

2026 Connecticut Hunting and Trapping Guide

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Encuentre en línea las regulaciones y guías de información en español para la pesca, la caza y atrapamiento (trabadura) escaneando el código QR con su dispositivo móvil o visite <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-CT-Outdoor-Guides>.



The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you are seeking a communication aid or service, have limited proficiency in English, wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint, or require some other accommodation, including equipment to facilitate virtual participation, please contact the DEEP Office of Diversity and Equity at 860-418-5910 or by email at deep.accommodations@ct.gov. Any person needing an accommodation for hearing impairment may call the State of Connecticut relay number - 711. In order to facilitate efforts to provide an accommodation, please request all accommodations as soon as possible following notice of any agency hearing, meeting, program or event.

2026 Connecticut Hunting and Trapping Guide

State of Connecticut

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Katie S. Dykes, *Commissioner*

Bureau of Natural Resources

Justin Davis, *Chief*

Wildlife Division

Jenny Dickson, *Director*

This guide is intended to provide a summary of the most pertinent laws and regulations concerning hunting and trapping, and to provide information on these opportunities in Connecticut. No attempt has been made to employ the exact wording of laws and regulations, nor to provide their complete listing. For legal purposes the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and the General Statutes of Connecticut must be consulted. A listing of the General Statutes of Connecticut can be found on the Connecticut General Assembly website at <https://cga.ct.gov/> and information on state regulations is at <https://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal/>.

Directory of Services

For additional information, the following DEEP offices may be contacted from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please note that the DEEP – Licensing Permit Sales Office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Sales Office closes at noon before major holidays and may close early during periods of severe weather.

Wildlife Division	860-424-3011
Division of Env. Cons. Police	860-424-3012
Licensing and Revenue	860-424-3105
Fisheries Division (Inland)	860-424-3474
Fisheries Division (Marine)	860-434-6043
State Parks Division	860-424-3200
Forestry Division	860-424-3630
DEEP Home Page	https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP
CT Fish and Wildlife Facebook Page ...	www.Facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife

Field Services

Questions concerning hunting, trapping, fishing, boating, camping, recreational use of state lands, forestry, and law enforcement may be directed to one of the following field offices (8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.):

Eastern Area Headquarters	860-295-9523
Western Area Headquarters	860-485-0226
Office of Boating Safety (Old Lyme)	860-434-8638
Marine Patrol (Old Lyme).....	860-434-9840

24 Hour Emergency Numbers

Report a Violation	1-800-842-4357
DEEP-Emergency Dispatch	860-424-3333

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New to hunting? Check out our Hunting Roadmap at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/Roadmaps/Hunting-Roadmap> for information on how to get started.

Junior Hunter Training Days

SEASON	SEASON DATES
Junior Spring Wild Turkey	April 18-25, 2026 (excluding Sunday on state land)
Junior Waterfowl	Two Saturdays in fall (see the 2026-2027 Migratory Bird Hunting Guide for dates)
Junior Pheasant	October 10, 2026
Junior Deer	Nov. 7-14, 2026 (excluding Sunday on state land)

2026 Summary of Hunting Season Dates

GAME BIRDS (see pages 19 and 21-22 for limit information)

SEASON	SEASON DATES
Pheasant ^A	Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 Oct. 17 - Dec. 31
Chukar and Hungarian Partridge ^A	Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 Oct. 17 - Dec. 31
Ruffed Grouse ^A	Oct. 17 - Nov. 30
Quail ^A <i>Extended season in some areas. See page 19</i>	Oct. 17 - Oct. 31
Crow ^B (<i>Note that the fall crow season dates are subject to change pending a regulations change.</i>)	Dec. 22, 2025 - Mar. 23, 2026 (Mon. through Sat.) Aug. 8 – Oct. 9, 2026 (Wed., Fri., Sat.) Oct. 17 – Nov. 28, 2026 (Wed., Fri., Sat.) Dec. 21, 2026 - Mar. 20, 2027 (Mon. through Sat.)
Woodcock - Snipe - Rails ^B	See current Migratory Bird Hunting Guide; State stamp required.
Waterfowl ^B (ducks, mergansers, geese, and coot)	See current Migratory Bird Hunting Guide; State and federal stamps required.

^A Connecticut Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp required.

^B Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp required.

SMALL GAME MAMMALS (see page 20 for limit information)

SEASON	SEASON DATES
Gray Squirrel	Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 Sept. 1 - Dec. 31
Cottontail Rabbit European Hare	Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 Oct. 17 - Dec. 31
Snowshoe Hare	Jan. 1 - Jan. 31 Nov. 21 - Dec. 31
Woodchuck	March 15 - Nov. 15

FURBEARERS (see page 20 for limit information)

See page 36 for trapping season information.

SEASON	SEASON DATES
Coyote	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31
Raccoon Opossum	Jan. 1 - Jan. 17 Oct. 17 - Dec. 31
Red and Gray Foxes	Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 Oct. 17 - Dec. 31

WILD TURKEY (see pages 23-25 for limit information)

SEASON	SEASON DATES
Spring Turkey State and Private Lands	April 29 - May 30
Fall Archery Turkey Private Land (Zones 11 and 12) Private Land (All Zones) State Land Bowhunting Only Areas State Land	Jan. 1 - Jan. 31 Sept. 15 - Dec. 31 Sept. 15 - Dec. 31 Sept. 15 - Nov. 17 Dec. 23 - Dec. 31
Fall Turkey Firearms State and Private Lands	Oct. 3 - Oct. 31

WHITE-TAILED DEER (see pages 27-33 for limit information)

SEASON	SEASON DATES
Deer Bowhunting Private Land (Zones 11 and 12) Private Land (All Zones) State Land Bowhunting Only Areas State Land	Jan. 1 - Jan. 31 Sept. 15 - Dec. 31 Sept. 15 - Dec. 31 Sept. 15 - Nov. 17 Dec. 23 - Dec. 31
Deer Shotgun - State Controlled Areas No Lottery Season	Nov. 18 - Dec. 8
Deer Lottery Archery-Only Lottery State Land Lottery "A" Season State Land Lottery Regular Season	See pages 31-34 for more information. Sept. 15 - Dec. 31 Nov. 18 - Nov. 27 Nov. 18 - Dec. 8
Deer Shotgun/Rifle/Revolver Private Lands Landowner	Nov. 18 - Dec. 8 Nov. 1 - Dec. 31
Deer Muzzleloader Private Land State Land	Dec. 9 - Dec. 31 Dec. 9 - Dec. 22

Hunter Notes

- Visit the DEEP website for any new updates or changes that occur throughout the year, as well as for a version that is accessible for persons with disabilities at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/2026-Connecticut-Hunting-and-Trapping-Guide/What-Is-New-for-2026>.
- When hunting at state areas, DO NOT park in front of gates. The gates need to be accessible to DEEP staff or in case of emergencies.
- Information on regulations regarding all-terrain vehicles is at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/Hunting-and-Trapping-Information#ATV>.
- Information on wildlife diseases, such as chronic wasting disease, epizootic hemorrhagic disease, and rabbit hemorrhagic disease (RHDV2) can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Wildlife-Diseases>.

Licenses, Permits, and Stamps

Licenses, permits, and stamps can be purchased online 24/7 through Connecticut's Online Outdoor Licensing System (<https://portal.ct.gov/CTOutdoorLicenses>) and at select DEEP offices and participating town halls and outdoor equipment stores. Licenses purchased through the Online Outdoor Licensing System are signed electronically at the time purchase, allowing hunters to keep a digitally signed copy on a smartphone instead of needing to have a signed, printed copy. Licenses purchased through a license agent location must still be printed and signed to be valid.

Conservation ID Numbers: Everyone issued a license is given a unique Conservation ID# that should be used every time and every year when purchasing licenses and permits. If you log on to the Online Outdoor Licensing System or go to a vendor for your licenses, always use your Conservation ID# as a means of identification. You should write your Conservation ID# down and keep it in a safe place. Your Conservation ID# is your license number. You can get a Conservation ID#, if you do not already have one, at <https://portal.ct.gov/getconid>.

Hunter Education Requirements: No hunting or trapping licenses will be issued to any person unless proof is provided that they have held a RESIDENT license in the respective discipline within the last 5 years OR the person has a certificate indicating successful completion of a Connecticut Conservation Education/ Firearms Safety (CE/FS) course (or recognized equivalent) in the respective discipline for which they are applying. Hunter education coursework may have been completed online but MUST have been accompanied by a field day. "Apprentice" or "Mentored" hunting licenses issued in other states do not qualify. To become certified in firearms or bowhunting, a person must be 10 years or older. All bowhunters must show proof when purchasing a small game/deer archery permit that they have completed the CE/FS bowhunting course (since 1982) or its equivalent from another state or country. Certifications from another state or country must specify Bowhunter Education. On and after January 1, 2002, permits to hunt with a bow and arrow under the provisions of this chapter shall be issued only to qualified applicants who have successfully completed the conservation education bowhunting course as specified in section 26-31 or an equivalent course in another state. Obtain course listings at <https://portal.ct.gov/hunteredreg> or by contacting the Wildlife Division at 860-424-3011.

Printing Hunter Safety Certificates: After successfully completing a hunter safety

course, your certification will be uploaded to your online license profile and will print directly at the bottom of your hunting or fishing license (you may print your certification without making a purchase). To print your certificate, go to <https://portal.ct.gov/CTOutdoorLicenses>.

Age 65+ Annual Licenses: Firearms hunting and trapping licenses are issued free to residents who meet hunter and trapper education requirements. **These licenses must be renewed annually.**

Hunting by Minors: A person must be 12 years of age or older to hunt. Persons 12 through 15 years of age must be licensed and accompanied by a licensed hunter 18 years of age or older while hunting. A person may not supervise more than 2 minors at one time while hunting. Minors are entitled to their own bag limits. Junior license holders do not have to purchase a new license if they turn 16 years of age during the same calendar year.

Trapping by Minors: There is no minimum age requirement for trapping. Persons under age 16 must purchase a Junior Trapping License.

Free License for Hunters with Disabilities: A person who has loss of a limb or permanently lost the use of a limb may be issued a hunting or trapping license free-of-charge (permits and stamps not included). Non-residents are eligible for this free license if their state provides the same privilege to Connecticut residents. Verification of the disability, signed by a licensed physician, must be presented. These licenses are available at select DEEP offices, along with participating town clerk offices.

Armed Forces: Any active full-time member of the U.S. armed forces may purchase a Connecticut hunting, fishing, or trapping license for the same fees as a resident. Proof of full-time membership during the calendar year must be carried while using the license. These licenses are only issued at DEEP or town clerk offices.

Lost License: You can log on to the Online Outdoor Licensing System and print your license for free. You can also go to a licensing vendor or DEEP office to have your license reprinted.

Hunting and Fishing Guide Registration

Anyone providing fishing and hunting guide services in Connecticut needs to register annually with DEEP. Guides can register using DEEP's Outdoor Online Licensing System or in person at vendors where hunting and fishing licenses and permits are sold. There is a \$100 fee for this registration.

Propagated Game Birds for Shooting Preserves, Dog Training and Field Trials:

The taking of propagated game birds on regulated private shooting preserves, regulated dog training areas, approved pheasant exempt areas, and field trial areas requires that each bird taken be identified with a tag containing the permittee's name and date of taking. Handwritten tags are permitted or a full sheet of labels may be downloaded for printing from the DEEP website (https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/hunting_trapping/forms_applications/GameBirdHarvestTagspdf.pdf). Hunters wishing to hunt on state-owned or state-managed lands stocked with pheasants should not have any pheasants in their possession that were harvested from a Shooting Preserve, Dog Training Area, approved exempt area, or Field Trial Area as those birds will be counted as part of the daily bag limit by Law Enforcement. Importation of game birds from another state requires a permit from the Department of Agriculture (860-713-2508).

Three-day Out-of-state Bird Hunting License: This license allows out of state hunters to hunt migratory and resident (non-migratory) game birds, including wild turkeys, for 3 consecutive privilege days. One of the 3 days for hunters pursuing resident game birds (pheasant, quail, chukar, partridge, ruffed grouse and wild turkey) may include a Sunday if the hunter is hunting only on private land. Migratory bird hunting is not allowed on Sundays on any land type. Hunters must also purchase a Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp and/or a Connecticut Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp, depending on what species they intend to hunt.

Free Tribal Member Deer Permit

A free private land deer permit is available for Tribal members (one permit per season) for use only on the reservation of the Tribe, provided such reservation is 250 or more acres in size. This allows the use of a rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader, or bow and arrow on reservation land from November 1 until December 31. To apply for this permit, an application must be completed, signed, and sent via email to sportsmen.licensing@ct.gov. All tribe members must possess a valid Tribal ID, and the Tribal Land must be 250 acres or greater.

Snapping Turtle Trapping Endorsement

- Required when using traps to catch snapping turtles. Available for free online or at DEEP offices.
- Season Dates: July 15 - September 30
- Bag Limits: Daily 5, Possession 10, Season 10
- Size Limit: Minimum 13" shell length
- More details: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/Snapping-Turtle-Regulations>.

Bird Hunting Stamps

Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp - Valid for calendar year. Current firearms hunting license or Small Game and Archery Deer Permit required. This stamp is required to hunt pheasant, ruffed grouse, quail, partridge, AND wild turkey. When purchased, authorization will be printed on your license. All revenues from Stamp sales go into an account used exclusively for game birds and their habitat.

Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp - Valid for calendar year. This stamp has been merged with the \$4 HIP permit into a single stamp, which is required for anyone, **including junior hunters**, hunting waterfowl, rails, snipe, woodcock, and crows. The state stamp no longer needs to be signed or carried while hunting. If you want a copy of the actual stamp mailed to you, answer "yes" to the prompt when selecting the stamp for purchase. Physical stamps can also be purchased by mailing a request with the enclosed fee to DEEP Licensing and Revenue, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

If a Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp is purchased through a license agent location (i.e., retail store, town clerk, etc.), the HIP certification that **is required to legally hunt migratory birds will not be valid until you either call 1-877-337-4868 or go to <https://ct.aspirafocus.com/hunterreporting> to complete the HIP survey**. Upon completion of the survey, you will be given a confirmation number. You can either write that number onto your existing license or go into the online system to print a new license.

Federal Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp - Valid from July 1 through June 30. (Fees: \$25 Resident, \$25 Non-resident). Available at most post offices. Also

available by telephone and online. Stamp must be signed in ink across its face. Junior hunters ages 12-15 are exempt from purchasing the federal stamps.

Hunters who have encountered problems purchasing the federal Duck Stamp at local post offices can purchase the Electronic Duck Stamp, or E-Stamp, online for immediate use. You may purchase the E-Stamp from another state as DEEP's online system currently is unable to process federal Duck Stamp purchases. The actual stamp will be mailed to you after purchase, but you will have an E-Stamp to use until you receive the actual stamp. Details on how to purchase an E-Stamp are on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at <https://www.fws.gov/service/buy-duck-stamp-or-e-stamp>.

Bird Hunting Stamp	Adult Resident	12-17 Year-old Resident	Non-resident 12 & Older
CT Resident Game Bird	\$28	\$14	\$28
CT Migratory Bird Conservation	\$17	\$9	\$17

Licenses	Adult Resident	16 & 17 Year-old Resident	Non-resident 12 & Older
Firearms Hunting	\$19	\$10	\$91
Firearms Hunting and Inland Fishing	\$38	\$19	\$110
Firearms Hunting and All Waters Fishing	\$40	\$20	\$120
Firearms Hunting and Marine Waters Fishing	\$25	\$13	\$94
Archery Deer/Small Game	\$41	\$21	\$135
Archery Deer/Small Game and All Waters Fishing	\$65	\$33	---
Trapping	\$34	\$17	\$250
3-day Out-of-state Bird Hunting License (Must also purchase a CT Resident Game Bird and/ or CT Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp, depending on what species are being hunted.)	---	---	\$35

Junior Licenses and Permits -- Ages 12 to 15

License	Resident Junior	Non-resident Junior
Junior Firearms Hunting	\$11	\$11
Junior Archery Deer/Small Game	\$10	\$19
Junior Trapping (Ages 15 and under)	\$11	---

Age 65+ Licenses

License	Adult Resident	Non-resident
Age 65+ Annual Hunting License	Free (Annual Renewal)	---
Age 65+ Annual Trapping License	Free (Annual Renewal)	---

Archery Permit

Small Game and Deer Archery Permit - Valid for calendar year. Must show proof of completion of the CE/FS bowhunting course (since 1982) or its equivalent from another state or country when purchasing a small game/deer archery permit. A previous bowhunting license, permit, or stamp no longer qualifies. Photocopies of certificates will be accepted as proof of course completion. Do not send original certificates. This permit is required for all forms of archery hunting. It allows bowhunting for deer on both state and private land. Junior permits available for persons ages 12 to 15.

