

2025 NONRESIDENT IOWA DEER APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

APPLICATION DATES

GENERAL DEER/ANTLERLESS-ONLY	MAY 3-JUNE 1
Excess licenses if available after drawing	JULY 26
OPTIONAL ANTLERLESS-ONLY	JULY 26^{1,2}
ANTLERLESS-ONLY HOLIDAY (if quota allows).....	DEC. 15¹

¹through last day of season or until quotas fill (if applicable)

²optional Antlerless-only licenses for shotgun 1, shotgun 2 or the disabled hunter season only

SEASON CHOICE

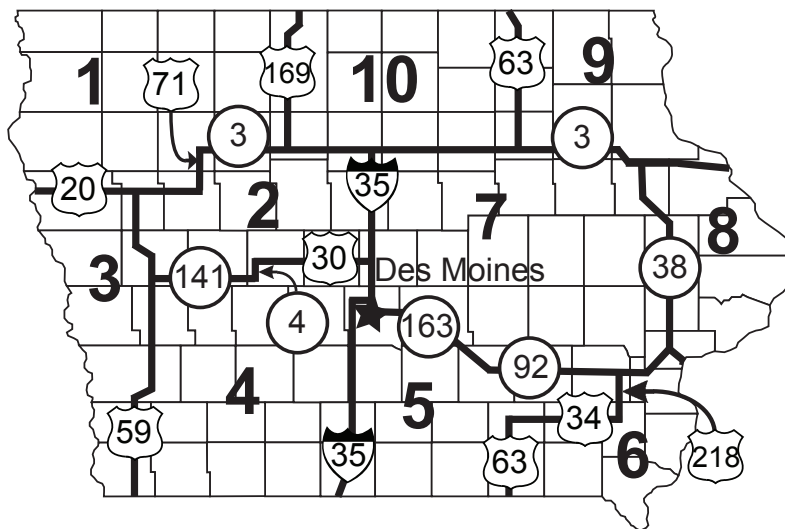
- A. **REGULAR GUN 1** Dec. 6-10
- B. **REGULAR GUN 2** Dec. 13-21
- C. **BOW** Oct. 1-Dec. 5 and
Dec. 22-Jan. 10, 2026
- D. **MUZZLELOADER** Dec. 22-Jan. 10, 2026
- E. **DISABLED HUNTER** Sept. 20-Oct. 5
- F. **HOLIDAY ANTLERLESS-ONLY** ... Dec. 24-Jan. 2

LICENSE FEES*

GENERAL DEER/ANTLERLESS-ONLY	\$498.00
ANTLERLESS-ONLY	\$266.50
HOLIDAY ANTLERLESS-ONLY	\$91.00
HUNTING LICENSE (18 and older)	\$131.00
HUNTING LICENSE (age 16-17)	\$32.00
HABITAT FEE	\$15.00

*Purchases subject to an application fee based on a percentage of total license cost, provided at the time of application.

LICENSE QUOTAS AND ZONES



NONRESIDENTS UNDER AGE 16 who hunt under the direct supervision of their properly licensed parent, guardian or other competent adult **DO NOT** need a hunting license or pay the habitat fee.

NONRESIDENT HUNTING LICENSE
Hunting license and habitat fees for nonresidents for 2026 go on sale Jan. 1, 2026. The 2025 licenses are on sale until Dec. 31, 2025.

A **MANDATORY** Antlerless-only license will be issued with each **General deer license**. This map does not pertain to **Optional Antlerless-only** quotas. (p. 3)

	2024 Applications RECEIVED	2025 General Deer QUOTAS	2025 Maximum # bow licenses	2024 Unsuccessful bow applications	2025 4,450 Optional ANTLERLESS-ONLY License Quota map available July 2025.
ZONE 1	180	90	31	40	
ZONE 2	176	90	31	48	
ZONE 3	577	560	196	47	
ZONE 4	2328	1280	448	484	
ZONE 5	2954	1600	560	639	
ZONE 6	1286	800	280	251	
ZONE 7	650	360	126	148	
ZONE 8	340	240	84	79	
ZONE 9	1367	880	308	350	
ZONE 10	198	100	35	62	
TOTAL	10,050	6,000	2,099	2,148	



NONRESIDENT DEER LICENSE APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

LICENSE QUOTAS

6,000 General deer/Antlerless-only combination licenses are available, divided among 10 zones.

No more than 35 percent for each zone can be for the bow season.

4,450 Optional Antlerless-only deer licenses. Sold in a separate process after General deer/Antlerless-only combination licenses are issued.

