

# CRITTENDEN *Outdoors*

## HUNTING GUIDE

Published by  
The Crittenden Press



FREE PUBLICATION  
[WWW.MARIONKENTUCKY.ORG](http://WWW.MARIONKENTUCKY.ORG)





## Telecheck Info

There are two ways to Telecheck your harvest:

**Online Telecheck** through MyProfile application

► **Telecheck by phone** - call 800-245-4263 (800-CHK-GAME)

When telechecking by phone, use the County Codes Chart below.

The Telecheck Review system shows all telechecked harvests by species and can be searched by date and county or by hunter's last name. It can take up to 24 hours for new entries to show up.

Please note that 301 KAR 2:172 (9) prohibits a person from knowingly entering false information into the Telecheck System. If you believe you have made an error in entering your information in the system, please call 1-800-858-1549.

### COUNTY CODE NUMBERS FOR TELECHECK

028 CRITTENDEN  
027 CALDWELL  
070 LIVINGSTON

### KDFWR Deer TeleCheck System

**1-800-CHK-DEER**  
**1-800-245-4263**

**Report a poacher**  
**1-800-25-ALERT**

072 LYON  
117 WEBSTER  
113 UNION

## Key hunting opportunities

Bullfrog  
Squirrel  
Dove  
Canada Goose  
Deer Archery  
Turkey Archery  
Wood Duck  
Deer Crossbow  
Teal  
Raccoon  
Turkey Crossbow  
Deer Muzzleloader  
Deer Youth  
Turkey Shotgun

May 19 - Oct. 31  
Aug. 19 - Nov. 10  
Sept. 1 - Oct. 26  
Sept. 1-15  
Sept. 2-Jan. 15  
Sept. 2-Jan. 15  
Sept. 16-20  
Sept. 16-Jan. 15  
Sept. 16-24  
Oct. 1-Feb. 29  
Oct. 1-22  
Oct. 21-22  
Oct. 14-15  
Oct. 28-Nov. 3

Turkey Crossbow  
Deer Rifle Season  
Squirrel  
Quail  
Rabbit  
Raccoon Trapping  
Gray or Red Fox  
Beaver  
Bobcat  
Dove  
Canada Goose

Nov. 11-Dec. 31  
Nov. 11-26  
Nov. 13-Feb. 29  
Nov. 13-Feb. 29  
Nov. 13-Feb. 10  
Nov. 13-Feb. 29  
Nov. 13-Feb. 29  
Nov. 13-Feb. 29  
Nov. 18-Feb. 29  
Nov. 23-Dec. 3  
Nov. 23-Feb. 15

See more dates at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov)

### ON THE COVER

Jason Pate, Alabama native and winner of the 2022 Marion Big Buck Contest.

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

### Landowner Permission

A person shall not enter upon the lands of another to hunt, fish or trap without oral or written permission of the landowner, tenant or person who has authority to grant permission. Those who fail to obtain permission are subject to arrest and prosecution. Railroad tracks and rights of way are privately owned property and permission to hunt, fish or trap must be obtained prior to entry. (KRS 150:192)

### Report Game Violations and Fish Kills:

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**TEAM  
KENTUCKY**  
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

 914 S. Main St. (270) 965-3035	 728 S. Main St. (270) 965-7060	 651 Blackburn St. (270) 965-7100	 108 S. Main St. (270) 965-7090
 129 N. Main St. (270) 965-5866	 113 N. Maple St. (270) 965-9787	 214 North Main St. (270) 965-3730	 515 S. Main St. (270) 704-5115
 301 Sturgis Rd, Marion (270) 965-7099	 113 Sturgis Rd. (270) 965-4538	 213 Sturgis Rd. (270) 965-4261	<p><b>PLATE MEALS AT: FOOD GIANT</b></p> <p><b>DELIS AVAILABLE AT: LIBERTY FUELS FIVESTAR IDEAL MARKET</b></p>



# Challenges won't keep Crittenden native from chasing bucks

By ALLISON EVANS  
The Crittenden Press

Ian Ellington has known the rush of a big play and a hard-fought, come-from-behind victory. For many years he played competitive sports in both high school and on the travel circuit. Still, he said, nothing has compared to the adrenaline rush from harvesting his first deer with a bow and arrow.

This fall's early bowhunting take was especially important for Ellington, who functions with dogged determination and refuses to allow a physical challenge to keep him from doing the things he loves.

On one of Crittenden County's first cool, late-summer mornings in September 2023, Ellington trekked to the woods before 5 a.m., so he could get settled in a ground blind before the deer he had been seeing on a trail camera emerged into the field in front of him.

Getting to and from his stand isn't as easy as it is for most outdoorsmen because Ellington has virtually no use of one leg due to a 2021 motorcycle crash. Ironically, that wreck involved a deer.

The 20-year-old Crittenden County native had bow hunted in the same spot the day before with a buddy and saw only mosquitos.

"I started to hear movement about 5:40 a.m., and sure enough once it got to about 6 a.m., where I could see a little, I saw two deer but didn't know what they were," he said. "Once there was some light through the trees and they lifted their heads, I could tell both of them were bucks. I could tell they were ones I'd been watching for over a month on camera."

