

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JEFF OLSOMMER

139TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

SPORTSMEN'S REPORT

FALL
2026



A note to my fellow outdoors enthusiasts –

Thank you for being part of Pennsylvania's heritage of hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation. Like you, I enjoy the endless opportunities provided by thousands of acres of forestland across Wayne and Pike counties. Hunting and fishing have been my favorite pastimes for many, many years.

Safe, responsible use of outdoor resources is foundational to Pennsylvania. I appreciate the role my fellow sportsmen play in protecting what we have for future generations. They deserve the same experiences we've had. I hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative. If you have any questions, please contact my office at 570-226-5959 or visit RepOlsommer.com/contact.

I always enjoy hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Olsommer".

Rep. Jeff Olsommer
139th Legislative District



NEW FOR THIS YEAR

- ⊕ Sunday hunting has expanded to all hunting seasons except for migratory game birds.
- ⊕ Hunters are no longer prohibited from transporting deer between locations but must properly dispose of high-risk parts.
- ⊕ The spring gobbler bag limit has been reduced to one to offset possible additional harvests due to the inclusion of Sundays.
- ⊕ Bear check stations are only open on the first two days of the regular firearms bear season and select days of the extended seasons.
- ⊕ The black bear archery season for Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 3C and 3D (Susquehanna, Wayne, Pike, Monroe and parts of Bradford, Wyoming, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Carbon and Northampton counties) will be longer in response to bear-human conflicts in these areas.
- ⊕ The new elk firearms season in early October will limit crowding. The late firearms season will be later in January to avoid conflict with major holidays.
- ⊕ Big-game harvest tags now are issued to mentored hunters under 7 years old at the time they purchase a permit.
- ⊕ Squirrel, ruffed grouse, rabbit, pheasant, bobwhite quail and woodchuck seasons will remain open during the regular firearms deer season.
- ⊕ For the regular season, the daily bag limit for Atlantic Population Canada goose has increased to three.
- ⊕ Trappers can use snap traps for weasels and larger body-gripping traps for beavers and river otters.
- ⊕ Sundays are included in the closed period for non-motorized vehicles, conveyances and animals on state game lands.
- ⊕ Between Oct. 1-Jan. 31 and April 20-May 31, fluorescent orange must also be worn by non-hunters while on state game lands.



DEER AND BEAR DRIVES: MAKE SAFETY A PART OF EVERY HUNT PLAN

- ✓ **BE ORGANIZED.** Everyone must know their role. Decide how many drivers are needed and where standers will be located.
- ✓ **COMMUNICATE.** Stay in constant communication with other drivers so you know the location of those around you. The use of handheld radios or cellphones is allowed for general communication but are not permitted to be used to alert other hunters to the presence or movement of game or wildlife.
- ✓ **KNOW YOUR ZONE.** Identify the areas in front of you where you can safely attempt a shot, knowing that those areas are changing as you move across the landscape.
- ✓ **WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T SHOOT.** If forced to make a split-second decision about whether it's safe to shoot, it is best not to shoot.



ANTLER RESTRICTIONS

In 2002, the Pennsylvania Game Commission implemented antler restrictions to protect young bucks and help them to survive past their first breeding season. By doing so, the result is a more balanced adult buck-to-doe ratio.

- ⊕ A point is defined as any antler projection (including the brow tine) at least one inch in length from base to tip. The brow tine is the point immediately above the antler burr.
- ⊕ The main beam tip shall be counted as a point regardless of length.
- ⊕ An antlerless deer will remain defined as a deer without antlers.

Junior license holders, mentored youth, disabled hunters with a permit to use a vehicle as a blind and resident active-duty U.S. Armed Services personnel can harvest antlered deer with two or more points on one antler, or a spike 3 or more inches in length. Senior license holders must abide by antler restrictions.

2026-27 ALLOCATION

Antlerless deer licenses are allocated to achieve deer population objectives. An increased allocation addresses forest impacts, CWD, or stops an increasing population. Allocations may also change if harvest success changes. Shown below is the 2026-27 allocation, followed by the change in the number of available licenses compared to last year and the 2025-26 sell-out date. For more information, scan this QR code to view the 2026-27 deer population and allocation report on the Game Commission's website.



