

# Countdown to firearm deer season begins



Bill Parker

**Six days and counting.** That's all that remains before opening day of the highly anticipated 1995 firearms white-tail deer season.

The northern two-thirds of the state, and much of the southern third for that matter, will be besieged with blizzards during the last two weeks of November as some 700,000 hunters are expected to converge in Michigan's woodlands and farmlands in pursuit of the wispy whitetail deer.

The DNR reports the whitetail herd is once again approaching the record level of 2 million animals established in 1989. That year, a record 459,490 deer were

harvested through the combined archery, firearm and muzzle-loading seasons. The DNR expects a combined harvest of approximately 415,000 deer this fall, but the number could exceed the record with favorable weather conditions.

Firearm hunters are expected to take 280,000 deer including 180,000 bucks.

Deer hunters who stay put and remain in the woods throughout the day on Nov. 15 increase their odds of taking a buck as this is unquestionably the best day of the season. Once the load starts to fly, mature bucks will seek refuge in spots hunters don't often frequent. This may be a thick cedar swamp, a standing corn field, a cattail marsh or a seemingly open weed field. Many bucks are jumped each year by unsuspecting hunters taking a shortcut across a field that has been neglected by other hunters.

**Be safe, be smart.**

Hunting accidents have been on the decline in recent years. Thanks to increased hunter education and intense hunter education programs, the 1994 firearms season — the centennial of Michigan's first licensed firearms deer season — had the safest on record. Although accidents are declining, there were still 18 too many last year. Three of those 18 accidents resulted in the death of a fellow hunter while the other 15 were non-fatal injury accidents.

One of the main causes of hunting accidents is the jerk who shoots at someone thinking a deer is in a low-light situation. Always be sure of your target and what lies directly behind your target before even taking the safety off. And never, ever shoot at a shadow or a sound. Always keep the barrel of your gun pointed in a

safe direction. Keep your safety on and keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot.

You can also protect yourself by using a flashlight when traveling through the woods during low-light or no-light hours. Some hunters are concerned a light will scare the resident deer away, but rest assured most of the deer in your immediate vicinity are already aware of your presence. Forward light will insure tanned steaks and roasts as the majority of these cuts come from the hind quarters.

Once everything has been removed from the hind quarters, then dry it out completely. The snow will remove any remaining blood and give the meat a milder taste. If you can't get your deer direct-

ly to a processor be sure to keep the carcass cool and free from flies. Leave the hide on and hang the animal from its back legs so any blood will drain through the front of the carcass. If you the weather is warm and flies are present cover the carcass with a game bag or spread cayenne pepper inside the body cavity. Have a safe, successful hunt and let me know how you do!

**Hunters and anglers are asked to report their success.** Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax information to (810) 644-1314 or call Bill Parker evenings at (810) 901-2573.

## Plenty of deer for state hunters

If the weather permits the 1995 firearms deer season will be an outstanding one according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. There were an estimated 1.8 to 2.0 million deer in Michigan as of October 1. The DNR's goal is a fall herd of 1.3 million deer.

The Upper Peninsula, with approximately 725,000 deer, and the southern Lower Peninsula, with approximately 530,000 deer, are both at record levels. The northern Lower Peninsula has a healthy herd with approximately 650,000 whitetails, which is 10-percent higher than last year but still below the record population of 810,000 recorded in 1989.

Following is a breakdown of the outlook for the 1995 firearms season for the 13 DNR districts across the state:

**District 1 — Baraga and 2 — Crystal Falls**  
(Alcona, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Ionia, Keweenaw and Ontonagon counties)

The fall hunting prospects for districts No. 1 and No. 2 are excellent with an anticipated buck harvest of more than 3.2 per square mile. Deer numbers in the seven western UP counties has been on the rise since 1973. The best areas are Dickinson, Ionia, Gogebic and northern Ontonagon counties. Lowest numbers are in Keweenaw, north Houghton, north Baraga and northern Ontonagon counties. Most reports are not evident in the district this year. Hunters should be aware that moose, coyotes and wolves are protected and illegal to hunt during the firearms season. (There are now between 500 and 600 moose on the UP mainland and well on the way to the DNR's goal of 1,000 moose by the year 2000.)

