

PROPOSED RULEMAKING

GAME COMMISSION

[58 PA. CODE CH. 139]

Seasons and Bag Limits

To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission (Commission) proposed at its January 27, 2024, meeting to amend § 139.4 (relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year) to provide updated seasons and bag limits for the 2024-2025 license year.

This proposed rulemaking will not have an adverse impact on the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth.

The authority for this proposed rulemaking is 34 Pa.C.S. (relating to Game and Wildlife Code) (code).

This proposed rulemaking was made public at the January 27, 2024, meeting of the Commission. Comments may be sent until April 3, 2024, to the Director, Information and Education, Game Commission, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797.

1. Purpose and Authority

To effectively manage the wildlife resources and provide hunting and trapping opportunities in this Commonwealth during the upcoming license year, the Commission is proposing to amend § 139.4 to provide updated seasons and bag limits for the 2024-2025 license year. The 2024-2025 seasons and bag limits have been amended to reflect current available scientific data, population and harvest records, field surveys and professional staff observations, as well as recommendations received from staff, organized sporting groups, members of the agricultural community and others interested in the management of the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth.

For small game, eligibility to participate in the early October pheasant season segment would be expanded to include mentored hunters of all ages, and the Executive Director would be provided with increased flexibility to authorize pheasant hunting within Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas.

For wild turkey, fall season length changes are proposed for numerous Wildlife Management Units (WMU) based on analysis of long-term turkey population trends and results of turkey hunter surveys. Season length would be increased in 11 WMUs and WMU 5A (previously closed to fall hunting) would be opened for a 3-day season. Season length would be reduced in 2 WMUs (3D and 4C).

For black bear, the October muzzleloader season is proposed to be shortened to 3 days to reduce harvest rates on female bears and thereby promote stabilization of the bear population.

For furbearers, WMU 2D is proposed to be opened to bobcat hunting and trapping because habitat and population data indicate that this unit can support sustainable bobcat harvest. Also, the fisher trapping season is proposed to be increased by 1 week in all WMUs open to fisher harvest to provide additional opportunity and to make fisher and bobcat trapping seasons concurrent.

No changes are proposed for elk or white-tailed deer seasons. However, it is likely that analysis of license sales and harvest data following the January meeting will indicate a need for additional antlerless deer hunting opportunity in Chronic Wasting Disease WMUs where antlerless license allocations did not sell out and/or antlerless harvest goals were not met in 2023-2024.

Section 322(c)(1) of the code (relating to powers and duties of commission) specifically empowers the Commission to “fix seasons, daily shooting or taking hours, and any modification thereof, and daily, season and possession limits for any species of game or wildlife.” Section 2102(b)(1) of the code (relating to regulations) authorizes the Commission to “promulgate regulations relating to seasons and bag limits for hunting or furtaking. . . .” The amendments to § 139.4 are proposed under this authority.

2. Regulatory Requirements

This proposed rulemaking will amend § 139.4 to provide updated seasons and bag limits for the 2024-2025 hunting/furtaking license year.

3. Persons Affected

Persons wishing to hunt or trap game or wildlife within this Commonwealth during the 2024-2025 hunting/furtaking license year will be affected by this proposed rulemaking.

4. Cost and Paperwork Requirements

This proposed rulemaking should not result in any additional cost or paperwork.

5. Effective Date

The effective dates of this proposed rulemaking are July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

6. Contact Person

For further information regarding this proposed rulemaking, contact Jason L. DeCoskey, Director, Bureau of Wildlife Protection, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797, (717) 783-6526.

BRYAN J. BURHANS,
Executive Director

Fiscal Note: 48-506. No fiscal impact; recommends adoption.

Annex A

TITLE 58. RECREATION

PART III. GAME COMMISSION

CHAPTER 139. SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

(Editor’s Note: As part of this proposed rulemaking, the Commission is proposing to replace the table which appears in 58 Pa. Code § 139.4, pages 139-3—139-23, serial pages (414497)—(414517), with the following table.)

