

2023 Deer Hunting Regulations

2023 Season Dates

Archery	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31, 2023
Muzzleloader	Dec. 1 - 31, 2023
Special Landowner	Nov. 4 - 6, 2023
November Firearm	Nov. 11 - 19, 2023
Statewide Buck Only	Nov. 11 - 19, 2023
Mule Deer Conservation Area	* Nov. 11 - 19, Dec. 1 - 31, 2023
Whitetail Statewide Buck	* Sept. 1 - Dec. 31, 2023
Youth	* Sept. 1 - Jan. 15, 2024
Limited Landowner	* Sept. 1 - Jan. 15, 2024
Antlerless Only Season Choice	* Sept. 1 - Jan. 15, 2024
October River Antlerless	Oct. 1 - 15, 2023
Late Firearm Antlerless	Jan. 1 - 15, 2024

* **weapons as specified for Archery, Muzzleloader, November Firearm and/or Late Antlerless Firearm seasons**

Legal Weapons for Firearm Season:

- .22-caliber or larger rifle that deliver at least 900 foot-pounds of energy at 100 yards
- .357 magnum rifle, .45 Colt rifle and hand-thrown spear are legal
- Handguns or muzzleloading handguns that deliver at least 400 foot-pounds of energy at 50 yards
- Muzzleloading rifles .44-caliber or larger
- Muzzleloading muskets .62-caliber or larger, firing a single slug
- Shotguns of 20-gauge or larger that fire a single slug
- Long bow, compound bow, recurve bow, shoulder-fired non-electronic crossbow (with a draw weight of at least 125 pounds), hand-thrown spear
- Ammunition with multiple projectiles is illegal
- Semi-automatic firearms capable of holding more than six cartridges are illegal
- Full-metal jacket or incendiary bullets are illegal
- Arrows or spears must have a sharpened hunting head with a blade of at least 7/16-inch cutting radius from the center of the arrow shaft. Arrows or spears containing poison, stupefying chemical or having an explosive tip are illegal.

Legal Weapons for Archery Season:

- Bows and spears as defined above.

Legal Weapons for Muzzleloader Season:

- Muzzleloading rifles, muzzleloading handguns and muskets as defined above.

Shooting Hours - It is legal to shoot 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

Sights - It is unlawful to use any electrical device to amplify natural light or to project a light beam or image to a target, including night-vision or infrared scopes and laser sights. Red-dot and illuminated reticle sights and scopes are permitted. Magnifying

and variable-power scopes are allowed.

Permit - A permit must be signed by the permittee. It is unlawful to transfer a permit to another person.

Minimum Age - 10 years of age for deer hunting.

Youth Permit Requirements - Youths age 16 may hunt with youth deer permits provided they are age 15 when they apply and are not more than 15 on Sept. 1, 2023.

Habitat Stamp - Residents age 16 and older and all nonresidents must carry proof of a valid Nebraska habitat stamp while hunting big game. Individuals with valid, fee-exempt permits and landowners hunting their own land with a landowner permit are not required to purchase a habitat stamp to hunt big game. A 2023 stamp is valid for deer hunting in January 2024.

Unlawful Hunting Methods - It is unlawful to:

- chase, run, harass, kill or shoot any deer from a moving motor vehicle or vessel.
- shoot from the right-of-way of a public road.
- carry a firearm on a snowmobile, except when it is unloaded and in a case.
- hunt from or with a snowmobile.
- use a spotlight or other artificial light from a vehicle or vessel while having in possession or control any firearm, crossbow or bow and arrow.
- possess a night-vision scope while hunting game animals and game birds.
- use two-way radios, cell phones or any other electronic devices to transmit information about the location of any game animal or game bird to or from a conveyance of any type (vehicles, aircraft, boats, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, etc.).

Permission - Permission is required to hunt on private land. It is unlawful to hunt with a rifle within 200 yards of an occupied dwelling or feedlot without specific permission for that purpose or within 100 yards using other methods.

Sale of Parts - It is lawful to sell the hide, hair, hooves, bones, and antlers of any deer which is taken legally. The sale or purchase of deer meat is unlawful.

