

Deer season dates and modifications for 2014-15

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission at its quarterly meeting Dec. 6 proposed the dates of the 2014-2015 deer seasons. Commission members also voted to modify deer hunting regulations on select wildlife management areas (WMAs) along with changes to the furbearer trapping season.

The commission recommends all hunting, fishing and boating regulations for approval by the General Assembly and approves all expenditures by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. All recommendations must be approved by legislators before they become law.

2014-2015 deer season dates (no changes from last season, dates reflect calendar shift)

All zones:

Archery: Sept. 6, 2014

– Jan. 19, 2015, either sex

Crossbow: Oct. 1 –

Oct. 19; Nov. 8 – Dec. 31,

2014, either sex

Early Youth Weekend:

Oct. 11 – 12, 2014, either

sex

Early Muzzleloader:

Zones 1, 2 and 3: Oct.

18 – 19, 2014, either sex

Zone 4: antlered only

Modern Firearms:

Zones 1 and 2: Nov. 8

– Nov. 23, 2014, either

sex

Zone 3: Nov. 8 – Nov.

17, 2014, either sex

Zone 4: Nov. 8 – Nov.

17, 2014, antlered only

Late Muzzleloader:

statewide: Dec. 13 – Dec.

21, 2014

Zone 4: Dec. 13 – Dec.

18, 2014, antlered only

Dec. 19 – Dec. 21,

2014, either sex

Late Youth Weekend:

Dec. 27 – 28, 2014, either

sex

Bag limits remain the

same as last season.

In other deer-related business, the commission recommended changing Menifee County from Zone 3 to Zone 4. They also proposed several changes to deer hunting on select wildlife management areas (WMAs). These changes will not affect the current hunting seasons, but will be effective for the 2014-2015 deer seasons:

•Open J.C. Williams WMA in Nelson County and Lloyd WMA in Grant County under statewide regulations for youth firearms season.

•Institute a quota firearms hunt for the first weekend in December on Dewey Lake WMA in Floyd County.

•The 15-inch outside spread antler restriction will be removed from Yellowbank WMA in Breckinridge County.

•On Beaver Creek WMA in McCreary and Pulaski counties, the modern gun quota hunt will be for antlered deer only.

•On Paul Van Booven WMA in Breathitt County, the 15-inch outside spread antler restriction will be removed along with modern gun hunting. The area will remain open under statewide regulations for archery and crossbow hunting, but is closed to all firearms hunting for deer.

•Move the quota hunt to the first weekend in November on Big Rivers WMA in Union and Crittenden counties.

In furbearer-related business, the commission recommended prohibiting night hunting of coyotes on all lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service, including Kentucky Fish and Wildlife-managed WMAs con-

tained within the boundaries of these properties.

In fisheries-related business, anglers fishing on a sport fishing license may keep one blue and flathead catfish more than 35 inches long and one channel catfish more than 28 inches long on the Ohio River with no daily creel limit on fish under those limits. Anglers fishing on a sport fishing license may give Asian carp to commercial anglers to sell, but sport fishing anglers may not accept payment for the fish.

The next Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. (Eastern), Friday, March 7, 2014, at 1 Sportsman's Lane off U.S. 60 in Frankfort. Persons interested in addressing the commission must notify the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commissioner's office in writing at least 30 days in advance of the committee meetings Feb. 4, 2014 to be considered for placement on the commission meeting agenda. People who are hearing-impaired and plan to attend the meeting should contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at least 10 days in advance and the agency will provide a translator. To request to address the commission, write to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, 1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601.



Last Wednesday the Community Mission Team donated 54 Christmas backpacks to the children of inmates at the Rockcastle County Detention Center. These backpacks came from the Appalachia Regional Ministries and the Georgia Baptist Convention. Pictured are, from left: Howard Haddix, Nathan Carter, Kathryn Pope and Darlene Baker.



Four members of the local Kiwanis Club traveled to Williamsburg for an interclub visit at the Cumberland Inn. Pictured are, from left: Robert Lawson, Jim Snyder, Bentley Cromer and James Miller.

“EQIP”

(Cont. from B1)

and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, NRCS develops contracts with agricultural producers to voluntarily implement conservation practices. Persons engaged in livestock or agricultural production and owners of non-industrial private forestland are eligible for this program. Eligible land includes cropland, pastureland, private non-industrial forestland, and other farm or ranch lands.

EQIP offers several National and State Initiatives which include the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative, Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative, Organic Initiative, On-Farm Energy Initiative, Wildlife Initiative, and Forestry Initiative. Interested land users should visit their local NRCS Office to find out what opportunities are available through each of these EQIP Initiatives.

A second conservation program, WHIP, offers opportunities through the Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFV), which focuses on the recovery of certain at-risk, threatened or endangered wildlife species while helping other vulnerable and game species that depend on similar habitat. In Kentucky, the Golden-winged Warbler is the species of concern for parts of 12 Kentucky counties including Bell,

Clay, Floyd, Harlan, Knott, Knox, Leslie, Letcher, McCreary, Perry, Pike and Whitley.

“We’re urging producers to get their applications in as soon as possible to be considered for this year’s funding,” said Kuhn.

All recipients of assistance are required to develop a conservation plan. Conservation planning is an integral part of the conservation process. Landowners should work with a conservation planner to develop the plan based on the landowner’s operational goals to improve the productivity, sustainability and profitability of their operation. The conservation plan will serve as a roadmap to a variety of technical assistance and financial assistance through EQIP and WHIP, as well as other options available to the landowner. “We’re getting back to our roots with conservation planning,” says Kuhn. “Conservation planning is the vital first step in understanding natural resources on your land, and also understanding how technical and financial conservation assistance can be incorporated into your operation to help you help the land.” He added, “Now is the time to contact your local NRCS Field Office to develop a conservation plan.”

For more information visit NRCS on the web at www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov or contact your local NRCS service center at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

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