Firearms Deer Hunting Permits

- A current firearms hunting license is required to purchase firearms deer permits.
- Lottery permits can be applied for starting January 2, 2026, at 9:30 AM. See pages 31-34 for details.
- No one may purchase both a State Land Lottery Permit and a State Land No-Lottery Permit. If you are rejected for a lottery permit, you may still purchase a State Land No-Lottery Permit.

Revolver Deer Endorsement: Allows persons hunting with a Free Landowner Permit or Connecticut residents hunting with a Private Land Shotgun/Rifle Permit to use a revolver rather than a rifle or a shotgun to hunt deer on private lands of at least 10 acres in size. A person using a handgun for hunting must possess any required state/town permits to carry.

Deer Permits	Resident	Resident 12 to 17 Year-olds	Non-resident	Info
State Land Lottery	\$19	\$10	\$68	Page 31
State Land No-lottery	\$19	\$10	\$68	Page 29
Private Land Shotgun/Rifle	\$19	\$10	\$68	Page 28
Private Land Muzzleloader	\$19	\$10	\$68	Page 30
State Land Muzzleloader	\$19	\$10	\$68	Page 30
Revolver Deer Endorsement	\$5	---	---	---

Landowner Hunting Permits (10 or more contiguous acres required)

Deer Landowner Permits and Landowner Resident Game Bird Stamps are free for resident and non-resident landowners who plan to hunt on 10 or more contiguous acres that they own in the State of Connecticut.

Turkey permits have been replaced by the Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp. Landowners may take turkeys on their property (any season) with either a Free Landowner Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp or a Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp (\$28). There is no additional bag limit for turkeys due to the free stamp.

Landowner Permits	Resident	Non-resident
Deer (see page 29 for info)	Free	Free
Free Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp (required for wild turkey, pheasant, quail, partridges, and ruffed grouse) (see pages 19 and 23-25 for info)	Free	Free

Hunting Laws and Regulations

The use and possession of firearms, ammunition, and bowhunting equipment are regulated in the interest of public safety and the conservation of wildlife. Hunters are also subject to any federal, state, or municipal firearms regulations. General restrictions on the use of firearms, air guns, and bowhunting equipment are described below. **New statutes and regulations related to hunting and trapping may be added during the calendar year or some may change. Stay up to date by:**

- Checking the DEEP website, especially before hunting seasons start, at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/Hunting-and-Trapping-Information>;
- Following the CT Fish and Wildlife Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife;
- Subscribing to our free electronic newsletter **Hunter Highlights** at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Hunter-Highlights>.

Hunting – General

Sunday Hunting: Under Public Act 25-138, Sunday hunting is now permitted on private land for all species using any approved hunting implement allowed for the current open season, with the following restrictions:

- Hunting migratory birds (waterfowl, geese, woodcock, snipe, rails, crows) remains prohibited on Sundays on all land types.
- Hunting on Sundays is not allowed within 40 yards of blazed public trails.

Written permission is required from private landowners for deer and turkey hunters and for Sunday hunting by small game hunters (verbal permission is required for small game hunting on other days, although DEEP recommends hunters carry written permission from the landowner) (see form on page 18). Members of fish and game clubs, as well as their guests, do not need separate written consent to hunt on Sundays on land owned or operated by the club, provided they already have the required agreements with the club and/or landowner(s) granting permission for the specific type of Sunday hunting.

Sunday hunting is allowed on licensed private shooting preserves and regulated dog training areas when the operator has permission from the town. Hunting may also take place on Sunday at permitted field trial events.

Deer Management Zone 2 and 4A Restriction - During the Private Land Shotgun/Rifle and Private Land Muzzleloader seasons, the “Antlerless Only” tag is NOT valid in Deer Management Zones 2 and 4A. Only the “Either-sex” tag will be valid in Zones 2 and 4A.

Prima Facie Evidence of Hunting - Possession by any person of a loaded hunting implement while at or entering or leaving an area where a reasonable person would believe the objective was to take wildlife. Except that a person

may, one hour before sunrise during the regulated deer and turkey firearms hunting seasons, be in possession of a loaded rifle or shotgun provided a live round is not in the chamber of the rifle or shotgun.

Loaded Hunting Implement - (A) a rifle or shotgun with a live round in the chamber or in a magazine which is attached to such rifle or shotgun, a muzzle-loaded firearm with the primer in place, or a flintlock firearm with powder in the pan, (B) a bow and arrow with an arrow notched on the bow, (C) a drawn crossbow with a bolt in place, or (D) a high velocity air gun that is charged with a projectile in the chamber or in a magazine that is attached to such air gun.

Hunting While Under the Influence or Impaired - No person shall engage in hunting while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, or both, or while impaired by the consumption of intoxicating liquor.

Hunting Near Roads, Buildings, People, and Domestic Animals - Hunting or shooting from or across the traveled portion of any public roadway is prohibited. Shooting toward any person, building, or domestic animal when within range is prohibited.

Motor Vehicle/ATV Use - Hunting or shooting from a motor vehicle is prohibited. The use of all-terrain vehicles is prohibited on state land (see exceptions under Hunting Opportunities for the Disabled on page 16).

Closed Season - No hunting and no training of dogs from October 10 through 1/2-hour before sunrise, EDT, on October 17, 2026, except for the hunting of rails in marshes; waterfowl hunting; legal squirrel, deer, turkey, and coyote hunting; licensed private shooting preserves operating under the provisions of Sec. 26-48; field trials held under the provisions of Sec. 26-51 and Sec. 26-52; the training of hunting dogs under the provisions of Sec. 26-49 of the General Statutes; and the training of hunting dogs on any area approved by the department for this purpose.

Electronic Calling Devices - The use of electronic calling devices is prohibited when hunting wild turkeys and migratory birds (except crows). Electronic calling devices can be used when hunting crows, coyotes, other small game, and deer.

Hunting Prohibited in Westport: By special state regulation, hunting within the Westport town borders is prohibited.

Public Shooting Ranges: Trap or target shooting on any state property or public hunting area is prohibited unless the area is a designated shooting range. Four state-owned public shooting ranges are available for target shooting, patterning shotguns, and sighting in rifles. More information on these ranges is on the DEEP website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/Public-Shooting-Opportunities>.

For information on Falconry, visit the DEEP website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/Falconry-in-Connecticut>.

Firearms Hunting

The holder of a firearms hunting license may use rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, handguns, and high-velocity air guns subject to certain restrictions.

500 Foot Zone - It is prohibited to hunt with, shoot, or carry a loaded firearm within 500 feet of any building occupied by people or domestic animals, or used for storage of flammable material, or within 250 feet of such buildings when waterfowl hunting in tidal areas from land shooting positions or from floating blinds anchored adjacent to land or from rock positions, unless written permission for lesser distances is obtained from the owner and carried. Landowners, their

spouse, and lineal descendants are exempt from this restriction, providing any building involved is their own. The 500 foot zone does not apply to bowhunting.

Firearms in Vehicles - It is prohibited to carry a loaded firearm in a vehicle. This does not apply to persons with handguns who have a valid Connecticut permit to carry pistols or revolvers.

Rifles and Handguns - Rifles or handguns using ammunition larger than .22 caliber rimfire are prohibited on state-owned land. Rifles or handguns of any caliber are prohibited on State-leased and Permit-Required Hunting Areas (see Permit-Required and State-Leased Hunting Area sections for exceptions). The use of rifles or handguns to hunt turkeys, waterfowl, or any other federally regulated migratory game bird (except crows) is prohibited. Hunting on private land with ammunition larger than .22 caliber rimfire long rifle during the private land shotgun/rifle deer season is prohibited unless the user has a valid private land deer season permit and landowner consent form. The use of rifles or revolvers to hunt deer is subject to additional restrictions (see Private Land Shotgun/Rifle Season). The use of ammunition larger than .22 caliber rimfire to hunt raccoon or opossum at night is prohibited. A person using a handgun for hunting must possess any required state/town permits to carry. Note: It is legal to use .17 caliber rimfire firearms in all situations where it is legal to use .22 caliber rimfire firearms.

Shotguns - The possession of shotgun ammunition larger or heavier than #2 shot is prohibited on state-owned lands, state-leased lands, and Permit-Required Hunting Areas, at all times, and is prohibited on private lands during the Private Land Shotgun/Rifle Deer Season (see Permit-Required and State-Leased Hunting Area sections for exceptions). However, on any lands, waterfowlers hunting from a boat, blind, or stationary position may use up to and including size BB steel shot. The possession of lead shot while hunting waterfowl, rails, and coot is prohibited. The use of shotguns larger than 10-gauge for hunting waterfowl is prohibited. Shotguns must not be capable of holding more than 3 shells (2 in the magazine, 1 in the chamber) when hunting waterfowl, other migratory birds (except crows), deer on state lands, and turkey. The exception is that unplugged shotguns are legal to use during the September Canada goose season. The use of shotguns to hunt deer or turkey is subject to additional restrictions (see Deer Hunting and Turkey Hunting).

Muzzleloaders – Muzzleloaders are authorized for a number of different seasons with regulations as follows:

- To qualify as a muzzleloader, powder and projectile must be loaded from the muzzle.
- Shotgun converters and telescopic sights are legal.
- A muzzleloader with a percussion cap on the nipple, primer placed in the breach, powder in the pan, or battery connected is considered loaded.
- Deer seasons – A muzzleloader can be used in all situations a rifle or shotgun is legal in addition to muzzleloader season, provided it is a minimum of .45 caliber and uses a single projectile loaded from the muzzle.
- Small game and waterfowl seasons – Smoothbore muzzleloaders follow the same restrictions as shotguns; non-toxic shot required for waterfowl. Muzzleloading rifles may be used for small game with the same restrictions as rifles, except that on state-owned land, up to a .36 caliber muzzleloading

rifle using round ball only is a legal implement.

- Turkey seasons – Smoothbore muzzleloaders with a .62 caliber minimum follow the same restrictions as shotguns, i.e. shot sizes restricted to 4, 5, 6, 7, or 7 1/2.

High-Velocity Air Guns - Are restricted to those that use a single ball or pellet-like projectile. Additional restrictions on the use of air guns are the same as those for rifles and handguns.

Bowhunting

Bowhunter Education - All bowhunters must show proof when purchasing a small game/deer archery permit that they have completed the CE/FS bowhunting course (since 1982) or its equivalent from another state or country. On and after January 1, 2002, permits to hunt with a bow and arrow under the provisions of this chapter shall be issued only to qualified applicants who have successfully completed the conservation education bowhunting course as specified in section 26-31 or an equivalent course in another state.

Legal Bows and Arrows - For the purposes of hunting deer and turkey, legal bows include long, recurved, or compound bows with a minimum draw weight of 40 pounds and crossbows. Mechanical string release devices are permitted. Projectiles coated with any drug, poison, or tranquilizing substance are prohibited.

- **Crossbows:** The use of crossbows for hunting deer, turkey, and all other species is permitted. Legal crossbows must have a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds and permanent fixed rifle type stock with a functional mechanical safety device. Adjustable crossbow stocks are permitted, but folding stocks are not. The bolt (arrow) length must be at least 18 inches, excluding the broadhead. Crossbows are considered loaded when fully drawn with a bolt in place. Telescopic sights are permitted.
- **Arrowheads:** Legal arrowheads for hunting deer and turkey must have at least two blades and be at least 7/8 inch wide at its widest point. Arrowheads that are designed to open on impact are legal provided they meet the above requirement.

Possession of a Firearm while archery hunting is prohibited.

Definition of Bag Limits

- **Daily Limit** - the number of a particular species that may be taken by an individual during a day (from 12:01 A.M. to 12:00 midnight). While in the field, a hunter may not have in their possession more than the daily bag limit for a species.
- **Possession in Storage** - the number of a particular non-migratory game species kept in storage may not exceed the cumulative daily bag limits for that species since the season began, and at no time can it exceed the season limit. The possession in storage of migratory game species, such as waterfowl, woodcock, snipe, coots and rail, may not exceed the federally regulated possession limit.
- **Season Limit** - the total number of a particular species that may be taken during an open season.

Fluorescent Orange Requirement

During the period September 1 through the last day of February, hunters (including persons hunting with deer damage permits) are required to wear at least 400 square inches of fluorescent orange clothing above the waist and

visible from all sides. An orange hat, in addition to a coat or vest, is strongly recommended.

The following hunters are exempt from this requirement:

- **Archery Deer Hunters** hunting from September 15 to November 17 and from January 1 to January 31.
- **Archery Deer Hunters** hunting during the November 18 to December 31 time period may remove their fluorescent orange clothing when hunting from an elevated stand at least 10 feet above the ground.
- **Firearms and Archery Turkey Hunters**
- **Waterfowl Hunters** while hunting from boats, duck blinds, or other stationary positions.
- **Crow Hunters** while hunting from a blind or a stationary position.
- **Coyote and Fox Hunters** when hunting from a blind except during firearms deer seasons and fall firearms turkey seasons.
- **Raccoon and Opossum Hunters** when hunting from 1/2 hour after sunset until 1/2 hour before sunrise.
- **Landowners** while hunting deer only on their own property. Family members are still required to wear fluorescent orange.

Private Land Permission

All hunters are required to have permission from the landowner when hunting on private lands. Verbal permission for the hunting of species other than deer and turkey is sufficient (exception listed below).

- **Deer Hunters and Turkey Hunters** - must have written permission of the landowner for the current season on official DEEP forms. Copies of the form must be carried while hunting. **Forms are available in this guide and on the DEEP website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEPHunting>.** The form must be dated for the current season, indicate the hunting implement types authorized by the landowner, and have the landowner's original signature. A landowner must have a minimum of 10 acres to authorize the use of a rifle or revolver for deer hunting. There is no minimum acreage requirement for using a shotgun, muzzleloader, or archery equipment.
- **Small Game/Pheasant Hunters** - must obtain written permission to hunt on Sundays (verbal permission is required for small game hunting on other days, although DEEP recommends hunters carry written permission from the landowner). The form must be carried while hunting.
- **Trappers** - must obtain, and have in possession, the written permission of the landowner when trapping on their land. WRITTEN PERMISSION MUST BE RENEWED ANNUALLY. Trappers have the option to use an official DEEP form to obtain written permission. **The form is available in this guide and on the DEEP website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEPHunting>.**
- **Landowners and Lineal Descendants** - are exempt from the requirement to carry written permission while hunting deer or turkey on their own land.

Landowner Liability Release

Connecticut law (Section 52-557g) provides protection from liability to landowners who allow, without a fee, the recreational use of their property. Details on the regulations that protect landowners can be found on the DEEP website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/2026-Connecticut-Hunting-and-Trapping-Guide/Hunting-Laws-and-Regulations>.

License Suspensions Remedial Hunter Ed Requirement

In accordance with Connecticut General Statute 26-61, the payment of a fine, forfeiture of a bond, or a plea or judgment of guilty for fishing, hunting, and trapping violations may result in the suspension of all sport fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses and privileges. To comply with the provisions of C.G.S. Section 26-31(g), any person having their hunting license suspended for specific safety violations will be required to complete a remedial hunter education course prior to reinstatement of such license following the suspension period. Completion of a CE/FS course is also required if the hunter under suspension has not been previously certified. Details on specific violations can be found on the DEEP website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/2026-Connecticut-Hunting-and-Trapping-Guide/Hunting-Laws-and-Regulations>.

Dealing with Harassment

All hunters, regardless of where they hunt, should be prepared for the possibility of being harassed. Your behavior if you are harassed is extremely important. Maintain your composure and do not retaliate. If you are interviewed by the media, project a positive image. Connecticut has a hunter harassment law that protects the rights of hunters. If you decide to press charges, make sure you have a strong case by: (1) making it evident that the antagonists are following you by going in several directions; (2) asking your antagonists why they are harassing you; (3) being able to identify and describe the individuals; (4) taking the license numbers of their vehicles if possible; and (5) not responding with violence or threatening a protester with bodily harm.