Ellington expected to have a short window of opportunity, because based on the whitetails' habits, they only hung around that particular field for about 10 minutes. But on this Sept. 8 morning, the bachelors lingered, feeding there for about a half of an hour.

"By about 6:30 a.m., it was just light enough to see good and I could tell that was the deer I wanted to take. But as I drew back the bow, he took a step in front of me and a small tree blocked his vitals," Ellington recalls. "I held the string in full draw for over two



minutes and I was so nervous I was shaking.

"After about a minute I started getting a little tired and more shaky. I was scared I would make a bad shot, but I couldn't let it go because if I did he would see me," Ellington recalls. "Eventually it took another step forward and looked away, and I shot him directly in the heart and through its right lung."

According to his range finder, the deer, with antlers mostly still covered in velvet, was 22 yards away when it was struck by a lethal blow from the Hoyt Powermax compound bow. The buck ran about 40 yards and dropped with a crash at the edge of a tree line.

His cousin Caden McCalister, two hours away in college in Bowling Green, was in the car within 10 minutes to drive to Crittenden County to help Ellington get the nine-pointer out of the woods.

Now, for the rest of the story.

Two months before his high school graduation, Ellington had a very serious highway run-in with a deer that left him with virtually no feeling or mobility in his left leg.

The wreck happened on an early spring evening in a rural area in Caldwell County while riding alongside a friend on another bike. Ellington suffered serious internal and external injuries after hitting a whitetail doe with his motorcycle and crashing.

Hospitalized for several weeks, he then spent months in a makeshift hospital bed installed in his family's dining room.

Despite surgeries and extensive therapy, nerves in his left leg never reactivated. Ellington can't work the muscles in his leg because he can't feel them or "get them to fire," as he explains it. Yet because of his will and determination, today Ellington says he's physically stronger than ever. And that is from a fellow who spent a whole lot of time in the weight room while he was an all conference high school football player.

He has about one-third of normal function in his left hamstring, minimal use of his calf and no feeling in his foot. Though he has graduated from needing a cane, the only movement he has in the damaged leg is from his hip. Stabilization necessary for him to walk comes from a brace the length of his leg.

"My brace works like a prosthetic with my leg inside it, it makes my leg more stable," he explains.

Personal fortitude – or, as he calls it, hard-headedness – has gotten him through. He spends five or six days a week in the gym for strength training. He target shoots with his bow regularly to remain accurate, and that also builds strength in his arms. Ellington is going to college at Murray State where getting around campus poses similar challenges as hunting for whitetails. There's oftentimes a great deal of walking involved. His doggedness also helps with college coursework. He is a junior business administration major.

"Everything I want to do I can for the most part, but it is 5-10 times harder for me than someone else. But, I don't really care at the end of the day, and lot of times stuff sucks and hurts and is uncomfortable, but I won't let myself lay down and quit. I just don't

feel like that is a life worth living. So, I do everything I possibly can. I'm not about to lay around and waste my life away."

Outdoors, he mostly sticks to hunting from ground blinds, but he admits hard-headedness drives him into a tree stand on occasion.

"I'm not too limited to hunt, but it can be tough on me walking back there, especially in the dark because of only having one working leg. Being quiet is not an option for me, so I get there early because I'm loud," he said.

"I don't let myself not do what I want to do. I golf, I hunt, I lift, swim, ride 4-wheelers. About the only thing I don't do any more is run, so I feel like I do everything I want to."

Ellington's parents, Marcie and Rommel Ellington Jr., are proud of their son's persistence to do the things he loves.

"He refuses to accept that there are just some things that he may not be able to do. While things may take a little longer than they used to or require adaptations, he will find a way," his mother said.

Although his buck tag is filled for the season, Ellington plans to continue hunting to fill the freezer with venison from antlerless deer. Lean protein like deer meat has helped him shed unwanted weight that accumulated when his active lifestyle came to a brief halt after his accident.

Plans are to get back to turkey hunting next spring.

"I've never seriously turkey hunted except with friends. I've coyote hunted a little bit and I squirrel and rabbit hunt all the time."

He uses the competitiveness that helped him succeed in sports like baseball and football to prosper afield and continue toward a full recovery.

"I love sports. I would do anything to go back and play another football game, but I've never had an experience where my adrenaline and excitement was to the level of after getting that deer. It definitely gives you a rush like no other."

## Superior Whitetail Habitats, local company with sophisticated technology

A Marion company's business model is expanding with the emergence of sophisticated technology.

Drone deer recovery and agriculture drone applications are a growing segment of Superior Whitetail Habitats commercial endeavors.

Licensed drone operators employed by Superior Whitetail Habitats are taking its service to hunters and landowners to the next level.

"Our deer drone recovery will locate deer without the intrusion of dogs and people on the landscape," explains certified wildlife biologist Philip Sharp.

Sharp said drone-assisted recovery is ideal when a hunter is unable to recover his deer, especially in the dark. It's becoming the most popular, and preferred, form of wildlife recovery thanks to the use of infrared imagery.

Also, with more frequency, camera-equipped drones are being used to conduct aerial wildlife surveys and to determine deer density and buck-to-doe ratios on properties throughout western Kentucky and southern Illinois.

