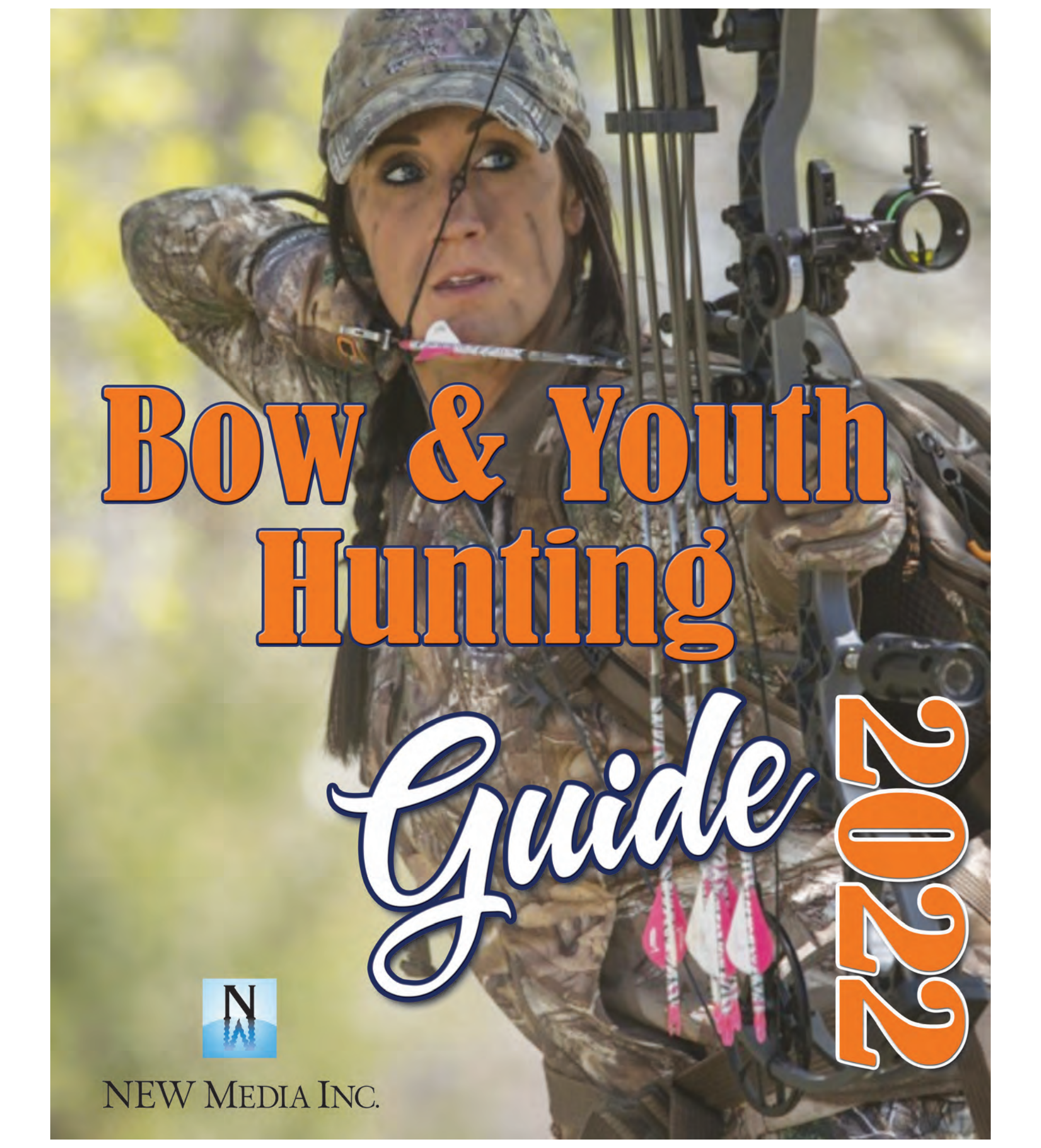


A woman in camouflage gear is aiming a bow. She is wearing a camouflage cap and has a focused expression. The bow is a modern compound bow with a sight and stabilizers. The background is a blurred natural setting with green foliage.

BOW & Youth Hunting

Guide 2022



NEW MEDIA INC.

It's finally time to deer hunt again

For as much joy I get out of preparing for the deer hunting season, I'm thrilled to say the preparation is over, and it's time to hunt.

