

# Frequently Asked Questions: Electronic Harvest Registration – October 12, 2016

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## GENERAL ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION FAQ FOR ALL SPECIES

### Electronic Registration Basics

- Do we expect all options to get an equal amount of use?  
No. For example, in 2015 about 70% of deer hunters used the internet on their phone or computer, and the remaining hunters registered using the telephone. Hunters and DNR staff report that the online method ([gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov)) is much easier and faster for registration.
- Is the telephone registration system robust enough to handle a large volume of people trying to register at one time?  
Yes, the system proved itself capable of handling over 100,000 hunters during the opening weekend of the 2015 deer season.
- Are there alternative languages available for hunters who do not speak English as their first language?  
We do not provide these services under our other phone-in registration systems. Hunters will need to know someone who speaks their language and is able to help them register their animal. This does not seem to be a problem with turkeys, which are hunted by a large number of Hmong and Spanish-speaking hunters. Hunters may also call the DNR call center at 1-888-936-7463 and be connected to a translation service for collection of the harvest information.
- Does the implementation of electronic registration still afford us the same quantity and quality of harvest data that we were collecting with in-person registration stations?  
According to our neighbors in Minnesota, registration data is as good as if not better than it was before implementing electronic registration. They believe their compliance is as high as ever, their data may actually be more accurate, they no longer have concerns about paper stubs getting lost

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and they have instant access to data. Rather than waiting months for registration information to be hand-entered, harvest information is available daily.

- How do we verify that the data collected through electronic registration (such as sex and relative age) is accurate?  
We have experience in doing this already through telephone registration systems for geese, turkeys, and other species. For compliance, department staff will have the ability to pull random registrations on any given day and pay the hunter a visit. This can also be used to determine who registered deer/bear, if someone else registered it for them, etc. We will also be able to use this method and others to verify and estimate error rates for the actual information provided by the hunter. For example, are all fawns being registered as fawns, or is there a percent registered as an adult doe, and so on.
- Will we still be collecting additional information regarding hunting conditions, hunter satisfaction, etc.?  
Electronic registration provides us with the ability to conduct all sorts of surveys if needed, and ask any questions for which we wish to know answers. However, we also want to be aware of the fact that hunters will use these methods because they are quick and easy. We don't want to over-use any one system by asking so many questions that it becomes an annoyance that would make hunters less likely to use it.
- How quickly is the electronic system able to provide current harvest information to interested parties?  
Daily.
- Will the use of electronic registration allow people to record more exact harvest location information? Electronic registration allows us to ask for any information that we choose. However, there will be limits as to what is useful, and what hunters are able to provide. It would not be desirable to ask for overly complicated information that most hunters do not collect or cannot provide quickly. Also keep in mind that management of deer, bear and other species do not require pinpoint harvest location information.

## **Enforcement**

- If a warden checks my registered animal, how will they know it is a "real" confirmation number?  
They can verify the confirmation number through their laptop computer or cell phone app.
- What would prevent someone from just sitting at the computer and registering a hundred "fake" animals?  
Each electronic registration transaction will require an unfilled carcass tag number. By entering this unique number in addition to the required harvest information, the department can track all registrations by customer and investigate potential problems. Once a tag is filled and registered, it will be removed from the hunter's list of available carcass tags, which will not allow them to print more copies or register another animal using that tag. These features will make fraud easily identifiable.
- Does the implementation of electronic registration encourage an increase in poaching?  
There may be some who try to abuse electronic registration by providing inaccurate information about the animal they harvested, but the registration method is not the cause of a violation.

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Electronic registration provides the department the ability to investigate abuses much more promptly because the information is so readily available. Instead of waiting for weeks after the season, when much of the evidence or the animal itself is gone, department staff will have the ability to access information quickly to investigate violations. However, electronic registration must be used as just one tool that helps law enforcement staff conduct their business.

