

2008-2009 Deer Season Prospects Good Says TPWD

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bucks, a doe may not encounter a buck when she is first receptive and may not be bred until one of her later cycles. A hunter, landowner or biologist who sees the late breeding activity may be convinced that there was a late rut.

On the other hand, those who see does attended by bucks in the early part of the season believe there was an early rut. This helps explain the wide variety of opinions on the timing of the rut during a particular year.

"Hunter chronology" has a lot to do with the perceived timing of the rut. Traditionally, hunters are more likely to be afield during cool weather.

They will usually be out in force with the onset of the first weekend north during the deer season. When there are many observers spending time in the field it is more likely that breeding activity will be

noticed.

Bucks, like hunters, have a tendency to move around during cool weather. Bucks with hardened antlers are ready to breed and are looking for a willing doe. More movement means more opportunity to encounter a receptive doe.

This increased movement helps give rise to the idea that cold weather causes the rut. However, this theory is disproved by white-tailed deer breeding in tropical climates.

We once thought that late fawning could be a problem in areas

where survival was low and antlers were poorly developed. Newly weaned fawns on the range in late fall would have a harder time surviving.

A lack of adequate nutrition at this time could affect future body

and antler production. The study showed that very few fawns are born late in Texas.

South Texas has the latest breeding period. Even there, fawns are born before August and are weaned by October.

New Information For The 2009-2010 Season

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However, as of September 1, only one blue catfish 30 inches or longer may be retained.

-During May, taking alligator gar is prohibited in the portion of the lake that lies within the boundaries of Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge and from the U.S. 377 bridge (Willis Bridge) upstream to the IH 35 bridge.

Hunting Regulations

These changes take effect Sep-

tember 1, 2009.

* Panhandle counties that had the special short season for white-tailed deer now get the full north Texas season, the first Saturday in November through the first Sunday in January. Those counties are: Dallam, Hartley, Moore, Oldham, Potter, and Sherman. Dawson, Deaf Smith, and Martin counties, which had no open season on whitetailed deer, now get the regular open

season.

* 52 counties are added to the list of counties with antler restrictions.

* New crossbow rules approved. Crossbows are now allowed for use by all hunters during the archery-only season, except in Grayson County. Grayson retains the old restriction to persons with an upper-limb disability during the archery season. See News Release

* Laser sighting devices approved for hunters with a disability making it impossible to use conventional sighting devices.

Education

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hunter education requirement is prohibited from applying for a deferral. Take the course by August 31 of the current license year and receive a \$5 discount.

*Accompanied means: By a person who is at least 17, who is licensed to hunt in Texas, who has passed hunter education or is exempt (born before Sept. 2, 1971), and you must be within normal voice control. Proof of certification or deferral is required to be on your

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