

FAQ's on Urban Deer Hunting

1. When will the season open this year?

Ames city zone hunt dates are 9/21/2024-1/10/2025. Some locations will have additional restrictions on opening dates or hunting hours. There are dates and times specific to each location.

2. Can I urban bowhunt during the statewide gun seasons?

Yes, the deer management zone hunts within urban areas and assigned specific dates are all-inclusive. They don't close for outside gun seasons. This presents a unique opportunity for bowhunters to keep hunting during this period.

3. Can I hunt on my statewide tag as long as I take a doe?

No, licenses for urban zones are restricted to those issued for that zone and only those licenses may be used.

4. Can I use other tags--if so which ones? i.e., Story County antlerless bow, statewide late muzzleloader (if I hunt with a bow), others?

No other licenses are valid in urban zones where season dates have been altered for the benefit of that zone. Other licenses are valid in the perimeter zone because it follows the same season dates as regular seasons. The advantage to the perimeter zone however, is the additional licenses and using others in the zone might be using licenses that could be used in other parts of the county, for example.

5. Are there any depredation tags issued? If so, how do I contact those landowners to assist?

Depredation licenses are not typically issued in urban zones as they usually don't meet the description of city ordinances on how and when they may be used. DNR has not had a complaint to date from the city of Ames that would fit into additional lethal means of control via the depredation program. Exceptions could be made, however, to issuing depredation licenses to a 'qualifying landowner', but this would be through city approval. DNR will provide a list of interested hunters, if landowners desire it, who have signed up via the DNR website as interested in hunting antlerless deer.