

Deer Hunting Frequently Asked Questions

2016 Deer Hunting Rules—July 28, 2016

What to Know for 2016

- Hunters must specify the zone, DMU and land type for every antlerless tag.
- At least one Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer tag is included with each deer hunting license. However, hunters may only select Farmland (Zone 2) tags from a DMU that offers them, and the number of tags offered will vary by county.
- If a hunter did not receive their Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags at the time of purchase, they may print them from their Go Wild account for free at home or at a DNR Service Center. They may also select and obtain them from a license agent for a \$2 processing fee.
- DMUs containing a metro sub-unit may offer free Metro Sub-unit Antlerless Tags, and/or \$12 Metro Sub-unit Bonus Antlerless Tags. These are DMU, sub-unit and land-type specific.
- Junior Antlerless Deer Tags are valid in any unit statewide on the land-type specified on the tag, except in Ashland, Forest and Sawyer counties.
- The validated carcass tag no longer needs to be attached to the deer as long as the hunter remains with the carcass. The tag does need to be on their person while with the carcass.
- Back tags are no longer required for deer hunting.

Season Structure

Q. Which seasons are offered in 2016?

- **Archery and crossbow:** September 17 to January 8, 2017
- **Youth hunt:** October 8 and 9
- **October gun hunt for hunters with disabilities (sponsored properties only):** October 1 to 9
- **November 9-day gun deer hunt:** November 19 to 27
- **Muzzleloader season:** November 28 to December 7
- **December 4-day antlerless-only season:** December 8 to 11
- **Metro sub-units gun season:** November 19 – December 7
- **Antlerless-only Holiday Hunt (select Farmland Zone units only):** December 24-January 1.

Licenses and Tags

Q. Are back tags required in 2016?

A. No. The Legislature has repealed the requirement of wearing a back tag.

Q. With the new Go Wild system, what will deer hunting licenses and tags look like?

A. Hunters may print off a paper deer hunting license, link hunting license permissions to their Wisconsin driver's licenses or a department-issued Conservation Card or display a department-approved PDF of the license on a smartphone or other mobile device. Carcass tags must be printed either at home, at a DNR Service Center or at a license agent. ALL deer carcass tags will be printed on plain paper starting in 2016, and hunters must have a paper tag valid for the correct zone, DMU and land type in order to tag and register a deer.

Q. How many Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags (included with license) do customers get?

A. That depends on the county chosen. Each county offers different numbers of antlerless tags (0, 1, 2, or 3). The system is pre-programmed with each county and the number of tags it offers.

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- Q. For DMUs that offer more than one Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tag (included with a license), can hunters select a different land type for each tag?**
- A. Yes. If a unit offers two Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags with a license, the hunter can designate one for private land and one for public land, both for private land or both for public land.
- Q. For counties that offer more than one Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tag, can hunters designate a different DMU for each of these tags?**
- A. No. Multiple tags issued cannot be split between unit and must all be for the same unit. Example: Sauk County is offering two tags per hunter, and the hunter must take both for Sauk County.
- Q. How can hunters obtain and use metro sub-unit antlerless tags?**
- A. Units containing a metro sub-unit may offer, at no cost, one or more metro sub-unit tags with a license in addition to any Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags offered for that Unit.
- Q. How do I get a new carcass tag if my original gets wet or damaged? Is there a cost to replace it?**
- A. Replacement tags are issued through each hunter's Go Wild account. Hunters may print a replacement tag for no charge at home or through a DNR service center, or visit a license agent to obtain a replacement for \$2.
- Q. Can I print several copies of a tag for the field so I have an extra in case one gets damaged?**
- A. Hunters may only possess one copy of each unique tag while in the field.
- Q. Which tags will be issued with the purchase of an archery or crossbow deer hunting license?**
- A. Hunters will receive one Bow Buck carcass tag valid in any unit statewide and valid for use with either archery or crossbow equipment depending on license purchased. In addition, they may receive one or more Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tag(s), the number determined based on the DMU they hunt. Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags must be designated for use in only one DMU in a Farmland Zone. In addition, at the time of purchase, the buyer must choose the land type (public or private) for which the tag will be valid.
- Q. Which tags will be issued with the purchase of a gun deer hunting license?**
- A. Hunters will receive one Gun Buck carcass tag valid in any DMU statewide, plus one or more Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tag(s), the number determined based on the DMU they hunt. All Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags must be designated for use in only one DMU in a Farmland Zone. In addition, at the time of purchase, the buyer must choose the land type (public or private) for which the tag will be valid.
- Q. Which tags will be issued with the purchase of a Conservation Patron license?**
- A. Conservation patron license holders will receive one Gun Buck Deer Carcass Tag and one Bow Buck Deer Carcass Tag that can be filled with either a conventional bow or crossbow. They may also receive one or more Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tag(s) for each license type valid for use only in the Farmland Zone DMU and land type specified at the time of purchase. Antlerless tags