- With electronic registration, how do hunters show proof of registration of their processed game? Does that requirement still apply?  
Instead of a metal tag, hunters will show their paper carcass tag with the registration confirmation number written on it. The “confirmed” carcass tag now simply takes the place of the old metal registration tag. It is recommended that hunters protect their paper tags in a plastic zip-top bag to keep them in good condition until the meat is consumed.
- Will the DNR seize game from hunters that are found to be not in compliance with registration? Our reasons, discretion, and authority for seizure of carcasses will not change just because of a new registration system. State law requires seizure of animals illegally possessed. As always, wardens will work with the public to educate them and help them comply with the laws. It will also depend on the circumstances of each situation.
- Is there an easy system for wardens to access information on who registered an animal? Yes. Harvest information and individual registration information about specific hunters and their harvests are much more readily available than ever before. This information can be made available almost instantaneously.

### DEER

#### **What to Know to Register your Deer**

- What do I need to register a deer?
  - The validated paper carcass tag for the animal you harvested;
  - A pen or pencil for writing down the confirmation number;
  - Access to a phone, a device with internet capabilities or an in-person registration station that provides one of the aforementioned devices; and
  - The GameReg phone number (1-844-426-3734) or web address ([gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov)).
- In which zone should I register my deer if I hunt in a county split by zone boundaries (Adams, Clark, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, Marinette, Monroe, Oconto and Wood)?  
This will depend on the Deer Management Zone in which the deer was harvested, NOT the habitat type that describes the area in which the deer was harvested. In 2016, deer harvested in a Farmland Zone will select Zone 2 as the location of harvest, while deer harvested in a Forest Zone will select Zone 1. If, for example, a deer is harvested in a forested area in the Central Farmland Zone, the hunter will still select Farmland (Zone 2) as the zone of harvest. Consult the 2016 Deer Hunting Regulations for a map identifying Zones 1 and 2.
- With phone registration, how do I enter the numerical county name in which I harvested the deer? Using the phone’s keypad, press the numbers associated with the first three letters of the county name. Each number should be pressed only once; the system will not understand if a number is pressed several times to “scroll” to the correct letter. For example, Clark County (CLA) would be entered as 252. View the [complete list of county codes](#).

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- What is the correct format for entering the date of birth through the phone registration system? Dates should always be entered in the format of mm/dd/yyyy. For example, for January “two-digit month of birth” would be entered as “01.”

### Methods

- Is registering a deer still mandatory, or is it now optional?  
Registering a deer is still mandatory, and is the responsibility of the individual hunter. Deer must be registered by 5 p.m. the day after harvest.
- How does registering an animal by internet work?  
The successful hunter or registration station goes to [gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov) and answers a short list of questions. The process takes less than two minutes, and is the fastest and easiest option. At the end of registration, the hunter is issued a 10-character confirmation number that must be written legibly on the carcass tag. This will indicate to a conservation warden the wildlife biologist or meat processor that the deer has been properly registered. The information the hunter provides will then be loaded to the system and available for department use.
- How does registering an animal by telephone work?  
The successful hunter calls in to a toll-free number (1-844-GAME-REG) and is then asked a short list of questions which takes only a few minutes. At the end of registration, the hunter is issued a 10-character confirmation number that must be written legibly on the carcass tag. This will indicate to a conservation warden, wildlife biologist or meat processor that the animal has been properly registered. The information the hunter provides will then be loaded to the system and available for department use.
- Is there a smartphone app or link in the Pocket Ranger<sup>®</sup> app that takes hunters directly to the GameReg site?  
Yes. The Pocket Ranger<sup>®</sup> app will include a link to the e-registration system, which will take users directly to the online GameReg site, the call-in number or a searchable list of walk-in registration stations. There is no independent smartphone app that will register your deer; Pocket Ranger<sup>®</sup> only redirects you to the GameReg mobile website.
- What is the incentive for registering deer electronically rather than in person?  
Convenience is the best incentive. Electronic registration is available 24 hrs/day, 7 days/week and, especially over the Internet, is fast and saves hunters time. Many hunters will also see cost savings by not having to drive to a registration station and deer can be immediately registered and processed, especially in warm weather. This registration method will also provide faster access to data.
- How will the registration of ag damage deer be handled using electronic registration?  
In 2016, hunters will use a different method to register ag damage deer. All deer shot on agriculture damage and nuisance permits in 2016 should be registered though the DNR Call Center (1-888-936-7463). The agriculture damage and nuisance tags are preprinted with 6-digit tag numbers, so GameReg will not recognize the tags. GameReg only recognizes tags issued through Go Wild with tag numbers that are 10 characters in length. In 2017, the plan is to incorporate agriculture damage and nuisance permits into Go Wild to allow hunters to utilize the regular phone and online methods to register ag damage deer.

