

2008

Deer Season Information

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New for 2008

- The all-season deer and multi-zone buck licenses have been eliminated. Hunters can now purchase 3 stand-alone licenses (archery, firearm, and muzzleloader).
- The traditional firearm zone licenses (1A, 2A, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B) have been consolidated into two licenses types: Statewide Season Option A and Late-Season Season Option B.
 - Statewide “A”: Valid in any open area during the Statewide A Season, which begins November 8th, or
 - Season 3B: Valid only during the traditional 3B season in southeastern Minnesota, which begins November 22nd
- Zone 4 has been eliminated and the permit areas have been moved to Zone 2 and renumbered.
- All firearm deer hunters may now buy a muzzleloader license (including southeast 3B hunters).
- The centerfire cartridge restriction has been simplified. All centerfire cartridges .220 or greater are legal for big game hunting. **NOTE – The Rifle/Shotgun line has NOT changed.**
- Hunters no longer need to validate their deer license at the time of kill. The site tagging requirements have not changed, only the license validation portion.
- A person 10 or 11 years old may hunt big game provided they are in direct supervision of a parent or guardian.
- The deer baiting regulations have been clarified.

2008 Deer Season Dates

SEASON	DATE
Archery	Sept. 13- Dec. 31
Firearm - Statewide "A" Season license	
100 Series deer areas	Nov. 8 - 23
200 Series deer areas	Nov. 8 - 16
300 Series deer areas	Nov. 8 - 14
Firearm - "B" Season license	
Late-season Southeast only	Nov. 22 - 30
Metro Deer Management Area (Deer Area 601)	Nov. 8 - 30
Early Antlerless Season (Deer areas 101, 105, 110, 111, 157, 159, 178, 180, 181, 182, 208, 209, 210, 214, 221, 222, 225, 227, 236, 241, 256, 257, 260, 261, 265, 267, 268, 346, 349 and 601)	Oct. 11 - 12
NW Youth Season	Oct. 18 - 19
Muzzleloader	Nov. 29 - Dec. 14

Major Changes to Deer Licensing and Zones

As a result of an extensive public process to simplify deer hunting regulations, several significant changes are in effect for the 2008 deer season. The changes affect all firearm and muzzleloader deer hunters:

- The all-season and multi-zone buck licenses have been eliminated and hunters can now purchase 3 stand-alone licenses (archery, firearm, muzzleloader).
- The traditional firearm zone licenses (1A, 2A, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B) have been consolidated into 2 license types: Statewide Season “A” and Late Southeast Season “B”. A hunter can buy only one of these licenses, which allow the following:
 - Statewide Season “A”: Valid in any open area during the season that begins Nov. 8th.
 - A person can hunt anywhere in the state with this one license but must adhere to the closing dates of the deer area they are hunting.
 - This functionally means that the traditional ‘hard’ zone line that once existed should now be considered a ‘soft’ line. A hunter with a Statewide “A” license can now pursue deer during any open season that begins November 8th.
 - Rather than using the term ‘zone’, hunters should think of areas as being within a 100, 200, or 300 series, which will define season length. While these follow the traditional zone lines and will not change annually, hunters are no longer obligated to stay within any particular zone.
 - Late Southeast Season “B”: Valid only during the traditional 3B deer season in southeastern Minnesota, which begins November 22nd.
- Zone 4 has been consolidated with Zone 2 and the deer area numbers have changed to a 200-series.

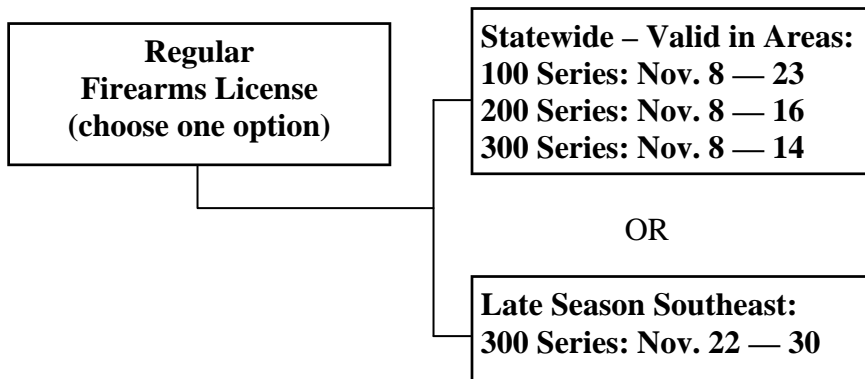
New Firearm Deer Licenses

The traditional firearm zone licenses (1A, 2A, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B) have been consolidated into two license types: Statewide Season Option A and Late-Season Season Option B.

- Statewide “A”: Valid in any open area during the Statewide A Season, which begins November 8th, or
- Late Southeast Season 3B: Valid only during the traditional 3B season in southeastern Minnesota, which begins November 22nd

The Statewide A license is valid in any season that opens on November 8th. So, a person can hunt deer throughout the state and is not limited to the old ‘zone’ boundaries. In fact, the easiest thing to do is not think about areas in terms of zone; rather, think about them in terms of a 100, 200, or 300 series deer area. Hunters are free to move from area to area but are reminded to know the season length in the area they are hunting. The late-season southeast B license is the traditional zone 3B season that has existed since the 1970’s. The big change for 3B hunters is they can now buy a muzzleloader license.

Firearm Deer License Options (Statewide “A” or Late Southeast “B”)



Why was Zone 4 eliminated?

This decision to eliminate Zone 4 was made after careful consideration of harvest patterns, hunter and license data, and comments received from public input meetings. Below is a summary of the data that were used to make the decision.

- **Licenses** – prior to 1989, hunters had to select their zone and time option when they purchased their deer license. This choice could not be changed and hunters were limited to either the 4A or 4B season. With the introduction of the multi-zone buck, all-season deer, and youth licenses a majority of hunters are now authorized to hunt either the 4A and 4B seasons. For example, in 1988, 68% of people hunted deer during the 4A season. During 2007, 82% of hunters were authorized to hunt 4A, yet only 58% of the total deer harvest occurred during that season.
- **Harvest** – Since 2003, 15 deer areas have been moved from Zone 4 to Zone 2. In those areas, both buck and total harvest have actually declined, even with a longer season. Harvest data strongly indicates that deer harvest is dependent on management strategy (lottery, managed, intensive) and not season length. In other words, adding 3 weekdays will have no effect on overall harvest; however, changing from managed to lottery will have an effect.
- **Public Input** – DNR held 12 meetings statewide and solicited input via the internet. Of the 12 meetings, 5 took place in Zone 4. Overall, 69% of all people indicated supported for consolidating licenses and zones. Within Zone 4, 59% of people supported the proposal.

Explanation of deer areas and what a hunter can do in each deer area

LOTTERY - Firearms hunters who hunt in a lottery deer area and want to take an antlerless deer must apply for either-sex permits through the lottery system. The application deadline is **Sept. 4, 2008** and lottery winners will receive permits via U.S. mail. No bonus permits are allowed in lottery deer areas, regardless of weapon type. Firearm hunters who are unsuccessful in the lottery may harvest a legal buck in a lottery deer area or an either-sex deer in any managed or intensive deer area. Leftover lottery permits will be available first come, first served at 5pm on Monday, October 13th.

License types:

- **Regular Archery:** May take one deer of either sex without applying in the lottery.
- **Regular Firearms:** May take a buck in the deer area but must apply for an either-sex permit through the lottery system if interested in taking an antlerless deer. The application deadline is Sept. 4, 2008. If successful in the lottery, the bag limit is one deer of either sex.
- **Regular Muzzleloader:** May take one deer of either sex without applying in the lottery if they do not buy a firearm license. Hunters who purchase both a firearm and muzzleloader license **must** apply in the lottery. Either-sex permits are valid during the firearm and muzzleloader seasons; however, hunters must have a valid license for that season.

