

Hunters Can Share Their Harvest

By Rep. Joe Emrick

NAZARETH - To help families, individuals and seniors who are in need, the Hunters Sharing the Harvest (HSH) program is encouraging hunters from across the Commonwealth to share their deer harvest and provide thousands of pounds of venison.

The program partners with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Department of Agriculture and many other sportsmen and charitable organizations. Since 1991, HSH has distributed more than 1.2 million pounds of donated venison.

Hunters can donate all or part of a harvested deer by taking it to a participating processor, which will then distribute the ground venison to food banks and pantries.

For more information, including a list of participating processors in the area, visit www.ShareDeer.org.

http://links.pahousenews.com/q/ompyyuulP-KoBw_N8DDrQhB8jf-GrU_Kdxixv2cXEeaFGKkzxDqg0As4vaw



Safety Tips for this Hunting Season

By Rep. Joe Emrick

NAZARETH - As you prepare to head out to our fields and forests, be sure to keep safety in mind. The Pennsylvania Game Commission offers these important tips: Basic Safety

Positively identify the target – Be sure you are shooting at legal game and not another hunter. And never shoot at sounds or movement.

Know your zone of fire and never shoot at game moving between you and someone else.

Wear the mandated amount of fluorescent orange clothing and use layers of clothing that wick moisture, insulate and block wind or rain to help keep you safe and comfortable.

Let someone know where you are hunting and when you will return. They should alert authorities if you do not return at the appointed time.

Carry a basic survival kit and know how to use it.

Firearms Safety: Handle all firearms as if they're loaded.

Never assume they are unloaded and double check to be sure.

Always point the muzzle in a safe direction and don't put your finger on the trigger until you are ready to shoot.

Unload and place your firearm on the ground before crossing a fence, log or other obstacle, or climbing a tree.

Shoot only when a safe and adequate backstop exists. Don't shoot at hard, flat surfaces, water or a target on the horizon.

For more information, visit the Pennsylvania Game Commission website at www.pgc.pa.gov.



Saturday To Become The Biggest Harvest Day For Bucks

By Pa. Game Commission

HARRISBURG, PA - A Saturday opener for the firearms deer season and the possibility of more older bucks throughout the Commonwealth have many Pennsylvanians excited about this year's firearms deer season.

Last year's firearms deer season saw rainy weather nearly statewide throughout much of the opening day. But even then, 30 percent of the antlered deer harvested in the 2018-19 firearms season were taken on opening day. It was the best day of the season for buck harvest.

It's likely that opening day will continue to be the best for buck harvest this year, when the season will open on a Saturday, said Christopher Rosenberry, supervisor of the Game Commission's Deer and Elk Section.

"We expect the opening Saturday to become the biggest harvest day for bucks," said Rosenberry. "The first Monday will play a lesser role, but how much less remains to be seen. The second Saturday, since it is concurrent with the start of antlerless season, will probably become the second-biggest harvest day for bucks."

And there now is a third Saturday in the season, as well, since the season was expanded from 12 days to 13 to accommodate a Saturday opener in which more hunters likely will be able to participate.

Pennsylvania's firearms season historically has drawn the biggest crowds of all hunting seasons and consequently has been the state's principal deer-management tool for more than a century. Its coming preoccupies many Pennsylvanians through their Thanksgiving meals and sends many more to a variety of outlets to fill their last-minute needs.

"Every deer hunter wants to be afield for the opener," noted Pennsylvania Game Commission Executive Director Bryan Burhans. "They spend days and days, scouting, buying specialized gear and getting their packs ready."

"When they're sitting in the dark, waiting for daylight and hoping for a big buck to come, most deer hunters couldn't be happier, particularly if their son or granddaughter is joining them. It's a fulfilling experience, regardless of what happens."

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Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

How Does Heat Move

Heat is transferred in three ways; conduction, convection and radiation.

