

NDG&F October 25th Newsletter

Hunter-Harvested Deer Samples needed

The state Game and Fish Department will continue its Hunter-Harvested Surveillance program during the 2010 hunting season by sampling deer for chronic wasting disease and bovine tuberculosis from 12 units in eastern North Dakota and one in the southwest. In addition, all moose and elk harvested in the state are eligible for testing.

Samples from hunter-harvested deer taken in the east will be tested from units 1, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F1, 2F2, 2G, 2G1, 2G2 and 2L. In addition, unit 3F2 will be tested after a mule deer taken last fall tested positive for CWD.

Every head sampled must have either the deer tag attached, or a new tag can be filled out with the license number, deer hunting unit and date harvested. Skull caps and antlers can be removed.

“There are additional carcass and transportation restrictions in unit 3F2,” Grove said. “Hunters with licenses in this unit should have already received a letter with these restrictions. If not, contact the Game and Fish Department to receive this information.”

Participating hunters whose deer have been sampled will have their names entered in a drawing for five muzzleloaders and 100 Sagen Saws. Winners will be randomly selected and notified by the end of December.

Hunters are encouraged to drop off deer heads at the following locations:

- Aneta – Aneta Meats Service
- Bismarck – Game and Fish Department district office, Call of the Wild Taxidermy
- Bottineau – Davidson’s Processing
- Cando – K&E Meats
- Carrington – Barton Meats
- Casselton – Casselton Cold Storage
- Devils Lake – Devils Lake Game and Fish district office
- Dunseith – Wayne’s Food Pride
- Edgeley – Edgeley Meat Processing Plant
- Enderlin – Maple Valley Lockers
- Fargo – Meats by John & Wayne, J&K Taxidermy, Jer’s Wildlife Taxidermy
- Fordville – Dakota Prairie Wildlife Club
- Grand Forks – Bob’s Oil, Dan’s Skinning and Deboning, Ted’s Taxidermy
- Great Bend – Manock Meats
- Gwinner – Stoppeworth Taxidermy
- Jamestown – Jamestown Game and Fish district office, Real Look Taxidermy
- LaMoure – LaMoure Lockers
- Langdon – Hickory Hut
- Larimore – Glenn’s EZ Stop
- Milnor – Milnor Locker
- New Rockford – Risovi Taxidermy

- Oakes – Butcher Block
- Park River – Jim’s Super Value Inc.
- Reynolds – Weber’s Meats
- Rolette – The Meat Shack
- Sheyenne – Brenno Meats
- Valley City – Valley Meat Supply
- Wahpeton – Jeff Schwartz Taxidermy
- Walhalla – Walhalla Co-op
- West Fargo – Bill Kitzman Taxidermy
- Wyndmere – Bridgemart Meats LLC

Drop off locations for deer taken from unit 3F2:

- Bismarck – West Dakota Meats, M&M Sausage and Meats
- Carson – Double R Meats
- Elgin – Gunny’s Bait and Tackle, Melvin’s Taxidermy
- Glen Ullin – Kuntz’s Butcher Shop
- Hettinger – Dakota Packing
- Mandan – Butcher Block Meats
- New Leipzig – Hertz Hardware

Grove said moose and elk heads should be taken to a Game and Fish office.

Monitoring efforts have intensified in recent years and all units have been completed twice throughout the entire state. Since the department’s sampling efforts began in 2002, more than 16,000 deer, elk and moose have tested negative for CWD.

CWD affects the nervous system of members of the deer family and is always fatal. Scientists have found no evidence that CWD can be transmitted naturally to humans or livestock.

Salmon Spawn Goal Reached

Fisheries crews have completed their annual salmon spawning operation on Lake Sakakawea after surpassing their egg goal of 750,000 eggs.

Dave Fryda, North Dakota Game and Fish Department Missouri River System supervisor, said crews collected more than 1 million eggs, the majority from Lake Sakakawea and the remainder from the Garrison Dam Tailrace. The average size of Lake Sakakawea females was 8 pounds, the largest since 2001 and fourth largest since 1990. The Missouri River females averaged 12 pounds.

“The 2010 salmon spawning run was one of the best in many years and another indication of improving conditions in the Lake Sakakawea fishery,” Fryda said. “Crews were able to obtain their egg goal easily and good numbers of salmon were present throughout the spawning run.”

Current plans are to stock 250,000 salmon in 2011, Fryda said.

Chinook salmon begin their spawning run in October. Since salmon cannot naturally reproduce in North Dakota, Game and Fish Department and Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery personnel collect eggs and transport them to the hatchery.

Once the eggs hatch, young salmon spend several months in the hatchery before being stocked in Lake

Sakakawea and the Missouri River.

Hunters Encouraged to Donate Deer

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is encouraging deer hunters to consider donating a deer to the Sportsman Against Hunger program.

SAH is a charitable program that raises money for processing of donated deer, and coordinates distribution of ground venison to food pantries in North Dakota. It is administered by the North Dakota Community Action Partnership, a nonprofit agency that serves low-income families across the state.

In 2009, SAH adopted new processing guidelines. Participating processors will not accept deer shot in the hind quarters, and donated deer will be processed individually or only with other donated deer.

A current list of SAH venison donation processing sites is available by accessing the NDCAP website, capnd.org, or by calling 701-232-2452 or 1-800-726-7960.

Doe Licenses Sold Through Season

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department will continue to issue remaining doe licenses through the end of the archery season. There is no limit to the number of deer licenses a hunter can receive.

While more than 97 percent of this year's deer licenses have been issued, nearly 2,700 antlerless licenses remain. Doe licenses are available in units 2D, 2L, 3E1, 3F1, 3F2 and 4F.

These remaining antlerless licenses – and doe licenses that have already been issued and are printed with second, third or additional concurrent season designations – can be used during any open season: bow season with a bow; the deer gun season with a bow, rifle, or muzzleloader; or during the muzzleloader season with a muzzleloader. Hunters must stay in the unit to which the license is assigned. Interested hunters can apply for a remaining doe license by accessing the Game and Fish Department's website at gf.nd.gov. Hunters who do not have Internet access can call the department's main office in Bismarck at (701) 328-6300.

North Dakota's 2010 deer gun season runs from Nov. 5-21, and muzzleloader season is Nov. 26 – Dec. 12. The archery season extends through Jan. 2, 2011. License fees are \$20 for residents and \$55 for nonresidents.