

Kansas Deer Hunting--1966

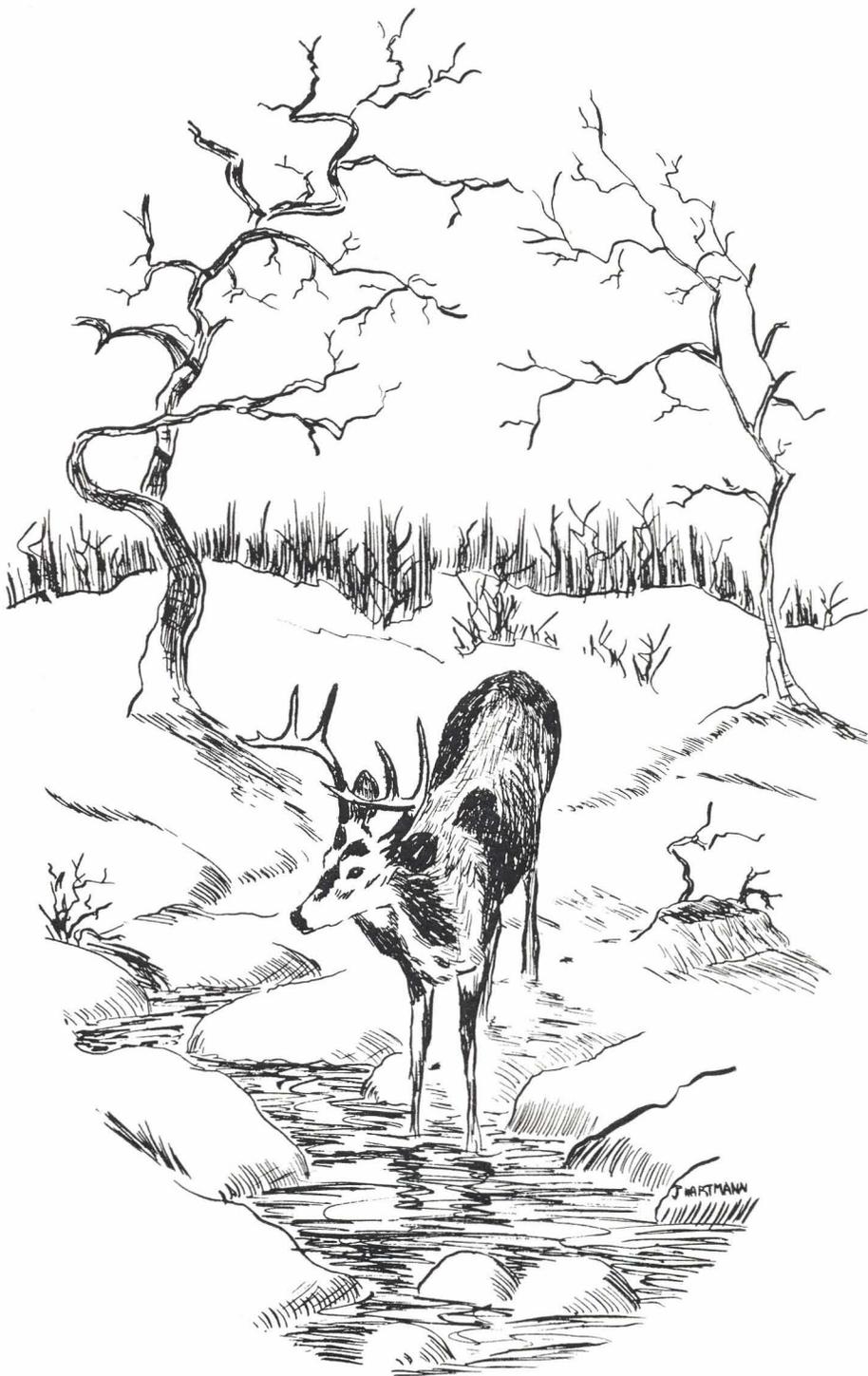
By **BILL PEABODY**
Deer Project Leader

All across the state of Kansas archers have taken to the autumn woods in search of the wary buckskin. October 1 ushered in the beginning of a 70-day bow and arrow season that runs until December 9. Immediately following the bowmen in the field on the 10th will be about 5,800 firearms hunters who have only five days in which to bag a deer. Arrows, bullets, and buckskin—a mixture that spells fun and excitement for all who have chosen to partake of this magic elixir.

