



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa DNR News

Conservation and Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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- [Iowa's archery deer hunting season opens October 1](#)
- [Operation ReLeaf tree distribution events planned through mid-October](#)
- [Iowa DNR to host chronic wasting disease meetings Oct. 9 and 10 in western Iowa](#)
- [Riverton Wildlife Area nearing full pool ahead of duck season](#)

Iowa's archery deer hunting season opens October 1

The days are getting shorter, nights are getting cooler and treestands are being moved into place. For bow hunters, the long wait is nearly over. Iowa's archery deer season begins Oct. 1.

"Our deer population has been relatively stable, keeping things consistent. I'm expecting hunters to have a pretty good fall," said Jim Coffey, forest wildlife biologist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Iowa's world renowned deer herd is the result of a beneficial partnership between hunters, landowners and local wildlife staff all working together.

"Our hunters play an important role in helping us to maintain their high quality deer herd," Coffey said.

An estimated 62,000 bow hunters will purchase more than 90,000 deer licenses this year. On average, bow hunters take 12 trips to the timber and spend more than three hours out each time before the season suspends on Dec. 2 to make way for the shotgun hunters.

"They're a pretty dedicated group. Having 62,000 pairs of eyes in the field really helps us to identify any local issues, like discovering a local case of hemorrhagic disease, and by hunters providing tissue samples that we can test for chronic wasting disease. We encourage them to talk to their landowners about the status with their local herd and adjust their doe harvest accordingly," he said.

Iowa is unique versus other premier deer hunting states because there is a restriction on the use of firearms during the rut that reduces pressure on the bucks, allows bucks to grow older, which is an important factor for antler growth. Iowa also has mild winters compared to northern states, and excellent soil quality that provides natural vegetation which also allows deer to grow quickly.

Early in the season, deer will likely be in their summer pattern, moving from their bedding areas to food sources, like acorn producing trees. Hunters putting in the work studying the changing patterns should improve their odds for success.

Deer population varies across the state with lower numbers in northwest Iowa and increasing numbers along the Mississippi River and across southern Iowa, but high quality animals are available in every county. The highest antlered deer harvest comes from Clayton, Allamakee, Van Buren and Warren counties.

For bow hunters, Iowa is the place where dreams are made. Bow hunters harvested nearly 13,000 antlered deer last year. The archery season will close on Dec. 1 for the shotgun seasons, then reopens on Dec. 18 until closing on Jan. 10, 2017.

The Iowa DNR has information on the number of antlerless deer licenses available, locations of hunter education classes, and maps of available public and private hunting land, a list of lockers participating in Help Us Stop Hunger, and more at www.iowadnr.gov/deer

Hunters must report their harvest

All deer taken must be reported using the harvest reporting system by midnight the day after the deer is recovered. Accurately reporting the kill is an important part of Iowa's deer management program and plays a vital role in managing deer populations and future hunting opportunities.

Hunters can report their deer on the DNR website www.iowadnr.gov, by calling the toll free reporting number 1-800-771-4692, or at any license vendor. For hunters with Internet access, the online reporting of your harvest is the easiest way to register your deer. If no deer is harvested, no report is necessary.

Media Contact: Jim Coffey, Forest Wildlife Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-979-8033.

Operation ReLeaf tree distribution events planned through mid-October

A popular program offering landscape-quality trees at a deep discount to Alliant Energy customers will be held at six locations across Iowa this fall. Residential tree distributions will be held in Buena Vista, Fayette, Lee, Linn, Lucas and Story counties this September and October.

Alliant Energy's Operation ReLeaf helps their customers save energy in their homes using trees to create summer shade and winter wind breaks.

Through the program, Alliant Energy residential customers may purchase high quality trees for \$25 each, on a first-come, first-served basis. These trees typically retail for between \$65 and \$125.

Advanced order is highly recommended, and advance purchase is limited to two trees per household. In the event there are extra trees available on distribution day, those trees will be released for purchase at that time. Order forms are available online at www.alliantenergy.com/releaf.

Distribution locations, dates and details are as follows:

Buena Vista County – Storm Lake

Partner: City of Storm Lake

Location: Kings Point Park

Date: Oct. 4, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Fayette County – Oelwein

Partner: City of Oelwein

Location: Oelwein City Park

Date: Sept. 28, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Tree planting and care workshop: 5:15 p.m.

Lee County – Montrose

Partner: Lee County Conservation

Location: Lee County Conservation Center

Date: Oct. 5, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Tree planting and care workshop: 5:45 p.m.

