City of Fort Dodge
Incentive License/Tag AKA "Buck Tag"

2025 - 2026 Season

In an effort to incentivize the Urban Controlled Bow Hunt Program, the Fort Dodge City Council has implemented a "Earn a Buck Program". This is intended to increase harvests and help to reduce deer numbers within the Urban Deer Management Zone.

ELIGIBILITY:
- All hunters participating in the Fort Dodge Urban Controlled Bow Hunt Program are eligible for a buck incentive license/tag. To earn a buck tag, hunters must harvest three does, verified through the official process and confirmed in the IDNR system. This total can be achieved over multiple hunting seasons.
- Once a buck tag is issued, it must be used within the current hunting season and cannot be carried over to the next season. However, qualifying does can carry over to the next season and count toward obtaining a buck tag.
- Pooling, sharing, or using another hunter's verified harvest is prohibited. Hunters can only receive credit for their own harvests.
- To verify a doe, the hunter must remove 1.5" to 2" from either the left or right ear in the presence of the official verifying the harvest. If any ear part is removed before the doe has been checked, it will not count toward the hunter's total.

It is the responsibility of the hunter to follow all state and local laws, rules, and regulations to harvest deer and ensure they are fully eligible for the buck incentive license/tag.

PROCESS:
- The Fort Dodge Police Department will maintain an "Antlerless Deer Harvest Confirmation Report" for each hunter. After a hunter has harvested three does through the verification process, the Police Department will receive confirmation from the IDNR. Once confirmed, the Police Department will notify the IDNR to issue the Buck Tag in the IDNR system for that hunter.
- The incentive buck license/tag can only be used within the Fort Dodge Urban Deer Management Zone during the following hunting season. Buck tags are valid for one full season only. Harvesting a buck must comply with all requirements of the Urban Controlled Bow Hunt program and follow all IDNR processes.