

COVER STORY

13 Years of Drought
Ends with Whopper

Page 14

CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS

HUNTING GUIDE

INSIDE

Deer Forecast

Harvest Information

Finding Sheds

License Information

Waterowl Safety

Big Buck Winners

FALL 2019

CRITTENDEN COUNTY
KENTUCKY

FREE PUBLICATION

www.marionkentucky.org

CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS

2019 Kentucky Hunting Dates

Bullfrog	May 17 - Oct. 31
Squirrel	Aug. 17 - Nov. 8
Dove	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26
Bow Deer	Sept. 7 - Jan. 20
Bow Turkey	Sept. 7 - Jan. 20
Canada Goose	Sept. 16-30
Crossbow Deer	Sept. 21 - Jan. 20
Teal Only	Sept. 26-29
Raccoon	Oct. 1 - Feb. 29
Crossbow Turkey	Oct. 1-20
Youth Deer	Oct. 12 - Oct. 13
Muzzleloader Deer	Oct. 19 - Oct. 20
Shotgun Turkey	Oct. 26 - Nov. 1
Gun Deer	Nov. 9 - Nov. 24
Crossbow Turkey	Nov. 9 - Dec. 31
Raccoon (trapping)	Nov. 11 - Feb. 29
Squirrel	Nov. 11 - Feb. 29
Quail	Nov. 11 - Feb. 10
Rabbit	Nov. 11 - Feb. 10
Red/Gray Fox	Nov. 11 - Feb. 29
Beaver	Nov. 11 - Feb. 29
Dove	Nov. 28 - Dec. 8
Canada Goose	Nov. 28 - Feb. 15
Duck	Nov. 28 - Dec. 1
Shotgun Turkey	Dec. 7-13
Duck	Dec. 7 - Jan. 31
Dove	Dec. 21 - Jan. 12
Muzzleloader Deer	Dec. 14 - Dec. 22
Youth Waterfowl	Feb. 1-2
Coyote	Year Round
Groundhog	Year Round



Corn Xpress

Deer Corn 24/7
Cash or Credit Card

Available in
30, 60, 190 and 320
Pound Increments

Bring a container

Three available KY locations:
 Princeton, Marion, Salem

1310 US 62 W, Princeton, KY 42445
 1006 South Main St, Marion, KY 42064
 372 West Main St, Salem, KY 42078



Candy's Kitchen
It's a family tradition
(270) 965-0200

Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner

Daily Specials
Homemade Meals
Homemade Pies
BBQ - Meatloaf - Steak

Hours of Operation:
Tues.-Sat. 6 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

1890 US 60 East, Marion, Ky.
www.facebook.com/candyskitchenmarion



IRIS INN
Bed & Breakfast

124 East Depot Street
 Marion, Kentucky
(270) 704-6015
 RESERVATIONS REQUESTED

6 Rooms
4 Rooms with Private Baths

CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS

2018 Deer Harvest Results

County	Bucks	Does	Bow	Rifle	M'loader	C'bow	Total
Crittenden	1,509	1,793	474	2,499	230	99	3,302
Webster	1,099	1,388	302	1,885	205	95	2,487
Livingston	938	975	250	1,401	209	53	1,913
Caldwell	964	942	269	1,402	189	46	1,906
Union	552	665	288	813	76	40	1,217
Lyon	65	405	139	634	60	37	870

KDFWR Statistics

2017 Deer Harvest Results

County	Bucks	Does	Bow	Rifle	M'loader	C'bow	Total
Crittenden	1634	1817	604	2,524	225	98	3,451
Webster	1,110	1,429	396	1,840	203	100	2,539
Livingston	965	969	247	1,428	204	55	1,934
Caldwell	1,070	941	295	1510	172	34	2,011
Union	551	563	262	761	57	34	1,114
Lyon	527	427	178	683	51	42	954

KDFWR Statistics

2016 Deer Harvest Results

County	Bucks	Does	Bow	Rifle	M'loader	C'bow	Total
Crittenden	1,552	1,529	467	2,331	215	68	3,081
Webster	1,041	1,301	379	1,760	117	86	2,342
Livingston	921	838	224	1,350	158	27	1,759
Caldwell	921	771	224	1,305	128	35	1,692
Union	564	528	309	689	55	21	1,074
Lyon	449	332	146	577	43	15	781

KDFWR Statistics

2015 Deer Harvest Results

County	Bucks	Does	Bow	Rifle	M'loader	C'bow	Total
Crittenden	1,684	1,675	574	2,389	327	69	3,359
Webster	1,017	1,150	403	1,523	189	52	2,167
Livingston	1,008	989	284	1,404	278	31	1,997
Caldwell	901	849	204	1,289	199	22	1,750
Union	550	468	256	644	97	21	1,018
Lyon	464	432	251	560	57	28	896

KDFWR Statistics

2014 Deer Harvest Results

County	Bucks	Does	Bow	Rifle	M'loader	C'bow	Total
Crittenden	1,606	1,618	454	2,456	268	46	3,224
Webster	1,238	1,204	360	1,825	215	42	2,442
Livingston	943	890	221	1,379	221	12	1,833
Caldwell	973	737	209	1,331	145	25	1,710
Union	570	489	264	721	60	14	1,059
Lyon	445	365	200	536	50	24	810

KDFWR Statistics

The Crittenden Outdoors Hunting Guide is produced annually by The Crittenden Press newspaper and distributed free of charge in this community and beyond.

Harvest Log

Please refer to the KY Hunting Guide for harvest logging requirements.

Date, County, & Sex must be filled in before carcass is moved.
TELECHECK 1-800-245-4263

☐ DEER ☐ TURKEY ☐ BOBCAT ☐ OTTER
☐ ELK ☐ BEAR ☐ SANDHILL CRANE

DATE _____ COUNTY _____ SEX _____
CONFIRMATION # _____

☐ DEER ☐ TURKEY ☐ BOBCAT ☐ OTTER
☐ ELK ☐ BEAR ☐ SANDHILL CRANE

DATE _____ COUNTY _____ SEX _____
CONFIRMATION # _____

☐ DEER ☐ TURKEY ☐ BOBCAT ☐ OTTER
☐ ELK ☐ BEAR ☐ SANDHILL CRANE

DATE _____ COUNTY _____ SEX _____
CONFIRMATION # _____

☐ DEER ☐ TURKEY ☐ BOBCAT ☐ OTTER
☐ ELK ☐ BEAR ☐ SANDHILL CRANE

DATE _____ COUNTY _____ SEX _____
CONFIRMATION # _____

☐ DEER ☐ TURKEY ☐ BOBCAT ☐ OTTER
☐ ELK ☐ BEAR ☐ SANDHILL CRANE

DATE _____ COUNTY _____ SEX _____
CONFIRMATION # _____


☐ DEER ☐ TURKEY ☐ BOBCAT ☐ OTTER
☐ ELK ☐ BEAR ☐ SANDHILL CRANE

DATE _____ COUNTY _____ SEX _____
CONFIRMATION # _____

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife
Resources

Cut out the above harvest log to keep record of your harvests.