I've hunted deer since I was a little kid, tagging along with my dad and his friends before picking up a

gun myself at age 12.

The extent of my deer hunting for a year — after I passed the youth hunt age restriction — was typically just the nine-day gun hunt in late November, with

the occasional antlerless-only hunt sprinkled in should the first gun season have not gone as planned.

I didn't pick up a bow until our family got its own hunting land, and even then, I wouldn't have considered myself a real avid deer hunter.

Deer hunting simply lacked the excitement that a spring turkey hunt brought me, but I was still content to sit in the woods and relax for a morning or afternoon hunt.

Things changed in a big way

when I started to get into some land management practices. We weren't doing anything too crazy to start out with, but after learning how deer used the property, the projects started to get a little bigger and are starting to yield better hunts.

Every year, I always found myself sitting in one particular area of our property, so this year, I finally came up with a plan on how to regularly hunt the spot.

This spot has a little bit of everything. The tree, that now has a stand in it, sits on the edge of a wooded area, with a once weedy field now trimmed up. The trimmed field was set up to serve as a highway between several different habitat features and is where I anticipated my shots coming from.

Behind the field, there's now a mix of cut trails, woods and deer bedding.

To my left, there's a decline in elevation leading to a little stream that I've noticed many deer also like to bed next to.

And behind me, there's a neighboring private crop field to serve as a food source.

It was a project that I spent several hours on over the course

of a couple days on two weekends this summer. Instead of completely changing the area around, I decided to not plant anything in the trimmed field, deciding to give it a year and see how the deer react.

From the couple of trail camera pulls we've done before the bowhunting season began, to say the work in that area has paid off would be a massive understatement.

Since basically two days after I wrapped up the work in there, deer have been walking through the trimmed field at nearly all times of the day. What was most shocking was the lack of nighttime photos we got in that spot, instead having fawns, does and bucks walking past at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon, 4 p.m. and of course right at first and last light.

Maybe the deer have always used this area, and we just haven't seen it with no cameras placed there, but the trail cam photos have completely changed how I planned to hunt this season and has unlocked a passion for deer hunting that I've never felt before. There's just something about seeing time and work put in during the offseason pay off that adds another layer to the hunting.

I actually planned to stay out of that spot until early October, but the daytime photos in late August have altered my opening weekend plans. Instead of hunting the spot I primarily did last year, which isn't really all that far from this spot, I now plan to sneak back into this new spot, sit out some forecasted rain and hopefully notch a tag on a buck.

I'm always excited for the first hunts of the year, but words truly cannot describe the anticipation I'm feeling for the opener this weekend.

To all the bowhunters reading this, hopefully you also have reason for optimism on the opening weekend of the bowhunting season. If you fall more into the category of soaking up the first hunt of the year without many deer encounters, do your best to enjoy that, too.

This time of year only comes once a year, and you know as soon as the season ends that you'll already be looking forward to the next deer hunting season.

Stay safe out there, and happy hunting to all.

Morgan Rode is the sports editor for NEW Media. Readers can contact him at sports@newmedia-wi.com.



MORGAN RODE



This photo, taken from a treestand, shows the view of a spot sports editor Morgan Rode plans to sit a lot during the deer bowhunting season this fall.

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Fitting young hunters to a bow, crossbow and rifle

By **ROSS BIELEMA**
Correspondent

Not so many years ago, there was a hunting tradition to hand down Dad's or Granddad's rifle to the son or daughter joining the hunt. These full-size rifles, often lever-actions (which carry their own set of safety issues), would be an ill fit for a small body with shorter arms.

Today's rifle and bow manufacturers have pounced on the need for youth weapons like a barn cat on a mouse. It's easy to choose a rifle or compound bow that will fit your child, grandchild or even small adult like a glove, although small and light crossbows are still relatively rare, according to Justin Steinke, general manager of Butch's Archery near Embarrass.

Steinke not only sells a full line of bows, crossbows, rifles and shotguns, but went through finding the right hunting tools for his three kids, too.

Alyssa Schultz shot her first deer with a crossbow at age 10, Kassidy Steinke shot her first buck last year with a crossbow at age 7, and now son Logan Steinke is cutting his teeth on a Diamond recurve bow at the tender age of 4.