There is no limit on the number of archery permits and one permit is good statewide. Bowmen have until December 1 to apply with resident landowners and/or tenants residing on rural agricultural land plunking down \$5, while all other residents must pay \$10 for a permit which entitles each archer to one deer of either sex—provided of course, that he is successful.

During the 46-day archery season in 1965, 1,151 archers harvested 164 deer for a very good hunter success figure of 14 percent. Successful bowmen had their best luck in November when 51 percent of the deer were bagged. A surprising 54 percent of all archers said they got shots at deer, while only 166 permittees did not see a deer. Bow weights in the 41 to 55 pounds-pull range were most popular with bows in the 45 and 50-pound class getting most of the use. The "stand" or blind method of hunting proved to be a winner as more hunters bagged their deer using this technique than were taken by all other methods.

With few restrictions and the entire state open to bow hunting, archers should have an excellent opportunity to bag one of the state's estimated 42,000 deer. Big, healthy animals are the rule and it would surprise no one if some records were broken. Legal



equipment must include a long bow of not less than 35 pounds pull and arrows with broadhead points that should be honed to a *razor sharp edge* for maximum effectiveness. A dull broadhead could cost you that trophy buck—so keep 'em sharp!

The elusive whitetail is a creature which inhabits the wooded streams and draws (see map) of the eastern two-thirds of the state while the mule deer will be the most likely target in the area west of Phillips County.

A hunting license does not give a hunter the right to enter on private land. Hunters should always remember that they are the guests of the landowner and should conduct themselves accordingly. Many "No Hunting" signs have been posted because a few hunters did not respect the rights of the landowner. A little respect may be all it will take to change those "No Hunting" signs to those that will read "Hunting By Permission Only."

The "Indian Summer" days of autumn give way to the chilling frosts of mid-December. The possibility of a tracking snow and the grouping of a .30-06 at 200 yards using a 150 grain bullet are topics of conversation. Should I wait for that trophy buck to come along or take the first legal deer I see? Would it be better to take a "stand" along a deer trail or try my luck at stalking?

These are just a sample of the questions that almost 6,000 firearms deer hunters will be asking themselves and others as they take to the "deer country" on December 10.

The second gun season in modern times promises to raise the hunting fever of successful permittees in one of 13 deer management units open to firearms hunting. A total of 6,000 permits were authorized with approximately 5,800 being issued. The five-day season from December 10 through 14, does not give the hunter much time to bag a deer, but with almost 32,000 animals in the units open to gunning, success should be relatively good.

The Sunflower State is host to populations of both white-tailed and mule deer. White-tailed deer are considered by many the wariest and most

Summary by Deer Management Unit

Management unit	Estimated deer population	Permits authorized	Type of season (legal target)
1—High Plains	2,300	400	Bucks only.
2—Smoky Hill	780	150	Bucks only.
3—Kirwin-Webster	3,800	750	Bucks only; any deer on last day.
4—Kanopolis	500	100	Bucks only.
5—Solomon	2,900	500	Bucks only; any deer on last day.
6—Republican	3,550	700	Bucks only; any deer on last day.
7—Tuttle Creek	4,300	800	Bucks only; any deer on last day.
8—Missouri River	3,700	700	Any deer.
9—Kaw	4,450	800	Any deer.
10—Marais des Cygnes	300	125	Any deer.
11—Neosho	400	250	Any deer.
12—Chautauqua Hills	4,500	600	Any deer.
13—Lower Arkansas	450	125	Any deer.
Totals	31,930	6,000	

difficult to bag of any North American big game. This speed jockey of the thickets has an acute sense of hearing and smell. Being color blind, he cannot detect that hat or jacket of red or bright orange, but make the slightest movement and he is off like a flash. The whitetail deer is a creature of habit. The hunter who learns these habits and is careful about the wind and makes little noise, has the best chance of bringing home the venison.

