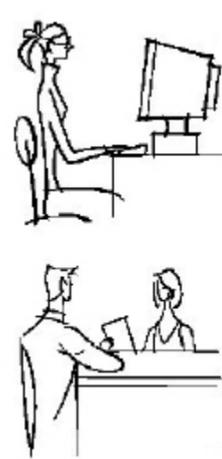


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**Kentucky Afield Outdoors:  
 2018 Deer Season Update**

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Oct. 18, 2018) — Many deer hunters rejoiced this past weekend over a break in a weather pattern that had been alternating between stifling heat and soaking rains.

A cool down coincided with the two-day gun season for youth deer hunters. It also excited archery and crossbow hunters getting into the woods, blinds and tree stands.

"It wasn't really fit to do much but go hunting," said Gabe Jenkins, deer and elk program coordinator with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "We saw good participation over the weekend."

On deck for deer hunters in Kentucky are the October muzzleloader (Oct. 20-21), modern gun (Nov. 10-25) and late muzzleloader seasons (Dec. 8-16) before the free youth weekend on Dec. 29-30, 2018.

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**McKee: Deerview Market, Hometown Pharmacy  
 Opal's Restaurant, & McKee Auto**

**Sand Gap - Clover Bottom: Whistle Stop, Fill Up's Gas and  
 Grocery, & Big Hill Market**

**Events and Programs  
 Jackson County Extension Service**

**Holiday Ideas**  
 Friday, November 2 – 10:00 a.m.  
 Matti Daniels, Whitley County FCS Agent, will be here to teach this class. Come join us as we do a make-and-take craft! Please be sure to register for this class.

**Basics of Baking Classes**  
 Monday's, November 5; 12; 19 – 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
 Start preparing for the holiday's....come and learn how to bake!  
 This program is for adults and/or an adult and one child age 9 or above.  
 Classes are FREE! There are a limited number of spaces available so  
 please call 287-7693 to reserve your spot today!

**Holiday Cooking School**  
 Thursday, November 8 – 5:00 p.m.  
 Laurel County Optimist Club – Cost \$20.00 per ticket – Price includes a  
 Paula Dean Cookbook, food samples from the book, and presentations.  
 Tickets are available at the Jackson County Extension Service.  
 Stop by to get yours today! For more information call  
 the Jackson County Extension Service at 287-7693.

Please call the Jackson County Extension Service at  
 287-7693 to register for any of the above programs.

Difficult hunting conditions defined the first six weeks since archery deer season arrived at the start of September, which also ushered in numerous changes to deer hunting regulations.

The changes are detailed in the updated version of the Kentucky Hunting and Trapping Guide, on the department's website at fw.ky.gov and in videos posted on the department's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

"What I've been telling people is, if you're a deer hunter in this state, read the hunting guide because something that affects you has changed," Jenkins said.

Major differences from last season:

The statewide and youth deer permits allow for the harvest of up to four deer, either one antlered and three antlerless or four antlerless.

The modern gun deer season is 16 days statewide.

A total of 32 counties have been moved up into a different zone.

Hunters can take as many deer as allowed for each zone. In order to take more than four deer statewide, an additional deer permit must be purchased.

Hunters in Zones 2 and 3 can harvest no more than four deer. In Zone 3, only one antlerless deer can be taken with a firearm.

The bag limit in Zone 4 is two deer but only one can be an antlerless deer. Antlerless deer can be harvested during the archery season, crossbow season, free youth weekend or the last three days of the December muzzleloader season. Again, the statewide bag limit of one antlered deer applies.

Hunters are still allowed only one antlered deer statewide regardless of zone, method or season. In Zone 1, hunters can still harvest an unlimited number of antlerless deer with the statewide deer permit and additional deer permit.

The changes encourage greater harvest of does and increased deer harvest in areas where a reduction in herd numbers is sought. At the same time, they are designed to foster a bounce back in areas of east Kentucky hit hardest by last year's epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) outbreak.

"The new regulations are intended to help meet those objectives," Jenkins said.

Jenkins said this week there has been one confirmed case of EHD with test results pending on five others, most from north of Interstate 64 and east of Interstate 75.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we see an uptick in harvest with people wanting to try to fill their four-deer limit," Jenkins said. "But we also know that three-quarters of our total harvest comes during the modern gun season. That's the key. If we get a bad weather weekend or two in there, that's going to have an effect."

Hunters harvested 136,026 deer during the 2017-18 season, the fifth highest total on record, and the state's deer herd remains robust overall.

"Things are good," Jenkins said. "We had a very wet winter and there's plenty of forage for both adults and fawns, so we expect to see high survival. Traditionally, you have a stress period in July and August. That did not exist this year. They've had plenty of groceries on the landscape, so they should be in prime condition health-wise."

While September's harvest was down year-over-year, understandable considering the unkind heat and rain, it remained higher than the 10-year average.

Hunters reported taking 4,654 deer during this month's youth-only gun season weekend, second only to the 2015 season.

That year, the statewide mast survey noted poor white oak acorn production with red oaks rated average. Early returns from mast surveys conducted this year point toward uneven acorn production. Deer will frequent areas around white oaks littering the ground with acorns first before turning attention to red oaks.

"They're going to be more active in weather like this than they are in 90-degree temperatures," Jenkins said. "They're going to do what they're going to do breeding wise when the season is right. However, if conditions are more conducive to eat and be up and moving, they're going to."

"Right now the key is acorns. Deer are just going to sit there and munch on acorns all day long."

**State Releases County Unemployment  
 Data for September 2018**

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Oct. 25, 2018) – Unemployment rates fell in 90 Kentucky counties between September 2017 and September 2018, rose in 23, and stayed the same in seven counties, according to the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS), an agency of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

Woodford County recorded the lowest jobless rate in the Commonwealth at 3 percent. It was followed by Campbell County, 3.1 percent; Boone, Fayette and Scott counties, 3.2 percent each; Kenton, Oldham and Warren counties, 3.3 percent each; and Allen, Calloway, Jessamine and Logan counties, 3.5 percent each.

Magoffin County recorded the state's highest unemployment rate at 11.7 percent. It was followed by Carter County, 8.2 percent; Elliott County, 7.8 percent; Harlan County, 7.2 percent; Leslie and Owsley counties, 7.1 percent each; Clay County, 6.9 percent; Knott County, 6.7 percent; Breathitt, Jackson, Lewis and Wolfe counties, 6.6 percent each.

Kentucky's county unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted because of small sample sizes. Employment statistics undergo sharp fluctuations due to seasonal events such as weather changes, harvests, holidays and school openings and closings. Seasonal adjustments eliminate these influences and make it easier to observe statistical trends. The comparable, unadjusted unemployment rate for the state was 4.3 percent for September 2018, and 3.6 percent for the nation.