WMU 1A	-	52,000	(+6,000)	8/11
WMU 1B	-	44,000	(+/- 0)	7/28
WMU 2A	-	49,000	(+5,000)	8/30
WMU 2B	-	62,000	(+3,000)	11/8
WMU 2C	-	117,000	(+24,000)	10/18
WMU 2D	-	112,000	(+16,000)	8/29
WMU 2E	-	63,000	(+12,000)	9/8
WMU 2F	-	67,000	(+16,000)	7/31
WMU 2G	-	57,000	(+/- 0)	8/3
WMU 3A	-	21,000	(+/- 0)	7/28
WMU 3B	-	53,000	(+/- 0)	8/26
WMU 3C	-	57,000	(+/- 0)	8/28
WMU 3D	-	52,000	(+/- 0)	9/2
WMU 4A	-	64,000	(+/- 0)	N/A
WMU 4B	-	71,000	(+11,000)	11/8
WMU 4C	-	51,000	(+/- 0)	8/13
WMU 4D	-	120,000	(+37,000)	9/30
WMU 4E	-	61,000	(+/- 0)	9/6
WMU 5A	-	65,000	(+19,000)	11/20
WMU 5B	-	86,000	(+/- 0)	9/1
WMU 5C	-	101,000	(+3,000)	10/8
WMU 5D	-	44,000	(+5,000)	10/18

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NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

2026-27 Hunting Season and Bag Limits

SMALL GAME

SQUIRREL
6 daily, 18 possession
Combined Species

JUNIOR HUNT
Sept. 12-27

STATEWIDE
Sept. 12-Dec. 24
Dec. 26-Feb. 28, 2027

COTTONTAIL RABBIT
4 daily, 12 possession

JUNIOR HUNT
Oct. 3-18

STATEWIDE
Oct. 17-Dec. 24
Dec. 26-Feb. 28, 2027

PHEASANT
2 daily, 6 possession

JUNIOR HUNT
Oct. 10-18

STATEWIDE
Oct. 24-Dec. 24
Dec. 26-Feb. 28, 2027

*Pheasant permit required for most pheasant hunters.
Male and female pheasants may be taken in all WMUs.*

BOBWHITE QUAIL
No Limit

STATEWIDE
Sept. 1-Dec. 24
Dec. 26-March 31, 2027

*There is no open season
for quail and no release
of quail in the Letterkenny
Army Depot Bobwhite Quail
Recovery Area*

WOODCHUCK
No Limit

STATEWIDE
July 1-Dec. 24
Dec. 26-June 30, 2027

CROW
No Limit

STATEWIDE
Aug. 20-March 21, 2027
*Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays
& Sundays only*

RUFFED GROUSE
2 daily, 6 possession

STATEWIDE
Oct. 17-Dec. 24

SNOWSHOE HARE
1 daily, 3 season limit

STATEWIDE
Dec. 26-31

NO CLOSED SEASON, NO OPEN SEASON

English sparrows and European starlings may be taken in unlimited numbers, but cannot be hunted during the regular firearms deer season. There is no open season for pine martens or sharp-tailed grouse.

WATERFOWL & MIGRATORY BIRDS

*Seasons and bag limits for waterfowl and
migratory birds, including doves, also are
provided on Page 42.*

FURTAKING

HUNTING

BOBCAT

1 per license year

**WMUS 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F,
2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C,
4D, 4E & 5A**
Jan. 9-Feb. 3, 2027
Permit required

RACCOON

No Limit

Oct. 24-Feb. 21, 2027
*May only be hunted from one-half
hour after sunset to one-half hour
before sunrise Nov. 28-Dec. 13*

FOX

No Limit

Oct. 24-Feb. 21, 2027
*May only be hunted from one-half
hour after sunset to one-half hour
before sunrise Nov. 28-Dec. 13*

OPOSSUM, STRIPED SKUNK & WEASEL

No Limit

July 1-June 30, 2027
with certain exceptions

PORCUPINE

3 daily, 10 per season

Oct. 10-Nov. 27
Dec. 14-24
Dec. 26-Jan. 31, 2027

COYOTE

No Limit

*No closed season,
with certain exceptions
during big-game seasons*

TRAPPING

RACCOON, OPOSSUM STRIPED SKUNK & WEASEL

No Limit

Oct. 24-Feb. 21, 2027

FOX & COYOTE

No Limit

GENERAL
Oct. 24-Feb. 21, 2027

CABLE RESTRAINTS
Dec. 26-Feb. 21, 2027

MINK & MUSKRAT

No Limit

Nov. 21-Jan. 10, 2027

BEAVER

Limits vary by WMU
Dec. 19-March 31, 2027

BOBCAT

1 per license year

**WMUS 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F,
2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C,
4D, 4E & 5A**
Dec. 19-Jan. 10, 2027
Permit required

FISHER

1 per license year

**WMUS 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F,
2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B,
4C, 4D & 4E**
Dec. 19-Jan. 10, 2027
Permit required

RIVER OTTER

1 per license year

**WMUS 1A, 1B, 2F, 2G, 3A,
3B, 3C, 3D, 4C & 4E**
Feb. 13-21, 2027
Permit required

*• A porcupine is classified
as a furbearer, but like the
coyote, it can be hunted
with either a hunting or
furtaker license. There is
no trapping season for
porcupines.*

SUNDAY HUNTING 2026-27

Sunday hunting no longer is prohibited by state law, meaning the Pennsylvania Game Commission can include Sundays when setting hunting seasons.

