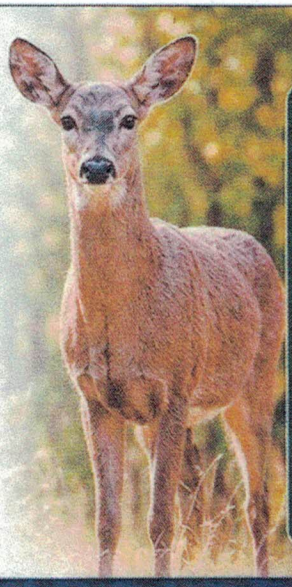
NEW FOR 2026

NEW HUNTING REGULATIONS

TO INCREASE HARVEST OF ANTLERLESS DEER

WHAT HUNTERS NEED TO KNOW



WHY THE CHANGE?

Deer populations are increasing in many areas of New York. Harvesting more antlerless (female) deer helps keep populations healthy, protects habitat, and keeps deer numbers at levels acceptable to everyone.

FOUR BIG CHANGES COMING IN 2026

1 EASIER TO GET DMPs

- Hunters can apply for up to **FOUR DMPs:** two in WMUs with limited DMPs and two in WMUs with unlimited DMPs.
- 19 additional WMUs now have unlimited DMPs. If you apply in these areas, you will receive a DMP.
- Harvest a doe in an unlimited DMP area? You'll get a **BONUS DMP** when you report it—so you can keep harvesting antlerless deer.
- DEC will adjust which WMUs have unlimited DMPs each year based on deer management needs.

More permits. More opportunity. More impact.

2 UNLIMITED DMP TRANSFERS

- Hunters can receive an unlimited number of DMPs transferred from other hunters.
- Only paper DMPs can be transferred.

Don't need your permit? Pass it on!

3 SEPTEMBER SEASON EXPANDED

- The special nine-day season for antlerless deer in mid-September is being expanded to 10 additional WMUs.
- More hunters will have an early opportunity to harvest a doe before the regular season.

More WMUs. More early opportunity.

4 EARN-A-2ND-BUCK (EA2B) SYSTEM

This is the biggest change! See full explanation below.

Harvest a doe. Earn a second buck tag.

THE NEW EARN-A-2ND-BUCK (EA2B) SYSTEM

BEFORE 2026

Hunters automatically received **TWO** buck tags with their license:

- Bow/Muzzleloader Either-Sex Tag
- Regular Season Deer Tag

BEGINNING IN 2026

You will receive **ONE** Antlered Deer Tag with your license.

TO EARN YOUR SECOND BUCK TAG:

1. Harvest an antlerless deer (doe) using a valid tag (DMP, Bow/Muzzleloader Antlerless Deer Tag, DMAP Tag, etc.).
2. Report your harvest.

You'll automatically receive your SECOND Antlered Deer Tag at no extra cost!

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

- **No extra fee.** Fees to apply for DMPs and earn your second buck tag remain unchanged.
- **Automatic.** Your second buck tag is issued automatically after your antlerless harvest is reported.
- **One second buck tag per year.** No matter how many does you harvest, you can earn only ONE.
- **Season restrictions.** Your second buck tag cannot be used during the September antlerless deer season.
- **Honesty matters.** DEC monitors harvest reports and may request proof of harvest to help prevent fraud.

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

For full details of the new regulations, visit DEC.NY.GOV

NEW FOR 2026
DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS



WHAT'S CHANGING?

DEC IS MAKING IT EASIER TO HUNT ANTLERLESS DEER
Stronger populations • Healthier habitat • Better balance

BEFORE 2026	VS.	STARTING IN 2026
BUCK TAGS Hunters automatically received **2 buck tags** with their license.		**BUCK TAGS** Hunters start with **1 buck tag.** Harvest and report an antlerless deer to automatically receive a **2nd buck tag.**
DMP APPLICATIONS Hunters could apply for up to **2 DMPs** through the lottery.		**DMP APPLICATIONS** Hunters can apply for up to **4 DMPs** each year: 2 in limited WMUs and 2 in unlimited WMUs.
UNLIMITED DMP AREAS Only 4 WMUs had unlimited DMPs: 1C, 3S, 4J, and 8C.		**UNLIMITED DMP AREAS** 23 WMUs now have unlimited DMPs. The list may change each year based on deer population needs.
AFTER USING A DMP Once you used a DMP, it was gone.		**BONUS DMPs** In unlimited DMP areas, after you harvest and report a doe, DEC issues another **Bonus DMP** so you can keep hunting. Used Bonus DMPs are also replaced.
DMP TRANSFERS Hunters could receive only **2 transferred DMPs** from others.		**DMP TRANSFERS** Hunters may receive an **unlimited number** of transferred DMPs from other hunters. (Paper DMPs only)
SEPTEMBER DOE SEASON Nine-day antlerless deer season in mid-September was available in **13 WMUs.**		**SEPTEMBER DOE SEASON** Expanded to **23 WMUs.** More hunters have an early opportunity to harvest a doe.
THE BOTTOM LINE Two buck tags were automatic. Fewer opportunities to harvest antlerless deer.		**THE BOTTOM LINE** Harvest a doe. Earn your **2nd buck tag.** **More permits. More opportunities. Better for deer management and our environment.**

THE NEW EARN-A-2ND-BUCK (EA2B) SYSTEM – SIMPLE AS 1, 2, 3

1. Start with **1 buck tag** with your license.
2. Harvest and report **1 doe** using a valid tag.
3. Automatically receive your **2nd buck tag** at no extra cost!

HUNT RESPONSIBLY. REPORT ACCURATELY.
DEC monitors harvest reports and may request proof if needed to prevent fraud. Help us keep New York's deer populations healthy for generations to come.

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LEARN MORE AT DEC.NY.GOV