The quiet aerial apparatus can get photographs and video. Drones can also be used for aerial seeding and

spraying of remote fields and Superior Whitetail Habitats is bringing this cutting-edge technology to this area.

"The drone usage is really setting us apart," Sharp said. "It is a niche we can specialize in since our equipment has multiple cameras, including infrared night vision capabilities."

"I feel like we have put a business model together that no other company in the country can compare to," said Sharp, who has worked for Superior Whitetail Habitats as a private biologist since 2021. Before that, Sharp had a long career with the Kentucky Department of Fish and

Wildlife Resources.

Superior Whitetail Habitats has equipment to perform traditional planting and spraying, but it hopes to perform an increasing number of aerial fungicide applications. Sharp predicts that drone applications will become more and more common.

In addition to its on-staff biologist and drone operators, Superior Whitetail Habitats, LLC has a staff of experienced heavy equipment operators, and the company's retail department sells blinds, cameras and feeders.



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# QUICK GUIDE TO LOCAL NUMBERS

Crittenden Co. Sheriff's Dept.  
(270) 965-3400

City of Marion Tourism  
(270) 965-5015

City of Marion Police  
(270) 965-3500

Crittenden Community Hospital  
(270) 965-5281

KY State Police Dept. Post 2  
(270) 676-3313

Livingston Hospital  
(270) 988-2299

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ ELK ☐ BEAR ☐ SANDHILL CRANE

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ SEX \_\_\_\_\_

CONFIRMATION # \_\_\_\_\_

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Resources

# Which license or permit is needed to hunt?

**KENTUCKY RESIDENTS:****Deer**

Ages 12-15: Youth Hunting License\* + Youth Deer Permit  
Ages 16-64: Annual Hunting License\*\* + Statewide Deer Permit  
Ages 65+/Disability: Senior/Disabled Sportsman's License

**Fall Turkey**

Ages 12-15: Youth Hunting License\* + Youth Turkey Permit  
Ages 16-64: Annual Hunting License\*\* + Fall Turkey Permit  
Ages 65+/Disability: Senior/Disabled Sportsman's License

**Spring Turkey**

Ages 12-15: Youth Hunting License\* + Youth Turkey Permit  
Ages 16-64: Annual Hunting License\*\* + Spring Turkey Permit  
Ages 65+/Disability: Senior/Disabled Sportsman's License

**Small Game & Furbearer**

Ages 12-15: Youth Hunting License\*  
Ages 16-64: Annual or 1-Day Hunting License  
Ages 65+/Disability: Senior/Disabled Sportsman's License  
*Bobcat permit required for bobcat hunters*

**Trapping**

Ages 12-15: Annual Youth Trapping License  
Ages 16-64: Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License  
Ages 65+/Disability: Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License

**Migratory Birds**

(dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, sandhill crane and gallinules)

**Before hunting migratory birds, hunters must go online and fill out the Harvest Information Program (HIP) survey before they are legal migratory bird hunters.**

Ages 12-15: Youth Hunting License\*  
Ages 16-64: Annual or 1-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit  
Ages 65+/Disability: Senior/Disabled Sportsman's License

**Waterfowl**

(ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)

Ages 12-15: Youth Hunting License\*  
Ages 16-64: Annual or 1-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit + Federal Duck Stamp  
Ages 65+/Disability: Senior/Disabled Sportsman's License + Federal Duck Stamp

**NON-RESIDENTS**

(MUST BUY NONRESIDENT LICENSES/PERMITS):

**Deer**

Ages 12-15: Youth Hunting License\* + Youth Deer Permit  
Ages 16 and older: Annual Hunting License\*\* + Statewide Deer

**Permit****Fall Turkey**

Ages 12-15: Youth Hunting License\* + Youth Turkey Permit  
Ages 16 and older: Annual Hunting License\*\* + Fall Turkey Permit

**Spring Turkey**

Ages 12-15: Youth Hunting License\* + Youth Turkey Permit  
Ages 16 and older: Annual Hunting License\*\* + Spring Turkey Permit

**Small Game & Furbearer**

Ages 12-15: Youth Hunting License\*  
Ages 16 and older: Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License  
*Bobcat permit required for bobcat hunters*

**Trapping**

Ages 12-15: Annual Trapping License  
Ages 16 and older: Annual Trapping License

**Migratory Birds**

(dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, and gallinules)

Ages 12-15: Youth Hunting License\*  
Ages 16 and older: Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit

**Waterfowl**

(ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)

Ages 12-15: Youth Hunting License\*  
Ages 16 and older: Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit + Federal Duck Stamp

## 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.

## Did you know?

Autumn generally kickstarts deer hunting season in many areas of the United States. Each state/province has specific regulations concerning weaponry and hunting locations. Archery, muzzle-loader and youth hunting seasons often precede general firearms seasons. Licensing is widely necessary, and licenses can typically be acquired through Department of Wildlife and Game centers and websites. Counties may implement bag limits. Hunters are advised to check regulatory information prior to any hunting excursion. While frequently hunted for sport and trophy, game meat can be butchered and enjoyed throughout the winter months.