Mule deer, on the other hand, could be considered "stupid" in comparison to the graceful white-tail. The "muley" is a pogo stick contortionist inhabiting western Kansas' streams and rolling uplands—often found many miles from the nearest timber. This more open-ranging habit, coupled with the effective and flat shooting .30-06, .270, .243, and .308 rifles provides hunters with unlimited opportunities to bag their deer. It is not unusual for a mule deer to speed away upon being alarmed by a hunter, only to stop and turn around facing his pursuer within easy rifle range. This deadly habit has been the demise of many fine bucks.

The smart hunter begins planning his hunt several weeks before the season opens. If possible, visit the intended hunting area and look for deer trails linking feeding areas, watering spots, shelter and bedding

areas. A good sign of deer use is the tell-tale marks left on limber saplings by bucks testing their strength or removing the velvety covering on their antlers. Select a stand where you can get a broadside view of the deer trail. The wind must be in your favor or you can forget all about downing that big one you told the wife you'd bring home.

The successful stalker observes several rules:* (1) Never step on anything you can step over. (2) Do not move continuously. Take several steps, stop, look, and listen. (3) Train your eyes to see detail. In the vertical scheme of Mother Nature, look for horizontal lines. (4) Hunt into or across the wind. (5) Whenever possible walk along old logging roads or game and cattle trails. (6) Avoid all unnecessary movements. Take short steps. (7) When working up on a deer, move when it moves—and watch the tail. A deer will usually "wag" its tail prior to looking up and when it is assured that all is well. (8) Don't hurry—the successful stalker may move only a couple hundred feet in an hour.

A total of 1,340 deer were harvested by 3,615 hunters in 1965 for a 37 percent hunter success. Whitetails accounted for 62 percent of the bag and mule deer the remaining 38 percent.

* (Hints: Taken from "The Art of Still Hunting" by Fred Bear.)

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Hunter selectivity was quite evident even though antlerless deer were legal targets throughout the season in six (6) deer management units, and were legal on the last day to previously unsuccessful hunters in three (3) other units. Bucks made up 80 percent of the harvest and does 20 percent.

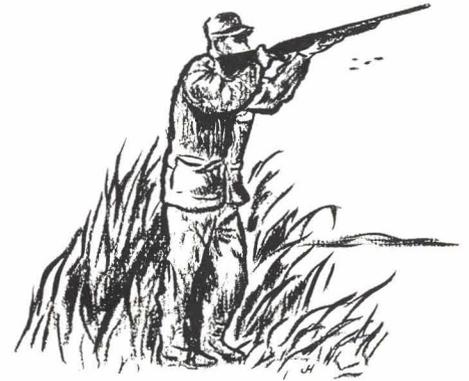
As was the case in 1965 when only 131 firearms hunters used shotguns in pursuit of their deer, the popular choice this year is again expected to be the rifle. Ranking

far ahead of its nearest competitor, the .30-06 proved to be the most popular caliber firearm. The .270, .30-30, .243, and .308 followed in order. Twenty-two deer were harvested with shotguns, while the remaining 1,318 were taken with rifles.

A more successful season is anticipated for 1966. A substantial deer herd increase in addition to greater landowner tolerance toward deer hunting and the rifle is expected to make '66 an even better year than 1965.

Waterfowl Hunting Picture Bright

(Continued from page 4)



canvasbacks. Possession limits after opening day is two days bag limit.

Spring conditions in the far north—primary nesting areas for geese—were also good this past summer. Average production is expected. Thus the liberal goose season permitted last year will be duplicated this year.