Hunter Orange - Any persons hunting deer under the authority of a firearm permit during an authorized firearm season must display on his or her head, chest and back at least 400 square inches of hunter orange material. Hunter orange requirements also apply while hunting under the authority of a muzzleloader permit during muzzleloader seasons. Archery deer hunters must do the same while archery hunting during the November firearm deer season and during the late antlerless seasons. Firearm hunters during the Special Landowner Deer Season must wear hunter orange; archery hunters are exempt.

Baiting - It is illegal to hunt any big game animals or turkeys within 200 yards of a baited area. An area is be considered baited for 10 days following the complete removal of all bait. The hunter and the animal must be outside of the baited area during the harvest or attempted harvest. A baited area is any location where grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, hay, minerals (including salt), or any other natural food materials, commercial products containing food materials, or by-products of such materials that may attract big game or turkey. The use of scents alone, normal environmental conditions, standard farming and ranching practices, forest management, wildlife food plantings, orchard management, or similar land management activities do not constitute a baited area. It is unlawful to create a baited area on lands owned or controlled by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Checking - Deer harvested during the November firearm season must be delivered to a check station before 1 p.m. on the day following the close of the season before leaving the state.

Telecheck is not allowed during this season.

- Deer harvested during seasons other than the November firearm season must be checked via Telecheck within 48 hours of kill, but no later than 1 p.m. on the day after the close of any part of the season.
- Each permit holder must accompany his or her deer to the check station.
- The permit/tag and check station seal must be retained while transporting the deer to a point of permanent storage or processing.

The permit holder must record the seal number as provided by the check station on the permit of any deer checked via Telecheck.

Quartering - The carcass may be separated into loins and quarters with the femur and scapula naturally attached, provided that the head accompanies the carcass to the check station.

Telecheck - All deer harvested outside the November firearm seasons must be checked via Telecheck. This may be done online or by phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the phone number on the permit or visit **OutdoorNebraska.gov**.

Tagging - Immediately after an deer is taken, the hunter must punch holes in the permit, showing species, sex and date of kill. The canceled permit must be kept with the deer at all times.

Hunting Other Wildlife - During the November firearm deer season, only hunters with a valid unfilled deer permit may hunt wildlife other than deer with centerfire rifles or centerfire handguns, provided they are hunting in the deer management unit for which their deer permit is valid. Fall turkey permit holders, wearing hunter orange required only for hunting in the November firearm deer season, may hunt turkeys, with legal shotguns or archery weapons, during the November firearm deer season.

Possession - There is no restriction on the length of time game birds or game animals may be possessed.

Hunter Education - Hunter education is required for hunters ages 12 through 29 hunting with a firearm or air gun. Bow hunter education is required for those ages while hunting big game with

a bow and arrow or crossbow. They must carry with them proof of certification.

Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate - Available for two consecutive years for hunters who have not completed hunter education. The fee is \$5.

Accompaniment - All deer hunters age 10-15 and all hunters using the Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate must be accompanied by a licensed hunter age 19 or older when hunting. The accompanying person, if age 19-29, must be certified in firearm hunter education if hunting with a firearm or crossbow, or bow hunter education if hunting with bow and arrow. He or she must be at all times in unaided visual and verbal communication with the hunter. There may be no more than two hunters using the certificate accompanied by the experienced hunter at any time.

Public Land Closures -

- All federal and state public lands are closed to the use of River Antlerless deer permits.
- Antlerless mule deer may not be taken on lands open to public hunting, except Open Fields and Waters lands.
- Bessey Ranger District of the Nebraska National Forest, McKelvie National Forest, and the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge are closed to AO SCA deer permits, antlerless bonus tags and harvest of mule deer does on November Firearm permits.
- Harlan County Reservoir (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land) is closed to AO SCA Republican deer permits.
- Red Willow, Enders, Medicine Creek and Swanson SRA/WMA are closed to all Frenchman AO SCA and the use of bonus tags on Frenchman WT and Frenchman MDCA deer permits.