## Deer Hunting Dates to Remember

Archery	Sept. 2, 2023 - Jan. 15, 2024
Youth/Senior Crossbow	Sept. 2, 2023 - Jan. 15, 2024
Crossbow	Sept. 16, 2023 - Jan. 15, 2024
Youth-only Gun	Oct. 14 - 15, 2023
Muzzleloader	Oct. 21 - 22, 2023
	Dec. 9 - 17, 2023
Modern Gun	Nov. 11 - 26, 2023
Free Youth Weekend	Dec. 30 - 31, 2023

## Carry Proof

Hunters who buy their license or permit by phone or internet must carry while hunting: a picture ID and proof of purchase (an authorization number, paper license or computer print out). Paper licenses/permits must be signed and all information completed before hunting.



## Shooting Hours

Shooting hours for all species except raccoons, opossums and frogs are during daylight hours only — 30 minutes before sunrise or 30 minutes after sunset. Hunters may be in the field or stands before and after shooting hours.

Raccoons and opossums may be taken day or night, except during modern gun season when raccoon and opossum hunting is permitted only at night. Exceptions also apply for coyotes.

# HARVEST LOG

All successful hunters, including those who are license exempt, must fill out a harvest log as soon as the animal is taken and prior to moving the carcass. Information that must be written on the harvest log includes the species and sex of animal taken, date and county where taken.

A telecheck confirmation number must be obtained and recorded on the harvest log.

The harvest log is included with your license or permit.

License exempt hunters, youths under 12 years of age, and those who only have a license authorization number may create their own harvest log by writing the information on a piece of paper or index card.

Hunters and trappers must have the completed harvest log in their possession whenever afield during the current season.



## Deer Hunting in Ky.

According to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Kentucky is a top-10 state for hunters seeking that trophy buck. The herd also is substantial enough to support the harvest of more than 130,000 deer each year.

Hunters are the primary managers of the state's deer herd. The department's guidelines maximize opportunities for hunters while helping to balance deer herd numbers through carefully considered zones and bag limits.



## KDFWR Deer Jaw Bone Submission Survey

Help us understand our Kentucky deer population better! The KDFWR would like to age your harvested female deer. Please upload images of the lower LEFT SIDE of the jawbone of your harvested doe. If you would also like to know the age of your harvested deer, be sure to provide us with an email address or phone number.

Please follow the guidelines in the link below to submit good quality images used for aging with the tooth replacement and wear technique:

<https://deerassociation.com/how-to-photograph-a-deer-jawbone-for-aging/>.

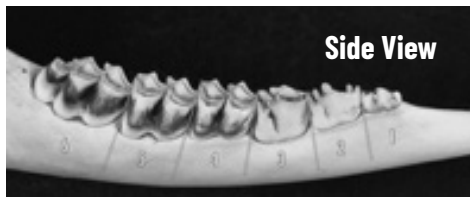
If you do not want to extract the jawbone, you can open the jaw and cut through the cheek to take aerial and side images of the LEFT SIDE of the jaw. Please just be sure to clean the teeth (a spray bottle with water works well) to reveal the dentine and enamel on the teeth well.

If you have any questions, please contact deer program biologist Tommy Apostolopoulos [tommy.apostolopoulos@ky.gov](mailto:tommy.apostolopoulos@ky.gov).

Top View



Side View



## Squirrel Hunting

When you are squirrel hunting the shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. Hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours.

Trapping squirrels during the spring season or hunting squirrels at any time with blowguns is prohibited. The daily bag limit is 6 and the possession limit is 12.

You do not have to telecheck small game, however, you can help Kentucky Fish and Wildlife by filling out the hunter cooperator surveys for small game.

A trapping license is required for anyone 12 years of age and older.

Trappers must harvest squirrels and rabbits upon capture, unless they possess a captive wildlife permit from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

To hunt squirrels, you need to take advantage of their diet: nuts from trees. The type of nut seems to vary from area to area or in some cases with each squirrel. The one exception is that acorns from red oak, which contain a chemical known as tannin, seem to be the last nuts eaten when squirrels have a choice. To find a good area to hunt gray squirrels, you need to be able to identify the following trees: hickory, beech, pecan, black walnut, and white oak. An area with these trees near a cornfield would be an excellent place for fox squirrels.

Squirrels are not dependent on a source of water. They can derive their needs for water from their food for the most part. They will drink from standing or running water if it is available but are not required to go to water regularly.

Squirrels may be hunted all day, but appear to be most active in the first hours of daylight and late afternoon. Some research shows they feed during bright moonlight. The best days for squirrel hunting would therefore be expected after dark nights. While squirrels may be seen during drizzle or light rain, they may become more active just after a heavy storm. Squirrels are usually inactive during snowstorms, but soon after the storm passes, they will be searching for the nuts they have hidden.

A squirrel dog is not a necessity for success but may speed up the hunting. Squirrels will often spot a hunter and play a hide and seek game. They will sneak around the base of the tree to keep track of a hunter's location and bark warnings to other squirrels. A squirrel dog circles the tree and the squirrel now tries to escape the dog. As the dog circles, he brings the squirrel into full view of the hunter for a clean shot.

If you don't have a dog to worry about the squirrel, try throwing a rock to the other side of the tree. Squirrels have good hearing, and rocks may fool this one into thinking another hunter or predator is approaching. Be ready for a quick shot, as it won't be fooled for long.