Hunting Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

Connecticut laws provide special provisions for disabled hunters as do programs administered by the DEEP. Questions concerning special permits should be directed to the Wildlife Division at 860-424-3011 or deep.wildlife@ct.gov.

CGS Sec. 26-29b: provides a free hunting license (permits and stamps not included) to Connecticut residents who have lost one or more limbs or have permanently lost the use of one or more limbs. These licenses are available at select DEEP and town clerk offices. Qualified non-residents are eligible for this free license if their state provides the same privilege to Connecticut residents. Verification of the disability, signed by a licensed physician, must be presented.

CGS Sec. 26-74: allows a person to obtain a special permit to hunt legally from an all-terrain vehicle so long as they do not possess or shoot a loaded hunting implement while the vehicle is in motion. Note: 4-wheel drive trucks, vans, SUVs, etc. are not considered all-terrain vehicles. Eligible persons must be paraplegic or suffer from the loss of or the loss of the use of both lower extremities.

State Land Access for Disabled Hunters: Disabled hunters wanting to access state land with all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) or who have a question about free hunting licenses or shooting from an ATV should call the Wildlife Division at 860-424-3032 (western CT) or 860-424-4144 (eastern CT) for more information.

Finding Places to Hunt: Use the CT Interactive Hunting Area Map on the DEEP website (<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/Public-Hunting-Areas>) to find areas where there is adequate access for persons with disabilities or see table on pages 47-58.

MOU Between CT DEEP and MassWildlife: The CT DEEP and MassWildlife have finalized a Memorandum of Understanding which establishes that both states (Connecticut and Massachusetts), pursuant to their respective authorities (Section 26-29b of the CGS and Massachusetts GL c 131 Subsection 11), agree to issue free inland fishing and hunting, or combination inland fishing and hunting licenses to a resident of the other state who is the holder of a valid hunting, fishing, or combination inland fishing and hunting license issued to them by their state of residency that specifies that said individual is paraplegic. The individual must, however, still purchase any necessary permits or stamps required by either Massachusetts or Connecticut.

State-managed Dog Training and Field Trial Areas

Hunting is permitted on dog training and field trial areas when field trial events are not scheduled. During field trials, these areas are closed to all other uses. Check the list of scheduled events at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/Field-Trial-Dates>.

State-managed Dog Training Areas

The following areas have been established as Dog Training Areas where hunting dogs may be trained with the use of live birds year-round. Game birds may not be shot on these areas except during the open hunting season. Only artificially propagated gamebirds (pheasants, chukar partridge, quail, ducks) and pigeons of either sex may be liberated. All birds liberated shall be full-winged and capable of maintaining normal flight. Birds should be free of disease and acquired from a NPIP-approved facility. All birds must be in a condition suitable to maintain themselves in the wild. No birds are to be shot except during the open season; use of blank cartridges will be permitted.

- Nod Brook Wildlife Management Area
- Flaherty Field Trial Area
- Pease Brook Wildlife Management Area

Field Trial Areas

The following areas have been established as state-regulated Field Trial Areas. Field trial clubs sanctioned by AKC, NAVHDA, or CASDFTA may obtain permits to use these areas for field trials.


- Nod Brook Wildlife Management Area
- Flaherty Field Trial Area
- Mansfield Field Trial Area (State-leased)
- Sugarbrook Field Trial Area

Dates for state land and state-leased areas are scheduled in December of the preceding year. Any group wishing to use one of the above listed areas should contact Maydiel Canizares at maydiel.canizares@ct.gov in the month of December or earlier.

Private Land Consent Form

- All hunters are required to have landowner permission when hunting on private land.
- Private land deer and turkey hunters, and small game hunters who hunt on Sundays must carry the form below, signed and dated for the current season. This is required of both archery and firearms hunters.
- Members of fish and game clubs, as well as their guests, do not need separate written consent to hunt on Sundays on land owned or operated by the club, provided they already have the required agreements with the club and/or landowner(s) granting permission for the specific type of Sunday hunting.
- A landowner may sign a dated consent form before you purchase your license, permits, and stamps, but all required licenses, permits, and stamps must be purchased before you hunt.
- Landowners must designate calendar year, seasons, choice of hunting implements, and if hunting on Sunday is allowed.
- Landowners who allow, without fee, the recreational use of their property are protected from liability by Connecticut law (C.G.S. 52-557g).
- Properties must be at least 10 acres in size for rifle or revolver use to be authorized. Where baiting of deer is permitted, it is strongly recommended that individuals consult with landowners prior to placing bait.

Photocopies of these forms may be used, but to be valid, must have original signatures and dates. Print forms from the DEEP website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEPHunting>.

Consent to hunt deer, turkey, or on Sundays on Private Land during the Calendar Year of _____			
Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection - Wildlife Division			
Names of all landowners listed on deed	Last	First	M.I.
Location of Property	Street	Town	No. of Acres
Hunter's Information (please print)	Name	First	M.I.
	Address		
	Town	State	Zip Code
	Conservation ID Number		
Cross off hunting that is NOT authorized: (1) Deer Hunting (2) Spring Turkey Hunting (3) Fall Turkey Hunting (4) Sunday Hunting		Cross off hunting implements NOT authorized: (1) Bow and Arrow/Crossbow (2) Shotgun (3) Muzzleloader (<i>Deer Only</i>) (4) Centerfire Rifle (<i>Deer Only</i>) (5) Revolver (<i>Deer Only</i>)	
I know and understand the boundaries of the above listed properties, and that this form is valid only during the calendar year for which it was signed by the landowner. I also understand that any person making a written false statement on this form shall be subject to arrest as provided for in Section 53A-157 of 1975 Rev. of C.G.S.			
Signature of Permittee		Date	
I hereby grant the person named above permission to hunt on my property during the calendar year indicated. I have also indicated the seasons and hunting implements that may be used.			
Signature of Landowner		Date	

Small Game and Pheasant Hunting

Specific laws and regulations for each season are below.

Resident Game Bird Hunting Seasons

Species: Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Quail, Chukar, Hungarian Partridge, and Wild Turkey (see pages 23-26 for turkey hunting season information)

Stocking information for pheasants can be found on the DEEP website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/Pheasant-Hunting>.

Season Dates

Species	Season Dates	Limits
Pheasant	Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 <i>and</i> Oct. 17 - Dec. 31	Daily - 2; Season - 10
Chukar and Hungarian Partridge	Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 <i>and</i> Oct. 17 - Dec. 31	Daily - 2; Season - 10
Quail	Oct. 17 - Oct. 31	Daily - 2; Season - 10
Ruffed Grouse*	Oct. 17 - Nov. 30	Daily - 1; Season - 8

Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

License Requirements: Firearms or Archery Hunting License and a Connecticut Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp.

Legal Firearms: See firearms and ammunition regulations on pages 12-14.

Special Conditions

- **Sunday Hunting:** Small game and pheasant hunting is allowed on Sundays on private land only. Signed written consent of the landowner on an official form for the current season must be carried while hunting on Sundays (see page 18 for form).
- **Extended Quail Season** - Quail may be hunted at the Nod Brook WMA and the Flaherty, Mansfield, and Sugarbrook Field Trial Areas from Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 and from Oct. 17 - Dec. 31.
- Landowners hunting game birds, such as pheasant or quail, must obtain the Free Landowner Resident Game Bird Stamp and are restricted to the state's daily and season bag limits. No game birds may be liberated on private land without a permit.
- **Junior Pheasant Hunter Training Day:** Saturday, October 10, 2026. Information on Junior Pheasant Hunter Training Events held at local sportsmen's clubs can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Junior-Hunting>. "Hunt on Your Own" junior pheasant hunts are available at designated state-owned locations for licensed junior hunters accompanied by a licensed adult hunter. More details on pheasant stocking locations for Junior Pheasant Hunter Training Day can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/Pheasant-Hunting#trainingday>.

* The Wildlife Division is requesting grouse hunters voluntarily log their hunts and harvest. More information is at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/Ruffed-Grouse-Hunter-Log>.

Saturday Pheasant and Small Game Hunting Permits

Saturday permits are required of any hunter wishing to hunt small game or pheasants on Saturdays between October 17 - November 14, 2026, at **Eversource Skiff Mountain Cooperative WMA and Naugatuck State Forest (West Block)**. These areas will be stocked the Saturday mornings and afternoons from Oct. 17 through Nov. 14 and will only be open to hunters with a Saturday permit. Saturday permits for these areas will only become available on the Online Outdoor Licensing System the Monday preceding the Saturday hunts, starting at 7:00 AM. Specific details about these permits and pheasant hunting in general can be found on the Pheasant Hunting webpage at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/Pheasant-Hunting>. **Only 3 Saturday permits can be secured for the season. Once secured, permits cannot be canceled.**

Small Game Mammals

Season Dates

Species	Season Dates	Limits
Gray Squirrel	Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 <i>and</i> Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Daily - 8; Season - 40
Cottontail	Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 <i>and</i> Oct. 17 - Dec. 31	Daily - 3; Season - 25
European Hare	Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 <i>and</i> Oct. 17 - Dec. 31	Daily - 1; Season - 10
Snowshoe Hare	Jan. 1 - Jan. 31 <i>and</i> Nov. 21 - Dec. 31	Daily - 2; Season - 10
Woodchuck	March 15 - Nov. 15	No limit

Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

License Requirements: Firearms or Archery Hunting License

Legal Firearms: See firearms and ammunition regulations on pages 12-14.

Sunday Hunting: Small game hunting is allowed on Sundays on private land only. Signed written consent of the landowner on an official form for the current season must be carried while hunting on Sundays (see page 18 for form).

Furbearer Hunting Seasons

Season Dates

Species	Season Dates	Limits
Raccoon	Jan. 1 - Jan. 17 <i>and</i> Oct. 17 - Dec. 31	Daily - 5; Season - no limit
Opossum	Jan. 1 - Jan. 17 <i>and</i> Oct. 17 - Dec. 31	Daily and Season - no limit
Red and Gray Foxes	Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 <i>and</i> Oct. 17 - Dec. 31	Daily: 3 combined; Season: 30 combined
Coyote	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit

Hunting Hours

- **Raccoon and Opossum:** No restrictions on state-owned lands open to hunting and on private lands where landowners have given permission, except that hunting hours are 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise during the shotgun deer hunting season November 18 to December 8.
- **Foxes and Coyotes:** 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

License Requirements: Firearms or Archery Hunting License

Legal Firearms: See firearms and ammunition regulations on pages 12-14.

Special Conditions

- **Sunday Hunting:** Small game hunting is allowed on Sundays on private land only. Signed written consent of the landowner on an official form for the current season must be carried while hunting on Sundays (see page 18 for form).
- **Raccoons and Opossums:** When hunting at night, rifles or handguns using ammunition larger than .22 caliber rimfire or shotgun shells larger than #2 shot may not be used. Note that rifles or handguns using .17 caliber rimfire ammunition are permitted for hunting at night.
- It is illegal to take raccoons or opossums with the use of a light from a motor vehicle.
- Foxes and Coyotes taken by hunting must be reported online (<https://ct.aspirafocus.com/hunterreporting/Login.aspx>) or by telephone (1-877-337-4868). Or, they can be pelt tagged. To be sold, all fox and coyote pelts must be tagged.

Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons

Hunting migratory birds (waterfowl, geese, woodcock, snipe, rails, and crows) remains prohibited on Sundays on all land types.

Crow Hunting

Season Dates: (hunting only on certain days; **note that the fall crow season dates are subject to change pending a regulations change.**)

Dec. 22, 2025 - March 23, 2026; Monday through Saturday

Aug. 8 - Oct. 9, 2026: Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays

Oct. 17 - Nov. 28, 2026; Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays

Dec. 21, 2026 - March 20, 2027; Monday through Saturday

Bag Limit: No limit

Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

License Requirements: Firearms or Archery Hunting License and Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp.

Legal Firearms: See firearms and ammunition regulations on pages 12-14.

Special Conditions

- While crow hunting from a stationary position, a hunter is exempt from the fluorescent orange clothing regulation.
- In addition to Connecticut hunting laws, migratory bird hunters are subject to all Federal Laws and Regulations.

Woodcock, Snipe, and Rail Hunting

Season Dates, Bag Limits, and Hunting Hours: See *current Migratory Bird Hunting Guide*

License Requirements: Firearms or Archery Hunting License and Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp.

Legal Firearms: Shotguns are the only firearms which may be used. Shotguns must be capable of holding no more than 3 shells. See ammunition regulations for shotguns on page 13.

Special Conditions

- **Federal Regulations:** In addition to Connecticut hunting laws, migratory bird hunters are subject to all Federal Laws and Regulations.
- **Non-toxic Shot:** Non-toxic shot is required for coot and rail hunting. The maximum size shot allowed for all migratory birds is BB for steel and #2 for other federally approved non-toxic shot types.

Waterfowl Hunting

Species: Ducks, Mergansers, Geese, Brant

Season Dates, Bag Limits, Hunting Hours: See *current Migratory Bird Hunting Guide*

License Requirements: Firearms or Archery Hunting License and Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp. All migratory game bird hunters, including junior hunters (ages 12-15), must obtain the Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp. Federal Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp also required for hunters 16 years or older. Note: federal waterfowl stamps must be signed in ink on the face of the stamp.

Legal Firearms: Shotguns are the only firearms which may be used. Refer to the Migratory Bird Hunting Guide for regulations regarding the number of shells a shotgun may hold.

Special Conditions

- **Non-toxic Shot:** Non-toxic shot is required for hunting waterfowl, coot, and rails. The maximum size shot allowed for all migratory birds is BB for steel and #2 for other federally approved non-toxic shot types.
- **Possession of Lead Shot:** Possessing lead shot while waterfowl hunting is prohibited.
- **Federal Regulations:** In addition to Connecticut hunting laws, waterfowl hunters are subject to all Federal Laws and Regulations.
- **No Hunting Buffer Zone:** While hunting in tidal areas from land or from floating blinds anchored to land or rock positions, the no hunting buffer zone around permanent buildings is 250 feet.
- **Fluorescent Orange Clothing:** While hunting waterfowl from boats or stationary positions, a hunter is exempt from the fluorescent orange clothing regulation.
- **Junior Waterfowl Hunter Training Days:** Are usually two Saturdays in the fall. Dates are published in the current *Migratory Bird Hunting Guide*. Learn more at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Junior-Hunting>.

Wild Turkey Hunting

Hunters may pursue wild turkeys during three separate seasons: Spring, Fall Archery, and Fall Firearms. Spring turkey archery and firearms hunting bag limits and season lengths are not separate; whereas fall archery and fall firearms are separate seasons with their own unique bag limits and season time-frames.

Spring Turkey Season

Season Dates

- April 29 - May 30 **State Land, Private Land, and Landowner**

Bag Limit: 5 bearded birds (on private land, state land, or a combination of both).

Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.

License Requirements

- **CT Residents:** Firearms hunting license or Small Game and Deer Archery Permit and a Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp.
- **Non-residents:** 3-day out-of-state bird hunting license or non-resident firearms hunting license or non-resident small game and deer archery permit **and** a Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp.
- **Landowners** (who own 10 or more contiguous acres) must obtain a Free Landowner Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp to hunt wild turkeys on their property. Landowners who wish to hunt on other private land or state land for wild turkeys must purchase the Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp for \$28. There is no additional bag limit for turkeys due to the Free Landowner Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp.

Legal Firearms: Shotguns, 20 gauge or larger, with #4, 5, 6, 7, 7-1/2 shot, or any combination. Shotguns must not be capable of holding more than 3 shells.

Legal Bows: For the purposes of hunting deer and turkey, legal bows include long, recurved, or compound bows with a minimum draw weight of 40 pounds and crossbows. Mechanical string release devices are permitted. Projectiles coated with any drug, poison, or tranquilizing substance are prohibited.

Crossbows: The use of crossbows for hunting deer, turkey, and all other species is permitted. Legal crossbows must have a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds and permanent fixed rifle type stock with a functional mechanical safety device. Adjustable crossbow stocks are permitted, but folding stocks are not. The bolt (arrow) length must be at least 18 inches, excluding the broadhead. Crossbows are considered loaded when fully drawn with a bolt in place. Telescopic sights are permitted.

Arrowheads: Legal arrowheads for hunting deer and turkey must have at least two blades and must be at least 7/8 inch wide at its widest point. Arrowheads that are designed to open on impact are legal provided they meet the above requirement.

Tagging and Reporting: Immediately upon harvesting a turkey, complete and sign a Harvest Tag and keep it with the carcass at all times. The Harvest Tag must remain with the turkey until it is cut up for consumption. See requirements on page 42.

