QUWF
QUAIL AND UPLAND WILDLIFE FEDERATION
THE HABITAT GUIDE

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 9 • OCTOBER 2026



Notes from the Dashboard:
The most important responsibility

By Craig Alderman — The most important responsibility we have as citizens is to vote!

Voting always matters, but for the first time, we have to ensure this country remains FREE and for U.S. citizens as it was meant to be.

Get out and **VOTE this Tuesday, November 3**, remind your neighbors and friends to **VOTE**, and vote for this country and the people who love it. Not voting supports the wrong message to our country.



Ticks are around, all year round

From the editor — According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tick exposure can occur year round, with many species remaining active during the fall months.

Activities such as hunting, hiking, camping, and spending time in wooded or brushy areas can increase the likelihood of encountering ticks.

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Continued from Page 1 — For hunters in particular, fall can mean repeated exposure to tick habitat while scouting, checking trail cameras, hanging stands, tracking game, and spending long hours in the field.

Be watchful and wear a good skin repellant with a stronger Deet component, and treat your clothes with Permethrin. I use tick gators that go from the boot to the knee, spraying them liberally the night before use. Then when putting them on, spray your boots.

Ticks like the environment under cedars, low branch pines and spruce because it provides a cooler spot in summer and a warmer spot in the fall or winter frequented by deer which is their favorite transport pick up spot. This research was completed at the University of Oklahoma and ticks in cedars

Of course, the old adage applies, check for ticks, do a very good tick check when you get back home. They like tight areas like waist areas under belts and socks. Sand ticks, the very tiny ones, take a good examination to make sure you find them. Wash your clothes after each trip, by themselves, and dry them. Once dry, spray them with the Permethrin and hang them up for the next trip.

Before the hunt, check your sights, optics, and dot scopes

By Craig Alderman — Many hunters head afield grabbing the same ol' rifle out of the safe, enough ammo to start a small war, check that the clips are also full, and put it in the travel case. This could be a HUGE mistake. They get on the stand and discover the first shot showed up nowhere near the target? Ah, but that squirrel caused the deer to jump 7.4 feet to the right, with a strong north wind!



We just began upgrading the QUWF/RUGER range and brought out the various firearms, rifles, and pistols we have here for varmints, hunting, and just plain shooting enjoyment. Normally, all regular rifle calibers are sited at 25 yards with close groups, and when that is attained, checked at 100 yards. The exception is the several .223 calibers we have. Sighting them at 37 yards better addresses the path of the bullet arc so when it arrives at 100 yards, it is right on.

Everyone has their favorite ammo. We use Hornady as a choice, with some Winchester in both pistol and rifle. 22LR is normally a Remington flavor. Make sure you try a few flavors to be sure what works best in what firearm. The Walther 22WMR and S&W model 63 will only cycle smoothly with Hornady or Winchester loads, put a lesser brand in and it jams about the 4th round. We do not even bother any more.

Pistols on the range, we progress from 3, 5, 7, and 10 yards to 25 for the faint of heart with short barrel personal protection pistols. FYI, most documented law enforcement actions are at the 7-yard or closer positions.

We have a very good shooting bench with lots of extra sand bags for rock solid holds. Once you learn to control your breathing and have a solid hold and stance, then missed shots are most likely not the gun's fault in the field. Carrying a black Sharpie on the range, I mark each group and individual holes to reuse the target as the adjustments continue until the desired accuracy is obtained. For me that is three shots in the size of a dime, center target.

One rifle obviously had been bumped as it was dead on for elevation but the first group was 10 inches left of center.

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Continued from Page 2 — I wondered if we had enough adjustment but the scope pulled it right in and with 3 group tests, all rounds were in the center bull's eye in short order on the 4th..

Of course we have shooting glasses, ear protection and notice how the terrain slants up behind the range creating a natural and safe back stop. Seeing all around, down range is a must.



Shotguns are another issue, but I sighted mine in for the 25-yard target and yes it will hold for a 75-yard to 100-yard shot, but again practice. Slugs make you fear the noise more than the back pressure. Most try to hold/squeeze the gun so tight as they fear the recoil, making it very hard to hold any consistent patterns. Holding them firmly but not overly tight is the best option. If your cheek is not on the stock correctly, you will have a reward on your cheek to explain to your better half.

Remember, slug barrels are marked for deer hunting using slugs and buck shot. When hunting shotgun states, I normally load 2 slugs then buck shot and slugs alternatively.

I am old school here, being raised in New England where the only gun you wanted to own was a 16Ga. Ithaca Deerslayer, and modified extra barrel for everything else from rabbits and grouse to dove and mountain white rabbits. The straight down ejection made it good for lefties, too.



Craig Alderman is the Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation founder and executive director. Reach him at admin@quwf.net.