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are not weapon-specific and can be filled with bow, crossbow or firearm, during an open season. Conservation Patrons may specify two different DMUs, or the same DMU twice, for their Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags. They may also select different land types for each antlerless tag.

Q. If I plan to harvest antlerless deer in multiple DMUs or outside the Farmland Zones, will I need to buy separate tags?

A. Most Farmland Zone DMUs will provide antlerless tag(s), which must be designated for either public or private land. If a hunter would like to harvest an antlerless deer in a Forest Zone DMU, he/she must purchase a bonus antlerless tag for that DMU, if available. If a hunter wants more than one antlerless tag in a Farmland Zone DMU, they may be able to purchase additional bonus antlerless tags for \$12 (residents), \$20 (non-residents) or \$5 (youth ages 10-11) each at a rate of one tag per hunter, per day, until sold out.

Q. What if the DMU I hunt doesn't offer any Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags?

A. In this case, hunters will have the option of purchasing a bonus antlerless tag for the preferred DMU and land type (if available).

Q. Which tags will junior deer hunters receive?

A. Junior deer hunters will receive one buck tag valid statewide and one Junior antlerless deer tag valid statewide (except for Ashland, Forest and Sawyer DMUs) for each gun or bow license. Youth hunters age 10 – 17 will not need to specify DMU or zone, but will need to specify land type on this antlerless tag.

Q. If a 17-year-old buys a Junior hunting license, but turns 18 before or during the deer season, can they still use the statewide antlerless deer tags they received with their Junior hunting license?

A. Yes. Because the tags were obtained while the person was under 18 years of age, they are valid.

Q. What tags will Class A and C disabled permit holders receive?

A. Class A and C disabled permit holders receive one buck tag valid statewide and the same free Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer tag(s) as everyone else. Class A and C disabled permit holders receive special permissions to use their carcass tags in additional areas. Have the customer contact DNR for specifics.

Q. What tags will qualified U.S. Armed Forces members receive?

A. A U.S. Armed Forces members receive **one buck tag valid statewide and the same free Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer tag(s) as everyone else**. However, qualified U.S. Armed Forces members receive special permissions to use their carcass tags in additional areas. Have the customer contact DNR for specifics. Deer Carcass Tag during the firearm deer season, including antlerless-only firearm deer seasons, to tag a buck that has been harvested with any legal weapon for that firearm season.

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Q. Will active duty military service members still be offered bonus antlerless tags for DMUs that are sold out?

A. Yes. We will continue to handle this as we have in the past. Residents who are in active service with the U.S. Armed Forces outside this state and on furlough or leave will still be able to purchase a bonus tag for any DMU and land type (public or private) which has an antlerless quota, even if they are already all sold out.

Q. Are antlerless tags weapon-specific in 2016?

A. No. All antlerless tags may be filled with any weapon and during any open season with the appropriate license and weapon for that season.

Q. Why are hunters charged a \$2 fee per transaction to pick up their antlerless tags at a Go Wild license agent after their deer license purchase?

