



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

SEMI-WILD 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 Semi-Wild Shooting Preserves for pheasant, quail*, and partridge. The applicant must be the owner or bona-fide lessee to the property to the permit. Only one contiguous tract of land may be covered under one permit.

At least one pheasant, quail, and/or partridge must be stocked for each acre of land permitted if the preserve is less than 200 acres. A minimum of 200 birds must be stocked on Semi-Wild Shooting Preserves over 200 acres in size.

A Semi-Wild Shooting Preserve must be posted as such with signs that include the club's name at intervals of no more than 500 feet along all boundary lines.

***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.

SEASON AND BAG LIMIT

Under the Semi-Wild Shooting Preserve Permit, stocked birds of either sex may be taken by shooting only on the lands designated in the application and permit by properly licensed hunters between the first day of small game season and the following March 15. The Assistant Commissioner, with the approval of the NJ Fish & Game Council, may extend the season on permitted semi-wild shooting preserves for a period of up to 20 days.

Hunting hours are the same as the regular small game season: 8:00am on opening day, otherwise sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

Species not covered by the permit may be hunted in accordance with the current hunting regulations.

FEES

The annual fee for a Semi-Wild Shooting Preserve is \$75.00, plus an additional \$2.00 application fee. The cost of small game bird tags is \$0.15 each.

CRITERIA FOR GRANTING PERMIT

A permit will not be issued until the applicant has produced satisfactory evidence that the required number of birds will be purchased for liberation during the forthcoming season. The person applying for the Semi-Wild Shooting Preserve Permit will be the contact person. The applicant is responsible for maintaining the necessary records and for completing the annual report at the end of the permit season.

Applicants are required to submit a completed application and a contract for the purchase or raising of birds. New applicants and renewing 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

Semi-Wild 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 Semi-Wild Shooting Preserves and those with changes in property will be conducted prior to issuing the permit.

Incomplete applications and reports will be returned.

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 October 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 should 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 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 PERMITS

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 Semi-Wild Shooting Preserve Permit.

Semi-Wild 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 Semi-Wild Preserve Permit, please indicate so on the Semi-Wild 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 at 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.” Semi-Wild Shooting Preserve Permit holders are also required to submit their daily kill sheets and stocking sheets.

If you hold more than one permit, separate paperwork must be filed for each individual permit and filed separately. If you are a Propagation & Sales permit holder, you must account for the birds on your Captive Game annual report form and show written transfer to your Semi-Wild Shooting Preserve permit.

Anyone failing to submit the annual report and the required documentation of records may be issued a summons and possible loss of permit.

REFUNDS/TRANSFERS

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

INFORMATION

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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Submitting application materials to any other address will delay permit and game bird tag issuance.

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