VT 'Operation Game Thief' helps catch poachers

Editor's Note: Poaching in every state hurts all sportsman who follow ethical and responsible rules in hunting and harvest of game. Be vigilant for those who do not, especially at night near prime hunting areas close to roads and access points. We all carry phones with very good cameras built in, get license numbers and any photos of the individuals. Every state has a poaching hot line, know it and keep it in your contacts on your phone. It is worth reminding everyone who goes afield.

Vermont State Game Wardens are asking Vermonters with information about fish and wildlife crimes to submit them through the Operation Game Thief program.

Operation Game Thief (OGT) is a joint nonprofit program sponsored by the Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and administered by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. The program provides a way for people to help protect the state's fish and wildlife by reporting law violators at 1-800-75ALERT (1-800-752-5378). The toll-free hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year to report violations. Rewards are paid for information leading to arrests.

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Continued from Page 3 — "Vermont is lucky to have dedicated wardens patrolling our fields, forests and waterways, but their numbers are limited," said Col. Justin Stedman. "Operation Game Thief is a great way for Vermonters to assist in reducing fish and wildlife violations by providing tips and information. We're asking people to call with details such as names and descriptions of perpetrators, and descriptions and plate numbers of vehicles whenever possible."



"Poachers steal the opportunity for others to legally hunt and fish and may create an unfairly negative impression of hunting and fishing with the general public," said Col. Stedman. "They may also target threatened, endangered or nongame species. We appreciate this partnership with the Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs to help us catch and prosecute poachers through Operation Game Thief."

Cherish private access to hunting lands

From the editor — 95% of all lands are in private ownership across this great country. In the west, larger tracts of land are government owned but not accessible by the majority of non-resident hunters because of high cost and location. Many are finding when they wait to make the call to gain access again, ownership has changed and the new owners do not share the hunting heritage desire. Spelled out, NO MORE HUNTING. The land in fact may be getting split up for development or bought for a “No Access” owner.

The U.S. lost over 15,000 farms in 2025, which takes millions upon millions of acres out of not only hunting lands but agricultural production, they fed us.

Most private lands in the mid-west, south and central plains are or were farm lands. Why the extreme loss now? The reasons vary, a major factor, ownership of legacy/generational farms are “aging out”. Many owners are in their late 60’s, 70s or 80s and the kids do not want the stress and financial pressure of farm life. It is hard work in the purest sense of the word and takes a love of the land to work a 365 24/7 job, along with constant prayers for fair weather with a hatred of pricing structures and politics in particular.

So, if you are lucky enough to have access to private lands, don’t just cherish the permission, get out there and help the landowner literally survive. Listen to him or her more than talk, hear what the true needs are and yes pull out the checkbook and then put sweat equity in big time. Do it more than once or twice a year. Extra hands on a farm or ranch are literally heartfelt. Fences need mending, gates need repair, the barn or buildings always need maintenance, tractors need TLC, most times avoided until it breaks and stops cold.

Our hunting industry continues to turn a very blind eye to this approaching “perfect storm”. PR Articles are all about new stuff, new widgets, new guns and heaven forbid we don’t have 12 new camo patterns for next season. NOT ONE ARTICLE even mentions preserving lands, farms and or ranches. Some states want programs to access private property but really show little help as they are not paid to work private land anything as they focus on their state lands. The incentives are little or none and so far the land owners are not pleased with how the land is left behind, subsequently canceling the offer.

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CWD detected in new Wyoming hunt area

Editor's Note: CWD continues to be a point we need to always pay attention to wherever you hunt. If you travel to hunt or hunt locally, always check the local regulations about CWD areas and how to handle your harvest. As rules and regulations try to restrict hunters, pay attention to what is being done to control the source, penned deer or high fence operations controlling deer.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has confirmed the presence of chronic wasting disease for the first time in Deer Hunt Area 156 in the Jackson Region.

Game and Fish confirmed the presence of CWD in an adult mule deer buck. Deer Hunt Area 156 is bordered by CWD-positive deer hunt areas 128 (positive in 2016), 148 (positive in 2021), 155 (positive in 2022) and Grand Teton National Park (positive in 2018).

To ensure the public is informed, Game and Fish announces when CWD is found in a new hunt area.

CWD is 100% fatal to infected deer, elk and moose. Continued monitoring of CWD over time is important to help Game and Fish understand the potential impacts of the disease, as well as evaluate future management actions. Hunters can assist in data collection by submitting samples for free CWD testing, especially when hunting in priority or mandatory CWD testing areas. More information on providing test samples can be found on the Game and Fish's CWD webpage.