§ 139.4 Seasons and bag limits for the license year.

2024-2025 OPEN HUNTING AND FURTAKING SEASONS, DAILY LIMIT, FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT AND SEASON LIMIT OPEN SEASON INCLUDES FIRST AND LAST DATES LISTED

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Daily Limit</i>	<i>Field Possession Limit After Second day</i>
<i>Squirrel</i> —(Combined species) ¹ Eligible Junior Hunters only, with or without the required junior license	Sept. 14		Sept. 28	6	18
<i>Squirrel</i> —(Combined species) ²	Sept. 14 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Dec. 16 Dec. 26	and and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Dec. 24 Feb. 28, 2025	6	18
<i>Ruffed Grouse</i> ²	Oct. 19 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Dec. 16	and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Dec. 24	2	6
<i>Rabbit, Cottontail</i> ¹ Eligible Junior Hunters only, with or without the required junior license	Oct. 5		Oct. 19	4	12
<i>Rabbit, Cottontail</i> ²	Oct. 19 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Dec. 16 Dec. 26	and and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Dec. 24 Feb. 28, 2025	4	12
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant</i> Central Susquehanna and Franklin County Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas <i>Male only</i> ¹	As authorized by the Executive Order				
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant—Male or Female</i> ¹ Junior License Holders and Mentored Permit Holders ⁹	Oct. 12		Oct. 19	2	6
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant—Male or Female</i> ²	Oct. 26 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 18	and and	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23	2	6

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Daily Limit</i>	<i>Field Possession Limit After Second day</i>
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Dec. 16 Dec. 26	and and and and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Dec. 24 Feb. 28, 2025		
<i>Bobwhite Quail</i> —There is no open season for the taking of bobwhite quail in the area surrounding the Letterkenny Bobwhite Quail Focus Area, as designated in § 141.30 (relating to bobwhite quail recovery area).					
<i>Bobwhite Quail</i> ²	Sept. 2 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Dec. 16 Dec. 26	and and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Dec. 24 Mar. 31, 2025	Unlimited	
<i>Snowshoe or Varying Hare</i> ¹	Dec. 26		Jan. 1, 2025	1	3
<i>Woodchuck (Groundhog)</i> ²	July 1 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Dec. 16	and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 June 30, 2025	Unlimited	
<i>Crow</i> ³ (Hunting permitted on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday only)	Aug. 22		Mar. 23, 2025	Unlimited	
<i>Starling and English Sparrow</i> ³	No closed season, except season closed during the regular firearms deer seasons.			Unlimited	

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

Except as further restricted by this chapter, the seasons, bag limits, hunting hours and hunting regulations for migratory game birds shall conform to regulations adopted by the United States Secretary of the Interior under authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C.A. §§ 703—712) as published in the *Federal Register* on or about February 28 of each year. Exceptions:

- (a) Hunting hours in § 141.4 (relating to hunting hours).
- (b) Nontoxic shot as approved by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is required for use Statewide in hunting and taking of migratory waterfowl.
- (c) Hunting on Sunday not authorized.¹

WILD TURKEY

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Daily Limit</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
<i>Turkey, Fall—Male or Female</i> ¹				1	1

PROPOSED RULEMAKING

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Daily Limit</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
WMUs 1A, 2G, 3A, 4A, 4B and 4D WMUs 1B, 3D, 4C and 4E WMUs 2A, 2F, 3B and 3C	Nov. 2		Nov. 16		
	Nov. 2		Nov. 9		
	Nov. 2		Nov. 16		
		and			
	Nov. 27		Nov. 29		
WMUs 2B, 2C, 2D and 2E	Nov. 2		Nov. 22		
		and			
	Nov. 27		Nov. 29		
WMUs 5A and 5B	Nov. 2		Nov. 5		
WMUs 5C and 5D	Closed to fall turkey hunting				
<i>Turkey, Spring</i> ¹ Bearded Bird only, Eligible Junior Hunters only, with the required junior license	Apr. 26, 2025		Apr. 26, 2025	1	1
<i>Turkey, Spring</i> ^{1, 4} Bearded Bird only				1	2
	May 3, 2025		May 17, 2025	May be hunted 1/2 hour before sunrise to 12 noon	
		and			
	May 19, 2024		May 31, 2025	May be hunted 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	