The Parker Challenger crossbow Kassidy used was a light, compact crossbow ideal for kids and women, but no longer made. There is definitely a demand for a youth crossbow, but most current models are 7-10 pounds with scope and cranking aid or quiver with arrows.

"Kids never shoot freehand," Steinke said. Crossbows are typically shot from a rest. "The crossbow is not a recreational tool."

But kids certainly can have fun shooting traditional recurve or compound bows as they sharpen skills for hunting. Most bow makers have several options for children, small adults and those who may not have the arm and back strength to draw a heavy bow (Wisconsin law requires a draw weight of at least 30 pounds for bowhunting).

Decades ago, a child quickly outgrew a low-powered recurve or compound bow. A new design in compounds allows a huge range of bow draw weights and lengths, allowing the same bow to be used as the shooter grows taller and stronger.

"You're one and done with buying a bow for your kid," he said.



Justin Steinke, general manager at Butch's Archery in rural Embarrass, holds two rifles that are ideal for youth and small adults: the CVA Cascade, left, with stock spacers that can be added or removed for a better fit, and a Savage Axis Compact rifle-scope combo in Muddy Girl camouflage. ROSS BIELEMA

For example, the Bear Legit package, which includes an arrow

rest and a sight, can be set from 15 to 70 pounds of draw weight and 14

to 30 inches of draw length. It's a great value at just over \$400, con-

sidering it can be used for a lifetime of bowhunting.

To quickly get a rough idea of a shooter's draw length, measure their wingspan with both arms outstretched, then divide by 2.5, Steinke said.

Even smaller bows are available, such as the Diamond Infinite Edge, Diamond Nuclear Ice and Bear Royale, the last of which weighs about 3 pounds with sight and rest.

Kids just starting archery need to be able to hold the actual weight of the bow easily to build confidence.

The Nuclear Ice maxes at 26 inches of draw length and 40 pounds of draw weight. (Adults will often have a draw range of 26 to 30 inches and shoot a weight of 45 to 75 pounds).

At Lena Swamp Archery in Oconto Falls, owner Wade Jeske caters to youth archers.

May is his busiest time for kids, with about 900 shooting bows at his shop. Physical education students from Oconto Falls and Abrams schools shoot there, as do Pulaski Middle School Archery Club students.

He keeps a variety of used youth compound bows so that every kid gets to use his own bow, regardless of ability to pay. Kids under 18 always shoot free at the shop range, and Saturdays are hectic as it's the unofficial "Kids Day" there, Jeske said.

Like Steinke, he is a big fan of the Bear Royale and Legit models as great starter bows.

"For every adult bow we sell, we sell a youth bow or ladies' bow," he said, noting that he did about a million dollars in archery sales last year.

They specialize in bows and crossbows, with his son James Jeske serving as sales manager.

The elder Jeske also likes the Diamond bows for kids, including the Edge and Prism models. The Prism, for example, has a draw weight of 5 to 55 pounds and a draw length of 18 to 30 inches.

The Diamond Atomic can handle even smaller children, with a draw weight of 6 to 29 pounds and a draw length of 12 to 24 inches.

The made-in-Wisconsin Mission Hammer is another great choice for kids, sold with arrow rest, sights and release aid for about \$370.



Justin Steinke, general manager at Butch's Archery in rural Embarrass, holds a Parker Challenger crossbow that is ideal for youth and small adults. This compact crossbow is no longer made because Parker Archery went out of business. Although small crossbows are in short supply, there are plenty of options for young hunters who need a compound bow or rifle.

ROSS BIELEMA

About 98% of Lena Swamp Archery's young customers shoot carbon arrows, because they are stronger and won't dent or bend like aluminum shafts, he noted.

Jeske agreed that most crossbows are too heavy and bulky for kids to carry, although Wicked Ridge makes a light version that works for some kids and women.

The compact high-end crossbows like Ravin start at around \$1,200 but are still pretty heavy.

Young kids are typically not ready for peep sights or shooting release aids, so probably should start out with a recurve bow and shoot with fingers, Steinke said.

Be sure to get them an armguard to avoid string slap on their arm before they learn to properly hold the bow to prevent this.

Choosing a youth rifle for deer is easy today because there are three main options.

There are short-stocked mod-

els with 18-inch carbine barrels, short-stocked models with removable spacers and 20-inch barrels and full-sized models with longer barrels and removable stock parts, Steinke explained.