**District 3 — Escanaba**  
(Delta, Marquette, and Menominee counties and the western part of Alger County)

The outlook for deer hunting in District 3 is excellent with an anticipated buck harvest of 3.25 per square mile. Nearly half of the 4,500 square miles of land in District 3 is in state, federal or corporate ownership and is open to public hunting. The deer population in this area has been growing steadily since the mid-1980s. The highest deer densities are found in the farming regions of southern Delta and Menominee counties. The population is lower in Alger and northern Marquette counties, but hunters take a large percentage of eight-point or larger bucks from these northern regions. There is an extended firearms season in District 3 (southern Unit 215) because of the extended hunt run Dec. 1-15 for hunters with a valid antlerless deer hunting license. Beware hunters after this period must wear blaze orange and may take a deer or either sex on their antlerless license. Muzzleloaders may take a buck during the extended season only if they have a valid firearm license.

**District 4 — Newberry**  
(Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac and Schoolcraft counties and the eastern part of Alger County)

Firearm deer hunters in District 4 can expect some of the best hunting in recent years with an anticipated buck harvest of 1.9 per square mile. Last year's relatively mild winter was good for good fawn survival, which means there will be a good number of yearling bucks this fall. The best hunting should be in south-

### OUTLOOK

**District 5 — Gaylord**  
(Alcona, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Montcalm, Oshtemo and Presque Isle counties)

Hunters can anticipate a 10- to 15-percent increase in the buck kill over 1993 and 1994 with an anticipated buck harvest of better than 4.1 per square mile. Following a consecutive antlerless harvest in '94, more deer management units are open for antlerless hunting this year in an effort to maintain the present population level. The central counties, including Montcalm, Oshtemo and Cheboygan, are still primarily bucks-only in an attempt to have a modest increase in deer numbers. There is a good crop of wild apples and both red and white acorns in District 5. Hunters are cautioned to avoid accidentally shooting an elk. The penalty for illegally shooting an elk is up to \$12,000 in fines and up to 180 days in jail, \$1,500 restitution and up to four years revocation of hunting privileges.

**District 6 — Cadillac**  
(Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Michigan, Montcalm, Oshtemo and Westport counties)

A consecutive antlerless harvest in 1994, followed by the mildest winter on record, should result in an increased harvest in District 6 this fall as the population is up to 10 per square mile. The DNR estimates hunters will harvest close to 6.8 bucks per square mile. The best hunting should be in the northwestern counties, Benzie, west Kalkaska and portions of Benzie county. Buckhorns are plentiful in the area. Weapon hunters should hunt in spots, with the best production in Muskegon and Kalkaska counties. Deer numbers appear to be higher than M-25.

**District 7 — Mio**  
(Alcona, Arenac, Clare, Crawford, Gladwin, Iosco, Ogemaw, Osceola and Roscommon counties)

Reduced antlerless harvests the last two years, a mild winter, and a good fawn production are expected to increase the deer population in most of District 7. The outlook for hunters is good with an anticipated buck harvest of nearly 4 per square mile. The best deer hunting opportunities this year and the best antlerless permits were issued by 75 percent over last year. The best deer densities are in Clare, Gladwin, Arenac, Ogemaw and east Roscommon counties. Deer numbers are the lowest deer numbers and third deer management units (M-25) and are expected to moderate across throughout most of the district. On state and federal lands, hunters should look for areas that have had recent lumber sales and hunt around the dense, young growth.

**District 8 — Bay City**  
(Bay, Huron, Isabella, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac and Tuscola counties)

Expect a very good hunting year if the firearms season takes you into District 8. The DNR expects both the buck and antlerless deer harvest to be greater than it was last year with an anticipated buck harvest of more than 4.4 per square mile. The antlerless harvest has been increased to keep the herd under control. Deer densities are high in the area. The best deer densities are in the area. The best deer densities are in the area. The best deer densities are in the area.

exception of pan oak, which have a fair crop in some areas.

**District 9 — Grand Rapids**  
(Antrim, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oshtemo and Otsego counties)

Oceana, Newaygo and Mecosta counties have been closed to antlerless deer hunting for two years and the result is a larger herd this year. Antlerless call for a buck per square mile harvest in excess of 4.1. Deer numbers have increased significantly in Oceana and Mecosta counties. Montcalm, Ionia and Grand Rapids counties also have higher deer numbers this year. The harvest of agriculture crops in District 9 was good this year, but red, black and white acorn production has been spotty.