FALCONRY

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Daily Limit</i>	<i>Field Possession Limit After Second day</i>
<i>Squirrel</i> —(Combined species) ²	Sept. 2		Nov. 16	6	18
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		
	Nov. 18	and	Nov. 23		
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
	Nov. 25	and	Nov. 30		
	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	and	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1		
	Dec. 2	and	Mar. 31, 2025		
<i>Quail</i> ²	Sept. 2		Nov. 16	Unlimited	
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		
	Nov. 18	and	Nov. 23		
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
	Nov. 25	and	Nov. 30		
	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	and	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1		
	Dec. 2	and	Mar. 31, 2025		
<i>Ruffed Grouse</i> ²	Sept. 2		Nov. 16	2	6
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		
	Nov. 18	and	Nov. 23		

PROPOSED RULEMAKING

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Daily Limit</i>	<i>Field Possession Limit After Second day</i>
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Dec. 2	and and and and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 30 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Mar. 31, 2025		
<i>Cottontail Rabbits</i> ²	Sept. 2 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Dec. 2	and and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 30 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Mar. 31, 2025	4	12
<i>Snowshoe or Varying Hare</i> ²	Sept. 2 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Dec. 2	and and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 30 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Mar. 31, 2025	1	3
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant—Male² and Female (Combined)</i>	Sept. 2 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Dec. 2	and and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 30 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Mar. 31, 2025	2	6
<i>Mink, Muskrat, Fox, Opossum, Raccoon, Striped Skunk and Weasel</i> ²	Sept. 2 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Dec. 2	and and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 30 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Mar. 31, 2025	Unlimited	
<i>Migratory Game Bird</i> ¹ —Seasons and bag limits shall be in accordance with Federal regulations.					

PROPOSED RULEMAKING

WHITE-TAILED DEER

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
<i>Deer, Archery (Antlered and Antlerless)</i> ^{2,5} With the required archery license WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Sept. 21 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Dec. 26	and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Jan. 25, 2025	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Archery (Antlered and Antlerless)</i> ^{2,5} With the required archery license WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B	Oct. 5 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Dec. 26	and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 22 Jan. 20, 2025	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Muzzleloading (Antlerless only)</i> ¹ With the required muzzleloading license	Oct. 19		Oct. 26	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Special firearms (Antlerless only)</i> Only Junior and Senior License Holders ⁶ Mentored Permit Holders ⁹ , Commission Disabled Person Permit Holders (to use a vehicle as a blind), and Residents serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces or United States Coast Guard	Oct. 24		Oct. 26	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Regular Firearms (Antlered and Antlerless)</i> ^{2,5} Statewide	Nov. 30 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Dec. 2	and and	Nov. 30 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Dec. 14	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Flintlock (Antlered or Antlerless)</i> ^{1,5} With the required muzzleloading license WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4E, 5A and 5B	Dec. 26		Jan. 20, 2025	One antlered or one antlerless deer, plus an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Flintlock (Antlered or Antlerless)</i> ^{1,5} With the required muzzleloading license WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Dec. 26		Jan. 25, 2025	One antlered or one antlerless deer, plus an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Extended Regular firearms (Antlerless)</i> ¹ WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Dec. 26		Jan. 25, 2025	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Antlerless</i> ¹ (Letterkenny Army Depot, Franklin County and New Cumberland Army Depot, York County and Fort Detrick, Raven Rock Site, Adams County)	Hunting is permitted on days established by the United States Department of the Army.			An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

