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Deer and Turkey Regulation Changes for Fall

SEPTEMBER 07TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

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The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reminds deer and turkey hunters of regulation changes that apply to hunting this fall.

* Crossbows have been added as a legal method during archery deer and turkey seasons and also during the fall firearms turkey season. As a result, MDC has removed the “hunting method exemption” requirement for hunters to use crossbows during the archery deer season. The regulation change will provide additional hunting opportunities for young hunters and help prolong hunting activities for older participants.

* To offer additional hunting opportunities for youths, MDC has expanded the late youth portion of the fall firearms deer season from two to three days and moved it earlier in the season. It will now start on the first Friday after Thanksgiving instead of in early January.

* MDC has reduced the length of the deer-hunting antlerless portion from 12 to three days and it now begins on the first Friday in December.

* The Department has eliminated the urban-zones portion of the firearms deer season and has moved the areas under statewide regulations.

According to MDC, there were so few deer harvested during this portion that it proved unnecessary.

* To help protect young bucks and increase the number of mature bucks, the harvest limit of antlered deer has been reduced from three to two during the combined archery and

firearms deer hunting season. Only one antlered deer may be taken during the firearms deer hunting season, and only one antlered deer may be taken prior to the November portion of the firearms deer season.

* Hunters who harvest deer during the opening weekend of the fall firearms November portion (Nov. 12 and 13) in any of the 29 counties of the Department's Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Zone in northeast, central, and east-central Missouri are required to present their deer for CWD sample collection on the day of harvest at one of 75 MDC CWD sampling locations throughout the 29 counties. Hunters also have the option of presenting just the deer head with about six inches of neck attached. Sampling locations will be open from 7:30 a.m. through 8 p.m. The 29 counties of the CWD Management Zone are: Adair, Boone, Callaway, Carroll, Chariton, Cole, Cooper, Crawford, Franklin, Gasconade, Jefferson, Knox, Linn, Livingston, Macon, Miller, Moniteau, Morgan, Osage, Putnam, Randolph, St. Charles, St. Louis, Schuyler, Scotland, Shelby, Sullivan, Warren, and Washington.

FALL DEER AND TURKEY HUNTING DATES

* Archery Deer and Turkey: Sept. 15 - Nov. 11 and Nov. 23 - Jan. 15, 2017

* Firearms Turkey: Oct. 1 - 31

* Firearms Deer Early Youth Portion: Oct. 29 and 30

* Firearms Deer November Portion: Nov. 12 - 22

* Firearms Deer Late Youth Portion: Nov. 25 - 27

* Firearms Deer Antlerless Portion: Dec. 2 - 4

* Firearms Deer Alternative Methods Portion: Dec. 24 - Jan. 3, 2017

*Get more information from MDC's "2016 Fall Deer

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