Kentucky's biggest hunting season started this weekend

Modern gun deer hunting season opened Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026, and runs through Sunday, Nov. 29. Deer hunters have been afield since September with the opening of archery and crossbow seasons, but these 16 days comprise Kentucky's biggest hunting season annually.

Boasting strong deer populations across the state, Kentucky offers many hunting opportunities for new and experienced hunters to provide a sustainable source of lean protein for the table or for food banks. Hunters reported harvesting more than 145,000 deer last year, down slightly from nearly 150,000 in 2024–2025, with modern gun season accounting for the most deer harvested annually.

"The opening weekend of modern firearms deer season is one of the most anticipated times of the year for many hunters across Kentucky," said Ben Robinson, director of the Wildlife Division for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "The 2026 calendar has the season opening later than normal, but we still anticipate a strong harvest statewide."

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife offers a wealth of resources to assist new and experienced hunters alike. Learn about public lands available for hunting, season dates, licenses needed, and more by going online to fw.ky.gov and searching under the keywords "Deer Hunting." View the 2026–2027 Fall Hunting and Trapping Guide online and download or print the guide as a resource to use in the field.

Following are tips for making the most of a trip afield:

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Hunting licenses and permits may be purchased online at Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's website (fw.ky.gov) and at authorized license agents throughout the state. Licenses are available for residents and non-residents, youth, and senior/disabled. A statewide or youth deer permit is also required for all license types. For season dates, detailed license requirements, and other hunting regulations, visit the Deer Hunting section of the department's website or view and download the 2026–2027 Fall Hunting and Trapping Guide.

HARVEST LIMITS

Kentucky is divided into four deer zones, based predominantly on the deer density of the counties in each region. Each zone has different method-of-take restrictions and harvest limits for antlerless deer; however, a hunter may take only one buck a year in the state, regardless of zone. Consult the hunting guide for more information on the zone being hunted.

HARVEST MORE DOES

Hunters are encouraged to harvest more does this season, particularly in Zone 1 and 2 counties, to help improve overall herd health. A hunter may harvest an unlimited number of antlerless deer in Zone 1 using the statewide permit and additional deer permits. A hunter may harvest up to four antlerless deer in Zone 2.

Adequate doe harvests are critical for maintaining balanced, healthy deer populations. A balanced buck-to-doe ratio means a more intense rut, chasing bucks that are more likely to reach their potential. Fawns are born in a more concentrated window, improving recruitment. A balanced deer population helps reduce overbrowsing, agricultural issues, and keeps roadways safer.

HARVEST REPORTING

Immediately upon recovery of a harvested deer, a hunter must fill out a harvest log consisting of game species, sex, county, and date on the back of the hunting license or elsewhere and keep it in their possession. Before midnight, each harvest must be reported to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, even if the hunter is license exempt. Hunters can report their harvest by calling the department's telecheck number at 1-800-245-4263, or by using the online My Profile portal at fw.ky.gov.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD)

Special restrictions apply to deer harvested in the CWD Surveillance Zone. Ballard, Breckinridge, Calloway, Carlisle, Casey, Fulton, Graves, Hardin, Henderson, Hickman, Laurel, Lincoln, Marshall, McCracken, McCreary, Meade, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Union, Wayne, Webster, and Whitley counties are under carcass transportation and baiting restrictions in an effort to monitor and contain CWD. Hunters in Henderson, McCreary, Pulaski, and Wayne counties also must take their harvested deer to a staffed check station or use a CWD Sample Drop-Off Site the first three days of modern gun season, Nov. 14–16.

Deer hunters outside the CWD Surveillance Zone can aid Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's monitoring efforts by donating the heads of legally harvested and telechecked deer for free testing and aging through the voluntary CWD Sample Drop-Off Sites or CWD Sample Mail-In Kits.

HUNTER EDUCATION

Valid proof of hunter education certification is required for hunters born in 1975 or later. For new hunters without hunter education certification, a free one-year exemption permit is available. This permit allows a person to hunt as long as they are accompanied in the field by an adult who is hunter education-certified or born before 1975. Learn more on the department's Hunter Education webpage.

KENTUCKY DEER & ELK APP

Introduced to Kentucky's deer and elk hunters last year, the Kentucky Deer & Elk App allows users to see public land property boundaries, locate local processors and taxidermists, keep a digital copy of their license, and get more information about the county they are hunting. This app is available for free download from the Apple App and Google Play stores.