BLACK BEAR

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
<i>Bear, Archery</i> ^{2, 7} WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Sept. 21 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 25	and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 29	1
<i>Bear, Archery</i> ^{2, 7} WMU 5B	Oct. 5 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 18	and and	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 22	1
<i>Bear, Archery</i> ^{1, 7} WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 5A	Oct. 19		Nov. 9	1
<i>Bear, Muzzleloader</i> ^{1, 7} (Statewide)	Oct. 24		Oct. 26	1
<i>Bear, Special firearms</i> ⁷ Only Junior and Senior License Holders ⁶ , Mentored Permit Holders ⁹ , Commission Disabled Person Permit Holders (to use a vehicle as a blind), and Residents serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces, or in the United States Coast Guard (Statewide)	Oct. 24		Oct. 26	1
<i>Bear, Regular Firearms</i> ^{2, 7} (Statewide)	Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 25	and and	Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 26	1
<i>Bear, Extended firearms</i> ^{2, 7} WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C and 5D	Nov. 30 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Dec. 2	and and	Nov. 30 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Dec. 14	1
<i>Bear, Extended firearms</i> ^{2, 7} WMUs 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4E and 5A	Nov. 30 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Dec. 2	and	Nov. 30 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Dec. 7	1 .

ELK

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
<i>Elk, Special Conservation Tag</i> ^{1, 8} and <i>Special-License Tag</i> ^{1, 8} (Antlered and Antlerless)	Sept. 2		Nov. 9	1
<i>Elk, Archery</i> ^{1, 8} (Antlered and Antlerless)	Sept. 14		Sept. 28	1

PROPOSED RULEMAKING

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
<i>Elk, Regular</i> ^{1, 8} (<i>Antlered and Antlerless</i>)	Nov. 4		Nov. 9	1
<i>Elk, Late</i> ^{1, 8} (<i>Antlered and Antlerless</i>)	Dec. 28		Jan. 4, 2025	1

FURTAKING—TRAPPING

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Daily Limit</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
<i>Mink and Muskrat</i>	Nov. 23		Jan. 12, 2025	Unlimited	
<i>Beaver</i>	Dec. 21		Mar. 31, 2025		
WMUs 1A and 1B (Combined)				20	60
WMUs 2A, 2B and 3C (Combined)				20	40
WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 3A, 3B, 3D, 5C and 5D (Combined)				20	20
WMUs 2G, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B (Combined)				5	5

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
<i>Coyote, Fox, Opossum, Raccoon, Striped Skunk and Weasel</i>	Oct. 26		Feb. 23, 2025	Unlimited
<i>Coyote and Fox</i> Use of cable restraint devices authorized with required certification	Dec. 26		Feb. 23, 2025	Unlimited
<i>Bobcat, with required bobcat permit</i> WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Dec. 21		Jan. 12, 2025	1
<i>Fisher, with required fisher permit</i> WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Dec. 21		Jan. 12, 2025	1
<i>River Otter, with required otter permit</i> WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3B, 3C, 3D and 4E	Feb. 15, 2025		Feb. 22, 2025	1

FURTAKING—HUNTING

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Daily Limit</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
<i>Coyote—(Outside of any big game season)</i> ³	May be taken with a hunting license or a furtaker’s license.			Unlimited	
<i>Coyote—(During any big game season)</i>	May be taken while lawfully hunting big game or with a furtaker’s license.			Unlimited	
<i>Opossum, Striped Skunk, Weasel</i> ²	July 1 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. ³ Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Dec. 2	and and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 30 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 June 30, 2025	Unlimited May be hunted any hour, day or night, on open dates from July 1—Nov. 29 and Dec. 15—June 30, 2025. May only be hunted from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise from Nov. 30—Dec. 14.	

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Daily Limit</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
<i>Fox</i> ³	Oct. 26		Feb. 22, 2025	Unlimited May be hunted any hour, day or night, from Oct. 26—Nov. 29 and Dec. 15—Feb. 22, 2025. May only be hunted from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise from Nov. 30—Dec. 14.	
<i>Raccoon</i> ²	Oct. 26 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Dec. 2	and and and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 30 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Feb. 22, 2025	Unlimited May be hunted any hour, day or night, on open dates from Oct. 26—Nov. 29 and Dec. 15—Feb. 22, 2025. May only be hunted from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise from Nov. 30—Dec. 14.	
<i>Bobcat, with required bobcat permit</i> ¹ WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Jan. 11, 2025		Feb. 5, 2025	1	1
<i>Porcupine</i> ²	Oct. 12 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Dec. 16 Dec. 26	and and and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Dec. 24 Feb. 1, 2025	3	10

No open seasons on other wild birds or wild mammals.