Bag limit:

- One deer per year in one lottery area. You cannot take extra deer in multiple lottery areas.
- Bonus permits **are not** allowed in lottery deer areas

The following deer areas have been designated as LOTTERY for 2008:

STATEWIDE "A" SEASON LICENSE

Area Number	Number of Permits	Area Number	Number of Permits	Area Number	Number of Permits
154	3,000	262	150	285	500
215	5,000	269	250	286	50
218	2,500	270	25	288	50
219	1,200	271	25	289	25
230	600	272	25	290	200
232	700	273	2,400	291	600
234	500	274	30	294	100
237	100	275	30	295	250
238	50	276	250	296	150
246	3,000	277	800	299	250
247	1,500	278	250	338	100
249	2,500	279	150	339	100
250	500	280	75	341	350
252	150	281	100	342	300
253	300	282	30	344	100
254	1,900	283	30		
255	800	284	30		
Grand Total					32,075

LATE SEASON SOUTHEAST "B" SEASON LICENSE

Area Number	Number of Permits
344	250

MANAGED - These deer areas have a two deer limit with all permits available over the counter. There is no lottery procedure or application. Hunters who purchase a firearm license and hunt in a managed deer area will be able to take a deer of either sex. Hunters may use one bonus permit, valid for one antlerless deer only.

License types:

- **Regular Firearms:** The regular license will be valid for a deer of either-sex in any managed deer area. Firearm hunters may also purchase a bonus permit for one-half the cost of the regular license, valid for one antlerless deer in any managed deer area within that zone. Firearm hunters cannot use more than one bonus permit in one managed deer area during the season.
- **Archery/Muzzleloader:** These license holders may take a deer of either sex in a managed deer area. Archers and muzzleloader hunters may also use one bonus permit in one managed deer area. Hunters cannot use more than one bonus permit in one managed deer area during the season.

Bag limit:

- Using any combination of licenses and permits, the bag limit is 2 deer/year total.
- You cannot take more than 2 deer in any managed deer areas. For example, you can take 1 deer each in deer areas 104 and 107 but you cannot take two deer in each of those deer areas.

The following deer areas have been designated as MANAGED for 2008:

STATEWIDE “A” LICENSE

Area Number			
104	174	229	263
107	183	233	264
114	197	235	266
115	199	239	292
116	201	243	293
152	213	245	297
168	223	248	298
172	224	251	345

**LATE SEASON
SOUTHEAST “B”
LICENSE**

Area Number
338
339

INTENSIVE - These deer areas have a 5 deer limit with all the permits available over the counter. There is no lottery procedure or application. Hunters who purchase a firearm license and hunt in an intensive deer area will be able to take a deer of either-sex. Hunters can also purchase up to 4 bonus permits, which are valid in any intensive deer area for which they have a valid license. Bonus permits may be purchased throughout the season and are valid at the same time as the regular license.

License types:

- **Regular Firearms:** The regular license is valid for a deer of either-sex in any intensive deer area. Firearm hunters may also purchase up to 4 bonus permits for one-half the cost of the regular license. Bonus permits are for antlerless deer only in any intensive deer area for which they have a valid license.
- **Archery/Muzzleloader:** These license holders may take a deer of either sex in any intensive deer area. Archers and muzzleloader hunters may also purchase up to 4 bonus permits for one-half the cost of a regular license. Bonus permits are for antlerless deer only and are valid in any intensive deer area throughout the state.

Bag limit:

- Using any combination of licenses and permits, up to 5 deer total may be taken in Intensive deer areas.
- The individual bag limit for a person (**excluding** early antlerless and no limit areas) is 5 deer. For example, if you take 1 in a lottery, 2 in a managed, you may take 2 more in any intensive area.

The following deer areas have been designated as INTENSIVE for 2008:

STATEWIDE “A” LICENSE

Area Number			
105	175	221	260
110	178	222	261
111	180	225	265
122	181	227	267
126	182	236	268
127	184	240	287
156	203	241	343
157	208	242	346
159	209	244	347
167	210	256	348
170	214	257	349

**LATE SEASON
SOUTHEAST “B”
LICENSE**

Area Number
341
342
343
345
346
347
348
349

EARLY ANTLERLESS – These deer areas are open to hunting antlerless deer only from Oct. 11-12, 2008. A hunter must possess either a regular firearm (A or B) or a muzzleloader license to participate. Muzzleloader licensees may use any firearm that is legal during the regular season (they are not restricted to using a muzzleloader). Hunters must tag all deer with early antlerless permits, which are available for \$7.50 at any ELS license agent.

Bag limit –

- 2 deer except for the bovine TB (101) and the metro (601) area that have no limit.
- Deer taken during this season do not count towards the regular season bag limit of 5.
- Deer cannot be tagged with bonus permits or regular licenses.
- The exception is the bovine TB area where hunters can use disease management permits.

The following deer areas have been designated as EARLY ANTLERLESS for 2008:

Area Number			
101	181	225	265
105	182	227	267
110	208	236	268
111	209	241	346
157	210	256	349
159	214	257	601
178	221	260	
180	222	261	

- **Note to Archery hunters:** You can buy and use early antlerless permits; however, you must use a bow and the permit is only valid for the 2-day season. Unless you plan on taking more than 5 deer in an early antlerless deer area, it is advised that you do not purchase this permit for archery hunting. Your regular license and bonus permits are still valid over the early antlerless weekend. As a reminder, you cannot possess both a firearm and bow while deer hunting.

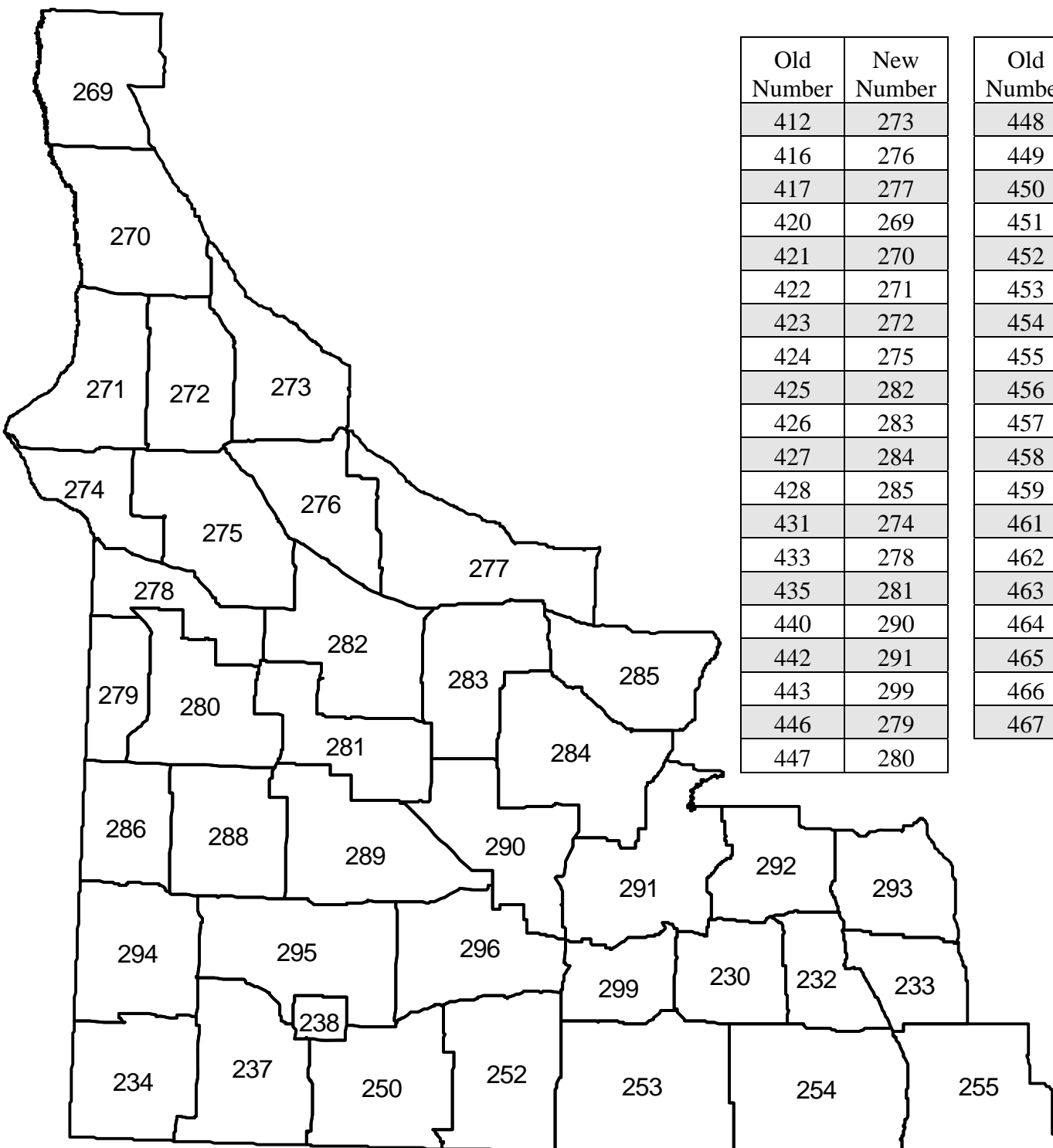
NO LIMIT ANTLERLESS – There is no limit to the number of deer that may be taken in the bovine TB area (101) and the metro deer management area (601). Any license or permit is valid during the open season.