The Next Chapter: Smith & Wesson acquires Savage Arms

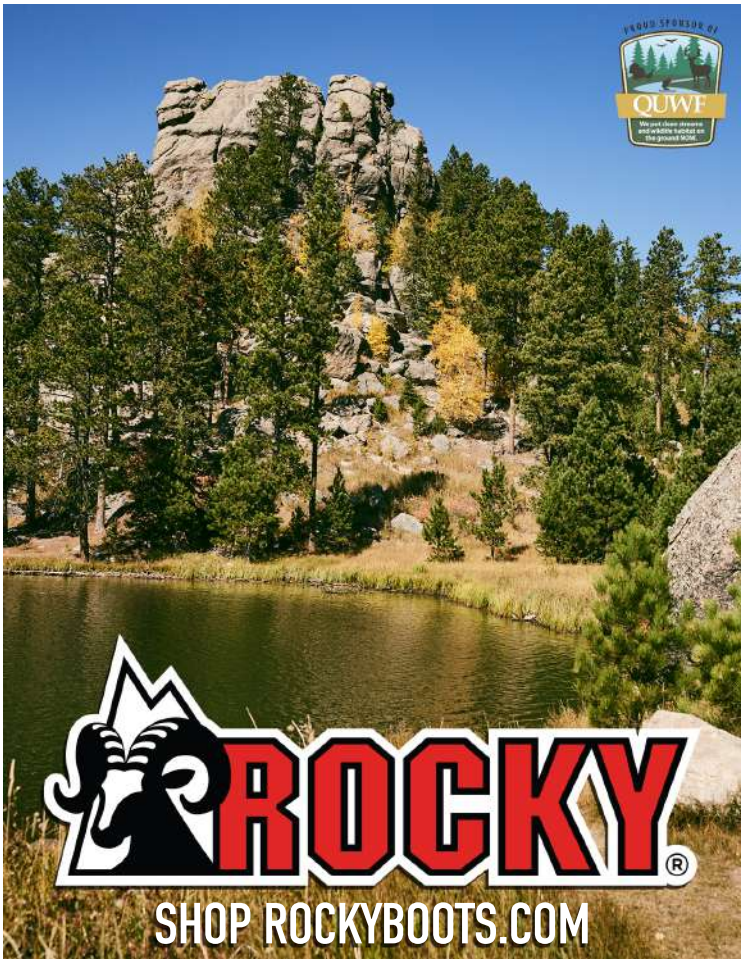
MARYVILLE, TN. – Smith & Wesson Brands, Inc. (NASDAQ Global Select: SWBI), a leader in firearm manufacturing and design, today announced it has acquired Savage Arms, Inc., the 132-year-old Westfield, Massachusetts-based maker of legendary rifles and shotguns, from JDH Holdings, for $160 million in a stock and cash transaction. The acquisition brings together two of the most recognized and respected names in American firearms manufacturing – uniting Smith & Wesson's strength in the handgun, revolver, and modern sporting rifle markets with Savage's reputation for accuracy, innovation, and craftsmanship in the hunting and long-gun categories. This creates a compelling platform to generate sustainable, long-term growth.

"The acquisition of Savage is transformative for Smith & Wesson and contributes to our objective of becoming the undisputed market leader in the firearm industry," said Mark Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer of Smith & Wesson Brands, Inc. "With this transaction, we have significantly expanded our presence in the hunting category, particularly in bolt-action rifles, which will enable us to better serve our customers. We are excited to combine Savage's expertise and scale in the hunting category with our proven capabilities in the handgun and semi-auto rifle markets. We believe our teams' core competencies will complement one another, translating into a stronger combined business".

The combined company will immediately rank as the largest commercial firearms manufacturer in the United States, with a full-line product offering spanning handguns, revolvers, rifles, shotguns, and suppressors. Savage brings roughly $160 million annual net sales and a dedicated, skilled workforce of approximately 500 to the Smith & Wesson family, strengthening the combined company's position at a moment when consumer demand for American-made firearms across every category remains strong.

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Continued from Page 7 — Savage and Smith & Wesson already sell through many of the same dealers, distributors, and big box retail partners, and are trusted by an overlapping base of hunters, competitive shooters, and everyday sportsmen and women across the country. That shared customer base – and the supply chain, vendor, and distribution relationships behind it – creates immediate go-to-market efficiency and unmatched scale.

Few combinations in this industry carry the historical weight of this one. Smith & Wesson was founded in 1852 in Massachusetts; Savage Arms was founded in 1894, also in Massachusetts. Both companies have spent well over a century as fixtures of American manufacturing, innovation, and craftsmanship – arming hunters, sportsmen, and protectors across multiple generations. This is more than a financial transaction; it's the union of two authentically American manufacturing stories, grounded in the same values of quality, durability, and performance that built this industry in the first place.

For more information, visit www.smith-wesson.com.

Temps are above average, but it's time to get ready for winter

From the editor — Though we in the midwest are experiencing a seriously above average temperature fall season, we know very shortly the thermostat will break and cold weather will roll in with gusto. Habitat work will slow to a crawl but we cannot forget the equipment to be serviced and repaired for next year's projects.

BTW, this is a great time of year to pull out the various owner's manuals and reread the instructions and maintenance items for all your equipment and some tools.

First up, the ATV or side by side pulled out of the spot in the barn or garage to be used for hunting season travels. Have it serviced and double check the battery. Why? The single largest "failure to hunt happily" is caused by a battery failure. We use NOCO chargers on all batteries, all the time.

