



# IOWA OUTDOORS

## IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION | [WWW.IOWADNR.GOV/NEWS/](http://WWW.IOWADNR.GOV/NEWS/)

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### **EARLY MUZZLELOADER DEER SEASON BEGINS OCTOBER 17**

CHARITON - Iowa's early muzzleloader deer season begins Saturday for the 7,500 residents who purchased a license before the season quota filled. Early muzzleloader season is preferred by some hunters for its moderate temperature and the solitary experience with fewer firearm hunters in the field.

This year, the muzzleloader season falls closer to the rut and combined with below normal temperatures, hunters should expect to see plenty of deer on the move.

Deer will be especially attracted to acorns, any remaining green forage and will be using corn for both food and cover. Stand sites that take advantage of these food resources or trails connecting them to bedding areas are good bets during this season. Bucks have also started making scrapes and rubs in preparation for the rut.

While the general quota has been filled, landowner/tenant and depredation licenses can still be obtained for this season as those licenses do not count towards the quota.

Survey data collected by the DNR indicates that, in general, deer populations in northwest, north-central, and portions of central Iowa will be similar to last year. Deer densities in eastern, southern, and areas of central Iowa have declined from 2008 levels. However, deer populations are strong in northeast, southern, and west-central Iowa and remain above objectives. In these areas, hunters can help by killing one or more antlerless deer during the season.

The early muzzleloader deer season runs from Oct. 17 – 25 and muzzleloader hunters are required to wear blaze orange. Muzzleloader hunters should remember that bowhunters and others who enjoy the fall countryside are likely to be sharing the woods with them.

Hunting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. All hunters are reminded that if an antlered deer is killed, the transportation tag must be placed on the animal's antler. It is recommended that the tag be placed on the antler beam either at the base or between two points.

All deer taken must be reported using the harvest reporting system by midnight the day after the deer is recovered. Accurately reporting your kill is an important part of the deer management program in Iowa, playing a vital role in managing deer populations and future hunting opportunities. Hunters can report their deer on the DNR website ([www.iowadnr.gov](http://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.

Last year, early muzzleloader hunters reported harvesting 4,342 deer, of which, 47 percent were does.

**For more information, contact Tom Litchfield, state deer biologist at (641) 774-2958.**

## **HUNTERS URGED TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS WHILE HUNTING FROM TREE STANDS**

DES MOINES — As the fall deer hunting season gets in full swing, hunters are being urged to exercise extra caution when using tree stands.

Corwin Gingerich, 37, of Kalona, survived a fall from approximately 40 feet while bow hunting deer Saturday evening in southern Washington County.

Gingerich had started down from his tree stand at approximately 7 p.m. Saturday to take look at a buck he had shot when he lost his footing on screw-in pegs. He fell down the side of a cottonwood, hitting a split in the tree, before falling to the ground and landing on his back.

Gingerich was transported to the Washington County Hospital and Clinics in Washington then transferred to the University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City where he was treated and released.

"We want to stress the use of full body harnesses, using haul lines when getting gear in and out of the stand, and maintaining the three points of contact at all times when climbing in and out of a tree stand," said Megan Wisecup, recreational safety supervisor for the DNR. "Another huge safety tip we want to stress is to make sure to leave your hunting plan with family or a friend before you head out. And carry a cell phone in case of emergencies."

The hunting plan includes where the hunt will take place, who will be in the hunting party, where each person in the hunt will be at all times and their role in the hunt and when they will return.

**Media Contact for tree stand safety: Megan Wisecup, recreational safety programs supervisor, Iowa DNR, 515-238-4968.**

## **IOWA PHEASANT SEASON OPENS OCTOBER 31**

BOONE – Iowa’s pheasant and quail hunting seasons open on October 31, with an estimated 80,000 people expected to pursue upland game birds this year, which is down more than 100,000 hunters from 1999.

Todd Bogenschutz, upland wildlife research biologist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, recommends pheasant hunters take a look at the August roadside survey counts as counts were variable across the state. The counts can be viewed online at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov).