¹ No hunting on Sunday authorized. See 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303 (relating to hunting on Sunday prohibited).

² Hunting on Sunday authorized on separately delineated Sunday dates only. See 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303.

³ Hunting on Sunday is authorized. See 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303.

⁴ Only persons who possess a special wild turkey license as provided for in 34 Pa.C.S. § 2709 (relating to license costs and fees) may take a second spring gobbler during the hunting license year; all other persons, including mentored youth hunters, may take only one spring gobbler. A maximum of 2 spring gobblers per license year may be taken by any combination of licenses or exceptions for mentored youth.

⁵ Only one antlered deer (buck) may be taken during the hunting license year.

⁶ Includes resident and nonresident license holders who have reached or will reach their 65th birthday in the year of the application for the license and hold a valid adult license or qualify for license and fee exemptions under 34 Pa.C.S. § 2706 (relating to resident license and fee exemptions).

⁷ Only one bear may be taken during the hunting license year with the required bear license.

⁸ Only one elk may be taken during the hunting license year with the required elk license.

⁹ Includes mentored youth and mentored adults with a valid mentored hunter permit issued under Chapter 147, Subchapter X (relating to Mentored Hunting Program permit).

GAME COMMISSION

[58 PA. CODE CH. 141]

Hunting and Trapping; General

To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission (Commission) proposed at its January 27, 2024, meeting to amend § 141.4, Appendix G (relating to hunting hours) to replace the current hunting hours table and migratory bird hunting hours table to accurately reflect the dates and hours of legal hunting for the 2024-2025 hunting/trapping license year.

This proposed rulemaking will not have an adverse impact on the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth.

The authority for this proposed rulemaking is 34 Pa.C.S. (relating to Game and Wildlife Code) (code).

This proposed rulemaking was made public at the January 27, 2024, meeting of the Commission. Comments may be sent until April 3, 2024, to the Director, Information and Education, Game Commission, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797.

1. Purpose and Authority

The Commission is proposing to amend § 141.4, Appendix G, by replacing the current hunting hours table and migratory bird hunting hours table to accurately reflect the dates and hours of legal hunting for the 2024-2025 hunting/trapping license year.

Section 2102(a) of the code (relating to regulations) provides that “[t]he commission shall promulgate such regulations as it deems necessary and appropriate concerning game or wildlife and hunting or furtaking in this Commonwealth, including regulations relating to the protection, preservation and management of game or wildlife and game or wildlife habitat, permitting or prohibiting hunting or furtaking, the ways, manner, methods and means of hunting or furtaking, and the health and safety of persons who hunt or take wildlife or may be in the vicinity of persons who hunt or take game or wildlife in this Commonwealth.” The amendments to § 141.4, Appendix G, are proposed under this authority.

2. Regulatory Requirements

This proposed rulemaking will amend § 141.4, Appendix G, to replace the current hunting hours table and

migratory bird hunting hours table to accurately reflect the dates and hours of legal hunting for the 2024-2025 hunting/trapping license year.

3. Persons Affected

Persons wishing to hunt or trap game or wildlife within this Commonwealth during the 2024-2025 hunting/ furtaking license year will be affected by this proposed rulemaking.

4. Cost and Paperwork Requirements

This proposed rulemaking should not result in any additional cost or paperwork.

5. Effective Date

The effective dates of this proposed rulemaking are July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

6. Contact Person

For further information regarding this proposed rulemaking, contact Jason L. DeCoskey, Director, Bureau of Wildlife Protection, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797, (717) 783-6526.