All those 18V or 20V hand tools need to have the batteries brought in for the winter. I have another charging station set up inside to keep them from dropping below min charge, which means they will not take a charge without a shock.

All of your freezable chemicals, liquids, paints, glues, etc need to be brought in for the winter. For us here that is several loads. When temps get to -20 below here, and you forgot, they will freeze solid.

Check your antifreeze in vehicles, trucks, tractors, dozers etc. to ensure they are good down to -20 or below depending on your location. Check the glo-plug operation on applicable equipment to make sure all is working.

If you own a diesel truck or equipment, make sure you have anti-gel containers at the ready. Below 10 degrees you may find you need to add a shot and let it warm up. DEF freezes at about 10 so if you have equipment with a DEF tank, try to keep it inside or have heated tanks.

Our trucks also get extra weight over the rear tire wells, 180 pounds per tire (3 sand bags per wheel well) that helps a lot for good traction, which presumes you have good tread on the tires for winter driving.

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Continued from Page 8 — Put the ice scrapers and snow brushes back in the trucks and cars, you will need them.

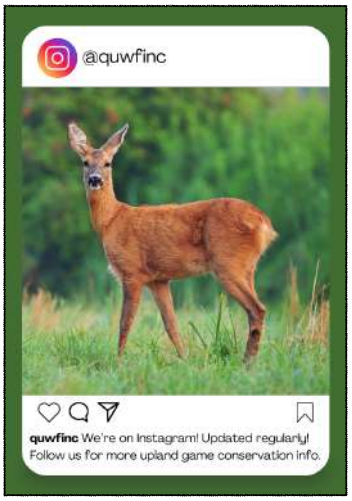
Update your emergency go bag with winter items like caps, gloves and replace the batteries in the LED flares and flashlight.

Take out the water if it is going to head south in temperatures, replace them with each trip if need be.

This is a good time to replace windshield wiper blades, which should be done yearly.

We install the special winter wiper blades which help in not icing up the blade itself. O'Reilly's auto parts will install them free!

Bottom line is being prepared and not be behind or waiting on a tow truck.



JOIN QUWF IN CHOOSING CONSERVATION AND OUTDOOR PRODUCTS



CAN'T TELL IF IT'S FROM CHINA?

LOOK AT THE BARCODE. IF THE FIRST THREE NUMBERS ARE 690, 691, OR 692, THE PRODUCT WAS MADE IN CHINA. IF THE UPC BEGINS WITH 00 THROUGH 09, IT'S USA MADE.

JOIN THE QUAIL AND UPLAND WILDLIFE FEDERATION, ITS CHAPTERS, AND ITS MEMBERS IN SUPPORTING AMERICAN WORKERS AND COMPANIES USING AMERICAN RAW MATERIALS BY PURCHASING THEIR PRODUCTS. NO TARIFFS!

Ruger Firearms: Rifles & pistols *QUWF Habitat Sponsor
Henry USA: Rifles & shotguns
Bear and Son Cutlery: All Bear and Son & Bear Ops products are built in Alabama
Easton Arrows: Hunting & target arrows
Hornady Ammunition: Rifle & pistol ammo, personal defense, personal safes
Liberty Safe Co: Gun safes & accessories
WeatherTech: Truck & cab foot liners, bed liners & vehicle accessories
Truax Inc: Grain drills & planters *QUWF Habitat Sponsor
CornholeGame.com: Game boards
InvaderConcepts.com: Chest holsters & accessories, made in Montana
Allegiance Flag Co: showallegiance.com
RotopaX: Mountable container systems
WoodMaxx: PTO & Skid Steer MX series wood chippers, American made with American parts, veteran founded & focused *QUWF Habitat Sponsor
TuffJug.com: Diesel and gas containers made in Idaho
VermontGlove.com: Made in the USA work gloves

North Dakota declares deer season change due to EHD

Editor's Note: EHD is affecting many states subject to the drastic drought conditions in the North, Midwest, Southwest and South. The midge fly is normally found in the areas of stagnant ponds and water supplies.