Special Conditions

- **Sunday Hunting:** Turkey hunting is allowed on Sundays on private land only with any legal hunting implement allowed for the spring season (see previous section). Hunting on Sundays is not allowed within 40 yards of blazed public trails.
- **Private Land Permission:** Signed written consent of the landowner on official forms for the current season must be carried while hunting (see page 18 for form).
- **State Land Hunting:** See tables on pages 47-58 for state lands open for spring turkey hunting.
- **Decoys:** Decoys may be used, but live decoys are prohibited.
- **Junior Turkey Hunter Training Days:** Saturday, April 18, through Saturday, April 25, 2026 (excluding Sunday on state land). Learn more at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Junior-Hunting>.

Fall Archery Turkey Seasons

Season Dates

- Jan. 1 - Jan. 31 **Private Land (Zones 11 and 12;** see zone map on page 26)
- Sept. 15 - Dec. 31 **Private Land (All Zones)**
- Sept. 15 - Dec. 31 **State Land Bowhunting Only Areas**
- Sept. 15 - Nov. 17 *and* Dec. 23 - Dec. 31 **State Land**

Bag Limits: 2 either sex (on private land, state land, or a combination of both)

Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset

License Requirements

- **CT Residents:** Small Game and Deer Archery Permit and a Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp.
- **Non-residents:** Non-resident small game and deer archery permit and a Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp.
- **Landowners** (who own 10 or more contiguous acres) must obtain a Free Landowner Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp to hunt wild turkeys on their property. Landowners who wish to hunt on other private land or state land for wild turkeys must purchase the Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp for \$28. There is no additional bag limit for turkeys due to the Free Landowner Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp.

Legal Bows: For the purposes of hunting deer and turkey, legal bows include long, recurved, or compound bows with a minimum draw weight of 40 pounds and crossbows. Mechanical string release devices are permitted. Projectiles coated with any drug, poison, or tranquilizing substance are prohibited.

Crossbows: The use of crossbows for hunting deer, turkey, and all other species is permitted. Legal crossbows must have a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds and permanent fixed rifle type stock with a functional mechanical safety device. Adjustable crossbow stocks are permitted, but folding stocks are not. The bolt (arrow) length must be at least 18 inches, excluding the broadhead. Crossbows are considered loaded when fully drawn with a bolt in place. Telescopic sights are permitted.

Arrowheads: Legal arrowheads for hunting deer and turkey must have at least

two blades and must be at least 7/8 inch wide at its widest point. Arrowheads that are designed to open on impact are legal provided they meet the above requirement.

Tagging and Reporting: Immediately upon harvesting a turkey, complete and sign a Harvest Tag and keep it with the carcass at all times. The Harvest Tag must remain with the turkey until it is cut up for consumption. See requirements on page 42.

Special Conditions

- **Sunday Hunting:** Turkey hunting is allowed on Sundays on private land only with any legal bowhunting implement allowed for the archery season (see previous section). Hunting on Sundays is not allowed within 40 yards of blazed public trails.
- **Private Land Permission:** Signed written consent of the landowner on official forms for the current season must be carried while hunting (see page 18 for form).
- **State Land Hunting:** See the tables on pages 47-58 for a listing of areas that are open for fall bowhunting.
- **Decoys:** Decoys may be used, but live decoys are prohibited.
- **Fanning:** Use of a turkey fan to sneak in on turkeys is strongly discouraged.

Fall Firearms Turkey Seasons

Season Dates

Oct. 3 - Oct. 31 **State Land, Private Land, and Landowner**

Bag Limit: 3 either sex (on private land, state land, or a combination of both).

Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.

License Requirements

- **CT Residents:** Firearms hunting license and Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp.
- **Non-residents:** 3-day out-of-state bird hunting license or non-resident firearms hunting license and a Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp.
- **Landowners** (who own 10 or more contiguous acres) must obtain a Free Landowner Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp to hunt wild turkeys on their property. Landowners who wish to hunt on other private land or state land for wild turkeys must purchase the Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp for \$28. There is no additional bag limit for turkeys due to the Free Landowner Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp.

Legal Firearms: Shotguns, 20 gauge or larger, with #4, 5, 6, 7, 7 1/2 shot, or any combination. Shotguns must not be capable of holding more than 3 shells.

Tagging and Reporting: Immediately upon harvesting a turkey, complete and sign a Harvest Tag and keep it with the carcass at all times. The Harvest Tag must remain with the turkey until it is cut up for consumption. See requirements on page 42.

Special Conditions

- **Sunday Hunting:** Turkey hunting is allowed on Sundays on private land only with any legal hunting implement allowed for the fall firearms season (see previous section). Hunting on Sundays is not allowed within 40 yards of

blazed public trails.

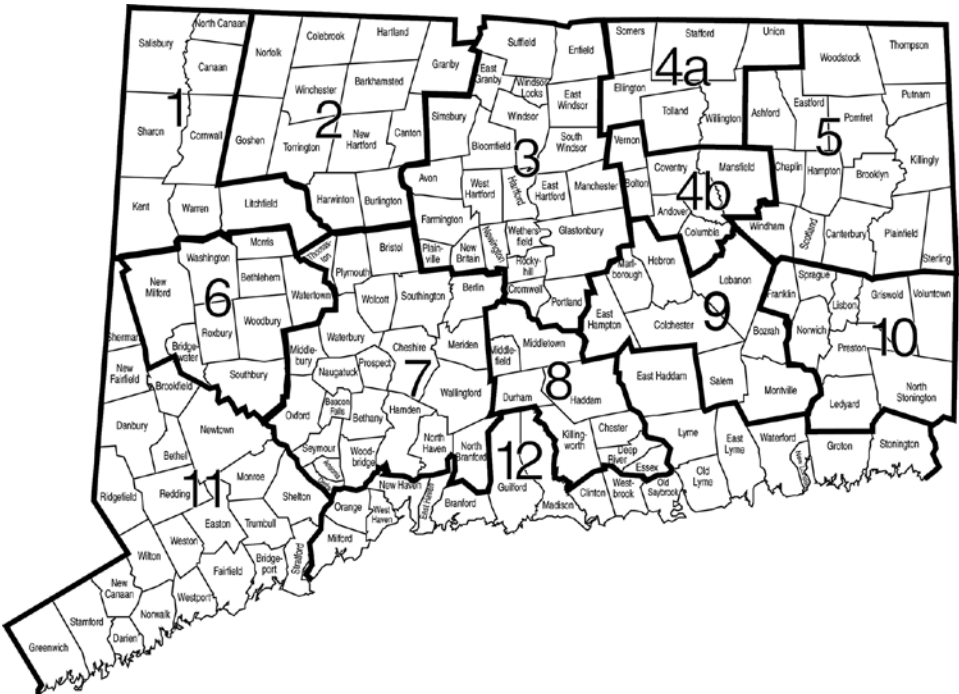
- **Private Land Permission:** Signed written consent of the landowner on official forms for the current season must be carried while hunting (see page 18 for form).
- **State Land Hunting:** See the tables on pages 47-58 for a listing of areas that are open for fall firearms turkey hunting.
- **Decoys:** Decoys may be used, but live decoys are prohibited.

Turkey Hunting Prohibited Activities

- The use of bait, electronic calling devices, live decoys, or animals (including dogs) to hunt wild turkeys is prohibited. Except that a dog may be used to hunt turkey during the fall firearms season on private lands only.
- You may not call turkeys for another hunter. Exceptions – **State Land:** If you have a current Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp with or without unused tags remaining, you may call for another hunter on state land. **Private Land:** If you have a current Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp with or without unused tags remaining and a signed consent form for a private land parcel, you may call for another hunter hunting on that private land parcel.
- You may not attempt to take turkeys by participating in a cooperative drive.
- You may not shoot turkeys from a building or other permanent structure.
- You may not shoot turkeys roosting in trees.

Deer and Turkey Management Zone Map

(Do not use this map for the deer lottery)



Deer Hunting

Archery Deer Season

Season Dates

Jan. 1 - Jan. 31 **Private Land (Zones 11-12)**

Sept. 15 - Dec. 31 **Private Land (All zones)**

Sept. 15 - Dec. 31 **State Land Bowhunting Only Areas**

Sept. 15 - Nov. 17 *and* Dec. 23 - Dec. 31 **State Land**

Bag Limits: 2 either sex and 2 antlerless (4 total); additional bag of 1 either sex and 1 antlerless (2 total) during the Jan. 1-31 season on private lands in zones 11 and 12.

Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset.

License and Permits: Small Game and Deer Archery Permit. Must show proof of completion of Connecticut's CE/FS bowhunting course (since 1982) or its equivalent from another state or country when purchasing a small game and deer archery permit. On and after January 1, 2002, permits to hunt with a bow and arrow under the provisions of this chapter shall be issued only to qualified applicants who have successfully completed the conservation education bowhunting course as specified in section 26-31 or an equivalent course in another state.

Legal Bows: For the purposes of hunting deer and turkey, legal bows include long, recurved, or compound bows with a minimum draw weight of 40 pounds and crossbows. Mechanical string release devices are permitted. Projectiles coated with any drug, poison, or tranquilizing substance are prohibited.

Crossbows: The use of crossbows for hunting deer, turkey, and all other species is permitted. Legal crossbows must have a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds and permanent fixed rifle type stock with a functional mechanical safety device. Adjustable crossbow stocks are permitted, but folding stocks are not. The bolt (arrow) length must be at least 18 inches, excluding the broadhead. Crossbows are considered loaded when fully drawn with a bolt in place. Telescopic sights are permitted.

Arrowheads: Legal arrowheads for hunting deer and turkey must have at least two blades and be at least 7/8 inch wide at its widest point. Arrowheads that are designed to open on impact are legal provided they meet the above requirement.

Tagging and Reporting: Immediately upon harvesting a deer, complete and sign a Harvest Tag and keep it with the carcass at all times. The Harvest Tag must remain with the deer until it is cut up for consumption. See requirements on page 42.

Special Conditions

- **Sunday Hunting:** Deer hunting is allowed on Sundays on private land only with any legal bowhunting implement allowed for the archery season (see previous section). Hunting on Sundays is not allowed within 40 yards of blazed public trails.
- **Possession of a Firearm:** Possession of a firearm while archery hunting is prohibited.
- **Minimum Acreage:** There is no minimum acreage requirement for bowhunting.
- **Private Land Permission:** Signed written consent of the landowner on official forms for the current season must be carried while hunting.

- **State Land Hunting:** See tables on pages 47-58 for a listing of lands open to archery deer hunting. Certain state lands that do not allow firearms deer hunting are designated as bowhunting only areas. These lands are open to deer bowhunting during the state land shotgun and muzzleloader deer seasons (Nov. 18 - Dec. 22).
- **Fluorescent orange:** Bowhunters are required to wear 400 sq. in. of fluorescent orange from Nov. 18 - Dec. 31. Bowhunters may remove fluorescent orange clothing while in a tree stand at least 10 feet off the ground.
- **Decoys** may be used during the early and late archery deer seasons, but must be covered with 400 sq. in. of fluorescent orange during transport. Decoys cannot be used during the Nov. 18 - Dec. 31 time period.
- **Replacement Tags** may be available for this permit type (see page 34).
- **Notice:** Saturday, November 7 through Saturday, November 14, 2026 (excluding Sunday on state land) are Junior Deer Hunter Training Days and junior hunters with firearms deer permits may be hunting with firearms. *Learn more at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Junior-Hunting>.*

Private Land Shotgun/Rifle/Revolver Deer Hunting

Season Dates: Nov. 18 - Dec. 8

Bag Limits: Statewide (except Zones 2 and 4A): 1 either-sex and 1 antlerless; **Zones 2 and 4A:** 1 either sex ("Antlerless Only" tag NOT valid); **Zone 7:** 1 additional antlerless; **Zones 11 and 12:** 2 additional antlerless

Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset.

License and Permits: Firearms hunting license and Private Land Shotgun/Rifle Deer permit. Note: Revolver Deer Endorsement is also required if using a revolver.

Legal Firearms: 12, 16, or 20 gauge breech loading shotgun loaded with single soft alloy projectile ammunition. Rifled or smoothbore barrels allowed. Centerfire rifle 6mm (.243 caliber) or larger or revolver .357 caliber or larger may be used if the landholding is 10 or more acres and the landowner has authorized use on the consent form. To use a revolver, you must also have Revolver Deer Endorsement for the current season. See muzzleloader section on page 13 for specific details. Telescopic sights and shotgun converters are permitted for muzzleloaders. No minimum acreage required for shotguns or muzzleloaders.

Tagging and Reporting: Immediately upon harvesting a deer, complete and sign a Harvest Tag and keep it with the carcass at all times. The Harvest Tag must remain with the deer until it is cut up for consumption. See requirements on page 42.

Special Conditions

- **Sunday Hunting:** Deer hunting is allowed on Sundays on private land only with any legal hunting implement allowed for the firearms season (see previous section). Hunting on Sundays is not allowed within 40 yards of blazed public trails.
- **Private Land Permission:** Signed written consent of the landowner on official forms for the current season must be carried while hunting (see page 18 for form).
- **Replacement Tags** may be available for this permit type (see page 34).
- **Junior Deer Hunter Training Days:** Saturday, November 7 through

Saturday, November 14, 2026 (excluding Sunday on state land) are Junior Deer Hunter Training Days and junior hunters with firearms deer permits may be hunting with firearms. *Learn more at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Junior-Hunting>.*

State Land No-Lottery Deer Hunting

Season Dates: Nov. 18 - Dec. 8

Bag Limit: 1 either sex

Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset.

License and Permits: Firearms hunting license and a State Land No-Lottery Permit. You may buy only one type of State Land Shotgun Deer Permit. So, you should not purchase a State Land No-Lottery Permit if you plan on applying for a State Land Lottery Permit.

Legal Firearms: 12, 16, or 20 gauge breech loading shotgun loaded with single soft alloy projectile ammunition. Rifled or smoothbore barrels allowed. Shotgun must not be capable of holding more than 3 shells. See muzzleloader section on page 13 for specific details. Telescopic sights and shotgun converters are permitted for muzzleloaders.

Tagging and Reporting: Immediately upon harvesting a deer, complete and sign a Harvest Tag and keep it with the carcass at all times. The Harvest Tag must remain with the deer until it is cut up for consumption. See requirements on page 42.

Special Conditions

- **Open Areas:** See pages 47-58 for areas open to the No-Lottery Season.
- **Junior Deer Hunter Training Days:** Saturday, November 7 through Saturday, November 14, 2026 (excluding Sunday on state land) are Junior Deer Hunter Training Days and junior hunters with firearms deer permits may be hunting with firearms. *Learn more at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Junior-Hunting>.*

Free Landowner Deer Hunting

Available for persons owning 10 or more contiguous acres of land.

Season Dates: Nov. 1 - Dec. 31

Bag Limit: 2 deer; 1 either sex and 1 antlerless

Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset.

License and Permits: Free Landowner Deer Permit. Appropriate hunting license required if landowner does not live on qualifying property. Note: Revolver Deer Endorsement is also required if using a revolver. For hunting with a bow or crossbow, landowners must have a certificate indicating successful completion of a Connecticut Conservation Education/Firearms Safety bowhunting course (or recognized equivalent).

Legal Firearms: 12, 16, or 20 gauge shotgun loaded with single soft alloy projectile ammunition. Rifled or smoothbore barrels allowed. Centerfire rifle 6mm (.243 caliber) or larger, revolver .357 caliber or larger, or muzzleloader (.45 caliber minimum). To use a revolver, you must also have Revolver Deer

Endorsement for the current season.

Legal Bows: See page 13 for description of legal bows and arrows for deer hunting. Mechanical string release devices are permitted. Projectiles coated with any drug, poison, or tranquilizing substance are prohibited.

Tagging and Reporting: Immediately upon harvesting a deer, complete and sign a Harvest Tag and keep it with the carcass at all times. The Harvest Tag must remain with the deer until it is cut up for consumption. See requirements on page 42.

Special Conditions

Free Landowner Permits are available only to persons owning 10 or more contiguous acres of land. Additional permits are available for their spouses, lineal descendants, parents, grandparents, and siblings.

- **Fluorescent Orange:** Landowners hunting deer on their own land are not required to wear 400 square inches of fluorescent orange, but their spouses, lineal descendants, parents, grandparents, and siblings are required to do so.
- **Sunday Hunting:** Deer hunting is allowed on Sundays on private land only with any legal hunting implement allowed for the landowner season (see previous section). Hunting on Sundays is not allowed within 40 yards of blazed public trails.

