

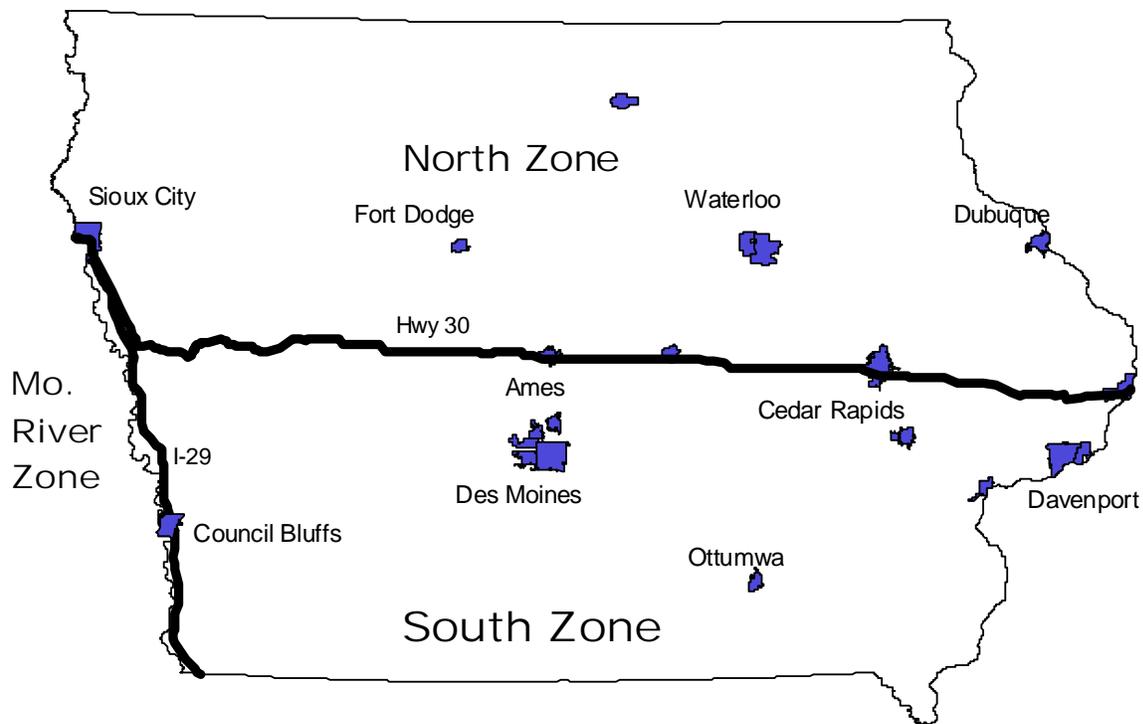
## Proposed changes to Chapter 91 (Waterfowl).

Listed below are the zones and tentative season dates approved by the NRC in March. The changes create a new zone for duck and goose hunting, referred to as the Missouri River zone, which includes all the lands and waters in the state of Iowa west of Interstate 29. The changes also adjust the season dates to comply with federal regulations and to ensure the seasons open on weekends, as well as establish duck and goose hunting season dates for the new Missouri River zone.

The advantage of the new zone is that hunters will have the opportunity to hunt a week later in this zone than in the south zone. The establishment of 3 zones also increases flexibility for adjusting duck hunting season dates when duck seasons are shorter, such as 45 or 30-days long. These zones and season dates keep the five-day September duck season in place, which is highly valued by many hunters, while providing different opening and closing dates for the second segments of the duck season in each zone.

The amendments also reduce the size of areas closed to Canada goose hunting and permit landowner hunting in all Canada goose closed hunting zones. These recommendations assume that the 2012 federal migratory bird hunting regulations will be the same as 2011.