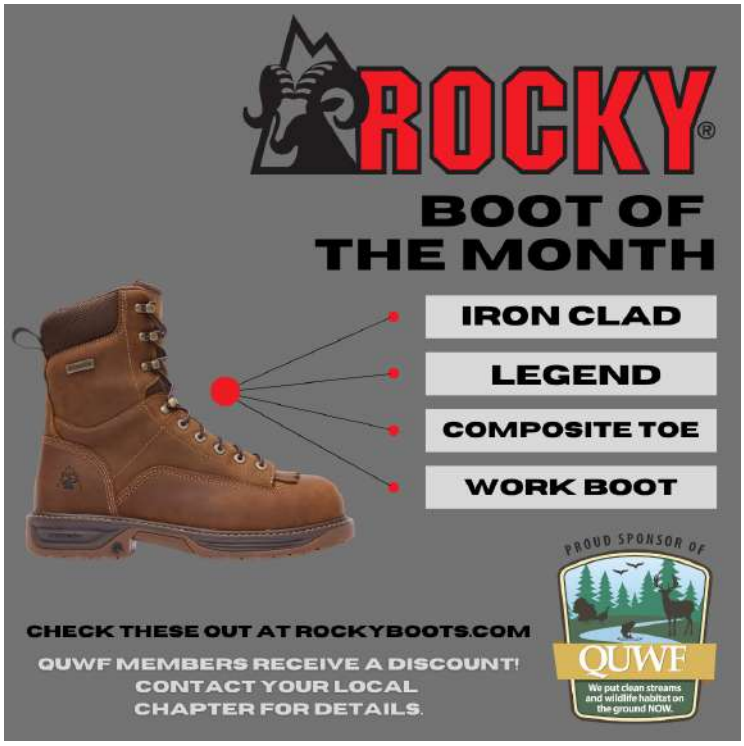
State officials announce several conservative strategies in southwestern and south-central North Dakota in response to a recent epizootic hemorrhagic disease outbreak in white-tailed deer to safeguard an already slow-to-rebound population.

"We know how important deer hunting season is to North Dakotans, and we're doing everything we can to make these changes as targeted as possible while protecting the long-term health of our deer herds," Gov. Armstrong said. "Our deer population is still recovering from the devastating losses in 2021, and this latest outbreak of EHD is another serious setback. Every doe that survives this season gives us a better chance to rebuild the herd. These are difficult decisions, but taking action now is the right thing to do for the long-term future of deer hunting in North Dakota."

Effective immediately, North Dakota Game and Fish Department announces the following deer season updates:

- The harvest of antlerless white-tailed deer in deer gun units 3C, 3E1, 3E2 and 3F2 shall be prohibited. This restriction includes all license types (youth, muzzleloader, deer gun, deer bow and gratis). Antlerless white-tailed deer gun licenses for those units are no longer valid and hunters who hold those licenses will automatically be refunded.
- Hunters with whitetail licenses (any antlered, any antlerless, antlered whitetail and antlerless whitetail) in units 2H, 2I, 3B3, 3C, 3D1, 3D2, 3E1,

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Continued from Page 10 — 3E2, 3F1, 3F2, 4D, 4E and 4F or hunters with a muzzleloader license, have the option of turning those licenses in for a refund and restored bonus points or donating the license fee and earning a bonus point, if applicable. Hunters who opt to turn in a license need to do so prior to the deer gun season and indicate which option.



The announcement follows reports of an ongoing EHD outbreak in several hunting units. Since early August, Game and Fish staff fielded nearly 160 reports from landowners, hunters and others that tallied nearly 350 mortalities of dead ungulate species, mostly white-tailed deer.

Hunters are encouraged to view the EHD mortality map on the Game and Fish website before deciding whether or not to turn in a license. Additional units beyond where EHD has been detected so far are eligible for returns to account for any reports that come in between now and the deer gun season. EHD can be inconsistent within a deer gun unit, therefore it may be best to check with local landowners or contacts.

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Continued from Page 11 — The last severe EHD outbreak in North Dakota was 2021 and was said to be on par with the worst that wildlife biologists had experienced in terms of EHD attributed mortality.

"While the number of reports received and mortality observed this year are considerably less than in 2021, it's concerning, especially given how few deer were on the landscape to start this year compared to then," said Jeb Williams, Game and Fish director.

EHD is a naturally occurring virus spread by biting midges that is often fatal to whitetails, and less commonly to mule deer, pronghorn and elk. EHD is no newcomer to the landscape as Game and Fish officials reported the state's first documented outbreak in 1962.

QUWF to expand YouTube video series with new downloads

As we continue to roll out videos focused on the private land owner, with content on habitat work, maintaining the land and general information, each new video will have a PDF download available that covers the script and video.

The PDF will have all the video information and the list of items used in the video with sources (as best we can). Unlike other “content creators” of small farms and homesteads, we search for American made products to show and only recommend what we buy and use, which includes breaking and repairs.

These videos are featured under the Cedar Oak Farm / Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation channel. Please like and share so we can expand our reach and help others work their lands, streams and forests.



Avian influenza detected in multiple Indiana counties

Editor's Note: Unfortunately, avian influenza is showing its ugly head again. Though this warning is for Indiana, any state on the flyways is vulnerable. Including poultry farms and back yard chicken coops. When found all individuals would be disposed to try and control the spread. Be observant and look for the signs.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has confirmed highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) as the cause of death for multiple geese in Hamilton County. Additionally, multiple blue-wing teal in Greene County were confirmed to have HPAI through surveillance conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services and DNR Division of Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves.

