will be valid in your season (either Statewide A or 3B) and 601.

**Q: *What is Bucks-only?***

A: Bucks-only (yellow on the map) is a management strategy designed to protect antlerless deer, the reproductive component of the population. Only bucks may be taken in these areas. With the exception of residents of veterans homes or hunters who are 84 or older, absolutely no licensed hunter (including youth, bowhunters, or those with disabled permits) may take an antlerless deer in a bucks-only area. The strategy is a restrictive management approach implemented to boost deer densities in northeastern Minnesota after the severe winter of 2013-2014. It is important to note that if you take a deer in a bucks-only deer area, you cannot take a second deer in another bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice deer area.

**Q: *What is Youth-only Antlerless?***

A: Youth-only Antlerless (yellow with black hatches on the map) is a management strategy designed to limit the harvest antlerless deer, the reproductive component of the population, beyond the level that has occurred under a lottery designation. Only licensed youth, hunters 84 or older or residents of veterans' homes may take an antlerless deer. All other hunters (including bowhunters and those with disabled permits) may only harvest a legal buck in one of these areas. It is important to note that if you take a deer in a youth-only antlerless deer area, you cannot take a second deer in another bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice deer area.

**Q: *Are crossbows legal for the archery season?***

A: As of 2014, hunters age 60 or over may use crossbows during the archery season with an archery license. Any hunter with a firearm license may use a crossbow during the firearm season.

**Q: *Are scopes on muzzleloaders legal for the muzzleloader season?***

A: As of 2015, hunters age 60 or over may use a magnifying scope during the muzzleloader season with a muzzleloader license.

**Q: *Why is there an early antlerless season in DPAs 346 and 349?***

A: Permit areas 346 and 349 have chronically higher deer densities that haven't been adequately addressed through the regular season. Depredation complaints have been high in these areas and while shooting permits and a pilot depredation permit program have been implemented; an additional population management tool is needed.

More about the early antlerless season:

- The season will be held October 15-18, 2015
- Participation requires an early antlerless permit in addition to an archery, firearms, muzzleloader, or Landowner license

# *2015 Deer Season FAQ*

- Permit holders may hunt both areas and are encouraged to identify hunting opportunities prior to the season because there is a significant amount of private land in the area.
- The bag limit is five deer. This is in addition to the five deer that may be taken during the regular season in 346 or 349.

***Q: Can I hunt one of the special areas (like Ripley or a State Park) and still hunt a regular deer permit area?***

A: Yes. The authorization you receive from one of the special hunts allows you to participate in that special hunt. It does not preclude you from hunting anywhere else in the state during your open season. However, you must adhere to the one buck restriction statewide and the bag limits for that deer permit area. For example, if you're successful in the St. Croix SP lottery that hunt takes place on the second weekend, you can still hunt opening day somewhere else and then come to the park for your hunt. However, if you've already taken a buck, you'll be antlerless deer hunting only at the park.

***Q: Are special hunts additive to the yearly 5-deer bag limit?***

A: No. Special hunts contribute a hunter's annual bag limit. Special hunt areas are distinct from the surrounding permit area; the bag limit in a special hunt area may be additive to that of the surrounding permit area but participation in a special hunt does not allow a hunter to exceed their yearly 5-deer bag limit.

***Q: How do I register a deer taken during a special hunt?***

A: Deer taken during a special hunt must be registered under the special hunt number assigned to that special hunt area. For example, a deer harvested in the St. Croix State Park special firearm hunt should be registered under hunt number 902 (not in the greater permit area, DPA 159)

***Q: What happened to 602, the CWD area?***

A: According to the MNDNR CWD response plan, three consecutive years of surveillance without a sample testing positive for CWD are required before we will consider a return to pre-CWD management. Samples were collected from 2011 to 2013 and no positive tests were detected. As a result, permit area 602 was dissolved and reverted back to the former permit areas (343 and 343).

***Q: Will there be CWD surveillance this year?***

A: As of publication, no surveillance sampling of hunter-harvested deer for CWD is planned for 2015. Hunters should check for disease monitoring updates on the DNR website (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting/deer/cwd/index.html>) prior to the deer season for any updates.

***Q: What tag do I use when I kill a doe during the firearm season in a lottery or hunter choice area?***

A: When you take an antlerless deer during the firearm season in a lottery or hunter choice area, you have to tag that deer with your main license (you cannot use a bonus permit). This means that you

# *2015 Deer Season FAQ*

can no longer take another deer in a bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice area AND you have used your firearm license for the year. So, if you still want to kill a buck during that season, you have to party hunt and use someone else's license tag. A hunter could still take a buck during the muzzleloader season, with a muzzleloader license, in a managed, intensive or unlimited antlerless area.

