

Waterfowl And Bag Limits Set

Waterfowl seasons and bag limits for 1969 were announced this week by the Pennsylvania Game Commission within frameworks set up by the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

The season for ducks, coots and mergansers will open on October 11 and close on December 6. The season for geese and brant will open on October 4, except in Crawford and Erie counties, where the season on geese and brant will not open until October 11. The season on brant will close December 12 on geese December 19.

Overall bag limits on ducks and coots generally correspond with those of last year, but the bag limits on Canada geese is increased. The daily bag limit for ducks will be three, with a possession limit of six after the first day. Hunters may take ten coots daily, with a possession limit of twenty. The limit on mergansers is five daily and ten in possession.

Three geese may be taken per day except in Crawford County, where the daily limit is one. The possession limit on geese is six. The daily and possession limit for brant is six.

Again this year, hunters will have to be especially careful about the species of waterfowl they shoot.

A hunter may not harvest more than two wood ducks per day, and he may not have more than two wood ducks in his possession at any time after the opening day.

A hunter may not harvest more than one canvasback, or one redhead in his possession at any time. If a hunter has harvested or possesses a canvasback he may not harvest or possess a redhead, and if he has taken or possesses a redhead he may not take or possess a canvasback.

A hunter may not harvest more than one black duck daily this year, and he may not have more than two of the species in his possession.

Although the daily limit on mergansers is five with a possession limit of ten, not more than one hooded merganser may be taken daily, and the possession limit on hooded mergansers is two.

During the regular duck season, the scaup duck bonus of

two additional scaup in the daily bag and four in possession will apply only to the waters of Lake Erie and Presque Isle Bay.

Federal frameworks for waterfowl seasons are not as restrictive this year as last. Some species of waterfowl are in better supply, but the overall improvement is not great. The black duck, canvasback and redhead restrictions are indicative of continuing depressed populations of these important species.

Highway users pay for the roads with road-use taxes such as gas tax (4 cents federal and 7 cents state), registration fees, driver license fees.

A stationery engine is a device that grinds out letters all day — better known as a secretary.

Pa. Timothy Seed Crop Down 27%

Timothy seed production in Pennsylvania is expected to total 805,000 pounds, down 27 percent from last year but one-third greater than the 1963-67 average.

Growth of all hay crops was rapid during the spring and early summer. Adequate moisture supplies contributed to good hay yields, and although conditions for baling were not the best during July farmers did store sizeable tonnages of hay. Since hay supplies are abundant, farmers again left sizeable acreages of timothy for seed production. The heavy rains during the last week of July washed ripe timothy seed out of the heads, therefore reducing the acreage for harvest. Much of the timothy seed harvested came from later maturing stands. The yield averaged 115 pounds of clean seed per acre up 5 pounds from last year and the same as the 5-year average.

Sheep Management

Good sheep management practice at this time of the year will have an influence on the kind of a lamb crop received next spring. The flushing of the breeding ewe flock is strongly recommended two to three weeks before the breeding period. To have the ewes in a gaining condition at the time of breeding will usually result in a larger number of twin lambs. Many good sheepmen will turn their ewes into a flush grass pasture for this period, or give them 1 to 2 pounds of extra grain per head per day. The goal of every sheepman should be to raise 2 lambs per ewe. This is very seldom accomplished.

The 7,000 acres harvested for seed is one-third below the 1968 acreage.

Harvest began in late July, just following the heavy rains. This is about the normal time of timothy seed harvest in Pennsylvania.

Pa. Mushroom Yield Continues Increase

Production of mushrooms in Pennsylvania during the period of July 1, 1968 to June 30, 1969 totaled 121 million pounds, or 7 percent above the 113 million pounds for the previous year. The average yield of 25 pounds per square foot was up slightly from the 2.4 pounds a year earlier.

The Keystone State accounted for 64 percent of the Nation's production. The Pennsylvania crop valued at \$42,474,000 up from the previous year's value of \$37,697,000, is the leading cash crop in the State. About 73 percent of the total production was sold to processors with the remaining 27 percent going to the fresh market.

Intentions for the period July 1, 1969 to June 30, 1970 show an increase of 1 percent over the 48.8 million square feet of fillings for the past growing season.

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