



Incentive License / Tag a.k.a. “Buck Tag”

2024-2025 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 who participate in the Fort Dodge Urban Controlled Bow Hunt Program will be eligible for a buck incentive license / tag. To obtain buck incentive licenses / tags, hunter’s will be required three does harvested through the verification process AND confirmed through the IDNR system; this total can occur over multiple hunting seasons. Once a buck tag is obtained it must be used in the current hunting season. Buck tags will not carry over to the next season. Qualifying does can be carried over to next season to count toward obtaining a buck tag. Pooling, sharing, or utilizing another hunter’s verified harvest will not be permitted. Hunter’s may only receive and use credit for their own harvests. For a doe to be verified, a hunter will be required to remove 1.5” – 2” off either the left or right ear of the doe in the presence of the official verifying the harvest. If a part of the ear is removed before it has been checked in, the doe will NOT be counted towards 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 keep the “Antlerless Deer Harvest Confirmation Report” by hunter’s name. Once a hunter has harvested three does through the verification process, the Police Department will receive confirmation from IDNR. Once confirmed, Fort Dodge Police Department will notify IDNR of the incentive and the Buck Tag will be issued in the IDNR system; this will be done individually for each hunter. The incentive buck license / tag can only be used within the Fort Dodge Urban Deer Management Zone the following hunting season. Buck Tags are only good for one complete season. The harvesting of a buck must follow all the same requirements of the Urban Controlled Bow Hunt program and all IDNR processes.

2024-2025 SEASON ONLY:

All hunters that harvested three (3) deer in the 2023-2024 season will be eligible for an Incentive license/tag at the beginning of the 2024-2025 season and will need to harvest three (3) more does to be eligible for an Incentive license/tag at the beginning of 2025-2026 season. Hunters new to the program this year or returning hunters from last season who did not harvest three (3) does will be eligible for a **one-time** Incentive license/tag 2024-2025 season if they harvest up to three (3) does 2024-2025 season. At the end of 2024-2025 season only hunters that have three (3) harvested does that have NOT been applied towards an Incentive license/tag will be eligible for an Incentive license/tag at the beginning of 2025-2026 season.

Example: New hunter to the 2024-2025 season, harvest three (3) does, CAN (but doesn't have to) obtain an Incentive license/tag that MUST be used 2024-2025 season. To be eligible for an Incentive license/tag in the 2025-2026 season three (3) more does must be harvested.

Returning hunter from last season who harvested two (2) does last year. Harvest one more doe this year, obtain Incentive license/tag to be used this year. Harvest three (3) more does 2024-2025 season to apply towards 2025-2026 season Incentive license/tag.