County Refuge Closures -

- **Garden County Refuge:** Those portions of Garden County within 110 yards of the banks of the North Platte River are open to archery deer hunting from Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 with landowner permission, except that portion of the Clear Creek Refuge portion of the Clear Creek Wildlife Management Area west of the Garden County line is open to deer hunting during all established seasons from Sept. 1 though the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

The following refuges are open to all deer hunting, though landowner permission is required: Boyd-Holt County Refuge, Dodge-Saunders County Refuge and Lincoln County Refuge.

Use of Drones

It shall be unlawful for any person one day before or throughout any open season to spot, locate, or place under surveillance any game animal or game bird with the aid of any aircraft (to include drones) and convey information about such animal's or bird's location to any person or group of persons by radio or other electronic device (which includes photography taken from unmanned aircraft). The use of aircraft (which includes drones) any time to hunt, drive, molest, chase, or harass game birds or game animals is illegal.

2023 November Firearm Deer Season Check Stations

- Read the checking instructions on the regulations sheet to ensure deer are checked on time.
- Check station business hours are 8 a.m.-8 p.m., unless noted.
- Check station operators may change the hours listed. Call the station to verify hours.
- * Nebraska Game and Parks Commission offices are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, except during the November Firearm season, when checking hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Offices are closed on holidays. The Schramm Education Center is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. seven days a week, except during November Firearm season, when hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- To view Nebraska Game and Parks’ map of big game check stations, go to **OutdoorNebraska.gov**, then search for “Maps.”

City	Check Station	Address	Phone Number	Business Hours
AINSWORTH	Husker Meats	740 Old Hwy. 7	402-382-3663	
ALBION	White Star Oil Co.	305 N. 6th St.	402-395-2507	
ALLIANCE	Neb. Game and Parks Commission	299 Husker Road	308-763-2940	* See above note
ARAPAHOE	Tornado Alley	1212 W. Chestnut St.	308-962-5500	
ARNOLD	Sandhills Classic Arms	503 E. Cedar St.	308-520-6475	
ARTHUR	Sandhills Auto	105 N. Neb. Hwy. 61	308-764-2367	
AUBURN	The Dutch Pantry	2402 J St.	402-274-1102	
