Dogs may not be used to take feral swine.
Dogs may not be used to pursue bear.
It is unlawful to train dogs or allow dogs to run unleashed on bear sanctuaries in and west of Madison, Buncombe, Henderson and Polk counties from March 1 until the Monday on or nearest Oct. 15.

DEER

YOUTH DEER HUNTING DAY
September 23, 2017
On this day, youth under the age of 18 may use any legal weapon to hunt deer of either sex. See page 42 for description of legal weapons. Hunters age 18 and older may only use the weapon legal for the type of season open in their county on this day. All hunters must wear hunter orange on this day, even if the hunter is using archery equipment.

EASTERN DEER SEASON
Archery: Sept. 9 – Sept. 29, 2017
Gun: Oct. 14 – Jan. 1, 2018

CENTRAL DEER SEASON
Archery: Sept. 9 – Oct. 27, 2017
Blackpowder: Oct. 28 – Nov. 10, 2017
Gun: Nov. 11 – Jan. 1, 2018

NORTHWESTERN DEER SEASON
Archery: Sept. 9 – Nov. 3, 2017
Blackpowder: Nov. 4 – Nov. 17, 2017
Gun: Nov. 18, 2017 – Jan. 1, 2018

WESTERN DEER SEASON
Gun: Nov. 20 – Dec. 9, 2017 (except in Cleveland, Rutherford and Polk counties where the gun season is extended to Jan. 1)

Seasons See the maps on the preceding pages for either-sex season dates for deer and exceptions to the season listed above.

• Seasons for deer with visible antlers and other weapons seasons on game lands follow the season for the county in which they are located except for Buffalo Cove Game Land, Nicholson Creek Game Land, Rockfish Creek Game Land, Sandhills Game Land and South Mountains Game Land. See the Game Lands section for additional restrictions on these Game Lands seasons. Refer to the “Game Lands” section for Gun Either-Sex Deer Season dates on game lands.

General Restrictions
• Any person hunting deer during a deer firearms season shall wear hunter orange visible from all sides. This includes hunting with archery equipment on Sundays. This also includes anyone hunting on Youth Deer Hunting Day, regardless of age of the hunter or weapon used. Landholders, their spouses and children hunting on land held by the landholder do not have to wear hunter orange.
• Deer with visible antlers may be taken during any open deer season. Antlerless deer may only be taken during either-sex deer seasons. See next column for information about either-sex seasons.
• Visible antlers are defined as bony structures that protrude through the skin. Knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet are not considered visible antlers.
• It is unlawful to place processed food products as bait in any area of the state with an established season for taking black bears.

Processed food products or any food substance or flavoring that has been modified by the addition of ingredients or by treatment to modify its chemical composition or form or to enhance its aroma or taste. This includes: food products enhanced by sugar, honey, syrups, oils, salts, spices, peanut butter, grease, meat, bones, or blood; candies, pastries, gum, and sugar blocks; and extracts of such products.

• The placement of commercially available mineral supplements specifically and exclusively marketed for attracting or feeding deer is allowed anywhere in the state, except on game lands.

Weapons and Dogs
• Archery. During the archery season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows and crossbows (both described on page 42). It is unlawful to use a dog while hunting deer during this season, except to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 42 for details.

• Blackpowder. During the blackpowder season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows, crossbows (both described on page 42), and blackpowder firearms as defined on page 42. It is unlawful to use a dog while hunting deer during this season, except to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 42 for details.

• Gun. During the gun season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows, crossbows (both described on page 42), blackpowder firearms, shotguns, rifles, and handguns. Hunters may use dogs to hunt deer during this season in counties indicated on the map on page 54, and to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 43 for details.

Bag Limits
• The big game hunting license authorizes the hunter to harvest up to six deer. All six deer can be antlerless for all areas of the state. The season limit for antlered deer in the Eastern Deer Season is four. The season limit for antlered deer in the Central, Northwestern, and Western deer seasons is two.

• There is no daily bag limit.

• The possession limit for antlered deer is the same as the season limit.

• The possession limit for antlerless deer harvested in areas with a maximum either-sex season, or in those areas participating in the Urban Archery Season, is equivalent to the number of antlerless deer the hunter is authorized to harvest on his big game hunting license and any Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards he may have procured. The possession limit for antlerless deer harvested in all other areas is equivalent to the number of antlerless deer the hunter is authorized to harvest on his big game hunting license.

• Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards allow for the harvest of two additional antlerless deer per card. These are NOT valid for use on game lands. Unlimited Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards are available to each hunter. Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards are valid during archery, blackpowder, and gun season in those areas with a maximum either-sex gun season. Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards are also valid in cities, towns and villages participating in the Urban Archery Season. Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards can be obtained at most wildlife service agents, or online at ncwildlife.org or by calling 888-248-6834.

