

# Fin, Fur and Feather

## Antlerless Deer Information

To sportsmen who plan to hunt antlerless deer (December 12-13) in a county other than the one in which they live the Game Commission offers these items of information:

Licenses will be available only from the county treasurer in the county in which the sportsman desires to hunt. The likelihood of obtaining a "doe" license will be greater if application is made of the treasurer of a county in which the quota is high. Certain northern Pennsylvania counties have been allotted an exceptionally large number of these licenses. As examples, in the northwest Warren, McKean and Elk Counties each have been allocated 12,000, and Forest County will have 8,000 licenses for this special season.

There are resource management aspects, too, that sportsmen will want to consider. Officials of the Allegheny National Forest, which lies in parts of these four counties, have made competent surveys and learned there are many does to each buck in the area they administer. The Forest Service people con-

sider wildlife a recreational asset, but their watersheds and timber programs have suffered severely from an overpopulation of deer on the National Forest land.

In the northeast, both Bradford and Pike Counties will have 6,000 antlerless deer licenses, and Susquehanna and Wayne Counties 7,000 each. In that corner also there is special need for herd control.

Because the Game Commission is charged with the management of deer in the interest of the hunters, the herd itself and in protection to farm crops and motorists the two-day antlerless deer season is being held to alleviate the problems.

Antlerless deer licenses will be available at the offices of county treasurers as of September 26, the Revenue Department advises. Applications for these licenses will be available from county treasurers the week beginning September 12. Other issuing agents will have the application forms at a later date.

**Peanut Butter and Bears**  
Many, many mothers across the country will agree that a sure way to lure their children from play to the dinner table is to announce, "We are having peanut butter and jelly sandwiches."

According to a recent news item, trappers for the Michigan Department of Conservation have discovered peanut butter is an effective bait, also, in attracting some of nature's kids—namely bears—to trap. The item says that "though bears are still staunch honey lovers they like peanut butter most of all."

**Qualified Observer Reports On Grouse**  
Grouse prospects for this fall have been the subject of much speculation by Pennsylvania bird hunters. In the August issue of The American Field, under the title "Fan Tales," Marc DeBerti, Brookville, Pa., gives his views on the subject as of mid-summer 1955.

An employee of the U. S. Forest Service, DeBerti works on the control of forest tree diseases. In his official duties he systematically covers, on foot, much Allegheny National Forest Land, State Forest Lands and State Game Lands in the northern part of the state. The region described is called by DeBerti "The heart of what is known as the best grouse hunting territory in the East." The man is a field trial naturalist and a qualified observer who has watched grouse population trends for years. His views do not necessarily reflect grouse conditions state-wide.

In his article DeBerti says: "In the course of our official duties it is a simple matter to record the number of grouse nests found, number of eggs in each nest, the number that are destroyed by predators. As the summer goes on . . . we keep count of the number of birds reaching maturity. We determine averages for: eggs in nests, number of birds hatching, nests destroyed, and the number of chicks in each brood seen. Finally, averages for half-grown broods, three-quarter grown broods, and eventually averages in late September before the 'crazy flight' season of mature birds. We take all of these figures and try to arrive at some sort of workable plan or idea as to whether there are going to be more or less grouse

for the coming shooting season and the field trials on the Allegheny National Forest.

"At this writing the birds are three-fourths grown. Naturally our findings and calculations are not complete, but we do have a definite trend that may be some indication of what grouse hunters will find this coming November. With the same number of men working in the same manner we did not find as many nests this May as we did last year. We did notice a definite increase in the number of eggs per nest. Last year our average was a little less than nine eggs per nest. This spring our average for a total of 22 nests located was ten plus eggs per nest.

"Peeps' in coveys of grouse increased tremendously in 1955 over 1954. Last year we noted an average of five 'peeps' per hen, while this summer the average is eight plus."

For the time being we can only say that the season for the hatching and raising of young grouse has been favorable. Broods found were a little less than last year, but the number of birds per brood increased substantially. . . . Barring unforeseen conditions, this year should be at least as good if not a little better than 1954," concludes DeBerti.

**San Juan Rabbits Banned**  
Act No. 132, making it unlawful to import or release San Juan rabbits in Pennsylvania prior to August 31, 1957, was passed in the current legislative session. It was signed into law by Governor Leader August 31, 1955. Penalties for violation are provided.

The Department of Agriculture is charged with the enforcement of the Act, which reads in part: "It shall be unlawful to import or release any such rabbit after August 31, 1957, unless the Secretary of Agriculture, after conferring with Pennsylvania Game Commission, shall decide the San Juan rabbit is not destructive to farms or farm products or other property and therefore is not a nuisance. In such case the Secretary of Agriculture shall make public his findings and the provisions of this act shall no longer be effective."

**Good Human Relations Solves Hunting Problem**  
"Hunters and farmers are people. Very often they are the same people. A big percentage of 'pavement'

hunters are farm boys grown civilized, and a heap of hunters are farmers who hurried their harvest to go shootin'.

"These facts make it certain that sooner or later we'll solve the problem of farmer-hunter relations . . . about which so much has been said that's unprintable."

The foregoing appeared in the Wildlife Crusader, Saskatchewan, Canada. These down-to-earth observations could just as well have been made in this state.

In Pennsylvania, with the small game season nearing, sportsmen are beginning to think of past associations with farmer friends in favorite hunting territory. Following a growing practice, many sportsmen's clubs will meet in late summer with farmers in their area or with local game members. At such meetings free discussions of problems that vex both groups are brought into the open. The result, before and during the hunting season, is better understanding and closer cooperation between rural and urban residents.

Often, during such get-togethers, workable solutions to problems of mutual interest are found and proper action follows. Showing neighborliness and interest in the welfare of their rural friends, sportsmen's organizations often provide

safety zone signs, for posting around buildings, help farmers in emergencies and strive to make the locality an unhealthy place for the rascals who cause land to be posted against all hunters.

Boiled down to cause and effect the answer to private land closure to hunting is that simple, because townsmen and countrymen are, after all, just people.

### STATE POLICE SAY

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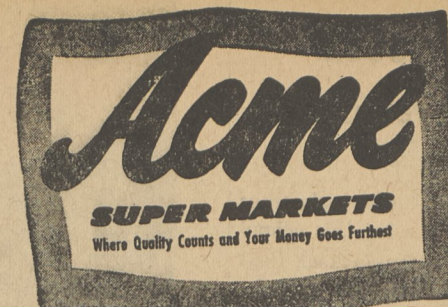
Man in Sweden swallowed a live frog on a bet. Cops nabbed him for "cruelty to animals."

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