**\*NOTE:** The same rules apply to archery and muzzleloader seasons when tagging antlerless deer in a lottery or hunters choice area.

## ***Q: Can I apply for more than one hunt?***

A: Yes. The previous ELS system did not allow for multiple applications; however, the new system does. Consequently, you can apply for 1 firearm and 1 muzzleloader hunt (but not 2 of the same type). There are a few things you need to consider before making an application. They are,

1. The bag limits for each area still applies. While you can put in for a lottery deer area using both licenses, you can still only take one deer. So, if you draw both and take the deer during the firearm season, your muzzleloader permit is invalid.
2. You can mix and match what you apply for. In other words, you can put in for a lottery deer area during the firearm season and a muzzleloader special hunt in a state park. Or, you can put in for a firearm special hunt and a muzzleloader lottery area.
3. If you draw an either-sex permit, you can use it in either the muzzleloader or the firearm season. It is valid in either, provided you have the license to hunt that season.

## ***Q: How come muzzleloader hunters have to apply for either-sex permits in lottery deer areas?***

A: Muzzleloader deer hunting has increased in popularity in recent years. For example, in 2000 there were about 10,000 muzzleloader deer hunters. In 2014, that number was closer to 45,000. It has become clear that hunters want more opportunity; however, that opportunity comes at a cost because in some areas the deer population cannot support over-the-counter antlerless deer harvest. Therefore, in lottery areas, perspective muzzleloader hunters must apply for and receive an either-sex permit if they want to take an antlerless deer.

## ***Q: How does the landowner license work?***

A: To qualify for a landowner license, you must be a resident owner or tenant or non-resident owner actively farming at least 80 acres of agricultural or grazing land in a permit area that is under a Hunter Choice, Managed, or Intensive management strategy. If you obtain one of these free licenses, it can be used in any open season on your property; however, you still have to abide by the season regulations. For example, you can't shoot the deer with a rifle during the archery season. This license is additive to the bag limit in the surrounding permit area.

## ***Q: Who can buy a muzzleloader license?***

A: Anyone. Hunters can purchase all 3 stand-alone licenses ( archery, firearm, muzzleloader) but they must adhere to the bag limit that is established in their permit area.

# 2015 Deer Season FAQ

**Q: Can I now use a rifle statewide?**

A: No. The centerfire cartridge restrictions were simplified to .220 centerfire or larger; however, the rifle/shotgun line has not changed. In some areas of Minnesota, you are still required to use shotguns, muzzleloaders, or handguns.

**Q: Since the regulations are now .220 or larger, can I use a rimfire?**

A: No. The change was for centerfire ignition cartridges only. Examples of these cartridges include the 22-250, 220 Swift, and 223 Remington. The .22 LR and .22 Magnum have rimfire ignition and cannot be used for big game hunting. Even though some cartridges are *technically* legal (.22 Hornet), they should not be used for big game hunting.

**Q: I bow hunt (or muzzleloader hunt) in Zone 3, what is my bag limit?**

A: Both the firearm A and B seasons have the same designations. The bag limits for archers and muzzleloader hunters is the same as for firearm hunters.

**Q: I put in for a lottery area and was unsuccessful; can I still take a doe this year?**

A: Yes, but you'll have to take the antlerless deer in a hunter choice, managed, or intensive deer area. You will not need to upgrade or change your license.

**Q: What does bucks-only, lottery, hunter choice, managed, or intensive deer area mean?**

A:

- **Bucks-only Deer Area (YELLOW):** Any licensed hunter (including those with archery and youth licenses or disability permits) may tag one legal buck with their base license. Without the exception of hunters who are 84 or older or residents of veterans' homes, no antlerless deer may be taken in any bucks-only area. If you take a deer in a bucks-only area, you cannot take another deer in either another bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice area. **Important: Bonus permits are not valid in bucks-only permit areas, regardless of weapon type.**
- **Youth-only Antlerless Deer Area (YELLOW WITH HATCHES / / /):** Any licensed hunter (including those with archery or disability permits) may tag one legal buck with their base license. Only licensed youth, residents of veterans' homes, and hunters who are 84 or older may take and tag a deer of either sex. If you take a deer in a youth-only antlerless area, you cannot take another deer in either another bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice area. **Important: Bonus permits are not valid in youth-only antlerless permit areas, regardless of weapon type.**
- **Lottery Deer Area (BLUE):** Hunters interested in hunting antlerless deer during either the firearm or muzzleloader season must apply for an either-sex permit through the lottery process. The lottery deadline is Thurs, Sept. 10, 2015, and lottery winners will receive permits via U.S. mail. Regular firearm and muzzleloader hunters must apply for an either-sex permit if they want to hunt antlerless deer. If successful, the either-sex permit will be valid during either the firearm or muzzleloader season; however, you **MUST** have a valid license for that season.