The first option is for short-term use, while the other two can be modified to fit a child as they grow to accommodate their length of pull (distance from the end of the stock to the trigger).

Value-priced rifles like the Ruger American and Savage Axis combos with scopes provide accurate deer guns for \$500 or less.

The Mossberg Patriot Youth Super Bantam is one example of a centerfire rifle with spacers that can be removed and then added as the child grows.

CVA, well known for its muzzleloaders, entered the centerfire rifle market in recent years and offers some good kid-friendly options, including the Cascade bolt-action

with removable spacer, and single-shot Scout and Hunter.

While the .243 has been one of the most popular calibers for youngsters, due to its mild recoil or "kick," the newer .350 Legend cartridge offers about 20 percent more energy and 20 percent less recoil than the .243, Steinke said.

With the proper bullet, the .300 Blackout and even the .223 or 5.56 in an AR-15 semi-automatic platform can be an ideal deer gun for a young hunter, because the stock can be adjusted and a semi-auto soaks up the recoil, he added.

Be sure you protect young ears from muzzle blast with a set of electronic earmuffs, which allow kids to hear normal conversation while protecting from the shots.

Ear plugs often don't fit right and can be hard to put in or take out when the deer show up, Steinke said.

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Essentials for the deer hunt: Gear to make a good hunt even better

Every fall is a new start and a fresh adventure for us deer hunters.

Whether you are a diehard bow-hunter stalking a particular buck on your own land, a parent or grandparent taking a youngster on his or her first hunt, or a gun hunter who enjoys one of Wisconsin's richest traditions at a deer camp or sharing the camaraderie of opening day with cherished friends, every second of our sacred sport is a blessing beyond measure.

I grew up in a hunting family, chasing rabbits every Saturday in fall with my dad, brother and some-

times my grandpa.

I didn't discover the joys of deer hunting until around 1974, when I bought a Bear Grizzly recurve bow for \$28 at a Kmart, ordered some Port Orford cedar arrows tipped with Bear Razorheads and called myself a bowhunter.

My older brother Brian and I spent many days chasing whitetails in northwestern Illinois, where we laughed at the lack of deer.

Brian managed to kill a couple deer with his Zebra longbow, but I had to wait a few more years until my first compound bow, a Browning Nomad, connected with a button buck.

If it was about killing deer, I would have quit that first few years. Although I love venison, it's never been about killing deer. It's about returning to an earlier

time in man's evolution, when the only grocery store was the nearby woods and the only fast food was a sprinting deer, bouncing bunny or high-flying squirrel.

Wearing camouflage clothes and melting into the forest underbrush, the creatures there eventually forget there's a human in their midst. Small game could sustain me if I was forced to hunt for food, but the white-tailed deer would also provide skins for clothing and perhaps even a bit of bucktail for fishing.

A deer's senses of smell and hearing make them the ultimate game animal, but its ability to see movement is also at the ready, especially when early-fall hunters are swatting mosquitoes or shooing away yellowjackets.

This year, my quest is to achieve what I've never done: to take a deer

with a traditional bow.

If I can't do it by season's end, I may get out my crossbow and try to fill the freezer with that, but it's still not easy with such a short-range weapon.

I'm hunting a new place this year and for the first time since those 1974 hunts, I feel I have a chance at a nice buck. But even a fat doe will be a trophy if I use a longbow or recurve bow (I'm still deciding which I'll use).

And of course I won't miss the gun seasons, favoring either a single-shot rifle or muzzleloader.

Whatever your choice of weapon, try to relish every moment shared with fellow hunters in the woods.

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especially if you drop a heavy deer without much help around.

Try not to make it a competition between buddies, but a shared experience that citizens of few other nations can enjoy.

We are truly blessed as Americans and hunters to share the land, share the freedoms (for now, anyway) to own firearms and other weapons, and use them to share the hunting legacy we hope continues for generations.

Let's look at the essential gear needed for deer hunters. In addition to a weapon and ammo, license, boots, clothing and so on, a few items will make your hunt more successful.

- A sharp knife. I'm a knife junkie, with a modest collection that spans many brands and designs.

Anything with a sharp edge will gut a deer, but a 4- to 5-inch blade with enough strength to cut through the pelvic cartilage is sufficient. The traditional wood-and-brass Buck knife has been worn on the belts of deer hunters for decades, and I was lucky enough to visit Buck's factory in Idaho in 2019, but there are many brands that turn out great hunting knives.