BRYAN J. BURHANS,
Executive Director

Fiscal Note: 48-507. No fiscal impact; recommends adoption.

Annex A

TITLE 58. RECREATION

PART III. GAME COMMISSION

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter A. GENERAL

(Editor’s Note: As part of this proposed rulemaking, the Commission is proposing to replace the table which appears in 58 Pa. Code Chapter 141, Appendix G, pages 141-37—141-41, serial pages (414541)—(414545), with the following table.)

§ 141.4. Hunting hours.

Except as otherwise provided, wild birds and mammals may be hunted 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

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Appendix G. HUNTING HOURS

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HUNTING HOURS TABLE FOR JULY 1, 2024, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025					
<i>Dates</i>	<i>Begin A.M.</i>	<i>End P.M.</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Begin A.M.</i>	<i>End P.M.</i>
July 1—6	5:06	9:02	Jan. 5—11	6:52	5:20
July 7—13	5:13	8:59	Jan. 12—18	6:51	5:27
July 14—20	5:19	8:54	Jan. 19—25	6:48	5:34
July 21—27	5:25	8:48	Jan. 26—Feb. 1	6:43	5:43
July 28—Aug. 3	5:31	8:41	Feb. 2—8	6:37	5:51
Aug. 4—10	5:38	8:33	Feb. 9—15	6:30	5:59
Aug. 11—17	5:44	8:23	Feb. 16—22	6:21	6:08
Aug. 18—24	5:51	8:13	Feb. 23—Mar. 1	6:12	6:16
Aug. 25—31	5:58	8:02	Mar. 2—8	6:01	6:23

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Begin A.M.</i>	<i>End P.M.</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Begin A.M.</i>	<i>End P.M.</i>
Sept. 1—7	6:04	7:51	Mar. 9—15 *Begins	6:51	7:31
Sept. 8—14	6:11	7:40	Mar. 16—22	6:40	7:38
Sept. 15—21	6:17	7:28	Mar. 23—29	6:28	7:46
Sept. 22—28	6:24	7:16	Mar. 30—Apr. 5	6:17	7:53
Sept. 29—Oct. 5	6:31	7:05	Apr. 6—12	6:06	8:00
Oct. 6—12	6:38	6:54	Apr. 13—19	5:55	8:07
Oct. 13—19	6:45	6:44	Apr. 20—26	5:45	8:14
Oct. 20—26	6:53	6:34	Apr. 27—May 3	5:35	8:21
Oct. 27—Nov. 2	7:01	6:26	May 4—10	5:26	8:28
Nov. 3—9 **Ends	6:09	5:19	May 11—17	5:19	8:35
Nov. 10—16	6:17	5:13	May 18—24	5:12	8:42
Nov. 17—23	6:25	5:08	May 25—31	5:07	8:48
Nov. 24—30	6:32	5:06	June 1—7	5:03	8:53
Dec. 1—7	6:39	5:05	June 8—14	5:01	8:57
Dec. 8—14	6:44	5:06	June 15—21	5:01	9:01
Dec. 15—21	6:49	5:09	June 22—28	5:02	9:03
Dec. 22—28	6:51	5:13	June 29—30	5:04	9:03
Dec. 29—Jan. 4	6:52	5:19			