# *2015 Deer Season FAQ*

Otherwise, those license holders will be restricted to bucks only. Archery hunters, residents of veterans' homes and hunters 84 or older can take a deer of either sex without applying for an either-sex permit. If you take a deer in a lottery area, you cannot take another deer in either another bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice area. **Important: Bonus permits are not valid in lottery permit areas, regardless of weapon type.**

- **Hunter Choice Deer Area (BROWN):** All adult hunters, including archery, firearm, muzzleloader, and disabled permittees can take 1 either-sex deer. If you take a deer in a hunter choice area, you cannot take another deer in either another bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, lottery or hunter choice area. **Important: Bonus permits are not valid in hunter choice deer areas, regardless of weapon type.**
- **Managed Deer Area (RED):** Regular archery, firearm, and muzzleloader hunters may tag one deer of either sex with their base license. A total of 2 deer can be taken in managed areas, regardless of license type. Hunters can mix and match licenses and bonus permits so long as they do not exceed 2 deer total per year, no matter how many managed areas they hunt.
- **Intensive Deer Area (GREEN):** Regular archery, firearm, and muzzleloader hunters may tag one deer of either sex with their base license. A total of 5 deer can be taken in intensive areas. Hunters can mix and match licenses and bonus permits so long as they do not exceed 5 deer total per year.
- **Unlimited Antlerless Area (PURPLE):** Regular archery, firearm, and muzzleloader hunters may tag one deer of either sex with their base license. There is no limit to the number of antlerless deer that may be taken in this metro deer management area. Hunters can mix and match licenses and bonus permits.

## ***Q: I forgot to put in for the lottery, what are my options?***

A: If there are leftover lottery permits in your area, they will be available first come, first served at 5 pm on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. You will need a valid license or purchase one at the time in order to receive the permit. Typically, there are very few leftover permits. In 2015, DNR anticipates there may be no leftover permits due to the conservative deer season.

## ***Q: When is my lottery either-sex permit valid?***

A: The permit will be valid for one either-sex deer during either the firearm or muzzleloader season, depending on what license you have in possession. If you applied for the permit with your firearm license, you can use it in the muzzleloader season *only if* you buy a muzzleloader license. The same is true if you applied with your muzzleloader license and decide later to hunt the firearm season. Simply buy a firearm license and your permit will be valid for that season.

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***Q: What happens to my lottery status if I don't apply in the lottery and instead hunt in a bucks-only, youth-only antlerless, hunter choice, managed, or intensive area?***

A: Nothing, you will retain all your preference until you are successful in a lottery. However, you will not accrue additional preference if you do not apply.

***Q: What does the youth firearm (or muzzleloader) license let me do?***

A: The youth license is a reduced price license for youth ages 13-17 that includes a tag. Youth are allowed to take deer of either sex in youth-only antlerless areas and lottery deer areas without applying in the lottery. The youth firearm license lets youth hunters hunt during both the Statewide A and late Southeast B seasons. So, for \$5, youth hunters can pursue deer throughout the state. For youth muzzleloader hunters, the \$5 license is valid only during the 16-day muzzleloader season. Youth hunters may purchase both licenses. Youth age 10 or over and under age 13 must obtain a free license to take big game.

***Q: How many deer can I legally tag per year?***

A: During the regular seasons, up to 5 deer can be taken per year. Additionally, landowners can tag one deer in certain deer areas and 5 deer can be taken in permit areas 346 and 349 during the early antlerless season. In the metro (601) there is no limit to the number of antlerless deer that can be taken.

***Q: I'm concerned about lead in venison. What can I do to minimize risk?***

A: The easiest thing to do would be to switch a non-toxic alternative. If you do not reload or that cartridge is not available commercially in the caliber you shoot, consider using a controlled expansion bullet as they are designed to retain the majority of their weight.