Riverview Park



- 7 full hook-up sites
- 3 pavilions
- Boat ramp
- Playground

LOCATED ON SR 387
10 MILES NORTH OF MARION
ON THE OHIO RIVER

Formerly Dam 50
Managed by Crittenden County Fiscal Court



FREE

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY FOR LOTS OF FUN!

ALL YOU CAN EAT FOOD PROVIDED

EVERYONE HAS A CHANCE TO WIN SEVERAL DOOR PRIZES INCLUDING GUNS



12TH ANNUAL Deer Hunting Extravaganza

BUCK EXPO

FRIDAY, NOV. 8, 2019
7-9 P.M.

CHILDREN WELCOME

FOR MORE INFO CALL: (270) 965-5232

WITH SPECIAL GUEST DR. JOE BUFFORD

Dr. Joe Bufford serves as a pro staff leader with Buckventures Outdoors TV as featured on the Sportsman Channel. His first book, *Dominion*, a 365-day devotional for outdoorsmen, is set to release in 2019. He is a co-founder of Pastors In The Outdoors, a ministry dedicated to reviving men of God through hunting and fishing retreats. He has been an avid outdoorsman for nearly forty years.

Test your luck or skill on scoring

MONSTER WHITETAIL BUCKS

(Boone & Crockett scoring system)

TO BE HELD AT THE MARION BAPTIST FAMILY LIFE CENTER

CORNER OF EAST DEPOT & SOUTH COLLEGE STREETS, MARION, KY

CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS

DEER HUNTING OUTLOOK GREAT FOR 2019-20

Potential record-breaking season on horizon

Hold on to your orange caps, this deer season could be like a fast-moving freight train, according to a local biologist and outdoors observer.

A recipe for an outstanding rifle season is brewing and it's based on a number of things lining up and that doesn't include the stars and moon.

Wildlife biologist Philip Sharp believes the upcoming deer season may be one of the best in memory.

"It could be a record harvest as far as Crittenden County goes," he said.

Sharp is a private lands biologist with the Kentucky Department and Fish and Wildlife Resources. His eyes are on a number of things at once, including natural resources, weather, etc. His insight is based upon personal experiences as well as his training as a wildlife biologist.

Deer will be on the move more this fall largely because the de-

mand for high-protein food will be greater than it might be in other years. Sharp says the white oak production in the immediate area hasn't been good. His observations are mostly in Crittenden and Livingston counties. Acorns of the white oak variety are scarce and he says squirrels are already working them over pretty good. Acorns from red oak trees generally fall a bit later so they're not as much a part of the whitetail's rut-time diet.

"A buck can't lay in the woods all day, walk a few steps, fill up on white oak acorns then lay back down," Sharp said. "Deer are going to have to be on the move to find food."

Food plots and edges of crop fields will be hot spots, he says.

"Most people hunt field edges

anyway," Sharp said, so that's why the success rate will likely go up this season. If it does, the county's record harvest of 3,451 deer in 2017 may bite the dust. Last year, Crittenden County hunters bagged 3,302 whitetails, which was the third largest take in county history.

Crittenden County, traditionally a top two or three deer harvest county in the state, attracts plenty of hunters, too, and that continues to drive harvest figures.

The local herd continues to mature, Sharp suggests, as hunters become more particular about what they harvest. Many gunners used



Sharp

to take yearly bucks, but now the 2.5-year-old class takes the brunt of the barrel.

"And that is probably slowly switching to 3.5-year-olds," Sharp said.

He encourages hunters to harvest more mature bucks so that the trophy class continues to climb in the immediate area.

There have been a handful of confirmed EHD (Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease) cases in the area, Sharp said, but EHD should not be confused with the more threatening CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease). EHD occurs quite regularly in deer herds, particularly during drought conditions. Deer infected with EHD are safe to eat. No research has shown that the virus can be spread to humans or pets.



(270) 704-5430 Call or Text

HUGE SELECTION
Vinyl, Metal, Treated & Painted Buildings

Over 20 Buildings On Site Carolina Carports

Financing 36, 48, 60 Months on Barns, Cabins, Garages and Storage Building


4x6 Deer Blind \$995

FREE DELIVERY AND SETUP
704 S. Main St. • Marion, KY 42064



EAGLE BUILDING SALES
(270) 704-5430
306 Marion Road, Princeton, Ky

LSC Structures
704 S. Main St., Marion, Ky.
CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK



Red Cedar and Barn Wood

closed Sunday

Chair Caning

Enoch Miller
345 Guthrie Browning Rd.
Marion, KY 42064

COMING BACK THIS FALL



SERVING THE BEST pulled pork and sides with that legendary MPB "SECRET SAUCE."

Follow and like Marion Pit Bar-B-Q on facebook.
to get the latest updates and details.

728 S. MAIN ST., MARION
(270) 965-3327

AS FEATURED IN
Southern Living Magazine, USA Today,
and other food and travel blogs.

See ya neal soon!

CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS

Crittenden County - Kentucky DEER HARVEST TOTALS

1993	2,357	2006	3,085
1994	1,826	2007	2,927
1995	1,857	2008	2,707
1996	2,065	2009	2,549
1997	1,874	2010	2,952
1998	2,728	2011	2,829
1999	2,201	2012	3,010
2000	2,597	2013	3,033
2001	2,272	2014	3,224
2002	2,695	2015	3,359
2003	2,586	2016	3,081
2004	3,032	2017	3,451
2005	2,593	2018	3,302

TOP HARVEST COUNTIES 2018-19 DEER SEASON

County	Male	Female	Total	Wildlife Region
Hardin	1684	1634	3318	GREEN RIVER REGION
Crittenden	1509	1793	3302	PURCHASE REGION
Breckinridge	1671	1538	3209	GREEN RIVER REGION
Christian	1632	1447	3079	PURCHASE REGION
Pendleton	1491	1568	3059	BLUEGRASS REGION
Shelby	1412	1453	2865	BLUEGRASS REGION
Owen	1383	1449	2832	BLUEGRASS REGION
Hopkins	1429	1371	2800	GREEN RIVER REGION
Graves	1249	1517	2766	PURCHASE REGION
Webster	1099	1388	2487	GREEN RIVER REGION
Grayson	1265	1215	2480	GREEN RIVER REGION
Ohio	1255	1166	2421	GREEN RIVER REGION
Hart	1154	1214	2368	GREEN RIVER REGION
Muhlenberg	1186	1165	2351	GREEN RIVER REGION
Pulaski	1263	996	2259	SOUTHEAST REGION
Nelson	1111	1117	2228	BLUEGRASS REGION
Trigg	1104	1063	2167	PURCHASE REGION
Bracken	1044	1063	2107	NORTHEAST REGION
Washington	1016	1072	2088	BLUEGRASS REGION
Grant	1079	991	2070	BLUEGRASS REGION
Harrison	1000	947	1947	BLUEGRASS REGION
Livingston	938	975	1913	PURCHASE REGION
Caldwell	964	942	1906	PURCHASE REGION
Boone	923	961	1884	BLUEGRASS REGION
Logan	1020	847	1867	GREEN RIVER REGION
Green	961	829	1790	SOUTHEAST REGION