If you find wild waterfowl or raptors that are dead for no obvious reason or showing any of the following signs of illness, report it online at on.IN.gov/sickwildlife. Signs of HPAI in waterfowl and raptors include:

- Sudden death
- Neurological impairment (e.g., lack of coordination, swimming or walking in circles, tremors, twisted neck)
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Swelling of the head, neck, and eyes
- Nasal discharge, cough, sneezing, lack of coordination, and diarrhea

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Carl Higbie: Official QUWF Voice of Veterans, Conservation, and Truth in News on NEWSMAX



Tune into Carl Higbie's Frontline show weekdays on NEWSMAX and garner factual news on all the topics we as veterans, citizens, landowners, hunters, conservationists, and Second Amendment advocates need to know and understand. He is honest, upfront, and truly entertaining. Tune in at 6 p.m. EST, 5 p.m. CST on NEWSMAX. Be there; we are!

QUWF welcomes
All veterans. All the time.

The Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation was formed to focus on and help veteran landowners,

veteran sportsmen, and all veterans who are interested in the great outdoors.

QUWF staff will help all veterans find and get benefit assistance through the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) or other resources.

You are NOT alone.

Veterans who served our country honorably deserve and have earned the right now to enjoy its freedoms and receive the support and benefits they deserve.

We are the ONLY VETERAN FORMED and managed national wildlife and conservation organization in the U.S. QUWF and our chapters support veteran businesses as well. Let us know.

For all your chapter needs, please call Leslie Casanova direct at Sportsman Insurance Agency at 1-800-925-7767.

Continued from Page 13 — According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the public health risk for HPAI is low. *However, it is possible for humans to contract the disease.* Members of the public should avoid contact with sick waterfowl and other sick wildlife whenever possible. If a carcass must be handled, wear disposable gloves and a mask, double-bag the carcass, and place it in the trash. Wash hands with soap and warm water immediately afterward.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommends that waterfowl hunters wear protective clothing such as face masks and gloves to process birds, and to do so in a well-ventilated area or outdoors. Meat harvested from waterfowl should be cooked to an internal temperature of 165°F before consumption.

Please contact the Indiana Department of Health if you develop any of the following symptoms after touching or handling sick or dead waterfowl: fever, chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, sneezing, shortness of breath, eye irritation or redness, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headaches, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, or rash. Indiana's Health Department can be reached at 317-233-7125 during regular business hours, or at 317-233-1325 after hours. Follow the prompts in the automated menu to speak to the epidemiologist on call.

DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Some domestic and agricultural animals are also known to be susceptible to HPAI, including poultry, cattle, and cats. If you have these animals at home, be sure to process any harvested waterfowl away from your animals and practice good biosecurity measures.

For more information on HPAI and to track suspected cases across the state, visit on.IN.gov/avian-flu.

For more information about poultry biosecurity measures, visit aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/defend-the-flock.

If you see any of your poultry acting sick or find any dead, please report it to the Board of Animal Health at IN.gov/boah/species-information/avianbirds/small-flock-and-exhibition-poultry/sick-andor-dead-poultry-questionnaire/.



Notes from the Road:

The wall of worry exists even in wildlife management

By Nick Prough — If I added up all the different “obstacles” and things that landowners continuously worry about week after week and year after year when they are trying to improve their wildlife habitat or trying to increase their wildlife population trends on their lands, then I would often need a whole lot more than two hands to count them on. In fact, in most years I would probably need a calculator.

Wildlife management is not different from many other aspects of tasks we try to manage in our lives — our finances, our jobs, our educations, our kids, our relationships, our home/auto repairs, our retirements, our health, our insurance, and so on and so on. There are many things that arise each and every year that can become a direct or indirect obstacle to achieving our goals we have set for the property we own or are managing.

In financial management they often talk about the “wall of worry” and how there are so many items on the wall during certain years that the wall becomes beyond overwhelming to even begin to tackle and no-matter what comes off the wall, two more things generally replace it.

Well, in wildlife management in some years or sets of a couple years as it often occurs, that same wall of worry can become ominous itself. I heard a few years ago on the news a news anchor say, “How can we have a 100-year flood three years in a row?”

That can be hard to comprehend for many reasons to many of us, and although science can explain it in detail (not enough space in this column), it is rather hard to often try to overcome major weather extremes that occur back-to-back or other major factors beyond your control when you are trying to work on long term farm management or habitat management on a specific tract of ground, especially when several of those factors occur simultaneously or in concurrent years.

The “wall of worry” can exist and even grow over a couple years with even exact opposite things to worry about occurring during that short amount of time, and this has definitely been seen before and will be again.

For example, going from extreme drought to intense flooding all in the matter of one to two years-time period.

Here are just a few off the top of my head the many wall of worry candidates that landowners have called me about the past few years: extreme drought, extreme floods, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD), tick bourne illnesses, invasive species, more Invasive species, overharvest, underharvest, overgrazing, undergrazing, nest predators, nesting issues, adjoining property management, erosion, tree diseases, timber stolen, right of way issues, log jams, too many of a species, to few of a species, the list as you can see goes on and on, and that is by no means a complete list just a three-minute brainstorm of just a few of the calls on the ever growing wildlife management wall of worry.