BARTLETT	WeMart	U.S. Hwy. 281	308-654-3259	8-8, weekdays; 7-6:30, Sat; 8-5:30, Sun.
BASSETT	Neb. Game and Parks Commission	524 Panzer St.	402-684-2921	* See above note
BASSETT	Rock County Sheriff’s Office	Courthouse, 400 S. State	402-684-3811	Monday-Friday, 5-8 p.m.
BEATRICE	Cenex	1615 N. 6th St.	402-223-3221	
BEATRICE	One Stop Country Store	11684 E. U.S. Hwy. 136	402-662-3606	
BEAVER CITY	Weaver’s One Stop	921 N. St.	308-268-7705	8 a.m.-7 p.m.
BENKELMAN	Dundy County Sheriff’s Office	701 Chief St.	308-423-2393	
BENNINGTON	R&L Meat Processing	15309 Harvest Lane	402-884-6445	
BRIDGEPORT	Cenex Ampride C Store	102 W. 5th St.	308-262-0827	
BROKEN BOW	Pump and Pantry	1037 E. South E St.	308-872-6842	
BURWELL	PK Meat Company	190 N. Neb. Hwy. 11	308-346-4244	
BUTTE	Firehouse Cafe	610 Thayer St.	402-775-2643	
CENTRAL CITY	Bosselman Pump and Pantry	1110 G St.	308-946-2394	
CHADRON	Chadron Ace Hardware	760 W 3rd St	308-432-3914	
CHAPPELL	Hansen’s Petroleum	1082 2nd St.	308-874-2733	
CLAY CENTER	Ampride	404 N. Center	402-762-3775	
CODY	Husker Hub	107 E Nebraska Ave.	402- 823-4066	
COLUMBUS	T-Bones Truck Stop	4018 W. U.S. Hwy. 30	402-563-2933	
CRAWFORD	Crossroads Mini Mart	1120 7th St.	308-665-2000	
CREIGHTON	CMart	910 Main St.	402-358-3711	
CRETE	The Corner Liquor Store	585 W. Hwy. 33	402-826-3435	
CURTIS	Great Plains Tire and Service	202 W. 2nd. St.	308-367-4734	
DAKOTA CITY	Dakota Food and Fuel	515 N. 14th St.	402-987-0300	
DAVID CITY	Butler County Sheriff’s Office	451 5th St.	402-367-7400	
DILLER	Grocery Store	409 Commercial St.	402-793-5820	
ELMWOOD	Elmwood Meat Plant	1441/2 N. 4th St.	402-994-5655	
ELWOOD	DC Express	74888 Johnson Lake Drive 25A	308-746-7475	
ENDERS	Laker’s Delight	520 Pioneer St.	308-882-4011	
FALLS CITY	Falls City Police Department	2307 Barada St.	402-245-4422	9 a.m.-6 p.m.
FORT CALHOUN	Fort Atkinson State Historical Park	211 S. 7th St.	402-468-5611	
FRANKLIN	Pitstop & Shop	102 16th Ave.	308-425-6556	
FREMONT	Fremont Lakes SRA, Park Office	4349 W. State Lakes Road	402-727-3291	* See above note
FULLERTON	Nance County Sheriff’s Office	209 Esther	308-536-2452	
GENEVA	Fillmore Co. Sheriff’s Office	Courthouse, 900 G St.	402-759-4441	
GOTHENBURG	OK Bottle Shop	318 8th St., Hwy. 30	308-537-7220	
GRAND ISLAND	Pump and Pantry No. 2	821 S. Webb Rd.	308-381-0767	
GRETNA	Schramm Education Center	21502 W. Hwy. 31	402-332-3901	* See above note
HALSEY	Double T	103 Main	308-533-2208	
HARRISON	Harrison House Hotel	115 Main St.	308-665-5199	
HARTINGTON	Stop-N-Go Mini Mart	605 N. Robinson	402-254-32499	