Boone&Crockett Class

Bucks taken with a gun can qualify for Boone and Crockett Club's recordbook and for bowhunters the book is kept by Pope and Young. For "Booners" the minimum scoring points for whitetail deer is 160 inches. For Pope and Young the minimum for a whitetail is 125 inches. There are also minimums for non-typical antlers. There is a well-defined system for measuring the antlers in both categories, which uses length and mass as the key factors.

MOST COMMON GAME VIOLATIONS

KDFWR officials say these are the most common violations made during hunting season.

- 1. Not filling out back of hunting license.**
- 2. Failure to call KDFWR Telecheck system.**
- 3. Trespassing.**
- 4. Failure to wear appropriate hunter orange.**

KDFWR
Deer Tele-Check System
1-800-CHK-DEER
1-800-245-4263
REPORT A POACHER
1-800-25-ALERT

The Crittenden Outdoors Hunting Season Guide was designed and published by The Crittenden Press, Inc., at 125 East Bellville Street, Marion, Ky. It is available in PDF form at The Press Online or MarionKentucky.org. Contact us at (270) 965-3191.

2019 KENTUCKY HUNTING LICENSE FEES

License or Permit	Resident	Nonresident
Annual Fishing	\$23.00	\$50.00
Joint Husband/Wife Annual Fishing	\$42.00	Not available
1-Day Fishing	\$7.00	\$10.00
3-Year Fishing (available online only)	\$55.00	Not available
Nonresident 7-Day Fishing	Not available	\$35.00
Nonresident 15-Day Fishing	Not available	\$40.00
Trout Permit	\$10.00	\$10.00
Annual Hunting	\$27.00	\$150.00
1-Day Hunting (not valid for deer or turkey)	\$7.00	\$25.00
7-Day Hunting (not valid for deer or turkey)	Not available	\$65.00
Annual Youth Hunting (ages 12-15 only)	\$6.00	\$10.00
Annual Trapping	\$20.00	\$130.00
Annual Landowner/Tenant Trapping	\$10.00	Not available
Annual Youth Trapping	\$5.00	Not available
Annual Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$42.00	Not available
Senior/Disabled Comb Hunting/Fishing	\$12.00	Not available
Sportsman's License	\$95.00	Not available
Youth (ages 12-15) Sportsman's License	\$30.00	Not available
Statewide Deer Permit (two deer)	\$35.00	\$120.00
Youth (ages 12-15) Deer Permit (one deer)	\$10.00	\$15.00
Additional Deer Permit (two deer)	\$15.00	\$15.00
Spring Turkey Permit (two turkeys)	\$30.00	\$75.00
Youth Turkey Permit (one turkey, spring or fall)	\$10.00	\$15.00
Fall Turkey Permit (four turkeys)	\$30.00	\$75.00
Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit	\$15.00	\$15.00
Federal Duck Stamp	\$25.00	\$25.00
Sandhill Crane Permit	\$3.00	\$3.00
Elk Drawing Application (deadline April 30)	\$10.00	\$10.00
Youth WMA Elk Drawing (deadline April 30)	\$10.00	\$10.00
Quota Bull Elk Permit (if drawn)	\$100.00	\$550.00
Quota Cow Elk Permit (if drawn)	\$60.00	\$400.00
Youth Elk Permit (if drawn)	\$30.00	\$200.00
Out-of-Zone Elk Permit	\$30.00	\$400.00
Bear Permit	\$30.00	\$250.00
Youth Bear Permit	\$10.00	Not available
Bear Chase Permit	\$30.00	Not available
Youth Bear Chase Permit	\$10.00	Not available
Peabody WMA User Permit	\$15.00	\$15.00
LBL Hunter User Permit	\$25.00	\$25.00
LBL Hunt/Backcountry Camping	\$35.00	\$35.00
Temporary Hunter Ed Permit	\$5.00	\$5.00

Hillside
**DISCOUNT
GROCERY**

Name Brand Discount Groceries
New & Salvaged Groceries
Refrigerated Section

Hwy. 91 North of Marion, KY

(7.5 Miles from Downtown Marion on the Left)

HOURS: Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Closed SUNDAY

CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS

Local WMAs offer public hunting opportunities

Big Rivers WMA

Located in Crittenden and Union counties, the WMA is 7,574 acres. Directions: From Sturgis, Ky., at the intersection of U.S. HWY 60 and KY 109, travel north on KY 109 for 1.65 miles, turn left (west) onto KY 1508 and proceed 1.45 miles to main Union County entrance on left. Also from Sturgis, at the intersection of US 60 and KY 365, travel west on KY 365 and proceed 2.5 miles to main Crittenden County entrance and area office on right. Additional Crittenden County access is available on Bells Mine Road off KY 365. From Marion, travel 7.5 miles east on US 60, turn left on KY 365 and travel for 6.8 miles.

Description: Steep to very steep upland hardwood forests, flat to rolling bottomland hardwood forest, and agricultural lands bordered by the Ohio River to the west and the Tradewater River to the south. Good populations of deer, turkey, squirrel, and furbearers exist on the area. ATVs, horseback riding, and camping are prohibited.

Regulations: Hunting is open under statewide regulations for small game, furbearer and turkey

seasons, except these seasons are closed during the two-day quota hunt that starts the first Saturday in November.

Other Exceptions: Deer hunting is open under statewide regulations for the archery, crossbow and youth firearm seasons; however, during quota hunts, all deer hunting seasons on this WMA are closed, except to drawn hunters. Archery/crossbow-only quota hunt from the Monday following the October youth-only weekend through Nov. 30, except when closed during the two-day quota hunt that starts the first Saturday in November.

Waterfowl: Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to 2 p.m. Hunters may not enter the area until 4 a.m.

For more information: Call Contact: (270) 374-3025.

