

571—106.1(481A) Licenses. When hunting deer, all hunters must have in their possession a valid deer hunting license and a valid resident or nonresident 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 person who is issued a deer hunting license and transportation tag shall allow another person to possess that license or transportation tag while that person is deer hunting or tagging a deer. An “any-deer” license shall mean the same as an “any sex” license as referenced in Iowa Code chapter 483A.

106.1(1) Types of resident licenses.

a. General deer licenses. General deer licenses shall be valid for taking deer in one resident hunting zone per season selected at the time the license is purchased. General deer licenses shall be valid for taking deer of one or either sex depending on the resident hunting zone selected at the time of purchase. Paid general deer licenses shall be valid zonewide 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. Any-deer licenses. Any-deer licenses shall be valid for taking deer of either sex in the zone, county, and season selected by the hunter at the time of purchase.

c. 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.

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

e. 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.

f. 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(2) Resident hunting zones.

a. Resident zone boundaries. Boundaries are as specified in the resident deer hunting zones map (dated October 2025) published on the department’s website (www.iowadnr.gov/deerhunting, “Resident Deer Hunting Zones.”)

b. Zone A. Paid general deer licenses shall be valid for taking deer of either sex zonewide.

c. Zone B. Paid general deer licenses shall be valid for taking deer with at least one forked antler zonewide. Paid any-deer licenses shall be valid for taking deer of either sex in only the county selected at the time of purchase. Hunters may obtain no more than one zone B any-deer license annually.

106.1(3) January antlerless-deer-only resident licenses.

a. Population management season. Licenses for the population management January antlerless-deer-only season may be issued for counties designated by the commission following a 30-day public comment period. Population management January antlerless-deer-only licenses shall be issued for a county only when a minimum of 100 antlerless-deer-only licenses, as described in 106.10(5), 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 population management January antlerless-deer-only season in that county until the relevant antlerless-deer-only quota as described in 106.10(5) is met. Population management season licenses will be available for purchase starting at 9 a.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on the Tuesday morning following the third Monday in December.

b. Excess tag season. Licenses for the excess tag January antlerless-deer-only season may be issued in any county. Excess tag January antlerless-deer-only licenses shall be issued for a county only when a minimum of one antlerless-deer-only license, as described in 106.10(5), remains unsold for a given county through January 10. Remaining antlerless-deer-only licenses shall be made available starting at 9 a.m.

CST on January 11 for the excess tag January antlerless-deer-only season in that county until the relevant antlerless-deer-only quota as described in 106.10(5) is met.

106.1(4) *Types of nonresident licenses.*

a. Any-deer licenses. Any-deer licenses shall be valid for taking deer of either sex in the zone and season designated by the hunter when the application is submitted as described in 571—106.8(483A).

b. Mandatory antlerless-deer-only licenses. Each hunter who is successful in drawing an any-deer license must also purchase an antlerless-deer-only license for the same zone and season as the any-deer license. If the hunter is unsuccessful in drawing an any-deer license, neither the any-deer nor antlerless-deer-only license will be issued. Antlerless-deer-only licenses shall be valid for taking deer that have no forked antler.

c. Optional antlerless-deer-only licenses. A hunter who is not successful in drawing an any-deer license may purchase an antlerless-deer-only license as described in 571—106.8(483A).

d. Bow season license. Bow and arrow deer licenses shall be valid for deer of either sex or antlerless deer during the bow season and in the zone designated by the hunter at the time the application is submitted.

e. Regular gun season license. Regular gun season licenses will be issued for deer of either sex or antlerless deer. Regular gun season licenses will be issued by zone and season and will be valid in the zone and season designated by the hunter when the application is submitted.

f. Muzzleloader season license. Muzzleloader season licenses will be issued for deer of either sex or antlerless deer and shall be valid only during the muzzleloader season and in the zone designated by the hunter when the application is submitted.

g. Excess tag January antlerless-deer-only license. Beginning at 9 a.m. CST on January 11, nonresident hunters may obtain antlerless-deer-only licenses for the excess tag January antlerless-deer-only season specified in 106.2(4). Licenses will be available only in those counties specified in 106.10(3) until the quota provided in 106.10(5) is filled. All regulations specified in this chapter for the January antlerless deer season for resident hunters including limits, shooting hours, method of take, tagging and reporting requirements will also apply to nonresident hunters during this season.

h. Special licenses. The commission shall issue licenses in conformance with Iowa Code section 483A.24(12) to nonresidents 21 years of age or younger who have a severe physical disability or who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness. 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 has a severe physical disability or a terminal illness using the criteria listed in 571—Chapter 15. 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.

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