

CHAPTER 106
DEER HUNTING BY RESIDENTS
[Prior to 12/31/86, Conservation Commission[290] Ch 106]

571—106.1(481A) Licenses. When hunting deer, all hunters must have in their possession a valid deer hunting license and a valid resident hunting license and must have paid the habitat fee (if normally required to have a hunting license and to pay the habitat fee to hunt). No person while hunting deer shall carry or have in possession any license or transportation tag issued to another person. No one who is issued a deer hunting license and transportation tag shall allow another person to use or possess that license or transportation tag while that person is deer hunting or tagging a deer.

106.1(1) Type of license.

a. General deer licenses. General deer licenses shall be valid for taking deer in one season selected at the time the license is purchased. General deer licenses shall be valid for taking deer of either sex except in Buena Vista, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Humboldt, Ida, Kossuth, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Sac, and Sioux Counties during the first regular gun season when the general deer license will be valid for taking deer with at least one forked antler. Paid general deer licenses shall be valid statewide except where prohibited in deer population management zones established under 571—Chapter 105. Free general deer licenses shall be valid for taking deer of either sex only on the farm unit of an eligible landowner or tenant in the season or seasons selected at the time the license is obtained.

b. Antlerless-deer-only licenses. Antlerless-deer-only licenses shall be valid for taking deer that have no forked antler. Paid antlerless-deer-only licenses shall be valid in one county or in one deer population management zone and in one season as selected at the time the license is purchased. Free and reduced-fee antlerless-deer-only licenses shall be valid on the farm unit of an eligible landowner or tenant in the season or seasons selected at the time the license is obtained.

106.1(2) Bow season licenses. General deer and antlerless-deer-only licenses, paid or free, shall be valid in both segments of the bow season.

106.1(3) Regular gun season licenses. Paid general deer and antlerless-deer-only licenses shall be valid in either the first or the second regular gun season, as designated on the license. Free general deer licenses and antlerless-deer-only licenses shall be valid in both the first and second regular gun seasons.

106.1(4) Muzzleloader season licenses. General deer and antlerless-deer-only licenses, paid or free, shall be valid in either the early or the late muzzleloader season, as designated on the license.

106.1(5) November antlerless-deer-only licenses. Rescinded IAB 7/11/12, effective 8/15/12.

106.1(6) January antlerless-deer-only licenses. Licenses for the January antlerless-deer-only season may be issued for the following counties: Allamakee, Appanoose, Decatur, Wayne, and Winneshiek. January antlerless-deer-only licenses shall be issued for a county only when a minimum of 100 antlerless-deer-only licenses, as described in subrule 106.6(6), remain unsold in that county as of the third Monday in December. If 100 or more antlerless-deer-only licenses remain unsold for a given county as of the third Monday in December, those remaining antlerless-deer-only licenses shall be made available for the January antlerless-deer-only season in that county until the relevant antlerless-deer-only quota as described in subrule 106.6(6) is met.

106.1(7) Free and reduced-fee deer licenses for landowners and tenants. A maximum of one free general deer license, two free antlerless-deer-only licenses, and two reduced-fee antlerless-deer-only licenses may be issued to a qualifying landowner or eligible family member and a qualifying tenant or eligible family member. Eligibility for licenses is described in 571—106.12(481A). The free general deer license shall be available for one of the following seasons: the youth/disabled hunter season (if eligible), bow season, early muzzleloader season, late muzzleloader season, or first and second regular gun seasons. One free antlerless-deer-only license shall be available for one of the following seasons: youth/disabled hunter season (if eligible), bow season, early muzzleloader season, late muzzleloader season, or first and second regular gun seasons. The second free antlerless-deer-only license shall be valid only for the January antlerless-deer-only season and will be available only if a portion of the farm unit lies within a county where paid antlerless-deer-only licenses are available during that season. Each

reduced-fee antlerless-deer-only license shall be valid for one of the following seasons: youth/disabled hunter season (if eligible), bow season, early muzzleloader season, late muzzleloader season, first and second regular gun seasons, or January antlerless-deer-only season. January antlerless-deer-only licenses will be available only if a portion of the farm unit is located in a county where paid antlerless-deer-only licenses are available in that season.

106.1(8) Antlerless-deer-only crossbow licenses for senior citizens. Persons 65 years old or older may obtain one paid antlerless-deer-only license valid statewide for taking antlerless deer with a crossbow. The license will be valid only during the bow season.