Tagging Deer on Archery, Firearm, and Muzzleloader Licenses

- In managed and intensive areas, hunters can tag deer on any combination of deer licenses so long as they adhere to the statewide bag limits.
- You cannot do this in lottery deer areas because the bag limit is one deer total.
- Even though people can hunt deer throughout the state during multiple seasons, hunters are limited to one buck per calendar year.
- The one-buck provision applies statewide.

New Deer Area Numbers

With the merging of Zone 4 with Zone 2, all Zone 4 deer areas have been renumbered to a 200-series number. When purchasing a license, refer to the map for your new deer area number.



Old Number	New Number
412	273
416	276
417	277
420	269
421	270
422	271
423	272
424	275
425	282
426	283
427	284
428	285
431	274
433	278
435	281
440	290
442	291
443	299
446	279
447	280

Old Number	New Number
448	286
449	288
450	289
451	294
452	234
453	237
454	295
455	238
456	250
457	296
458	252
459	253
461	292
462	293
463	230
464	232
465	233
466	254
467	255

Deer Baiting Regulations

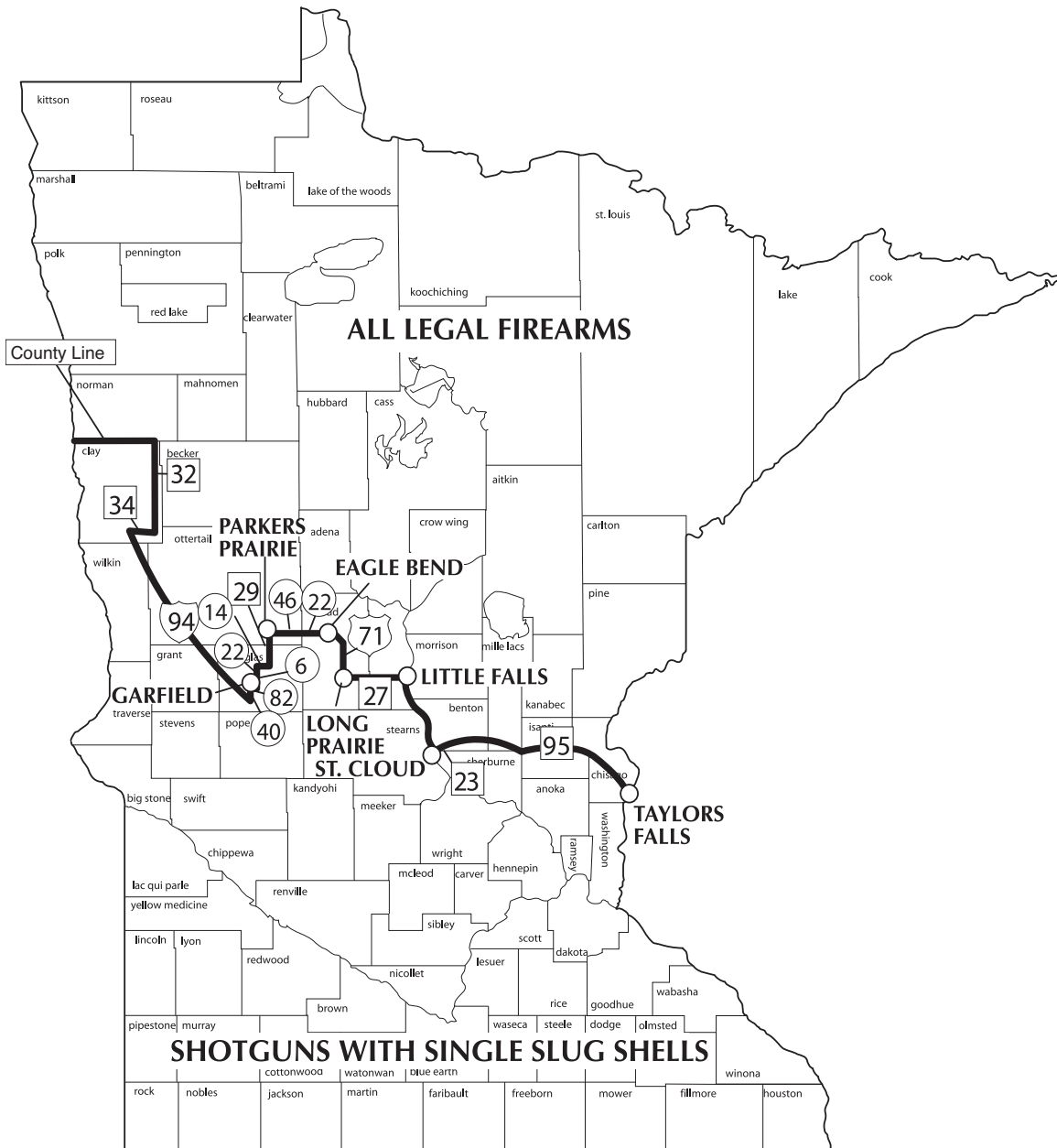
- “Bait or feed” is grain, fruit, vegetables, nuts, hay, or other food that is capable of attracting or enticing deer and that has been placed by a person.
- Hunters are not allowed to use or hunt over bait or feed or hunt in the vicinity of bait or feed if the hunter knows about or has reason to know about the placement of the bait or feed.
- A person otherwise in compliance with this section who is hunting on private or public property that is adjacent to the property where bait or feed is present is not in violation if the person has not participated in, been involved with, or agreed to baiting or feeding wildlife on the adjacent property.
- An area is considered baited for 10 days after complete removal of the bait or feed.
- Liquid scents, salt, minerals, and bird feeders containing grains or nuts that are at least 6 feet above the ground are not considered bait or feed.
- This restriction does not apply to foods resulting from normal or accepted farming, forest management, wildlife food plantings, orchard management, or similar land management activities.

Venison Donation Program

- The venison donation program that was established in 2007 will continue this year. Funding will come from a \$1 increase in the bonus permit, \$5 from non-resident hunting licenses, and a voluntary donation of \$1, \$3, or \$5. The voluntary portion will come from 2 methods: 1) when someone buys a deer license they will be asked if they want to donate and 2) anyone wishing to donate can visit an ELS agent and tell them they want to contribute.
- The program allows hunters to donate deer that they have shot for distribution to food shelves.
- There is no cost to the hunter to donate a deer and there is minimal paperwork that must be completed prior to making a donation.
- Deer must be donated at eligible processors and that list will certainly evolve. DNR will maintain the list with instructions on our website.
- With the discovery of lead in venison, there will be programmatic changes for 2008. Those changes are still being worked out but information will be posted on the DNR website as it becomes available.