Private Land Deer Muzzleloader Hunting

Season Dates: Dec. 9 - Dec. 31

Bag Limits: Statewide (except Zones 2 and 4A): 1 either-sex and 1 antlerless; **Zones 2 and 4A:** 1 either sex (“Antlerless Only” tag not valid); **Zone 7:** 1 additional antlerless; **Zones 11 and 12:** 2 additional antlerless. (See zone map on page 26.)

Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset.

License and Permits: Firearms hunting license and Private Land Muzzleloader Deer Permit.

Legal Firearms: See muzzleloader section on page 13 for specific details. Telescopic sights and shotgun converters are permitted for muzzleloaders. No minimum acreage required for muzzleloaders.

Tagging and Reporting: Immediately upon harvesting a deer, complete and sign a Harvest Tag and keep it with the carcass at all times. The Harvest Tag must remain with the deer until it is cut up for consumption. See requirements on page 42.

Special Conditions

- **Sunday Hunting:** Deer hunting is allowed on Sundays on private land only with any legal hunting implement allowed for the private land muzzleloader season (see previous section). Hunting on Sundays is not allowed within 40 yards of blazed public trails.
- **Private Land Permission:** Signed written consent of the landowner on official forms for current season must be carried while hunting (see page 18).
- **Replacement Tags** may be available for this permit type (see page 34).

State Land Deer Muzzleloader Hunting

Season Dates: Dec. 9 - Dec. 22

Bag Limit: 1 either sex

Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset.

License and Permits: Firearms hunting license and State Land Muzzleloader Deer Permit.

Legal Firearms: See muzzleloader section on page 13 for specific details. Telescopic sights and shotgun converters are permitted for muzzleloaders.

Tagging and Reporting: Immediately upon harvesting a deer, complete and sign a Harvest Tag and keep it with the carcass at all times. The Harvest Tag must remain with the deer until it is cut up for consumption. See requirements on page 42.

State Land Hunting: See pages 47-58 for a listing of state lands open to muzzleloader deer hunting.

State Land Deer and Controlled Hunt Lottery

A lottery is conducted to award a limited number of permits for deer hunting on certain state lands and controlled hunt areas. To hunt these areas you must apply for a deer lottery permit.

Season Dates: Nov. 18 - Nov. 27 **Lottery “A” Season** (see page 33)

Nov. 18 - Dec. 8 **Lottery Regular Season** (see page 33)

Bag Limits: 1 either sex on state land areas; variable on controlled hunt areas.

Hunting Hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.

License and Permits: Firearms hunting license and a state land lottery permit or a controlled hunt area lottery permit. Only one of these permit types may be bought each year. Lottery permits for state land and controlled hunt areas may be applied for starting **January 2, 2026, starting at 9:30 AM** on the Online Outdoor Licensing System (<https://portal.ct.gov/CTOutdoorLicenses>). Persons rejected for a lottery permit may obtain a state land no-lottery permit. However, you may buy only one type of state land shotgun deer permit. So, if you are selected for the deer lottery, you cannot purchase a state land no-lottery permit.

Legal Firearms: 12, 16, or 20 gauge breech loading shotgun loaded with single soft alloy projectile ammunition. Rifled or smoothbore barrels allowed. Shotgun must not be capable of holding more than 3 shells. See muzzleloader section on page 13 for specific details. Telescopic sights and shotgun converters are permitted for muzzleloaders.

Tagging and Reporting: Immediately upon harvesting a deer, complete and sign a Harvest Tag and keep it with the carcass at all times. The Harvest Tag must remain with the deer until it is cut up for consumption. See page 42 for requirements.

Junior Deer Hunter Training Days: Saturday, November 7 through Saturday, November 14, 2026 (excluding Sunday on state land)

Archery-only Deer Lottery

The Archery-only Lottery distributes a limited number of permits, providing access to new controlled hunt areas and allowing landowners to develop hunt

programs that may consist of hunters attending a mandatory pre-hunt meeting and/or passing a background check. The archery-only lottery will not affect the hunter's ability to receive a firearms lottery permit nor will it impact the ability to bow hunt other state lands. In the future, when multiple archery-only lottery areas are available, like the firearms lottery, bowhunters will only be allowed to receive one archery-only area permit.

Follow existing deer lottery application instructions for the archery-only controlled hunt lottery. The archery-only lottery will run through January 31 and no permits will be available to youth hunters 12 to 17 years old.

2026 Lottery Archery-only Area

Season Dates: Sept. 15 – Dec. 31

Area	Town(s)	Quota	Acres
Area 66 MDC Nepaug Reservoir, Sweetheart Mt. Block ^{**^} <i>See footnotes on special requirements listed on page 34.</i>	Canton*	30	500
Area 69 Centennial Watershed State Forest, Lakeville Reservoir Block	Salisbury	10	400

Bag Limits: 2 either-sex and 2 antlerless; hunters will use the archery deer permit tags.

Hunting Hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.

License and Permits: Archery deer/small game License. Only one of this permit type may be received each year. Lottery permits for archery only controlled hunt areas may be applied for starting on **January 2, 2026, starting at 9:30 AM**. Persons rejected in the archery-only lottery may hunt any state or controlled hunt area that is open to bowhunting. The archery-only controlled hunt lottery is completely separate from the firearms deer lottery.

Legal Bows: See page 13 for a description of legal bows and arrows for deer hunting. Mechanical string release devices are permitted.

Deer Lottery Instructions

Starting January 2, 2026, at 9:30 AM, lottery permit applications can be submitted online at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEPOutdoorLicenses>.

ADULT licensed firearms hunters over the age of 17 can apply individually or as a group. The maximum number of hunters in a group is four. You may only apply as a group one time. Applicants may apply for up to six areas.

Upon submission of your application, you will know instantly whether you are successful. If successful, the permit for the area and season will automatically be added to your "shopping cart." If you apply as a group, the associated permit will also be added to each group member's "shopping cart." The permit may be purchased at the time of selection or at a later date. **Each group member is responsible for purchasing their own permit. All permits must be purchased by January 31.** If a permit is not purchased by that date, it will be **forfeited**.

YOUTH licensed firearms hunters (12 through 17 years old) can only apply individually. All youths will apply by means of a separate lottery program called Youth Lottery Permits. Applicants can apply and receive their area of choice, unless quotas are filled. Youth permits are purchased at the end of the transaction. We recommend that the adult hunter participate in the lottery first before purchasing the Youth Lottery Permit. This will ensure that the youth and adult receive a permit for the same area. All sales are final and DEEP is unable to switch hunting areas or refund fees.

Reminder: Select lottery permits not purchased by **January 31** will be made available on a first-come, first-serve basis **starting March 16, at 9:30 AM**. Unsold lottery permits can be purchased online or at select DEEP offices up until sold out. All unsold lottery permits must be purchased at the end of the transaction. Lottery questions? Email andrew.labonte@ct.gov.

2026 Deer Lottery “A” Season Area

Season Dates: Nov. 18 - Nov. 27

Area	Town(s)	Quota	Acres
Area 51 Yale-Myers Forest	Union*	230	7,700

No access during Junior Hunter Training Days. Harvest of coyotes and foxes prohibited. No deer driving during the shotgun deer lottery season.

Only non-toxic (no lead) ammunition is allowed for hunting in Area 51, Yale-Myers Forest. Selected hunters should receive pre-hunt information by August 15, 2026. If notification is not received by this date, hunters must contact andrew.labonte@ct.gov.

2026 Deer Lottery Regular Season Areas

Season Dates: Nov. 18 - Dec. 8

SF = State Forest WMA = Wildlife Management Area SP = State Park

Area	Town(s)	Quota	Acres
Area 26 Trout Brook Valley SP	Easton	15	330
Area 28 Naugatuck SF Quillinan Reservoir Block	Ansonia	25	511
Area 52 Bristol Water Co. ^^	Harwinton	75	4,500
Area 56 Centennial Watershed SF ^^	Easton*	170	3,450
Area 58 MDC Nepaug Reservoir, Valentine/Pine Hill Block **^	New Hartford*	40	1,400
Area 60 Tankerhoosen WMA	Vernon	20	449
Area 62 Aldo Leopold WMA	Southbury	20	553
Area 63 Mohawk SF, Ziegler/Johnson Tract	Cornwall*	15	329
Area 64 MDC Barkhamsted Reservoir, East Block **^	Barkhamsted*	40	4,282
Area 67 MDC Barkhamsted Reservoir, West Block **^	Barkhamsted*	40	3,700
Area 68 Bishop Swamp WMA	Andover*	35	1,035

* and adjacent town or towns.

** *Special Requirements: To apply for Areas 58, 64, 66, and 67, hunters must be at least 18 years of age. Hunters selected for the 4 MDC areas will be required to attend a mandatory pre-hunt meeting; pass a background check conducted by MDC; and sign a waiver of liability before receiving access for hunting. If a hunter cannot meet these requirements, please do not apply. Successful hunters will receive pre-hunt information by August 15. If notification is not received by this date, hunters must contact andrew.labonte@ct.gov. The pre-hunt meeting is scheduled for September 2, 2026, at Sessions Woods WMA in Burlington.*

^ No access during Junior Hunter Training Days. Harvest of coyotes and foxes prohibited. Sunday hunting is prohibited.

^^ No access during Junior Hunter Training Days, except for junior hunters and mentors who have both been awarded a permit for this area.

Additional Deer Hunting Information

Definition of Antlerless Deer: Some deer tags allow the harvest of antlerless deer only. An antlerless deer is defined as any deer which has no visible antlers. “Button bucks” are considered antlerless deer. Either-sex deer tags allow the harvest of antlered or antlerless deer.

Replacement Tags: In deer management zones 11 and 12, two types of supplemental tags may be available: Replacement Antlerless Tags and Earn-a-buck Tags.

For a hunter to receive a replacement antlerless tag, they must go to one of several Vendor Replacement Tag Deer Check Stations. A current list of check stations is at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/Deer-Check-Stations> or by calling the Wildlife Division at 860-424-3011. Hunters must complete the following:

- Report the deer harvest and obtain a confirmation number within 24 hours of harvest;
- Bring the antlerless deer carcass or head to a check station within 72 hours of harvest;
- Submit the deer harvest tag with a confirmation number to the vendor;
- Sign the replacement antlerless tag that is received from the vendor.

“Earn-A-Buck” Tags: If you register a total of 3 antlerless deer from private land during the same season, you may qualify for a replacement either-sex tag.

Note: Antlerless deer harvested in other zones may be brought to a check station for the purpose of receiving replacement tags; however, the replacement tags (both Antlerless and Earn-a-buck) may **ONLY be used in zones 11 or 12**. Replacement tags may be available in zones 11 and 12 during the private land archery season, shotgun/rifle season, and muzzleloader season. Consult the Private Land Deer Management Zone Map for a description of zones (see page 26). All replacement tags will be issued in limited numbers based on a zone’s deer population management goals.

Deer Hunting Prohibited Activities

- Hunting with or allowing any dog in your charge to hunt, pursue, or kill deer.
- Hunting deer or any other wildlife while in or on a motor vehicle, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle (See Hunting Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities for special exemptions).

- Hunting deer by aid or use of a light.
- Taking or attempting to take any deer with the aid of real or artificial bait in Deer Management Zones 1 to 10, or on state land in Zones 11 and 12. (Any food, mineral, or chemical product designed to be eaten by deer is considered bait.)
- Use of a decoy during the shotgun/rifle and muzzleloader deer seasons.
- Taking of spotted fawns.
- All use of natural deer urine products is prohibited, particularly for the purposes of taking or attempting to take or attract deer, or for the surveillance or scouting of deer (see section below for more details).

Baiting and Use of Attractants for Deer Hunting

The following attractants may be used while hunting deer in Connecticut:

- Deer decoys during the early and late archery seasons only.
- Some types of scent attractants (i.e., tarsal glands, food smells, smoke pole) that provide no substance for deer to consume. **For the safety of Connecticut's deer herd, all use of natural deer urine products is prohibited. No person shall possess or use, for the purposes of taking or attempting to take or attract deer or for the surveillance or scouting of deer, any product bought or sold that is manufactured or refined that contains or purports to contain deer urine. Products labeled as "synthetic" may still be used. Products with vague descriptions about their contents are not recommended for use. Chronic wasting disease (CWD) can spread through exposure to infected deer urine.**
- All types of sound attractants (i.e., doe calls, buck calls, antler rattling, electronic calls).
- Hunting over planted fields where normal agricultural planting, harvesting, or post-harvest manipulation is used.

In addition to the attractants listed above, the following are allowed on PRIVATE LANDS ONLY while hunting deer in DEER MANAGEMENT ZONES 11 and 12.

- Minerals or chemicals that may be safely consumed by deer (i.e., salt licks).
- Artificial or natural foods placed, scattered, distributed or deposited (i.e., hay, grains, fruit, nuts, and other foods that may be safely consumed by deer).

Note: It is strongly recommended that individuals hunting on private lands in zones 11 and 12 consult with landowners prior to placing attractants on their property.

Tree Stands on State Properties: Avoid the construction or placement of permanent tree stands involving damage to any tree or shrub on state land. The use of portable tree stands (climber, ladder, or hang-on) is permissible. Hunters are encouraged to remove all tree stands from state properties at the conclusion of the hunting season. The use of a full-body safety harness when using a tree stand is strongly recommended.

Furbearer Trapping Seasons

Trapping licenses can be obtained 24/7 through Connecticut’s Online Outdoor Licensing System or purchased at select outdoor equipment retailers and town halls that sell hunting and fishing licenses.

Species	Dates	Limits
River Otter*	Jan. 1 - March 15 <i>and</i> Nov. 8 - Dec. 31	8
Beaver*	Jan. 1 - March 31 <i>and</i> Dec. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit
Mink*, Muskrat, Weasel, Coyote*, Gray Fox*, Red Fox*, Raccoon, Opossum, and Skunk	Jan. 1 - March 15 <i>and</i> Nov. 8 - Dec. 31	No limits
Fisher (Carcass collection mandatory)	Nov. 20 - Dec. 31	2

***All beaver, river otter, red fox, gray fox, wild mink, coyote, and fisher pelts** must be properly tagged before they are sold, exchanged, given away, otherwise disposed of, or retained for personal use. These pelts must be tagged by the last scheduled tagging date of the season. Fur dealers are prohibited from buying or selling untagged pelts of these species. Foxes and coyotes taken by hunters, instead of being pelt tagged, should be reported online at <https://ct.aspirafocus.com/hunterreporting/Login.aspx> or by telephone (1-877-337-4868). If reported online or by telephone, pelts do not require pelt tags.

2026 Pelt Tagging Schedule

- Natchaug Forest Hdqtrs., Kingsbury Rd. Eastford – **March 14, 2026**
- Southford Falls State Park, Rt. 188, Oxford – **March 28, 2026**
- Franklin WMA, Rt. 32, North Franklin – **March 29, 2026**
- Sessions Woods WMA, Rt. 69, Burlington – **March 29, 2026**
- CT Trapper’s Association 2026 Fur Sale, Tolland Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Ave., Vernon (8:00 AM - 4:00 PM; pelt tagging will occur from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM) - **April 4, 2026**

Pelts will be tagged (at no cost) by DEEP representatives between **9:00 AM–11:00 AM** at the locations and dates listed above, except for the 2026 Fur Sale. Pelts can be tagged at some DEEP field offices during weekdays by appointment. Call 860-424-3017 (Sessions Woods) or 860-418-5956 (Franklin) for weekday and other tagging options.

Carcass Collections: Trappers are required to submit fisher carcasses to the Wildlife Division for research purposes. The carcasses can be frozen and submitted prior to or during one of the listed pelt tagging dates. To make special arrangements for fisher carcass submission, call the Wildlife Division at 860-424-3017. The Wildlife Division is requesting that trappers also submit gray fox carcasses for research purposes. Gray fox carcasses can be submitted in the same way as fisher carcasses (see above).

Coyote Land Trapping: From December 1 through January 31, there are special provisions for trapping coyotes on private land. Refer to padded metal trap restrictions for

the requirements that must be met to trap coyotes on private land during this time period.

Taxidermists: Taxidermists can accept untagged animals or pelts, but are required to have them tagged by the next scheduled tagging date. Taxidermists must attach a paper tag to the animal or pelt listing the hunter or trapper's name, license number, town of harvest, and date of harvest.

