

NDG&F August 8th Newsletter

Hunters Advised to Check Water Conditions

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department advises hunters to be cautious with their dogs around water this time of year, due to potential health hazards associated with [blue-green algae](#).

Late summer and early fall offer prime conditions for blue-green algae growth in many state waters. Ingestion by a hunting dog while perhaps retrieving a bird during the early goose season, or just practicing retrieving, can lead to severe illness and potential death.

Potentially toxic algae blooms occur under conditions of hot, dry weather. Shallow, stagnant water with moderate to high nutrient content provides an optimum environment for algal growth. Water or wind movements often concentrate the algae, and eventually the bloom appears as a blue-green “scum” floating on the water’s surface. The threat diminishes once the weather turns colder.

Hunting dogs shouldn’t drink or swim in discolored water or where algal blooms are apparent. If dogs retrieve in these conditions, they should be rinsed off immediately and shouldn’t be allowed to lick their coat.

For additional information about the effects of blue-green algae blooms on hunting dogs, contact the Animal Health Division, North Dakota Department of Agriculture, at 701-328-2655; or a local veterinarian.

Hunter Ed Class for Women Offered in Bismarck

Women interested in getting hunter education certified prior to the fall hunting season can [sign up for a class](#) offered Aug. 17 in Bismarck.

The class will meet from 6-9 p.m. at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department’s main office. Evening activities include classroom instruction, self-paced internet classes and a written exam. Participants will have two weeks to complete an online portion, take a short exam and print a certificate of completion. On Aug. 31 at 6 p.m., the class will gather at Game and Fish to participate in a group discussion and take the final written exam.

Students should register online at the Game and Fish Department’s website, gf.nd.gov. To register, click on buy and apply, and “online course enrollment” under the hunter education heading. The course number is 2762.

Students who do not have access to the internet and want to sign up for the class can call the hunter education program at 328-6615.

Hunters Asked to Report Banded Migratory Birds

Hunters are reminded to check harvested migratory birds for bands this fall and report their findings.

Information from birds with a federal band should be reported online at www.reportband.gov. In addition, the bird banding lab has a new, mobile friendly reporting site that will aid hunters to report bands via mobile devices. Those without access to the internet can report bands by calling 800-327-2263.

The band number, date and location of each recovery are needed. After the band information is processed, hunters can request a certificate of appreciation, and information about the bird will be returned in an email. Hunters can keep all bands they recover.

Information received from hunters is critical for management of migratory game birds.

HIP, Federal Duck Stamp Requirements

Harvest Information Program registration for all migratory game bird hunters, regardless of age, and a federal duck stamp for waterfowl hunters age 16 and older, are required beginning Sept. 1.

Migratory game birds include ducks, geese, swans, mergansers, coots, cranes, snipe, doves and woodcock. Waterfowl includes ducks, geese, swans, mergansers and coots.

Hunters can HIP certify when they [buy a North Dakota license](#), or add it later through the Game and Fish website at gf.nd.gov, or by calling 888-634-4798 and recording the HIP number on their printed license.

Those who registered to hunt the spring light goose season or early Canada goose season in North Dakota do not have to register with HIP again, as it is required only once per year. However, hunters must HIP register in each state for which they are licensed before hunting migratory game birds.

This year's 2016-17 federal duck stamp is available for electronic purchase through the department's website and instant licensing telephone number, or at license vendors registered with the department's licensing system. Physical stamps are not available at North Dakota license vendors, but they can still be purchased at many U.S. Postal Service offices.

The electronic stamp is a purchase item like any other hunting or fishing license. When the purchase is completed the electronic stamp is valid immediately. The words 'Federal Duck Stamp' will be printed on the license certificate, along with an expiration date 45 days from the date of purchase. The actual physical stamp will be sent by postal mail.

The physical stamp is processed and sent by the official duck stamp vendor in Texas, and should arrive to the individual buyer well before the expiration date printed on the electronic license. The physical stamp must remain in possession of the hunter after the 45-day electronic stamp has expired. Individuals who have questions regarding the status of their physical stamp can contact the federal duck stamp vendor customer service number at 800-852-4897.

The federal duck stamp has a fee of \$25. In addition, there is another \$1.50 added to cover shipping and handling costs of the actual physical stamp.