That sounds pretty simple until you want to build a house and make it energy efficient. The same forces that could make you comfortable can also make you very uncomfortable and cost you a fortune in utility bills. The job of insulation is to stop the convection. Warm air rises and when it does, cooler air will take its place at the bottom. This is true for every space inside the walls and floors of a house and between the first and second floors as well. The last place you want cool air to accumulate is on the floor in the winter time because that's where your feet are. It takes a conscious effort to make a house tight enough to prevent convection from ruining a perfectly good heating plan. Once that tightness is accomplished, you can heat and ventilate as needed and stay perfectly comfortable in a home of any size without breaking the bank. I have created a few of these dream homes and have converted many others into the next best thing. That being an existing home, tightened up as much as possible with a heating system that matches the actual needs of the space. There is a certain investment needed to achieve this level of comfort and efficiency but it is well worth it. You can work your way up to it which is unlike most major renovations. You could insulate the attic one year and the basement another and upgrade the heating system sometime in the future. Each one of those tasks will harness the transfer of heat differently to create a comfortable space. Doing them in the wrong order or the wrong way will just use up perfectly good money and materials and not yield the desired results.

Since these jobs are tedious and dirty and require a lot of attention to detail, there aren't too many companies who want to tackle them and since they can't be seen from the street, lots of people won't have them done. But every step I mentioned is crucial and necessary to get a handle on energy usage and reduce it to a level most can't even imagine.

The transfer of heat by radiation is more for an article on windows but the other two show up in every inch of your home.

Fiberglass insulation is actually your worst enemy and it is found everywhere. A visual inspection is all that is required to meet the building code and no verification of performance is ever conducted.

Ken Field is the owner of Field's Service, Inc. and Slate Belt Energy Services. He has over 40 years of experience in heating, air conditioning and is certificated by RESNET and BPI in various areas of energy conservation. He can be reached at 610-599-8832 or at www.SlateBeltEnergy.com

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Nominate and Exceptional Local Government Leader

By Senator Mario Scavello

PEN ARGYL - Each year, one week in April is designated by the PA Legislature as "Local Government Week," honoring the dedication of Pennsylvania's local officials and encouraging citizens to learn how local government functions and affects each resident and business in the community. During this week, the Governor's Center for Local Government Services has made a tradition of hosting a Local Government Day celebration, featuring the presentation of the Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence to recognize local officials for their successes in undertaking innovative initiatives to improve the quality of life in their communities.

Nominations for the 2020 Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence are now open. Do you have local government leaders in your community who demonstrate exceptional dedication to improving public services? Nominate them today for the 2019 Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence now through December 13, 2019. Go to :

<https://dced.pa.gov/governors-awards-for-local-government-excellence/>

Unfocused Efforts on Climate Change Crisis Risk Lives, Drive Costs to Taxpayers, Economy

By Gary Miller

HARRISBURG – Auditor General Eugene DePasquale said Pennsylvania must proactively plan for the changing climate, a problem that already threatens public safety and drives significant new costs for taxpayers.

"The longer we fail to act, the greater the risks to our environment, our economy and our future," DePasquale said. "Climate change is a challenge that also presents an opportunity: by acting and investing now, we can not only save lives but also protect our economy and create jobs along the way."

According to the U.S. Global Change Research Program, made up of 13 federal agencies, Earth's climate is now changing faster than at any point in the history of modern civilization. A major report issued by the program late last year details threats to public health and safety from extreme heat and flooding; concerns about severe weather impacts on aging power, water, sewer and transportation systems; and the impact of altered ecosystems on rural communities, farming, forestry and tourism.

DePasquale released a special report, "Climate Crisis: The Rising Cost of Inaction," which noted that severe weather is already costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars a year and that state government needs to do more to mitigate future impacts.

"My team and I documented at least \$261 million in climate-related costs to Pennsylvania in 2018 alone in this report," DePasquale said. "Half of that amount, \$125.7 million, was in infrastructure damage statewide caused by record-breaking floods and landslides."

Other projected costs of climate change include:

- Millions of dollars to equip public school buildings with air conditioning because of increased heat waves;
- Changes in growing zones and seasons, plus increasing numbers and varieties of pests, that will impact food availability and costs; and
- A rise in sea levels that will impact major shipping and transportation hubs, including Philadelphia International Airport.

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