Livingston County WMA and State Natural Areas

Consists of three tracts, the Bissell Bluff SNA (562 acres), Newman's Bluff SNA (461 acres), and Reynolds (873 acres).

Regulations: Open under statewide regulations for squirrel, rabbit, quail, fall turkey and

furbearer seasons.

Exceptions: Deer: The archery, crossbow, youth firearm, muzzle-loader and modern gun deer seasons are open under statewide regulations, except modern firearms may not be used to take deer during the modern gun season.

Turkey (Spring): Open for the youth-only turkey season, and open only to youth hunters during the general spring turkey season.

Ohio River Islands WMA

On the Ohio River upstream from Smithland Lock and Dam, Stewart (Birdsville) Island and surrounding river area is a waterfowl refuge closed Oct. 15-March 15. Accessed by numerous ramps along Ohio River, including Birdsville Ramp off KY 137. Public hunting allowed prior to closure.

Twin Sisters, Pryor, Rondeau islands and a large marsh area located between Pryor and Twin Sisters islands provide waterfowl hunting from temporary blinds.

Access to the islands on Kentucky side north islands at Givens Creek Ramp off of Golconda Ferry Road, and south at Birdsville Ramp off of Birdsville Road at KY 137. Roads are accessible off of KY 137, north of Smithland, and on the Illinois side at Davidson Memorial Boat Ramp and Golconda Marina Ramp.

Stewart Island/Birdsville Island Unit: Deer: Open under statewide archery and crossbow seasons through Oct. 14 only. Open during October muzzleloader season; closed during December muzzleloader season. Open during the youth gun season; closed for free youth weekend. Quail & Rabbit: Closed. Squirrel: Open

from the third Saturday in May through the third Friday in June; and from the third Saturday in August through Oct. 14. Turkey (Fall): Archery and crossbow seasons open under statewide regulations through Oct. 14 only. Closed for fall gun season. Turkey (Spring): Open under statewide regulations. The Stewart Island Unit is closed to public access Oct. 15 – March 15, except during early muzzleloader deer season. Waterfowl: The portion of the Ohio River from Smithland Lock and Dam upstream to the powerline crossing at river mile 911.5 is closed to hunting. Stewart (Birdsville) Island is closed to public access Oct. 15 - March 15, except for October muzzleloader season. Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to 2 p.m. Hunters may not enter the area until 4 a.m.

Bluegrass Farm Supply

1850 Mt. Zion Church Rd., Marion, Kentucky
Hours: Mon. - Sat. 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

- Higher protein 50 lb. Non-GMO Deer Corn



- Shell Corn with Flavors
- Bird Feed
- Bag Coal



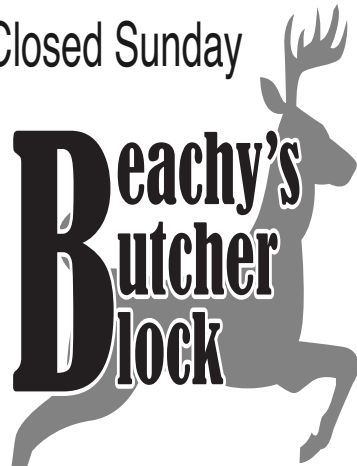
Deer Salts
Loose and Salt Blocks
Food Plot Fertilizer



General hardware and tools • Fencing supplies • Dog food



Closed Sunday



DEER PROCESSING

- SUMMER SAUSAGE
- BOLOGNA • JERKY

Get Your Own Meat Back!

MARVIN BEACHY
1876 Lilly Dale Rd.
Marion, KY 42064

270-969-8308
270-965-5379

CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS



Doves - Ducks - Geese - Etc.

If you hunt migratory birds, HIP Survey required

Hunters who intend to hunt migratory birds are required to have a Migratory Bird-Waterfowl Permit, or any license that includes it.

They must also go online or make a phone call and fill out the Harvest Information Program (HIP) questions before they are legal migratory bird hunters. Only those who plan to hunt migratory birds need to complete the HIP survey.

The process takes less than five minutes. Go to the "My Profile"

page to complete the survey. This page will ask for some basic information to confirm your identity.

After completing the HIP questions, you will receive a confirmation number that must be written on your hunting license or Kentucky Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Hunting Permit.

Those without internet access may call the department at 1-800-858-1549 from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays for assistance.



**Longbeards
& Whitetails**
GUIDE SERVICE

Owners Dale & Natalie Willingham
Senior Guide Brian Willingham

PO Box 142 • Marion, Kentucky 42064
Phone (888) 703-9288

email info@longbeardsandwhitetails.com
web www.longbeardsandwhitetails.com

Specializing in Whitetail Deer & Eastern Wild Turkey Hunts

The Coon Dog Inn RESTAURANT



Down Home Cooking

Breakfast served until 2 p.m.
Monday through Saturday

Home Cooked Daily Lunch Specials

Dinner Served Fridays Only

*Family Atmosphere
Locally Owned & Operated*



512 Cassidy Ave., Fredonia, Ky.
(270) 545-3552

*Mon.-Sat., 6 a.m.-2 p.m.,
Catfish Fri. Nights 4 p.m.-8 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m.-2 p.m.*



**Sales of Metal Roofing, Siding
& Trim fabricated on site.**

#1 Metal in 17 Colors
along with interior liner panel
and acrylic coated galvalume.

WE OFFER:

- Crinkle Finish Metal
- Metal panels
- Metal trim
(standard and custom)
- Metal roofing accessories
(bubble insulation, roof lathing, closures,
screws, roof boots, snow guards, caulk, etc.)
- Pole barn slider door parts



BLUEGRASS
METAL PRODUCTS

MARION, KY

1006 S. Main St.,
Marion, Kentucky

(270) 965-5803

Open Mon.-Fri.
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Saturday by appointment

CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS

BIG BUCK CONTEST WINNER

Perryman's unremarkable 7-pointer scrapes big payday

STAFF REPORT

Jacob Perryman has been deer hunting since he was old enough to safely handle a gun. He's taken some very nice bucks over the years while hunting in the lucrative Ohio River bottoms near Tolu.

But what he calls a "management buck" taught him a valuable lesson last fall.

Perryman, 43, won the 2018 Crittenden County Big Buck Contest sponsored by Marion Tourism, pocketing \$1,000 in cash.

Ironically, the deer that made him a bit richer was one he never observed with such fondness.

The husky whitetail with a heavy but unremarkable seven-point rack came onto the scene

four years earlier. Perryman and other family members have a farm between Tolu and Sheridan that they watch closely with trail cameras. A big six-pointer kept showing up in pre-season pictures. It was a buck they named Big Six. And he had a bounty on his head.

"I call him a management buck. We wanted to take him out of the herd because we didn't want him to pass along those six-point genetics," Perryman says. "But he kept outsmarting us."