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- Is a hunter required to have the animal with them when registering it by phone?  
No. For example, a hunter could leave his/her deer hanging in camp, drive to town without it, and register it when they get to a phone, internet, or an in-person location. However, the hunter will need his/her hunting license and the unique carcass tag number written down, since the hunter must attach the carcass tag to the animal before leaving it. Once they get back to the deer, they must write the registration confirmation number on the carcass tag to demonstrate proof of registration. Remember, the animal must be tagged with the correct paper carcass tag before the hunter leaves the carcass.
- What if hunters are at a deer camp and don't have cell service for several days?  
All hunters will have until 5 p.m. the day after the animal is recovered and tagged to register it. This may be a change for some, but the convenience of registering a deer by phone should not make the inconvenience excessive for the majority of hunters. Additionally, in-person registration stations are available that will have an electronic device on hand for hunters to register their harvests.
- What are hunters asked when registering a deer through this system?  
The unique carcass tag number, the hunter's date of birth, county/DMU, deer's sex, deer age (fawn/antlered/adult doe), date of kill, etc. will be required.
- How do deer hunters know which county/DMU and deer management zone to enter for location of harvest?  
Hunters should know where they are hunting before pursuing wild game. Since DMUs currently follow county boundaries in most cases, identifying the correct deer management zone and county for the location of harvest is easily done ahead of registration by viewing the deer season structure map.

### **Registration Confirmation**

- Rather than a metal tag that used to be provided when a deer was registered, how does a hunter confirm that a harvested animal was registered with the new electronic registration system?  
Once a deer is registered using GameReg, the hunter will be provided with a 10-character confirmation number that indicates that they have successfully completed the registration process. This number must be written on the carcass tag in order for it to be considered legally registered. Seeing this number written on the carcass tag fulfills the same function as seeing a metal tag attached to the deer.
- Is there a spot on the carcass tag specifically for writing the confirmation number down? **There is a blank space at the bottom of each carcass tag. It should be written there.**

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Department of Natural Resources  
**Farmland (Zone 2)**  
**Antlerless Deer Tag**

Agent # 1355 Issued 9/21/2016 3:05 PM

**John M Test**  
Customer # 489312710  
DOB 10/17/1973  
S: M H: 5' 7" W: 180 H: BRO E: BRO  
DL # M4853974186525

**16**

**Tag # 1600428781**

Valid only in the following unit(s):  
**ADAMS**  
Zone: Central Farmland (Zone 2)  
Time Period: 2016 Deer Season  
Land Type: Public



Immediately upon killing a deer, validate this tag by writing the date of kill and circling AM or PM. You may not leave the carcass unless this tag is attached to it. This tag must remain intact and legible. Consider protecting with a plastic bag.

Registration is required by 5:00 pm the day after recovery at [gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov) or 844-426-3734. You must write the confirmation number on this tag. Retain this tag until meat is consumed.

Date of Kill \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ AM / PM

**Confirmation Number** \_\_\_\_\_

For season dates, weapon restrictions, and regulations, view the applicable regulation pamphlet- available online at [GoWild.WI.Gov](http://GoWild.WI.Gov).

- Does the hunter need to keep the paper carcass tag, with the confirmation number written on it, as in the past with the metal and plastic tags?  
Yes! Hunters will need to retain the paper tag with confirmation number until the meat has been consumed.
- What if miss the confirmation number provided?  
Registration is not complete until the confirmation number is written on the tag. As a reminder, make sure you have a writing utensil before you go afield to write down the confirmation number. The online method of GameReg offers hunters the opportunity to print or email the confirmation number, while the phone method offers to repeat the confirmation number for those who may not have gotten it the first time. If you need assistance in retrieving a confirmation number, you can always call the Call Center at 1-888-936-7463. Be aware there may be a wait due to high call volume during the gun deer season.