While squirrel calls are available commercially, old-

time hunters used what they had. By striking a coin, references indicate a silver dollar, against the butt plate of the gun, hunters could imitate a bark. By striking two coins together, they imitated a feeding chatter. The family "squirrel calling utensils" and methods are passed when several generations hunt together.

Two methods of skinning squirrels are commonly used. Either can be done in the field or at home. One is to split the skin across the back and insert two fingers into each side of the split. Now pull, removing the skin in either direction. The other method is called tail cutting. Cut the skin under the tail and cut through the bone in the tail. Stand on the squirrel's tail and pull on both hind legs briskly. With tail cutting, the skin from the hind legs can now be carefully removed creating a loop of skin from which to hang the squirrel to finish the cleaning.

In both cases work the skin over the front legs and remove the feet at the first joint above the feet and the head at the neck. Now insert the knife tip just forward of the hind legs into the muscles surrounding the intestines and cut forward to the ribs. Take care that the knife does not penetrate the internal organs. The rib cage can be easily split with a knife. Return to the rear legs and split the pelvic bone so the entire intestinal tract can be removed. Now discard all internal organs.

Skinning any furred animal can leave considerable hair on the cleaned meat. This hair can be removed by first using clear tape wrapped around your fingers with the sticky side out. Lightly touch the hairs with the tape and remove them. During final preparation for freezer or cooking, look once again for resistant hair.

Once the squirrel is cleaned, cut off each leg and split the back just behind the ribs. As there is little meat on the ribs, they can be discarded. Soak the meat in

ice-cold salt water to remove blood. Carefully clean all areas where the animal was shot before freezing or cooking. For best freezing results, place in a plastic sack and cover the meat in water. Take care not to cut the plastic with broken bones and remove all air from the sack by squeezing gently until water begins to spill. Freezing in water will keep the squirrel without freezer burn for approximately 6 months.

## Squirrel Soup

*This recipe is recommended for older squirrels.*

- 3 Squirrels, cut into serving pieces
- 1 Cup chopped onion
- 3 Qts of water
- 2 Large cans of tomatoes,
- 1/4 Cup diced bacon drained
- 2 Cups diced potatoes
- 1/4 tsp Cayenne
- 2 Cups lima beans, fresh or frozen
- 1/4 tsp Black pepper
- 2 Cups of corn, fresh or frozen.

Place squirrel pieces in a large kettle. Add water. Bring slowly to boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 1 1/2 to 2 hours, or until the squirrel is tender. Skim surface occasionally. Remove meat from bones and return to liquid. Add cayenne, bacon, salt, pepper, onion, tomatoes, potatoes, and lima beans. Cook for 1 hour. Add corn and continue to cook for ten minutes. Spoon into soup plates and serve with cornbread and Cole slaw. Makes 6-8 servings.

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## Hunters asked to donate deer

By TOM LATEK/Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Kentucky hunters are urged to consider donating a harvested deer to the Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry program this deer season.

Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry, or KHFH, is a statewide hunger relief program dedicated to providing a healthy source of protein to needy Kentuckians. Its mission is to alleviate hunger and malnutrition in Kentucky by processing and distributing donated venison to those in need, to provide an outlet for hunters to help their communities, and to promote environmental stewardship through wildlife management.

"Helping fellow Kentuckians, whether it with daily food insecurities or during times of crisis encompasses the heart of the Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry organization," said Roger LaPointe, Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry executive director. "The need has never been greater. Please consider donating a deer or if you don't hunt, a monetary donation."

KHFH administers the "Kentucky Whitetail Access" program, established in conjunction with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Kentucky Whitetail Access matches hunters with landowners, most often farmers, who are in need of deer population control on their property. KHFH receives the deer

taken under the program, and processing is covered by Kentucky Farm Bureau and its participating partners.

Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry was founded in 2000. Last deer season, hunters donated 1,911 deer to the program, resulting in 73,651 pounds of ground venison equating to about 294,604 meals. To find an approved deer processor, visit KHFH's website at [kyhuntersforthehungry.info/find-processor](http://kyhuntersforthehungry.info/find-processor).

Learn more about the Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry program by visiting [kyhuntersforthehungry.info](http://kyhuntersforthehungry.info).



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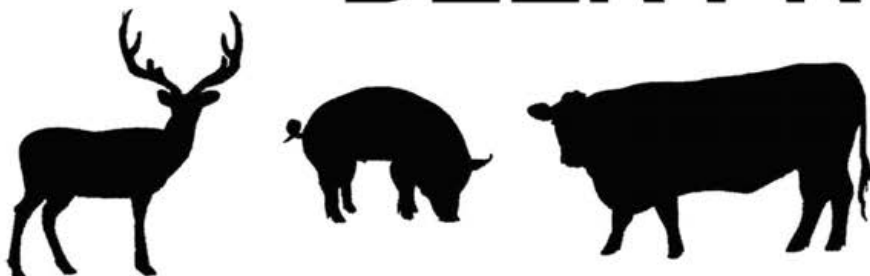


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**MUDDY**



## Pate's first KY buck wins contest

It's not an uncommon story, the one Jason Pate tells about his love affair with Crittenden County.

"I'd live up there if I could find a job," said the Alabama native who lives in the Florida panhandle.