106.1(9) Deer hunting licenses for nonambulatory persons. The commission shall issue licenses in conformance with Iowa Code section 483A.8C. A person applying for this license must provide a completed form obtained from the department of natural resources. The application shall be certified by the applicant's attending physician with an original signature and declare that the applicant is nonambulatory using the criteria listed in Iowa Code section 483A.8C(4). A medical statement from the applicant's attending physician that specifies criteria met shall be on 8½" × 11" letterhead stationery. The attending physician shall be a currently practicing doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy, physician assistant or nurse practitioner.

[ARC 7921B, IAB 7/1/09, effective 8/5/09; ARC 8255B, IAB 11/4/09, effective 12/9/09; ARC 8888B, IAB 6/30/10, effective 8/18/10; ARC 0189C, IAB 7/11/12, effective 8/15/12; ARC 1562C, IAB 8/6/14, effective 9/10/14; ARC 3831C, IAB 6/6/18, effective 7/11/18; ARC 5066C, IAB 7/1/20, effective 8/5/20; ARC 5682C, IAB 6/16/21, effective 7/21/21]

571—106.2(481A) Season dates. Deer may be taken only during the following seasons:

106.2(1) Bow season. Deer may be taken in accordance with the type of license issued from October 1 through the Friday before the first Saturday in December and from the Monday following the third Saturday in December through January 10 of the following year.

106.2(2) Regular gun seasons. Deer may be taken in accordance with the type, season and zone designated on the license from the first Saturday in December and continuing for five consecutive days (first regular gun season) or from the second Saturday in December and continuing for nine consecutive days (second regular gun season).

106.2(3) Muzzleloader seasons. Deer may be taken in accordance with the type, season and zone designated on the license from the Saturday closest to October 14 and continuing for nine consecutive days (early muzzleloader season) or from the Monday following the third Saturday in December through January 10 of the following year (late muzzleloader season).

106.2(4) November antlerless-deer-only season. Rescinded IAB 7/11/12, effective 8/15/12.

106.2(5) January antlerless-deer-only season. Deer may be taken in accordance with the type, season, and zone designated on the license from January 11 through the second Sunday following that date.

[ARC 0189C, IAB 7/11/12, effective 8/15/12; ARC 1562C, IAB 8/6/14, effective 9/10/14; ARC 3831C, IAB 6/6/18, effective 7/11/18; ARC 5066C, IAB 7/1/20, effective 8/5/20; ARC 5682C, IAB 6/16/21, effective 7/21/21]

571—106.3(481A) Shooting hours. Legal shooting hours shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset in all seasons.

571—106.4(481A) Limits.

106.4(1) Bow season. The daily bag limit is one deer per license. The possession limit is one deer per license. A person may shoot and tag a deer only by utilizing the license and tag issued in the person's name.

106.4(2) Muzzleloader seasons. The daily bag limit is one deer per license. The possession limit is one deer per license. A person may shoot and tag a deer only by utilizing the license and tag issued in the person's name.

106.4(3) Regular gun seasons. The bag limit is one deer for each hunter in the party who has a valid deer transportation tag. The possession limit is one deer per license. "Possession" shall mean that the deer is in the possession of the person whose license number matches the number of the transportation tag on the carcass of the deer.

106.4(4) November antlerless-deer-only season. Rescinded IAB 7/11/12, effective 8/15/12.

106.4(5) *January antlerless-deer-only season.* The bag limit is one deer per license. The possession limit is one deer per license.

106.4(6) *Maximum annual possession limit.* The maximum annual possession limit for a resident deer hunter is one deer for each legal license and transportation tag obtained.

[ARC 0189C, IAB 7/11/12, effective 8/15/12; ARC 1562C, IAB 8/6/14, effective 9/10/14; ARC 3831C, IAB 6/6/18, effective 7/11/18; ARC 5066C, IAB 7/1/20, effective 8/5/20; ARC 5682C, IAB 6/16/21, effective 7/21/21]

571—106.5(481A) *Areas closed to hunting.* There shall be no open seasons for hunting deer on the county roads immediately adjacent to or through Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, Kossuth County, where posted accordingly. There shall be no open seasons for hunting deer on all portions of rights-of-way on Interstate Highways 29, 35, 80 and 380.

571—106.6(481A) *Paid deer license quotas and restrictions.* Paid deer licenses, including antlerless-deer-only licenses, will be restricted in the type and number that may be purchased.

