

Commission wants antlerless harvest of 65,000

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Game Commission's proposal to authorize the issuance of 451,250 antlerless deer licenses this year is designed to produce a reported harvest of about 65,000 whitetails, game management officials said this week.

Last year the Game Commission authorized the issuance of 410,600 antlerless deer licenses, in the hope that hunters would report a harvest of at least 60,000 animals. The actual reported harvest of

antlerless whitetails last year was 62,281.

This year the Game Commission proposes to increase the allocations of antlerless licenses in 44 counties, and to decrease antlerless license allocations in another 20 counties. The agency is proposing to keep the antlerless allocations in two counties at the 1980 level.

While there usually is a strong correlation between the number of antlerless licenses allocated and

the number of deer taken, as well as resultant adjustments to the size of the total deer herd, such is not always the case.

Usually, an increase in the allocation of antlerless licenses results in a larger harvest of deer, and a resultant lowering of the total population.

However, antlerless license allocations are designed this year to keep deer herd sizes at the same levels as last year in 21 counties. The allocations will permit deer herds to increase in 24 counties, while total population of whitetails should be reduced in 21 counties.

Paradoxically, in some counties the number of licenses for antlerless deer will be decreased, but the number of deer in the county will be further reduced. Likewise, in some counties the allocations will be increased but the herd will be permitted to grow in total numbers.

The seemingly contradictory situation results from combinations of factors affecting deer numbers. Such factors as reported vs. actual harvest, sex ratios, age classes, percentages of yearling females, survival and productivity rates, hunter success rates, out-of-season losses, etc., all enter into the picture.

By knowing the reported and

actual removal rates, the age-sex structure of the herd, productivity figures and a few other basic pieces of information, the Game Commission is able to calculate the number of deer, by sex and age, present at any given time of the year in every county of the state.

The key to permissible population numbers is the condition of the deer herd and the over-winter carrying capacity of the range.

Game Commission studies show that about 40 deer can survive a winter in a square mile of forest that is in the seedling-sapling or brush (under five inches in diameter) stage of growth. In the pole timber stage of forest development (five through eleven inches in diameter), a square mile of forest can support only about 10 deer in a typical winter. In the saw timber stage (over eleven inches in diameter), about 20 deer can be supported per square mile.

A wildlife manager who knows how many deer there will be prior to the hunting season can subtract the number of deer that can be supported through the winter and readily calculate how many deer must be removed by hunters.

The number of antlerless deer that need to be harvested will be the difference between the number

of bucks that will be taken and the total number of deer that need to be removed.

The Game Commission knows how many antlerless deer licenses need to be issued to remove one deer in every county. The figure varies from county to county and from one year to the next.

In some counties, an average of 3.91 licenses issued will result in the harvesting of a deer. In other counties, it may take an advantage of 20.88 licenses for each deer taken. The statewide average is 6.9 licenses to take one deer.

In 13 counties, over 10 antlerless licenses have to be issued to harvest a deer.

Thus, the number of licenses issued in any county (or the state as a whole), may not be meaningful, even from one year to the next, unless all of the factors involved are taken into account.

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Eastern moles dig shallow tunnels at a rate of 10 to 20 feet an hour, up to 160 feet in a night, the National Geographic Society reports. To match a mole, a man would have to excavate in the same time a tunnel nearly half a mile long and large enough to wriggle through.

House tour

(Continued from Page C21)

added by Jacob's parents.

In the section of the home used as family room and play area, an enormous eight-sided beam has been exposed. The beam once supported the weight of the very thick outside walls. Almost all of the door frames and baseboards are original to the house.

Another necessity of modern times was a complete modernization of wiring throughout the house.

Now that the inside is done to

their satisfaction, Jacob and Judy have plans to cement the porches and perhaps restore the stone walls either by sandblasting which they feel may not be practical because of extensive repairs which will have to be done, or by replacing the plaster with stucco.

The house was remodeled with a thought to making it comfortable and livable for their family. To that end, Judy and Jacob succeeded and their farm house is a lovely example of a home which will meet the needs of a growing young family.



New cupboards and counters give the kitchen a bright, new look. For Judy, changing the kitchen from the north to the south side of the house has added a lovely view and lots of sun.

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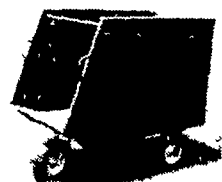
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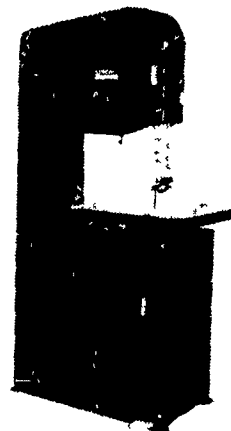
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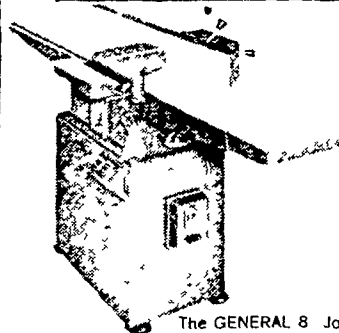
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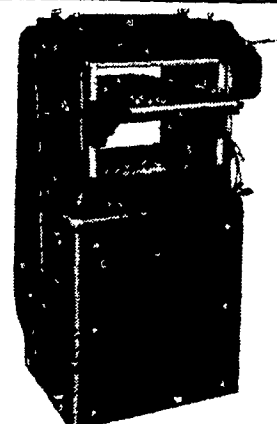


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