“We saw only slight improvements in our pheasant populations south of Hwy. 20, with large declines north of Hwy. 20,” said Bogenschutz. “Overall the August roadside surveys showed pheasants were unchanged from the 2008 season, while quail numbers showed a rebound from 2008.

“It will definitely not be one of our better years, but there will still be good hunting where we have good habitat,” said Bogenschutz. He expects hunters will still harvest around 300,000 roosters. Iowa’s special 2-day resident only youth pheasant season opens Oct. 24-25.

Bogenschutz said he remains concerned that Iowa continues to lose valuable pheasant habitat in the form of expiring CRP (conservation reserve program) lands. Contracts on approximately 170 square miles of CRP in Iowa expired October 1.

“It will be impossible for our pheasant population to recover with less and less habitat each year,” said Bogenschutz.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering a public comment period on the CRP through Oct.19, 2009. Bogenschutz encourages hunters who value the habitat that CRP provides to visit USDA’s website and provide comments on CRP.

**Media Contact: Todd Bogenschutz, upland wildlife research biologist for the DNR, at 515-432-2823.**

## **SELL YOUR TREES CAREFULLY**

If you own one acre of forest land or more than 1,000 acres, the trees represent one of the most valuable resources on your property. Trees can provide a source of income, habitat to wildlife and can improve the value of the land. The decision to harvest trees is important for you and your family and should be protected by using a professional forester and a written contract.

A professional forester will protect your interests much like a real estate agent helps with selling your house. They are uniquely qualified to assist with a timber harvest that accomplishes your needs and expectations. It is in their best interest to market your trees to reputable loggers that will pay a fair price. Never sell your trees without a contract with whoever will be paying you for your trees.

“Every year I get calls from forest landowners who made a handshake agreement to sell their trees to people who will pay the landowner after the trees are graded and they get paid by the sawmill. After a year goes by and the landowner has not been paid, they call the DNR for help. Unfortunately, there is nothing we can do to help landowners that do not have a signed contract,” says Aron Flickinger, forester with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

A good contract is developed to ensure that:

- You are paid in full prior to the time that trees are removed
- Your forest, soil and water resources are protected
- The harvest area is left in good condition
- There are no assumptions about how the harvest will be conducted
- Your special concerns are addressed
- You are satisfied with the outcome of the sale

“A reputable logger is working hard to make a living for themselves and maintains a good reputation in the community. No matter how nice the person seems, get a signed contract before one tree gets cut. After all, you wouldn’t sell your corn, beans or livestock without a contract,” Flickinger said.

“Think of the trees on your property as another type of crop. They just take longer to harvest, and if managed properly, can provide income for your farm as well as habitat for wildlife along the way,” Flickinger said.

Work with a forester before you sell your trees. People that can assist you with your timber harvest can be found at this website: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/district.html> or <http://www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/pdf/Consultant%20list.pdf>

## **DES MOINES MEETING SET FOR PROPOSED REGULATIONS WHEN ISSUING FREE FISHING AND HUNTING LICENSES**

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will host a public meeting to receive comments on proposed changes on how it issues free fishing and/or hunting licenses to people who are eligible according to a disability and/or age or low income status.

The proposed changes clarify severe mental disability and severe physical disability; establishes a means to verify low income persons; substitutes a free lifetime fishing license with a free annual fishing license; clarifies procedure when issuing a free fishing or hunting license; permits enforcement capability in revoking licenses issued in violation of this rule; and provides a mechanism through which the department may deny, suspend or revoke licenses of persons who owe the State of Iowa money pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 272D.

The public meeting will begin at 1 p.m., October 27, in the Wallace State Office Building, Conference Room 4E, 502 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, in Des Moines. Any persons who attend the public hearing and have special needs, such as hearing or mobility impairments should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

The DNR will be accepting written comments through October 27. Comments are to be sent to Martin Konrad, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 502 E. 9<sup>th</sup> St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0034 or to [Martin.Konrad@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Martin.Konrad@dnr.iowa.gov); oral comments may be made by calling 515-281-6976 or 515-281-6976 or expressed in person at the fisheries bureau office on the fourth floor of the Wallace Building.

**Contacts: Martin Konrad 515/281-6976 or Dave Cretors 515/281-0413**