106.6(1) *Paid general deer licenses.* Residents may purchase no more than two paid general deer licenses, one for the bow season and one for one of the following seasons: early muzzleloader season, late muzzleloader season, first regular gun season, or second regular gun season. No more than 7,500 paid statewide general deer licenses will be sold for the early muzzleloader season. Fifty additional paid early muzzleloader season licenses will be sold through and will be valid only for the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant. There will be no quota on the number of paid general deer licenses issued in the bow season, late muzzleloader season, first regular gun season, or second regular gun season.

106.6(2) *Paid antlerless-deer-only licenses.* Paid antlerless-deer-only licenses have quotas for each county and will be sold for each county until quotas are reached.

a. Paid antlerless-deer-only licenses may be purchased for any season in counties where licenses are available, except as outlined in 106.6(2)“*b.*” A license must be used in the season, county or deer population management area selected at the time the license is purchased.

b. No one may obtain paid licenses for both the first regular gun season and second regular gun season regardless of whether the licenses are valid for any deer or antlerless deer only. Paid antlerless-deer-only licenses for the early muzzleloader season may only be purchased by hunters who have already purchased one of the 7,500 paid statewide general deer licenses. Hunters who purchase one of the 7,500 paid statewide general deer licenses for the early muzzleloader season may not obtain paid antlerless licenses for the first or second regular gun season.

c. Prior to September 15, a hunter may purchase one antlerless-deer-only license for any season for which the hunter is eligible. Beginning September 15, a hunter may purchase an unlimited number of antlerless-deer-only licenses for any season for which the hunter is eligible, as set forth in 106.6(2)“*b.*” until the county or population management area quotas are filled. Licenses purchased for deer population management areas will not count in the county quota.

106.6(3) *November antlerless-deer-only season.* Rescinded IAB 7/11/12, effective 8/15/12.

106.6(4) *January antlerless-deer-only season.* Only antlerless-deer-only licenses, paid or free, are available in counties pursuant to the conditions described in subrule 106.1(6). A license must be used during the January antlerless-deer-only season as described in subrule 106.2(5) and in the county or deer population management area selected at the time the license is purchased. Free antlerless-deer-only licenses shall be available only in the portion of the farm unit located in a county where paid antlerless-deer-only licenses are available during the January antlerless-deer-only season.

106.6(5) *Free landowner/tenant licenses.* A person obtaining a free landowner/tenant license may purchase any combination of paid bow and paid gun licenses available to persons who are not eligible for landowner/tenant licenses as described in 571—106.12(481A).

106.6(6) *Antlerless-deer-only licenses.* Paid antlerless-deer-only licenses will be available by county as follows:

County	Quota	County	Quota	County	Quota
Adair	1200	Floyd	150	Monona	750
Adams	1000	Franklin	0	Monroe	2250
Allamakee	3800	Fremont	100	Montgomery	500
Appanoose	2700	Greene	0	Muscatine	900
Audubon	0	Grundy	0	O'Brien	0
Benton	325	Guthrie	2150	Osceola	0
Black Hawk	0	Hamilton	0	Page	500
Boone	300	Hancock	0	Palo Alto	0
Bremer	300	Hardin	0	Plymouth	0
Buchanan	400	Harrison	750	Pocahontas	0
Buena Vista	0	Henry	1050	Polk	1350
Butler	200	Howard	450	Pottawattamie	750
Calhoun	0	Humboldt	0	Poweshiek	200
Carroll	0	Ida	0	Ringgold	1400
Cass	400	Iowa	450	Sac	0
Cedar	775	Jackson	1100	Scott	200
Cerro Gordo	0	Jasper	575	Shelby	0
Cherokee	0	Jefferson	1500	Sioux	0
Chickasaw	375	Johnson	950	Story	150
Clarke	2400	Jones	1100	Tama	300
Clay	0	Keokuk	500	Taylor	1500
Clayton	4000	Kossuth	0	Union	1400
Clinton	400	Lee	1700	Van Buren	2100
Crawford	0	Linn	850	Wapello	1600
Dallas	2100	Louisa	775	Warren	3000
Davis	1700	Lucas	2500	Washington	1000
Decatur	2200	Lyon	0	Wayne	2700
Delaware	950	Madison	3300	Webster	0
Des Moines	900	Mahaska	475	Winnebago	0
Dickinson	0	Marion	2050	Winneshiek	2700
Dubuque	1200	Marshall	150	Woodbury	200
Emmet	0	Mills	300	Worth	0
Fayette	2500	Mitchell	100	Wright	0