I'm a big fan of the Cold Steel brand, but if you want a made-in-USA hunting knife (yes, even some Buck knives are now imported), take a look at Bear & Son Cutlery. They are reasonably priced and carry a lifetime warranty. I prefer a fixed-blade knife for deer, because they are easier to clean, but a folding knife works, too (at any time, my backpack usually has at least three or four knives).

- A great flashlight. Stay away from the cheap ones. Surefire and Streamlight are two top brands.

LED lights produce more light with smaller batteries and provide longer battery life. A high-quality headlamp with multiple brightness

settings offers hands-free lighting when dragging out a deer or walking to your stand in the dark. This is a great gift for any hunter.

- A comfortable chair. A hunter needs to be comfortable if he's going to sit for hours without fidgeting.

The same is even more crucial for new hunters and kids.

Plastic bucket seats with cushions are OK, but noisy in the brush. High-end swivel seats that sell for \$80 to \$100 are nice, but heavy. My first choice is a lightweight resin lawn chair with a foam cushion. This provides back support and won't squeak or groan like most folding stools. Many tree stands have adequate seats, but bring an extra cushion.

- A deer cart. The single greatest piece of deer hunting equipment I ever bought was a two-wheeled folding deer cart.

Within a few weeks of buying it, I shot the biggest buck of my life, a 164-pound 8-pointer that's on my wall right now. Once I muscled him onto the cart and strapped him down with bungees, I had a downhill trot on a dirt lane to the public hunting area's parking lot!

Without the cart, I'd probably have had a heart attack dragging him out.

If you have an ATV or hunt your own land and can get to the deer by truck, you still might need a hand cart if the deer dies in the thick stuff. They do that quite often.

You'll think of many other items I've forgotten, but these four will make a good hunt better, safer and more comfortable!

Here's to hoping you need all four this season...especially the deer cart! Good luck.

Ross Bielema is a freelance writer from New London and owner of Wolf River Concealed Carry LLC. Contact him at Ross@wolfriverccw.com.



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Hunters asked to help slow spread of CWD

DNR has several options available for testing samples

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is asking deer hunters to join in the efforts to protect the state's deer herd and help slow the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD).

Hunters who have their deer tested for CWD play one of the most important roles in monitoring the health of the deer herd. Each hunting season, hunters who have their deer tested for CWD, properly dispose of deer carcass waste and follow baiting and feeding regulations help the DNR monitor the disease and slow its spread.

When planning their hunt, the DNR encourages hunters to know their county's baiting and feeding restrictions because 58 Wisconsin counties do not allow it (dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/hunt/bait.html). Even where baiting and feeding are allowed, the DNR encourages hunters to reconsider using these practices to reduce the risk for disease transmission. Large concentrations of animals in one area increase the risk of spreading an infection.

CWD is an always-fatal contagious neurological disease that affects the nervous system of deer, elk, moose and caribou. The disease can spread through contact with an infected animal's saliva, urine or feces. It can also spread indirectly through exposure to a contaminated environment. CWD prions are extremely resilient, and they can stay in the soil for a long time, making containment of an affected area a challenge.

The disease can have an incubation period of over a year, meaning infected deer can appear healthy for several months before showing signs of illness. When symptoms do appear, CWD causes drastic weight loss, drooping of the head and ears, loss of coordination, excessive salivation and no fear of humans.

Testing deer for CWD provides the DNR with valuable data needed to understand the distribution of CWD in the state and keeps hunters informed about the status of their harvest.

It is easier than ever to get a deer tested. Wisconsin deer hunters can



Hunters are asked to help slow spread of CWD this deer season by getting their harvested deer checked.

WISCONSIN DNR

use the CWD form located in their Go Wild harvest history (gowild.wi.gov/) to expedite the process. The form automatically fills in the hunter's name, contact information, customer ID number and harvest registration number and also makes it easier to pin the deer harvest using an interactive map.