Quotas for General deer/Antlerless-only combination and Bow licenses have been established for each zone (p. 1). General deer/Antlerless-only combination licenses will be issued randomly within each zone for the season designated by the applicant until the Bow or General deer/Antlerless-only combination quota is reached for each zone. If the Bow quota is reached first, General deer/Antlerless-only combination licenses will continue to be issued for firearm seasons until the zone quota is reached.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

General deer/ Antlerless-only license combinations, optional Antlerless-only for hunters with landowner's preference (p. 3), optional Antlerless-only licenses for non-landowners and optional Antlerless-only licenses for the Holiday season are sold at separate times and by separate methods. Please read through the entire guide before deciding which license you are eligible for and wish to purchase.

Two types of hunters must submit affidavits of eligibility to the DNR before applying for a license: 1) hunters wishing to participate in the disabled season and 2) nonresident landowners applying for preference for antlerless-only licenses. Affidavits must be received by the DNR at least five working days prior to applying for a license. Affidavits may be obtained at www.iowadnr.gov/hunting/nonresidenthunting or call 515-725-8200.

APPLYING FOR A LICENSE

Nonresident deer hunting licenses must be applied for through the DNR's web-based license sales system at gooutdoorsiowa.com and follow the prompts. Nonrefundable license agent writing fees, administrative fees and application fees will be added to all applications. Application fees may be charged to either MasterCard or Visa. ATM cards are not accepted.

HUNTER EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Nonresident hunters born after Jan. 1, 1972, must provide proof of having successfully completed a hunter education course to apply

for or obtain a deer hunting license. Applicants will not be accepted without proof of completion. Hunters required to have hunter education certification and who have not previously bought an Iowa license may be required to email a copy to the Gooutdoors Iowa service desk at customerservice@gooutdoorsiowa.com or call 833-759-9797.

GENERAL DEER/MANDATORY ANTLERLESS LICENSES

Applications for General deer/Antlerless-only licenses will be accepted beginning **6 a.m. CDT May 3 through June 1**. If applications have been sold in excess of the license quota or bow quota for any zone, a drawing will be held to determine which applicants receive licenses. Hunters will be emailed regarding their draw status prior to the excess sale.

Drawing status will not be provided over the phone.

Licenses will be mailed to successful applicants in August. Refunds of license fees will be credited back to the applicant's credit/debit card. Refund checks will no longer be issued. License agent writing fees, administrative fees, internet application fees and the mandatory \$60.50 preference point fee will not be refunded.

If any license quota for General deer/Antlerless only combination licenses has not been filled, the excess licenses will be sold first-come, first-served online only beginning **6 a.m. CDT July 26**. Licenses will be sold until the quota has been filled or 10 days before the start of the respective season. To check the availability of excess or antlerless licenses, go to www.gooutdoorsiowa.com.

GROUP APPLICATIONS

Hunters may apply for General deer/Antlerless-only combination licenses as individuals or groups of up to 15, with one member identified as the group leader. The group leader must apply first and state he/she is the group leader. Members of a group must apply separately, but each member must submit the group number that is given to the group leader when applying. If there is a drawing, all members of a group will be assigned the preference point(s) of the member with the fewest points. All members of a group will be accepted or rejected together in the drawing. Group members that are rejected may purchase excess General deer/Antlerless-only combination or optional Antlerless-only licenses individually if quotas are not filled.

PREFERENCE POINTS

Hunters who choose not to apply for General deer/ Antlerless-only combination licenses in 2025 may purchase one preference point that will improve chances of getting a license in a future year. **Preference points may only be purchased May 3 - June 1.** Preference points are \$60.50 plus application fees and will be available online only.

Hunters unsuccessful in the General deer/ Antlerless-only combination license drawing will be given one preference point AND assessed a mandatory, nonrefundable \$60.50 preference point fee. Preference points will not accrue in a year in which you fail to apply or purchase a preference point, but you will retain any preference points previously earned. Once you receive an General deer/Antlerless-only combination license, your preference point(s) will be eliminated. (You will not lose preference points by purchasing an optional Antlerless-only license). You may use your preference points in any zone or season the next time you apply. Preference points will not apply to Antlerless-only licenses.

The license drawing for General deer/ Antlerless-only combination licenses will be made from the pool of applicants with the most preference points and continue to pools with successively fewer preference points until quotas are filled or all applicants have received licenses.

NONRESIDENT LANDOWNER ANTLERLESS-ONLY LICENSES

Nonresidents who own a farm unit in Iowa (see eligibility box) and have not purchased nonresident General deer/Antlerless-only combination licenses will have first preference in purchasing an optional Antlerless-only license. Landowners who want preference for this license must provide proof of land ownership to the DNR each year they are eligible. A fully completed "Affidavit for Nonresident Landowner Antlerless-only Deer Hunting License" must be received by the DNR at least five working days prior to purchasing the license.