## Registration Stations

- Does electronic registration allow anyone to be considered a registration station?  
Yes. Any business could call itself a registration station if it is simply willing to provide a phone or computer with an internet connection to allow someone to register a deer. The registration station also has the option of completing the electronic registration for the hunter. At the end of the process, GameReg will then provide the hunter with the confirmation number. The department will also list the names of participating businesses on the department website to help direct hunters to these businesses (businesses should notify the DNR of their intent to participate).

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- Do registration stations receive monetary compensation for providing a way for hunters to complete electronic registration?  
No. Most businesses already have internet/phone access. Providing this service to the public does not incur any additional financial costs to the business. Therefore, the business will not receive financial compensation from the department.
- Will a list of deer donation sites for the county of harvest be provided?  
To keep the registration process quick and simple, this information will continue to be provided on the internet or smart phone applications separate from GameReg.

### **Data Collection**

- Are there requirements for hunters to assist with biological data collection while using GameReg?  
Yes. Deer hunters may be required to submit samples if deemed necessary by the department. If submission of samples is required, it will be enforced just like any other rule. Some data collection such as CWD sampling will be strictly voluntary at this time. Review the [regulations](#) for each species to determine whether biological data collection is required.
- With the implementation of electronic registration, is there still a means for hunters to have their deer sampled for CWD?  
Yes. CWD sampling for harvested deer will continue to be available. We may continue to have DNR-operated sampling stations as well as contract with private businesses to conduct CWD sampling. The majority of the sampling stations are located in the Southern Farmland Zone and central Wisconsin, with additional sampling options in northeast and northwest Wisconsin. Hunters should check the DNR webpage (keyword "[CWD sampling](#)") to learn more about CWD sampling locations in their area.

## **BEAR**

### **What to know to register your bear**

- What do I need to register a bear?
  - The validated paper carcass tag for the animal you harvested;
  - A pen or pencil for writing down the confirmation number;
  - Access to a phone, a device with internet capabilities or an in-person registration station that provides one of the aforementioned devices; and
  - The GameReg phone number (1-844-426-3734) or web address ([gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov)).
- With phone registration, how do I enter the numerical county name in which I harvested the bear?  
Using the phone's keypad, press the numbers associated with the first three letters of the county name. Each number should be pressed only once; the system will not understand if a number is pressed several times to "scroll" to the correct letter. For example, Clark County (CLA) would be entered as 252. View the [complete list](#) of county codes.
- What is the correct format for entering the date of birth through the phone registration system?  
Dates should always be entered in the format of mm/dd/yyyy. For example, for January "two-digit month of birth" would be entered as "01."

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- What are hunters asked when registering a bear through this system?  
The unique carcass tag number, the hunter's date of birth, county, bear management zone, and game management unit of harvest, bear's sex, date of kill, and hunting method will be required. A map of bear management zones and game management units is available here:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/documents/gmus.pdf>

### **Methods**

- Is registering a bear still mandatory, or is it now optional?  
Registering a bear is still mandatory, and is the responsibility of the individual hunter. Bear must be registered by 5 p.m. the day after harvest.
- How does registering an animal by internet work?  
The successful hunter or registration station goes to [gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov) and answers a short list of questions. The process takes less than two minutes, and is the fastest and easiest option. At the end of registration, the hunter is issued a 10-character confirmation number that must be written legibly on the carcass tag. This will indicate to a conservation warden the wildlife biologist or meat processor that the animal has been properly registered. The information the hunter provides will then be loaded to the system and available for department use.
- How does registering an animal by telephone work?  
The successful hunter calls in to a toll-free number (1-844-GAME-REG) and is then asked a short list of questions which takes only a few minutes. At the end of registration, the hunter is issued a 10-character confirmation number that must be written legibly on the carcass tag. This will indicate to a conservation warden, wildlife biologist or meat processor that the animal has been properly registered. The information the hunter provides will then be loaded to the system and available for department use.
- Is there a smartphone app or link in the Pocket Ranger<sup>®</sup> app that takes hunters directly to the GameReg site?  
Yes. The Pocket Ranger<sup>®</sup> app will include a link to the e-registration system, which will take users directly to the online e-registration site, the call-in number or a searchable list of walk-in registration stations. There is no independent smartphone app that will register your animal; Pocket Ranger<sup>®</sup> only redirects you to the GameReg mobile website.

