



# Hunting

— UPDATE 2023 —



# Dear Neighbor:

Summer is coming to an end. Soon the temperatures will begin to drop, students will head back to school and hunters from across our state will enjoy one of Michigan's most time-honored traditions — a fall hunting trip. With an abundance of game animals and birds, there's something to interest every hunter.

Not only is hunting an important part of our history and culture here in Michigan, but the sport also provides a major boost to the state's economy. Many of our local businesses and communities depend on the hunters and other sportsmen who make hunting related purchases — like gear, clothing, reserving hotel rooms and buying meals — all year long. One study found that hunting contributes as much as **\$8.9 BILLION** to Michigan's economy, making it number one among the Great Lakes states.

I hope you find this hunting report useful as you plan this year's trip. It includes important dates, fees and program information to help make the most of the 2023 hunting season. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Best wishes for a safe and successful hunting season!

Sincerely,



STATE SENATOR

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# SENATE PASSES CHANGES TO DEER HARVESTING REPORTING

Last year, the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) mandated that deer hunters report a successful deer kill within 72 hours. Failing to do so would result in a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90-days or a fine up to \$500.

Hunters shouldn't face criminal charges for not reporting a deer harvest within 72 hours. Many deer camps have no internet or limited cell service to report a deer harvest.

The Senate passed a bill that would reduce that penalty to a civil infraction and lower the fine to a maximum of \$150.

Last year, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer vetoed a bipartisan bill that would have blocked the NRC from requiring hunters to report deer kills within 72 hours.

## A LOOK AHEAD TO THE 2023 SEASON

<b>LIBERTY HUNT</b> (Youth, Hunters with Disabilities) .....	Sept. 9-10
<b>EARLY ANTLERLESS FIREARM*</b> .....	Sept. 16-17
<b>INDEPENDENCE HUNT</b> (Hunters with Disabilities) .....	Oct. 19-22
<b>ARCHERY</b> .....	Oct. 1-Nov. 14 & Dec. 1-Jan. 1, 2024
<b>REGULAR FIREARM</b> .....	Nov. 15-30
<b>MUZZLELOADING</b> (Zones 1, 2 & 3) .....	Dec. 1-10
<b>LATE ANTLERLESS FIREARM*</b> .....	Dec. 11-Jan. 1, 2024

*\*See Antlerless Deer Digest*

Check the *2023 Michigan Hunting Digest* for information on these special hunts and other notes.

# GET IT DONE *Online*

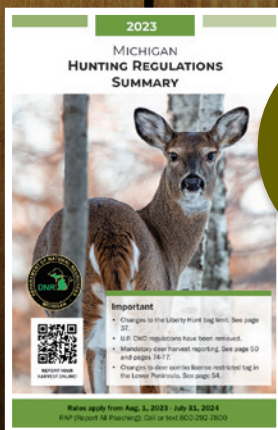
Many DNR services can be accessed online. The e-license program has been recently updated, making it easier to navigate and more compatible with mobile devices. It also features improved security details for online users.

By visiting **[MDNR-elicense.com](https://mdnr-elicense.com)**, residents can purchase a wide variety of MDNR licenses, including those for hunting, fishing or ORV use. License receipts can be downloaded to your handheld device for printing or screenshot for use in the field. You can view your purchase history for up to two years, as well as track your points and chances. Users also have quick access to helpful tools and special information about rules and regulations.

**[MDNR-elicense.com](https://mdnr-elicense.com)**

## MICHIGAN HUNTING DIGEST

Consult the *Michigan Hunting Digest* for major regulation changes, seasons, license information and more. This guide, along with other specialized hunting digests, is available online at **[Michigan.gov/DNRDigests](https://Michigan.gov/DNRDigests)**.



Contact my office to receive a

**FREE  
MICHIGAN  
HUNTING  
DIGEST**







## WHERE TO HUNT?

Whether you are new to hunting in Michigan or an experienced hunter looking to explore new areas, the DNR Mi-HUNT website can be a very useful tool. The site includes interactive maps designed to help hunters identify and navigate both public and private lands open for hunting. Information is up to date including ground cover, nearby recreational facilities, trails and more!

## WEAR HUNTER ORANGE

Hunters are required by law to wear hunter orange as the outermost layer of clothing at all times. Hunter orange garments, including camouflage, must be at least 50% hunter orange and be visible from all directions. Clothing options include a cap, hat, vest, jacket or raincoat and must remain on even if you are in a hunting blind. The DNR recommends wearing as much hunter orange as possible to increase visibility to other hunters.





# PURE MICHIGAN HUNT

The Pure Michigan Hunt offers three lucky winners the hunting opportunity of a lifetime — licenses to hunt elk, bear, spring and fall turkey and antlerless deer, and first pick at a managed waterfowl hunt area. The package also includes gifts and services worth thousands in prizes donated by Michigan companies and organizations.

All licenses are transferable — winners can keep licenses for themselves or transfer licenses to a friend or loved one. Pure Michigan Hunt applications are only \$5 each and there is no limit to the number of times you can apply.



Revenue from the Pure Michigan Hunt applications goes toward wildlife habitat restoration and management. In 2022, more than 27,000 applicants purchased nearly 77,000 applications. Applications for the 2023 contest are on sale until Dec. 31 are available online at [MDNR-elicense.com](https://www.michigan.gov/MDNR-elicense.com).



# HUNTER SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Before you can purchase a Michigan hunting license, anyone born after January 1, 1960, is required to complete a hunter safety class. Three options are available:

- A traditional classroom-based course and in-person field day (typically included as part of the classroom course).
- An online course and in-person field day.
- A take home study course and in-person field day.

Michigan also offers apprentice and mentor licenses that can be purchased without taking the hunter safety course. These

licenses allow young people and adults to try hunting for the first time while under the supervision of a licensed hunter.

For more information, visit [Michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/hunting/education](https://Michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/hunting/education).



## 2022 DEER HUNTING SEASON RECAP

For the 2022 season, 586,595 hunters purchased a deer license, and 303,087 deer were harvested. Sanilac County led the state with a reported 8,150 deer harvested, followed by Montcalm (8,103), Newaygo (7,422), Jackson (7,141) and Lapeer (6,976) counties. There were 182,586 deer reported harvested in the southern Lower Peninsula, 97,714 from the northern Lower Peninsula and 22,787 from the Upper Peninsula.

A majority, 56.76%, of the harvest reports were for antlered deer, with 172,044 bucks and 131,043 antlerless deer reported. There were 23,123 hunters who reported harvesting more than one buck.