[ARC 7921B, IAB 7/1/09, effective 8/5/09; ARC 8888B, IAB 6/30/10, effective 8/18/10; ARC 0189C, IAB 7/11/12, effective 8/15/12; ARC 0830C, IAB 7/10/13, effective 8/14/13; ARC 1562C, IAB 8/6/14, effective 9/10/14; ARC 2086C, IAB 8/5/15, effective 9/9/15; ARC 2697C, IAB 8/31/16, effective 8/12/16; ARC 3098C, IAB 6/7/17, effective 7/12/17; ARC 3831C, IAB 6/6/18, effective 7/11/18; ARC 4531C, IAB 7/3/19, effective 8/7/19; ARC 5066C, IAB 7/1/20, effective 8/5/20; ARC 5682C, IAB 6/16/21, effective 7/21/21]

571—106.7(481A) Method of take. Permitted weapons and devices vary according to the type of season.

106.7(1) Bow season. Only longbow, compound, or recurve bows shooting broadhead arrows are permitted during the bow season. Arrows must be at least 18 inches long.

a. Crossbows, as described in 106.7(1) “*b*,” may be used during the bow season in the following two situations:

- (1) By persons with certain afflictions of the upper body as provided in 571—15.22(481A); and

(2) By persons over the age of 65 with an antlerless-deer-only license as provided in Iowa Code section 483A.8B.

b. Crossbow means a weapon consisting of a bow mounted transversely on a stock or frame and designed to fire a bolt, arrow, or quarrel by the release of the bow string, which is controlled by a mechanical trigger and a working safety. Crossbows equipped with pistol grips and designed to be fired with one hand are illegal for taking or attempting to take deer. All projectiles used in conjunction with a crossbow for deer hunting must be equipped with a broadhead.

c. No explosive or chemical device may be attached to any arrow, broadhead or bolt.

106.7(2) *Regular gun seasons.* Only the following shall be used in the regular gun season: 10-, 12-, 16-, and 20-gauge shotguns shooting single slugs; any handgun or rifle as described in Iowa Code section 481A.48; and any muzzleloaders as described in subrule 106.7(3).

106.7(3) *Muzzleloader seasons.* Only muzzleloading rifles, muzzleloading muskets, muzzleloading pistols, and muzzleloading revolvers will be permitted for taking deer during the early muzzleloader season. During the late muzzleloader season, deer may be taken with a muzzleloading rifle, muzzleloading musket, muzzleloading pistol, muzzleloading revolver, any handgun as defined in 106.7(2), crossbow as described in 106.7(1) “*b.*,” or bow as described in 106.7(1). All muzzleloaders as described in this subrule shall only shoot a single projectile between .44 and .775 of an inch.

106.7(4) *November antlerless-deer-only season.* Rescinded IAB 7/11/12, effective 8/15/12.

106.7(5) *January antlerless-deer-only season.* Bows, crossbows, shotguns, muzzleloaders, rifles, and handguns as described in this rule may be used during the January antlerless-deer-only season.

106.7(6) *Prohibited weapons and devices.* The use of dogs, domestic animals, bait, firearms except as provided for in this chapter, crossbows except as provided in 106.7(1), automobiles, aircraft, or any mechanical conveyance or device, including electronic calls, is prohibited, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may hunt from any stationary motor-driven land conveyance. “Bait” means grain, fruit, vegetables, nuts, hay, salt, mineral blocks, or any other natural food materials; commercial products containing natural food materials; or by-products of such materials transported to or placed in an area for the intent of attracting wildlife. Bait does not include food placed during normal agricultural activities. “Paraplegic” means an individual with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease of or injury to the spinal cord. It shall be unlawful for a person, while hunting deer, to carry or have in possession a rifle except as provided in 106.7(2) or 106.7(3). A person in possession of a valid permit to carry weapons may carry a handgun while hunting. However, only handguns as described in 106.7(2) may be used to hunt deer and only when a handgun is a lawful method of take.

106.7(7) *Discharge of firearms from roadway.* No person shall discharge a rifle, including a muzzleloading rifle or musket, or a handgun from a highway while deer hunting. In addition, no person shall discharge a shotgun shooting slugs from a highway north of U.S. Highway 30. A “highway” means the way between property lines open to the public for vehicle traffic, including the road ditch, as defined in Iowa Code section 321.1(78).

