

Dear Sports Enthusiast,

Thank you for being part of the sportsman and outdoor legacy in our great Commonwealth.

Like you, I enjoy the endless opportunities provided by thousands of acres of forest land across our region. It's a great tradition, and I encourage you to help continue it for future generations.

This newsletter includes information about changes to the agriculture deer control permit program and elk licensing process, last year's bear harvest, hunter-trapper education options, the Hunters Sharing the Harvest Program and more.

I hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact my office or visit my website at www.RepCauser.com. It is always wonderful to hear from you.

Sincerely,



Rep. Marty Causer
67th Legislative District



I always enjoy hunting with my son, Matthew.

Trout Stocking and Habitat Improvements



This spring, I had the opportunity to join officials with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) to help with trout stocking on Havens Run in Norwich Township and visit PGC's habitat project in State Game Lands 30 on Potato Creek Road. Hunting and fishing are among the many outdoor opportunities that help make our region a great place to live. Thanks to PFBC Executive Director Tim Schaeffer and PGC Executive Director Stephen Smith and their teams for organizing this collaborative stocking event.

Game Commission OKs Additional Sundays for Hunting



Following passage of a state law that lifted the ban on Sunday hunting in the Commonwealth, the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners met in July and approved 10 additional Sundays for hunting for the 2025-26 season.

Every Sunday from Sept. 14 through Dec. 7 will now be open for hunting. The dates reflect all Sundays that fall within established hunting seasons, with the exception of migratory game bird seasons, which are set through federal frameworks.

To learn more, visit the Pennsylvania Game Commission online at www.pgc.pa.gov.

Kane Fish and Game Club Earns Grant



There is great news to share for area sportsmen and women as the Kane Fish and Game Club was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Game Commission through the 2025 Pennsylvania Shooting Range Improvement Program.

The program provides funding to increase opportunity, access and safety at sportsmen's clubs throughout the Commonwealth. This initiative also provides the ability to host Hunter-Trapper Education classes and workshops in more locations. This is the second year for this program, and 10 projects were selected from across the state this year.

Agricultural Deer Program Changes Adopted

The Pennsylvania Game Commission adopted four changes to the agency's agricultural deer control permit program, which allows farmers to address deer damage through hunters harvesting additional antlerless deer on enrolled farms and in longer hunting seasons. The program aims to expand accessibility to agricultural deer depredation programs and provide opportunities to hunters.

Most notably, the rule limiting hunters to four agricultural deer permits, also known as "ag tags" or "red tags," to harvest antlerless deer for any particular property is removed. Additionally, the timeframe during which the tags can be used is more than doubled. A brief closure will be held during the peak of fawning season in spring and early summer.

With ag tags now permitted during regular deer seasons, hunters using those tags will be limited to using the sporting arms allowed in those seasons. Otherwise, hunters may use any lawful sporting arm.

Finally, those who apply to enroll their farms in the program will be required only to certify they are the owner or lessee of both the agricultural interest adversely affected by deer damage and the hunting rights to be covered by the permit. Previously, to be eligible, applicants had to supply a deed or a lease agreement.



2024 Bear Harvest

The Pennsylvania Game Commission announced 2,642 bears were taken during the various seasons in 2024.

Hunters took bears in 56 of the state's 67 counties and 21 of 22 Wildlife Management Units (WMUs). Hunters got bears in all seasons, too. The traditional statewide firearms bear season contributed the most to the harvest at 823. The archery season added 756, the extended season 425, the muzzleloader and special firearms season 634, and the early archery season four.

The largest harvested was a 774-pounder taken in the statewide regular bear season in Monroe County in November. Two other bears harvested exceeded 700 pounds, while six others topped 600 pounds.

Totals for bears taken in our area are as follows: Potter, 109; McKean, 78; and Cameron, 56.



Elk License Changes

At its meeting in April, the Pennsylvania Game Commission's board approved several changes to the state's elk license application system.

Among the changes most sought by hunters, no more than 10% of available elk licenses in any given year will be awarded to nonresidents. Previously, there was no limit, and while the percentage of tags going to nonresidents typically had been about 10%, it has increased in recent years to as high as 13%, which drew concern from resident hunters.

Also, beginning on Jan. 1, 2026, any applicant who draws a bull elk tag will be ineligible to apply for a bull tag ever again. However, they will be able to apply for a cow tag. Also, this limitation does not apply to the Special Conservation Elk Licenses auctioned and raffled off by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Keystone Elk Country Alliance, respectively.