Legal Cartridges and the Rifle-Shotgun Line

- For 2008, the definition of legal calibers for big game hunting has been changed.
- All centerfire cartridges, .220 or larger are legal for big game hunting.
- Rimfire cartridges (.22 LR, .22 Magnum) are not legal for big game hunting. The change applies only to those cartridges with centerfire ignition.
- Examples of new cartridges include the .220 Swift, 22-250, and .223.
- Regardless of caliber, hunters are advised to choose bullets that are suitable for humanely taking big game.
- The shotgun-rifle line **has not changed** and is illustrated below.



Antler point restrictions and earn-a-buck hunts have been continued in some state parks. The hunts are:

- Itasca and Savanna-Portage – only bucks with at least one 3-point antler are legal
- Forestville – only bucks with at least one 4 point antler are legal
- St. Croix, Lake Louise, Maplewood, Beaver Creek Valley, Whitewater, Wild River, and Great River Bluffs – hunters must tag an antlerless deer prior to tagging a buck.

Additional Information for State Parks hunts with Antler Point Restrictions

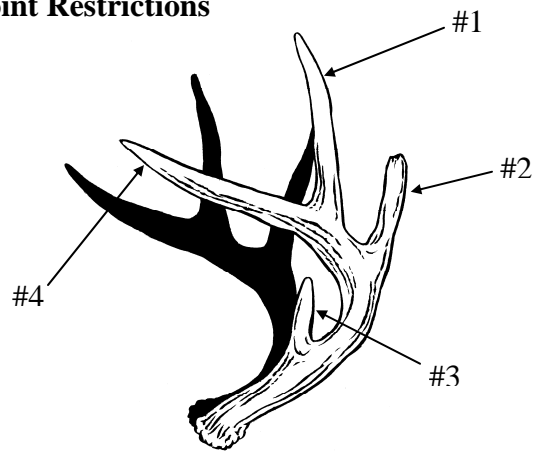
The DNR Divisions of Parks and Fish and Wildlife are collaborating on a research project to evaluate the effectiveness of alternative regulations on deer populations. For 2007, two regulations will be tested: 1) antler-point restrictions and 2) the requirement to tag an antlerless deer prior to tagging a buck (earn-a-buck).

Information for Hunting in State Parks with Antler-Point Restrictions

How to count points

Depending on the park, a deer must have a minimum of either three or four antler points on one side to be taken.

1. An antler point, if it is at least 1-inch long
2. Any broken tine that is at least 1-inch long
3. The brow tine, if it is at least 1-inch long
4. The end of the main beam



Legal to Harvest

In all State Parks with antler point restrictions, does, button bucks, and bucks with spikes with less than 3 inches are legal to take on regular licenses and bonus permits. However, to improve the effectiveness of the regulation, it is better to focus on does and not harvest button bucks or legal spikes.

The following bucks meet the *minimum* standards for harvest. Bucks with more points than shown in the illustrations are also legal to harvest.

Itasca and Savanna-Portage State Parks – Bucks with at least three antler points on one side



Five point buck with three points on one side



Six point bucks with three points on each side. Note the difference in antler sizes between the two deer.



Forestville State Park – Bucks with at least four antler points on one side



Seven point buck with four points on one side



Side view of a buck with four points on each side

Additional Information for State Parks hunts with Earn-A-Buck Regulations

General Information

- You cannot take a doe somewhere else in the state and hunt bucks only at the park.
- In order to tag a buck, you must tag an antlerless deer in the park first.
- You do not have to register the antlerless deer prior to taking the buck, but you do need to validate your site tag and have it available for inspection by a Conservation Officer. If you are found with a buck and no antlerless deer, you will be in violation of the hunt rules and subject to a citation.
- There will be no special validation for buck hunting. It will be the responsibility of the hunter to observe the rules and take their deer in the proper order.
- If you have already filled your buck license, you may still hunt antlerless deer at the Park
- Deer taken at the park must be registered at the park.

Licenses

- Hunters should plan on having at least two tags in their possession when they arrive to hunt.
- One of those tags must be valid for taking an antlerless deer and the other for taking a buck.
- Hunters who are only interested in taking an antlerless deer need only bring one license.

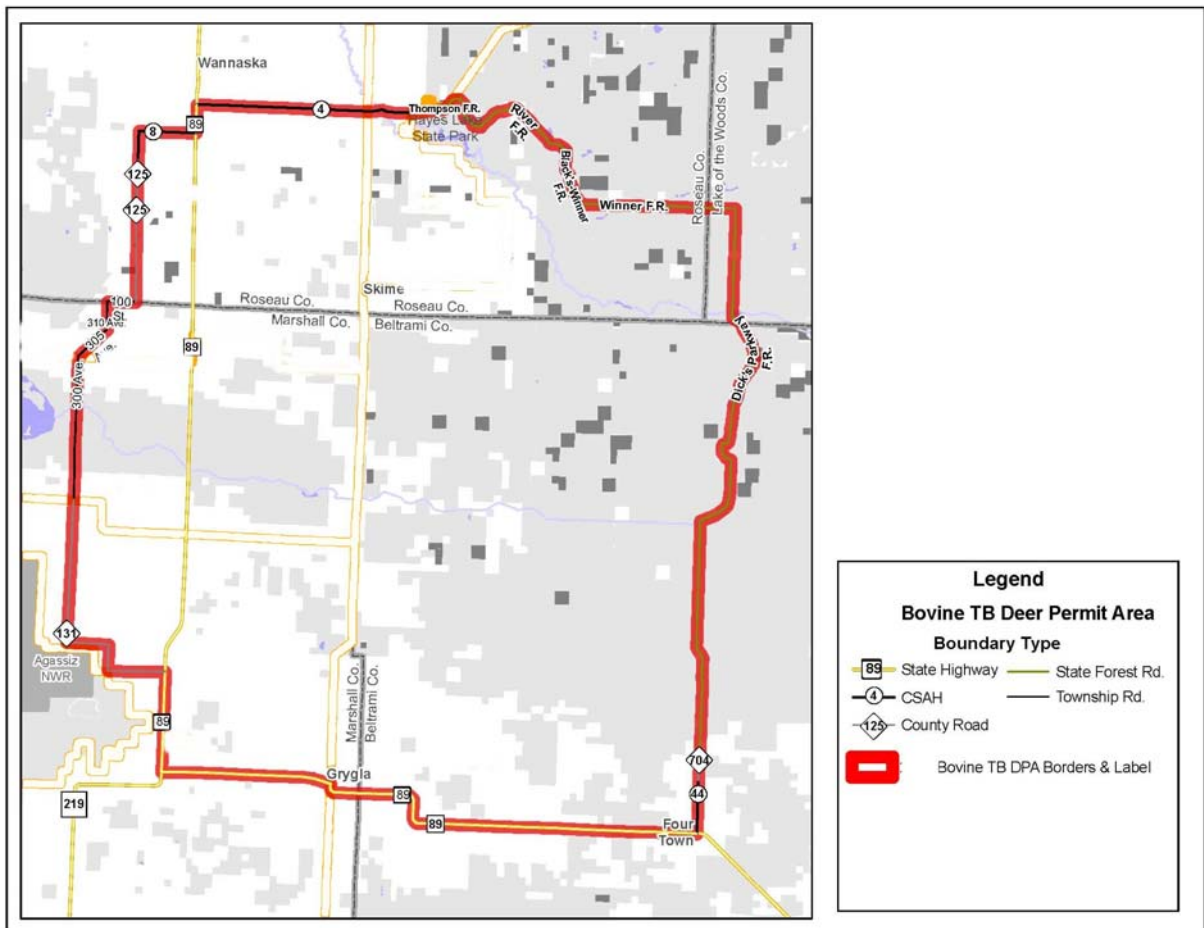
Party Hunting

- Party hunting is legal in earn-a-buck areas.
- You can shoot a deer for a member of your party; however, only the person whose tag is on the antlerless deer will be authorized to tag a buck.
- If you shoot an antlerless deer that is tagged by someone else, you cannot tag a buck with your license. An antlerless deer must be first tagged with your license before you tag a buck.
- Realistically, hunters should tag their first antlerless deer with their own license. If they have the opportunity to harvest another antlerless deer, they should then tag it with another person's license.