### **Registration Confirmation**

- Rather than a metal tag that used to be provided when a bear was registered, how does a hunter confirm that a harvested animal was registered with the new electronic registration system?  
Once a bear is registered using electronic registration, the hunter will be provided with a 10-character confirmation number that indicates that they have successfully completed the registration process. This number must be written on the carcass tag in order for the bear to be considered legally registered. Seeing this number written on the carcass tag fulfills the same function as seeing a metal tag attached to the bear.
- Is there a spot on the carcass tag specifically for writing the confirmation number down? There is a blank space at the bottom of each carcass tag. It should be written there.

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- What if hunters are at camp and don't have cell service for several days?  
All hunters will have until 5 p.m. the day after the animal is recovered and tagged to register it. This may be a change for some, but the convenience of registering a bear by phone should not make the inconvenience excessive for the majority of hunters. Additionally, in-person registration stations are available that will have an electronic device on hand for hunters to register their harvests.
- Is a hunter required to have the animal with him/her when registering it by phone?  
No. For example, a hunter could leave his/her bear hanging in camp with the validated tag attached, drive to town without it, and register it when they get to a phone, internet, or an in-person location. However, the hunter will need his/her hunting license and the unique carcass tag number written down. Once the hunter gets back to the bear, the registration confirmation number must be written on the carcass tag to demonstrate proof of registration. Remember, the animal must be tagged with the correct paper carcass tag before the hunter leaves the carcass.
- What is the incentive for registering a bear electronically rather than in person?  
Convenience is the best incentive. Electronic registration is available 24 hrs/day, 7 days/week and, especially over the Internet, is fast and saves hunters time. Many hunters will also see cost savings by not having to drive to a registration station and bear can be immediately registered and processed, especially in warm weather. This registration method will also provide faster access to data.
- Does the hunter need to keep the paper carcass tag, with the confirmation number written on it, as in the past with the metal and plastic tags?  
Yes! Hunters will need to retain the paper tag with confirmation number until the meat has been consumed.
- What if miss the confirmation number provided?  
Registration is not complete until the confirmation number is written on the tag. As a reminder, make sure you have a writing utensil before you go afield to write down the confirmation number. The online method of GameReg offers hunters the opportunity to print or email the confirmation number, while the phone method offers to repeat the confirmation number for those who may not have gotten it the first time. If you need assistance in retrieving a confirmation number, you can always call the Call Center at 1-888-936-7463. Be aware there may be a wait due to high call volume during the gun deer season.
- Does electronic registration allow anyone to be considered a registration station?  
Yes. Any business could call itself a registration station if it is simply willing to provide a phone or computer with an internet connection to allow someone to register a bear. The registration station also has the option of completing the electronic registration for the hunter. At the end of the process, GameReg will then provide the hunter with the confirmation number. The department will also list the names of participating businesses on the department website to help direct hunters to these businesses (businesses should notify the DNR of their intent to participate).
- Do registration stations receive monetary compensation for providing a way for hunters to complete electronic registration?  
No. Most businesses already have internet/phone access. Providing this service to the public does not incur any additional financial costs to the business. Therefore, the business will not receive financial compensation from the department.

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- Are there requirements for hunters to assist with biological data collection while GameReg?  
Yes. For bear hunters, the submission of a tooth is mandatory. Prior to the start of the bear season, hunters will receive a mailing with instructions and a tooth envelope. Department may ask for other samples, for example a rib, to assist in research and monitoring efforts. Submission of samples is required and will be enforced just like any other rule. Additional information on sample submission is available at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) - keyword "bear registration".
- With electronic registration, how do hunters show proof of registration of their processed game? Does that requirement still apply?  
Instead of a metal tag, hunters will show their paper carcass tag with the registration confirmation number written on it. The "confirmed" carcass tag now simply takes the place of the old metal registration tag. It is recommended that hunters protect their paper tags in a plastic zip-top bag to keep them in good condition until the meat is consumed.

