

Five year crop protection permits and changes to recreational hunting season for antlerless fallow deer

October 2019

I. Frequently asked questions

I.1 Recreational Hunting

Q: Do recreational hunters still need to submit an annual game take return for antlerless fallow deer taken under a recreational hunting licence?

A: Yes, recreational hunters still need to submit an annual game take return for antlerless fallow deer to help with population monitoring and address concerns some stakeholders have about compliance. A take record sheet will be provided in Game Tracks for the hunters records. As is currently the case a recreational hunting licence will not be issued to anyone who has an outstanding take return.

Q: Is there still a quota limiting the number of antlerless fallow deer taken under a recreational hunting licence?

A: No. There will be no quota applied to the antlerless fallow deer hunting season. However recreational hunting licence holders are still limited to taking one male deer.

Q: As a hunter holding a game licence how many antlerless fallow deer am I able to harvest?

A: As many as the landholder allows.

Q: As a hunter how will I keep a record of the number of antlerless deer I have harvested?

A: A blank template will be available in Game Tracks to help hunters keep a record of antlerless deer harvested. It is not necessary to return this template to the Department, only the total annual take using the separate form provided to licenced recreational hunters.

I.2 Crop Protection Permits

Q: Why the change to a five year crop protection permit for antlerless fallow deer?

A: This change will reduce the administrative burden on landholders and hunters allowing them to better manage the control of antlerless fallow deer for crop protection purposes.

Q: Do landholders still need to submit a crop protection permit return for antlerless deer taken under crop protection permits?

A: CPP holders will be required to provide take information to the Department annually to assist with population monitoring. Annual 'take' information must be returned to the Department. The CPP holder must record all deer taken under their CPP, whether taken by themselves or by other persons authorised by them. A take recording sheet is provided in Game Tracks to assist landholders and hunters to record take.

Q: When will fallow deer antlerless 5 year crop protection permits be available?

A: The fallow deer antlerless 5 year CPP will commence at the beginning of the antlerless fallow deer season in 2020.

Q: Is there still a quota limiting the number of antlerless fallow deer taken under crop protection permits?

A: Crop protection permits issued to take male deer will have a quota set and determined by Wildlife Management Officers. There will be no quota applied to antlerless deer taken under a crop protection permit.

Q: Is there still a quota limiting the number of male (buck and immature male) fallow deer taken under crop protection permits?

A: Yes. The number of male (bucks and immature male) deer able to be taken under a crop protection permit is that determined by the Wildlife Management Officer assessing the permit application, in conjunction with a discussion with the applicant and possibly a property inspection.

1.3 General

Q: Do I still need to use tags for antlerless fallow deer taken under crop protection permits or a recreational hunting licences?

A: No, tags will now only be required to be fitted to male deer taken under a recreational hunting licence or a CPP. As of the beginning of the 2020 antlerless fallow deer season there will no longer be a requirement to fit a tag to antlerless fallow deer taken under a recreational hunting licence or a crop protection permit. Hunters purchasing a recreational deer licence will therefore only be issued with one tag entitling them to take one male deer during the gazetted male deer season.

Q: Is this the beginning of deregulation for fallow deer

A: No, wild fallow deer will remain Partly Protected under the *Wildlife (General) Regulations 2010*. Under the current changes five year crop protection permits (CPP) only apply to antlerless deer (females, does). Game licences and CPPs will still be required, annually, to take male fallow deer (immature and bucks) for crop protection and adult male deer during the gazetted recreational hunting season. Crop protection permits for males will be available for specified periods of the year.

Q: Will e-tagging using a mobile phone App be introduced for tagging fallow deer?

A: The use of e-tagging using a mobile phone App is a long term aspiration. Its introduction will not be possible until more progress is made with the permit management system currently being developed by the Department.

Q: Will Wildlife Rangers still check antlerless fallow deer taken?

A: Yes, anyone possessing an antlerless deer carcass can be asked by a Wildlife Ranger to confirm the animal was taken legally. This can be done either by producing their recreational hunting licence or an agent's copy of a crop protection permit, depending upon under which authorisation the deer was taken. For example, antlerless deer taken during prohibited hours with a spotlight and or vehicle requires a crop protection permit.

Q: If I don't need to tag antlerless deer taken do I still need to inspect the carcass post shooting?

A: Yes, anyone shooting an animal must ensure that it has been humanely killed as quickly as possible hence they must undertake any inspection necessary to be assured of this. Wounded animals must be killed as quickly and humanely as possible as is required under the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*. If an animal is wounded, all reasonable effort must be made immediately to locate and kill it using a method that will achieve a rapid and humane death. A shot to the brain is recommended. In circumstances where a shot to the brain of an animal is undesirable, impractical or unsafe, a shot to the heart or base of the neck is permissible.

Q: If there are no tags how will the property of origin of the deer be determined?

A: This information is not required for compliance as possession of a recreational hunting licence or a crop protection permit indicates that the person was authorised to shoot and possess deer subject to them being granted access to a property on which to shoot it. Access to properties for hunting is entirely at the discretion of the landowner or manager.

Q: Will removing the requirement to tag antlerless deer result in more antlerless deer being taken?

A: The changes are aimed at providing landowners and hunters with more flexibility to help improve deer population management. The Department will continue state-wide monitoring of wildlife populations, including an aerial survey of fallow deer, to ensure take numbers are sustainable.

Q: Can I sell venison from antlerless deer harvested under a 5 year crop protection permit or a game licence?

A: No, it is not permitted under *Wildlife (General) Regulations 2010* to sell or trade venison from wild shot deer.

Q: Do I still need to use tags for antlerless fallow deer taken under crop protection permits or a recreational hunting licence?

A: No, tags will now only be required to be fitted to male deer taken under a recreational hunting licence or a CPP. As of the beginning of the 2020 antlerless fallow deer season there will no longer be a requirement to fit a tag to antlerless fallow deer taken under a recreational hunting licence or a crop protection permit. Hunters purchasing a recreational deer licence will therefore only be issued with one tag entitling them to take one male deer during the gazetted male deer season.

Q: Is it permissible to hunt antlerless fallow deer during the fawning period?

A: No, the recreational hunting antlerless deer season and crop protection permits will close for the fawning period between November and March, so as to manage any potential adverse animal welfare outcomes associated with orphaned milk dependent fawns.