SHOOT FOR SAMPLES

Until Jan. 18, 2027, every hunter who submits samples for CWD testing through a CWD Sample Drop-off Site or through a CWD Sample Mail-in Kit will be entered into the Shoot for Samples Giveaway. Hunters can enter the giveaway as many times as the bag limits allow. Prizes range from gift cards to gear thanks to the following sponsors – Copperhead Guns and Range, FirstChoice Firearms, and the Kentucky Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers.

VENISON DONATION SERVICES

Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry and Boone Brothers are excellent options for hunters who want to contribute to conservation and harvest additional does, but don't need the meat themselves. Both organizations process and distribute venison to people in need in the communities where the deer were harvested.

NOTICE OF MASTER COMMISSIONER SALE

In order to comply with the orders of the Russell Circuit Court, the Master Commissioner of the Russell Circuit Court shall proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder at public auction the below properties on **Friday, November 20, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., CT, Russell District Courtroom, Russell County Judicial Center, Jamestown, Kentucky**.

Said properties shall be sold to raise the amounts hereinafter set forth, together with interest and the costs of the action, and upon *(unless otherwise indicated)* the following terms and conditions:

A) For the purchase price, the Purchaser(s) must pay in full by cash or good check on the date of sale or the Purchaser(s) may pay ten (10%) down on the day of sale and shall execute a good and sufficient purchase money bond, with approved surety thereon, equal to the balance of the purchase price payable to the Master Commissioner within thirty (30) days. Any such purchase money bond shall have the force and effect of a Judgment and shall be a lien upon the property sold as additional security for the payment of the balance of the purchase price. The Master Commissioner's bond shall bear interest at the rate the judgment bears from the date of sale until paid in full. **In the event the successful bidder is not paying the full amount of the purchase price on the date of sale, purchaser will be required to post bond and furnish an acceptable surety thereon**. In the event the successful bidder is the Plaintiff, then in lieu of the deposit the Plaintiff shall be allowed to bid on credit up to the Judgment amount.

B) Purchaser shall be required to pay property taxes for current tax year and all taxes thereafter, for which the Purchaser(s) shall receive no credit against the purchase price.

C) The property shall otherwise be sold free and clear of any right, title, and interest of all parties to the action and of their liens and encumbrances thereon, excepting easements and restrictions of record in the Russell County Court Clerk's Office and such right of redemption as may exist in favor of the United States of America or the Defendant(s).

The Master Commissioner Sale/Deed is not a warranty of good title. Possession shall be given to the Purchaser(s) with the delivery of the Master Commissioner's Deed thereto. Purchaser(s) will assume and be responsible for all risks of loss to the premises upon acceptance of their bid by the Master Commissioner at the Master Commissioner's Sale.

Bidder should examine the records of the Russell Circuit Clerk and the Russell County Clerk prior to the sale for further information. Any statements made the day of the sale shall take precedence over advertised material. Bidder shall be prepared to comply promptly with these terms.

(Sale bonds will bear interest at the rate of Judgment entered in each separate action)

SALE NO. 1

Property: 2657 Highway 1058, Jamestown, Kentucky 42629 Map ID: 009-00-00-016.00

WINTRUST MORTGAGE, A DIVISION OF BARRINGTON BANK & TRUST COMPANY, N.A. vs. SETH R. BEVANS, ANGELA BEVANS, GRAVES GILBERT CLINIC, , INTERVENTIONAL PAIN SPECIALIST OF BOWLING GREEN, PLLC, D/B/A COMMONWEALTH PAIN ASSOCIATES, PLLC, LVNV FUNDING, LLC ACTION NO. 25-CI-00229
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED: $118,971.55

SALE NO. 2

Property: Lot 132, Stillwater Subdivision (1.25 acres) Map ID: 076-20-01-132.00

CENTURION HOLDINGS LLC (successor to Ceres Holdings, LLC, by merger) vs. FERRIS REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS, LLC, STILLWATER PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; AND COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, COUNTY OF RUSSELL ACTION NO. 26-CI-000161
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED: $4,115.88

M GAIL WILSON, MASTER COMMISSIONER, RUSSELL CIRCUIT COURT

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