

2026 Code of Hunting Ethics

USDA-ARS Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory

Antlerless Archery Deer Season begins September 4, 2026. (At 5 PM)

The North Dakota Governor has proclaimed an Experimental Antlerless Deer Bow Hunting Season on lands owned and/or managed by the USDA-ARS Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory (NGPRL) to reduce population numbers. These licenses are for USDA-ARS NGPRL owned and managed lands only.

According to the proclamation: *“An experimental antlerless deer bow season is proclaimed for the USDA-ARS Northern Great Plains Research Lab in Mandan, North Dakota. The season shall open at 500 pm Central Time, September 6, 2024 and close one-half (½) hour after sunset January 31, 2027. A maximum of 25 antlerless deer access permits licenses will be available. Application for the lottery for these licenses will be available at www.ars.usda.gov/plains-area/mandan-nd/ngprl/. Licenses must be purchased at the NDGFD headquarters in Bismarck.”*

This hunt will conform to the stipulations of the North Dakota 2026 Deer Hunting Proclamation (<https://gf.nd.gov/gnf/regulations/docs/deer/deer-guide-2024.pdf>). Opening day (September 4) shall begin at 5:00 p.m. (not noon).

Successful applicants must sign acceptance of this ‘2026 Code of Hunting Ethics’ **And attending a one hour mandatory safety meeting at the USDA-ARS Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory at 6:00 p.m. on August 12, 2026. You have to attend this meeting if your not at the meeting you can not hunt.** (Bridge Conference Center, 1701 10th Avenue SW, Mandan, ND 58554).

This license may be received in addition to the North Dakota general archery deer hunting license. Each selected hunter may hunt only federal non-work days unless notified at a later date. Hunting is allowed from 5:00 p.m. Friday (or day preceding federal holiday) to ½ hour past sundown on Sunday and on federal holidays. Setup may commence at 4:30 p.m. Hunting is allowed all day on federal non-work days except date of the Bis-Man Bird Club’s annual Christmas Bird Count (date to be announced later) and other authorized public activities which may be later announced. Please be aware that research personnel may be working in late afternoon and/or evenings.

Scouting for game is permitted after 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and all day on weekends, and federal holidays. No weapons are permitted during scouting.

Successful completion of the International Bowhunters Education Course is required to archery hunt on the USDA-ARS, Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory. To enroll in the International Bowhunters Education Course, visit the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website at: www.gf.nd.gov and click on the Hunter Education tab.

Application deadline is 5:00 p.m. on August 2, 2026. Only hunters selected in a random lottery from names submitted on the NGPRL website (www.ars.usda.gov/plains-area/mandan-nd/ngprl/) will be approved for hunting access to USDA-ARS owned and/or managed lands during the dates and times specified. Applicants will be notified of results via email around the first week of August 2026.

In addition to this license to hunt antlerless white-tail or mule deer, each successful applicant may also purchase a license (for use only on lands owned and/or managed by the USDA-ARS Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory) to archery hunt Wild Turkeys. The North Dakota 2026 Fall Wild Turkey Proclamation states, *“An experimental turkey bow season is proclaimed for the USDA-ARS Northern Great Plains Research Lab in Mandan, North Dakota. individuals who are licensed to bow hunt deer within the Northern Great Plains Research Lab. Licenses will be available at the NDGFD headquarters in Bismarck. The season shall open around October 16, 2026 and closes January 31, 2027. Specific details, including areas open to hunting, will be determined by the USDA-ARS. Hunters must comply with all other applicable archery rules and regulations issued by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.”* Wild Turkey hunting is permitted only concurrently with deer hunting dates/times.

Special arrangements may be made available for handicapped hunter access. Please contact the USDA-AR Hunting Specialist.

Hunters are personally responsible for security and safety of all personal possessions and hold the U.S. Government, its agencies, partners, and employees harmless in the event of personal injury, and/or property loss or damage. Hunters will bear liability for harm to public buildings and property, and may result in immediate and permanent termination of hunting privileges.

Successful applicants will receive vehicle parking permits and federal access guidelines upon completing forms at the North Dakota Game & Fish Department Headquarters. A 'USDA-ARS Parking Permit' shall be prominently exhibited in the vehicle front window while on campus. Vehicles on the USDA-ARS campus not exhibiting a valid permit may be towed at the owner's expense. Please do not block gates or vehicle access routes when parking.

Each hunter will annotate their onsite or offsite situation on their 'Hunter Sign In' status sheet which is to remain in the 'Hunter Sign In' mail box located to the South of Building 17 (building with green light). One sheet per weekend is acceptable. Photocopies are acceptable. Please also annotate the 'Hunter Sign In' status sheet when and where game is harvested.

Walk-in hunting only (bicycles and other non-motorized transportation are permitted). All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV/UTV) are not permitted. When harvesting of game, the hunter may be permitted to retrieve the carcass on established trails. Contact USDA-ARS Hunting Specialist for assistance in opening gates if needed.

Under no circumstances will hunting be permitted within 440 yards of buildings without notification and permission of the occupants prior to hunting each time. All hunters must wear blaze orange during the North Dakota Deer Gun hunting season November 6, 2026 through November 22, 2026.

Use of alcohol, open fires, or smoking are not permitted on USDA owned and/or controlled property. It is prohibited to hunt in unharvested crops, including alfalfa, clover, and other grasses grown for seed. Emerged winter wheat is a unharvested crop.

Defacing or disfiguring trees in any manner is prohibited. No permanent tree stands are allowed. Portable tree stands may remain in place from August 12, 2026 (after the safety meeting) through January 31, 2027 if they are concealed from public view and owner's contact information is attached.

Dates to remember:

July 1 Applications will start being accepted

August 2 Application deadline

August 12 Mandatory Safety meeting

August 12 Setup can begin after safety meeting

September 4 Hunting may begin after 4:30

September 7 labor day hunting allowed

October 12 Indigenous People day hunting allowed

November 6 must wear orange until the 22 of November

November 10 -11 Veterans Day hunting allowed After 4:30 on the 10

November 25-26 Thanksgiving Hunting allowed on the 25 after 4:30 all-day Thursday

November 27 hunting after 4:30 (we are open that day)

December 24 hunting after 4:30 can hunt until the 27 December

December 31 hunt After 4:30 can hunt until January 3

January 18 can hunt all day

January 31 last day of hunting.

Hunting is allowed all days on Saturday Sunday during the hunting season unless informed other w

This hunt is justified for the reduction of animals population numbers and destructive behavior by USDA-ARS Policies and Procedures document number 151.0-ARS v.2 dated February 21, 2014. Questions or comments may be directed to the USDA-ARS Hunting Specialist @ 701.667.3017 (O), 701.805.1222 (C), or Email Scott.jensen@usda.gov. Although there are currently significant populations of deer on USDA-ARS properties, no guarantee is made of game availability in-season. USDA-ARS retains all rights to modify or terminate this activity at any time

Print and Sign Date.