

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JEFF OLSOMMER

139TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

SPORTSMEN'S REPORT

FALL
2025



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,

Rep. Jeff Olsommer
139th Legislative District



BAN LIFTED ON SUNDAY HUNTING

Following the passage of a state law that lifted the ban on Sunday hunting in the Commonwealth, the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners approved 10 additional Sundays for hunting for the 2025-26 season. *Every Sunday through Dec. 7 will now be open for hunting.* The dates reflect all Sundays that fall within established hunting seasons, except for migratory game bird seasons, which are set through federal frameworks.

Pennsylvania's 850,000 licensed hunters will have greater flexibility to spend time outdoors. Hunting contributes more than \$1.6 billion each year to our state's economy; hopefully, this change for Sunday hunting will grow that figure. To learn more, visit the Pennsylvania Game Commission online at www.pgc.pa.gov.

ATTENTION FIRST-TIME HUNTERS!

Hunter-Trapper Education courses are required for all first-time hunters and trappers before they can buy a license in the Commonwealth. The Pennsylvania Game Commission offers both in-person and online options. The course covers responsible hunting behavior, firearms basics and safety, basic shooting, wildlife conservation and management, outdoor safety and survival, hunting techniques, trapping and furtaking basics, and hunting safety. The following options are available:

- ✓ PGC's Basic Hunter-Trapper Education In-Person Course is offered free of charge to anyone age 11 and older. Classes are held at various locations across the Commonwealth. A schedule is available at www.pgc.pa.gov.
- ✓ The interactive online version of PGC's Basic Hunter-Trapper Education Course is offered to Pennsylvania residents age 11 and older. The fee for this course is \$49.95.
- ✓ PGC's official online course is offered to Pennsylvania residents age 16 or older. The fee for this course is \$34.95.
- ✓ The National Rifle Association offers a free online hunter education course to Pennsylvania residents age 11 and older.





LOCAL WATERWAYS PROVIDE FOR FANTASTIC FISHING

There is no de-bait-ing that Pennsylvania is great for trout fishing. Every spring, I enthusiastically volunteer to help the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission stock local waterways.

We've stocked trout locally in recent years, with some of them being more than 20 inches long.

The Fish and Boat Commission will host its *Fish for Free days on Sunday, May 24, and Saturday, July 4, in 2026*. No license is required, but all other fishing regulations still apply.

Watch my e-newsletter for updates about the opening day of trout season. Subscribe at RepOlsommer.com/email-signup.

The e-newsletter also will tell subscribers when printed copies of trout stocking schedules are available through my office.



HUNTERS SHARING THE HARVEST

Did you know Pennsylvania has a venison donation program to help families in need?

Each season, Hunters Sharing the Harvest (HSH) aims to donate over 100,000 pounds of venison to the state's food banks, which then re-distribute it to more than 5,000 local provider charities such as food pantries, missions, homeless shelters, Salvation Army facilities and churches.

Since 1991, HSH has coordinated the processing and distribution of approximately 2.5 million pounds of donated venison. An average-sized deer will provide enough high-protein, low-fat meat for 200 servings. Thanks to program sponsors, hunters can donate venison at no charge.

To learn more about the program, and find participating processors, visit www.sharedeer.org or call 866-474-2141.

Are You Enjoying This Newsletter? Sign Up to Receive It Every Year!

If you are receiving this Sportsmen Report for the first time – and you want to receive it again – please fill out the coupon below or log onto my website and sign up at www.RepOlsommer.com/huntfish. Your information will not be provided to any third party.

NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

2025-26 Hunting Season and Bag Limits

WATERFOWL & MIGRATORY BIRDS

Unless otherwise noted, possession limit = 3x daily limit

Daily Limit

Crow - Thrs., Fri., Sat., Sun. only; Aug. 21 - Mar. 22, 2026 No limit

Starling & English Sparrows *Closed during regular firearms deer seasons* No limit

Doves Sept. 1 - Nov. 28 and Dec. 20 - Jan. 3, 2026 15

Woodcock Oct. 18 - Nov. 28 and Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 3

Seasons for Ducks, Mergansers, Coots, Canada Geese, Light Geese, Brant and webless birds can be found on the Game Commission's website and in the Hunting & Trapping Digest.