He's \$1,000 richer after winning the grand prize in the 2022 Marion Big Buck Contest, sponsored annually by Hodge's Outdoor Sports and Marion Tourism Commission.

Pate planned to spend his earnings on a hunting lease he shares in Crittenden County with his 11-year-old son.

A lifelong hunter, Pate, 47, had hunted around his home state and ventured into South Carolina a few times, but was lovestruck when he first came to western Kentucky.

"The people up there are wonderful," he said. "I have just fallen in love with the place. My friends had been hunting there for eight or 10 years, but the first time I went up there was during the pandemic in 2020. It's like home now."

The buck Pate took last fall during the rifle season was a mainframe eight-pointer with 13 scoreable points, 20.25 inches wide and weighed 177.6 pounds. Those are figures used in the formula employed by the contest.

"It was a nice deer, the first buck I've taken since coming to hunt in Kentucky," he said. "It had a lot of points, a bunch of trash sticking out everywhere, but otherwise it was pretty symmetrical."

Pate said a broken leg prevented him from doing much hunting in archery season, so he stayed out of his honey hole for the most part. When November arrived, he loaded the 7 Mag M77 Ruger and headed afield. After a few slow days of hunting and passing on some smaller bucks, Pate laid eyes on the trophy deer walking across a bush hogged field at mid morning.

"The sun was shining on him and I didn't realize at first that he was a shooter. Then he popped up over a hill in the shade and I could see how wide he was. It took me a bout 2.5 seconds to change my mind."

"Hunting in Kentucky reminds me of what it was like in Alabama when I was a kid, before all of the pine trees took over," he added. "Louisiana people started coming up there and driving up the price of leases."

"In Kentucky, I am not going to waste my tag on a small buck. Up there, I have more patience because I know what's out there," said Pate, who has a small hunting lease of his own and shares another larger one with buddies.



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Prep: 25 minutes

Cook: 20 minutes

Additional: 4 hrs 30 mins

Total: 5 hrs 15 mins

Servings: 4

Yield: 4 Servings

2 pounds venison backstrap, cut into 2-inch chunks

1 quart apple cider

1 1/2 pounds thick sliced bacon

2 (12 ounce) Bottles Marion Pit Bar-B-Q Sauce (Hot or Mild)

**Directions**

Step 1: Place chunks of venison into a shallow baking dish and pour enough apple cider in to cover them. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours. Remove and pat dry. Discard apple cider and return venison to the dish. Pour Marion Pit Bar-B-Q sauce over the chunks, cover and refrigerate for 2 to 3 more hours.

Step 2: Preheat an outdoor grill for high heat. Charcoal is best, but if you must, use gas. Remove meat from the refrigerator and let stand for 30 minutes or until no longer chilled. Wrap each chunk of venison in a slice of bacon and secure with toothpicks.

Step 3: Brush the grill grate with olive oil when hot and place venison pieces on the grill so they are not touching. The bacon will kick up some flames so be ready. Grill, turning occasionally until the bacon become slightly burnt, 15 to 20 minutes. The slower, the better. Dig in and prepare to want more!

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# Youth Winner

Colt Hayes was the youth winner of the Marion Big Buck Contest during the 2022 whitetail deer season.

Sponsored by Hodge's Outdoor Sports and Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission, the contest rewards a registered youth hunter who harvests the biggest buck using a formula that includes the weight of the deer, scoreable points and spread of the antlers.

Ten-year-old Hayes checked his winner during the early October youth season. The 10-point buck scored 206.25 on the system used by the contest.

Hayes said he saw the buck shortly after sunup and initially passed on him because he was hunting in an area where trophy deer were known to travel.

"I got to the blind about a hour before daylight. We knew there were deer using the ditch line as a travel route but it had tall thick grass for cover," he said.

At dawn, some does appeared followed by a buck, but it gave the young hunter only a quick glimpse before disappearing into the brush.

"About 15 minutes after sunrise another buck came out into the field. I put my scope on it and decided I was going to let him walk," Hayes said.

A bit later, with the deer sticking around within range, Hayes said he reassessed the situation with some help from his father, John Hayes.

"Dad said it was my tag and if I wanted to fill it that



early in the season then go ahead," he recalls.

The young hunter eased off his safety and squeezed the trigger.

"He dropped in his tracks. I couldn't wait to get to him, but dad made me wait to make sure he was dead. We got out of the blind and loaded him up and my buck tag was filled."



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## 2022 DEER HARVEST RESULTS

County	Male	Female	Total	% Male	% Female	Male Visible	Male Not Visible	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Crossbow
Crittenden	1297	1410	2707	47.9%	52.1%	1145	152	295	2066	142	204
Livingston	816	897	1713	47.6%	52.4%	711	105	154	1295	133	131
Webster	1006	1123	2129	47.3%	52.7%	835	171	239	1581	98	211
Caldwell	953	900	1853	51.4%	48.6%	863	90	203	1395	146	109
Union	527	599	1126	46.8%	53.2%	459	68	252	736	43	95
Lyon	655	513	1168	56.1%	43.9%	591	64	184	774	66	144