Pelts of Protected Species: Any skin, pelt, or carcass of protected species, including bobcat and black bear, may not be sold, purchased, or possessed unless:

1. It was legally acquired AND,
2. In addition to any tag required by any other state or country, affixed with a separate tag bearing the following information: (a) Date acquired; (b) Name and address of the person from whom it was acquired; (c) Hunting or trapping license number under which it was harvested (if applicable); and (d) State and/or country from which it was acquired.

State Land Trapping: Permits for trapping on selected state-owned land can be purchased for \$60.00 per unit. There are two units, one east and one west of the Connecticut River. **Permits are valid from November through March 31 (not for the calendar year).** The units include many of the state forests and wildlife management areas. Information on applying for permits, applicant requirements, and available properties can be obtained by contacting the Wildlife Division at 860-424-3011.

Legal Traps and Methods

Furbearing animals for which there is an open trapping season may be taken by **Box Traps, Live Traps, Deadfalls, Padded and Unpadded Metal Traps, Smooth Wire Traps, and Species Specific Traps** subject to the following restrictions.

Unpadded Metal Trap Restrictions

1. May only be used below the surface of the water in a pond, lake, stream, spring hole, or tidal water.
2. Opening greater than 5 3/4" is prohibited, except that traps with an opening of up to 7 1/2" may be set for beaver in waters frequented by beaver.

Padded Metal Trap Restrictions

1. May only be used in the burrow of a wild animal or below the surface of the water in a pond, lake, stream, spring hole, or tidal water. Except that, any person who has completed a DEEP-approved coyote land trapping course (trapper must carry proof of course completion on their person) may use padded metal traps on or below ground from December 1 through January 31 for the taking of coyotes on private land parcels of at least 10 contiguous acres where the landowner has given written permission explicitly for the use of such traps. When trapping coyotes in this manner, no visible bait may be used, pan tension must be two pounds or greater, and traps must be securely anchored to the ground.
2. Opening greater than 5 15/16" is prohibited, except that traps with an opening of up to 7 1/2" may be set for beaver in waters frequented by beaver.

Smooth Wire Trap Restrictions

1. May only be used below the surface of the water in a pond, lake, stream, spring hole, or tidal water. Except, smooth wire traps having an opening of 4

3/4" or less may extend above the surface of the water provided a portion of the trap frame remains in contact with the water.

2. Opening greater than 6 1/2" is prohibited, except that Conibears and similar smooth wire traps with an opening of up to 10" may be set for beaver in waters frequented by beaver.

The following are prohibited:

- The use of any type of snare.
- Traps placed, set, or tended within 10 feet of the waterline of a muskrat or beaver house.
- Traps with serrations or teeth.

Trappers are required to:

- Attach their name legibly to all traps.
- Obtain, and have in possession, the written permission of the landowner when trapping on their land. **Written permission must be renewed annually.** There is an option to use an official DEEP form to obtain written permission for trapping on private land (see page 39).

No person who sets, places, or attends any trap shall permit more than twenty-four (24) hours to elapse between visits to such trap, except that if such twenty-four-hour period expires before sunset, the person who set such trap shall have until sunset to visit the trap.

Trap Definitions

Padded Metal Trap: A legal padded metal trap has all of the following features or characteristics:

1. Spring strength not exceeding 55 inch pounds with arms closed and 85 inch pounds with arms in the open position;
2. A gap between the arms of the trap in the closed position no less than 1/4 inch in width and no less than 4 inches in length;
3. Replaceable non-weather hardening, non-age hardening padding material not less than 3/32 inch thick covering the closing surfaces and securely affixed to the arms of the trap;
4. A chain no longer than 6 inches in length;
5. Swivels located at each end of the chain, and;
6. A shock absorbing spring incorporated into the anchoring chain.


Species Specific Trap: A legal species specific trap has all of the following features or characteristics:

1. Triggering and restraining mechanisms enclosed by a housing;
2. When set, triggering and restraining mechanism accessible only via a single opening;
3. An access opening measuring not greater than 2 inches in diameter or diagonally;
4. A triggering mechanism that can only be activated by a pulling force;
5. A swivel-mounted anchoring mechanism.

Trapping on Private Land Consent Form

- All trappers are required to have landowner permission when trapping on private land.
- Written permission, signed and dated for the current season, must be carried on the person. The form below can be used to obtain permission.
- You may have a landowner sign a dated consent form before you purchase your trapping license, but you must purchase your license, before you trap.
- Landowners who allow, without fee, the recreational use of their property are protected from liability by Connecticut law (C.G.S. 52-557g).
- Trappers who have completed a DEEP-approved coyote land trapping course may use padded metal traps on or below the ground from December 1 through January 31 for the taking of coyotes on private land parcels of at least 10 contiguous acres where the landowner has given written permission explicitly for the use of such traps.

Photocopies of this form may be used, but to be valid, must have original signatures and dates. Forms are also at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEPHunting>.

CONSENT TO TRAP ON PRIVATE LAND DURING THE PERIOD OF _____ _____ Check if trapper is authorized to use padded metal traps for coyote land trapping.				 State of Connecticut DEEP—Wildlife Division
Names of all landowners listed on deed	Last	First	M.I.	
Location of Property	Street	Town	No. of Acres	
Trapper's Information (please print)	Name	First	M.I.	
	Address			
	Town	State	Zip Code	
	Conservation ID Number			
I know and understand the boundaries of the above listed properties, and that this form is valid only during the time period stated above for which it was signed by the landowner. I also understand that any person making a written false statement on this form shall be subject to arrest as provided for in Section 53A-157 of 1975 Rev. of C.G.S.				
Signature of Permittee			Date	
I hereby grant the person named above permission to trap on my property during the time period indicated. I have also indicated whether or not the trapper is authorized for coyote land trapping.				
Signature of Landowner			Date	

Sunrise - Sunset for 2026

Eastern Standard Time approximate for Central Connecticut and adjusted for Daylight Savings Time (March 8 through Nov. 1, 2026).

Source: NOAA Global Monitoring Laboratory <https://gml.noaa.gov/grad/solcalc>

Location: Latitude 41.76314 Longitude -72.67872 Time Zone Offset: America/New_York -4.0

Date	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		June		July		Aug		Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
1	7:18	4:31	7:03	5:06	6:25	5:41	6:33	7:16	5:47	7:49	5:18	8:19	5:20	8:29	5:45	8:08	6:17	7:24	6:48	6:32	6:23	4:45	6:58	4:21
2	7:18	4:32	7:02	5:08	6:24	5:42	6:32	7:17	5:46	7:50	5:18	8:20	5:20	8:29	5:46	8:07	6:18	7:22	6:49	6:31	6:24	4:44	7:00	4:21
3	7:18	4:33	7:01	5:09	6:22	5:44	6:30	7:18	5:44	7:51	5:18	8:21	5:21	8:29	5:47	8:06	6:19	7:21	6:50	6:29	6:25	4:43	7:01	4:20
4	7:18	4:34	7:00	5:10	6:21	5:45	6:28	7:20	5:43	7:52	5:17	8:21	5:21	8:29	5:48	8:05	6:20	7:19	6:51	6:27	6:27	4:41	7:02	4:20
5	7:18	4:34	6:59	5:11	6:19	5:46	6:27	7:21	5:42	7:53	5:17	8:22	5:22	8:28	5:49	8:04	6:21	7:17	6:52	6:26	6:28	4:40	7:03	4:20
6	7:18	4:35	6:57	5:13	6:17	5:47	6:25	7:22	5:41	7:55	5:17	8:23	5:23	8:28	5:50	8:02	6:22	7:16	6:53	6:24	6:29	4:39	7:03	4:20
7	7:18	4:36	6:56	5:14	6:16	5:48	6:23	7:23	5:40	7:56	5:16	8:23	5:23	8:28	5:51	8:01	6:23	7:14	6:54	6:22	6:30	4:38	7:04	4:20
8	7:18	4:37	6:55	5:15	7:14	6:49	6:22	7:24	5:38	7:57	5:16	8:24	5:24	8:27	5:52	8:00	6:24	7:12	6:55	6:21	6:32	4:37	7:05	4:20
9	7:18	4:39	6:54	5:16	7:12	6:51	6:20	7:25	5:37	7:58	5:16	8:24	5:25	8:27	5:53	7:58	6:25	7:10	6:56	6:19	6:33	4:36	7:06	4:20
10	7:17	4:40	6:53	5:18	7:11	6:52	6:18	7:26	5:36	7:59	5:16	8:25	5:25	8:27	5:54	7:57	6:26	7:09	6:57	6:17	6:34	4:35	7:07	4:20
11	7:17	4:41	6:51	5:19	7:09	6:53	6:17	7:27	5:35	8:00	5:16	8:25	5:26	8:26	5:55	7:56	6:27	7:07	6:59	6:16	6:35	4:34	7:08	4:20
12	7:17	4:42	6:50	5:20	7:07	6:54	6:15	7:28	5:34	8:01	5:15	8:26	5:27	8:26	5:56	7:54	6:28	7:05	7:00	6:14	6:36	4:33	7:09	4:20
13	7:16	4:43	6:49	5:22	7:06	6:55	6:14	7:29	5:33	8:02	5:15	8:26	5:28	8:25	5:57	7:53	6:29	7:03	7:01	6:12	6:38	4:32	7:09	4:20
14	7:16	4:44	6:47	5:23	7:04	6:56	6:12	7:31	5:32	8:03	5:15	8:27	5:28	8:24	5:58	7:52	6:30	7:02	7:02	6:11	6:39	4:31	7:10	4:21
15	7:16	4:45	6:46	5:24	7:02	6:57	6:10	7:32	5:31	8:04	5:15	8:27	5:29	8:24	5:59	7:50	6:31	7:00	7:03	6:09	6:40	4:30	7:11	4:21
16	7:15	4:46	6:45	5:25	7:01	6:58	6:09	7:33	5:30	8:05	5:15	8:28	5:30	8:23	6:00	7:49	6:32	6:58	7:04	6:08	6:41	4:29	7:12	4:21
17	7:15	4:48	6:43	5:27	6:59	7:00	6:07	7:34	5:29	8:06	5:15	8:28	5:31	8:22	6:01	7:47	6:33	6:57	7:05	6:06	6:43	4:28	7:12	4:21
18	7:14	4:49	6:42	5:28	6:57	7:01	6:06	7:35	5:28	8:07	5:16	8:28	5:32	8:22	6:02	7:46	6:34	6:55	7:06	6:05	6:44	4:28	7:13	4:22

19	7:13	4:50	6:41	5:29	6:56	7:02	6:04	7:36	5:27	8:08	5:16	8:29	5:33	8:21	6:03	7:44	6:35	6:53	7:08	6:03	6:45	4:27	7:14	4:22
20	7:13	4:51	6:39	5:30	6:54	7:03	6:03	7:37	5:26	8:09	5:16	8:29	5:33	8:20	6:04	7:43	6:36	6:51	7:09	6:02	6:46	4:26	7:14	4:23
21	7:12	4:52	6:38	5:32	6:52	7:04	6:01	7:38	5:25	8:10	5:16	8:29	5:34	8:19	6:05	7:41	6:37	6:50	7:10	6:00	6:47	4:26	7:15	4:23
22	7:11	4:54	6:36	5:33	6:50	7:05	6:00	7:39	5:25	8:11	5:16	8:29	5:35	8:19	6:06	7:40	6:38	6:48	7:11	5:59	6:48	4:25	7:15	4:24
23	7:11	4:55	6:35	5:34	6:49	7:06	5:58	7:40	5:24	8:12	5:17	8:29	5:36	8:18	6:07	7:38	6:39	6:46	7:12	5:57	6:50	4:24	7:16	4:24
24	7:10	4:56	6:33	5:35	6:47	7:07	5:57	7:42	5:23	8:13	5:17	8:29	5:37	8:17	6:08	7:37	6:40	6:44	7:13	5:56	6:51	4:24	7:16	4:25
25	7:09	4:57	6:32	5:36	6:45	7:09	5:55	7:43	5:22	8:13	5:17	8:30	5:38	8:16	6:09	7:35	6:41	6:43	7:15	5:54	6:52	4:23	7:16	4:25
26	7:08	4:59	6:30	5:38	6:44	7:10	5:54	7:44	5:22	8:14	5:18	8:30	5:39	8:15	6:10	7:33	6:42	6:41	7:16	5:53	6:53	4:23	7:17	4:26
27	7:08	5:00	6:29	5:39	6:42	7:11	5:53	7:45	5:21	8:15	5:18	8:30	5:40	8:14	6:12	7:32	6:43	6:39	7:17	5:52	6:54	4:22	7:17	4:27
28	7:07	5:01	6:27	5:40	6:40	7:12	5:51	7:46	5:21	8:16	5:18	8:30	5:41	8:13	6:13	7:30	6:44	6:37	7:18	5:50	6:55	4:22	7:17	4:27
29	7:06	5:02			6:39	7:13	5:50	7:47	5:20	8:17	5:19	8:30	5:42	8:12	6:14	7:28	6:46	6:36	7:19	5:49	6:56	4:21	7:18	4:28
30	7:05	5:04			6:37	7:14	5:48	7:48	5:19	8:18	5:19	8:29	5:43	8:11	6:15	7:27	6:47	6:34	7:21	5:48	6:57	4:21	7:18	4:29
31	7:04	5:05			6:35	7:15			5:19	8:18			5:44	8:10	6:16	7:25			7:22	5:46			7:18	4:30

Tagging and Reporting Instructions

Immediately upon making your harvest, complete a Deer/Turkey Harvest Tag. The Harvest Tag must be kept with your deer or turkey until it is processed for consumption. While transporting your harvest, you may keep the Harvest Tag in your pocket or wallet. However, if you leave the carcass, the completed Harvest Tag must remain with the animal.

Harvested deer and turkeys must be reported within 24 hours via the internet at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Report-Deer-Turkey-Harvest> or by telephone at the toll-free number, 1-877-337-4868 (1-877-DEP-HUNT).

To report your deer or turkey, you will need to know the 3-digit number code of the town in which the animal was harvested. The accompanying table lists Connecticut's 169 towns and their identifying numbers (see page 44). If you harvested your deer or turkey on state land, you will also need to know the 3-digit number code of the public hunting area. The hunting area tables on pages 47-58 list the 3-digit number codes of Connecticut's public hunting areas.

2026	Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection DEER/TURKEY HARVEST TAG	2026
Conservation ID#: _____		
Name: _____		
Date of Kill: ___ / ___ / ___ Time: _____		
Town of Kill: _____		
PERMIT / SEASON (check the appropriate boxes)		
Antlerless Tags cannot be used in Zones 2 and 4A during the Private Land Shotgun/Rifle/Revolver and Muzzleloader seasons.		
DEER <input type="checkbox"/> Antlerless <input type="checkbox"/> Either Sex		
<input type="checkbox"/> Private – Shotgun/Rifle/Revolver <input type="checkbox"/> State – Lottery		
<input type="checkbox"/> Private – Muzzleloader <input type="checkbox"/> State – No Lottery		
<input type="checkbox"/> Archery (Bow) <input type="checkbox"/> State – Muzzleloader		
<input type="checkbox"/> Landowner <input type="checkbox"/> Archery-only Lottery		
SPRING TURKEY – Bearded birds only		
<input type="checkbox"/> Private Land <input type="checkbox"/> State Land <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner		
FALL TURKEY		
<input type="checkbox"/> Private – Firearms <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner – Firearms		
<input type="checkbox"/> State – Firearms <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner – Archery (Bow)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Archery (Bow)		
Signature: _____		
Harvested deer and turkeys must be reported within 24 hours via the internet at https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Report-Deer-Turkey-Harvest or by calling 1-877-337-4868. After reporting, you must write your report Confirmation Number below.		
Confirmation #: _____		

Harvest Report Information

Before reporting your harvest, use this checklist to make sure you have all of the information you need to accurately make your report.