Migratory Game Bird Hunting Hours Table can be found on the Game Commission's website and in the Hunting & Trapping Digest.

Applications for Goose Blinds and Other Special Hunts may be submitted online at www.HuntFish.PA.gov or at any Game Commission region office or Harrisburg headquarters.

FUR TAKING with appropriate license/permits *See Sunday Hunting

Hunting Daily/Season Limit

Coyotes **No closed season.** No limit
During any big game season, coyotes may be taken while lawfully hunting big game or with a furtaker license.

Foxes Sundays permitted. **Oct. 25 - Feb. 21, 2026** No limit
Cannot be hunted during regular firearms deer season.

Raccoons **Oct. 25 - Feb. 21, 2026** No limit
Cannot be hunted during regular firearms deer season.

Opossums, Striped Skunks and Weasels **July 1-June 30, 2026** No limit
Cannot be hunted during regular firearms deer season.

Bobcats No Sunday hunting. Jan. 10 - Feb. 4, 2026 1/1
WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

Porcupines **Oct. 11 - Nov. 28** 3/10
May not be hunted at night. Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Jan. 31, 2026

Trapping

Minks & Muskrats Nov. 22 - Jan. 11, 2026 No limit

Coyotes, Foxes, Opossums, Raccoons, Striped Skunks and Weasels Oct. 25 - Feb. 22, 2026 No limit

Coyotes & Foxes (Cable Restraints) Dec. 26 - Feb. 22, 2026 No limit

Beavers Dec. 20 - Mar. 31, 2026 20/60
WMUs 1A and 1B (Combined) 20/40
WMUs 2A, 2B, and 3C (Combined) 20/20
WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 3A, 3B, 3D, 5C, and 5D (Combined) 5/5
WMUs 2G, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A, and 5B (Combined)

Bobcats with required permit Dec. 20 - Jan. 11, 2026 1/1
WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E

Fishers with required permit Dec. 20 - Jan. 11, 2026 1/1
WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E

River Otters with required permit Feb. 14 - Feb. 21, 2026 1/1
WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3B, 3C, 3D and 4E

TURKEY *See Sunday Hunting

Fall Season - bearded or unbearded birds 1 bird limit
(Shotgun and archery only, statewide)

WMU 5A and 5B **Nov. 1 - Nov. 4**

WMUs 1B, 3D, 4C and 4E **Nov. 1 - Nov. 8**

WMUs 1A, 2G, 3A, 4A, 4B and 4D **Nov. 1 - Nov. 15**

WMUs 2A, 2F, 3B and 3C **Nov. 1 - Nov. 15**
and Nov. 26 - Nov. 28

WMU 2B, 2C, 2D and 2E **Nov. 1 - Nov. 21**
and Nov. 26 - Nov. 28

WMUs 5C and 5D Closed to fall turkey hunting

Up to 2 bearded birds (1 daily)
with proper licenses

Spring Season - hours vary, check Digest

Jr. and Mentored Hunters under 16 Apr. 25, 2026
Statewide (hours vary) May 2 - May 30, 2026

Review the complete Digest:

<http://bit.ly/PGCDigest>

This guide is not the Game & Wildlife Code or its attendant regulations and should not be considered final on legal interpretation.

SMALL GAME *See Sunday Hunting

Unless otherwise noted, possession limit = 3x daily limit

Daily Limit

Squirrel-Jr. Hunt (Combined) **Sept. 13 - Sept. 27** 6

Squirrel (Combined species) **Sept. 13 - Nov. 28,** 6
Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 28, 2026

Ruffed Grouse **Oct. 18 - Nov. 28 and** 2
Dec. 15 - Dec. 24

Rabbit - Jr. Hunt (Cottontail) **Oct. 4 - Oct. 18** 4

Rabbit (Cottontail) **Oct. 18 - Nov. 28,** 4
Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 28, 2026

Pheasant - Jr. Hunt# **Oct. 11 - Oct. 18** 2

Pheasant# **Oct. 25 - Nov. 28,** 2
Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 28, 2026
#with required permit

Taking of pheasants in any Wild Pheasant Recovery Area must be authorized by an executive order.

