**Shooting for Crop Damage**

**Frequently Asked Questions-**

* Who can shoot for crop damage?
  + As per the Game and Wildlife code, the individuals who are eligible to shoot are outlined in the following definition:

*“As used in this subchapter, the word "person" shall be limited to any person cultivating, as a primary means of gaining a livelihood, any lands for general or specialized crop purposes, truck farming or fruit orchard or nursery being regularly maintained, as either the owner, lessee or a member of the family of the owner or lessee assisting with the cultivation of the land, or a domiciled member of the household of the owner or lessee or an employee of the owner or lessee, regularly and continuously assisting in the cultivation of the land or other person as authorized by commission permit.”*

* + In common terms, the farmer, anyone working for the farmer or any member of the family that lives with the farmer can shoot for crop damage.
* What do I have to do **before** shooting?
  + Contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission Region Office and have the district warden come to the property to give you clearance to shoot (this allows you to meet the local warden and answer any further questions).
  + Also, it is recommended that you contact the district warden on the day that you decide to shoot. This allows the officer to line up recipients for the deer to maximize potential for consumption and minimize waste (this is not a requirement by the law).
* What do I have to do with the animal **after I shoot**?
  + After shooting at any game or wildlife, you must make every reasonable effort to locate and kill the animal, it is unlawful to do otherwise.
  + After killing any game or wildlife, you must **field dress** the animal and keep it in an area of safe keeping (such as a shed or walk-in fridge). Store the meat out of the direct sunlight and keep the meat clean, away from any barn cats, dogs, or flies**.**

**\*It is unlawful to “shoot and let lay”.**

* What do I do with the harvested game?
  + By law, you must report the killing to the Pennsylvania Game Commission within 24 hours.
  + During the summer months, this is impractical because a deer can spoil within 24 hours. It is requested that every reasonable effort is made to call the regional office **as soon as possible** to offer the best chance of utilizing the meat for consumption.
* Reporting procedures
  + To report that you have taken a deer through crop damage, contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission regional office (this number can be found on the public website or in the hunter digest).
  + The local warden will be dispatched to your location to deliver the meat to a family in need.

**Unlawful Activities**

(1) Place any salt, bait or food of any kind or quantity or use any artificial means for the purpose of attracting

or luring any game or wildlife upon any lands.

(2) Use any method not approved by the commission except that traps may be used to take furbearers and groundhogs.

(3) Use any firearm except a center fire propelling a single all-lead, lead alloy or expanding bullet or ball to

kill or attempt to kill any big game animal.

(4) Fail or neglect to report the killing of any game or wildlife other than raccoons.

(5) Fail or neglect to care for the carcass, or any part thereof, of any game or wildlife other than raccoons.

(6) Refuse to answer, without evasion, upon request of any representative of the commission, any pertinent question pertaining to the killing or wounding of any game or wildlife killed or wounded, or the disposition of the entire carcass or any part thereof.

(7) Fail to produce satisfactory evidence that material damage was done within the preceding 15 days and that there was just cause for reasonable apprehension of additional imminent destruction.

(8) Fail to relinquish to any officer the entire carcass, less the entrails, of any game or wildlife, other than raccoons, killed to which the person killing the game or wildlife is not legally entitled thereto.

\*Reference 34 PA.C.S 2121 relating to Destruction for Agricultural Protection

**\*Note that there is protection on Threatened and Endangered Species**

Any further questions you may have may be directed to me or to the regional dispatch center.

Thank you for your cooperation.