**District 10 — Livonia**  
(Alcona, Alcona, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties)

Hunters in District 10 should have another good firearms season as the deer population remains the same as it was last year. The anticipated buck harvest is better than 1.5 per square mile. Bucks in north-central and northern Oakland county and northwestern Macomb county have more deer than in the past, but access is generally difficult to provide hunter access. Hunters are reminded that there are local ordinances in some areas that prohibit the discharge of a firearm and other ordinances that prevent all hunting. Check with the local unit of government to see if restrictions apply.

**District 11 — Shiawassee**  
(Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Ingham, Leeper, Livingston and Shiawassee counties)

Hunters can expect to find similar numbers as last year with the anticipated buck harvest exceeding 4.2 per square mile. Areas of Gratiot, Ingham and Eaton counties have experienced a slight increase in the deer population while areas of Livingston and south Shiawassee have experienced a slight decline. The best areas should still be southern Shiawassee, mid and west Livingston, east Gratiot and southwest Eaton counties. The agriculture crop harvest is ahead of schedule and most crops are expected to be done by the second week of the season.

**District 12 — Pilsenaw**  
(Alcona, Barry, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties)

An excellent firearms season is forecast for hunters in District 12 with an anticipated buck harvest of more than 4.2 per square mile and an increase in antlerless permits. Cass and St. Joseph counties will show a slight decline in the population. Cass and Berrien counties are expected to be up throughout the district. The best deer densities are in the area. The best deer densities are in the area. The best deer densities are in the area.

**District 13 — Jackson**  
(Branch, Calhoun, Hilldale, Jackson, Lenawee and Washtenaw counties)

Another excellent deer season is forecast for hunters in District 13 with an anticipated buck harvest in excess of 4.8 per square mile. Deer numbers appear to be up throughout the district especially in Deer Management Unit 215 (Washtenaw County) and DMU 20 (Calhoun County). Hunt permit applications have increased. 1,000 deer will be harvested through this management unit this fall. The antlerless and buck harvest is expected to be 15- to 20-percent higher than last year.

### OUTDOORS

**1995 FIREARMS DEER SEASON FACTS**

When the 1995 firearms deer season opens one half hour before sunrise on Wednesday, Nov. 15, and ends one half hour after sunset on Thursday, Nov. 30. There are extended firearms season in Deer Management Unit 215 in southern Macomb County. The extended season is Dec. 1-15 for persons with a valid antlerless license.

**DEER NUMBERS:** The Michigan Department of Natural Resources estimates there are between 1.8 and 2.0 million deer in Michigan as of October 1. The total is expected to be 1.8 to 1.9 million. The fall is expected to be 1.8 to 1.9 million. The total is expected to be 1.8 to 1.9 million.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:** Hunters are expected to spend more than \$1.8 billion on food, lodging, transportation and equipment during combined archery, firearm and muzzle-loading seasons.

**HUNTER INFO STATIONS:** The Michigan DNR will host three Firearms Deer Season Information Stations prior to the start of the 1995 firearms season. Conservation officers and wildlife biologists are expected to be available to answer questions about deer concentration, hunting prospects, regulations and laws, and other information. Specific locations and hours