Bovine TB area in northwestern Minnesota

- a. DNR created a bovine TB permit area based on the proximity of infected animals. The boundary is defined by roads and inclusive of all positive animals identified to date. It has been designated deer area 101.
- b. Hunting seasons:
 - a. Archery – Sept. 13 – Dec. 31 (statewide season)
 - b. Early antlerless season (Oct. 11 – 12)
 - c. Firearm, 16-day season (Nov. 8 – 23)
 - d. Muzzleloader, 16-day season (Nov. 29 – Dec. 14)
- c. Valid licenses – All license types are valid in this deer area (Statewide A, late southeast B, archery, muzzleloader).
- d. Special permit – An antlerless-only disease management permit has been created. The permit is valid only in the special hunt area and will cost \$2.50, which represents the actual cost of issuing a deer permit. The permit fee is for residents and non-residents.
- e. Bag limit – One buck but an unlimited number of antlerless deer can be taken.
- f. Registration – All deer taken in the permit area should be registered in the area prior to taking it from the area, except deer can be registered in Wannaska.

Special Bovine TB Permit Area (Deer Area 101)



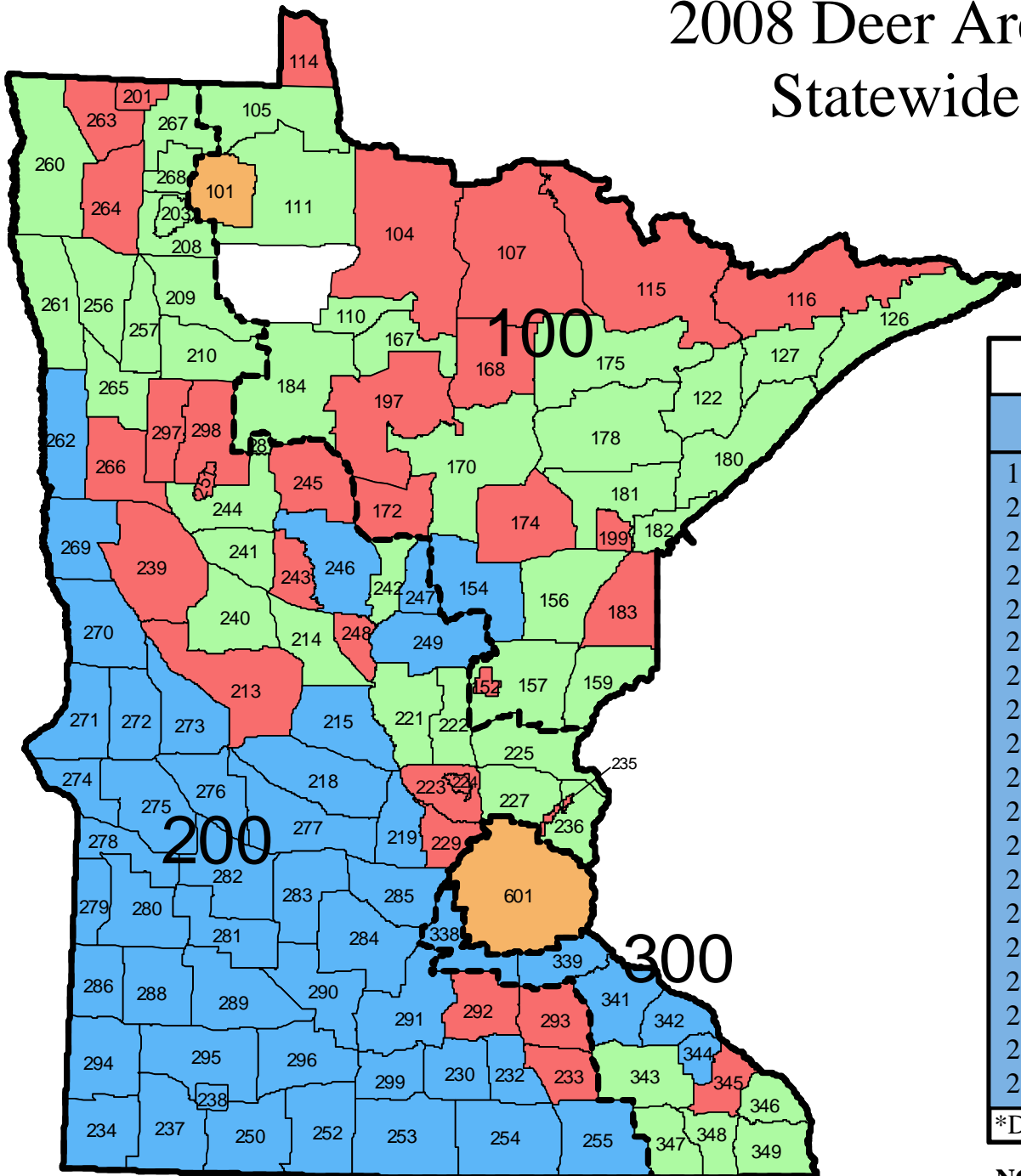
Information for Zone 3 archery and muzzleloader hunters

There has been some confusion regarding bag limits for hunters in deer areas 338 – 349. The zone designations technically apply to the firearm season. Therefore, Statewide A-344 for gun hunters is simply 344 for archery and muzzleloader hunters as they don't have an A or B season. With respect to the bag limits, archery and muzzleloader hunters must comply with the most liberal regulations. For example, both 344A and 344B are lottery so the bag limit for archers and muzzleloader hunters is one deer. Conversely, 342A is lottery and 342B is intensive so the archery/muzzleloader bag limit is 5 deer. A complete bag limit table is below.

Deer Area	3A	3B	Archery/Muzz. Bag Limit
338	Lottery – 1	Managed - 2	2
339	Lottery – 1	Managed - 2	2
341	Lottery – 1	Intensive – 5	5
342	Lottery – 1	Intensive – 5	5
343	Intensive - 5	Intensive – 5	5
344	Lottery – 1	Lottery – 1	1
345	Managed – 2	Intensive - 5	5
346	Intensive - 5	Intensive – 5	5
347	Intensive - 5	Intensive – 5	5
348	Intensive – 5	Intensive – 5	5
349	Intensive - 5	Intensive - 5	5