### Proposed zone boundaries for the 2012 fall season.



### Duck and Goose Hunting Zones:

For the purpose of duck and goose hunting, the state is divided into three zones: North, South and Missouri River Zones. The North and South Zones are divided by a line beginning on the South Dakota- Iowa border at Interstate 29, southeast to State Highway 175, east to State Highway 37, southeast to State Highway 183, northeast to State Highway 141, east to U.S. Highway 30, and along U.S. Highway 30 to the Iowa-Illinois border. The Missouri River Zone includes all lands and waters in the state of Iowa west of Interstate 29.

**Proposed season dates for the 2012 fall season.**

	<b>NORTH ZONE*</b>	<b>SOUTH ZONE*</b>	<b>MO RIVER ZONE*</b>
<b>Ducks, Mergansers and Coots</b>	Sept 22 – 26 & Oct 13 – Dec 6	Sept 22 – 26 & Oct 20 – Dec 13	Sept 22 – 26 & Oct 27 – Dec 20
<b>Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days</b>	Oct 6 – 7	Oct 13 – 14	Oct 20 – 21
<b>Canada geese and Brant</b>	Sept 29 – Jan 4, 2013	Oct 6 – Jan 11, 2013	Oct 13 – Jan 18, 2013
<b>White-fronted geese</b>	Sept. 29 – Dec. 11	Oct. 6 – Dec. 18	Oct. 13 – Dec. 25
<b>Light Geese (white and blue phase snow geese and Ross' geese)</b>	Sept 29 – Jan 13, 2013	Oct 6 - Jan. 18, 2013	Oct 13 - Jan 18, 2013

**SPECIAL SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE SEASONS**

<b>Canada geese</b>	<b>Sept. 1 – 9</b> Only in designated zones around Des Moines, Cedar Rapids/Iowa City and Cedar Falls/Waterloo.
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**STATEWIDE**

<b>Light Geese Conservation Order (white and blue phase snow geese and Ross' geese)</b>	<b>Jan. 19 - April 15, 2013</b> Additional regulations apply
<b>Doves (Mourning and Eurasian Collared)</b>	<b>Sept. 1 - Nov. 9</b>
<b>Woodcock</b>	<b>Oct. 1 - Nov. 14</b>
<b>Snipe</b>	<b>Sept. 1 - Nov. 30</b>
<b>Rail (Sora and Virginia)</b>	<b>Sept. 1 - Nov. 9</b>

**Shooting Hours:**

One-half hour before sunrise to sunset for all species except woodcock, which is sunrise to sunset.

**Daily Bag Limits:**

**Ducks:** Daily limit is 6, including no more than 4 mallards (of which no more than 2 may be female), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 2 pintail, 1 black duck, and 1 canvasback.

**Mergansers:** Daily limit is 5, including no more than 2 hooded mergansers.

**Coots:** Daily limit is 15.

**Geese:** The daily limit for Canada geese is 2 from September 24 through October 31 and 3 Canada geese from November 1 through the end of the season. During the special September Canada goose season within the Des Moines, Cedar Rapids/Iowa City and Cedar Falls/Waterloo Zones, the daily is 5 Canada geese. The daily limits for white-fronted geese, brant, and snow geese are 2 white-fronted geese, 1 brant, and 20 snow geese.

**Doves (Mourning and Eurasian Collared):** Daily limit is 15.

**Woodcock:** Daily limit is 3.

**Snipe:** Daily limit is 8.

**Rail: (Sora and Virginia):** Daily limit is 12.

**Possession Limits:**

Possession limits are twice the daily bag limit for all the above species except light geese for which there is no possession limit.

### **Canada Goose Closed Hunting Zones**

Changes are proposed to reduce the sizes of the Bremer County (Sweet Marsh), Butler County (Big Marsh), Van Buren County (Sugema), Monona-Woodbury (Badger Lake/Snyder Bend) and Worth-Winnebago (Rice Lake) Canada Goose Closed Hunting Zones. The Bremer County Canada Goose Closed Hunting Zone will be reduced from 61.4 mi<sup>2</sup> to 36 mi<sup>2</sup>. The Butler County Canada Goose Closed Hunting Zone will be reduced from 32.1 mi<sup>2</sup> to 21 mi<sup>2</sup>. The Van Buren County Canada Goose Closed Hunting Zone will be reduced from 87.3 mi<sup>2</sup> to 29.7 mi<sup>2</sup>. The Monona-Woodbury Counties Canada Goose Closed Hunting Zone will be reduced from 60 mi<sup>2</sup> to 43.5 mi<sup>2</sup>. The Worth-Winnebago County Canada Goose Closed Hunting Zone will be reduced from 26 mi<sup>2</sup> to 19 mi<sup>2</sup>.