### BOBCAT, FISHER and OTTER

#### What to know to register your furbearer

- Is registering a bobcat, fisher or otter still mandatory, or is it now optional?  
Registering bobcat, fisher, and otter is still mandatory. These three species must be reported within 24 hours of harvest through GameReg and the pelt must be registered by an authorized DNR employee no later than 5 days after the end of the month of harvest. See the Trapping Regulations for details.
- What do I need to report a furbearer through GameReg?
  - The valid tag number for the furbearer you harvested;
  - A pen for writing down the confirmation number;
  - Access to a phone or a device with internet capabilities; and
  - The GameReg phone number (1-844-426-3734) or web address ([gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov)).
- With phone reporting, how do I enter the numerical county name in which I harvested a furbearer?  
Using the phone's keypad, press the numbers associated with the first three letters of the county name. Each number should be pressed only once; the system will not understand if a number is pressed several times to "scroll" to the correct letter. For example, Clark County (CLA) would be entered as 252. View the [complete list](#) of county codes.
- What is the correct format for entering the date of birth through the phone reporting system?  
Dates should always be entered in the format of mm/dd/yyyy. For example, for January "two-digit month of birth" would be entered as "01."
- What are trappers/hunters asked when reporting a furbearer through this system?  
The unique carcass tag number, the hunter's date of birth, county of kill, Game Management Unit, land type, date of kill, sex of animal, and harvest method will be required.
- What do I need to register a furbearer in person?
  - To register your harvest, contact a local Conservation Warden or other authorized DNR personnel. Personnel can be found by visiting [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) keyword "trap" or by calling (888) 936-7463.

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- The furbearer pelt with validated pelt tag attached must be presented at time of registration.
- During the 2016–17 season, bobcat carcasses and fisher skulls are required to be submitted to the DNR at the time of registration.

### **Methods for Reporting a Furbearer**

- How does reporting a furbearer by internet work?  
The successful trapper/hunter goes to [gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov) and answers a short list of questions. The process takes less than two minutes, and is the fastest and easiest option. When the animal is successfully reported, the trapper/hunter is issued a 10-character confirmation number that must be written legibly on the carcass tag. This will indicate to a conservation warden, wildlife biologist or meat processor that the animal has been properly reported. The information the trapper/hunter provides will then be loaded to the system and available for department use.
- How does reporting a furbearer by telephone work?  
The successful trapper/hunter calls in to a toll-free number (1-844-GAME-REG or 1-844-426-3734) and is then asked a short list of questions which takes only a few minutes. At the end of reporting, the trapper/hunter is issued a 10-character confirmation number that must be written legibly on the carcass tag. This will indicate to a conservation warden, wildlife biologist or meat processor that the animal has been properly reported. The information the trapper/hunter provides will then be loaded to the system and available for department use.
- Is there a smartphone app or link in the Pocket Ranger<sup>®</sup> app that takes trappers/hunters directly to the GameReg site?  
Yes. The Pocket Ranger<sup>®</sup> app will include a link to the e-registration system, which will take users directly to the online GameReg site, the call-in number or a searchable list of walk-in registration stations. There is no independent smartphone app that will register your harvest; Pocket Ranger<sup>®</sup> only redirects you to the GameReg mobile website.
- Is there a spot on the carcass tag specifically for writing the confirmation number down? No, furbearer harvest permits do not have a specific spot to write down the confirmation number. The confirmation number can be recorded on the front or back of the registration stub portion of the bobcat, fisher, or otter permit.
- What if miss the confirmation number provided?  
Registration is not complete until the confirmation number is written on the tag. As a reminder, make sure you have a writing utensil before you go afield to write down the confirmation number. The online method of GameReg offers hunters the opportunity to print or email the confirmation number, while the phone method offers to repeat the confirmation number for those who may not have gotten it the first time. If you need assistance in retrieving a confirmation number, you can always call the Call Center at 1-888-936-7463. Be aware there may be a wait due to high call volume during the gun deer season.
- Are there requirements for trappers/hunters to assist with biological data collection while using GameReg?  
Yes. For trappers/hunters harvesting bobcat, fisher, and otter, the submission of biological samples is mandatory in certain years. During the 2016–17 season, bobcat carcasses and fisher skulls are required to be submitted to the DNR at the time of registration.