Season after season, the mature buck would show up in nightly trail cam pictures, but seldom during daylight hours. Perryman's brother had a near miss in culling the buck during rifle season 2017, but Big Six es-

caped.

"When he showed up this (last season), he'd added another point and was a huge seven pointer," Perryman said. "The bases of his antlers are 5½ inches and he had an 18-inch inside spread. I believe he was the biggest seven pointer I'd ever seen."

Perryman tried to get the buck during bow season. He watched the deer make a scrape one day, but it didn't come close enough for a shot.

"If he hadn't have followed a doe across the field on opening morning of rifle season I don't know if we'd have gotten him this time," Perryman adds.

What he didn't realize was the payday this otherwise undistinguished buck would offer.

"My sister had put me and my cousin in the Big Buck Contest," he said.

At first, he wasn't sure it had a chance, but he checked the buck at Hodge's Sports and Apparel where it was scored. The formula for the contest is quite unique, taking a multiple of the inside spread and number of points plus body weight for a final tally.

The buck field dressed 173 pounds but Perryman said it looked even bigger.

"We expected him to be a little heavier, honestly," he said.

And that was the least of his surprises as this Crittenden County hunter got the biggest bombshell when Big Six Plus One took the top prize in the county's buck contest.



Jacob Perryman never imagined this "management buck" would earn him a nice payday in the local Big Buck Contest.



5630 Pleasant Valley Rd.
Princeton, KY
(270) 545-7558

PLEASANT VALLEY
BULK FOODS LLC

Mon.-Fri.
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Sat.
8 a.m.-4 p.m.



HUGE
SELECTION
OF
OUTDOOR
FURNITURE



DEER CORN
CHERRY BOMB
DEER ATTRACTANT
RAGE BROADHEADS

Soups • Groceries • Fresh Sausage • Ribeye
Large Variety Snacks & Candy • Gift Items

CHECK OUT OUR DELI



Large Selection of Meat & Cheeses
Smoked Pulled Turkey
for Sandwiches or By The Pound

**FREE Samples Daily,
FREE Coffee & Donuts
Every Saturday**

CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS

Waterfowling safety paramount to hunt

Statistics clearly indicate that more waterfowl hunters die each year from drowning, hypothermia and cold water shock than from accidentally discharged firearms.

In other words, the water is often more dangerous than the gun in your boat.

Kentucky Afield published an article not too long ago about waterfowl hunting safety. In it, several longtime hunters and outdoors specialists discussed the key ingredients to staying safe and dry while hunting ducks and geese.

"One of the biggest safety issues for waterfowl hunting in winter is overloading the boat," said Zac Campbell, boating education coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources for that article in Kentucky Afield. "With waterfowl

hunting, you have so much equipment. Your equipment and decoys weigh a lot. Hunters sometimes don't realize how much all that stuff weighs when you put it all together."

The boat operator is responsible for knowing the weight capacity of the boat. While a 16-foot jon boat is generally accepted as the minimum size for waterfowl hunting, it's not unusual to see smaller vessels packed with gear and hunters out on the open water.

"There are sometimes enough people and gear for two or three boats in one boat," Campbell explained. "All the hunters may want to go in the same boat so they can be with their friends, but it can create a very dangerous situation if they overload the boat."

Well over 20,000 people water-

fowl hunt in Kentucky each year, according to Rocky Pritchert, migratory bird program coordinator at Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Pritchert, an experienced waterfowl hunter himself, offered some simple advice to stay out of trouble.

"If you do capsize, stay with the boat if at all possible," Pritchert said in the Kentucky Afield article written by Norm Minch. "Today's boats have extra flotation built in and are easier to locate than a single person in the water."

Four waterfowl hunters have died in accidents in the Kentucky over the past two decades. If you look the circumstances in those cases, it emphasizes the importance of wearing a life vest or flotation coat at all times while waterfowl hunting.



Opening Nov. 1

Mulligan's
PIZZERIA
& PUB

Homemade Pizza • Appetizers
Wings • Burgers & More

Hours: Thursday-Saturday, open at 4 p.m.
Sunday, open at noon

LOCATED AT MARION GOLF AND POOL

651 Blackburn St., Marion
Jimmy Hernandez, Manager

Bar and
Game Room

Golf Simulator
Pool Table
Digital Dart Board
Big Screen TVs

Spacious Family
Restaurant
Coming Soon!

Carry-Out Available
(270) 965-7100

Mature 9-Hole Golf Course with
NEW Bermuda Greens



CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS

Odds of hitting deer are 1:107 in KY

In a recent ranking, Kentucky was 15th in the nation for collisions between automobiles and deer. The movement of deer along Kentucky highways takes a noticeable upturn starting in early-October and into November and early December. Shorter days and cooler evenings serve to kick off the fall deer mating season.

Increased field activity by farmers as they harvest crops may also contribute to putting deer on the move and make them more likely to come into the path of passing vehicles.

The average car insurance claim involving deer is \$4,341, according to figures supplied by State Farm Insurance.

Odds of being involved in a deer collision in Kentucky are 1 out of 107, but that likelihood doubles during deer season, from October

to December. Kentucky Transportation officials offer several driving tips to help improve safety:

- Slow down immediately when you spot a deer crossing the roadway ahead, as deer tend to travel in groups.

- Don't swerve to avoid a deer. Swerving can result in a more serious crash with an oncoming vehicle or roadside object.

- In the event of a crash, keep both hands on the wheel and apply brakes steadily until stopped.

- Motorists are asked to report all deer-vehicle collisions to police so locations and crash numbers can be recorded and monitored.

- Always wear a safety belt.

- Keep headlights on bright unless other vehicles are approaching.

- Drive defensively, constantly scanning the roadside.

LOOKING FOR A LOCAL, DEPENDABLE GAS COMPANY?

We take care of our customers!

24 Hour Fuel Island • Recreational Gas

★★★

We also have propane supplies in stock. If we don't have it, we can get it.

★★★

Looking forward to doing business with you. Your business will always be appreciated.

**We Fill
Portable
Propane
Tanks**

**Deli Fresh
Sandwiches
& Pizza**

Liberty  **FUELS**
INC.

825 S. Main St., Marion, KY
(270) 965-4922



**FULL
LODGE
RENTAL**
for any
event!

upland addiction

Shooting Preserve and Lodge

Event Area and Lodging

•• *Available* ••

We offer
**INDIVIDUAL
ROOM
RENTALS**
for all
hunters!

Marion, Kentucky

(270) 869-4867



kentuckywingshooting.com

CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS

Fall turkeys gobble acorns

Like most creatures, turkeys vary their feeding location based on time of year and availability of food. Adult birds feed primarily on acorns in November and December.

