



State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
Fish & Wildlife
Shooting Preserve Permits
Mail Code 501-03, PO Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

COMMERCIAL SHOOTING PRESERVE INFORMATION SHEET

AUTHORITY

N.J.S.A. 23:3-29 provides the authority to New Jersey Fish & Wildlife to issue a permit to operate Commercial Shooting Preserves for mallard, pheasant, quail*, and partridge. The applicant must be the owner or the lessee of the property to be permitted.

Two or more non-contiguous tracts of land, each consisting of a minimum of 50 acres in size excluding safety zones, shall be covered under the same permit.

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** No new shooting preserves may stock bobwhite quail since the Fish & Game Council voted to close the quail hunting season in 2009. If you have been stocking quail since before the closing of the season, you may continue to do so. If quail are not stocked in consecutive years, you are no longer authorized to stock quail.

DEFINITION

A Commercial Shooting Preserve is defined as 50 acres or more of land with the boundaries clearly posted at intervals of not more than 200 feet with signs containing the following wording:

COMMERCIAL SHOOTING PRESERVE – PERMITTED UNDER N.J.S.A. 23:3-29

IMPORTANT NOTE: Signs must display the name of the club or the property owner.

SEASON AND BAG LIMIT

Under a Commercial Shooting Preserve Permit, stocked birds of either sex may be taken by shooting only on lands designated in the application and permit by properly licensed hunters between September 1 and the following May 1, inclusive, without regard to daily bag limit.

NOTE: Captive bred mallards stocked and hunted on Commercial Shooting Preserves must also meet the following criteria established by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service:

1. Proper identification by toe clipping of the helix on the left foot, tattooing of the webbing or leg banding with a closed band or seamless band.
2. The use of steel or other USFWS approved nontoxic shot.

FEES

The annual fee for a Commercial Shooting Preserve Permit is \$320.00 plus an additional \$2.00 application fee for the first tract of land, and \$165.00 per season for each additional tract of land. Each piece of land must be at least 50 acres in size, excluding safety zones.

The cost of tags is \$0.15 each. One-day license books are \$230.00 each.

CRITERIA FOR GRANTING PERMIT

NJFW may, upon receipt of fees, issue the applicant such a permit when it appears that:

1. The operation of such a shooting preserve shall not conflict with prior reasonable public interest; and
2. The applicant has provided evidence (contract, purchases, etc.) that a total of at least 500 pheasants, mallard, quail, partridge, or a combination thereof will be raised or purchased for the liberation on the shooting preserve between September of the year of the permit and the following May 1.
3. The applicant has produced a Verification of Lease agreement (if applicable), signed by both parties, that is effective through the entire season.

Applicants are required to submit a completed application and a contract for the purchase or raising of birds. New applicants and applicants who have changes in their properties must include one 8.5" x 11" photocopy of a tax assessor's or survey maps showing acreage and lot/block numbers. Maps must show the name of the Commercial Shooting Preserve Club and permit number if available. Maps must also show the boundaries of the preserve outlined in **RED**. Maps should indicate buildings on the property and on each adjacent property, which might affect the amount of land hunted because of safety zones. Safety zones must be indicated in **RED**.

A field inspection of new Commercial Shooting Preserves and those with changes in property will be conducted prior to issuing the permit.

NOTE: Maps are now only required for new shooting preserves or those with changes in property. Maps that are any size other than 8.5" x 11" will be rejected.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline for all applications is August 1. All applications will be processed in the order in which they are received. No applications will be processed until annual reports (for permit renewals) and all materials have been received.

TAGGING BIRDS

All harvested game birds, including mallards, covered under the permit must be tagged regardless of sex, including birds from the freezer and/or meat sale being transported or sold. Tags will be issued on an annual basis. Tags are numbered and dated; they are valid only for the current season only. Tags are assigned to the individual preserve. Not tagging birds is a violation and may result in fines and loss of permit. A sufficient number of tags **MUST** be ordered prior to the start of the season to cover the anticipated number of birds stocked. Tags remaining at the end of the season should be destroyed. Any applicant needing assistance in evaluating how many tags to purchase may contact NJWildlifePermits@dep.nj.gov.

