

2025 Antelope Hunting Regulations

2025 Season Dates

Archery	Aug. 20 - Dec. 31, 2025
Muzzleloader	Sept. 20 - Oct. 5, 2025
Firearm	Oct. 11 - 26, 2025
Late Doe/Fawn *	Nov. 1, 2025 - Jan. 31, 2026

* Banner North Late, Banner South Late, Cherry Late, Cheyenne Late, Box Butte East Late, Box Butte West Late, Garden Late and North Sioux Late units

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.

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.

Habitat Stamp - Residents age 16 years and older and all nonresidents must carry proof of a valid Nebraska habitat stamp while hunting big game. Persons with valid fee-

exempt permit and landowners hunting their own land with a landowner permit do not need a habitat stamp.

Sale of Parts - It is lawful to sell the hide, hair, hooves, bones, or horns of any antelope that is taken legally. The sale or purchase of antelope meat is unlawful.

Permission - Permission is required when hunting 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.

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 antelope hunters age 12-15 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.

Unlawful Hunting Methods - It is unlawful to:

- chase, run, harass, kill or shoot at any antelope 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 of Aircraft/Drones

It is 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 imagery and/or location data 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. Use of aircraft, including drones, to locate or recover wounded or dead game animals is prohibited.

- 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, ATVs, etc.).

Public Land Closures -

- Some antelope hunting is allowed at the following:
 - Fort Robinson State Park and Wildlife Management Area - Open to archery and muzzleloader hunting with access permit from park office; closed to October Firearm and Doe/Fawn permits.
 - Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge - Archery hunting allowed in portions.
 - Valentine National Wildlife Refuge - Antelope hunting allowed in portions.
- Bessey Ranger District of the Nebraska National Forest is closed to muzzleloader and firearm hunting and doe/fawn harvest by archers.

Hunter Orange - Any person hunting antelope 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.

Minimum Age - The minimum age to hunt antelope is 12 years.

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

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

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.

Permit Cancellation - Following the harvest of any big game animal, hunters must immediately punch or notch the permit or tag to indicate sex and date of kill. The canceled permit or tag

must be attached to the animal or remain with the hunter if the carcass remains in the hunter's possession until completion of the check in process.

Checking - Registering your harvest of antelope is mandatory in Nebraska and must be completed before the carcass leaves the state.

- It is unlawful to separate an antelope carcass into sections smaller than quarters before completing the harvest check-in process. Quartering is defined as four legs, with femur or scapula naturally attached, and loins.
- All antelope must be checked via Telecheck within 48 hours of kill and before 1 p.m. on the day following the close of the season.
- Permit and check station seal number or check station verification number must be retained when transporting all or a portion of the carcass to a point of permanent storage or processing.
- Hunters must record the seal number on their permit.

ANTELOPE MUST BE CHECKED VIA TELECHECK

- All antelope must be checked via Telecheck.
- Telecheck allows hunters to check elk by phone or online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. See OutdoorNebraska.gov and search "Telecheck" for more information.
- There are several ways to access and complete your harvest report:
 - Scan the QR code on your permit with your smartphone.
 - From your permit profile at goOutdoorsNE.com. Once logged in, select "Game Check Reporting" in the left-hand column and submit the required information.
 - From the login page on goOutdoorsne.com, select "Report Your Harvest – Big Game Check-In" in the list of white boxes below the login options.
 - Call 844-279-4564 to complete over the phone.
- When completing Telecheck, the following information will be required from your permit or animal: species, permit code, permit number, date of kill, county of kill, management unit, weapon used, sex of animal, and age of animal (adult or fawn).
- You may be asked questions about biological information, such as antelope horn length (measure from the base around the outside curve to the horn tip).
- Write the seal number on the permit after completing Telecheck.