After baby turkeys are hatched, they require insects, as much as 75% of the diet, for the first few weeks of their lives. However, by fall seasons, these young birds focus on food with high fat content, such as acorns, to be prepared for survival through their first winter.

While plant material is as much as 90% of the adult turkey's diet, archery hunters may find them in fall season eating grasshoppers in the early morning sun. When acorns are available, turkeys will



feast on them for the majority of their diet during fall gun seasons.

They may also eat berries, greens and waste grain. When considering food sources as part of the hunting plan, knowing those parts of your hunting area where a variety of food is available within a small area will improve your chances. You can also look for places the birds have been scratching in the leaves to locate feeding areas.

VALLEY VIEW WINDOWS

We Install New Construction & Replacement



Custom
Built Vinyl
Windows

**FREE
ESTIMATES**

Pole Barns, Reroofing
Decks, Doors, Excavating
Custom Band
Sawing & More



Aquila A. Yoder, Jr.

1240 Valley View Road • Marion KY 42064

White Coil Stock \$65 a Roll • White Trim Nails \$6.50 a Box
Hunting House Windows - Color: Dark Brown

14x21 \$24

14x27 \$30

31x40 \$28

ON SALE

Blue White and Clear Deal

Seal Caulk \$3.75 a Tube

We sell Vinyl Siding and Metal Roofing
Grabber Post Metal

Hodges
SPORTS & APPAREL
SINCE 1966



WE CARRY

RUGER



TAURUS

Remington



Smith & Wesson®



WINCHESTER



Savage Arms
The Definition of Accuracy



MISSION
BY MATHEWS

COMPLETE SETUPS FOR
HUNTING & BOWFISHING

CAMO CLOTHING & BOOTS FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

Walls

MOSSY OAK



SWEET RACK 18

PRIMOS
HUNTING CALLS



Women's
Boutique
Clothing

simply southern
COLLECTION

Levi's

STURGIS RD., MARION, KY • (270) 965-4717



HODGESSPORTSANDAPPAREL



HODGES4717

CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS

WE SELL LAND

**\$2.3
BILLION
& 615,000
ACRES**
sold company
wide in the last
5 years

THINKING ABOUT SELLING YOUR LAND?

In Western Kentucky, Mark Williams is your local Whitetail Properties land specialist. Mark is ready to help you market and sell land.

At Whitetail Properties Real Estate we:

- Are positioned to help you capitalize on the true market value of your property.
- Find additional value in the recreational opportunities that exist on your property.
- Engage with our vast nationwide network of qualified buyers and investors.

**CALL MARK
TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT BUYING
OR SELLING LAND
IN WESTERN
KENTUCKY**



MARK WILLIAMS
Western Kentucky Land Specialist
(270) 836-0819
mark.williams@whitetailproperties.com



WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE

HUNTING | RANCH | FARM | TIMBER

WHITETAILPROPERTIES.COM



Whitetail Properties Real Estate, LLC | dba Whitetail Properties | Nebraska & North Dakota DBA Whitetail Trophy Properties Real Estate LLC | Lic. in IL, MD, IA, KS, KY, NE & OK - Dan Perez, Broker | Lic. in AR, CO, GA, MN, ND, TN, SD & WI - Jeff Evans, Broker | Lic. in OH & PA - Kirk Gilbert, Broker | Lic. in NM & TX - Joey Bellington, Broker | Lic. in IN - John Boyken, Broker | Lic. in LA, MS, GA & AL - Sybil Stewart, Broker | Lic. in TN - Chris Wakefield, Broker | Lic. in TN - Bobby Powers, Broker | Lic. in AR - Johnny Ball, Broker | Lic. in SC - Rick Elliot, Broker | Lic. in NC - Rich Baugh, Broker | Lic. in MI - Brandon Cropsey, Broker



CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS



Chloe James won the 2018 Big Buck Contest's youth division.

James' memories build memorial to big buck with real 'Character'

STAFF REPORT

The greatest form of flattery in the deer hunting business might just be getting your own moniker.

The personification of a trophy whitetail is a common denominator among the hunting ranks. To give a deer a name is akin to building a monument to him. It's a show of respect, if you will.

When 14-year-old Chloe James last fall bagged a nine-point buck with lots of defining personality, she quickly christened him "Character."

A lifelong Crittenden Countian, James has been hunting in the eastern quadrant of the community since she was old enough to know how.

"I have been hunting on my family's farm for close to seven years

BIG BUCK CONTEST

Hunters can register for the contest each fall at Hodge's Outdoor Sports and Apparel. The contest has a youth and adult division. The adult division prize is \$1,000 cash.

now and have helped with managing the deer population on our property," she said.

It was cold and sunny on the day she harvested "Character." The buck was entered into the Marion Tourism Commission's Big Buck Contest and it delivered a first-place prize for the young gunner.

"Dad and I had been in the stand all day," James remembers. "Does and young bucks had been milling about the radishes and oats we had

planted in the summer. There was only about 15 minutes until dark when 'Character' ran into the field."

James took aim and fired. The buck ran out of sight so she and her father left the area to allow nature to take its course.

"I hadn't realized how big he was until I shot him. After eating dinner and allowing him time to expire we found him in a bunch of broomsedge," she said.

James says the buck earned his name because of a flyer or kicker it has off the back of the G2.

"It also had torn ears and a hole clean through his nose," she said.

"I can't wait until Barrett Sherer has my shoulder mount ready so everyone can see it," she added.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR THE HUNT



Deer Feeders • Deer Corn • Hunting & Camping Supplies

Do it Best **H & H**
HOME & HARDWARE

314 Sturgis Rd., Marion
(270) 965-2700

Reg. Hours: Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS

COVER STORY

Lucky 13 leads to Gardner's whopping 22-point buck

STAFF REPORT

Being a former athlete, a football coach and just generally a competitive fellow, Blake Gardner hunts for success, and he needs positive returns to keep him motivated.

That's why after several scoreless seasons, the 30-year-old bowhunter was ready to throw in the towel.

"I just about gave it up the last

couple of years," he said for an interview last fall. "Reaping no rewards, it was hard to keep doing it."

To the point of being humbled by the chase, Gardner decided to re-tool, re-arm with a new bow and give it one last try.

After being shutout for 13 hunting seasons, Gardner scored a big victory in early October 2018, bag-

ging a 22-pointer that roughs out at around 176 on the Pope and Young scoring system.

"When I got back into it, I got a new Mathews Triax bow," Gardner said.

He hung a few trail cameras over grain feed prior summer and got several pictures of the trophy buck in velvet.

"I hunted him hard," he said, but he'd gone several times early in September without seeing the deer.

In the meantime, Gardner tagged a doe with his bow and kept holding vigil for the big one. He knew the deer was around.