2008 Deer Area Designations

Statewide 'A' Season

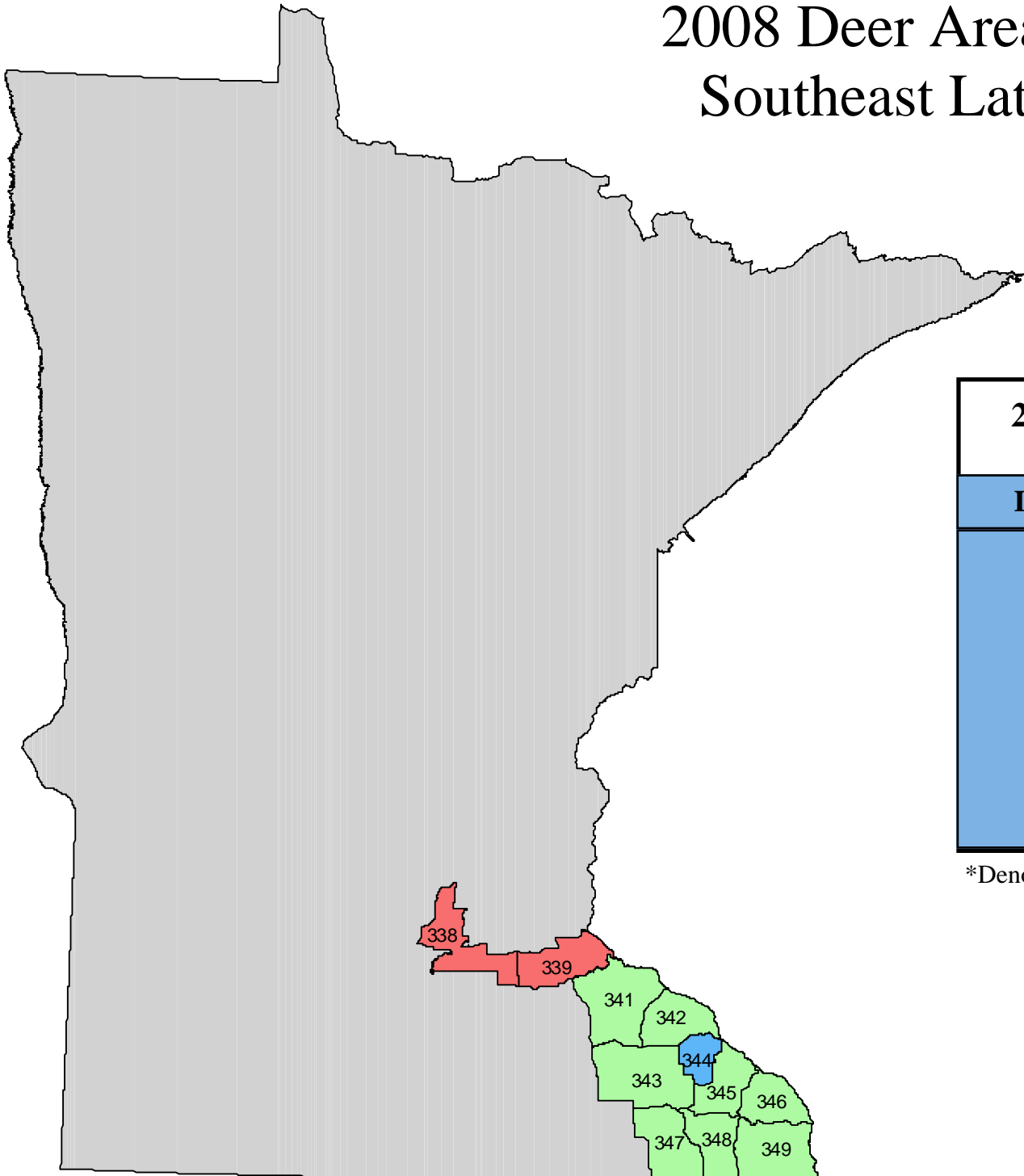


Lottery			Managed		Intensive		
154	270	290	104	235	105	209	287
215	271	291	107	239	110	210	343A
218	272	294	114	243	111	214	346*
219	273	295	115	245	113	221	347*
230	274	296	116	248	122	222	348*
232	275	299	152	251	126	225	349*
234	276	338A	168	263	127	227	
237	277	339A	172	264	156	236	
238	278	341A	174	266	157	240	
246	279	342A	183	292	159	241	
247	280	344A	197	293	167	242	
249	281		199	297	170	244	
250	282		201	298	175	256	
252	283		203	345A	178	257	
253	284		213		180	260	
254	285		223		181	261	
255	286		224		182	265	
262	288		229		184	267	
269	289		233		208	268	

*Denotes both A and B seasons

NOTE: Deer Areas 101 and 601 have no limit on the number of antlerless deer that can be taken

2008 Deer Area Designations Southeast Late 'B' Season

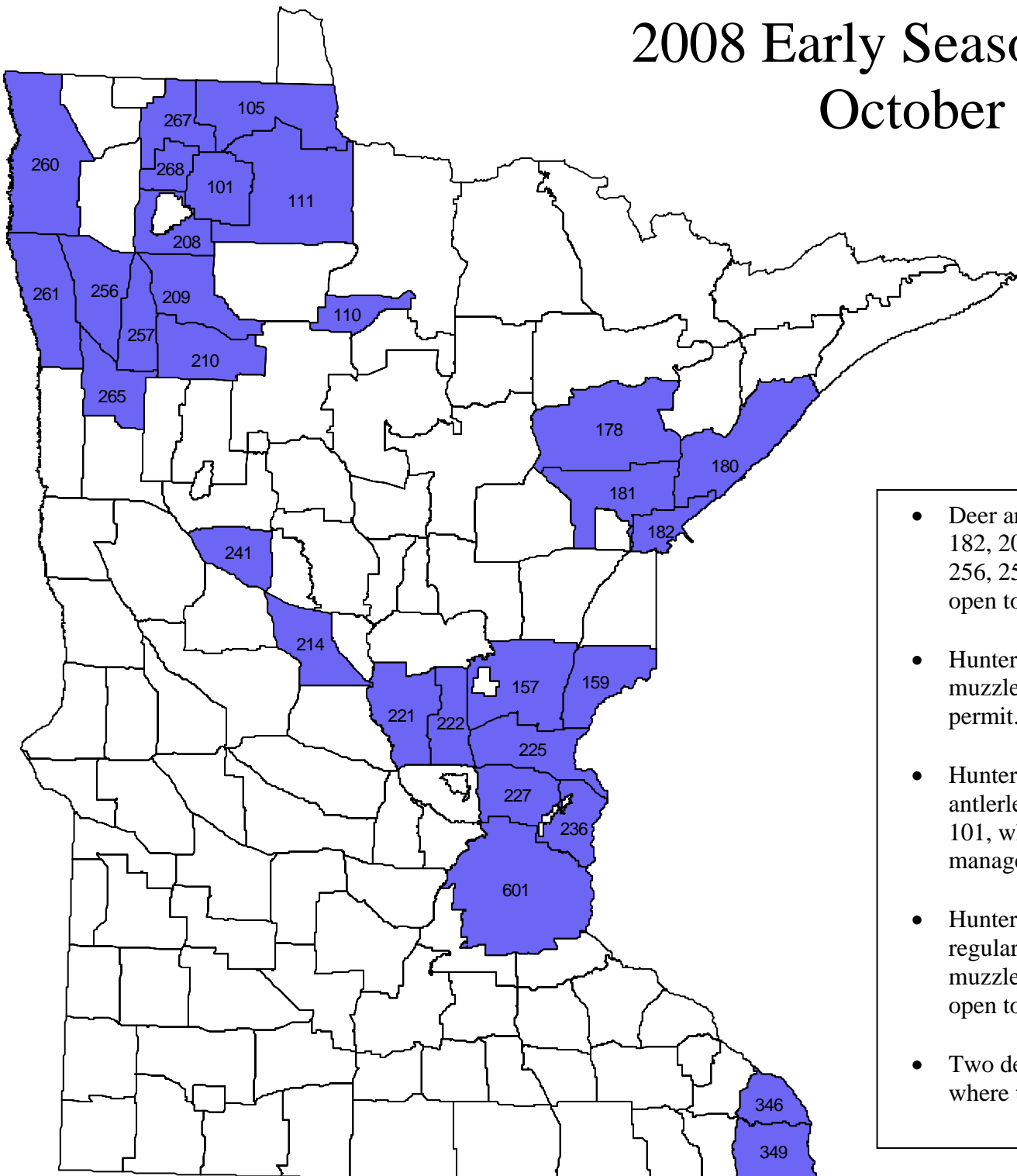


2008 Late Southeast 'B' Season Deer Area Table		
Lottery	Managed	Intensive
344B	338B 339B	341B 342B 343B 345B 346* 347* 348* 349*