Other changes approved by the commission include:

- All hunters will be required to first buy a hunting license before applying for an elk tag.
- Hunters no longer will be required to include their Social Security numbers or hunter ID numbers on applications. Because a hunting license will be needed to apply, that information already will be in the licensing system.
- The elk tag drawing will occur electronically moving forward, and the regulation was reworded to reflect this change.
- Hunters who draw an elk tag are no longer required to participate in an elk hunting orientation program.



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

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

NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Clip and return in an envelope to Rep. Martin Causer, 78 Main St., 1st Floor, Bradford, PA 16701.

2025-26 Hunting Season and Bag Limits

WATERFOWL & MIGRATORY BIRDS

with appropriate license/permits

Unless otherwise noted, possession limit = 3x daily limit

*Except for crows, starlings and English sparrows, migratory bird hunting is closed on Sundays.

Daily Limit

Crow - Thrs., Fri., Sat., Sun. only; Aug. 21 - Mar. 22, 2026	No limit
Starling & English Sparrows <i>Closed during regular firearms deer seasons</i>	No limit
Doves Sept. 1 - Nov. 28 and Dec. 20 - Jan. 3, 2026	15
Woodcock Oct. 18 - Nov. 28 and Dec. 15 - Dec. 24	3

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

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

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

FUR TAKING

with appropriate license/permits *See Sunday Hunting

Hunting	Daily/Season Limit
Coyotes No closed season.	No limit
During any big game season, coyotes may be taken while lawfully hunting big game or with a furtaker license.	
Foxes Sundays permitted Oct. 25 - Feb. 21, 2026	No limit
Cannot be hunted during regular firearms deer season.	
Raccoons Oct. 25 - Feb. 21, 2026	No limit
Cannot be hunted during regular firearms deer season.	
Opossums, Striped Skunks and Weasels July 1-June 30, 2026	No limit
Cannot be hunted during regular firearms deer season.	
Bobcats No Sunday hunting. Jan. 10 - Feb. 4, 2026	1/1
WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E	3/10
Porcupines Oct. 11 - Nov. 28	3/10
May not be hunted at night. Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Jan. 31, 2026	
Trapping	
Minks & Muskrats Nov. 22 - Jan. 11, 2026	No limit
Coyotes, Foxes, Opossums, Raccoons, Striped Skunks and Weasels Oct. 25 - Feb. 22, 2026	No limit
Coyotes & Foxes (Cable Restraints) Dec. 26 - Feb. 22, 2026	No limit
Beavers Dec. 20 - Mar. 31, 2026	
WMUs 1A and 1B (Combined)	20/60
WMUs 2A, 2B, and 3C (Combined)	20/40
WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 3A, 3B, 3D, 5C, and 5D (Combined)	20/20
WMUs 2G, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A, and 5B (Combined)	5/5
Bobcats with required permit Dec. 20 - Jan. 11, 2026	1/1
WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	
Fishers with required permit Dec. 20 - Jan. 11, 2026	1/1
WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	
River Otters with required permit Feb. 14 - Feb. 21, 2026	1/1
WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3B, 3C, 3D and 4E	

TURKEY

*See Sunday Hunting

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

WMU 5A and 5B	Nov. 1 - Nov. 4
WMUs 1B, 3D, 4C and 4E	Nov. 1 - Nov. 8
WMUs 1A, 2G, 3A, 4A, 4B and 4D	Nov. 1 - Nov. 15
WMUs 2A, 2F, 3B and 3C	Nov. 1 - Nov. 15 and Nov. 26 - Nov. 28
WMU 2B, 2C, 2D and 2E	Nov. 1 - Nov. 21 and Nov. 26 - Nov. 28
WMUs 5C and 5D	Closed to fall turkey hunting

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

Spring Season - hours vary, check Digest

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

Review the complete Digest:

<http://bit.ly/PGCDigest>

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

SMALL GAME

*See Sunday Hunting

Unless otherwise noted, possession limit = 3x daily limit

	Daily Limit
Squirrel-Jr. Hunt (Combined) Sept. 13 - Sept. 27	6
Squirrel (Combined species) Sept. 13 - Nov. 28, Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 28, 2026	6
Ruffed Grouse Oct. 18 - Nov. 28 and Dec. 15 - Dec. 24	2
Rabbit - Jr. Hunt (Cottontail) Oct. 4 - Oct. 18	4
Rabbit (Cottontail) Oct. 18 - Nov. 28, Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 28, 2026	4
Pheasant - Jr. Hunt * Oct. 11 - Oct. 18	2
Pheasant * <i>*with required permit</i> Oct. 25 - Nov. 28, Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 28, 2026	2
Taking of pheasants in any Wild Pheasant Recovery Area must be authorized by an executive order.	
Bobwhite Quail Sept. 1 - Nov. 28, Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Mar. 31, 2026	No limit
<i>Season closed around Letterkenny Focus Area</i>	
Snowshoe or Varying Hare Dec. 26 - Jan. 1, 2026	1
<i>Season limit 3</i>	
Woodchuck July 1 - June 30	No limit
Cannot be hunted during regular firearms deer season.	

DEER

with required licenses/permits *See Sunday Hunting

One antlered deer per hunting license year. One antlerless deer with each required license or permit.

Ag Tag (Antlerless only) Aug. 1 - Apr. 15, 2026	
<i>Statewide: agricultural deer control harvest permit required</i>	
Archery (Antlered and Antlerless) with required archery license	
WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Sept. 20 - Nov. 28 and Dec. 26 - Jan. 24, 2026
Statewide	Oct. 4 - Nov. 21 and Dec. 26 - Jan. 19, 2026
Muzzleloader (Antlerless only) Oct. 18 - Oct. 25	
<i>Statewide with required muzzleloading license</i>	
Special Firearms (Antlerless only) Oct. 23 - Oct. 25	
<i>Statewide: participation restricted, check Digest for eligibility</i>	
Regular Firearms (Antlered & Antlerless) Nov. 29 - Dec. 13	
Flintlock (Antlered & Antlerless) with required muzzleloading license	
Statewide	Dec. 26 - Jan. 19, 2026
WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Dec. 26 - Jan. 24, 2026
Extended Regular Firearms (Antlerless only)	
WMUs 2B, 5C, 5D and DMAP	Dec. 26 - Jan. 24, 2026
<i>DMAP properties require a valid DMAP permit</i>	
WMUs 4A, 4C, 4D and 5A	Jan. 2 - Jan. 19, 2026

ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSES

- Round 1** - Personal limit of 1
Mon., June 23; 8 a.m.; Residents Only, one license guaranteed
Mon., July 14; 8 a.m.; All License Buyers
- Round 2** - Personal limit up to 2
Mon., July 28; 8 a.m.; All License Buyers
- Round 3** - Personal limit up to 3
Mon., Aug. 11; 8 a.m.; All License Buyers
DMAP sales also begin at this time.
- Round 4** - Personal limit up to 6; WMUs 5C & 5D limit up to 15
Mon., Aug. 25; 8 a.m.; All License Buyers

SUNDAY HUNTING UPDATE

Sunday hunting opportunities changed on July 28, 2025. Visit pa.gov/sundayhunting to learn more.

BEAR

bear license required *See Sunday Hunting

Only one bear may be taken during the license year. Bear must be checked within 24 hours of harvest.

Archery	
WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Sept. 20 - Nov. 28
WMU 5B	Oct. 4 - Nov. 21
Statewide	Oct. 18 - Oct. 25
Muzzleloader - Statewide	Oct. 23 - Oct. 25
Special Firearms - Statewide	Oct. 23 - Oct. 25
<i>participation restricted, check Digest for eligibility</i>	
Regular Firearms - Statewide	Nov. 22 - Nov. 25
Extended Firearms	
WMUs 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4E & 5A	Nov. 29 - Dec. 6
WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C and 5D	Nov. 29 - Dec. 13

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Marty Causer

PO BOX 202067,
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EMAIL: mcauser@pahousegop.com

WEB: RepCauser.com

FACEBOOK.COM/RepCauser

Attention First-Time Hunters!

Hunter-Trapper Education courses are required for all first-time hunters and trappers before they can buy a license in the Commonwealth. The Pennsylvania Game Commission offers both in-person and online options.

The course covers responsible hunting behavior, firearms basics and safety, basic shooting, wildlife conservation and management, outdoor safety and survival, hunting techniques, trapping and furtaking basics, and hunting safety.

The following options are available:

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



Visit www.pgc.pa.gov for more information.

Sportsmen's Report

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Services Available at My Office

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

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

Hunters Sharing the Harvest

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

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

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

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

