2017 DEER HUNTING SEASONS

It is highly recommended that the Michigan Hunting and Trapping Digest, or other species-specific hunting digests, be consulted for a more complete list of dates and regulations regarding each hunt period.

www.mi.gov/hunting

Archery
Oct. 1 – Nov. 14
Dec. 1, 2017 – Jan. 1, 2018

Independence Hunt
Hunters with Disabilities Hunt
Oct. 19 – 22

Regular Firearm
Nov. 15 – 30

Muzzleloading
Zones 1 & 2: Dec. 1 – 10
Zone 3: Dec. 1 – 17

Late Antlerless Firearm
Dec. 18, 2017 – Jan. 1, 2018

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

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

FALL WILD TURKEY
Application Period: July 1 – Aug. 14
Drawing results posted online: Aug. 28

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

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,

JASON WENTWORTH
State Representative

(517) 373-8962 • JasonWentworth@house.mi.gov
www.RepWentworth.com

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 OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS

As a token of appreciation to our servicemen and women, Michigan provides free hunting and fishing licenses to full-time active-duty members of the military and 100-percent disabled veterans. Our troops are selfless and courageous. For all they do for us, providing a way for them to enjoy the great outdoors when they return home is just one of the many ways we can show our gratitude.

In addition, Michigan offers special hunting opportunities for disabled veterans. The next hunt, called the Independence Hunt, takes place Oct. 19-22. Disabled veterans have given so much for our country and our freedoms, and offering them opportunities to take part in these Pure Michigan pastimes helps us, as a state, show our gratitude for everything they have sacrificed.

For more information about the Independence Hunt, visit the Michigan Department of Natural Resources website at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

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.