# FANTASTIC WINTER BUYS!

### STEEL RADIALS

**\$16<sup>99</sup>**

145R-13BLK

**BLACKWALLS**

155R-13.....18.99  
17 5/7R-13.....26.99  
185/70R-14.....31.99  
195/70R-14.....35.99

**WHITEWALLS**

P195/75R-14.....27.99  
P205/75R-14.....29.99  
P215/75R-15.....31.99  
P235/75R-15.....36.99

FREE MILEAGE WARRANTY

### GOOD YEAR

**T-METRIC**

**\$20<sup>99</sup>**

155R-13.....20.99  
165R-13.....21.99  
175R-13.....23.99  
185R-13.....25.99  
195R-13.....28.99

40,000 MILE WARRANTY

### DECATHLON

**\$24<sup>99</sup>**

155R-13.....24.99  
165R-13.....25.99  
175R-13.....27.99  
185R-13.....29.99  
195R-13.....32.99

40,000 MILE WARRANTY

### STEEL RADIAL ALL-SEASON

**\$36<sup>99</sup>**

P185/75R-14.....39.99  
P195/75R-14.....40.99  
P205/75R-14.....44.99

50,000 MILE WARRANTY

### EAGLE ST

**\$55<sup>99</sup>**

P225/70R-14.....55.99  
P235/70R-14.....58.99  
P245/70R-14.....61.99

### WRANGLER RTS

**\$59<sup>99</sup>**

P225/75R-15 RTS OWL.....59.99  
P235/75R-15 RTS.....61.99  
P245/75R-15 RTS.....64.99

### SNOW TIRES ARE HERE!

**PIRELLI • BLIZZAK • PACEMARK • WINTERMARK**

**TRUCK-VAN & R.V.**

**\$57<sup>99</sup>**

P215/75R-15.....57.99  
P225/75R-15.....58.99  
P235/75R-15.....61.99  
P245/75R-15.....64.99

### HIGH PERFORMANCE

**\$47<sup>99</sup>**

P195/65R-15.....47.99  
P205/65R-15.....49.99  
P215/65R-15.....51.99  
P225/65R-15.....54.99

### MICHELIN

BECAUSE SO MUCH IS RIDING ON YOUR TIRES!

**XW4 / XZ4 MXV4**

**\$59<sup>99</sup>**

P195/75R-14 XZ4.....59.99  
P205/75R-14 XZ4.....61.99  
P215/75R-14 XZ4.....64.99  
P225/75R-14 XZ4.....67.99  
P235/75R-14 XZ4.....70.99  
P245/75R-14 XZ4.....74.99

OUR 60,000 MILE WARRANTY

### CUSTOM WHEELS

HUNDREDS OF STYLES AVAILABLE!

**\$20<sup>99</sup>**

**PIRELLI • YOKOHAMA GENERAL TIRE CO. • UNIROYAL**

**DISCOUNT**

ASK ABOUT OUR "FIRE RESISTANT" CERTIFICATE

FINANCING AVAILABLE

0% Days Based All Costs

**FREE CUSTOMER SERVICE**

24 HOURS A DAY

1-800-4-A-TIRE

1-800-4-4-TIRE

1-800-4-4-TIRE

1-800-4-4-TIRE

**TAYLOR • 874-8888**

2704 Eureka Blvd. (1/2 mi. west of 175)

**WATERFORD • 881-8800**

4341 Waterford Pk. (at Westpark Mall)

**TRCY • 868-8081**

3428 Rochester Rd. (at 18 Mile Rd.)

**874-8888**

1925 Van Dyke Rd. (Corner of 18 Mile Rd.)

**4790 Grand River Ave. (I-76 Exit 1)**

**PARKINGTON HILLS • 873-7818**

2070 W. 12 Mile Rd. (E. of Orchard Lake Rd.)

**CLINTON TOWNSHIP • 778-2100**

12631 Center Pk. (at 14 Mile Rd.)

**NEW WASHINGTON • 948-0280**

12631 Center Pk. (at 14 Mile Rd.)

**ALLEN PARK • 348-8803**

12631 Center Pk. (at 14 Mile Rd.)

**1925 Van Dyke Rd. (Corner of 18 Mile Rd.)**

**1925 Van Dyke Rd. (Corner of 18 Mile Rd.)**

**1925 Van Dyke Rd. (Corner of 18 Mile Rd.)**

**1925 Van Dyke Rd. (Corner of 18 Mile Rd.)**

**1995 FIREARMS DEER SEASON FACTS**

When the 1995 firearms deer season opens one half hour before sunrise on Wednesday, Nov. 15, and ends one half hour after sunset on Thursday, Nov. 30. There are extended firearms season in Deer Management Unit 215 in southern Macomb County. The extended season is Dec. 1-15 for persons with a valid antlerless license.

**DEER NUMBERS:** The Michigan Department of Natural Resources estimates there are between 1.8 and 2.0 million deer in Michigan as of October 1. The total is expected to be 1.8 to 1.9 million. The fall is expected to be 1.8 to 1.9 million.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:** Hunters are expected to spend more than \$1.8 billion on food, lodging, transportation and equipment during combined archery, firearm and muzzle-loading seasons.

**HUNTER INFO STATIONS:** The Michigan DNR will host three Firearms Deer Season Information Stations prior to the start of the 1995 firearms season. Conservation officers and wildlife biologists are expected to be available to answer questions about deer concentration, hunting prospects, regulations and laws, and other information. Specific locations and hours