• Antlerless deer harvested under the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) and tagged with harvest tags provided with the program are not included in normal statewide bag limits.

Note: Antlerless deer may be taken only in those areas and during those times described elsewhere in this publication.

(continued on page 57)
The 2018 participating cities, towns and villages are:

- Albemarle 704-984-9560 cindyburriss@ci.albemarle.nc.us
- Archer Lodge 919-359-9727 www.townarcherlodge.com
- Belmont 704-825-5586 www.cityofbelmont.org
- Boiling Springs 828-584-2622 Ext. 3 www.boilingspringsnc.net
- Chapel Hill 919-968-2784 parksrec@townofchapelhill.org
- Clayton 919-553-5002 www.townofclaytonnc.org
- Cleveland 336-859-4231 www.clevelandnc.org
- Concord 704-920-5000 www.concordnc.gov/poicice
- Earl 704-481-1500 www.townofearl.org
- Elkin 336-794-6464 www.elkinnc.org
- Fairview 704-753-1981
- Franklinville 336-824-2604 franklinvillenc@tiad.com
- Glen Alpine 828-584-2622 Ext. 3 www.townofglenalpine.org
- Granite Quarry 704-279-5596 www.granitequarrync.gov
- Grifton 252-524-5168 townmanager@grifton.com
- Harrisburg 704-455-0708 wkrimmering@harrisburgnc.org
- Huntersville 704-875-6541 www.huntersville.org
- Indian Trail 704-821-5401 www.indiantrail.org
- Jamestown 336-454-1138 www.jamestown-nc.gov
- Jonesville 336-835-3426 townclerk@jonesvillenc.gov
- Kannapolis 704-920-4071 tspryn@kannapolisnc.gov
- King 336-983-8265 scii.king.nc.us
- Landis 704-857-4114 Andrew@townollandis.com
- Lattimore 704-434-2620 townfla@tattimore@gmail.com
- Lenoir 828-737-2200 www.cityoflenoir.com
- Locust 704-888-5260 www.locustnc.com
- Midland 704-888-2232 www.townofmidland.us
- Mooresboro 704-434-5666
- Mount Pleasant 704-436-9803 townhall@mpleasantnc.us
- Nags Head/ Kill Devil Hills 252-441-2525 Ext. 2 www.northwadesboro.com
- New London 704-463-5423
- Ext. 3012
- Oakboro 704-485-3351 www.oakboro.com
- Oak Ridge 336-664-7009 www.oakridgencc.org
- Pineville 704-889-2291 www.pinevillenc.gov
- Pittsboro 919-542-3200 http://pittsboronc.gov
- Pleasant Garden 336-674-3002 www.pleasangarden.net
- Randelman 336-495-7500 www.cityofrandelman.com
- Red Cross 704-485-2002 aloma@townofredcross.com
- Richfield 704-463-1308 richfieldnc@aol.com
- Ronda 336-835-2061 www.sanfordnc.net
- Sanford 919-777-1104 www.cityofsanford.com
- Shelby 704-484-6801 www.stallingsnc.org
- Stallings 704-821-8537 www.townofstallings.com
- Stanfield 336-643-4011 www.stanfieldnc.com
- Stokesdale 336-643-8655 www.stokesdale.org
- Summerfield 336-643-8655 www.summerfieldgov.com
- Trent Woods 252-637-3030 www.trentwoodsp.org
- Troutman 704-528-7600 www.troutmannc.gov
- Unionville 704-226-1989 townofunionville@aol.com
- Valdese 828-887-2120 www.townofvaldese.com
- Wake Forest 910-778-9687 dldoherty@wakeforenc.gov
- Walnut Creek 704-843-2195 www.walnutcreeknc.com
- Waxhaw 704-843-2195 www.waxhaw.com
- Weddington 704-846-2709 www.townofweddington.com
- Wentworth 336-342-6288 www.townofwentworth.com
- Yadkinville 336-679-8732 pwilliams@yadkinville.org

(continued from page 47)

**Either-Sex Deer Seasons**

Youth Deer Hunting Day
- Deer of either sex may be taken by hunters under the age of 18 on this day.

Archery Deer Season
- Deer of either sex may be taken during archery deer season in all areas (includes game lands) in and east of Watauga, Wilkes, Alexander, Catawba, Cleveland, Rutherford, and Polk counties.
- Deer of either sex may only be taken during the first and second archery deer seasons in all areas (includes game lands) in and west of Henderson, Buncombe, McDowell, Burke, Caldwell and Avery counties.

Blackpowder firearm Deer Season
- Deer of either sex may be taken during the last day of the blackpowder firearm deer season in and east of Watauga, Henderson, Buncombe, Yancey, Mitchell and Avery counties (includes game lands).
- Deer of either sex may be taken anytime during the blackpowder firearm deer season in and east of Polk, Rutherford, McDowell, Burke, Caldwell, Watauga and Ashe counties (includes game lands).