Hunting is permitted on any Sunday within the seasons provided here.

Sundays remain closed in all **migratory game bird** seasons, and Sunday hunting is limited within **state parks** in certain counties, as detailed on Page 4.

TURKEY

- *One fall turkey per license year, plus one bearded bird in spring.*

FALL SEASON

Bearded or unbearded birds.
Season lengths vary by WMU.

**WMUS 1A, 2G, 3A,
4A, 4B & 4D**
Oct. 31-Nov. 15

WMUS 1B, 3D, 4C & 4E
Oct. 31-Nov. 8

WMUS 2A, 2F, 3B & 3C
Oct. 31-Nov. 15
& Nov. 25-27

WMUS 2B, 2C, 2D & 2E
Oct. 31-Nov. 20
& Nov. 25-27

WMUS 5A & 5B
Oct. 31-Nov. 3

WMUS 5C & 5D
Fall season is closed.

SPRING SEASON

Bearded birds only.

YOUTH HUNT

April 24-25, 2027

STATEWIDE

May 1-31, 2027
Hunting hours vary

ELK

- *One elk per license year,
with elk license.*

ARCHERY

Sept. 12-27

FIRST REGULAR

Oct. 3-11

SECOND REGULAR

Oct. 31-Nov. 8

THIRD REGULAR

DEER

- *One antlered deer per license year, and an antlerless deer with each required license or permit.*

AG TAG

Antlerless Only

STATEWIDE
Aug. 1-April 15, 2027

ARCHERY

Antlered & Antlerless

STATEWIDE
Oct. 3-Nov. 20 and Dec. 26-Jan. 24, 2027

WMUS 2B, 5C & 5D

Sept. 19-Nov. 27 and Dec. 26-Jan. 24, 2027

SPECIAL FIREARMS

Antlerless Only

STATEWIDE
Oct. 22-25
*Licensed seniors,
Junior license holders,
mentored permit holders,
qualified active-duty
military personnel, and
persons with a permit to
use a vehicle as a blind*

REGULAR FIREARMS

Antlered & Antlerless

STATEWIDE
Nov. 28-Dec. 13

FLINTLOCK

Antlered & Antlerless

STATEWIDE
Dec. 26-Jan. 24, 2027

MUZZLELOADER

Antlerless Only

STATEWIDE
Oct. 17-25

EXTENDED FIREARMS

Antlerless Only

DMAP
Dec. 26-Jan. 24, 2027

WMUS 4A, 4C, 4D & 5A
Dec. 26-Jan. 18, 2027

WMUS 2B, 5C & 5D
Dec. 26-Jan. 24, 2027

BEAR

- *One bear per license year, with bear license.*

ARCHERY

STATEWIDE

Oct. 17-Oct. 25

WMUS 2B, 5C & 5D
Sept. 19-Nov. 27

WMU 3C, 3D & 5B
Oct. 3-Nov. 20

MUZZLELOADER

STATEWIDE

Oct. 22-25

SPECIAL FIREARMS

STATEWIDE

Oct. 22-25

*Licensed seniors,
Junior license holders,
mentored permit
holders ages 7 and older,
qualified active-duty
military personnel, and
persons with a permit to
use a vehicle as a blind*

REGULAR FIREARMS

STATEWIDE

Nov. 21-24

EXTENDED FIREARMS

WMUS 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D
Nov. 28-Dec. 13

**WMUS 3A, 3B, 3C,
3D, 4C, 4E & 5A**
Nov. 28-Dec. 6

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JEFF OLSOMMER

139TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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PURPLE PAINT LAW, EXPLAINED

Pennsylvania's "Purple Paint Law" lets landowners mark their property boundaries with vertical purple stripes on trees or posts instead of traditional "No Trespassing" signs. This law is in effect for all counties except Allegheny and Philadelphia.

The vertical purple lines:

- Must measure 8 inches long and 1-inch wide,
- The bottom of the line must be between 3 and 5 feet from the ground, and
- The painted marks are not more than 100 feet apart.

Hunters and trappers should be aware that these markings on trees are meant to define the boundary of a person's private property. The law only authorizes unarmed people to step onto private property for the sole purpose of retrieving a hunting dog. In Pennsylvania, failure to obey purple painted marks, as well as signs or verbal commands to keep out, is considered defiant trespass, which is punishable by up to a year in jail and \$2,500 in fines.

If trespassing occurs while hunting, additional game-law violations – and additional penalties and revocation – also might apply. Note that the Game Commission has the authority to investigate trespassing complaints and enforce trespassing violations as a primary offense, even if game-law violations aren't alleged, and the agency will do so.