## 2021 DEER HARVEST RESULTS

County	Male	Female	Total	% Male	% Female	Male Visible	Male Not Visible	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Crossbow
Crittenden	1380	1367	2747	50.2%	49.8%	1219	161	382	1997	174	194
Livingston	807	780	1587	50.9%	49.1%	713	94	132	1215	138	102
Webster	868	1003	1871	46.4%	53.6%	762	106	215	1397	90	169
Caldwell	942	791	1733	54.4%	45.6%	866	76	219	1263	121	130
Union	533	562	1095	48.7%	51.3%	474	59	218	726	52	99
Lyon	500	411	911	54.9%	45.1%	452	48	153	635	27	96

## 2020 DEER HARVEST RESULTS

County	Male	Female	Total	% Male	% Female	Male Visible	Male Not Visible	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Crossbow
Crittenden	1438	1528	2966	48.5%	51.5%	1263	175	416	2067	248	235
Livingston	905	992	1897	47.7%	52.3%	796	109	200	1348	207	142
Webster	956	1144	2100	45.5%	54.5%	806	150	298	1421	160	221
Caldwell	1015	1074	2089	48.6%	51.4%	917	98	303	1446	208	132
Union	542	592	1134	47.8%	52.2%	476	66	251	709	75	99
Lyon	565	434	999	56.6%	43.4%	518	47	193	604	76	126

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# Hunting Season SAFETY

*Tips for hunters and anyone enjoying the great outdoors this fall*

## Safety Tips for Hunters

- Take a safety certification course. Check your state's fish and wildlife agency for available courses.
- Familiarize yourself with the area you want to hunt, and let someone know where you will be hunting and when you will return. It's also a good idea to put your hunting plans in writing, leaving copies in your vehicle and at home.
- Check weather reports and dress accordingly. Wear layers, and be prepared for the worst possible conditions.
- Check hunting equipment before and after every outing, and take care to properly maintain it.
- Always bring rain gear, a spare set of dry clothing and a first aid kit.
- Be sure of your target before shooting to prevent accidents or fatalities involving people or pets.
- Stay in designated hunt areas, and be alert when hunting near populated areas or trails. Remember that other recreationists are sharing the forest.
- Avoid wearing white or tan during deer season. Wear hunter orange or another highly visible color, and make sure dogs also wear a bright color on a vest or bandana.

## Safety Tips for Non-Hunters

- Familiarize yourself with where and when hunting season is taking place. Plan your recreation activities based on this information, staying out of designated hunt areas.
- Staying on designated trails will improve safety and reduce any chance of entering designated hunt areas.
- Wear bright orange or another bright or fluorescent color that makes you easily visible. Avoid wearing black, white, tan, earth tones or animal colors.
- Remember to protect your dog as well with a bright bandana or vest, and follow appropriate leash requirements.
- Make your presence known with noises like whistling, singing or talking. If you hear shooting, raise your voice and let hunters know you are in the vicinity.

Sources: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service,  
U.S. Department of Agriculture



# The hunt's not over until you've prepared the game

*Field dressing a deer isn't as difficult as it sounds. Just follow these steps and you'll be a pro in no time.*

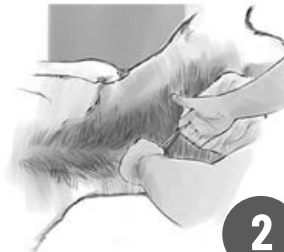


## Field dressing a deer

Tag the deer and roll it onto its back—if possible, place it so the head is pointed upwards. When dressing a buck, remove the reproductive organs. To prevent the meat from tasting too much like wild game, remove the tarsal glands from the inside of the legs. Reaching between the back legs, cut through to the pelvic bone. With a hatchet, knife or flex blade, split the pelvic bone at the center. Free the anal tract by cutting a circle around the rectum.



1



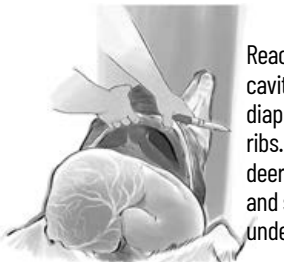
2

Starting at the pelvic bone, make a slit up to the ribcage. Be careful to not cut deeply to avoid piercing the organs.



3

Cut and remove the belly skin, following the ribs down around each side of the deer to the pelvis.



4

Reach inside the chest cavity and cut the diaphragm away from the ribs. At the neck of the deer, insert the knife blade and sever the windpipe under the hide.



5

Reach into the chest cavity and locate the windpipe. By pulling the cut end forcefully, the other organs should follow.



6

Remove any remaining debris from the body cavity. In warmer weather, pack the cavity with ice to keep the meat fresh during transporting.



7

If you're planning to process the meat yourself, hang the deer by its rear legs to allow any excess fluids to drain away from the hindquarters.





## Coyote contest 2023 Winners

Livingston County hunters T.J. Williams and Joe Shaw won the annual coyote contest that is hosted by Hodge's Outdoor Sports and sponsored by Marion Tourism Commission. The duo harvested six coyotes.



