

# REGISTERING a Big Game Kill

Required for Bear, Deer, and Wild Turkey taken in North Carolina

- Before moving the animal from the site of kill (where the animal fell), validate your Big Game Harvest Report Card by punching or cutting in the appropriate crosshair symbol that correctly identifies the big game animal harvested.
- Register by reporting the harvest within 24 hours and record the authorization number on your Big Game Harvest Report Card. Reporting must be done within 24 hours of kill and before the animal is skinned, dressed, or dismembered for consumption.
- If the animal is left unattended before registering, it must be identified with your name, hunting license number and date of kill. An example would be if you leave it hanging in a cooler.
- If you leave an animal with a processor or taxidermist, donate it to Hunters for the Hungry or give it to someone else, you must have the authorization number attached to the carcass. The processor or taxidermist needs to keep a record of species and sex of animals received and name and address of hunter.

To register, choose one of the following options and have your Big Game Harvest Report Card and pen ready.



- Call toll-free 800-446-8663.
- Go online to [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org).
- Visit a participating wildlife service agent location.

## SMALL GAME AND OTHER SEASONS

### RACCOON AND OPOSSUM

Oct. 16 (at sunrise) – Feb. 28

Opossum: No bag limits

Raccoon daily limit 3; No possession or season limits

#### General Restrictions

- Field possession limit while hunting is the same as the daily bag limit. No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the field to one's vehicle, hunting camp or residence.
- Axes and saws may not be carried when raccoon or opossum hunting.
- It is unlawful to shoot raccoon during the daytime, west of U.S. 1, except in Richmond County.
- It is unlawful to carry firearms or climbing irons when training dogs during closed seasons, except under special field-trial regulations.

### SQUIRREL

Gray and Red (statewide): Oct. 16 – Feb. 28

Daily limit 8; No possession or season limits

Fox Squirrel: Oct. 16 – Dec. 31

Daily limit 1; Possession 2; Season 10

In the following counties:

|            |           |             |          |
|------------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| Alleghany  | Edgecombe | Moore       | Scotland |
| Anson      | Greene    | New Hanover | Stokes   |
| Ashe       | Harnett   | Onslow      | Surry    |
| Bladen     | Hoke      | Pender      | Watauga  |
| Brunswick  | Johnston  | Pitt        | Wayne    |
| Cumberland | Jones     | Richmond    | Wilkes   |
| Duplin     | Lenoir    | Sampson     |          |

### RABBIT

Nov. 18 – Feb. 28 (hunting and box-trapping\*)

Daily limit 5; No possession or season limits

\*A trapping license is not required to box-trap rabbits, but a valid hunting license is necessary.

### QUAIL

Nov. 18 – Feb. 28

Daily limit 6; Possession 12; Season, no limit

### GROUSE

Oct. 16 – Feb. 28

Daily limit 3; Possession 6; Season 30

### BOBCAT

Oct. 16 – Feb. 28

No limits

### GROUNDHOG, NUTRIA, COYOTE, SKUNK (STRIPED), ARMADILLO AND FERAL SWINE (HOGS)

There is no closed season or bag limit. Hunters may use electronic calls for coyotes and feral swine.

- Feral swine may be hunted at night with lights.
- Coyotes may be hunted at night except in the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell and Washington. In those five counties, the following apply:
  - hunting hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset
  - all coyote hunting requires a permit
  - permits can be obtained at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) or by calling 1-888-248-6834
  - all coyote harvests must be reported.

See page 62 for more information about coyote hunting in the five counties listed above.

### PHEASANT

Nov. 18 – Feb. 1 (male pheasant only)

Daily limit 3; Possession 6; Season 30

### FOX

Year Round (including Sundays)

- Must be taken with dogs only; no limits.
- Local laws may restrict hunting foxes with dogs. Visit [ncwildlife.org/foxseasons](http://ncwildlife.org/foxseasons) for restrictions.
- Nov. 18 – Jan. 1 (archery season); Nov. 19 - Jan. 2 (firearm season)
  - Daily limit 2; Season 10
  - This season applies as follows:
    - In those counties and parts of counties east of I-77 where local laws do not prohibit the taking of foxes or that do not have established fox seasons and Mitchell and Caldwell County.
    - Foxes taken during this hunting season shall not be bought or sold.
    - In Caldwell County, foxes may be taken by firearms only.

Jan. 6 – 27, 2018

Daily limit 2; Season 10

- Foxes may be taken in the counties listed below by legal weapons and may be sold after being properly tagged (refer to page 10 for more information on fox tags):
 

|        |           |         |
|--------|-----------|---------|
| Clay   | Henderson | Tyrrell |
| Graham | Macon     |         |
- Hunters must possess fox tags prior to harvesting foxes during this season.

There is no open weapons hunting season in any other county except where provided by local laws. To see if your county has a hunting season on foxes, visit [ncwildlife.org/foxseasons](http://ncwildlife.org/foxseasons), or call 919-707-0050 to request a copy.