



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

Executive Office
717-705-6540

May 28, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 Antlerless Deer License Regulations and Issuance Schedule

TO: County Treasurers

FROM: Bryan Burhans
Executive Director

Enclosed are copies of the updated Antlerless Deer License Regulations adopted by the Board of Commissioners in April 2021 (58 Pa. Code §§143.41 - 143.56). Visual guides from new PALS/*HuntFishPA* service for the antlerless deer license batch sales process and zero cost antlerless license replacement process for licenses lost in mail will be sent under separate cover this year. The updated antlerless deer license regulations and issuance schedule are included with this letter.

As per the regulatory requirement, hunters must send through US mail their antlerless deer license applications directly to County Treasurers. County Treasurers will issue antlerless deer licenses for any wildlife management unit (WMU) for licenses that remain in the allocation and are available by a First-Come, First-Served process, as noted in the regulations. Hunters can use the application panel included with a general hunting license purchase or application forms contained in the Digest, on the PGC website or *HuntFishPA* website. All these applications are valid and may be copied, but an original signature on the application is required.

Hunters should indicate their first, second and third WMU preference on the application. If the first WMU of choice is sold out, issuance of a license for the second WMU preference or third, will be applied by PALS based on license availability. One antlerless deer license can be issued per hunter in each of the first three antlerless deer rounds; one in first round Resident and first round Nonresident (combined round), one in first round unsold, and one in second round unsold totaling three antlerless licenses at the end of the second round unsold. However, once the over-the-counter round begins, hunters are permitted to purchase three more antlerless licenses or more so long as not exceeding **six active** antlerless deer licenses. During the over-the-counter sales hunters may continue to apply by mail or in person.

The **six active** antlerless license limit is a changing limit. Hunters who successfully harvest and report antlerless deer harvest(s) through *HuntFishPA* can reapply for additional antlerless deer license(s) to reach the **six active** antlerless deer licenses limit. Example: If the hunter is holding **six active** antlerless deer licenses, reports harvests on two of those licenses, that hunter can receive two additional antlerless licenses from the remaining allocation to reach the **six active** license limit. There is no limit for reporting and receiving more antlerless licenses, if a hunter continues to report antlerless deer harvests, hunter can continue to purchase antlerless deer licenses for up to **six active** antlerless. *HuntFishPA* automatically tracks allocations and monitors personal license limit so that hunters cannot be issued more active licenses than regulations allow.

All WMUs will be counted equally toward hunter's personal limit, including the special regulation WMUs. Hunters will not be receiving unlimited antlerless license sales for any WMU without first reporting harvests. As the hunter reports on harvests, hunter can reapply for more antlerless licenses so long as they do not hold more than the **six active** antlerless licenses at any time during the season.

The increase in personal limit does not apply to mentored permit holders. Mentored permit holders (over age 7 yrs.) can hold only **one** antlerless deer license in a license year and will not be able to harvest and repurchase antlerless licenses.

Please note the following:

- If you call the *HuntFishPA* Customer Support line for assistance, the Customer Support line will include a re-direct number specifically for County Treasurers for fast-tracking calls necessary for antlerless lottery issues.
- You must use the **zero-cost button** selection to process free replacements for antlerless deer licenses that are lost in the mail. If you utilize standard sales to process these free replacements, your account will be charged the standard replacement fee.
- PALS system performance is partially dependent on the speed of your internal network. You may want to check with your IT professionals to determine if there could be potential issues with your internal network speed that might affect PALS transactions during peak sales periods.
- Use of a computer not using a Windows operating system of 8.1 or higher is strictly prohibited since anything older than 8.1 is no longer supported by Microsoft and unsecure. If you are unsure of your operating system, please contact your IT professionals.
- Landowner antlerless deer licenses must be issued prior to the start of the regular application period, which begins July 12th this year. After July 11th, Landowner antlerless deer licenses are deactivated in PALS and no longer available for sale.

In closing, we ask that you carefully review these regulations with your staff. If you have any questions about the regulations, please contact the License Division at 717-787-2084 or the Bureau of Wildlife Protection at 717-787-5909.

If you have any problems with the PALS system, please contact the PALS Customer Support at 1-800-838-4431. Thank you.

Enclosures

cc: PGC Regional Offices
Game Wardens

2021 ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSE ISSUANCE SCHEDULE

Monday, June 14 (Initial Round) – First day of statewide hunting license sales. All Resident and Nonresident landowner antlerless deer license sales begin. Qualified landowners apply directly to the appropriate County Treasurer for a landowner antlerless deer license at any time prior to the license sales to the general public in July.

Antlerless deer licenses for resident active duty members of the US Armed Forces and Disabled Veterans receiving 100% rating from the Veterans Affairs Office are entitled to **one** guaranteed antlerless license in the WMU of their choice. These hunters can apply for the AF or DV Antlerless licenses at any time after the hunting license sales season for new license year begins, this year June 14. Confirmation of eligibility is required by each County Treasure Office. DV antlerless deer and AF antlerless license applications and sales begin to eligible applicants.

Beginning the first day of any antlerless deer hunting season (September 18, 2021 this license year), hunters can harvest and report harvest of antlerless deer through PALS or Customer Support call line and be granted sale of additional antlerless deer licenses to hold up to **six** active antlerless licenses through end of the antlerless deer license lottery. This process does not include mail-in harvest card reporting.

First-Come-First-Served License Issuance for Mail-in Period

Monday, July 12 (First Round, Resident) – First day resident antlerless deer license applications accepted by County Treasurers. Resident hunters can be awarded up to one antlerless deer license this round. (Mail Only)

Monday, July 19 (First Round, Nonresident) – First day nonresident antlerless deer license applications accepted by County Treasurers. Resident and nonresident hunters can be awarded up to one antlerless deer license in this round. (Mail Only)

Monday, August 2 (First Round Unsold) – If antlerless deer licenses remain available, County Treasurers begin accepting antlerless deer license applications from residents and nonresidents for unsold tags. Resident and nonresident hunters can be awarded up to two antlerless deer licenses in this round. (Mail Only)

Monday, August 16 (Second Round Unsold) – If antlerless deer licenses are still available, County Treasurers begin accepting antlerless deer license applications from residents and nonresidents for additional unsold tags. Resident and nonresident hunters can be awarded up to three antlerless deer licenses total during this round. (Mail Only)

Over-the-Counter Sales: Statewide

Monday, September 13 – County Treasurers begin accepting applications over-the-counter from residents and nonresidents for up to **six** antlerless deer licenses from the allocation of unsold tags in any WMU. In-person or by mail.

Mail-out Dates for Antlerless Deer Licenses

Monday, September 13 – Deadline for County Treasurers to mail successful applicants' licenses (regular and first round unsold).

Monday, September 28 – Deadline for County Treasurers to mail successful applicants' licenses (second round unsold and additional applications received by mail during OTC round).