

571—91.5(481A) Canada goose hunting within closed areas.

91.5(1) *Clay County, Dickinson County, Emmet County, Jackson County, and Butler County closed areas.*

a. Purpose. The hunting of Canada geese in closed areas is being undertaken to allow landowners or tenants who farm in these closed areas to hunt Canada geese on land they own or farm in the closed area.

b. Criteria.

(1) Landowners and tenants who own or farm land in the closed areas will be permitted to hunt Canada geese in the closed areas for three years. This experimental hunting opportunity will be evaluated by the landowners and the DNR following each season, at which time changes may be made.

(2) Landowners and those individuals named on the permit according to the criteria specified in paragraph (9) of this subrule will be permitted to hunt in the closed area. Tenants may obtain a permit instead of the landowner if the landowner transfers this privilege to the tenant. Landowners may choose, at their discretion, to include the tenant and those individuals of the tenant's family specified in paragraph (9) of this subrule on their permit. Landowners may assign the permit for their land to any landowner or tenant who owns or farms at least eight acres inside the closed area. Assigned permits must be signed by both the permittee and the landowner assigning the permit.

(3) Landowners must hold title to, or tenants must farm by a rent/share/lease arrangement, at least eight acres inside the closed area to qualify for a permit.

(4) No more than one permit will be issued to corporations, estates, or other legal associations that jointly own land in the closed area. No individual may obtain more than two permits nor may an individual be named as a participant on more than two permits.

(5) Persons holding a permit can hunt with those individuals named on their permit as specified in paragraph (9) of this subrule on any property they own (or rent/share/lease in the case of tenants) in the closed area provided their activity complies with all other regulations governing hunting. Nothing herein shall permit the hunting of Canada geese on public property within the closed area.

(6) Persons hunting under this permit must adhere to all municipal, county, state and federal regulations that are applicable to hunting and specifically applicable to Canada goose hunting including, but not limited to: daily limits, possession limits, shooting hours, methods of take, and transportation. Hunting as authorized by this rule shall not be used to stir or rally waterfowl.

(7) Hunting within the closed area will be allowed through October 15.

(8) Permit holders will be allowed to take eight Canada geese per year in the closed area.

(9) Permits will be issued only to individual landowners or tenants; however, permit holders must specify, when requesting a permit, the names of all other individuals qualified to hunt on the permit. Individuals qualified to hunt on the permit shall include the landowners or tenants and their spouses, domestic partners, parents, grandparents, children, children's spouses, grandchildren, siblings and siblings' spouses only.

c. Procedures.

(1) Permits can be obtained from the local conservation officer at the wildlife unit headquarters within the closed area at announced times, but no later than 48 hours before the first Canada goose season opens. The permit will be issued to an individual landowner or tenant and must list the names of all individuals that may hunt with the permittee. The permit will also contain a description of the property covered by the permit. The permit must be carried by a member of the hunting party whose name is listed on the permit. Conservation officers will keep a record of permittees and locations of properties that are covered by permits.

(2) Eight consecutively numbered tags will be issued with each permit. Geese will be tagged around the leg immediately upon being reduced to possession and will remain tagged until delivered to the person's abode. Within one week of the close of hunting within the closed area during at least the first three years the hunt is permitted, unused tags must be turned in at the wildlife unit headquarters within the closed area or the permittee must report the number of geese killed. Failure to turn in unused tags or report the number of geese killed within the specified time period may result in the permittee's forfeiting the opportunity to hunt within the closed area the following year.

(3) No one may attempt to take Canada geese under this permit unless the person possesses an unused tag for the current year.

(4) No landowner or tenant shall be responsible or liable for violations committed by other individuals listed on the permit issued to the landowner or tenant.

91.5(2) Reserved.