

1972-73 Hunting Seasons, Bag Limits Established

Pennsylvania hunters will have their first chance ever to hunt hen pheasants this year in a limited portion of the state, according to a report from the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

For the first time since 1915 they will be able to harvest two wild turkeys during a single hunting license year, one in the fall and a second in the spring.

And season limits for most small game species will give way to possession limits in 1972.

These are among major changes made by the Game Commission in establishing 1972-73 hunting seasons and bag limits.

This year's regular four-week archery deer season will open on Saturday, September 30; the two-week early small game season will start on Saturday, October 14; and the four-week general small game season will begin on Saturday, October 28.

In another break with tradition,

the Game Commission has established a tentative season for bears on November 20 and 21. If data collected and analyzed this summer show that a bruin season might cut into the basic breeding stock, the season may be cancelled. A decision will be announced before Labor Day.

The two-week antlered deer season will open on Monday, November 27; a two-day antlerless deer season will be held on Monday and Tuesday, December 11 and 12; and the winter small game and archery deer seasons will begin on December 26 and close on January 13.

Several other changes were also made from the 1971-72 seasonal setup.

Antlerless deer license allocations for the state were lowered, the closed portion of the state during the winter archery deer season was eliminated, the mink and muskrat trapping season was shortened, and an extra hour was added to the daily hunting schedule during the spring gobbler season.

Most of the upper one-third of Pennsylvania does not have self-sustaining pheasant populations. For years only male pheasants have been stocked in portions of 21 northern counties. By liberating hens in this area and making them legal game, an economic saving in game farm operations can be realized.

It is apparent that season limits on small game species are virtually unenforceable, and that hunters use these limits as goals. So the Game Commission established possession limits for small game, with the exception of turkeys and hares. Small game possession limits will be double the daily limit.

Although Pennsylvania's deer herd is growing dangerously large again in some areas, the number of antlerless licenses allocated was reduced in 1972. Since more than one antlerless license could be issued to a

hunter in the past, while there will be only one to a hunter this year, the number of deer harvested should be relatively comparable in 1971 and 1972.

By law, the Commission now can open or close seasons or areas quickly, so the late archery season can be curtailed in any region should weather or other conditions warrant the action.

Last year there was an especially high harvest of muskrats, and to protect the basic breeding stock a shorter

season was established, beginning on Thanksgiving Day.

Since the five spring hunting seasons held thus far have not been harmful to the turkey population, and since a number of gobblers did not respond to the calls of hunters until 9 a.m. or later this year, the Commission added an extra hour to the daily hunting schedule for bearded birds in the spring. The new closing time daily will be 11 a.m., with all hunters expected to be out of the woods by noon.

Safe Driver Awards To Weaver Employees

Victor F. Weaver, Inc recently presented 29 of its truck drivers with safe driving awards totaling \$10,660.00 as announced by Luke B Sauder, Supervisor of Fleet Safety and Driver Training.

The most impressive single accomplishment was attained by Lee S. Weaver, who holds a seven year accident-free record.

Twenty-eight other drivers were also commended for their continuous safe driving record. They include: Richard McCarty, 6 years; Lee Stoltzfus, 5 years; Daniel Denlinger, 4 years; James Stoltzfus, 3 years; Leon Stauffer, 2 years; Mel Sauder, 2 years; Joel Hiestand, 2 years; Gordon Landis, 2 years; Paul Kilmer, 2 years; John Landis, 2 years.

Those attaining one year safe driving records are James

Weaver, Jesse Weaver, John Musser, Hershey Sensenig, Walter Kurtz, Marvin Stauffer, Elam Eberly, Jay Stoltzfus, Naaman Stoltzfus, Daniel Bowers, Walter Wenger, Larry Martin, Raymond Martin, Lloyd Sauder, Abner Stoltzfus, Robert Knipfel, Warren Thomas, Raymond Weaver.

Weaver's 44 professional truck drivers received awards totaling \$10,660.00 with an average of \$242.27 awarded each driver.

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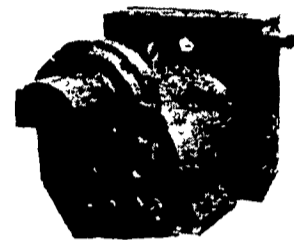
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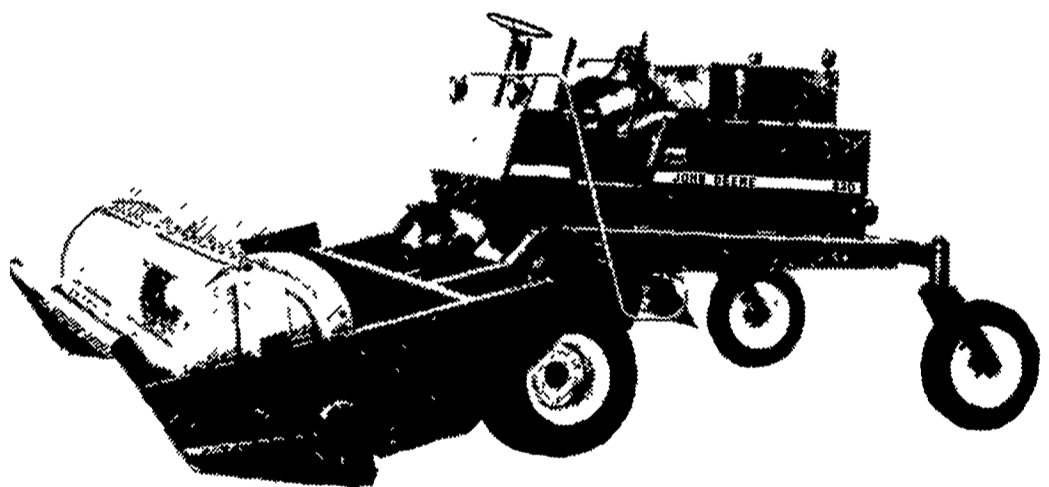


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