All of these concerns have a place on specific landowner’s wall of worries I am certain in their minds, and although all of them probably won’t occur on any one tract at the same years-time period if even a few of those occur every few years it can feel to a landowner and land manager that they are in the process of taking two steps forward and two steps back or walking in circles for many years without much true measurable gain in your long-term goals.

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Continued from Page 16 — As a biologist and land manager myself for now well over three decades, I can fully understand the wall of worry, and yes, honestly, I have my own wall of worry as well for many different landowners and habitat projects ongoing each and every year. However, I have learned over many years of doing this that just as in life we can only control the things we can control, the rest is truly out of our hands and yes out of our control, so to worry about those is just a futile process that gets us nowhere.

To quote a patient of a doctor landowner I know, his patient once said to him, “I even worry about worrying these days.” So, as we begin to start to look towards yet another brand-new year and yet another item or two, we think has been added to our wall of worry keep this one point in mind. One of the biggest truly justified worries I have for landowners and land managers these days is that they worry so much about the obstacles to doing some habitat work that they do nothing at all instead.

I see this on so many tracts of land over the years where almost nothing has been done for 10-20 years and the results then usually are something that someone will definitely have to worry about for many years to come. That I truly believe is the biggest worry we have in wild management to overcome in the next decade.

If we tackle the things we can work on and keep on keeping on with our wildlife habitat management plan we have for our long- term goals on the landscape, then the remaining things on our current wall of worry with eventually cancel one another out and leave us with some great looking habitat we have helped create in the process.

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Continued from Page 17 — Keep up all the great work out there that each of you, your landowners, your chapters and conservation partners are doing on crucial wildlife habitat projects, youth field day events, as well as all your other conservation outreach efforts, you are working on in your local communities each and every day, as you are definitely ... **"Making a Difference for Wildlife One Acre at a Time!"**



Nick Prough is the QUWF chief wildlife biologist and wildlife partnership coordinator. He can be reached at chiefbiologist@quwf.net.

Hunters encouraged to have deer tested for CWD

Editor's Note: We have many members who travel to North and South Dakota for big game hunting, we will include this notice.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department will continue its hunter-harvested surveillance program during the 2026 hunting season by sampling deer for chronic wasting disease from select units in the southwestern portion of the state.

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Continued from Page 18 — CWD is a slow-moving brain disease of deer, moose and elk that can cause population-level impacts under high infection rates.

Samples will be tested from deer taken from units 2J1, 3B3, 3C, 3D1, 3D2, 3E1, 3E2, 3F1, 3F2, 4D, 4E and 4F. Outside of this area, hunters can still have their animal tested by taking it to a Game and Fish district office, deer head collection site or by using a self-sampling kit.



Hunters are encouraged to drop off harvested deer heads at collection locations listed on the department's website at gf.nd.gov.

Fawns and head-shot deer cannot be tested. Hunters wishing to keep the heads can bring them to a Game and Fish district office during business hours to have them sampled.

Self-sampling kits, can be requested on the department's website or at district offices for hunters who wish to have their deer tested but are unable to drop the head at a collection site. The do-it-yourself kit allows hunters to remove the lymph nodes and ship them to the department's wildlife health lab for testing.

Results can be expected within four weeks and will be sent to your Game and Fish My Account inbox.

Hunters are also reminded that carcass disposal requirements apply statewide. The entire carcass can be transported outside of the gun unit where it was harvested, but the carcass waste (material left after processing) must be disposed of via landfill or waste management provider.

This requirement does not apply to heads dropped at CWD collection sites, or lymph nodes submitted for CWD surveillance.



NASGW names Hornady manufacturer of year

Hornady® has been recognized as Ammunition Manufacturer of the Year by the National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers (NASGW) for the 4th consecutive year.

Hornady received the award on October 13, 2026, at the Annual Appreciation and Caliber Awards during the association's NASGW Expo and Annual Meeting.



"Recognition from the NASGW as Ammunition Manufacturer of the Year means a great deal to us," said Jason Hornady, Hornady Vice President. "We firmly believe in the two-step distribution model and appreciate the essential role our wholesale partners play in getting our products into customers' hands.

“We're grateful for the trust our partners place in Hornady, and we'll keep working to earn it through our innovative products and outstanding customer service," he added.

Hornady ammunition is built to provide shooters and hunters with the highest performance available on the market. The employees and family management group of Hornady take great pride in leading the industry in ammunition development and advancement.

Products such as 7mm PRC, 22 ARC, Precision Hunter, Hornady Match, and A-Tip Match bullets have revolutionized the shooting sports and helped to drive the industry.

Founded in 1949, Hornady® Manufacturing Company is a family-owned business headquartered in Grand Island, Nebraska. Proudly manufacturing products that are made in the USA, Hornady® Manufacturing is a world leader in bullet, ammunition, reloading tool, accessory and security product design and manufacturing.

For further information regarding Hornady® products, visit the company web site at http://hornady.com.



