

DEC Lead Ammo Task Force

Researchers who tested the feathers, bones, livers, and blood of 1,200 bald eagles and golden eagles, found that nearly half of them had been exposed repeatedly to lead. The result: death and slow population growth.

A recent study points to lead ammunition as being the primary source of the lead the birds ingest. Unrecovered game and gut piles from field-dressed game left behind by hunters are frequently scavenged by eagles, and can lead to their death.

Nearly one-third of the eagles tested showed signs of acute poisoning, or short-term exposure to lead, according to the study, which was led by scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

The NYS DEC has formed a Lead Ammo Task Force to study the problem here in New York. The Group has not yet issued a report, but the State Legislature has already introduced legislation that would restrict the use of traditional (lead) ammo on ALL STATE LANDS.

So far it looks like the use of traditional ammo for target shooting on ranges is not being threatened, but there is an obvious push towards green ammo. Recreational shooters and hunters need to let legislators know that ammunition is already in short supply and expensive, especially "green" ammunition.

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) is not New to New York. It first appeared in 2007, but it had negligible impact at that time. It struck again in September of 2020, just prior to the start of the early deer season, this time causing significant losses here in the Hudson Valley.

In 2021 EHD was detected again – in August – a month earlier than in 2020, and it quickly spread beyond the Hudson Valley. It made its presence known in upstate areas along the Southern Tier, into the Buffalo area, and on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario.

The 2021 Harvest report hasn't been released yet, but it is likely that the disease did impact the state-wide deer kill. The DEC may reduce 2022 Antlerless Deer Permits in some WMUs; that has yet to be determined

EHD causes high mortality in infected deer, but some do survive. Deer that have recovered shows sign of the disease, generally sloughing of the hooves. Over time the herd may develop some level of immunity, but there is no way to hold the disease at bay. Some years will be worse than others; much the way it has effected deer herds in the southern states.

While deer infected with EHD can be consumed, you should not harvest any deer that appears sick or is acting in an abnormal manner. You can report sick deer to DEC at: 845-256-3098.

Covid 19 and CWD Status

CWD: Chronic Wasting Disease was found in New York in 2005 when seven infected deer were detected in Oneida County.

A containment plan was developed by the DEC and the state Department of Agriculture and Markets. A cull of the wild deer herd was conducted in the area where the infected deer were found and a later Interagency Risk Minimization Plan put regs in place restricting the import of deer carcasses and some deer parts into the state.

To-date, there have been no further outbreaks.

Covid-19: More than 40 percent of 600 blood samples taken from wild deer in Illinois, Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania, last year tested positive for Covid antibodies, suggesting that the deer had past infections. Researchers detected an 80% infection rate in tests on the Iowa wild deer herd.

New studies have provided evidence of active and recent infections There is no evidence [yet] that deer are passing covid on to humans.

Hunters processing venison should wear gloves/masks as a precaution.

DEC Website: Additional information on these and other issues can be found on the DEC website at: www.dec.ny.gov

2021 Dutchess County Deer & Bear Harvest

Black bear hunting is still relatively new to Dutchess County, but the 2021 season produced a record number here in Dutchess, where hunters fared better than the state average.

During the 2021 season a total of 27 bears were bagged in the combined seasons. That number was up dramatically from the 15 taken during the 2020 season. Of the 9 towns that reported bear kills this year, Amenia came in at the front of the line, reporting 8 of the 27 bears taken in the county this year. That number highlights just how dramatic the swing can be year-to-year.

Harvest By Town: Amenia 8, Northeast 4, Pawling 4, Dover 3, Union Vale 3, Beekman 2, Red Hook 1, Pine Plains 1, Rhinebeck 1.

Statewide: 2021 Harvest 1346, down from 1723 in 2020.

ALERT!

A U.S.D.A. reports that 1.6 million birds nationwide have died from highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) bird flu or have been depopulated to stop the disease from spreading in 2022.

Locally, two confirmed cases have been identified in case a pheasant flock in Dutchess County and another in a backyard flock in Ulster County. The recent HPAI detections in birds do not present an immediate public health concern.

Dutchess County Trout Stream Classifications

The following county streams are all classified as **Stocked**:

Crum Elbow Creek, Fishkill Creek, Roeliff Jansen Kill, Sprout Creek, Swamp River, Ten Mile River, Webatuck Creek, Whaley Lake Brook. Reaches of these streams (sections) of which may be Unclassified. (**Refer NYS to Fishing Regulations Guide**)

Wappingers Creek has two classifications

Wappingers Creek is classified as **Stocked-Extended** from Route 376 upstream to the East Branch Wappingers Creek in Hibernia.

Wappingers Creek is Classified as **Wild-Quality** from 3/4 miles downstream of Jameson Hill Road Bridge in Clinton Corners, upstream to Hunns Lake Creek in Stanfordville.

Daily creel limits by Stream Category

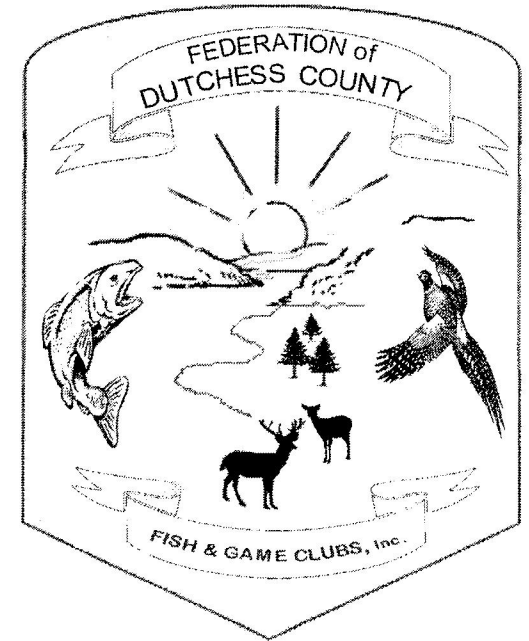
Category	Daily limit
Wild-premier	1 trout, any size
Wild-quality	3 trout, only 1 over 12 in.
Wild	5 trout, only 2 over 12 in.
Stocked-extended	3 trout, only 1 over 12 in.
Stocked	5 trout, only 2 over 12 in.
Uncategorized	5 trout, only 2 over 12 in.

Any unclassified stream or stream section (those not classified as Stocked, Stocked-Extended, Wild, Wild-Quality, or Wild-Premier) defaults to creel limit of 5 trout per day only 2 over 12 in. That is the statewide, default daily creel limit.

(Refer to NYS Fishing Regulations Guide)

DEC working on signage for stream corridors and creating GPS-based app for mobile devices

The Federation of Dutchess County Fish & Game Clubs, Inc.



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