The trail cams had caught the buck running in a small area. He had pictures from three different locations, all within about a 400-yard radius.

Gardner hung a lock-on stand in a creek bed next to a hay field he knew the buck frequented and started sitting there in the after-

noons.

"I had hunted that same stand about eight times and had seen this buck a couple of weeks earlier," he explains. "He came within bow range, but there were some limbs and I couldn't get a shot at him."

Predictably, the deer returned on the same trail the next time. But on this occasion, the big whitetail made a mistake.

"He was with a little six-pointer," said the farmer and part-time middle school football coach. "He came the same way he had before and went to the field just picking around."

Gardner had gotten on his stand at 3:30 p.m., and the buck appeared about 45 minutes later. It and the smaller buck stayed in the field for about 30 minutes, then the big one left. Headed away on the same path from where he'd come.

"But this time he walked around a brush pile and gave me a shot at



40 yards," Gardner said.

The Carbon Express Maximum Red arrow tipped with a NAP Spitfire did the trick.

"I hit him a little high and forward, but it dropped him pretty much in his tracks," said the hunter.

"I've always loved deer hunting, but I'd never capitalized on a nice buck," he said.



Blake Gardner took this nice buck last October with a bow.

Hunting

HEADQUARTERS

White
Salt Blocks

80# Bag
Deer Corn

Trophy
Rock

Plus Many Other Deer Attractants & Hunting Supplies

AKRIDGE

Farm Supply

& Ace Hardware

Fredonia Location
(270) 545-3332
Toll Free 800-264-3332
Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat. 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Eddyville Location
(270) 388-2910
Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sat. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS

Squirrels provide more than meat, it's the chase that matters

Generations of hunters have honed basic hunting skills and techniques and provided tasty table fare by stalking the forest for bushytails.

For many, the squirrel is the first live critter on which they steadied a rifle. Its wily behavior in the tree-tops presents a formidable foe for a young gunner just cutting his teeth on the outdoors.

Fifteen-year-old Tucker Sharp of Marion is by no means a rookie. He's spent countless hours afield with his father, who is a wildlife biologist for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

"I like to squirrel hunt because it is good practice for perfecting your shot," said Sharp, whose gun of choice is a .22 long rifle.

"I also enjoy just being outdoors hunting," he adds.

Chasing bushy tails is the best way to become a better hunter and outdoorsman, even for those who feel like chiseled, hardened veter-



Tucker Sharp shows of "a mess" of squirrels.

ans of the field.

Kentucky's fall squirrel season opened in August and runs until the end of February, other than a short pause for the opening day of rifle deer season.

Squirrel hunting is good this sea-

son. Biologists say squirrel numbers have been trending up for a little while.

Hunters help Kentucky Fish and Wildlife monitor the squirrel population by volunteering for the annual Squirrel Hunter Cooperator Survey.

The fall mast crop plays a considerable role in squirrel populations. Following a good mast year, squirrels typically enter spring and summer in better physical condition and female squirrels tend to produce healthier litters.

The squirrel is important to the evolution of a hunter. As children, many of us were taught to stop, look and listen before crossing a roadway or railroad tracks. The concept also applies to squirrel hunting during the early fall season when trees are still full of leaves and the dense foliage can conceal squirrels from a hunter's sight. That's why a lot of people prefer to use a shotgun in the early season.

Deer hunters tend to sneak into a stand or blind, sit there a few

hours then slip out of the woods. That type of experience might be less rewarding for a young outdoors enthusiast looking for a more stimulating experience.

While you're afield stalking

bushy-tails, look for stands of hickory, oak and beech trees. Freshly cut nuts falling from above or shavings piled around the base of a tree are tell-tale signs of a good place to set up.



Anna Mae's
on Main

Steaks
Burgers
BBQ

218 S. MAIN, MARION • (270) 965-7077

CATERING AVAILABLE MON.-SAT. 11 A.M.-9 P.M.

• Stuffed Tomatoes	• Appetizers
• Homemade Chicken Salad	• Sliders
• Homemade In-House Desserts	• Sweet Potato Waffles
• Salads	



DEER PROCESSING

CUSTOM PROCESSING

Summer Sausage • Jerky • Snack Stix
Skin, Cool & Process \$72 • Caping \$25

Local Grass or Grain Fed Beef or Pork For Your Freezer



Open 6 Days a Week
5 a.m.-10 p.m., Closed Sunday
Out-of-State Hunters Welcome
Quick Processing Available

Participant for Hunters for the Hungry Program

346 Rooster Ln.
(just off KY 654 N., 3 mi. from US 60 E.)

CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS

Hunting antler sheds great way to spend those late-winter months

When deer season ends every winter, there's a cloud that settles over a hunter's dreams for the next few weeks, but there's no reason to let the wintertime, huntless blues get you down.

Horn hunting can be almost just as fun, and at times equally rewarding.

Now, we know that deer do not have horns, right? Horns are fitted to animals permanently. Deer have what is correctly called antlers, which identifies them as boney items that shed annually.

When bucks shed their "horns" it's time for outdoorsmen to move in and collect them off the ground.

Whitetail deer shed their antlers in the winter time or early spring and almost as soon as they drop, new ones begin to grow on the animal's head. At first they're covered with a hairy-like "velvet" that is rubbed off just before the firearms hunting seasons begins in the fall. However, with the advent of early bowhunting, many deer are now being taken in velvet.

If you don't get the buck you're looking for

during the hunting season, go back to the deer's habitat in late winter and there's a chance you'll find a trophy.

Searching for dropped antlers is fun, exciting and also tells you a whole lot about deer activity in late seasons, which can come in handy the following year.

Following are some tips for finding shed antlers.

- Take your time and crawl around in the thickets where you might find rabbits. Deer will forage in dense thickets when food becomes scarce, and that same thicket also provides a safe haven from predators and weather. Thickets also tend to have vines and other stringy or stemmy vegetation that can grab at loose antlers and tug them from a buck's head.

- Look around fence lines. When bucks jump over, they often jar loose one side of their rack, or maybe even both sides. A buck with a heavier set of antlers will likely lose them both in the same general area.

- Cedar thickets, CRP fields and grassy bedding areas are nice places to search for

sheds.

- Customary travel routes, creek crossings, ditch crossings are great places to get started.

- Food sources should be among your first searches. Deer will concentrate near food plots, grain fields or places where late-winter acorns may remain.

- Pay particular attention to south or east slopes of hillsides as those places attract deer in colder months.

- Don't forget to look around water sources, too, particularly if rainfall has been scarce for several weeks.