Affidavits may be obtained through the DNR's website at www.iowadnr.gov or by calling 515-725-8200 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CDT. The form can be mailed, faxed or emailed (PDF format) to you. Nonresidents that have landowner preference may purchase an optional Antlerless-only license beginning **6 a.m. CDT July 26.** Optional Landowner Antlerless-only licenses will be valid only on the farm unit of the landowner. Optional Antlerless-only licenses will only be issued for either of the two regular gun seasons or for the disabled hunter season.

You Are Not Eligible For An Optional Nonresident Landowner Antlerless-Only License If You Are:

- a member of a nonresident landowner's family
- a nonresident who owns land jointly with a resident
- a nonresident or a family member who are tenants in Iowa but not landowners

In cases where more than one nonresident is listed as the owner of land, only one member of the joint ownership will be eligible in the same year.

For purposes of obtaining this license, all the land owned in Iowa will be considered one farm unit.

NONRESIDENT REGULAR ANTLERLESS-ONLY LICENSES

Nonresidents who have not claimed landowner preference and who have not purchased a General deer/Antlerless-only combination license may purchase one of the **4,490 optional Antlerless-only** licenses. The optional Antlerless-only licenses will be issued on a per-county quota basis. Some counties will not be available for optional Antlerless-only licenses. The quota of optional Antlerless-only will be posted on the DNR website in July shortly before license sales begin.

These licenses are valid only in the county and season specified on the license. Optional Antlerless-only licenses will only be issued for either of the two regular gun seasons or for the disabled hunter season. Licenses are sold first-come, first served beginning **6 a.m. CDT July 26** and will remain on sale until the quota is filled or the last day of the season for which the license is valid, whichever occurs first.

HOLIDAY DEER LICENSE

If the quota of nonresident optional Antlerless-only licenses is not filled, hunters who do not have a nonresident deer license may purchase an optional Antlerless-only license for the holiday season. Licenses may only be purchased over the counter through a license agent beginning Dec. 15, 2025.

Licenses will be valid from Dec. 24 through Jan. 2, 2026. A muzzleloader, bow or handgun may be used (see Legal Weapons, p. 4).

Hunting license and habitat fees for nonresidents for 2025 go on sale Jan. 1, 2025. The 2025 licenses are on sale until Dec. 31, 2025.

INVALID LICENSES

An Iowa resident hunting license will be invalid if:

- You obtain a license under false pretenses
- You do anything that would forfeit your eligibility for a resident license after the license is obtained, such as moving out of Iowa or obtaining a resident hunting license in another state.

WHO MUST PURCHASE NONRESIDENT LICENSES TO HUNT DEER IN IOWA?

You must purchase Iowa nonresident hunting licenses UNLESS you meet at least ONE of the following criteria to qualify as an Iowa resident:

1. Have physically resided in this state as your principal and primary residence or domicile for period of not less than 90 consecutive days **immediately** before applying for or purchasing a resident license and have an Iowa drivers license or non operators ID. Factors to determine the domicile include but are not limited to place of employment, mailing (street) address, utility records, real estate records, vehicle registrations, and addresses listed on the state and federal income tax records.

A person is not considered a resident under this paragraph if the person is residing in the state only for a special or temporary purpose including but not limited to engaging in hunting, fishing or trapping.

2. Is a full-time student at an accredited educational institution in Iowa and reside in Iowa while attending the educational institution, or are a full-time student under 25 years of age at an accredited educational institution outside the state as long as at least one parent or legal guardian maintains a principal and primary residence in Iowa.

3. Is a student who qualifies as a resident pursuant to the above paragraph only for the purpose of purchasing any resident license specified in sec. 483A.1 or 484A.2

4. Is a nonresident age 16-18 with a parent who is a legal resident of Iowa.

5. Is a member of the armed forces of the United States who is serving on active duty, claims residency in this state, and has filed a state individual income tax return for the preceding year, or is stationed in this state.

DUAL RESIDENCY NOT PERMITTED

You may not purchase Iowa resident hunting licenses if you have done any of the following (except for persons qualifying under 2, 3, 4 or 5 above):

- Have a currently valid resident hunting, fishing, trapping or other recreational license issued in another state or country
- Have a currently valid driver's license issued in another state or country
- Are legally registered to vote in another state or country
- Claim a homestead or other state tax exemption in another state or country
- Are receiving public assistance in another state or country
- Claim a state other than Iowa as your primary residence state

This is not a complete list of rules governing Iowa residency. Other privileges claimed as a resident of another state or country may also disqualify you from purchasing a resident license.

