



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Hunting News

Conservation and Recreation



Nov. 23, 2017

## Tips and resources for first shotgun season

If you are one of the 60,000 Iowa hunters planning to deer hunt December 2-6 in the first shotgun season, here are some helpful resources to help with your hunt.

- **Safety First:** Review [basic safety and firearm rules](#), and share these tips with friends and family hunting with you. The goal is for everyone to come home safely.
- **Buy Licenses Soon:** About 60,000 hunters are expected to participate in the first shotgun season and so far, only 32 percent have purchased their licenses.
- **Add an Antlerless Tag:** Some counties still have several antlerless tags available. Check out current [antlerless quotas](#) for residents.
- **Pistol Cartridges Approved for Rifles:** Iowa hunters will have a new option this fall while hunting deer during the shotgun seasons - rifles that are capable of shooting [straight walled cartridges](#). The law allows for straight wall ammunition that was previously approved for pistol hunting along with criteria for similar sized ammunition not on the list to be used in rifles.
- **Tagging Deer:** Group hunting is popular during the first shotgun season. Remember that anyone participating within the group can tag the deer, but they must use their own tag. Additionally, any deer must be tagged before it is moved or within 15 minutes of being found, whichever comes first.
- **Deer Tissue Samples:** The Iowa DNR will be collecting tissue samples to test for the presence of [Chronic Wasting Disease](#) in Iowa's wild deer herd. Many hunters voluntarily contribute samples of their harvested deer for these testing efforts. Most samples are obtained by wildlife staff, checking with hunters in the field or at home processing points.
- **Report Your Harvest:** Visit the online [Harvest Reporting page](#) or call (800) 771-4692. Curious about what is being harvested in your county? You can see reported counts

on the [DNR's Deer and Turkey Report](#) page.

- **Know the TIP Line:** If you see illegal behavior in the field, please report it ASAP to help protect other hunters, wildlife and natural resources. Visit the [TIP web page](#) to report an incident, or call toll-free: (800) 532-2020.
- **Donate to HUSH:** Learn more about how you can donate a deer to the Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH) program, at the bottom of the DNR's [deer hunting page](#). Last year Iowa hunters donated more than 2,800 deer to the program, providing more than 550,000 meals to the hungry.
- **Hunting Predictions:** Iowa's overall deer harvest across all seasons last year was 101,397, down more than 30 percent from the 2006 peak; the 2017 harvest should be similar. Iowa hunters have been instrumental in helping to manage the deer herd in ways that provide excellent opportunities, and yet keep the herd at acceptable levels within the state. The DNR is continually working to keep that balance with deer management strategies.

We hope you enjoy deer hunting this season. Have fun and be safe!