ID hunters should allow 10 days for online tags



Ordering online is a convenient way to buy your hunting/fishing licenses and permits, but sportsmen and women, remember to allow time for your products to be mailed before you head out this fall. Fish and Game recommends allowing **10 business days** for hunting tags to arrive. (Note: The items are processed and mailed from outside of Idaho). Licenses can be printed at home immediately after purchase, or synced to your GoOutdoorsIdaho mobile app.

For any hunters that might've missed the boat, don't fret. Hunters can still come in to any Fish and Game office or license vendor to purchase their tag and carry it with them out the door.





VTF&W website helps with deer processing

Editor's Note: These free videos are worth watching for anyone going afield and those who like to process their own harvest. Make sure you have a GOOD set of knives, not the box store specials if you are serious about processing and keep them sharp.

Vermont is one of the most rural states in the country, and Vermonters have a proud heritage of living close to the land. Hunting is highly regulated and provides a way to connect with the land, connect with nature and connect with a healthy, sustainable food source that is rooted in Vermont.



Making the most of the meals provided by deer taken in hunting seasons starts with processing them quickly and correctly which is why the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has three online videos demonstrating how to process deer. Finding the videos is easy on the Fish and Wildlife website. Click on "Hunt" and then White-tailed Deer, Tips and Techniques, and then Processing Your Deer.

The educational videos are titled Field Dressing a Deer, Skinning a Deer and Butchering a Deer.

"Correctly processing game can make a big difference in the taste of the meat," said Hunter Education Program Coordinator Nicole Meier with the department. "Taking the time to do it correctly assures that you and your family will have many enjoyable meals ahead."

Yadkin Valley QUWF establishes quail cooperative

From the editor — One of the greatest accomplishments QUWF, our chapters and members can achieve is when all the parts come together to assist multiple landowners with the restoration of native wild quail habitat and population recovery. Yadkin Valley has jumped in the challenge with both feet.

"This is what we focus on, a recovery over many landowners with specific plans and guidance for habitat and population recovery of many upland species with the wild quail. The efforts of the chapter in forming the group, starting the coop, beginning planning and on the ground work is the ultimate conservation effort" states Nick Prough, Chief Wildlife Biologist for QUWF and a habitat planner for the chapter and coop landowners.

"We are proud of our chapter beginning this large process and helping preserve the wild quail and other species at the same time.

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Continued from Page 22 — "With Nick's assistance we are reaching out for more grants to assist the landowners. Further, the substantial donation by the North Carolina QUWF State Council to help the entire project, is outstanding" reflects Josh Powell, chapter chair.

The Coop will join the several others across the country who band landowners together for a common wildlife goal. Existing QUWF Coops are; The Grouse Coop in Central Missouri, The Niangua Wildlife Coop in the Ozarks of Missouri, The Oregon Coop near Spray Or., the NY Grouse Coop near Holcott Center.

Be alert when driving to avoid deer on roadways

Editor's Note: We issue this warning every year, be alert for deer crossing at all times of the day and night in every state they are present. The Rut is the most active time of year for deer, and attention to what is in or on the road at times never enters their mind if a buck is chasing a doe. We have installed bright lights directed 45 degrees from center on each side of the truck that illuminates the ditches and sides of the road. Eyes do show up. However, make sure you turn off the left road side light for oncoming cars.

Deer become more active during the autumn breeding season, raising the risk of deer-vehicle collisions on roadways. Drivers are cautioned to be alert to the possibility, especially around dawn and dusk. (Photo by Jeffrey Hamilton/Unsplash CC0)

Drivers should be especially alert as they travel Oklahoma's roads over the coming weeks. This is because autumn deer behavior combined with peak traveling times for motorists are increasing the risk for vehicle-deer collisions.



"From mid-October and through November, Oklahoma bucks become more active chasing does during the rut (breeding season), and that creates more instances of fast-moving, unpredictable deer running across highways," said Micah Holmes, communication and education chief with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

"Drivers who see a deer cross the road in front of them should be aware that a buck may be running right behind and jump into the road without warning."

Also, the shift away from Daylight Saving Time on Nov. 1 will place more people behind the wheel during the dawn and dusk periods, which are when deer tend to be most active.

A few tips to increase driving safety during this period are to reduce speed, increase following distance from other cars, and visually scan from ditch to ditch, especially during low-light periods and where brush or trees closely approach the road.

Drivers are urged not to swerve to avoid a deer, because leaving your driving lane could cause a collision with another vehicle or a roadside hazard such as a utility pole, tree or culvert. Experts say the best response is to continue straight ahead and brake in a safe manner.

When a deer is killed on the roadway, the driver or anyone else may salvage the animal for its meat, provided they have the proper permissions.

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Continued from Page 23 — Since deer are a regulated game animal, anyone harvesting a deer outside of normal hunting regulations must first obtain approval from law enforcement.

Anyone who removes any portion of the meat or the head or antlers of a deer without permission could be charged with illegal possession of wildlife parts. Always call a local game warden or other law enforcement officer to ask about salvaging the animal.

Here's your sign!



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as a good bourbon.





THE HABITAT GUIDE

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