106.7(8) *Hunting from blinds.* No person shall use a blind for hunting deer during the regular gun deer seasons as defined in 106.2(2), unless such blind exhibits a solid blaze orange marking which is a minimum of 144 square inches in size and is visible in all directions. Such blaze orange shall be affixed directly on or directly on top of the blind. For the purposes of this subrule, the term “blind” is defined as an enclosure used for concealment while hunting, constructed either wholly or partially from man-made materials, and used by a person who is hunting for the purpose of hiding from sight. A blind is not a naturally occurring landscape feature or an arrangement of natural or agricultural plant material that a hunter uses for concealment. In addition to the requirements in this subrule, hunters using blinds must also satisfy the requirements of wearing blaze orange as prescribed in Iowa Code section 481A.122.

[ARC 9717B, IAB 9/7/11, effective 10/12/11; ARC 0189C, IAB 7/11/12, effective 8/15/12; ARC 1562C, IAB 8/6/14, effective 9/10/14; ARC 2086C, IAB 8/5/15, effective 9/9/15; ARC 3098C, IAB 6/7/17, effective 7/12/17; ARC 3831C, IAB 6/6/18, effective 7/11/18; ARC 5601C, IAB 5/5/21, effective 6/9/21; ARC 5682C, IAB 6/16/21, effective 7/21/21]

571—106.8(481A) Procedures to obtain licenses. All resident deer hunting licenses must be obtained using the electronic licensing system for Iowa (ELSI). Licenses may be purchased from ELSI license agents, or online at www.iowadnr.com, or by calling the ELSI telephone ordering system.

106.8(1) Licenses with quotas. All paid deer hunting licenses for which a quota is established may be obtained from the ELSI system on a first-come, first-served basis beginning August 15 until the quota fills, or through the last day of the hunting period for which the license is valid.

106.8(2) Licenses without quotas. All deer hunting licenses that have no quota may be obtained from the ELSI system beginning August 15 through the last day of the hunting period for which a license is valid.

106.8(3) Providing false information.

a. Any person who provides false information about the person's identity or eligibility for any paid or free landowner/tenant deer license and tag and who attests that the information is correct by accepting and signing the license or tag shall have the person's hunting license revoked as a part of the sentencing for such criminal conviction, and the person shall not be issued a hunting license for one year pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 483A.24(2) "f" and rule 571—15.6(483A).

b. In addition to any legal penalties that may be imposed, the obtaining of a license in violation of this rule shall invalidate that deer license and transportation tag and any other deer hunting license and transportation tag obtained during the same year.

571—106.9(481A) Transportation tag. A transportation tag bearing the license number of the licensee, year of issuance, and date of kill properly shown shall be visibly attached to one leg of each antlerless deer or on the main beam between two points, if present, on one of the antlers of an antlered deer in such a manner that the tag cannot be removed without mutilating or destroying the tag. This tag shall be attached to the carcass of the deer within 15 minutes of the time the deer carcass is located after being taken or before the carcass is moved to be transported by any means from the place where the deer was taken, whichever occurs first. No person shall tag a deer with a transportation tag issued to another person or with a tag that was purchased after the deer was taken. During the youth/disabled hunter season, bow season, early muzzleloader season and late muzzleloader season, the hunter who killed the deer must tag the deer by using the transportation tag issued in that person's name. During the first and second regular gun seasons and the January antlerless-deer-only season, anyone present in the hunting party may tag a deer with a tag issued in that person's name. This tag shall be proof of possession and shall remain affixed to the carcass until such time as the animal is processed for consumption. The head, and antlers if any, shall remain attached to the deer while being transported by any means whatsoever from the place where taken to the processor or commercial preservation facility or until the deer has been processed for consumption.

[ARC 9717B, IAB 9/7/11, effective 10/12/11; ARC 0189C, IAB 7/11/12, effective 8/15/12]

571—106.10(481A) Youth deer and severely disabled hunts.

106.10(1) Licenses.

a. Youth deer hunt. A youth deer license may be issued to any Iowa resident who is not over 15 years old on the day the youth obtains the license. The youth license may be paid or free to persons eligible for free licenses. If the youth obtains a free landowner/tenant license, it will count as the one free general deer license for which the youth's family is eligible.

Each participating youth must be accompanied by an adult who possesses a regular hunting license and has paid the habitat fee (if the adult is normally required to have a hunting license and to pay the habitat fee to hunt). Only one adult may participate for each youth hunter. The accompanying adult must not possess a firearm or bow and must be in the direct company of the youth at all times.