Linn County – Marion

Partner: Linn County Conservation Board

Location: Squaw Creek Park

Date: Oct. 7, 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Tree planting and care workshop: 8:15 a.m.

Lucas County – Chariton

Partner: Lucas County Conservation

Location: Pin Oak Marsh Lodge

Date: Sept. 27, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Tree planting and care workshop: 5:15 p.m.

Story County – Ames

Partner: Story County Conservation

Location: East Petersen Park

Date: Oct. 19, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Tree planting and care workshop: 5:15 p.m.

The DNR has resources available online at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Forestry/Urban-Forestry/Resources-and-Links> including [Rethinking Maple: Selecting Trees for your Yard](#) that can help determine what species is best for a particular location. Mature height of a tree should be given special consideration.

Operation ReLeaf is offered in partnership with Alliant Energy, Iowa DNR Forestry and local partners. Operation ReLeaf participants must be Alliant Energy residential customers.

MEDIA CONTACT: Emma Hanigan, State Urban Forester, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-249-1732 or emma.hanigan@dnr.iowa.gov.

Iowa DNR to host chronic wasting disease meetings Oct. 9 and 10 in western Iowa

Deer hunters in western Iowa take note – chronic wasting disease (CWD) has shown up on your doorstep. Five deer harvested in southeast Nebraska in 2016 have tested positive for CWD.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will discuss the status of CWD in Iowa and how deer hunters can help during meetings in Avoca, Sidney and Council Bluffs.

The meetings are scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Oct. 9, at the AHSTW Community School cafeteria, 768 S. Maple St., in Avoca; 2 p.m., Oct. 10, at United Faith Church, 1975 Hwy. 275, in Sidney; and 6:30 p.m., Oct. 10, in the Green Room at Bass Pro Shops, 2901 Bass Pro Drive, Council Bluffs.

Terry Haindfield, wildlife biologist for the Iowa DNR who is leading the effort to combat CWD, is coordinating the meetings. He hosted a series of meetings in northeast Iowa last year that drew crowds of up to 300 and hopes to have similar turn out in western Iowa.

“We want people to come to these meetings, ask their questions, hear the concerns from other hunters,” Haindfield said. “Deer hunting is an important tradition and, for some, a large part of their identity. It is also important to us and we need to work together to combat this disease. Our goal is to provide quality deer hunting for future generations.”

The Iowa DNR will present information on CWD, inform the public about increased surveillance sampling of deer from Woodbury to Fremont County, and request help from deer hunters for tissue samples during the upcoming fall and winter deer seasons.

After the initial CWD positive wild deer was found in Allamakee County in 2013, the DNR, with the help of cooperative hunters, increased its surveillance in proximity to where the positive deer was harvested to help determine the extent of the disease. To date, 18 deer have tested positive for CWD in northeast Iowa; 17 in Allamakee County and one in Clayton County, discovered last year.

There are several things hunters can do to stop or slow the spread of CWD, Haindfield said.

“The first and most important is to allow sampling of hunter harvested deer,” he said.

The Iowa DNR’s wildlife staff sets an annual goal of collecting 4,500 samples. Since testing began in 2002, more than 62,500 tissue samples have been collected and tested looking for the presence of CWD in Iowa’s wild deer herd. The effort has focused on portions of northeast and eastern Iowa near Wisconsin, Illinois, and south-central Iowa near Missouri, where CWD has been detected. Additional testing has been conducted in Pottawattamie, Cerro Gordo and Davis counties, following positive tests from captive facilities. All counties have at least 15 samples taken to check for CWD. The disease has been found in every state around Iowa.

CWD is a neurological disease belonging to the family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) or prion diseases. It attacks the brain of infected deer and elk causing the animals to lose weight, display abnormal behavior, lose body functions and die. It is always fatal to the infected animal.

The Iowa DNR has more information about CWD and other infectious disease online at www.iowadnr.gov/cwd.

Media Contact: Terry Haindfield, CWD Coordinator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 563-546-7960, or Matt Dollison, Wildlife Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 712-350-0147.

Riverton Wildlife Area nearing full pool ahead of duck season

The main water pump at the Riverton Wildlife Management Area in Fremont County has been running since Sept. 11, after a mechanical issue caused the pump to shut down over the Labor Day Weekend.

The current water level in the main boat hunting area is less than two inches below full pool. The Iowa DNR will continue pumping water to create ideal wetland habitat before the early split of regular duck season opens in the south zone on Sept. 30.

The DNR will work to correct the electrical issues causing the pump to periodically shut down once the pumping season is over.

Media Contact: Matt Dollison, Wildlife Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 712-350-0147.