



# R3 NEWS

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New Jersey DEP Fish and Wildlife

Winter 2024

[Spring Turkey Lottery Period Now Through February 22!](#)

[New Jersey Pheasant Hunting and R3](#)

[Update: Managed Waterfowl Hunt at the Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area](#)

[Deer Butchering Workshop](#)

[Hunter Education Wrap Up](#)

[Fur Handling Clinics](#)

[Harvest Results: Black Bear and 6 Day Firearm](#)

[Recipe: Tiff's Venison Chili](#)

[Did you Know? NJ Fish & Wildlife History](#)

## Spring Turkey Lottery Period Through February 22!



Head over to our [Licensing System](#) or to any of our [Licensing Agents](#) to apply for the spring Turkey permit lottery! Applicants need to know what [zone](#) and [week](#) they would like as their first, second and third choices to receive. You can take a look at the [Permit Quota Table](#) to determine application strategy for the best chance at getting the Turkey Hunting Area and the week you are hoping for. A non-refundable \$2.00 application fee is charged for each lottery application. Each lottery is completely random and awards only ONE permit. Permits awarded can be claimed beginning February 26<sup>th</sup> and must be claimed before the deadline on March 20 at 11:59 PM. On March 25 at 10:00 AM, any unclaimed permits will be available as Over The Counter (referred to as OTC). Get them while they last!

## New Jersey Pheasant Hunting and R3

New Jersey's R3 program funds the majority of the purchase of stocked pheasants on state property. Over 55,000 Pheasants are stocked on 23 Wildlife Management Areas across the state. [Our stocking schedule can be seen here.](#) These pheasants are also included in our annual Take A Kid Pheasant hunt that takes place in early November. This year, youth had a fantastic time harvesting birds.

Some experiencing it for the first time, some for their last year of the program after creating countless memories year after year. We have 75 volunteers to thank for their help with the Take A Kid program this year. Without their help, we could not pull this event off year after year. It is their enthusiasm and dedication that we hope will be passed down to these youth!



# Update: Managed Waterfowl Hunt at the Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area



The Tuckahoe WMA Managed Waterfowl Hunt is wrapping up! 209 hunters joined us across the 2023-2024 waterfowl season. 128 total waterfowl were harvested, including 15 pintails! We hope you are excited to come out again next year. Keep an eye out at the end of summer/beginning of fall for announcements on lottery dates! If you have hunted this season, we would love to see any photos you have to share. Please send to [R3MentoredHunt@dep.nj.gov](mailto:R3MentoredHunt@dep.nj.gov)

## Deer Butchering Workshop

NJ Fish & Wildlife’s R3 Program is happy to have partnered with Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH) and GameButchers of Lebanon and Valley Butchers of Pennington for two deer butchering workshops. The workshop was designed to give deer hunters an in-depth lesson on how to skin and butcher their own harvested deer. The first event took place on January 6, 2024, hosted by Growmark FS LLC in Bloomsbury and the second event at Valley Butchers in Pennington. A total of 110 applications were submitted for the limited spaces available for this very popular program. The butchers spent 2 hours demonstrating and teaching our participants who were eager to learn. Our staff, volunteers and participants all braved the cold and snow in one situation to make sure this program was a success! Over 30 hunters attended the workshop and loved it!



visit:<https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/hunters-helping-the-hungry/>

## 2023 Hunter Education Wrap Up



The Hunter Education Live Fire Range Sessions have concluded for 2023. Sessions will not begin again until March of 2024. Registration will be open in late February. Prospective students can prepare by completing their online education at any time.

[Please click here to be taken to the free online course.](#)



# Fur Handling Clinics

Recent Trapper Education graduates were invited to a hands-on clinic as a next step in their trapper journey. This event is in partnership with the New Jersey Fur Harvesters and the NJ Trappers Association. The Attendees could participate in skinning demonstrations, fleshing demonstrations and can even bring their own catches to have assistance on the next steps alongside experienced trappers. Our next Trapper Education classes will be held in both the spring and fall 2024, we hope to see you there and at future clinics!



# Harvest Data: Black Bear

The 2023 harvest data for Black Bear is now available! Information is broken down by segments and separated out by the various zones. 493 total bears were harvested over the season. You can view the entire report on our website: <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/bears/black-bear-harvest-data/>



# Harvest Data: 6 Day Firearm

An estimated total of 4,354 bucks were harvested during the 2023 6-day firearm season, down 10% from 2022. These numbers are preliminary as the harvest is not finalized yet and subject to change.

**Final Deer Harvest Data by Zone and Season anticipated by the Spring Newsletter.**



# Turkey Research Underway

A few weeks ago, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife requested assistance locating wild turkey flocks to attach GPS transmitters to for a multi-state research project. The Turkey Research Project is still looking for assistance locating flocks in northern New Jersey. If you have a flock on your property or know of a flock in Hunterdon, Morris, Sussex or Warren counties, please email [NJTurkey@dep.nj.gov](mailto:NJTurkey@dep.nj.gov). All turkeys trapped will be released at their trap site.



# Featured Recipe: Tiff's Venison Chili

## Ingredients

- 2 C diced onion
- 3 C diced celery
- ½ C diced sweet peppers
- 1 lb. ground venison
- 1 lb. ground pork sausage
- Two 14 oz cans diced tomatoes
- 10 oz diced tomatoes with green chilies
- 46 oz tomato juice
- One 15 oz can black beans
- 2 T or 1 packet Taco Seasoning
- 1 t salt
- ½ t pepper
- 1 T granulated sugar



## Instructions

1. Sauté the onion, peppers and celery for 5 minutes in a large pot over medium heat
2. Add the venison and pork and chop as it cooks into smaller pieces
3. Let cook for about 15 minutes
4. Drain fat, discard
5. Stir in tomatoes, beans, seasonings and sugar
6. Pour in tomato juice, stir to combine
7. Bring to a boil
8. Place in slow cooker
9. Slow cook 4-8 hours

# Did you Know? New Jersey Hunting History

- First license sold was a non-resident license for \$10.50 in 1902
- The first deer season was set from September 1 through December 31, 1771
- Hunter Education became mandatory for all initial hunting license purchases in 1972
- 1972 also brought the first year of the mandatory deer check station system
- In 1976 the first Winter Bow season took place
- Reintroduction of wild turkeys began with the release of 22 birds in 1977
- In 1995, the first Take a Kid Pheasant Hunt was held, we just hosted our 28<sup>th</sup> event!



# Contact Us

Looking for information on something we didn't cover this month? Reach out to us!

Email: [R3mentoredhunt@dep.nj.gov](mailto:R3mentoredhunt@dep.nj.gov)

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