

## **August 12, 2020 Meeting Report to Dutchess Federation:**

### **12-13-year old Deer hunting:**

Albany and Oneida counties have opted-in to the new law. Rockland, Erie, and Tompkins counties remain uncommitted. We feel that Erie will be doing it soon and Tompkins is likely to follow. The Rockland County Legislature remains a long shot.

Assuming that Rockland remains a hold-out, 12-13-old hunters will be able to take deer in 53 counties. NYC, LI, and Westchester (8 counties) are excluded from the new law.

### **EHD Epizootic hemorrhagic disease reported:**

Much too early to know the extent, but there are reports of EHD in Ulster and Dutchess counties. EHD infected deer have been found in New Paltz and Northern Dutchess.

Note that the reported (recorded) Dutchess County deer harvest in the 2020 season was higher than expected based on the number of carcasses found throughout the Region 3. Consider this to be round 2.

### **Covid (SARS-CoV-2) anti-bodies detected in deer herd:**

There are published reports of Covid (SARS-CoV-2) in deer in several states. There is no indication so far of deer dying from Covid. The testing merely shows anti-bodies present.

One-third of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) in the northeastern United States have antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 — a sign that they have been infected with the virus.

Questions I sent to Cornell and DEC:

Has the sampling that revealed SARS been done on live or dead deer? Is there any indication that deer are dying from SARS-CoV-2? If we start seeing carcasses of deer presumed to have died of EHD will there be additional testing on those carcasses to check for the presence of the SARS antibodies?

Suggested precautions:

- Get vaccinated
- Wear gloves when handling deer
- Wear Mask when handling / processing venison

Is hunter-harvested game meat safe to eat?

There is no evidence that people can get COVID-19 by preparing or eating meat from an animal infected with SARS-CoV-2

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