Bobwhite Quail **Sept. 1 - Nov. 28,** No limit
Season closed around Letterkenny Focus Area
Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Mar. 31, 2026

Snowshoe or Varying Hare Dec. 26 - Jan. 1, 2026 1
Season limit 3

Woodchuck **July 1-June 30**
Cannot be hunted during regular firearms deer season. No limit

DEER with required licenses/permits *See Sunday Hunting

One antlered deer per hunting license year.

One antlerless deer with each required license or permit.

Ag Tag (Antlerless only) **Aug. 1 - Apr. 15, 2026**

Statewide: agricultural deer control harvest permit required

Archery (Antlered and Antlerless) with required archery license
WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D **Sept. 20 - Nov. 28 and**

Dec. 26 - Jan. 24, 2026
Statewide **Oct. 4 - Nov. 21 and**

Dec. 26 - Jan. 19, 2026

Muzzleloader (Antlerless only) **Oct. 18 - Oct. 25**

Statewide with required muzzleloading license

Special Firearms (Antlerless only) Oct. 23 - Oct. 25

Statewide: participation restricted, check Digest for eligibility

Regular Firearms (Antlered & Antlerless) **Nov. 29 - Dec. 13**

Flintlock (Antlered & Antlerless) with required muzzleloading license

Statewide Dec. 26 - Jan. 19, 2026

WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D Dec. 26 - Jan. 24, 2026

Extended Regular Firearms (Antlerless only)

WMUs 2B, 5C, 5D and DMAP Dec. 26 - Jan. 24, 2026

DMAP properties require a valid DMAP permit

WMUs 4A, 4C, 4D and 5A Jan. 2 - Jan. 19, 2026

ANTLERLESS DEER APPLICATIONS

Round 1 - Personal limit of 1
Mon., June 23; 8 a.m.; Residents Only, one license guaranteed
Mon., July 14; 8 a.m.; All License Buyers

Round 2 - Personal limit up to 2
Mon., July 28; 8 a.m.; All License Buyers

Round 3 - Personal limit up to 3
Mon., Aug. 11; 8 a.m.; All License Buyers
DMAP sales also begin at this time.

Round 4 - Personal limit up to 6; WMUs 5C & 5D limit up to 15
Mon., Aug. 25; 8 a.m.; All License Buyers

BEAR bear license required *See Sunday Hunting

Only one bear may be taken during the license year.

Bear must be checked within 24 hours of harvest.

Archery

WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D **Sept. 20 - Nov. 28**

WMU 5B **Oct. 4 - Nov. 21**

Statewide **Oct. 18 - Oct. 25**

Muzzleloader - Statewide Oct. 23 - Oct. 25

Special Firearms - Statewide Oct. 23 - Oct. 25
participation restricted, check Digest for eligibility

Regular Firearms - Statewide **Nov. 22 - Nov. 25**

Extended Firearms

WMUs 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4E & 5A **Nov. 29 - Dec. 6**

WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C and 5D **Nov. 29 - Dec. 13**

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139TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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DID YOU KNOW? SUMMER MEANS TURKEY-COUNTING TIME!

The Pennsylvania Game Commission often seeks public participation in surveying wild turkeys over the summer. Subscribe to my weekly eBlast (RepOlsommer.com/email-signup) or the Game Commission's website for information about the next survey period.

Participants are asked to record the number of wild turkeys they see, along with the county, township, wildlife management unit (WMU), date and contact information if agency biologists have any questions. Participants may also simply drop a "pin" on the map for the location data to automatically populate. Location data are used only for the survey, not for law enforcement and are not shared.

Participation is important for turkey population management. Survey data allow the agency to determine total wild turkey productivity and compare long-term reproductive success within Pennsylvania and across states, as this is a standard methodology used across the country. Data are also used in the turkey population model to track population trends.

This can be your opportunity to talk turkey and help researchers at the same time.



Services Available at My Office

Among the many resources available at my office in Hawley are several publications of interest to the region's sportsmen and women. Stop by during office hours for the following publications:

- *Fish and Boat Code (Title 30)*
- *PA Fishing Summary*
- *Game and Wildlife Code (Title 34)*
- *PA Hunting and Trapping Digest*
- *PA Laws Relating to Firearms*
- *Personal Firearms Inventory*
- *A Guide to Purchasing Firearms*
- *PA Firearms Laws and Commonly Asked Questions*
- *PA Hunting and Trapping Pocket Guides*
- *Targets*