City	Check Station	Address	Phone Number	Business Hours
HASTINGS	Ampride South	1410 W. J St.	402-461-3714	
HAYES CENTER	Scott’s Grocery	401 Tate St.	308-286-3322	
HEBRON	Sinclair 81 Express	1375 Dove Rd.	402-768-2223	
HICKMAN	Glenn’s True Value Hardware	6800 Hickman Rd.	402-792-2027	
HOLDREGE	Bosselman Pump and Pantry	916 Fourth Ave.	308-995-6907	
HYANNIS	Sandhill Oil Co., Inc.	101 Dellinger Road	308-458-2237	Weekdays 7 a.m.-5 p.m.; Weekends 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
KEARNEY	Neb. Game and Parks Commission	1617 First Ave.	308-865-5310	* See above note
KIMBALL	Sportsman’s Liquor	111 W. 2nd St.	308-235-3752	
LEWELLEN	DP’s Service Station	506 W. Hwy. 26	308-778-5611	
LEXINGTON	Tom’s Midwest Liquor	710 S. Washington	308-324-3566	
LINCOLN	Neb. Game and Parks Commission	2200 N. 33rd St.	402-471-0641	* See above note
LOUP CITY	Johnson Hunt and Fish	1071 R St.	308-745-0156	
LYNCH	Bubba’s 4th Street Tavern	123 N. 4th St.	402-569-2926	
MCCOOK	McCook Fire Department	505 West C St.	308-345-5710	
MERRIMAN	Sandhills Ranch Supply	113 Mills St.	308-684-3418	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-noon & 1-5 p.m.
MULLEN	Sandhills Motel	507 SW First	308-546-2206	
NEBRASKA CITY	R-Cart Sales	300 Central Ave.	402-694-8691	
NELIGH	Cubby’s	210 L St.	402-887-4649	
NELSON	OxBow Motel	422 N. Main St.	402-225-2651	
NIOBRARA	Niobrara State Park	1 W of Niobrara	402-857-3373	
NORFOLK	Neb. Game and Parks Commission	2201 N. 13th	402-370-3374	* See above note
NORTH PLATTE	Neb. Game and Parks Commission	301 E. State Farm Road	308-535-8025	* See above note
OGALLALA	Neb. Game and Parks Commission	1501 Hwy. 61	308-284-8800	* See above note
OMAHA	B.I.G. Meats	4867 S. 137th St.	402-895-9525	
OMAHA	Wildlife Creations Taxidermy	13506 B St.	402-896-6887	
OMAHA	Neb. Game and Parks Commission	8495 Frederick St.	402-595-2144	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
O’NEILL	C&S Repair	114 W. Douglas	402-336-2665	Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
O’NEILL	Torpin’s Rodeo Market	506 E. Douglas	402-336-1550	Monday-Friday, 6-8 p.m.
ORD	Pump and Pantry	2308 L St. (Hwy. 11)	308-728-7996	
OXFORD	Kerms Korner	202 E. Cornwall	308-823-3850	
PAWNEE CITY	Brown Jug	715 F St.	402-852-2980	
PENDER	Frazey’s Food and Fuel	317 Whitney St.	402-385-3023	
PLATTSMOUTH	Randall W. Schilling WMA	17614 Schilling Refuge Rd.	531-228-0096	
PONCA	Ponca State Park	2 N of Ponca	402-755-2284	* See above note
RED CLOUD	Webster County Sheriff	641 N. Cedar St.	402-746-2722	
REPUBLICAN CITY	The Bait Box	15 Berrigan Rd.	308-798-9000	
RUSHVILLE	Bosselman Pump and Pantry	220 W. U.S. Hwy. 20	308-327-2461	
SARGENT	Trotter Whoa-N-Go	101 Edith St.	308-527-3723	
SCHUYLER	QC Supply	574 Rd. 11	800-433-6340	Weekdays 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Weekends 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
SCOTTSBLUFF	Essential Fuels	822 S. Beltline Hwy.	308-635-7374	
SIDNEY	Cheyenne County Sheriff	1000 10th Ave.	308-254-2922	
SO. YANKTON	Yankton Shop EZ	89823 U.S. 81	402-667-9855	
SPRINGVIEW	Turbine Mart	105 W. Turbine Ave.	402-497-3000	
ST. PAUL	Pump and Pantry	514 2nd St.	308-754-4439	
STROMSBURG	Elgin’s Taxidermy	811 Main St.	402-764-8181/402-366-3412	Mon.-Sat, 8-8, Sun., noon-8
SUTHERLAND	Sportsman’s Cove	W. U.S. Hwy. 30	308-386-2185	
TECUMSEH	Osage WMA	73181 619 Ave.	402-335-2534	
TEKAMAH	Cubby’s	603 S. 13th St.	402-374-2413	
TRENTON	Gerry Hunter, Hitchcock County Sheriff	Courthouse, 229 E. D St.	308-334-5444	
TRYON	Aunt Bea’s Cafe	520 Hwy. 92	308-530-2705/308-587-2399	
UTICA	Bronco Spur	101 U.S. 34	402-534-5055	
VALENTINE	Valentine Fish Hatchery	N of Hwy 12, Green St.	402-376-2244	
VENANGO	Crossroads Cafe	116 N. Pennsylvania Ave.	308-353-0034	
WAHOO	Wahoo Police Department	605 N. Broadway	402-443-4155	
WALLACE	Mac’s Super Foods	314 E. Neb. Hwy. 23	308-387-4317	
WAUNETA	Wauneta Crossroads	481 S. Tecumseh	308-394-5444	
WAYNE	Wayne East Prime Stop	1330 E. Neb. Hwy. 35	402-375-1449	
WEST POINT	AC Lightning Protection	309 Plaza Drive	402-659-0243	
WYMORE	J&M Liquor	403 S. 14th (Hwy. 77)	402-645-3718	Mon.-Thur., 10-9; Fri.-Sat., 10-noon; Sun., noon-9
YORK	York Fire Department	815 Grant	402-363-2610	