A person may obtain only one youth general deer license but may also obtain any other paid or free general deer and antlerless-deer-only licenses that are available to other hunters. Antlerless-deer-only licenses must be obtained in the same manner with which other hunters obtain them, as described in 106.6(2).

b. Severely disabled hunt. Any severely disabled Iowa resident meeting the requirements of Iowa Code section 321L.1(8) may be issued one general deer license to hunt deer during the youth season. A person applying for this license must either possess a disability parking permit or provide a completed form from the department of natural resources. The form must be signed by a physician verifying that the person's disability meets the criteria defined in Iowa Code section 321L.1(8). The attending physician shall be currently practicing medicine and shall be a medical doctor, a doctor of osteopathy, a physician assistant, or a nurse practitioner. Forms are available online at www.iowadnr.gov, by visiting the DNR office at the Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa, or any district office, or by calling (515)725-8200. A person between 16 and 65 years of age must also possess a regular hunting license and have paid the habitat fee to obtain a license (if normally required to have a hunting license and to pay the habitat fee to hunt). A severely disabled person obtaining this license may obtain any other paid and free general deer and antlerless-deer-only licenses that are available to other hunters. Antlerless-deer-only licenses must be obtained in the same manner by which other hunters obtain them, as described in 106.6(2).

106.10(2) Season dates. Deer of either sex may be taken statewide for 16 consecutive days beginning on the third Saturday in September. A person who is issued a youth deer hunting license and does not take a deer during the youth deer hunting season may use the deer hunting license and unused tag during any subsequent deer seasons. The license will be valid for the type of deer and in the area specified on the original license. The youth must follow all other rules specified in this chapter for each season, including method of take. If the tag is filled during any of the seasons, the license will not be valid in subsequent seasons.

106.10(3) Shooting hours. Legal shooting hours will be one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day regardless of weapon used.

106.10(4) Limits and license quotas. An unlimited number of licenses may be issued. The daily and season bag and possession limit is one deer per license. A person may shoot and tag a deer only by utilizing the license and tag issued in the person's name.

106.10(5) Method of take and other regulations. Deer may be taken with shotguns, bows, handguns, rifles, or muzzleloaders as permitted in 571—106.7(481A). Youth hunters using a handgun must be accompanied and under direct supervision throughout the hunt by a responsible person with a valid hunting license who is at least 21 years of age, with the consent of a parent or guardian. The responsible person with a valid hunting license who is at least 21 years of age shall be responsible for the conveyance of the pistol or revolver while the pistol or revolver is not actively being used for hunting. "Direct supervision" means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 483A.27A(4). All participants must meet the deer hunters' orange apparel requirement in Iowa Code section 481A.122. All other regulations for obtaining licenses or hunting deer shall apply.

106.10(6) Procedures for obtaining licenses. Paid and free youth season licenses and licenses for severely disabled hunters may be obtained through ELSI beginning August 15 through the last day of the youth season.

[ARC 1562C, IAB 8/6/14, effective 9/10/14; ARC 2086C, IAB 8/5/15, effective 9/9/15; ARC 3098C, IAB 6/7/17, effective 7/12/17; ARC 3831C, IAB 6/6/18, effective 7/11/18; ARC 5601C, IAB 5/5/21, effective 6/9/21]

571—106.11(481A) Deer depredation management. The deer depredation management program provides assistance to producers through technical advice and additional deer licenses and permits where the localized reduction of female deer is needed to reduce damage. Upon signing a depredation management agreement with the department, producers of agricultural or high-value horticultural crops may be issued deer depredation permits to shoot deer causing excessive crop damage. If immediate action is necessary to forestall serious damage, depredation permits may be issued before an agreement is signed. Further permits will not be authorized until an agreement is signed.

106.11(1) Method of take and other regulations. Legal weapons and restrictions will be governed by 571—106.7(481A). For deer shooting permits only, there are no shooting hour restrictions; however, taking deer with an artificial light is prohibited by Iowa Code section 481A.93. The producer or designee must meet the deer hunters' orange apparel requirement in Iowa Code section 481A.122.

106.11(2) Eligibility. Producers growing typical agricultural crops (such as corn, soybeans, hay and oats and tree farms and other forestlands under a timber management program) and producers of high-value horticultural crops (such as Christmas trees, fruit or vegetable crops, nursery stock, and commercially grown nuts) shall be eligible to enter into depredation management agreements if these crops sustain excessive damage.

- a. The producer may be the landowner or a tenant, whoever has cropping rights to the land.
- b. Excessive damage is defined as crop losses exceeding \$1,000 in a single growing season, or the likelihood that damage will exceed \$1,000 if preventive action is not taken, or a documented history of at least \$1,000 of damage annually in previous years.
- c. Producers who lease their deer hunting rights are not eligible for the deer depredation management program.

