

(a) In addition to the regular hunter's license, a person hunting deer in the State first shall obtain a deer stamp.

(b) A deer stamp is not required of the following:

(1) The owner or tenant of farmland, his spouse and children, or the spouse of any child who resides on the farmland. A tenant is a person holding land under a lease, or a sharecropper who resides in a dwelling on the land, but it does not include any employee of the owner or tenant; and

(2) Any resident serving in the Armed Forces of the United States while on leave in the State, during his leave period, if, while hunting, he possesses a copy of his official leave order.

(c) A person may obtain a deer stamp for a fee of \$5.50. In addition to a deer stamp, a person hunting deer during the bow hunting season shall obtain a special bow hunting deer stamp for a fee of \$1.25. A person hunting deer with a muzzle loader during the muzzle loader deer season shall obtain a special black powder deer stamp for a fee of \$1.25. A person may obtain the stamps from the clerk of the circuit court of any county or from any person designated by the Department. A resident 65 years of age or over shall pay \$1 for a deer stamp. A resident 65 years of age or over shall pay 50 cents for a special deer stamp. The issuing clerk or person designated shall retain the sum of 25 cents as compensation for issuing each stamp. The balance of the fee is paid over and accounted for in the same manner as hunter's licenses. The Department shall use the revenue accruing from the sale of special stamps under this subsection to:

(1) Establish an effective and efficient deer checking system during the muzzle loader and bow hunting deer season;

(2) Acquire additional hunter access during the muzzle loader and bow hunting season; and

(3) Police hunting lands during the muzzle loader and bow hunting season.

(d) The court clerk or designated person shall write or stamp the date of issuance on the face of every deer stamp issued pursuant to this section. Each stamp shall be affixed adhesively to the back of the regular season hunter's license of the person to whom the stamp is issued. The recipient shall sign the stamp in ink.

[(e) Unless expressly exempted under this section, the residents of any county in this State shall receive first consideration for 75 percent of the antlerless deer permits to hunt in the county of residence, and a State resident shall receive first consideration for this permit over any nonresident of the State for the remainder of the permits to be issued.]