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Annual Hunting	\$27.00	\$150.00
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Youth (ages 12-15) Sportsman's License	\$30.00	Not available
<b>DEER:</b>		
Statewide Deer Permit (four deer)	\$35.00	\$185.00
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Additional Deer Permit (two deer)	\$15.00	\$15.00
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Spring Turkey Permit (statewide) (two turkeys)	\$30.00	\$85.00
Youth (ages 12-15) Turkey Permit (one turkey, spring or fall)	\$10.00	\$15.00
Fall Turkey Permit (statewide) (four turkeys)	\$30.00	\$85.00
Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit	\$15.00	\$15.00
Federal Duck Stamp (available at post offices and online)	\$25.00	\$25.00
Bobcat Permit (available online only)	Free	Free

# GENERAL INFORMATION

The statewide deer permit and youth deer permit allow for the harvest of up to four deer. Hunters may take up to one antlered deer and three antlerless deer, or four antlerless deer using the statewide deer permit or youth deer permit.

The statewide season limit for antlered deer is one per hunter

A hunter may 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.

An additional deer permit allows a hunter to take up to two additional deer beyond the four deer allowed by the statewide or youth deer permits. Zone bag limits apply. Hunters who did not harvest an antlered deer using their statewide or youth deer permits can take one antlered deer and up to one antlerless deer, or up to two antlerless deer with the deer management permit.

Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

## Game Calling Devices and Restrictions

- ▶ Hand or mouth-operated calls may be used in hunting all species.
- ▶ A hunter may use electronic calls or attracting devices for furbearers during the furbearer season.
- ▶ Mechanical or electronic calls may be used to take crows during crow season.
- ▶ Deer, turkey and elk hunters shall not use or possess electronic calling devices.

## 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 score for whitetail deer is 160 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.



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# Hunting basics

Thousands of people across North America find hunting game to be a rewarding pastime. People hunt many different types of animals, but deer are some of the most popular to target. Deer hunting can help to address deer overpopulation in many areas. Hunting requires more than going out with a weapon and targeting deer. Hunters must prepare themselves and purchase the appropriate equipment to protect themselves and make sure they are hunting in adherence to local laws. To begin, hunters should check with their local fish and game organizations to learn about acquiring hunting licences. Licenses will ensure

that hunting is being done according to the rules of a particular state, town or province, and establish just how many animals can be taken. Hunters will need to make sure their firearms or bows are operational and clean. Hunters may also want to invest in tree stands, binoculars, knives, ammunition, hunting blinds, shooting glasses, ear protection, processing kits (for field dressing), and hunting attire. To make themselves more visible to fellow hunters, hunters should wear clothing in blaze orange rather than camouflage. Hunters can visit fishing and game retailers for additional recommendations on gear.



## Signs game could be unsafe to eat

One of the more enjoyable aspects of hunting is enjoying the bounty at the dinner table after a successful hunting trip. However, not all game is safe to eat. Field & Stream, a retailer that caters to hunters, fishermen, campers, and other outdoor enthusiasts, notes that the following are some ways hunters can determine if freshly killed game is safe to eat.

- ▶ Look for signs of previous injuries. Previously wounded animals may be infested with maggots or have abscesses, which are swollen areas of tissue that contain pus. Animals that appear to have been injured prior to being killed should not be eaten, as consuming them can leave hunters vulnerable to illness.

- ▶ Examine the animal's eyes and skin. Sunken eyes or emaciated, scabby skin also could indicate the animal was suffering from illness or injury prior to being killed.

- ▶ Look for tick infestations. Game infested with ticks should not be consumed.

- ▶ Look for fluid discharges. Game that has discharges of dark blood or creamy or green substances should not be consumed.

- ▶ See if the animal passes the smell test. Game suffering from gangrene or had decaying flesh

typically emit a strong, foul odor and such animals should not be consumed.

- ▶ Investigate the interior of the animal. Just because a game animal exhibits no outward signs of illness or injury does not necessarily make it safe to eat. Hunters are advised to wear surgical or dishwashing gloves and run their hands over the body of the animal. Signs of disease or illness include hair that comes off easily, a soft or gelatinous underside of the skin when peeled off, and/or a film of blood or fluid that is not the result of the hunter's gunshot wound.

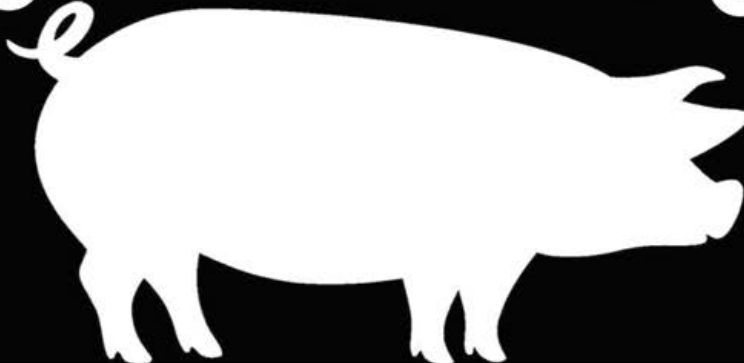
- ▶ Examine muscle tissue. Muscle tissue should not smell bad or contain parasites or blood spots. In addition, examine the muscle tissue for blood clots, black blood or a greenish discharge, each of which are indicators of disease.

- ▶ Examine the rib cage and muscle tissue. Humans can contract tuberculosis after eating game that was infected with the disease. Indicators of tuberculosis include tan or yellow lumps on the inside surface of the rib cage or in the tissue of the lungs.

Infected game can make hunters seriously ill if consumed. All infected animals should be reported to the appropriate local authorities.

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