

# Title 08 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## Subtitle 03 WILDLIFE

### .04 Forest Wildlife

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §§10-205 and 10-415, Annotated Code of Maryland

#### .03 Tagging and Reporting Deer and Wild Turkey.

##### A. Tagging.

(1) A game field tag, *including the hunter's name, DNR ID number, and the deer or turkey's date and county of harvest*, serves to identify the hunter who has killed a deer or turkey.

(2) [The] A big game harvest record of *deer and turkey harvested by a hunter*, serves to record a hunter's kill. *The big game harvest record shall:*

(a) *Include, for each deer or turkey killed, the species, sex, date and county of harvest, weapon class and confirmation number attained from the Department at the time of reporting in accordance with §B; and*

(b) *Be in the hunter's possession while deer or turkey hunting*

(3) Game field tags and big game harvest records [are] *may be provided by the Department* when purchasing a Maryland hunting license [or], *may be obtained from any DNR sport license agent or created by the hunter.*

[(4) Any person killing a deer or turkey shall:

(a) *Attach a game field tag completed in ink to the head of the deer or leg of the turkey; and*

(b) *Record in ink the species, date, county of harvest, sex, and weapon class on the hunter's big game harvest record before removing the carcass from the place of the kill.*

(5) The completed game field tag shall remain attached to the deer or turkey until the carcass is either:

(a) *Processed by the hunter for consumption;*

(b) *Disposed of by a processing facility; or*

(c) *Left with a taxidermist.]*

(4) *A hunter's possession of an electronic record of the confirmation number acquired in accordance with §B of this regulation may substitute for the game field tag or big game harvest record. An electronic record may be presented:*

(a) *By accessing the hunter's DNR license system account by a cell phone, tablet or other electronic device;*

*or*

(b) *As a digital copy of a completed big game harvest record.*

(5) *A game field tag shall be attached to the deer or turkey before removing it from the place of kill.*

(6) *If a confirmation number has been generated, attaching a game field tag is not required while the deer or turkey remains in the hunter's possession.*

(7) *When leaving a deer or turkey unattended or in the possession of another person, the deer or turkey shall be tagged with:*

(a) *A game field tag as described in §A(1) of this regulation, if the deer or turkey has not been reported to the Department; or*

(b) *A tag that includes the hunter's name and the confirmation number provided by the Department if the deer or turkey has already been reported to the Department.*

(8) *The tag required under §A(7) of this regulation shall remain attached to the deer or turkey until the carcass is either:*

(a) *Processed for consumption;*

(b) *Disposed of by a processing facility; or*

(c) *Left with a taxidermist.*

##### B. Harvest Reporting.

(1) An individual killing a deer or turkey shall report the kill to the Department by calling a designated toll-free number, by registering the kill on the Internet, or as designated on the Department's website.

(2) The harvest of a deer or turkey shall be reported not later than 24 hours after the deer or turkey [is field tagged] *was taken into possession by the hunter. Deer must be reported before the head or hide is removed. Turkeys must be reported before being processed for consumption.*

(3) After [registering] *reporting* the kill, the hunter will receive a confirmation number *from the Department* that shall be recorded in ink on the big game harvest record [adjacent to the information required by §A(4)(b) of this regulation] *or shall be in the hunter's possession as an electronic record in accordance with §A(4) of this regulation.*

C. [If a deer or wild turkey has been killed lawfully by a hunter who does not possess a hunter's license and is not supplied with a deer or turkey game field tag, that person immediately shall make and attach a tag to the carcass as described in §A of this regulation. The tag shall be legible and bear the name and address of the hunter, the last four digits of the hunter's social security number, the zip code, the date, and county in which the deer or turkey was killed. The big game harvest record shall be completed and a confirmation number obtained as provided for in §§A and B of

this regulation.] *The requirements of this regulation apply to all hunters including those hunters who are exempt from the hunting license requirements of Natural Resources Article §10-301, Annotated Code of Maryland.*

D. A deer or turkey not tagged as required by this regulation *and* found in the possession of any person [shall] *may* be confiscated by any [Natural Resources Police Officer] *authorized representative of the Department* and shall be disposed of as the Director may deem advisable for the best interest of the State.

E. (text unchanged)