Gun Either-Sex Deer Season
- Deer of either sex may only be taken during the gun season during those dates indicated on pages 50–53. Most gun either-sex seasons fall under one of the following four categories in North Carolina:
  - Maximum: Either-sex harvest is allowed the entire gun season.
  - Moderate: Either-sex harvest is allowed the first six open days and the last seven open days of the regular gun season.
  - Conservative: Either-sex harvest is allowed the last six open days of the regular gun season.
  - Introductory: Either-sex harvest is allowed the last open day of the regular gun season.

Urban Archery Season
- Archery only: Jan. 13 – Feb. 17, 2018

Information for Hunters
- The intention of the Urban Archery Season is to enable cities, towns and villages to reduce urban deer populations through increased hunter opportunity. Hunting during the Urban Archery Season is allowed ONLY in participating municipalities.
- Each city, town and village will decide if hunting is allowed on public property and restrictions, if any, for hunting on private property within the city, town and village limits.
- Hunters wishing to hunt in an area participating in the Urban Archery Season should call the participating city, town or village or visit its website to obtain a map showing lawful areas to hunt and additional information on specific restrictions that may apply to each area.
- The Urban Archery Season does not obligate private landowners to allow hunting on their property, nor does it eliminate the ethical requirement for obtaining permission from the landowner before hunting. Hunters are legally required to obtain written permission to hunt on posted property.
HUNTING REGULATIONS & INFORMATION

WILD TURKEY

WILD TURKEY SEASONS
Daily limit 1; Possession and season limit 2, only one of which may be taken during the youth season
Youth Season (male or bearded turkey only): Apr. 7 – 13, 2018
Turkey hunting by youth during this season is allowed statewide, but some game lands will require a permit (see Game Lands section). Only youth can hunt during this season and only one weapon is allowed per youth hunter. Each youth must have a Big Game Harvest Report Card and report harvests according to instructions in this Digest. License-exempt youth should report their harvest using a Big Game Harvest Report Card for License-Exempt Hunters. Statewide Spring Season (male or bearded turkey only): Apr. 14 – May 12, 2018
Note: For information on permit hunts for select Game Lands, refer to the Game Lands section.
Restrictions
It is unlawful to:
- Use dogs during the spring wild turkey season.
- Use any type of handgun or rifle to hunt wild turkey.
- Take wild turkeys from an area in which bait has been placed. (An area is considered baited until 10 days after the bait has been consumed or otherwise removed.)
- Possess live wild turkeys or live birds that are indistinguishable from wild turkeys.

BIG GAME HARVEST REPORTING

Validating a Harvest
Upon harvesting a bear, deer, or wild turkey, and before moving the animal from the site of kill, the successful hunter must validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card, furnished with the big game hunting license, by cutting or punching out the crosshair symbol next to the appropriate authorization line. Instructions in this section also apply to the Bonus Antlerless Report Card. Hunters should retain only one copy of their Big Game Harvest Report Card per hunting season. If the hunter has received a replacement copy of their Big Game Harvest Report Card, the hunter must ensure that all previous harvest authorization numbers are copied over to their new card and destroy their original copy.

Registering a Harvest
The hunter must register any harvested bear, deer or wild turkey within 24 hours of the harvest and before it is skinned, dressed or dismembered.

Harvest ID
Harvest ID is the 9-digit number located on your Big Game Harvest Report Card. Hunters must locate the Harvest ID number next to the animal type they harvested and provide this number when registering the harvest through a participating wildlife service agent, the telephone reporting system or the online reporting system. Each Harvest ID can only be used once.

Hunters who obtain their license and big game privilege by using dogs during the spring wild turkey season.

Harvest ID is the 9-digit number located on your License-Exempt Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Card.

Information for cities, towns and villages
The Urban Archery Season is available for cities, towns and villages that submit to the Wildlife Resources Commission by April 1 of each year a letter of intent to participate in the season. A map clearly defining the area included in the season should also accompany the letter of intent. Interested municipalities should call the Wildlife Management Division at 919-707-0050 and request to be contacted by a district wildlife biologist.

WHITE ARROW SEASON

Statewide Spring Season (male or bearded turkey only)
T he Urban Archery Season is available for cities, towns and villages that submit to the Wildlife Resources Commission by April 1 of each year a letter of intent to participate in the season. A map clearly defining the area included in the season should also accompany the letter of intent. Interested municipalities should call the Wildlife Management Division at 919-707-0050 and request to be contacted by a district wildlife biologist.

Hunters who obtain their license and big game privilege by using dogs during the spring wild turkey season.

Harvest ID is the 9-digit number located on your License-Exempt Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Card.