A. The \$2 fee covers payments and commissions to agents and contractors, plus a transaction fee that is set in state statute. Customers may select their Farmland Zone antlerless tags and print themselves free of charge from their online Go Wild account.

Bonus antlerless tags

Q. When will bonus tags go on sale?

A. Bonus tags will be sold starting at 10 a.m. on August 15 in the Northern Forest and Central Forest Zones, August 16 in the Central Farmland Zone and August 17 in the Southern Farmland Zone. Sales for all remaining bonus tags for all zones and units will begin at 10 a.m. on August 18. Bonus tags can be purchased at a rate of one tag per customer per day until the unit is sold out or the hunting season ends. At purchase, the hunter will specify the zone, DMU and land type (public or private) in which they want their tag to be valid.

Q. How can I purchase a bonus tag?

A. Bonus tags can be purchased online at gowild.wi.gov or in person at a DNR service center or licensing agent. Over-the-phone purchasing is no longer available.

Q. Are additional bonus tags weapon-specific?

A. No. Bonus tags are NOT weapon-specific. They are zone, DMU and land type (public or private property) specific.

Q. As in the past, can qualified farmers request one free bonus tag for each bonus tag they purchase?

A. Yes, but this request must occur at the time of purchase of the initial bonus tag and it must be for the same DMU and land type as their first tag.

Q. When the bonus tags go on sale in August, do the prices differ between Management Zones?

A. No. Where available, bonus tags are the same price, regardless of zone and DMU - \$12 each for residents, \$20 each for non-residents and \$5 each for youth age 10 and 11.

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Crossbow regulations

Q. Which license is required to hunt with a crossbow?

A. To hunt with a crossbow during the crossbow deer season, a hunter must purchase a crossbow-specific license. However, if the hunter wishes to use both a crossbow AND archery equipment they must purchase the crossbow or archer license and the bow/crossbow upgrade. The first license will be sold at the regular price and the upgrade costs \$3. Use of a crossbow is included with the Conservation Patron license.

Q. Which tags will a hunter receive with a crossbow license?

A. Hunters receive one Bow Buck Deer Carcass Tag valid in any unit statewide and one or more Farmland Zone Antlerless Deer Carcass Tags specific to the Farmland (Zone 2), county and land type specified at purchase. Hunters may purchase a \$3 upgrade which authorizes the use of both crossbow and vertical bow to fill the Bow Buck Carcass Tag and Farmland (Zone 2) tag (specific to the Farmland Zone, county and land type specified at purchase). However, the purchase of an upgrade (or both licenses) does not come with a second set of carcass tags.

Q. If someone purchases both an archer and a crossbow license, what tags will they receive?

A. With the purchase of both licenses, hunters will receive one Bow Buck Deer Carcass Tag valid in any DMU statewide and one or more Farmland (Zone 2) Antlerless Deer Carcass Tags specific to the Farmland Zone, DMU and land type specified. These tags may be filled using either weapon. The purchase of both archer and crossbow licenses only authorizes the use of both weapons and hunters will not receive a second set of carcass tags.

Q. Do Conservation Patron licenses allow crossbow use?

A. Yes. A crossbow license is included with a Conservation Patron license.

Public and private lands

Q. Will the Farmland Zone antlerless tag(s) included at no cost with the purchase of a deer hunting license need to be specified for use on public or private land?

A. Yes. Hunters are required to specify zone, DMU and land type (public or private) for all antlerless tags, including those that are issued with the purchase of a deer hunting license.

Q. If a hunter purchases a bonus antlerless tag for hunting public lands, can that person switch it to a private lands tag after the purchase?

A. Yes. A hunter may switch land types as long as there are antlerless tags available for the desired zone, DMU, and land type, and does so before the deer season is open. That hunter would also have to pay a \$2 processing fee if picking up the tag at a Go Wild license agent. Once the exchange has been approved and posted to their Go Wild account by the department, customers may print the tags themselves at home for no charge.

For the complete 14-page FAQ document which also covers tagging, registering and transportation questions, customers can be referred to the DNR website – dnr.wi.gov