This is a 75-day goose season continuing through December 21. Daily bag limits are set at five geese with possession limits being one days bag limit. However, the daily bag and possession limit may include not more than one Ross's Goose, two Canada geese or its subspecies, one white-fronted goose, or one whitefronted goose and one Canada goose or its subspecies.

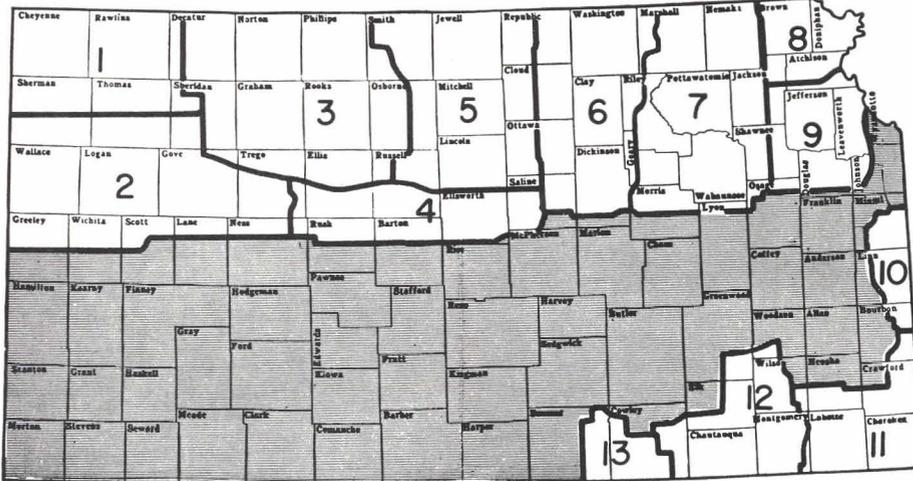
Shooting hours have been liberalized to permit hunting beginning one-half hour before sunrise all days of the duck and goose season.

In short there should be a lot of Kansas hunters with full bag limits of waterfowl this fall.

Hunters Take Note!

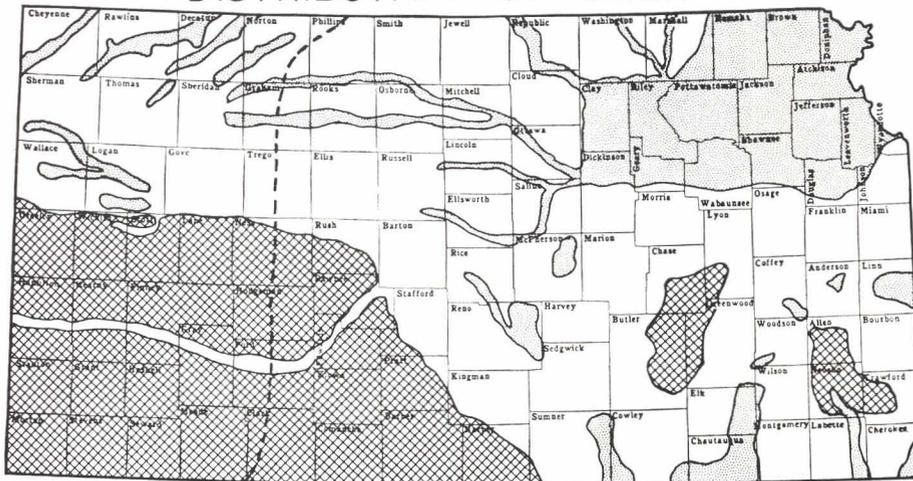
The Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission reminds hunters that the hunting season for rabbits closed October 16 and will remain closed through December 14, inclusive, except that rabbits may be legally taken during the legal open prairie chicken, quail and pheasant seasons.

1966 FIREARMS DEER MANAGEMENT UNITS



□ - Open □ - Closed

DISTRIBUTION OF DEER



■ - High □ - Medium ▨ - Low