Conservation ID#:	____ _ (5 or 6 digits on license)
4-Digit Year of Your Birth:	____ _ (e.g. 1960)
Permit Type/Season:	_____ (e.g. Archery Deer, Spring Turkey, etc.)
3-Digit Town Code:	____ _ (see Town Code table on pages 44-45)
2-Digit Month of Harvest:	____ _ (01 to 12)
2-Digit Day of Harvest	____ _ (01 to 31)
Time of Day:	_____
Land Type: (private or state)	_____
3-Digit Public Hunting Area Code:	____ _ if applicable (see Hunting Area tables on pages 47-58)
Tag Type:	_____ (e.g. Antlerless, Either Sex, etc.)
Age/Sex Description:	See Deer and Turkey Age/Sex Descriptions at https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Report-Deer-Turkey-Harvest for assistance.
Number of Points:	____ _ (00 to 24) if applicable
Type of Hunting Implement:	_____ (e.g. Rifle, Shotgun, Bow, etc.)
Number of Hours Hunted:	_____ (# of hours)
Number of Deer Observed:	___ Fawns ___ Does ___ Bucks

Town 3-digit Number Codes for Reporting Harvests

No.	Town	No.	Town	No.	Town
001	Andover	044	East Haven	087	Morris
002	Ansonia	045	East Lyme	088	Naugatuck
003	Ashford	046	Easton	089	New Britain
004	Avon	047	East Windsor	090	New Canaan
005	Barkhamsted	048	Ellington	091	New Fairfield
006	Beacon Falls	049	Enfield	092	New Hartford
007	Berlin	050	Essex	093	New Haven
008	Bethany	051	Fairfield	094	Newington
009	Bethel	052	Farmington	095	New London
010	Bethlehem	053	Franklin	096	New Milford
011	Bloomfield	054	Glastonbury	097	Newtown
012	Bolton	055	Goshen	098	Norfolk
013	Bozrah	056	Granby	099	North Branford
014	Branford	057	Greenwich	100	North Canaan
015	Bridgeport	058	Griswold	101	North Haven
016	Bridgewater	059	Groton	102	North Stonington
017	Bristol	060	Guilford	103	Norwalk
018	Brookfield	061	Haddam	104	Norwich
019	Brooklyn	062	Hamden	105	Old Lyme
020	Burlington	063	Hampton	106	Old Saybrook
021	Canaan	064	Hartford	107	Orange
022	Canterbury	065	Hartland	108	Oxford
023	Canton	066	Harwinton	109	Plainfield
024	Chaplin	067	Hebron	110	Plainville
025	Cheshire	068	Kent	111	Plymouth
026	Chester	069	Killingly	112	Pomfret
027	Clinton	070	Killingworth	113	Portland
028	Colchester	071	Lebanon	114	Preston
029	Colebrook	072	Ledyard	115	Prospect
030	Columbia	073	Lisbon	116	Putnam
031	Cornwall	074	Litchfield	117	Redding
032	Coventry	075	Lyme	118	Ridgefield
033	Cromwell	076	Madison	119	Rocky Hill
034	Danbury	077	Manchester	120	Roxbury
035	Darien	078	Mansfield	121	Salem
036	Deep River	079	Marlborough	122	Salisbury
037	Derby	080	Meriden	123	Scotland
038	Durham	081	Middlebury	124	Seymour
039	Eastford	082	Middlefield	125	Sharon
040	East Granby	083	Middletown	126	Shelton
041	East Haddam	084	Milford	127	Sherman
042	East Hampton	085	Monroe	128	Simsbury
043	East Hartford	086	Montville	129	Somers

Town 3-digit Number Codes for Reporting Harvests

No.	Town	No.	Town	No.	Town
130	Southbury	144	Trumbull	158	Westport
131	Southington	145	Union	159	Wethersfield
132	South Windsor	146	Vernon	160	Willington
133	Sprague	147	Voluntown	161	Wilton
134	Stafford	148	Wallingford	162	Winchester
135	Stamford	149	Warren	163	Windham
136	Sterling	150	Washington	164	Windsor
137	Stonington	151	Waterbury	165	Windsor Locks
138	Stratford	152	Waterford	166	Wolcott
139	Suffield	153	Watertown	167	Woodbridge
140	Thomaston	154	Westbrook	168	Woodbury
141	Thompson	155	West Hartford	169	Woodstock
142	Tolland	156	West Haven		
143	Torrington	157	Weston		

What to Do When Approached by an Environmental Conservation Police Officer

Each year, Connecticut Environmental Conservation (EnCon) Police Officers check thousands of hunters, anglers, boaters, and visitors at our state parks, wildlife management areas, and forests. A compliance check by an EnCon Police Officer is an opportunity for outdoor enthusiasts to have positive interactions with officers while enjoying all the outdoor recreation opportunities Connecticut has to offer. EnCon Police Officers can help explain laws and also provide information about outdoor opportunities and conditions in your area.

EnCon Police Officers are concerned with enforcement of Connecticut laws and regulations that are intended to keep people safe, protect personal property, and conserve the State's natural resources. There are a few actions you can take to ensure your experience with an EnCon Officer is positive for both you and the officer.

The way hunters should handle their firearms when approached by a law enforcement officer differs from how they should handle them for safety purposes in other circumstances.

When Hunting:

EnCon Officers are concerned with firearms safety and compliance with hunting regulations when checking hunters. When approached by an officer, you are expected to follow all basic firearms handling rules.

- Control the muzzle - keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction.
- Do not attempt to load or unload your firearm while being approached by an EnCon Officer.
- Comply with all instructions directed to you by the EnCon Officer.

Connecticut's EnCon Police Officers want each interaction with an outdoor enthusiast to be a pleasant experience. Please be polite and courteous. By promptly complying with all requests as directed by the officer, you can help ensure a safe, pleasant, and productive experience. Take advantage of the opportunity to ask the officer questions. EnCon Officers are an excellent source of information about Connecticut laws and regulations, and the surrounding area. They can assist in making your outdoor experience in Connecticut more enjoyable.

Public and Permit-Required Hunting Areas

Access to Permit-Required Hunting Areas is regulated by agreement with private landowners, towns, state agencies, water companies, universities, non-profits, and cooperating sportsmen's clubs. Most Permit-Required Areas are open to the public from the third Saturday in October through the last day of February for small game and waterfowl hunting by special permit and are subject to certain restrictions. Hunting during any other period requires landowner permission unless specifically noted as open. No hunting is allowed before the third Saturday in October at Permit-Required Areas that are not owned by the State. Access to some DEEP-owned lands is also regulated through a permit system. Maps describing each Permit-Required Area are available at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/Public-Hunting-Areas> and a listing is on pages 47-58. Permit-Required Hunting Areas are posted with yellow plastic signs designating the properties under agreement.

Online Issuance of Daily Permits: Daily permits are issued through the **Online Outdoor Licensing System** (<https://portal.ct.gov/CTOutdoorLicenses>), free-of-charge on a first-come, first-serve basis to any persons holding a valid hunting license. Only one online permit can be obtained per selected hunting date. Once the quota is met, no more permits are available for that day. Permits will be issued 3 to 5 days in advance. Once in the online system, select the OTHER or BIRDS AND WATERFOWL tab at the top of the page. You should then see a list that includes DAILY PERMITS. If you select ADD, you will see several days worth of permits, along with a list of areas where permits are still available. You can add one permit per day to your cart. You must CHECK OUT to add the daily permit to your license. There is no fee, but you must reprint your license and carry it with you to verify that you have a permit for the correct location and date.

Junior hunters may hunt on Permit-Required Areas when accompanied by a licensed person at least 18 years of age. Junior hunters need their own permit unless they are hunting pheasants with a Saturday Pheasant and Small Game permit holder.

Firearms Restrictions: Rifles of any caliber or shotgun ammunition larger or heavier than #2 shot and hunting with any pistol or revolver of any caliber are prohibited on permit-required hunting areas, except by landowners, lineal descendants, and regular employees. Waterfowlers hunting from a boat, blind, or stationary position may use up to and including BB size steel shot.

Saturday Pheasant and Small Game Hunting Permits

Saturday permits are required October 17 - November 14, 2026, at select areas listed below. These areas will be stocked the listed Saturday mornings and afternoons and will only be open to hunters with a Saturday permit. Saturday permits for these areas will only become available on the Online Outdoor Licensing System the Monday preceding the Saturday hunts, starting at 7:00 AM. Specific details about these permits and pheasant hunting in general can be found on the Pheasant Hunting webpage at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/Pheasant-Hunting>. **Only 3 Saturday permits can be secured for the season. Once secured, permits cannot be canceled.**

Special Permit-Required Saturday Pheasant Hunting Areas

- Eversource Skiff Mountain Cooperative WMA
- Naugatuck State Forest (West. Block)


Public Hunting Areas

The following areas are open to public hunting. The key to the left specifies what type of hunting is permitted. Special stamps and permits are needed when hunting some species. Consult season descriptions for the species you are hunting. Consult page 12 for firearms restrictions. Some portions of these properties may be closed to hunting. Obey all postings. Maps for many of these areas are available on the DEEP website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Public-Hunting-Areas>. It is recommended that you check the Public Hunting Area Map on the DEEP website for the most current hunting area information as changes or updates may occur after this guide is printed.

Access: Public hunting areas marked by an asterisk (*) have notes at the end of this section.

Small Game	Waterfowl	Pheasants	Fall Deer/Turkey	Spring and Fall Firearms Turkey	Muzzleloader Deer	Deer Lottery Area	No-lottery Shotgun Deer	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, STATE FORESTS, & STATE PARKS	CODE	TOWN(S)	ACRES
•	•	•	•	•	•	62		Aldo Leopold WMA	308	Southbury	553
•	•	•	•	•	•		•	Algonquin State Forest	201	Colebrook	2,473
•	•	•	•	•	•		•	American Legion State Forest	202	Barkhamsted	1,303
			▲					Barber Pond WMA	203	Bloomfield, Windsor	70
•	•		▲					Bennett's Pond State Park	309	Ridgefield	460
•	•		▲/•	•	•		•	Camp Columbia State Forest	207	Morris	600
•	•		▲	•				Cedar Swamp WMA	208	New Hartford, Torrington	268
			•*			56		Centennial Watershed State Forest* (Archery deer hunting allowed by permit when the shotgun deer lottery season is closed.)	310	Easton, Weston	3,479
						69		Centennial Watershed State Forest (Lakeville Reservoir Block) ❖ (Archery deer lottery ONLY)	310	Salisbury	400
•	•	•	•	•	•		•	Centennial Watershed State Forest (Wangung Lake Block)	209	Canaan	319

Western Connecticut - Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, and New Haven Counties
 • Hunting Permitted ▲ Archery Deer/Turkey Hunting
 ❖ Archery ONLY F Fall Firearms Turkey Hunting ONLY
 * Special Conditions Apply ○ Daily/Season Permit Required (see page 46 of guide)
 ▲/• or ❖/• Some Sections Open to Archery ONLY (see maps online)
 (▲ and ❖ areas are open for archery deer hunting from September 15 to December 31, unless noted otherwise.)

Western Connecticut - Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, and New Haven Counties ● Hunting Permitted ❖ Archery ONLY * Special Conditions Apply ▲/● or ❖/● Some Sections Open to Archery ONLY (see maps online) (▲ and ❖ areas are open for archery deer hunting from September 15 to December 31, unless noted otherwise.)																			
Small Game	Waterfowl	Pheasants	Fall Deer/Turkey	Spring and Fall Firearms Turkey	Muzzleloader Deer	Deer Lottery Area	No-lottery Shotgun Deer												
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, STATE FORESTS, & STATE PARKS								CODE	TOWN(S)	ACRES									
●								Charles E. Wheeler WMA	312	Stratford, Milford, Orange	750								
			▲					Collis P. Huntington State Park* (archery deer hunting ONLY)	313	Bethel, Newtown, Redding	1,040								
●	●	●	▲	●				Cromwell Meadows WMA	247	Cromwell, Middletown	548								
●	●							East River Marsh WMA	314	Guilford	249								
●	●		▲	●				East Swamp WMA	315	Bethel	76								
●	●		▲					East Twin Lakes Water Access Area	211	Salisbury	99								
●	●		▲	●				Enders State Forest (Worthen Parcel ONLY)	332	Granby	352								
			▲					George C. Waldo State Park	316	Southbury	149								
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	Goshen WMA	213	Goshen	1,599								
●	●							Great Harbor WMA	317	Guilford	176								
●	●	●	▲	●				Housatonic River WMA	215	Kent	490								
●	●		●	●	●		●	Housatonic State Forest	216	Sharon, etc.	11,284								
●	●		▲	●				John A. Minetto State Park 	217	Torrington	576								
●	●		●	●	●		●	Mattatuck State Forest	219	Watertown	4,491								
❖			▲					Mohawk State Forest – Clark Pond Tract	341	Cornwall	120								
●	●		●	●	●	63		Mohawk State Forest – Ziegler/Johnson Tract	342	Goshen	302								
			▲					Mount Riga State Park	222	Salisbury	301								
●	●		●	●	●		●	Nassahogon State Forest	223	Burlington	1,140								
●	●		●	●	●		●	Naugatuck State Forest	319	Oxford, Beacon Falls, etc.	4,175								

•	•	▲	•	•						Naugatuck State Forest (Great Hill Block)	320	Seymour	238
•*	•	▲/•	•*	•*	28	•				Naugatuck State Forest* (Quillman Reservoir Block)	321	Ansonia, Seymour	581
•	•	•	•	•	•	•				Nepaug State Forest	224	New Hartford	1,364
•	•	▲	•	•						Newgate WMA	225	East Granby	425
•	•									Nod Brook WMA and Field Trial Area (Closed during field trials)	226	Avon, Simsbury	125
•	•	•	•	•	•	•				Paugnut State Forest	229	Torrington	1,960
•	•	▲/•	•	•	•	•				Paugusset State Forest (see map online)	322	Newtown	2,102
•	•	•	•	•	•	•				Peoples State Forest	230	Barkhamsted	3,108
•	•	•	•	•	•	•				Pootatuck State Forest	324	New Fairfield	1,032
•	•									Quinnipiac River Marsh WMA	325	North Haven	655
•	•	▲	•	•						Quinnipiac River State Park	326	North Haven	346
•	•	•	•	•	•	•				Robbins Swamp WMA	231	Canaan	1,638
•	•	•	•	•	•	•				Roraback WMA	232	Hawinton	2,100
•	•	▲	•	•						Simsbury WMA	234	Simsbury	373
•	•	▲	•	•						Suffield WMA	236	Suffield	265
•	•	▲	•	•						Sunnybrook State Park (west of Newfield Rd.)	237	Torrington	447
•	•		•	•	•	•				Topsmead State Forest (north and west of Rte. 118)	239	Litchfield	193
•	•	•	•	•	•	•				Tunxis State Forest	240	Hartland, etc.	10,242
•	•	▲	F	•						Wooster Mountain State Park	328	Danbury	444
•	•	•	•	•	•	•				Wyantenoek State Forest	243	Comwall, etc.	4,658
STATE-LEASED, FLOOD CONTROL, AND OTHER PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS													ACRES
*	•	▲	F*							Black Rock Lake (Army Corps)* Closed March 30-3rd Sat. Oct.	204	Thomaston, Watertown	400
•	•	▲	•							Bloomfield Flood Control Area (Site 1)	205	Bloomfield	285
					52					Bristol Water Company	329	Bristol	4,319
•	•									Eversource Kings Island Cooperative WMA	262	Enfield, Suffield	174
•	•	▲	F							Eversource Newgate Cooperative WMA (borders Newgate WMA)	210	East Granby	207

Western Connecticut - Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, and New Haven Counties										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hunting Permitted ❖ Archery ONLY * Special Conditions Apply ▲/● or ❖/● Some Sections Open to Archery ONLY (see maps online) (▲ and ❖ areas are open for archery deer hunting from September 15 to December 31, unless noted otherwise.) 										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Archery Deer/Turkey Hunting F Fall Firearms Turkey Hunting ONLY ○ Daily/Season Permit Required (see page 46 of guide) 										
Small Game	Waterfowl	Pheasants	Fall Deer/Turkey	Spring and Fall Firearms Turkey	Muzzleloader Deer	Deer Lottery Area	No-Lottery Shotgun Deer			
❖/●	●	●	▲	❖/●			●	CODE	TOWN(S)	ACRES
STATE-LEASED, FLOOD CONTROL, AND OTHER PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS										
								318	Ridgefield	383
								214	Plymouth	593
								218	Winchester	463
						64		343	Barkhamsted, Hartland	4,282
						67		346	Barkhamsted, Hartland	3,700
								220	Colebrook, Hartland, etc.	4,516
								221	New Hartford	368
						58		330	New Hartford	1,488
								349	New Hartford, Barkhamsted	780
						66		345	Canton	500
								227	Thomaston	201
								235	Winchester	152
								238	Thomaston, Harwinton, etc.	850
								241	North Canaan	45
								242	Norfolk	107
PERMIT-REQUIRED AREAS (DAILY PERMIT REQUIRED)										
								206	Bloomfield	365
								4	Harwinton, Plymouth	1,397

										310	Easton, Weston, etc.	4,470
○*		○*								311	Monroe	93
○	○	●	●	●	●					228	Sharon	732
○	○	○								14	Meriden, Cheshire	1,364
○										323	Trumbull	162
		○	○							233	Burlington	771
○	○	○								19	Oxford	91
			○								See page notes below.	4,327
○	○									27	Kent, Cornwall	1,464
	○	❖								350	Greenwich	26
	○	❖								350	Stratford	165
	○	❖								350	Nonwalk	119
		❖								350	Westbrook	150
○	○									22	Suffield, East Granby	240
										327	Easton	300
○	○									24	Wallingford	823

Notes for Western Connecticut Hunting Area Table are on page 56.