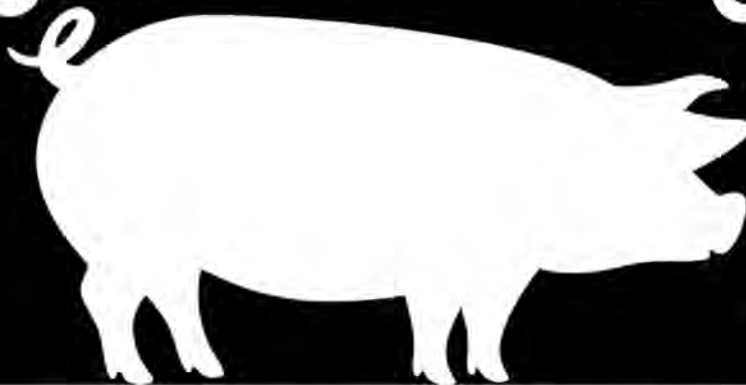
- Riding a four-wheeler near fence lines is a quick way to cover lots of ground in a hurry. Be sure to keep your eyes peeled, look for tips of antlers instead of concentrating on seeing a whole set of horns. Usually, that ivory looking tip on one tine may be all you see sticking up.

- Another tactic is to change your eye level. Shift the perspective, crouch down or even drop completely to the ground and scan along the forest floor.



COPPER TOP

**FRIDAY
NIGHT FISH**



**HOMEMADE
ICE-CREAM**

**DINE-IN, CARRY-OUT
DRIVE THRU**

BAR-B-Q

**"WE ONLY SMOKE
THE GOOD STUFF"**

FREDONIA, KY • (270) 545-3939

CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS



Hunters for the Hungry feeds local residents

Crittenden County has an active Hunters for the Hungry chapter. Venison donated to the organization helps feed people right here in this county. The meat is distributed through the Crittenden County Food Bank, the fourth Friday of each month.

Hunters for the Hungry will pay for processing of the animal. The participating Hunters for the Hungry processor in Crittenden County is Family Butcher Shop on Rooster Lane of Ky. 654 North in the Amish community near Mattoon.

Recently, Hunters for the Hungry launched a program aimed at matching landowners needing deer depredation help with hunters willing to harvest those animals and donate them to the food bank. It is called the Kentucky Whitetail Access Program. More information can be found at http://kyhuntersforthehungry.info/whitetail_access.html.

For more information on the Hunters for the Hungry program, go online to <http://kyhuntersforthehungry.info/processors.html>.



MARION DISCOUNT
TOBACCO



CHEAP SMOKES, GOOD PRICES

Name Brands and Discount Brands

WE HAVE E-CIGARETTES

Drive-thru Window
Locally Owned and Operated
Friendly Service

Call Ahead
Orders
Available

115 STURGIS RD., MARION, KENTUCKY • (270) 965-4099

MARION FEED MILL, INC.

501 EAST BELLVILLE STREET, MARION, KY • (270) 965-2252

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. • Sat. 7:30 a.m. - noon



DEER CORN, PURINA ANTLER MAX, TROPHY ROCK, BUCK JAM & SEED FOR DEER PLOTS

CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS



Small gamers stay afield longer than many others

An old-fashioned rabbit hunt needs few of the trappings that mark today's outdoorsman. You will not find ATVs, UTVs, sophisticated stands, high-powered weapons with optics or any type of call, feeder or gimmick devices that are pervasive among big game gunners. A scattergun, briar-retardant britches and few hounds serve the small-game hunter quite well.

Jason Champion of Marion is one of a handful of sportsmen who still enjoy being afield behind his beagles. Rabbit and quail hunting has certainly dropped off in numbers in recent years, with the latter almost falling off the charts.

"You can hunt rabbits into February long after deer season is over," said Champion on a sunny, cool late winter afternoon that produced a few bunnies for the bag.

Champion hunts pretty hard when he can. His job at a local rock quarry demands much of his time and says family matters also dictate when he can get into the field. But when there are a few hours to spare on the weekend or especially over the holidays, he likes to be with his dogs and friends.

Rabbit hunting can be a social event. Following along a set of beagles is nothing akin to the rigors of lapping in behind a pointer hunting

birds. The pace of rabbit hunting tends to appeal to a broad base of hunters. Champion enjoys inviting friends along and likes teaching the younger generation about hunting small critters and enjoying the sounds of a beagle in pursuit.

His hunts take him from the swamps of the Mississippi River in the east to hills east of Crittenden County and even beyond.

"We try to go to Wisconsin for a hunt every year, too," he said.

Having the right gear to rabbit hunt is important, and dressing for the weather can be a bit tricky. When it's 35 degrees, Champion said it's easy to want to dress warmly, but the aerobic activity pressing through thickets can work the heart rate up in a hurry. When you're 400 yards from the pickup, it's too late to shed a few layers of clothing.

Champion says he buys his chaps from the Amish. They hold up well, he said.

"I've seen other people with other brands wear out a set in a couple of seasons," he said. "I've had these a long time," pointing to a dark brown pair he was wearing on a mild January morning earlier this year.

Rabbit and quail seasons run from Nov. 11 through Feb. 10.



REAL PEOPLE. STIHL PEOPLE.

Welcome Hunters!



Construction & General
Hardware Supplies

Large Selection of
STIHL
Products

**BEHIND EVERY
PROJECT IS A**

True Value



223 Sturgis Rd., Marion
(270) 965-5425

STIHLdealers.com

CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS

HOMESTEAD AUCTION REALTY

*offers complete
Property Management
services of*

Hunting Property

- Mowing
- Regular Property Checks
- Clear, Plant or Fertilize Food Plots

Plus we offer:

Timber Management

HOMESTEAD AUCTION REALTY

308 N. Main St., Marion, Ky 42064

(270) 965-9999

Office Hours
Weekdays

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Call us anytime

Real Estate, Auction and Land Management

Principal Broker
DARRIN TABOR
(270) 704-0041

www.homestadauctionrealty.com

CRITTENDEN OUTDOORS

Discover Kentucky's HIDDEN TREASURES in MARION, KY





Register Before Killing Deer at Hodges Sports & Apparel in Marion to be Eligible for the **\$1,000 CASH JACKPOT**

Award made after Jan 15

Sponsored by **Hodges SPORTS & APPAREL** SINCE 1966

For More Information and Contest Rules Call 1-800-755-0361 or Visit Online at www.MarionKentucky.org







Download the Marion, Ky. iPhone and Andriod App





WATCH FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

Coyote Contest
February

Backroads Festival
April

BE SURE TO VISIT



Visit our Displays Inside the Welcome Center
The Marion Tourism Commission or Marion Main Street
213 South Main Street, Marion, Ky. 42064 • (270) 965-5015



www.MarionKentucky.org
www.DiscoverMarion.com