2017 DEER HUNTING SEASONS

LIMTED-LICENSE HUNT CALENDAR:

Drawing results are posted online only. Applicants will not be notified by mail.

SPRING WILD TURKEY
Application Period: Jan. 1 – Feb. 1
Drawing results posted online: March 1

BEAR
Application Period: May 1 – June 1
Drawing results posted online: June 26

ELK
Application Period: May 1 – June 1
Drawing results posted online: June 26

FALL WILD TURKEY
Application Period: July 1 – Aug. 1
Drawing results posted online: Aug. 14

ANTLERLESS DEER
Application Period: July 15 – Aug. 15
(youth licenses available over-the-counter)
Drawing results posted online: Aug. 28

RESERVED WATERFOWL
Application Period: Aug. 1 – Aug. 28
Drawing results posted online: Sept. 18

2018 PURE MICHIGAN HUNT
Application Period: March 1 – Dec. 31
Drawing results posted online: Jan. 22, 2018

www.mi.gov/hunting
Dear Neighbor,

Hunting is a time-honored tradition in Michigan. As autumn nears, I can almost feel the excitement building in the air. Some of you might even pass the tradition on to your children or grandchildren this year.

In addition to serving as a favorite pastime that helps manage wildlife populations, hunting engages young people by teaching them the importance of hunter safety and training. It also allows them to develop fundamental survival skills and an appreciation for nature.

Michigan’s abundant natural resources make it one of the top destinations for hunters, boosting tourism and helping to strengthen our state economy. Outdoor sporting in Michigan attracts roughly 750,000 hunters each year, resulting in an estimated $2.3 billion more per year for Michigan’s economy.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns. Good luck this year!

Sincerely,

(517) 373-0834 • JamesLower@house.mi.gov

The MI-HUNT application gives you access to interactive hunting, trapping and outdoor recreation maps.

PROTECTING MICHIGAN DEER FROM DISEASE

Chronic wasting disease has spread in recent years, decimating deer populations in other states. Therefore, it is critically important we take precautions now to prevent the highly infectious disease from spreading throughout Michigan.

To help prevent CWD from spreading, I recently voted in support of legislation limiting people from bringing carcasses of deer, elk and other cervids into Michigan from areas where the disease has been detected.

Bringing a diseased carcass into Michigan could contaminate the environment and cause CWD to spread through our healthy deer population. All hunters need to understand the risks and refrain from this activity, and offenders should be sanctioned.

House Bill 4424 would increase the penalties for illegally bringing a carcass into Michigan to a fine between $500 and $2,000. The bill would exempt the hides, deboned meat, finished taxidermy products, cleaned teeth, antlers or antlers attached to a skullcap cleaned of brain and muscle tissue from this penalty.

Maintaining a healthy deer herd is extremely important. The state has more than 650,000 deer hunters who have harvested an average of 430,000 deer annually during the past decade, and deer hunting contributes more than 10 million combined days of recreation every year.

HUNTING SEASONS

Cottontail Rabbit & Snowshoe Hare
Sept. 15, 2017 – March 31, 2018

Crow
Aug. 1 – Sept. 30 & Feb. 1 – March 31, 2018

Ducks, Coots & Mergansers
North: Sept. 30 – Nov. 26 & Dec. 2 – 3
Middle: Oct. 7 – Dec. 3 & Dec. 16 – 17

Pheasant (male only)
Zone 1 (partial): Oct. 10 – 31
Zones 2, 3: Oct. 20 – Nov. 14
Zone 3 (partial): Dec. 1, 2017 – Jan. 1, 2018

Quail
Oct. 20 – Nov. 14

Ruffed Grouse
Sept. 15 – Nov. 14
Dec. 1, 2017 – Jan. 1, 2018

Sharp-tailed Grouse
Oct. 10 – 31

Squirrel – Fox & Gray
(breeding season)
Sept. 15, 2017 – March 1, 2018

Wild Turkey – Fall
Sept. 15 – Nov. 14

Woodcock
Sept. 23 – Nov. 6

Opossum, porcupine, weasel, red squirrel, skunk, ground squirrel, woodchuck, feral swine, feral pigeons, starlings and house sparrows may be taken year-round with a valid Michigan hunting license.

CREATING REASONABLE OPTIONS FOR OUT-OF-STATE HUNTERS

Legislation under consideration in the Michigan House of Representatives would create reasonably priced hunting licenses for out-of-state residents who visit Michigan to hunt.

House Bill 4533 creates a three-day small-game hunting license that will cost $40. Currently, the shortest license available is a seven-day permit, which costs $80. The bill also adds a waterfowl hunting option to the seven- and three-day licenses.

The shorter license will appeal to people who are thinking about spending a long weekend small-game hunting in Michigan. It will boost tourism and give more people a chance to see all of the abundant natural resources Pure Michigan has to offer.

House Bill 4534 offers individuals who live out of state, but own property in Michigan, an option to obtain a hunting license at a reduced rate if they only hunt on their property.

Out-of-state residents currently pay $150 for a base license and additional fees for specialty licenses, even if they own property in Michigan. That fee schedule serves as an impediment for hunters who want to visit for the weekend and hunt on their land. The bill under consideration creates a new fee of $75 for an on-property hunt for an out-of-state hunter.

Creating reasonable options for out-of-state hunters is crucial to growing our economy. Michiganans understand the importance of good stewardship and we must do everything we can to ensure Michigan's natural resources are maintained and enjoyed by all. CWD, in particular, poses a threat to the health of our deer population and we must work together to prevent its spread.

Sincerely,

JIM LOWER
State Representative

2017 HUNTING SEASONS

(517) 373-0834 • JamesLower@house.mi.gov
www.RepLower.com

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JIM LOWER