Eastern Connecticut - Middlesex, New London, Tolland and Windham Counties										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hunting Permitted ▲ Archery Deer/Turkey Hunting ❖ Archery ONLY * Special Conditions Apply ▲/● or ❖/● Some Sections Open to Archery ONLY (see maps online) (▲ and ❖ areas are open for archery deer hunting from September 15 to December 31, unless noted otherwise.) 										
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, STATE FORESTS, & STATE PARKS										
Small Game	Waterfowl	Pheasants	Fall Deer/Turkey	Spring and Fall Firearms Turkey	Muzzleloader Deer	Deer Lottery Area	No-Lottery Shotgun Deer	Code	TOWN(S)	ACRES
●			●	●	●		●	272	North Stonington	699
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	244	East Haddam, Colchester	1,513
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	273	Stonington	1,039
●	●	●	▲/●	●	●		●	274	Lebanon	727
●	●	●	▲	●				275	Bozrah	365
			▲	*				276	Windham	372
			▲					277	Union, etc.	513
●	●		●	●	●	68		245	Andover, Hebron	1,035
●	●		▲					337	Middlefield	36
●			●	●	●		●	347	Groton	199
●	●		▲/●	●	●		●	246	Haddam, etc.	16,696
●	●	●	▲	●				248	Durham	515
●	●		●	●	●		●	249	East Haddam, Lyme	311
●	●	●						212	East Windsor	506
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	278	North Franklin	728
●			▲					280	Waterford	154
●	●	●	▲	●				251	Haddam	256

Eastern Connecticut - Middlesex, New London, Tolland and Windham Counties
 ● Hunting Permitted
 ❖ Archery ONLY
 * Special Conditions Apply
 ▲ /● or ❖/● Some Sections Open to Archery ONLY (see maps online)
 (▲ and ❖ areas are open for archery deer hunting from September 15 to December 31, unless noted otherwise.)

▲ Archery Deer/Turkey Hunting
 F Fall Firearms Turkey Hunting ONLY
 ○ Daily/Season Permit Required (see page 46 of guide)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, STATE FORESTS, & STATE PARKS										
Small Game	Waterfowl	Pheasants	Fall Deer/Turkey	Spring and Fall Firearms Turkey	Muzzleloader Deer	Deer Lottery Area	No-Lottery Shotgun Deer	CODE	TOWN(S)	ACRES
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	293	Thompson	574
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	294	Canterbury, Plainfield	1,410
●	●	●	▲					295	Canterbury	20
●	●							265	Old Saybrook	204
●	●							266	Hebron	198
●	●							279	Old Lyme	625
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	297	Preston, Ledyard	874
●	●		▲	●				298	Killingly, Sterling	285
			▲					299	Killingly	372
●	●		▲	●				267	East Haddam, Haddam	98
●	●		●	●	●		●	300	Colchester, etc.	7,017
●	●		▲					268	East Windsor, etc.	633
●	●		●	●	●			301	Lyme	563
●	●		●	●	●		●	269	Stafford, etc.	7,170
●	●								Old Saybrook	49
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	302	Scotland	520
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	303	Plainfield	192
●	●		●	●	●		●	304	Scotland	504

Notes for Western Connecticut Hunting Area Table

Black Rock Lake, Hancock Brook Lake, and Thomaston Dam: Portions of area open to hunting through cooperation of the Army Corps of Engineers. Firearms hunting limited to shotgun ammunition only. Firearms hunting prohibited between March 30 and the third Saturday in October at Black Rock Lake and Thomaston Dam. Target or trap shooting prohibited.

Bloomfield Flood Control Area Site 2: Site 2 is leased to the town of Bloomfield and a special permit from the town clerk is required to hunt small game under special restrictions. Only open from the third Saturday in October until the end of February. Site 3 is no longer open to hunting.

Meriden Rod & Gun Club, Eversource Skiff Mountain Cooperative WMA, Seymour Fish & Game Club, Stanley Works Coop. WMA, and Wallingford Town Owned Area: All open for hunting on the third Saturday in October.

Suffield Sportsmen's Assoc. may not be open to hunting in 2026. Check the DEEP website for updates.

Centennial Watershed State Forest: Easton, Weston, Monroe, Newtown, Trumbull. Portions open to archery deer hunting by special access permits only. Access permits are available from the Aquarion Water Company. Consult <https://www.aquarionwater.com/environment/land-and-wildlife-management/hunting> for updated information. **No turkey hunting allowed. Monroe Parcel (Garder Rd.):** Obtain daily permit from DEEP for small game hunting.

Collis P. Huntington State Park: Open to archery deer hunting **only**. No turkey hunting allowed.

Great Swamp Flood Control Area: Open for firearms waterfowl hunting; stay south of Farmingville Rd.

MDC Lake McDonough: Small game and fall archery deer and turkey hunting **only**.

Naugatuck State Forest – Quillinan Reservoir Block: The parcel east of Clinton Rd. is open for firearms deer hunting under Lottery Area #28, spring/fall firearms turkey, small game, and muzzleloader deer. The parcel west of Clinton Rd. is a designated deer bowhunting only area and open to fall archery turkey. Both parcels are closed to waterfowl hunting. No access or parking from Deerfield Lane or Ansonia Nature Center property.

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority: Bowhunting for deer only is allowed each year on 3,233 acres in North Branford, 154 acres in Seymour and Ansonia, 420 acres in Prospect, and 520 acres in Bethany. Contact Nicole Smith at nsmith@rwater.com for details on how to apply.

Sessions Woods WMA: Waterfowl blind remains closed for repairs in early 2026. Check the DEEP website for updates (<https://portal.ct.gov/deep/wildlife>). Fall archery deer and turkey and spring and fall firearms turkey hunting allowed with a daily permit. The WMA is open to junior hunters participating in the spring Turkey Junior Hunter Training Days on April 18-25, excluding Sunday. Firearms hunting is permitted only in the northern section of the property.

Stewart B. McKinney NWR (Calf Island Unit, Great Meadows Unit, and Chimon and Sheffield Islands): Waterfowl and archery deer hunting only. At

the Great Meadows Unit, waterfowl may be hunted on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday during the regular state season. After the close of the regular waterfowl season, Canada and snow goose hunting is permitted every day except Sunday. Hunters must have a signed USFWS Hunt Brochure at all times. Brochures, maps, and more detailed information is at <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/stewart-b-mckinney/visit-us/activities/hunting>.

Stewart B. McKinney NWR (Salt Meadow Unit): Archery hunting for deer and turkey during the fall only. Hunters must have a signed USFWS Hunt Brochure at all times. The brochure, a map, and more detailed information is at: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/stewart-b-mckinney/visit-us/activities/hunting>

Trout Brook Valley State Park: Daily permits are issued for all hunting seasons except State Land Shotgun deer season. Prior to each season, call 860-424-3011 to obtain the combination code for the access gate. The area is open for wild turkey hunting during the Junior Hunter Training Days (April 18-25, excluding Sunday) and the regular spring turkey season (April 29-May 30). Hunter access to this area is by permit only, except during the shotgun deer season when a Deer Lottery Permit is required.

Notes for Eastern Connecticut Hunting Area Table

Beaver Brook State Park: Open to spring firearms turkey hunting ONLY. Fall turkey hunting is archery ONLY.

East Windsor-Enfield Area, Hebron and Norwich PR Areas, and Eversource Maromas Cooperative WMA: All open for hunting on the third Saturday in October until the last day in February.

Harkness Memorial State Park: A portion of the park north of Rte. 213 (former Verkade property) is designated as a Deer Bowhunting Only area.

Lebanon Cooperative Management Area: Hunting only in area located south of Old Rte. 2 (Norwich Ave.). Area owned by the Dept. of Agriculture and leased for farming. **Goose Field Permits** -- Goose field permittees may bring up to 2 guests. Permits will be issued after the corn fields are harvested. **Marsh Permits** (Small game and waterfowl) Hunters with Marsh Permits should not be in the goose fields unless the goose season is closed.

Nye Holman State Forest: Sections adjacent to archery range in Tolland are designated as Deer Bowhunting Only areas. Youth camping area is closed to all hunting.

Selden Neck State Park: Archery hunting for deer and turkey **only**. No archery hunting allowed during muzzleloader season.

Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge (5 parcels of federal land): Information for the Conte NWR, including a map and hunt brochure to be carried while hunting on Refuge lands, can be found at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/connecticut-hunting-and-fishing-information-sheet>.

Sprague Town Land Permit-Required Area: Game bird, rabbit, squirrel, and migratory bird hunting only. Non-toxic shot must be used for all species. See Town of Sprague hunting rules and regulations at: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/hunting_trapping/pdf_files/Sprague-hunting-rules-regulations-2022.pdf.

Yale-Myers Forest Permit-Required Area:

- **Only non-toxic shot and bullets are allowed for hunting on Yale-Myers Forest.** Non-toxic ammunition is lead-free and now required for all species (including deer, turkey, and small game) hunted on Yale-Myers Forest.
- Sunday hunting NOT allowed.
- Due to low population numbers, woodcock and ruffed grouse hunting is no longer allowed on Yale-Myers Forest. Yale is actively trying to create early successional habitat, but these birds continue to have very limited populations on the forest.
- The area is open for small game/waterfowl and wild turkey hunting by seasonal access permits. The start date for permits for small game and waterfowl hunting is September 1. Parking passes are also required. **Permits are available on the Online Outdoor Licensing System starting December 1, 2025. However, Yale-Meyers Forest season permits will ONLY be issued until March 31, 2026, for the season. No permits will be issued after this time period.** Small game and turkey permits will be available through the Online Outdoor Licensing System.
- Yale University will contact hunters through the email address listed in their license profile to provide parking and access information. Night hunting and harvest of coyotes and foxes prohibited. Spring wild turkey hunting hours will be: ½-hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon. No deer driving during the shotgun deer lottery season.

Tree Stand Safety Rules

A hunter who improperly uses a tree stand for hunting may suffer a serious injury or death. Follow these tree stand safety rules:

- Always use a full-body safety harness or fall-restraint system.
- Only use equipment that is in good condition.
- Avoid hunting from heights greater than 15 feet.
- Maintain a short tether between you and the tree.
- Always use a haul line to raise and lower your hunting equipment.

Bowhunting Safety Tips

- Hunt and shoot within your own physical limitations.
- Only point the bow and arrow in a safe direction.
- Only nock an arrow when it is safe to shoot.
- Be sure of your target and what is in front of it, immediately behind it, and beyond it.
- Check the bowstring regularly, and replace it if it becomes worn or frayed.
- Prior to each use, check your bow for cracks, dents, breaks, separating laminates, peeling glass, and defects in mechanical parts.
- Handle arrows carefully. Protect yourself and the arrow points with a covered arrow quiver.

- Cross obstacles and rough terrain with an arrow securely stored in a quiver.
- Use a haul line to raise and lower your bow; never climb a tree stand carrying a bow.

Fundamental Rules for Safe Gun Handling

The most common causes of hunting-related shooting incidents are failure to identify the target, shooter swinging on game, and careless handling of a firearm.

ALWAYS follow these rules for safe gun handling:

- Assume every firearm is a loaded firearm.
- Control the muzzle by always keeping it pointed in a safe direction.
- Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
- Know your target and what lies beyond.

Help Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade

Freshwater turtles are some of the most commonly trafficked species in the U.S. If you see or hear about suspicious behavior that may be connected to the poaching of reptiles, notify Connecticut's TIP hotline at 1-800-842-HELP (4357) or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) at 1-844-FWS-TIPS (397-8477) or email FWS_TIPS@FWS.GOV. You can remain anonymous. Note the exact location, what happened, and who was involved (including vehicles). Take photos if it is safe to do so. Do NOT confront suspicious persons or try to stop the crime yourself. Leave that to law enforcement. The USFWS is authorized to pay rewards for information or assistance related to investigations. More information can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/deep-Combat-Illegal-Wildlife-Trade>.

Sportsmen's Dollars at Work

Wildlife management is largely funded through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program, which was initiated by sportsmen and conservationists in the 1930s to provide states with funding for wildlife programs. Funds are derived from a federal excise tax on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment. These funds are collected from the manufacturers by the Department of the Treasury and apportioned each year to the states for wildlife programs.

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program...Partnering to fund conservation and connect people with nature.

Special Junior Pheasant Hunter Events

DEEP's Conservation Education/Firearms Safety Program and several sportsmen's clubs offer free mentored pheasant hunts on Junior Pheasant Hunter Training Day (October 10, 2026) and additional dates in the fall for hunters between 12 and 15 years of age. Participants are coached on shooting clay targets on the trap or skeet field prior to participating in the hunt. Mentored hunts are staffed with Certified Volunteer Hunter Safety Instructors and experienced hunters, along with a well-trained bird dog and its handler. "Hunt on Your Own" junior pheasant hunts are also available at designated state-owned locations for licensed junior hunters accompanied by a licensed adult hunter. Check out the Junior Hunter webpage at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Junior-Hunting> to learn about special events and activities and obtain more information for junior hunters.

Tagging and Reporting Instructions

Immediately upon making your harvest, complete a Deer/Turkey Harvest Tag. The Harvest Tag must be kept with your deer or turkey until it is processed for consumption. While transporting your harvest, you may keep the Harvest Tag in your pocket or wallet. However, if you leave the carcass, the completed Harvest Tag must remain with the animal.

Harvested deer and turkeys must be reported within 24 hours via the internet at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Report-Deer-Turkey-Harvest> or by telephone at the toll-free number, 1-877-337-4868 (1-877-DEP-HUNT).

To report your deer or turkey, you will need to know the 3-digit number code of the town in which the animal was harvested. The accompanying table lists Connecticut's 169 towns and their identifying numbers (see page 44). If you harvested your deer or turkey on state land, you will also need to know the 3-digit number code of the public hunting area. The hunting area tables on pages 47-58 list the 3-digit number codes of Connecticut's public hunting areas.

2026	Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection DEER/TURKEY HARVEST TAG	2026
Conservation ID#: _____		
Name: _____		
Date of Kill: ___ / ___ / ___ Time: _____		
Town of Kill: _____		
PERMIT / SEASON (check the appropriate boxes)		
Antlerless Tags cannot be used in Zones 2 and 4A during the Private Land Shotgun/Rifle/Revolver and Muzzleloader seasons.		
DEER	<input type="checkbox"/> Antlerless	<input type="checkbox"/> Either Sex
<input type="checkbox"/> Private – Shotgun/Rifle/Revolver	<input type="checkbox"/> State – Lottery	
<input type="checkbox"/> Private – Muzzleloader	<input type="checkbox"/> State – No Lottery	
<input type="checkbox"/> Archery (Bow)	<input type="checkbox"/> State – Muzzleloader	
<input type="checkbox"/> Landowner	<input type="checkbox"/> Archery-only Lottery	
SPRING TURKEY – Bearded birds only		
<input type="checkbox"/> Private Land	<input type="checkbox"/> State Land	<input type="checkbox"/> Landowner
FALL TURKEY		
<input type="checkbox"/> Private – Firearms	<input type="checkbox"/> Landowner – Firearms	
<input type="checkbox"/> State – Firearms	<input type="checkbox"/> Landowner – Archery (Bow)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Archery (Bow)		
Signature: _____		
Harvested deer and turkeys must be reported within 24 hours via the internet at https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Report-Deer-Turkey-Harvest or by calling 1-877-337-4868. After reporting, you must write your report Confirmation Number below.		
Confirmation #: _____		