# Frequently Asked Questions: Electronic Harvest Registration – October 12, 2016

## In-Person Registration

- Why do we continue to register furbearer species in person while other species are registered through GameReg?  
Furbearers are unique from other harvested species as pelts often enter international trade markets. For bobcat and river otter, federal regulations require each pelt be sealed with a CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) tag. Bobcat and river otter are not federally endangered, but fall on Appendix II of CITES as a “look-alike” species of other endangered cat and otter species found worldwide. As a party to CITES, the United States government has tasked the US Fish and Wildlife Service in developing a program to meet treaty obligation. This program currently involves sealing pelts with a CITES tag. In WI, tagging is done in person by a Conservation Warden or other authorized personnel.
- Why are trappers/hunters required to submit furbearer carcasses or heads?  
Furbearer carcasses are collected to gather age and reproductive details from each species. Teeth are collected to determine age and reproductive information is gathered by viewing reproductive organs. Data collected from these carcasses are used in population models that help estimate the population of bobcat, fisher, and otter in certain management zones. When compared to other furbearers, these three furbearer species are more prone to population declines and populations grow slower due to lower reproductive rates.

## TURKEY

### What to know to register your turkey

- What do I need to register a turkey?
  - The validated paper carcass tag for the animal you harvested;
  - A pen or pencil for writing down the confirmation number;
  - Access to a phone or a device with internet capabilities; and
  - The GameReg phone number (1-844-426-3734) or web address ([gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov)).
- With phone registration, how do I enter the numerical county name in which I harvested the turkey?  
Using the phone’s keypad, press the numbers associated with the first three letters of the county name. Each number should be pressed only once; the system will not understand if a number is pressed several times to “scroll” to the correct letter. For example, Clark County (CLA) would be entered as 252. View the [complete list](#) of county codes.
- What is the correct format for entering the date of birth through the phone registration system?  
Dates should always be entered in the format of mm/dd/yyyy. For example, for January “two-digit month of birth” would be entered as “01.”
- What are hunters asked when registering a turkey through this system?  
The unique carcass tag number, the hunter’s date of birth, county/DMU, turkey’s sex, date of kill, etc. will be required.

# Frequently Asked Questions: Electronic Harvest Registration – October 12, 2016

## **Methods**

- Is registering a turkey still mandatory, or is it now optional?  
Registering a turkey is still mandatory, and is the responsibility of the individual hunter. Turkeys must be registered by 5 p.m. the day after harvest.
- How does registering an animal by internet work?  
The successful hunter goes to [gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov) and answers a short list of questions. The process takes less than two minutes, and is the fastest and easiest option. At the end of registration, the hunter is issued a 10-character confirmation number that must be written legibly on the carcass tag. This will indicate to a conservation warden, wildlife biologist or meat processor that the animal has been properly registered. The information the hunter provides will then be loaded to the system and available for department use.
- How does registering an animal by telephone work?  
The successful hunter calls in to a toll-free number (1-844-GAME-REG) and is then asked a short list of questions which takes only a few minutes. At the end of registration, the hunter is issued a 10-character confirmation number that must be written legibly on the carcass tag. This will indicate to a conservation warden, wildlife biologist or meat processor that the animal has been properly registered. The information the hunter provides will then be loaded to the system and available for department use.
- Is there a smartphone app or link in the Pocket Ranger<sup>®</sup> app that takes hunters directly to the GameReg site?  
Yes. The Pocket Ranger<sup>®</sup> app will include a link to the e-registration system, which will take users directly to the online GameReg site or the call-in number. There is no independent smartphone app that will register your animal; Pocket Ranger<sup>®</sup> only redirects you to the GameReg mobile website.

