

Some deterioration noted in deer herd

Some deterioration in the quality of deer taken from areas of poor range conditions has been noted in preliminary reports from checking stations operated by the Pennsylvania Game Commission during the first two days of the 1975 buck season.

Game biologists have found a number of legal bucks which have weighed far less than normal from counties where poor food conditions exist. The smallest deer checked weighed only 58 pounds; it was taken in Sullivan County. One buck taken in Clearfield County weighed 63 pounds; the Counties of Cameron, Centre and Potter each produced 67-pound bucks; and another, weighing just 68 pounds, was checked from Warren County.

At the check station for northwest Pennsylvania, deer from only two counties had weight averages above 100 pounds. However, in the deer being checked at the central Pennsylvania station, there were a few more heavy bucks than were weighed last year. The percentages of spike bucks compared to larger racks were about on a par with those of last year.

The harvest produced some rather nice trophies too. A five-year-old buck taken in McKean County had twelve points and a spread of nearly 22 inches. An eight-year-old was checked from Clinton County, and Cameron and Lycoming Counties produced six-year-old bucks.

The heaviest deer checked weighed 170 pounds (from Crawford County) and 166 pounds (from Columbia County), while a number in the 150-pound category were recorded, including a 158-pound yearling taken in Venango County.

As in the past, heavier bodies and antlers showed up on bucks taken in counties where food conditions are good, while inferior quality deer continue to be recorded where the range is depleted.

Deer Kill Report Cards Due
Successful deer hunters

are reminded that their deer kill report cards must be mailed to the Game Commission at Harrisburg within five days of the date of the harvesting of the whitetail.

Those filing the report cards are urged to be sure to furnish all of the information sought. The report card is not part of the hunting license, and the hunting license number is not on the report card. Hunters should be sure to record the license number, and check all appropriate boxes on the card.

Hunters who do not have report cards can obtain them from the Game Commission.

6-Day Antlerless Deer Season in Southeastern Pennsylvania

Hunters possessing antlerless deer licenses in five southeastern Pennsylvania counties will have six days in which to take a whitetail starting December 15.

The area involved includes Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties and that part of Berks County south of Route 22 (Interstate Route 78) and that part of Bucks County in the Special Regulations (Buckshot) Area.

Hunters must have an antlerless deer license for the county in which they are hunting. The six-day season opens one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, December 15, and closes at sunset on Saturday, December 20.

Promotion increase not immediate

LANCASTER — During Interstate Milk Cooperative's annual meeting held here in November, it was reported that a three cent increase for milk promotion would be occurring within the future. As a number of producers have expressed concern over the matter, Lancaster Farming has chosen to clarify the matter.

The members of Interstate did in fact resolve to endorse

Meat Plants Can Process Deer
Meat plants are permitted to process deer, despite occasional rumors to the contrary.

The Game Commission says that both state and federal meat inspection regulations specifically permit plants to process game for hunters. Venison and meat from other game can be mixed with beef, pork or other domestic meat, if desired.

Game cannot be bought or sold.

Special Field Report On Hunting Conditions

Each week during the general hunting seasons, the Game Commission provides information on field and forest conditions and chances for winter success throughout the state. These are the reports from various field divisions for the first week of the antlered deer season:

Northwest Division - Good snow cover in Crawford, Erie, Warren and Forest Counties; practically no snow in rest of division and dry, windy conditions with noisy forest floor have cut sharply into harvest; plenty of bucks still available in thick cover; some areas almost devoid of hunters; one 173-lb. 17-point taken in Venango County; numerous failures to tag bucks, loaded guns in vehicles and hunting in safety zones.

Southwest Division - Lack of snow holding down harvest; woods windy and

noisy; roads in fine shape; excellent supply of bucks still available; hunters urged to be more cautious and follow all safety precautions; too many antlerless deer being shot - hunters should be sure of targets.

Northcentral Division - Some light snow and icy conditions, particularly in northern tier counties; roads still in good shape generally, but may be slippery in spots; still lots of deer available; 15-pointer taken in Lycoming County; wearing of fluorescent orange strongly recommended, and shooters reminded to clearly identify target.

Southcentral Division - Nice buck harvest so far, but still plenty of deer available; good turnout of hunters expected for Saturday; good hunting weather, but woods are dry and there is considerable danger of forest fires; hunting accidents are a concern - deer are color blind and wearing of fluorescent orange does not jeopardize a hunter's chances of connecting on a buck; some hunters driving in cleared fields - more respect should be shown for landowners' rights.

Northeast Division - Crisp weather is ideal for deer hunting; quite a few bucks still available; mid-week

hunting pressure had dropped, but pickup expected for Saturday; roads in good shape; big increase noted in use of fluorescent orange this year, which has helped reduce chances for hunting accidents.

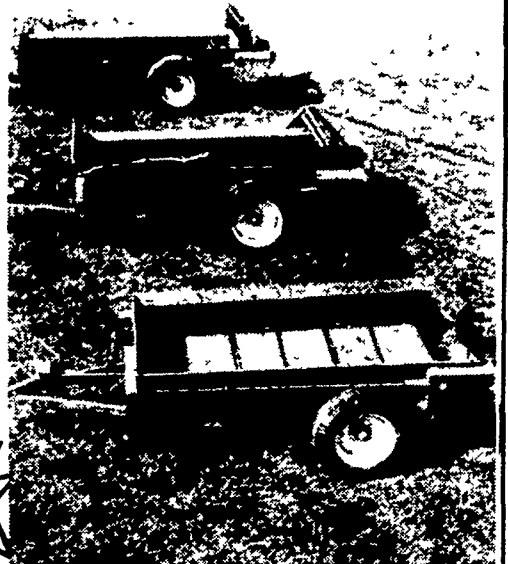
Southeast Division - Officers report increase in harvest of deer, but high number of road kills indicates there are still plenty of bucks available; better racks being taken this year; increased hunter turnout expected Saturday; more respect for private property needed, and hunters urged to show more discretion in choice of locations to remove entrails from deer.

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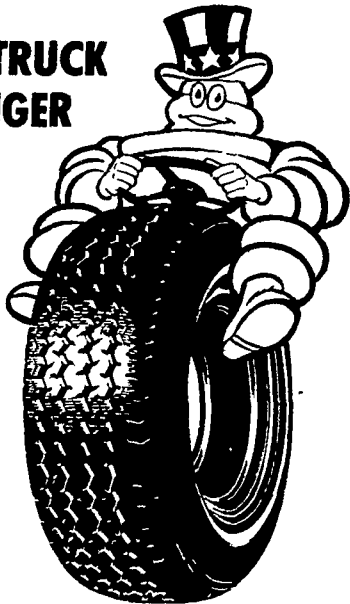
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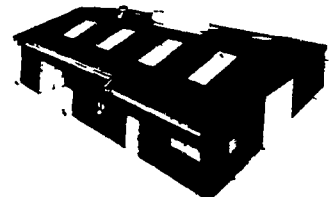
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