The DNR offers four easy ways to submit a sample:

- Self-service kiosks where hunters can submit their deer's head for testing
- A network of cooperating meat processors, taxidermists and other businesses who can assist with CWD sampling
- By-appointment sampling with the hunter's local wildlife management DNR staff
- Kits for hunters to extract

lymph node tissue themselves to submit to the DNR for testing

Once hunters have finished processing their harvested deer, they are reminded to check out their local deer carcass disposal options (dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/wildlife-habitat/carcass.html) where they can safely dispose of deer carcass waste. This service is provided in conjunction with many individuals and organizations across the state. Keeping potentially infected deer off the landscape helps slow the spread of the disease. Hunters can also Adopt-A-Kiosk or Adopt-A-Dumpster (dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/wildlife-habitat/CWDVolunteer) to help the DNR expand access to sampling and proper carcass disposal.

While there has never been a documented case of CWD in hu-

mans, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommend against consuming meat from deer that test positive for the disease. Because infected deer can look healthy, DHS encourages testing for the disease regardless of your harvested deer's physical condition.

CWD testing, proper carcass disposal and following baiting and feeding regulations are three key ways to slow the spread. The DNR's guide to slowing the spread of CWD (p.widencdn.net/g5zxn3/transmission) provides even more ways hunters can help.

Information about how to prevent the spread of CWD is available on the DNR webpage at dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/wildlife-habitat/cwd.html.

DNR to host hunting webinar Sept. 21

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will host the third of several educational hunting webinars on Sept. 21 for members of the public who are new to hunting or hunting curious.

The webinar series is in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever and Becoming an Outdoorswoman. The series is designed for those interested in learning about hunting, fishing and trapping.

Each episode will feature guest speakers sharing their experiences getting started with hunting and include discussions addressing common challenges faced by those new to hunting, fishing or trapping.

This month's webinar, "Wanna Go Hunting: Where Can We Hunt?" will share information about finding lands open to public hunting and tips on getting access to private land.

"Research shows that securing access to hunting land is one of the biggest challenges for all hunters, new and experienced," said Bob Nack, DNR Recruitment, Retention

and Reactivation Team supervisor. "In this webinar, we will hear from new hunters about their experience with finding a place to hunt and discuss tips for others."

Following a brief presentation and panel discussion, the audience will have opportunities to ask questions that panelists will answer at the end of the program. Each webinar will be recorded and available online.

Wisconsin is home to over 7 million acres of public land, and a majority of it is open to hunting. Time spent hunting and exploring these areas with family and friends will generate memories for years.

Learn about various hunting season dates, rules and regulations, harvest quotas and more at dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Hunt.

Interested individuals can view the webinar by visiting www.youtube.com/watch?v=iT3jlaG0jDA&ab_channel=WIDNRTV. The webinar will be recorded and can be viewed on YouTube any time using the same link.



The next educational hunting webinar hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will be held Sept. 21.

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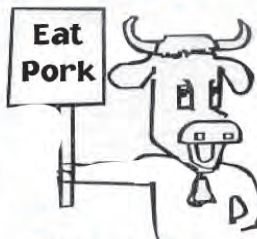
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Know your target: Don't accidentally shoot elk

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reminds hunters to know their targets before they shoot and understand the difference between elk and white-tailed deer this hunting season.

Archery and crossbow deer seasons will soon be underway. Elk sometimes venture outside of the elk management zones, especially during the breeding season, so hunters are reminded to properly identify their targets. Any elk taken without a tag may result in a fine and a revocation of your hunting license.

How to identify an elk

- Adult elk are larger than adult deer. An adult elk stands about 1-2 feet taller than an adult deer at the shoulders. An elk calf will be about the same size as an adult white-tailed doe but will display similar coloration to adult elk.

- Spot the difference in the antlers. White-tailed deer antlers curve forward, whereas elk antlers are larger and sweep back from their heads.

- Look for color markings. Elk have a tan rump patch, black legs and a dark brown mane. Deer have legs the same



Wisconsin deer hunters are reminded to always know their targets before shooting and understand the differences between elk and white-tailed deer.

WISCONSIN DNR

color as their bodies, a white throat patch and a fluffy white tail.

- Additional markers: Elk moving throughout the state may have noticeable markers including colored ear tags or tracking collars. These collars are fixed around the neck and are typically orange in color, sometimes with a visible printed number.

Learn about the differences between elk and white-tailed deer using the DNR's comparison guide at p.widencdn.net/askwn0/WM0634.

Although Wisconsin has not reintroduced moose, there are several verified moose sightings across northern Wisconsin each year. A few hunters be lucky enough to see one this fall.

