**2024 Mason City Deer Management Zone Fact Sheet**

The City of Mason City is participating in the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) deer management zone (DMZ) hunt starting September 21, 2024. The intent of this special hunt is to reduce deer damage to property within city limits and reduce the number of car-deer collisions in town. Since 2016, we have partnered with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to have a Deer Management Zone (DMZ) hunt.

There will be 125 antlerless DMZ licenses available to Iowa resident hunters for use only within the city limits of Mason City. Each hunter must possess a State of Iowa hunting license with habitat fee and have a Mason City DMZ deer license. Regular licenses are not valid within the Mason City DMZ. Licenses must be purchased from Fleet Farm, 3200 4th St SW, Mason City. Hunters may purchase a maximum of three licenses. The Iowa DNR has an incentive license format that will allow hunters who harvest and report three female deer during the 2024 DMZ hunt to receive an additional any sex DMZ tag for use during the 2025 DMZ hunt. Button bucks are legal query but will not count toward the incentive license.

Proficiency testing is also a requirement for this special hunt. Terry Quinby, Stan Horsfall, or Roger Milhan are handling proficiency testing for the Mason City DMZ hunt. You can contact Terry Quinby at 517-392-6899, Stan Horsfall at 360-296-2616, or Roger Milhan at 641-512-5057 to arrange a time for testing.

Interested hunters can stop by the Mason City Police Department to pick up a packet of information about the 2024 DMZ hunt. They will need to return the completed packet along with copies of their hunting license, their Mason City DMZ deer tag, and their passing score on the proficiency test, and their driver’s license to the Mason City Police Department. After reviewing the documents, an urban bow hunting permit will be issued by MCPD.

Hunters must abide by the rules of the property owner, in addition to all Iowa DNR rules and special zone rules covering the bow hunting of deer. Any violation of the above rules may result in the revocation of privileges or criminal charges, as appropriate.

The main goal of the hunt is to reduce the deer herd by harvesting female deer or does. The special hunt will begin September 21, 2024 and end January 10, 2025. The special hunt in city limits will remain open even during the dates of the regular gun seasons that take place outside of city limits. All 2024 DMZ licenses are for antlerless deer only, unless a hunter has received an incentivized tag from the 2023 hunt. All deer harvested in a deer management zone hunt must be sight checked and reported to IDNR.

**Reporting.** Deer hunters are required to bring harvested deer to the Mason City Police Department for inspection and to report where the deer was taken. Check in must occur within six hours of harvest. In addition, hunters must register their deer harvest with IDNR by any of the following three options:

1. The online harvest reporting system at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov/) is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
2. The telephone harvest is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and the toll free number is printed on the antlerless license.
3. Hunters may report through an ELSI license vendor during business hours.