### **Landowner Hunting in Canada Goose Closed Hunting Zones**

Prior to this year, landowner hunting was permitted in 6 Canada Goose Closed Hunting Zones. This change will allow landowner hunting to be permitted in all 12 Canada Goose Closed hunting zones.

## **Proposed changes to Chapter 106 (Deer hunting by residents).**

The proposed changes do the following:

1. Close the November antlerless season;
2. Remove four counties from the January antlerless season and reduce the length of the January antlerless season by one week;
3. Restrict hunters who purchase one of the 7,500 paid any-sex early muzzleloader licenses from also purchasing a paid antlerless license during either the first or second regular gun season;
4. Specify changes in quota numbers in 21 counties for antlerless deer licenses.

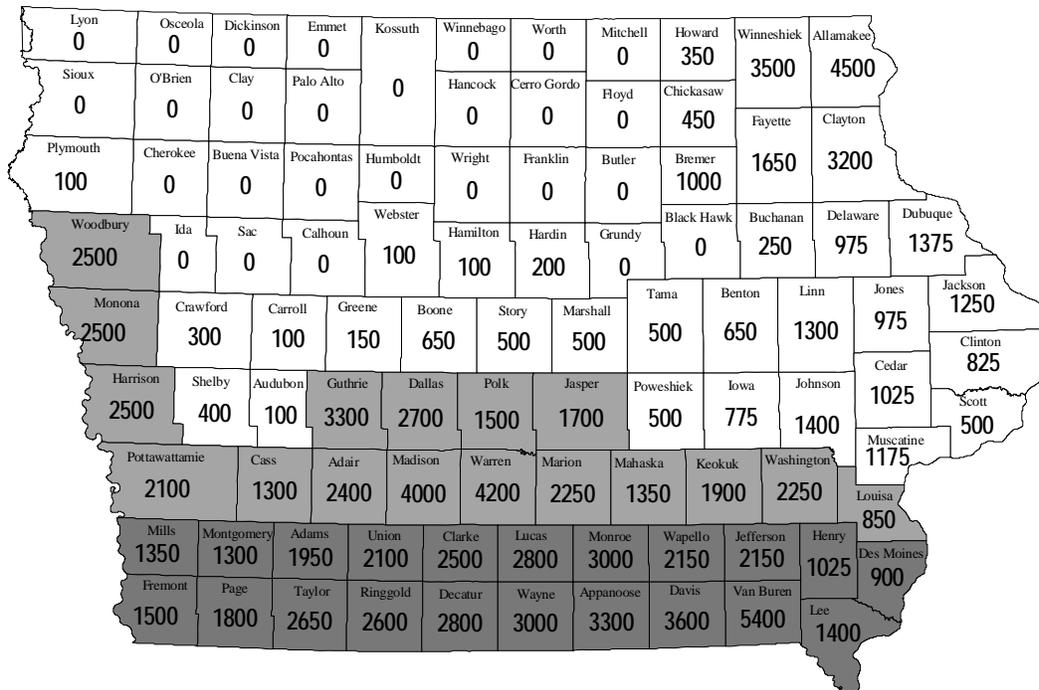
These changes are being proposed for the following reasons:

1. In 2005, the November season was added and the January antlerless season was lengthened in an attempt to reduce deer numbers, but these changes are no longer needed to reach the Department of Natural Resources' (Department's) objectives for the deer population. Thus, the November season is being removed and the January season is being shortened by one week.
2. In 2011 the 7,500 quota for the muzzleloader season filled in less than four days. Restricting hunters who obtain an early muzzleloader season from also obtaining an antlerless license for the shotgun season will make hunters choose which season they prefer. In 2004 and before, hunters had to choose which season to participate in and the muzzleloader season took three weeks or longer to fill. Thus, the proposed change will allow those hunters who prefer to hunt only during the muzzleloader season a better opportunity to do so.
3. The changes to the antlerless quotas are designed to stabilize deer numbers in 20 counties where deer numbers have been reduced to the Department's goals and to increase the kill in one county so that deer numbers are reduced to the Department's goals more quickly there.