Daylight Saving Time:
 Begins*
 Ends**

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING HOURS TABLE FOR JULY 1, 2024, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025					
<i>Dates</i>	<i>Begin A.M.</i>	<i>End P.M.</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Begin A.M.</i>	<i>End P.M.</i>
July 1—6	5:06	8:32	Jan. 5—11	6:52	4:50
July 7—13	5:13	8:29	Jan. 12—18	6:51	4:47
July 14—20	5:19	8:24	Jan. 19—25	6:48	5:04
July 21—27	5:25	8:18	Jan. 26—Feb. 1	6:43	5:13
July 28—Aug. 3	5:31	8:11	Feb. 2—8	6:37	5:21
Aug. 4—10	5:38	8:03	Feb. 9—15	6:30	5:29
Aug. 11—17	5:44	7:53	Feb. 16—22	6:21	5:38
Aug. 18—24	5:51	7:43	Feb. 23—Mar. 1	6:12	5:46
Aug. 25—31	5:58	7:32	Mar. 2—8	6:01	5:53
Sept. 1—7	6:04	7:21	Mar. 9—15 *Begins	6:51	7:01
Sept. 8—14	6:11	7:10	Mar. 16—22	6:40	7:08
Sept. 15—21	6:17	6:58	Mar. 23—29	6:28	7:16
Sept. 22—28	6:24	6:46	Mar. 30—Apr. 5	6:17	7:37
Sept. 29—Oct. 5	6:31	6:35	Apr. 6—12	6:06	7:30
Oct. 6—12	6:38	6:24	Apr. 13—19	5:55	7:37
Oct. 13—19	6:45	6:14	Apr. 20—26	5:45	7:44
Oct. 20—26	6:53	6:04	Apr. 27—May 3	5:35	7:51
Oct. 27—Nov. 2	7:01	5:56	May 4—10	5:26	7:58
Nov. 3—9 **Ends	6:09	4:49	May 11—17	5:19	8:05
Nov. 10—16	6:17	4:43	May 18—24	5:12	8:12
Nov. 17—23	6:25	4:38	May 25—31	5:07	8:18
Nov. 24—30	6:32	4:36	June 1—7	5:03	8:23
Dec. 1—7	6:39	4:35	June 8—14	5:01	8:27
Dec. 8—14	6:44	4:36	June 15—21	5:01	8:37

Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.	Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.
Dec. 15—21	6:49	4:39	June 22—28	5:02	8:33
Dec. 22—28	6:51	4:43	June 29—30	5:04	8:33
Dec. 29—Jan. 4	6:52	4:49			

Daylight Saving Time:
 Begins*
 Ends**

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 24-341. Filed for public inspection March 15, 2024, 9:00 a.m.]

GAME COMMISSION

[58 PA. CODE CH. 141]

Hunting and Trapping; Small Game

To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission (Commission) proposed at its January 27, 2024, meeting to amend § 141.28 (relating to wild pheasant recovery areas) to eliminate age restriction and permit requirements and provide the Director the authority to annually designate wild pheasant recovery areas (WPRAs) to be opened to hunting and establish appropriate season dates and bag limits.

This proposed rulemaking will not have an adverse impact on the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth.

The authority for this proposed rulemaking is 34 Pa.C.S. (relating to Game and Wildlife Code) (code).

This proposed rulemaking was made public at the January 27, 2024, meeting of the Commission. Comments may be sent until April 3, 2024, to the Director, Information and Education, Game Commission, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797.

1. Purpose and Authority

Pheasant hunting within a WPRAs is currently limited to youth participants who are authorized by permit to hunt in designated pheasant hunt zones within the Central Susquehanna WPRAs only. Youth participants are selected for WPRAs hunting access permits through a raffle conducted by the Commission. The Commission has determined that these restrictions are no longer necessary because the biological impacts of hunting on wild pheasant populations can be adequately controlled by limiting harvest to male pheasants and by following an annual executive order process specifying whether a season is to be opened and, if opened, the season length and bag limit that will apply. Therefore, the Commission is proposing to amend § 141.28 to eliminate age restriction and permit requirements and provide the Director the authority to annually designate WPRAs to be opened to hunting and establish appropriate season dates and bag limits. As a result of this regulatory change, all individuals eligible to hunt pheasants Statewide would also be allowed to participate in pheasant hunting within WPRAs, subject to landowner permission.