Once widespread across North America, elk were eliminated from Wisconsin in the 1880s. Thanks to the support of many partners and the backing of Wisconsinites, elk were reintroduced within the state in 1995. Through DNR efforts to reestablish the species, the elk herd continues to expand, making it essential for hunters to know their targets to protect this growing population.

Currently, there are two herds containing a total of more than 450 elk in Wisconsin reintroduction areas: one in the north including Ashland, Bayfield, Price, Rusk and Sawyer counties, and one in the area surrounding Jackson County. Occasionally, elk can roam beyond these areas.

Observations of elk outside of the management zones or any moose can be reported to the DNR through the Large Mammal Observation Form at dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/MammalObsForm.asp.

Hunters should follow all firearm safety rules and be sure of their target and what is beyond it. Positively identifying the target ensures the safety of other people and avoids the accidental shooting of non-target animals.

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Progressive FARMER READER INSIGHTS

Getting ready for the archery season

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reminds deer hunters that their first opportunity to pursue deer this fall is coming up with the opening of the archery and crossbow deer season on Sept. 17.

Hunters wanting to use both a vertical bow and a crossbow may do so by purchasing a \$3 upgrade to make their licenses valid for both weapons. Conservation Patron license holders may also use both weapons.

The DNR reminds hunters that bonus antlerless harvest authorizations are available in many Wisconsin counties. They're available on a first-come, first-served basis. Bonus antlerless harvest authorizations may be filled using any weapon type during the appropriate season with the appropriate license but must be filled in the designated zone, unit and land type (public or private).

They are \$12 each for residents, \$20 each for non-residents and \$5 for youth hunters under 12. Purchase them using the DNR's online licensing center, Go Wild (gowild.wi.gov/), or by visiting a license sales location (dnr.wi.gov/Permits/CSRSP/Licen-

seAgents.aspx).

GameReg

As a reminder, all harvested deer must be registered electronically by 5 p.m. the day after the deer is recovered using GameReg online (dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Hunt/ereg.html), by phone or at a participating registration station.

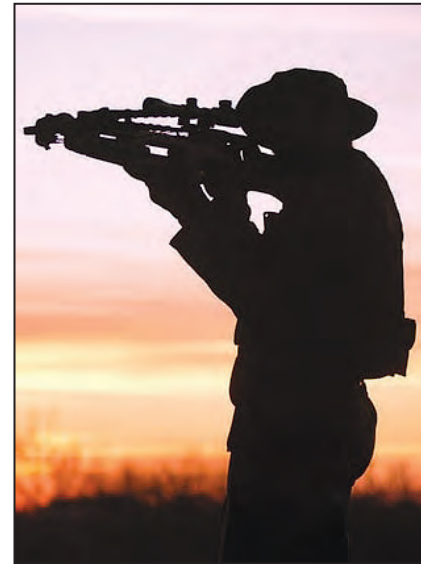
Information regarding electronic registration is available on the DNR registration website at dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Hunt/ereg.html.

Hunter safety

The DNR urges hunters to review these four rules of safety (TAB-K) before enjoying the archery and crossbow season.

- Treat every bow/crossbow as if it were loaded.
- Always point the bow/crossbow in a safe direction.
- Be certain of your target as well as what is before and beyond it.
- Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.

When heading out to hunt during the archery or crossbow seasons, re-



Wisconsin deer season kicks off Sept. 17 with the archery and crossbow opener. ISTOCK

points with a covered arrow quiver.

- The safest way to carry, transport and raise or lower a crossbow from a stand is always to have the crossbow un-cocked.

- The safest way to un-cock a crossbow is to fire a bolt into the ground or target.

- Make sure that the limb tips are free of obstructions and that your fingers, hand or arm are not in the string path at any time while the crossbow is cocked.

- Know your range for accuracy.

Tree stand safety is also a key consideration throughout all the deer hunting seasons. Tree stand incidents are a leading cause of injury to hunters. Always wear a safety harness, use three points of contact when going into or out of the stand and use a haul line to bring the unloaded bow or crossbow into the stand. Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.

For information regarding tree stand safety, visit dnr.wisconsin.gov/education/OutdoorSkills/Treestand-Safety.

member these additional safety tips:

- Crossbows have a safety. Immediately after cocking, always check to make sure that your bow is on safe.
- Always use bolts/arrows recommended by the manufacturer and handle carefully.
- Protect yourself and the arrow

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