NONRESIDENT LANDOWNERS

Owning land in Iowa does not confer residency. Persons who own land in Iowa but do not meet the criteria to purchase resident hunting licenses are not eligible for free resident landowner-tenant licenses or other resident deer licenses. Nonresident landowners will have first opportunity to purchase a nonresident Antlerless-only license. See page 5 for details.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

Nonresidents must have in their possession a 2025 Iowa Nonresident Deer Hunting License, a valid Iowa Nonresident Small Game Hunting License and a valid Habitat Fee to hunt, possess or transport deer. As a nonresident, you MAY NOT:

- apply for or purchase more than one nonresident General deer/Antlerless-only license combination.
- apply for or purchase a resident and nonresident deer hunting license in the same year unless your resident status changes.
- carry, use or have in your possession any license or transportation tag issued to another hunter.
- hunt in any zone, season, county or farm unit (if applicable) other than that specified on the license.
- obtain a deer license if your Iowa hunting privileges have been suspended or revoked.

LEGAL METHOD OF TAKE

ARCHERY: Longbows, recurve bows, and compound bows shooting broadhead arrows are permitted. No explosive or chemical devices may be attached to the arrow or broadhead. There are no minimum draw weights for bows or minimum diameter for broadheads. Arrows must be at least 18 inches long.

Crossbows are not legal except that a physically handicapped person, as defined on p. 14, may obtain a permit from the DNR to use a crossbow. Applications are available at www.iowadnr.gov/hunting - click on "Licenses and Laws" and then on "License Applications," or by visiting the DNR central office or any of the district offices (p. 52), or by calling the DNR at 515-725-8200. Residents 65 and older may obtain one Antlerless-only statewide crossbow deer license. See p. 41 for details. Hunters may not carry a handgun while hunting under an archery tag, unless they have an unfilled transportation tag for a season that allows handguns or a valid permit to carry.

SHOTGUNS: 10-, 12-, 16-, and 20-gauge shotguns shooting single slugs only.

MUZZLELOADERS: Only muzzleloading rifles, muzzleloading muskets, muzzleloading pistols, and muzzleloading revolvers between .44 and .775 of an inch shooting a single projectile. Muzzleloaders equipped with electronic ignition are not allowed. In-line and disk-type muzzleloaders are allowed. Rifle-scopes may also be used.

HANDGUNS: Any pistol or revolver with a barrel length of at least four inches and firing straight wall or other centerfire ammunition propelling an expanding-type bullet with a maximum diameter of no less than .350 of an inch and no larger than .500 of an inch and with a published or calculated muzzle energy of 500 foot pounds or higher is legal for hunting deer during the pistol or revolver seasons.

A person who is 20 years of age or less shall not hunt deer with a pistol or revolver unless that person is accompanied and under direct supervision throughout the hunt by a responsible person with a valid hunting license who is at least 21 years of age, with the consent of a parent, guardian, or spouse who is at least 21 years of age. The responsible person with a valid hunting license who is at least 21 years of age shall be responsible for the conveyance of the pistol or revolver while the pistol or revolver is not actively being used for hunting.

ALLOWABLE CARTRIDGE CRITERIA

RIFLES: Rifles firing straight wall or other centerfire ammunition propelling an expanding-type bullet with a maximum diameter of no less than .350 of an inch and no larger than .500 of an inch and with a published or calculated muzzle energy of 500 foot pounds or higher is legal for hunting deer during the youth and disabled hunting season and first and second shotgun seasons.

The following is a partial list of allowable cartridges that has generated the most questions on legality. Cartridges meeting the criteria defined above are legal whether listed here or not.

.35 Whelen	.45 Long Colt
.350 Legend	.45 Raptor
.358 Winchester	.450 Bushmaster
.375 Winchester	.450 Marlin
.40 S&W	.45-70 Govt
.44 Magnum	.460 S&W
.444 Marlin	.500 S&W

MANDATORY HARVEST REPORTING

Hunters who harvest a deer or wild turkey must report the harvest to the DNR by midnight on the day after it is tagged, or before taking it to a locker or taxidermist, or before processing it for consumption, or before transporting it out-of-state, whichever occurs first. The hunter whose name is on the transportation tag is responsible for making the report. If no animal is harvested, no report is necessary. **Failure to report or reporting falsely may result in a misdemeanor citation and possible loss of hunting privileges.**

BEAM MEASUREMENT

Hunters who harvest an antlered deer are required to report the length of the main beam of each antler. A 7-inch ruler is printed on the back of your deer tag to measure the beam.



Options to report the harvest:

- 1) Through the **Go Outdoors Iowa app**
- 2) Simply **text** your registration number to 1-800-771-4692 and follow the prompts
- 3) **Online** at www.iowadnr.gov, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- 4) By **phone** at the toll-free phone number printed on the harvest report tag, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- 5) Through a **license vendor** during regular business hours.

The Harvest Reporting System will issue a confirmation number to the hunter that must be written on the Harvest Report Tag and attached to the leg of the animal. Failure to do so may result in a misdemeanor citation.