106.11(3) Depredation management plans. Upon request from a producer, field employees of the wildlife bureau will inspect and identify the type and amount of crop damage sustained from deer. If damage is not excessive, technical advice will be given to the producer on methods to reduce or prevent future damage. If damage is excessive and the producer agrees to participate, a written depredation management plan will be developed by depredation biologists in consultation with the producer.

a. The goal of the management plan will be to reduce damage to below excessive levels within a specified time period through a combination of producer-initiated preventive measures and the issuance of deer depredation permits.

(1) Depredation plans written for producers of typical agricultural crops may require preventive measures such as harassment of deer with pyrotechnics and cannons, guard dogs, and temporary fencing, as well as allowing more hunters, increasing the take of antlerless deer, and other measures that may prove effective.

(2) Depredation plans written for producers of high-value horticultural crops may include all of the measures in (1) above, plus permanent fencing where necessary. Fencing will not be required if the cost of a fence exceeds \$1,000.

(3) Depredation permits to shoot deer may be issued to Iowa residents to reduce deer numbers until long-term preventive measures become effective. Depredation permits will not be used as a long-term solution to deer damage problems.

b. Depredation management plans will normally be written for a three-year period with progress reviewed annually by the department and the producer.

- (1) The plan will become effective when signed by the depredation biologist and the producer.
- (2) Plans may be modified or extended if mutually agreed upon by the department and the producer.
- (3) Depredation permits will not be issued after the initial term of the management plan if the producer fails to implement preventive measures outlined in the plan.

106.11(4) Depredation permits. Two types of permits may be issued under a depredation management plan.

a. Deer depredation licenses. Deer depredation licenses may be sold to resident hunters only for the regular deer license fee for use during one or more legal hunting seasons. Depredation licenses will be available to producers of agricultural and horticultural crops.

- (1) Depredation licenses will be issued up to the number specified in the management plan.
- (2) The landowner or an eligible family member, which shall include the landowner's spouse or domestic partner and juvenile children, may obtain one depredation license for each season established by the commission. No other individual may initially obtain more than three depredation licenses per management plan. When a deer is reported harvested on one of these licenses, then another license may be obtained.

(3) Depredation licenses will be valid only for hunting antlerless deer, regardless of restrictions that may be imposed on regular deer hunting licenses in that county.

- (4) Hunters may keep any deer legally tagged with a depredation license.
- (5) All other regulations for the hunting season specified on the license will apply.
- (6) Depredation licenses will be valid only on the land where damage is occurring and the immediately adjacent property unless the land is within a designated block hunt area as described in

subparagraph (7). Other parcels of land in the farm unit not adjacent to the parcels receiving damage will not qualify.

(7) Block hunt areas are areas designated and delineated by wildlife biologists of the wildlife bureau to facilitate herd reduction in a given area where all producers may not qualify for the depredation program or in areas of persistent deer depredation. Depredation licenses issued to producers within the block hunt area are valid on all properties within the delineated boundaries. Individual landowner permission is required for hunters utilizing depredation licenses within the block hunt area boundaries. Creation of a given block hunt area does not authorize trespass.

b. Deer shooting permits. Permits for shooting deer outside an established hunting season may be issued to producers of high-value horticultural crops when damage cannot be controlled in a timely manner during the hunting seasons (such as late summer buck rubs in an orchard and winter browsing in a Christmas tree plantation) and to other agricultural producers who have an approved DNR deer depredation plan, and on areas such as airports where public safety may be an issue.

(1) Deer shooting permits will be issued at no cost to the applicant.

(2) The applicant or one or more designees approved by the department may take all the deer specified on the permit.

(3) Permits available to producers of high-value horticultural crops or agricultural crops may be valid for taking deer outside of a hunting season depending on the nature of the damage. The number and type of deer to be killed will be determined by a department depredation biologist and will be part of the deer depredation management plan.

(4) Permits issued due to public safety concerns may be used for taking any deer, as necessary, to address unpredictable intrusion which could jeopardize public safety. Permits may be issued for an entire year (January 1 through December 31) if the facility involved signs an agreement with the department.

(5) All deer killed must be recovered and processed for human consumption.

(6) The times, dates, place and other restrictions on the shooting of deer will be specified on the permit.

(7) Antlers from all deer recovered must be turned over to the conservation officer within 48 hours. Antlers will be disposed of according to department rules.