No mallards, pheasant, quail, partridge, or their carcasses shall be possessed or transported unless the bird is tagged. Tags must be kept available on the premises at a location available to all members and guests. A daily record sheet must be kept of all the birds shot and tagged by each hunter. Records should include the date, hunter's name, species, and quantity of birds shot on a daily kill sheet. In addition, a daily record of birds released must be kept, indicating the species and quantity of birds released. Daily stocking records and kill sheets must be filed with your annual report at the end of the permit season.

Records must be available for inspection for up to three (3) years at the close of a season.

CAPTIVE GAME PERMITIS

The sale of game birds must be accompanied by a Game Bird Sales receipt, which shall serve as a temporary possession permit for a period of 20 days. You must obtain a Captive Game Permit if you purchase and possess game birds for more than 20 days. You must possess a Captive Game Permit if you sell or transfer birds to another individual or club. You may apply for the Captive Game Permit when you apply for your Commercial Shooting Preserve Permit.

Captive Game Permits are traditionally valid for the calendar year and expire on December 31. If you wish for your future Captive Game Permits for the propagation and sale of game birds to coincide with the Commercial Preserve Permit, please indicate so on the Commercial Preserve Permit application. Our office will issue a Captive Game Permit for the period of September 1 to August 31 of the following calendar year.

INFORMATION OF BIRDS

All live game birds transported into the state must be accompanied by an official health certificate. A NJFW issued Importation Permit must be attached to the waybill or shall be in the possession of the driver of the vehicle or person in charge of the game birds. No game birds may be imported without prior written approval from the Wildlife Permits Unit. Importation Permit applications are available upon request NJWildlifePermits@dep.nj.gov. Allow 20 working days for the approval and issuance of an Importation Permit. There is no fee for this permit.

ANNUAL REPORT

Annual report forms can be downloaded at: https://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pdf/comm_pres_annrpt.pdf. **Annual report forms must be completed and submitted to the Wildlife Permits Unit within 30 days of the close of the season** and must be filed with a copy of your receipt(s) showing full payment of the birds stocked. The receipts should indicate the species, quantity, and note if “paid in full.” Commercial Shooting Preserve Permit holders are also required to submit their daily kill sheets and stocking sheets.

ONE DAY HUNTING LICENSES

IMPORTANT NOTE: All persons hunting on a Commercial Shooting Preserve must possess a valid hunting license. Commercial Shooting Preserve operators may purchase books of one-day hunting licenses from the Wildlife Permits Unit. Books containing 20 licenses may be purchased for \$230.00. Individual licenses are to be sold for \$12.50. The books are issued with a receipt form. Sign and return to NJ Fish & Wildlife. Completed books must be returned **immediately** with your club’s name and permit number on the front. **NOTE: Before selling a one-day license, you are required by law to check the individual’s previous hunting license or hunter education certificate. Licenses must be filled out with complete information.**

Hunting in the State of New Jersey is a privilege, which can be revoked at any time. Any person violating any of the provisions of the State may be liable for a penalty of no less than \$50.00 or more than \$200.00 for each offense.

REFUNDS/TRANSFERS

No refunds for permits, licenses, or tags will be issued for loss of acreage resulting from township closures, lease cancellation, etc. No transfer of tags from one permitted preserve to another will be allowed.

INFORMATION

Additional information regarding Commercial Shooting Preserve permits or completing the application may be obtained by emailing NJWildlifePermits@dep.nj.gov.

MAILING ADDRESS

NJ Fish & Wildlife
Shooting Preserve Permits
Mail Code 501-03, PO Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

Submitting application materials to any other address will delay permit, game bird tag, and one-day license issuance.

Visit our website at <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife/commercial-shooting-preserve-information/> for more information.