*Denotes both A and B seasons

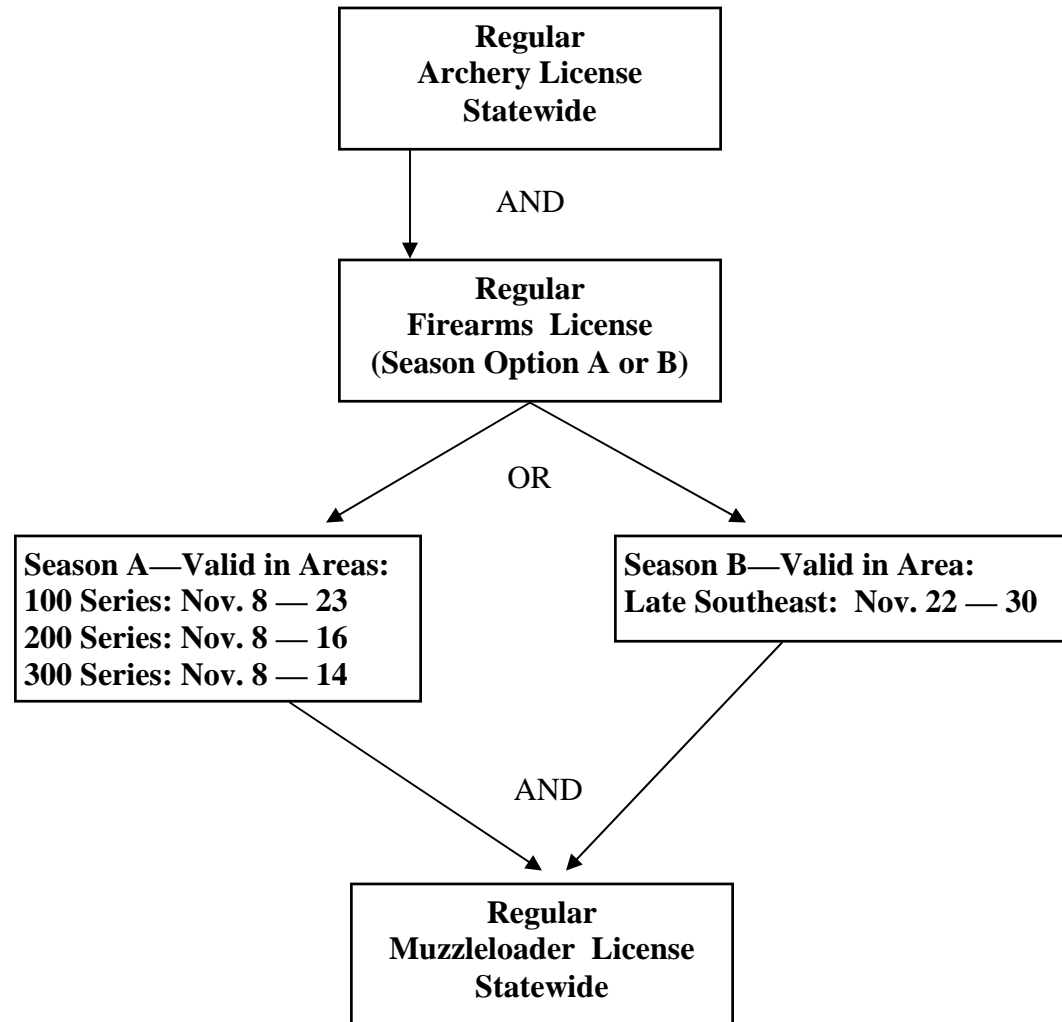
2008 Early Season Deer Areas

October 11-12



- Deer areas 101, 105, 110, 111, 157, 159, 178, 180, 181, 182, 208, 209, 210, 214, 221, 222, 225, 227, 236, 241, 256, 257, 260, 261, 265, 267, 268, 346, 349, and 601 are open to early antlerless deer hunting.
- Hunters must possess either a firearm license (A or B) or a muzzleloader license and at least one early antlerless deer permit.
- Hunters may not tag deer with anything but the early antlerless deer permit. The only exception is deer area 101, where hunters may tag deer with disease management permits.
- Hunters can use any firearm that is legal during the regular deer season. In other words, a person with a muzzleloader license may use a rifle if the deer area is open to rifle hunting during the regular season.
- Two deer may be taken except in deer areas 101 and 601 where there is no limit.

STEP 2. From the flow chart below, select a license type (Archery, Firearm, Muzzleloader). Information on either-sex permits and bag limits for each deer area are listed in the colored boxes below. Youth hunters, landowners, and hunters with disabilities should refer to the regulations book for specific information.



If you plan to hunt in a:

Lottery Deer Area (BLUE): Hunters interested in hunting antlerless deer during **either the firearm or muzzleloader season** must apply for an either-sex permit through the lottery following the same procedure that has been used in previous years. Application deadline is **Thurs, Sept. 4, 2008**, and lottery winners will receive permits via U.S. mail. Archery and regular muzzleloader hunters who **do not** by a firearms license can take a deer of either sex without applying for an either-sex permit. Regular firearm and people who hunt both the firearm and muzzleloader seasons **must apply** for an either-sex permit if they want to hunt antlerless deer. Otherwise, those license holders will be restricted to bucks only. **Important: Bonus permits are not valid in lottery permit areas, regardless of weapon type.**

Managed Deer Area (RED): Regular archery, firearm, and muzzleloader hunters may tag one deer of either sex with their base license. A total of 2 deer can be taken in managed areas, regardless of license type. Hunters can mix and match licenses and bonus permits so long as they do not exceed 2 deer total per year, no matter how many managed areas they hunt.

Intensive Deer Area (GREEN): Regular archery, firearm, and muzzleloader hunters may tag one deer of either sex with their base license. Hunters may also purchase up to 4 bonus permits. The total bag limit is 5 deer per year, regardless of license type.

STEP 3. Obtain lottery application if necessary or purchase your license at one of more than 1,800 ELS vendors located across the state. You can also purchase your license over the internet at www.mndnr.gov or by phone at 888-665-4236. The deadline for lottery applications is **Thurs, Sept. 4, 2008**.

Deer Bag Limits

Lottery: Bag Limit - 1	Managed: Bag Limit - 2	Intensive: Bag Limit - 5
Archery—either-sex	1 deer of either sex	1 deer of either sex
OR	AND	AND
Firearm— 1 legal buck OR 1 either sex if successful in lottery	1 antlerless deer with purchase of a bonus permit	up to 4 antlerless deer with purchase of bonus permits
OR	*Can use any combination of licenses or permits but cannot kill more than 2 deer	*Can use any combination of licenses or permits but cannot kill more than 5 deer
Muzzleloader—either-sex		

2008 Deer Season FAQ

Q: What are the new Statewide “A” and late southeast “B” firearm licenses?

A: These licenses replace the Zone 1A – 4B, all-season, and multi-zone buck licenses. Previously, unless a hunter purchased an all-season or multi-zone buck license, you were restricted to staying in one of the established deer zones. DNR harvest and hunter data shows that 90% of deer hunters hunt deer in the same place every year and kill a deer in the area they say they hunt most often. So, there really isn't a good reason to restrict people to a particular zone. Consequently, DNR consolidated all those licenses in the two we have this year. The statewide “A” license will let you hunt throughout the state in any area that opens on November 8th. The late southeast “B” license was retained for the 20,000 people who traditionally hunt the 3B season. You cannot buy both types of firearms licenses.

Q: Who can buy a muzzleloader license?

A: Anyone. Previously, hunters had to buy an all-season license if they wanted to hunt both the firearm and muzzleloader season. 3B hunters were even excluded from participating in that season. This year, hunters can purchase all 3 stand alone licenses but they must adhere to the bag limit that is established in their permit area.

Q: How come regular muzzleloader hunters don't have to apply in the lottery?

A: Regular muzzleloader hunters are a small percentage of total deer hunters. In lottery areas they take one-tenth the number of antlerless deer as all-season hunters. Because regular muzzleloader hunters have the last season and they don't take many deer, DNR will not restrict the type of deer they can take.

Q: Can I now use a rifle statewide?

A: No. The centerfire cartridge restrictions have been simplified to .220 centerfire or larger; however, the rifle/shotgun line has not changed. In some areas of Minnesota, you are still required to use shotguns, muzzleloaders, or handguns.

Q: Since the regulations are now .220 or larger, can I use a rimfire?

A: No. The change was for centerfire ignition cartridges only. Examples of these cartridges include the 22-250, 220 Swift, and 223 Remington. The .22 LR and .22 Magnum have rimfire ignition and cannot be used for big game hunting.

Q: I bowhunt (or muzzleloader) the old Zone 3, what is my bag limit?

A: Southeast Minnesota is unique in that the A and B seasons are discrete units with no hunter overlap. Consequently, they have different management strategies during the A and B season. Archers need to comply with the most liberal regulation for the Zone. For example, 341 is lottery during A and intensive during B. Bowhunters can take deer under the intensive strategy (5 deer). The same regulations apply to muzzleloader season hunters.

