



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Hunting News

Conservation and Recreation

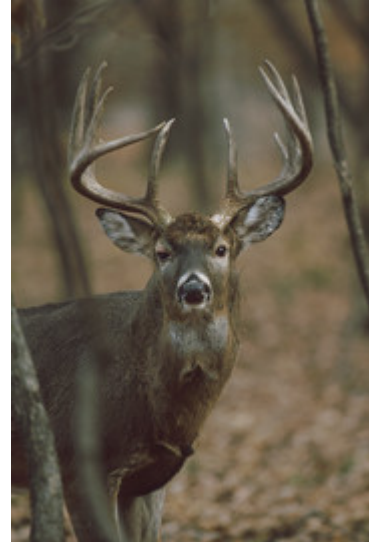
Nov. 18, 2021

For Iowa's deer hunters, the wait is nearly over, shotgun deer seasons begin Dec. 4

The first of Iowa's two shotgun deer seasons begins Dec. 4, when an expected 55-60,000 blaze orange clad hunters head to the timber for the annual late fall tradition.

The good news is that Iowa's deer population is similar to last year statewide, and is continuing its slow upward trend in northcentral and northwest Iowa that has been a goal of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) since 2014.

[READ MORE](#)



Safety first, during the shotgun seasons

The long wait is almost over. For an expected 55-60,000 deer hunters, the shotgun deer seasons are right around the corner and before they head to the timber, it's important that everyone go through their gear to make sure everything still fits and still works and takes time to review their hunting safety plan.

"Hunting continues to be a safe activity enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of Iowans, which is why hunting injuries make the news - because they're so uncommon," said Matt Bruner, district supervisor with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Bureau for north central Iowa. "And part of making hunting safe is creating a plan for each hunt."

[READ MORE](#)

All Iowans can help protect fish and wildlife through Turn in Poachers

Information is reported to the Turn in Poachers (TIP) system all year long, with a noticeable increase from September to January as part of the fall and winter hunting



seasons. Regardless of the time of year or day of the week, the most important factor for the public in using the [TIP system](#) is timeliness.

“Our officers work odd hours and weekends so if you wait until Monday to report what happened over the weekend, the evidence can be gone or destroyed and the poacher is nowhere to be found,” said Matt Bruner,

district supervisor with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Bureau for north central Iowa. “Call as soon as you know something. The quicker we’re on the scene, the better the chance that we can catch them in the act of committing the crime.”

[READ MORE](#)

Hunters play key role in the battle against chronic wasting disease

Iowa’s deer hunters are the most effective tool to monitor and manage for chronic wasting disease, and heading in to the two shotgun seasons, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is again asking for their help.

The goal is to test around 5,000 deer samples with the bulk coming from portions of northeast and eastern Iowa near Wisconsin, Illinois; south-central Iowa near Missouri; and western Iowa near Nebraska, where the disease has been detected. Additional testing will be conducted in Pottawattamie, Cerro Gordo and Davis counties, following positive tests from captive facilities. All Iowa counties have at least 15 samples collected annually. The disease has been found in every state around Iowa.

[READ MORE](#)

Donated deer hides benefit disabled veterans

Hunters donated nearly 4,000 deer hides to Elks Lodges across Iowa last year, which was a slight decrease from the 2020-2021 season. The deer hides are used by the Veterans Leather Program to make professionally-crafted leather gloves for veterans in wheelchairs and also turned into leather used for therapy programs for recovering veterans.

The Veterans Leather Program relies on the charity of hunters to donate their deer hides. Hunters willing to donate their hides are encouraged to contact the local Elks Lodge for drop off locations or visit www.elks.org/lodges to find the nearest lodge. The therapeutic kits and gloves are distributed at no cost to the veterans.



Common questions and answers on allowable calibers

Did regulations change from 2020 to 2021 regarding allowable calibers?

Yes, the new regulations expanded what is legal for deer hunting. Hunters are no longer limited to using straight walled cartridge rifles. Everything that was legal in 2020 is also legal in 2021.

Will it change in the future?

It would take a change in Iowa law through the Legislature to make changes to allowable cartridges. No changes are being proposed or discussed for the foreseeable future.

How do I determine my cartridge size?

The caliber, or bullet diameter, is typically printed on the ammo box.

Is the list of allowable cartridges in the regulations a complete list?

No, it's not. We have tried to include common ones, but there are many less popular cartridges not shown on the list. The most important criteria is, that it is at least .350 but no greater than .500.

Are .350 and .500 "in or out" of what's legal?

They are legal. If it's .349 or less OR .501 or more, it's not legal.

Can I use a revolver and are there limits on size?

A revolver is legal if the barrel is at least 4 inches long

I just bought a .350 Legend. Is it legal or not legal?

Legal

I just bought a .45-70. Is it legal or not legal?

Legal

What bottle-shaped cartridges are legal?

All of them with a bullet diameter between 0.350" and 0.500".

How do I verify whether or not my cartridges are legal if I still have questions after reading this Q/A and the regulations?

Contact your local conservation officer. A list is available on p. 53 of the hunting regulations or by clicking [here](#).

Is there a magazine capacity limit for deer hunting in Iowa?

No, there is not a maximum round count for rifle or shotgun magazines for deer hunting in Iowa.