

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR TAGGING AND VALIDATING DEER**

### **By Major Wayne Brescher**

#### **Who will need deer tags?**

Beginning in the 2008/09 deer hunting season all deer hunters regardless of age or license status must obtain deer tags from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and have these deer tags in their possession while hunting. This will be a significant change from previous years where tagging was not required. Not only will deer hunters have to tag the deer they kill, but they will also have to report their deer kill to the department within 72 hours. Each deer hunter will be issued three antlered and three antlerless deer tags.

#### **Step by step procedure to tag deer and report kill**

When a hunter harvests a deer, the hunter must detach the appropriate (antlered or antlerless) carcass tag from the license and attach it to the deer before it is removed from the kill site. The hunter must record the date and parish of the kill on the tag. The hunter must document the kill under the Harvest Report Card section of the license by writing in the date next to the corresponding tag number that has been used. The tag must remain attached to the deer while kept at camp, or while it is transported to the domicile of the hunter or to a cold storage facility. Hunters who keep the carcasses or meat at the camp must also comply with game possession tag regulations. Within 72 hours, the hunter must validate the kill and record the validation number on their license next to the appropriate date and tag number. Hunters may validate deer kills by calling the following validation toll free number 1-866-484-4805 or use the validation web site: <https://www.wildlifelicense.com/la/start.php> Hunters are not required to mail in the Hunter Report Card portion of the license at the end of the year.

#### **Replacement of lost tags**

**Hunters should not remove tags from “Harvest Report Card” section of the license until a deer has been killed and the hunter is ready to tag the carcass and move it from the kill site. Single tags are automatically voided if detached from the license prematurely (not placed on a harvested animal) and then lost by the hunter. These tags will not be replaced. Hunters who lose their license and /or tag transaction (tags and deer license) can obtain duplicate tags at a charge to the hunter. Hunters that have harvested and validated deer prior to losing their remaining tags will have to remove and discard the duplicate tags to account for the original tags that have been used and validated. Hunters must update the duplicate deer license validation section by recording the deer the hunter has already harvested.**

#### **Deer harvested on Wildlife Management Areas.**

**Antlerless** deer harvested on State Wildlife Management Areas only during hunts designated as “Daily Permit Hunts” do not count in the season bag limit for hunters. A numbered metal WMA hock tag must be affixed to the deer carcass by LDWF personnel and data must be recorded in the official check station records. In these cases, the hunter will not have to validate his deer kill.

When there are no Daily Permit hunts in progress on the WMA's, the hunter must tag the deer harvested (antlered or antlerless) with one of his license tags and must validate their kill with the Department by phone or internet within 72 hours.

All **antlered** deer harvested on WMA's must be tagged with an antlered deer tag. If a Daily Permit or Mandatory Deer Check Hunt is in progress on the WMA, the antlered deer can be validated at the check station and the hunter will not need to call or go online to validate his deer. If there are no mandatory deer check-stations open on the WMA, the hunter will complete his self-clearing permit and place it in the box before leaving the WMA. Then the hunter must validate their kill with the Department within 72 hours.

### **Antlerless deer harvested on DMAP/LADT lands**

Hunters harvesting **antlerless** deer on DMAP and LADT lands do not use license antlerless tags, call or go online to validate antlerless deer kills. DMAP/LADT tags are used on antlerless deer harvested on lands enrolled in these programs. Record the DMAP/LADT tag number and deer kill information on your deer club harvest record sheet with all other required information. Do not write anything on the deer license. Antlerless deer harvested on DMAP/LADT lands do not count towards the hunter's season or daily bag limit of antlerless deer.

Hunters harvesting **antlered** deer will use their license antlered tags and will validate their kill by entering the kill information on their harvest record sheet, therefore eliminating the need to call or go online to validate their kill. Hunters will write in the club ID and deer numbers from the DMAP/ LADT data sheet on the Harvest Report Card section of their deer license to validate their antlered deer kill.

### **Deer tagging procedure for licenses purchased via phone or internet**

Hunters purchasing licenses by phone or internet will be given both an authorization number and a LDWF identification number that will serve as their license until such license arrives by mail. Hunters will tag deer with "**possession tags**" (which can be found in the back of the hunting pamphlet), using the authorization number and LDWF identification number for the required license numbers recorded on the possession tag. Hunters will maintain documentation of these harvested deer and will validate harvested deer as required by law when the hunter receives the original license and tags. The hunter will validate the license information from these harvested deer and will discard the license tags for these validated deer.

### **Information required by hunter when reporting deer kill for validation**

Whether you report your deer kill to the Department by phone or internet, hunters will need to provide the following information when validating their deer kills:

LDWF ID number (on hunting license)

Deer tag number (on the tag)

Antlered or antlerless deer

Was antlerless deer a male or female

Date of kill

Parish of kill

Land type: Private, State WMA, US Forest Service or other State or Federal lands

Type of weapon used: Bow, Crossbow, Primitive Firearm, or Gun

A validation number will be given to the hunter and the hunter is required to record the validation number on his/her license.

Hopefully this information will help deer hunters understand their responsibilities concerning the new deer tagging regulations. This new tagging program will be beneficial to our Department. It will aid in our ability to enforce limits and it will also give our Biologist critical, accurate harvest information to better manage the states deer herd. Please consult the hunting pamphlet for additional information on tagging requirements or call any of our Region offices or our main office in Baton Rouge at 225-765-2800.

Turkey Tags – The tagging of Turkeys will also be required in the spring 2009 Turkey Season. Turkey tags will be available for purchase along with your deer tags or may be purchased separately.