Q: What is the difference between a license and a permit?

A: A license is the basic document that allows you to hunt. A permit is something that adds on to what you can do with your original license. For example, if you have a Statewide A license and an either-sex permit for deer area 154, the license allows you to hunt throughout the state and the permit allows you to take a deer of either sex in deer area 154. Similarly, bonus permits are in addition to your regular license and allow you to take additional antlerless deer in specified areas but you must have a license that is valid for the season you are hunting.

2008 Deer Season FAQ

Q: What is a Bonus Permit?

A: A bonus permit allows you to take an antlerless deer in addition to what you can take with your regular license. In order to use one however, you must be in a managed or intensive area and have a valid license (archery, firearm, or muzzleloader) for that season. You can use one per year in any one managed deer area or up to four total in intensive deer areas.

Q: When I went in to purchase my deer license, the agent asked what deer area I hunt most often, why?

A: While you won't be restricted to hunting in the deer area you indicate, this information is needed to assess hunter success and compile information about hunter densities. Also, it enables DNR to easily survey hunters based on their location.

Q: I want to hunt the metro deer area (deer area 601), what should I do?

A: There is nothing special you need to do. The metro deer area is comprised of traditional deer areas 228 and 337 that have been combined and numbered 601. At this time, the deer area boundaries are not changing. If you're interested in the hunting one of these deer areas, simply buy your license and when the clerk asks what deer area you primarily hunt, simply indicate your traditional area. The license will automatically be valid in your regular area and the metro. Here are three examples:

1. You typically hunt deer area 184. Go ahead and buy your Statewide "A" season license and tell the clerk 184. You can hunt your traditional area and then still come back and hunt the metro too.
2. You currently hunt in the old area 228 portion of the metro, area 601. Buy your "A" season firearm license and tell the clerk you hunt 601. You will be able to hunt anywhere in the state and enjoy 2 extra weeks in 601.
3. You currently hunt in southeast Minnesota (either A or B), area 344. Buy your traditional license and tell the clerk you hunt 344. Your license will be valid in your season (either Statewide A or 3B) and 601.

Q: I am interested in hunting the early antlerless season, what should I do?

A: First, you'll need either a firearm or muzzleloader license. You'll also need to purchase an early season antlerless deer permit for \$7.50. You can buy up to 2 of these permits. While you need a valid firearm or muzzleloader license to be in the field, you can only tag deer with the early antlerless permit. The reason for that is we are trying to evaluate the effectiveness of an early season hunt. If hunters were allowed to tag deer with bonus permits or their license, they might be less inclined to harvest a deer during those two days. By creating a permit that's only valid during the early antlerless season, there's a feeling that people will be more committed to taking a deer because they know the permit isn't good beyond the 2-day season.

Q: What does lottery, managed, and intensive deer area mean?

A:

- **LOTTERY.** Firearm hunters who hunt a lottery deer area and want to harvest an antlerless deer must apply for either-sex permits through the lottery system. The application deadline is **Sept. 4, 2008**, and lottery winners will receive permits via U.S. mail. Bonus permits cannot be used in lottery deer areas, regardless of weapon type. Firearm hunters who are unsuccessful in the lottery may harvest a legal buck throughout the season or a deer of either sex in any managed or intensive deer area. Archery and muzzleloader (who do not buy a firearm license) hunters may take a deer of either sex without applying in the lottery. Muzzleloader hunters who also purchase a regular firearms license must apply in the lottery.

2008 Deer Season FAQ

- **MANAGED.** These deer areas have a two deer limit with all permits available over the counter. There is no lottery procedure or application. Hunters who purchase a firearms license and hunt a managed deer area will be able to harvest a deer of either sex. Archery, firearm, and muzzleloader hunters may purchase one bonus permit, valid for an antlerless deer only. Permits may be purchased throughout the season and are valid at the same time as the regular license.
- **INTENSIVE.** These deer areas have a 5 deer limit with all the permits available over the counter. There is no lottery procedure or application. Hunters who purchase a firearms license and hunt in an intensive deer area will be able to harvest a deer of either sex. Hunters can also purchase up to 4 bonus permits, which are valid in any intensive deer area for which they have a valid license. Bonus permits may be purchased throughout the season and are valid at the same time as the regular license. The total bag limit is 5 deer.

Q: I forgot to put in for the lottery, what are my options?

A: If there are leftover lottery permits in your area, they will be available first come, first served at 5pm on Monday, October 13th. You will need a valid license or purchase one at the time in order to receive the permit.

Q: When is my lottery either-sex permit valid?

A: The permit will be valid for one either-sex deer during either the firearm or muzzleloader season so long as you have a valid license. In other words, if you are successful in the lottery, you can use the permit in either season, just make sure you have a license to participate in the that season.

Q: I put in for a lottery area and was unsuccessful; can I still take a doe this year?

A: Yes, but you'll have to take the antlerless deer in a managed or intensive deer area. You will not need to upgrade or change your license.

Q: What happens to my lottery status if I don't apply in the lottery and instead hunt in a managed or intensive area?

A: Nothing, you will retain all your preference until you are successful in a lottery. However, you will not accrue additional preference if you do not apply.

Q: What does the youth firearm (or muzzleloader) license let me do?

A: The youth license is a one-half price license for youth ages 12-17 that includes a tag. Youth are allowed to take deer of either sex in lottery deer areas without applying in the lottery. The youth firearm license lets youth hunters hunt during both the Statewide A and late Southeast B seasons. So, for \$13, youth hunters can pursue deer throughout the state. For youth muzzleloader hunters, the \$13 license is valid only during the 16-day muzzleloader season. This year, youth hunters may purchase both licenses.

Q: How many deer can I legally tag per year?

A: During the regular seasons, up to 5 deer can be taken per year. Additionally, landowners can tag one deer in certain deer areas and 2 deer can be taken during the early antlerless season. In the bovine TB (101) and metro (601) there is no limit to the number of antlerless deer that can be taken.

Q: I want to donate to the venison donation program. How do I do that?

A: At the time of license purchase, all deer hunters will be asked if they want to voluntarily donate \$1, \$3, or \$5 to the program. Everyone else (hunters, anglers, interested individuals) can donate simply by visiting one of the 1,800 license agents throughout Minnesota and telling the clerk they would like to donate. The clerk will walk you through the process.

2008 Deer Season FAQ

Q: How is DNR planning to evaluate the lead in venison issue?

A: DNR is currently undertaking a research project to examine the dispersion of lead in carcasses. Over the summer, we will be looking at how different types of bullets fragment and spread through carcasses. We will be testing shotgun slugs, muzzleloader bullets, rapid-expansion, controlled-expansion, non-toxic rifle bullets so that we can make recommendations to hunters so they can make an informed choice.

Q: I'm concerned about lead in venison. What can I do to minimize risk?

A: The easiest thing to do would be to switch a non-toxic alternative. If you do not reload or that cartridge is not available commercially in the caliber you shoot, consider using a controlled expansion bullet as they are designed to retain the majority of their weight.

Q: Why are the southeast Minnesota seasons managed differently?

A: The reason they have different designations is that only 3B license holders can hunt that season. There is no overlap between statewide A or 3B hunters. Why? As 3B is the last firearm season, there is concern from local hunters and landowners that private land will be inundated with out-of-area hunters. Consequently, there is high opposition to allowing all hunters to participate in 3B.

Q: Why are muzzleloader hunters treated differently in lottery areas?

A: There are two groups of muzzleloader hunters, those who buy only the muzzleloader license and those who hunt both the firearm and muzzleloader seasons. As the number of 'traditional' muzzleloader hunters is small in comparison to total hunters, we felt it was not necessary to make them apply in the lottery. They are small in number, hunt last, and harvest comparatively few deer. Conversely, people who hunt both seasons typically take the vast majority of antlerless deer; therefore, they must apply for an either-sex permit. People who buy only a muzzleloader license will not have to apply and can take an either-sex deer statewide.