Section 322(c)(4) of the code (relating to powers and duties of commission) specifically authorizes the Commission to “[d]efine geographic limitations or restrictions.” Section 2102(c) of the code (relating to regulations) directs that “[t]he commission shall promulgate regulations concerning the transportation, introduction into the wild, importation, exportation, sale, offering for sale or purchase of game or wildlife or the disturbing of game or wildlife in their natural habitat.” Section 2102(a) of the

code provides that “[t]he commission shall promulgate such regulations as it deems necessary and appropriate concerning game or wildlife and hunting or furtaking in this Commonwealth, including regulations relating to the protection, preservation and management of game or wildlife and game or wildlife habitat, permitting or prohibiting hunting or furtaking, the ways, manner, methods and means of hunting or furtaking, and the health and safety of persons who hunt or take wildlife or may be in the vicinity of persons who hunt or take game or wildlife in this Commonwealth.” The amendments to § 141.28 are proposed under this authority.

2. Regulatory Requirements

This proposed rulemaking will amend § 141.28 to eliminate age restriction and permit requirements and provide the Director the authority to annually designate WPRAs to be opened to hunting and establish appropriate season dates and bag limits. As a result of this regulatory change, all individuals eligible to hunt pheasants Statewide would also be allowed to participate in pheasant hunting within WPRAs, subject to landowner permission.

3. Persons Affected

Persons concerned with hunting pheasants in any area designated as a WPRAs within this Commonwealth will be affected by this proposed rulemaking.

4. Cost and Paperwork Requirements

This proposed rulemaking should not result in any additional cost or paperwork.

5. Effective Date

This proposed rulemaking will be effective upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* and will remain in effect until changed by the Commission.

6. Contact Person

For further information about this proposed rulemaking, contact Jason L. DeCoskey, Director, Bureau of Wildlife Protection, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797, (717) 783-6526.

BRYAN J. BURHANS,
Executive Director

Fiscal Note: 48-505. No fiscal impact; recommends adoption.

Annex A

TITLE 58. RECREATION

PART III. GAME COMMISSION

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter B. SMALL GAME

§ 141.28. Wild pheasant recovery areas.

* * * * *

(b) *Prohibitions.* It is unlawful to:

(1) Release artificially propagated pheasants any time within any area designated as a WPRAs.

(2) Hunt pheasants within any area designated as a WPRA, except the Director may authorize limited [youth] pheasant hunting opportunities [by Commission-issued access permit in the Central Susquehanna WPRA] in one or more WPRA's. During any year [youth] pheasant hunting opportunities are authorized in [the Central Susquehanna WPRA] one or more WPRA's, the Director will [establish the number of hunting access permits to be issued, a manner of distribution for a limited number of access permits to be raffled off by an organization promoting pheasant recovery efforts within this Commonwealth, and designate one or more pheasant hunt zones within the WPRA prior to the opening of the earliest established youth pheasant season. The Director or a designee will establish the application deadline and the date, time and location for the random drawing of applications for the issuance of any remaining limited youth pheasant hunting access permits within the Central Susquehanna WPRA. Limited youth pheasant hunting access permits are not transferrable. A pheasant hunting access permit shall be signed and carried on person when hunting or taking pheasants within the Central Susquehanna WPRA.] designate the WPRA's where the season will be established, the dates of the season and the daily bag limit.

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 24-342. Filed for public inspection March 15, 2024, 9:00 a.m.]

MILK BOARD

Amendment to 7 Pa. Code Chapter 150; Milk Marketing Fees; Notice of Hearing

The Milk Board (Board) will conduct a public hearing on April 3, 2024, beginning at 1:15 p.m. by means of teleconference at (267) 332-8737. The conference ID is 132 214 170.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony and comments regarding proposed amendments to 7 Pa. Code Chapter 150 (relating to milk marketing fees).

Interested persons who wish to offer testimony or comments shall provide to the Board notification of their desire to participate. Notices do not need to be formal and may be filed electronically to deberly@pa.gov or by filing at the Board office at Milk Board, Room 108, Agriculture Building, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110 by 2 p.m. on March 29, 2024.

A draft of the proposed amendments is available on the Board's web site at <https://www.pmb.pa.gov/Public%20Hearings/Pages/Other-Public-Hearings.aspx>.

BETSY ALBRIGHT,
Secretary

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 24-343. Filed for public inspection March 15, 2024, 9:00 a.m.]