(8) For out-of-season shooting permits, there are no shooting hour restrictions; however, taking deer with an artificial light is prohibited by Iowa Code section 481A.93.

c. Depredation licenses and shooting permits will be issued in addition to any other licenses for which the hunters may be eligible.

d. Depredation licenses and shooting permits will not be issued if the producer restricts the legal take of deer from the property sustaining damage by limiting hunter numbers below levels required to control the deer herd. This restriction does not apply in situations where shooting permits are issued for public safety concerns.

e. A person who receives a depredation permit pursuant to this paragraph shall pay a \$1 fee for each license that shall be used and is appropriated for the purpose of deer herd population management, including assisting with the cost of processing deer donated to the help us stop hunger (HUSH) program administered by the commission and a \$1 writing fee for each license to the license agent.

106.11(5) Disposal. Rescinded IAB 7/16/08, effective 8/20/08.
[ARC 7921B, IAB 7/1/09, effective 8/5/09]

571—106.12(481A) Eligibility for free landowner/tenant deer licenses.

106.12(1) Who qualifies for free deer hunting licenses.

a. Owners and tenants of a farm unit and the spouse and juvenile child of an owner or tenant who reside with the owner or tenant are eligible for free deer licenses. The owner or tenant does not have to reside on the farm unit but must be actively engaged in farming it. Nonresident landowners do not qualify.

b. Juvenile child defined. “Juvenile child” means a person less than 18 years of age or a person who is 18 or 19 years of age and is in full-time attendance at an accredited school pursuing a course of

study leading to a high school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma. A person 18 years of age or older who has received a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma does not qualify.

106.12(2) *Who qualifies as a tenant.* A “tenant” is a person other than the landowner who is actively engaged in the operation of the farm. The tenant may be a member of the landowner’s family, including in some circumstances the landowner’s spouse or child, or a third party who is not a family member. The tenant does not have to reside on the farm unit.

106.12(3) *What “actively engaged in farming” means.* Landowners and tenants are “actively engaged in farming” if they personally participate in decisions about farm operations and those decisions, along with external factors such as weather and market prices, determine their profit or loss for the products they produce. Tenants qualify if they farm land owned by another and pay rent in cash or in kind. A farm manager or other third party who operates a farm for a fee or a laborer who works on the farm for a wage and is not a family member does not qualify as a tenant.

106.12(4) *Landowners who qualify as active farmers.* These landowners:

- a. Are the sole operator of a farm unit (along with immediate family members), or
- b. Make all decisions about farm operations, but contract for custom farming or hire labor to do some or all of the work, or
- c. Participate annually in decisions about farm operations such as negotiations with federal farm agencies or negotiations about cropping practices on specific fields that are rented to a tenant, or
- d. Raise specialty crops from operations such as orchards, nurseries, or tree farms that do not necessarily produce annual income but require annual operating decisions about maintenance or improvements, or
- e. May have portions of the farm enrolled in a long-term land retirement program such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as long as other farm operations occur annually, or
- f. Place their entire cropland in the CRP or other long-term land retirement program with no other active farming operation occurring on the farm.

106.12(5) *Landowners who do not qualify.* These landowners:

- a. Use a farm manager or other third party to operate the farm, or
- b. Cash rent the entire farm to a tenant who is responsible for all farm operations including following preapproved operations plans.

106.12(6) *Where free licenses are valid.* A free license is valid only on that portion of the farm unit that is in a zone open to deer hunting. “Farm unit” means all parcels of land in tracts of two or more contiguous acres that are operated as a unit for agricultural purposes and are under lawful control of the landowner or tenant regardless of how that land is subdivided for business purposes. Individual parcels of land do not need to be adjacent to one another to be included in the farm unit. “Agricultural purposes” includes but is not limited to field crops, livestock, horticultural crops (e.g., from nurseries, orchards, truck farms, or Christmas tree plantations), and land managed for timber production.

106.12(7) *Registration of landowners and tenants.* Landowners and tenants and their eligible family members who want to obtain free deer hunting licenses must register with the department before the free licenses will be issued. Procedures for registering are described in 571—95.2(481A).

571—106.13(481A) Harvest reporting. Each hunter who bags a deer must report that kill according to procedures described in 571—95.1(481A).

571—106.14(481A) Extension to the regular gun seasons. Rescinded IAB 7/16/08, effective 8/20/08.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.48, 483A.8, 483A.8B, 483A.8C, 483A.24 and 483A.24B.

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