



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 31, 2013

Controlled Deer Hunt Scheduled for the Norristown Farm Park

Norristown, PA (October 31, 2013) – The Montgomery County Division of Parks, Trails and Historic Sites will conduct a one day, controlled, antlerless deer hunt at the Norristown Farm Park on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 between the hours of 7:00am and 3:00pm.

This year's hunt is a continuation of a wildlife management program that began in 2005. The goal of the program was, and is, to contain a burgeoning deer population, thus allowing the park's varied habitat to regenerate for the benefit of both the park's resident and transient wildlife. In 2005 the park's deer herd was estimated at 300-500 animals. Since the inception of the hunt nearly eight years ago, significant strides have been made toward reducing the number of deer/vehicle accidents on the roadways surrounding the park. The park's varied ecosystems have begun to regenerate and damage to neighboring, private landscapes and agricultural commodities has decreased slightly. In addition, the program seeks to control the spread of Lyme disease-carrying ticks and limit the potential for animal starvation resulting from diminished and/or inadequate winter food supplies. The herd is currently estimated to contain some 150-200 animals. While much improved, the number of deer on the property remains well above that which the land can adequately support.

As in the past, hunters participating in this year's hunt will be required to use a 12-gauge shotgun containing slug ammunition only, (no buckshot). Additionally, all hunters will be required to hunt from a self-provided, self-climbing tree stand with functioning safety harness. Note: No ladder stands, hang-on stands, screw in pegs, or any other device which could affect the tree's health will be permitted.

Please note that this is an antlerless deer hunt, **NO ANTLERED DEER MAY BE HARVESTED**. All interested candidates must possess a minimum of one antlerless deer tag for Wildlife Management Unit 5C in order to participate.

Hunters, 21 years of age and older (18 years of age or older for active duty/full time military personnel) interested in participating in this year's hunt should mail, or drop-off a 3" x 5" card containing the following information: name, legal address, telephone number, driver's license number, PA hunting license number, and WMU Area 5C antlerless tag number(s).

In addition, each applicant is asked to submit a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope for return correspondence. Applications are to be mailed to: Norristown Farm Park, 2500 Upper Farm Road, Norristown, PA, 19403. Please mark "Deer Hunt" in the lower left corner of the envelope. Internet and/or e-mail applications will not be accepted.

All applications must be post marked and/or received by the close of business on Saturday, November 30, 2013. Only one application per candidate will be accepted. Illegible and/or incomplete applications (those not containing all of the information listed/requested above), will be rejected.

A public lottery will be held at the Farm Park Headquarters on Saturday, December 7, 2013 at 10:00am. Hunters may, but need not, be present on the day of the drawing to participate. A total of 38 qualified hunters will be selected at that time.

Successful applicants, drawn in the lottery, will be issued a permit by mail and will be required to attend a mandatory safety meeting prior to the hunt. Those who fail to attend the mandatory safety meeting will be disqualified from the hunt.

In addition, all hunters selected in the lottery will scout their respective hunting area and choose (with park approval) a tree where they will set up their portable climber on the day of the hunt. Special accommodations will be made for those with documented physical limitations/restrictions.

All Pennsylvania Game Commission laws will be in effect on the day of the hunt. Furthermore, the hunt itself will be closely monitored for safety and compliance by officials from various law enforcement agencies.

Please note that the Farm Park will be closed to the general public and to all other passive recreational activities on the day of the hunt.

For additional information concerning this year's controlled deer hunt, please call the Farm Park office at 610-270-0215, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:30am and 4:15pm. Additional information related to the hunt may be posted on the web at www.parks.montcopa.org.

Norristown Farm Park is owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is operated by Montgomery County Parks, Trails and Historic Sites, a division of the Department of Assets and Infrastructure. The park is located at the intersection of Germantown Pike and North Wales Road in East Norriton. The park is typically open for passive recreation seven days a week from sunrise to sunset.

Montgomery County is dedicated to preserving this unique and valuable open space, providing passive recreation for the region, as well as the continuance of normal farming operations on the agricultural lands.