Information for cities, towns and villages
The Urban Archery Season is available for cities, towns and villages that submit to the Wildlife Resources Commission by April 1 of each year a letter of intent to participate in the season. A map clearly defining the area included in the season should also accompany the letter of intent. Interested municipalities should call the Wildlife Management Division at 919-707-0050 and request to be contacted by a district wildlife biologist.

WILD TURKEY

WILD TURKEY SEASONS
Daily limit 1; Possession and season limit 2, only one of which may be taken during the youth season
Youth Season (male or bearded turkey only): Apr. 7 – 13, 2018
Turkey hunting by youth during this season is allowed statewide, but some game lands will require a permit (see Game Lands section). Only youth can hunt during this season and only one weapon is allowed per youth hunter. Each youth must have a Big Game Harvest Report Card and report harvests according to instructions in this Digest. License-exempt youth should report their harvest using a Big Game Harvest Report Card for License-Exempt Hunters. Statewide Spring Season (male or bearded turkey only): Apr. 14 – May 12, 2018
Note: For information on permit hunts for select Game Lands, refer to the Game Lands section.
Restrictions
It is unlawful to:
- Use dogs during the spring wild turkey season.
- Use any type of handgun or rifle to hunt wild turkey.
- Take wild turkeys from an area in which bait has been placed. (An area is considered baited until 10 days after the bait has been consumed or otherwise removed.)
- Possess live wild turkeys or live birds that are indistinguishable from wild turkeys.

BIG GAME HARVEST REPORTING

Validating a Harvest
Upon harvesting a bear, deer, or wild turkey, and before moving the animal from the site of kill, the successful hunter must validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card, furnished with the big game hunting license, by cutting or punching out the crosshair symbol next to the appropriate authorization line. Instructions in this section also apply to the Bonus Antlerless Report Card. Hunters should retain only one copy of their Big Game Harvest Report Card per hunting season. If the hunter has received a replacement copy of their Big Game Harvest Report Card, the hunter must ensure that all previous harvest authorization numbers are copied over to their new card and destroy their original copy.

Registering a Harvest
The hunter must register any harvested bear, deer or wild turkey within 24 hours of the harvest and before it is skinned, dressed or dismembered.

Harvest ID
Harvest ID is the 9-digit number located on your Big Game Harvest Report Card. Hunters must locate the Harvest ID number next to the animal type they harvested and provide this number when registering the harvest through a participating wildlife service agent, the telephone reporting system or the online reporting system. Each Harvest ID can only be used once.

Hunters who obtain their license and big game privilege by using dogs during the spring wild turkey season.

Harvest ID is the 9-digit number located on your License-Exempt Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Card.

Information for cities, towns and villages
The Urban Archery Season is available for cities, towns and villages that submit to the Wildlife Resources Commission by April 1 of each year a letter of intent to participate in the season. A map clearly defining the area included in the season should also accompany the letter of intent. Interested municipalities should call the Wildlife Management Division at 919-707-0050 and request to be contacted by a district wildlife biologist.

WILDFOWL

WILDFOWL SEASONS
Daily limit 1
Chesapeake Bay Special Season (female only): Oct. 20 – 27, 2018
The Chesapeake Bay Special Season is available for federal residents of the District of Columbia and the states of Virginia, Maryland and Delaware. Hunters may harvest up to 10 geese of any sex except mottled teal or mottled pintail. All other laws and regulations apply.

Restrictions
It is unlawful to:
- Use a dog to waterfowl hunting.
- Use any type of handgun or rifle to waterfowl hunting.
- Take live waterfowl from a blind or wading area or from open water.
- Possess live waterfowl.

MALLARDS, GEESE, TEAL, PINTAILS, Ruddy DucK

Mallards, Pintails, Ruddy Duck, and other dabbling ducks: Dec. 1 – Mar. 31, 2018
Mallards and other dabbling ducks: Apr. 1 – May 31, 2018
Restrictions
It is unlawful to:
- Use a dog to waterfowl hunting.
- Use any type of handgun or rifle to waterfowl hunting.
- Take live waterfowl from a blind or wading area or from open water.
- Possess live waterfowl.

Duck Management Assistance Program (DMAP)

Duck Management Assistance Program (DMAP) shall follow the tagging and reporting requirements described in the instructions they have received as a participant in the DMAP.

DEER

DEER SEASONS
Daily limit 1; Possession and season limit 2
Youth Season: Apr. 14 – May 12, 2018
Youth Season is available for deer and blackbuck.

Restrictions
It is unlawful to:
- Use a dog to deer hunting.
- Use any type of handgun or rifle to deer hunting.
- Take live deer from a blind or wading area or from open water.
- Possess live deer.

Deer Management Assistance Program Harvest Reporting
Persons harvesting deer under the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) shall follow the tagging and reporting requirements described in the instructions they have received as a participant in the DMAP.