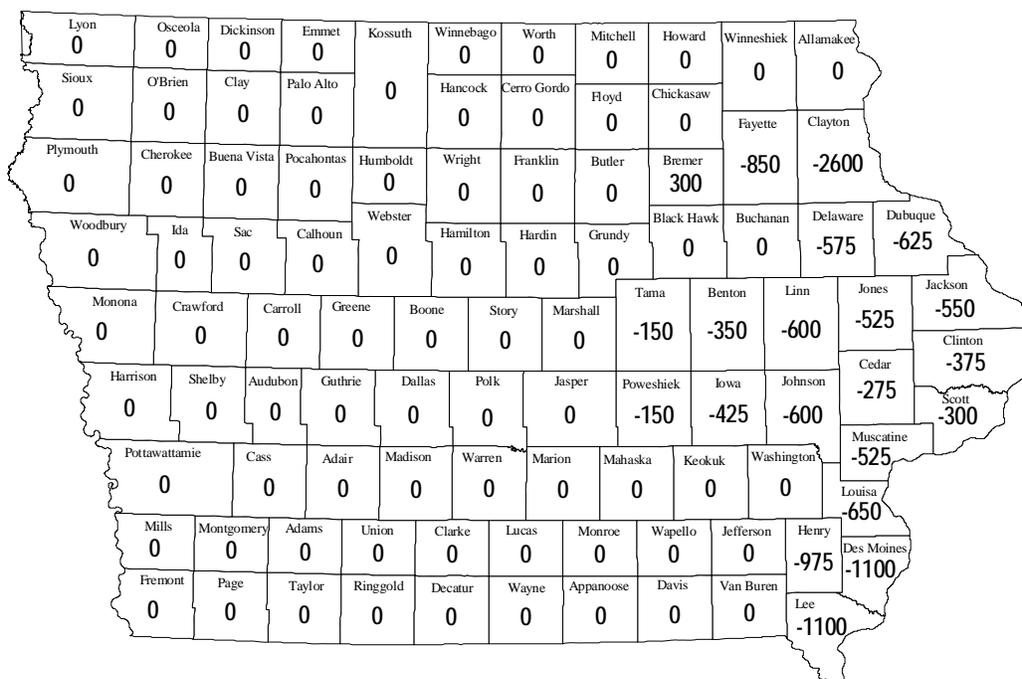
## Proposed antlerless quotas for the 2012/2013 deer season.

The map in Figure 1 shows the proposed antlerless quotas for the 2012/2013 deer season recommendations. A total of 119,900 antlerless licenses would be available. This is 13,000 fewer than the past 2 years. All shaded counties would be open for the January season which would be shortened one week. The dark shaded counties would allow centerfire rifles during the January season.

**Figure 1. Antlerless quotas for the 2012/2013 deer season.**



**Figure 2. The change in the antlerless quota in each county.**



## **Proposed changes to Chapter 108 (Furbearers)**

The proposed changes increase the quota for bobcats from 350 to 450 and increase the quota for river otters from 650 to 850. Both populations appear capable of sustaining the increased harvest.

Increasing the quota for bobcats and river otters will have a positive job impact on the State by increasing overall trapping activity. By raising the quotas, trappers have a better opportunity to actually take a bobcat or otter before the quotas are filled. This means an increased business for the private sector in the following areas: hunting and trapping gear and other related equipment, and taxidermy work. It could also lead to increased business for restaurants, hotels, and gas stations as people move around the state participating in the sport.