## **Registration Confirmation**

- How does a hunter confirm that a harvested animal was registered with the new electronic registration system?  
Once a turkey is registered using GameReg, the hunter will be provided with a 10-character confirmation number that indicates that they have successfully completed the registration process. This number must be written on the carcass tag in order for it to be considered legally registered.
- Is there a spot on the carcass tag specifically for writing the confirmation number down?  
There is a blank space at the bottom of each carcass tag. It should be written there.
- Is a hunter required to have the animal with them when registering it electronically?  
No. For example, a hunter could leave his/her turkey in camp with the validated tag attached, drive to town without it, and register it when they get to a location with a phone or computer location. However, the hunter will need his/her hunting license and the unique carcass tag number written down. Once the hunter gets back to the turkey, the registration confirmation number must be written on the carcass tag to demonstrate proof of registration. Remember, the animal must be tagged with the correct paper carcass tag before the hunter leaves the carcass.

## Frequently Asked Questions: Electronic Harvest Registration – October 12, 2016

- Does the hunter need to keep the paper carcass tag, with the confirmation number written on it, as in the past with the metal and plastic tags?  
Yes! Hunters will need to retain the paper tag with confirmation number until the meat has been consumed.
- What if miss the confirmation number provided?  
Registration is not complete until the confirmation number is written on the tag. As a reminder, make sure you have a writing utensil before you go afield to write down the confirmation number. The online method of GameReg offers hunters the opportunity to print or email the confirmation number, while the phone method offers to repeat the confirmation number for those who may not have gotten it the first time. If you need assistance in retrieving a confirmation number, you can always call the Call Center at 1-888-936-7463. Be aware there may be a wait due to high call volume during the gun deer season.

### SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

#### What to know to register your grouse

- What do I need to register a sharp-tailed grouse?
  - The validated paper carcass tag for the animal you harvested;
  - A pen or pencil for writing down the confirmation number;
  - Access to a phone or device with internet capabilities; and
  - The GameReg phone number (1-844-426-3734) or web address ([gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov)).
- What is the correct format for entering the date of birth through the phone registration system?  
Dates should always be entered in the format of mm/dd/yyyy. For example, for January “two-digit month of birth” would be entered as “01.”
- What are hunters asked when registering a sharp-tailed grouse through this system?  
The unique carcass tag number, the hunter’s date of birth, county/DMU, date of kill, etc. will be required.

#### Methods

- How does registering an animal by internet work?  
The successful hunter goes to [gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov) and answers a short list of questions. The process takes less than two minutes, and is the fastest and easiest option. At the end of registration, the hunter is issued a 10-character confirmation number that must be written legibly on the carcass tag. This will indicate to a conservation warden, wildlife biologist or meat processor that the animal has been properly registered. The information the hunter provides will then be loaded to the system and available for department use.
- How does registering an animal by telephone work?  
The successful hunter calls in to a toll-free number (1-844-GAME-REG) and is then asked a short list of questions which takes only a few minutes. At the end of registration, the hunter is issued a 10-character confirmation number that must be written legibly on the carcass tag. This will indicate to a conservation warden, wildlife biologist or meat processor that the animal has been properly registered. The information the hunter provides will then be loaded to the system and available for department use.

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- Is there a smartphone app or link in the Pocket Ranger<sup>®</sup> app that takes hunters directly to the GameReg site?  
Yes. The Pocket Ranger<sup>®</sup> app will include a link to the e-registration system, which will take users directly to the online GameReg site, the call-in number or a searchable list of walk-in registration stations. There is no independent smartphone app that will register your harvest; Pocket Ranger<sup>®</sup> only redirects you to the GameReg mobile website.
- What if miss the confirmation number provided?  
Registration is not complete until the confirmation number is written on the tag. As a reminder, make sure you have a writing utensil before you go afield to write down the confirmation number. The online method of GameReg offers hunters the opportunity to print or email the confirmation number, while the phone method offers to repeat the confirmation number for those who may not have gotten it the first time. If you need assistance in retrieving a confirmation number, you can always call the Call Center at 1-888-936-7463. Be aware there may be a wait due to high call volume during the gun deer season.

## GEESE

### What to Know to Register your Geese

- What do I need to register a goose?
  - The validated paper carcass tag for the bird you harvested;
  - A pen or pencil for writing down the confirmation number;
  - Access to a phone or a device with internet capabilities; and
  - The GameReg phone number (1-844-426-3734) or web address ([gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov)).
- With phone registration, how do I enter the numerical county name in which I harvested the geese?  
Using the phone's keypad, press the numbers associated with the first three letters of the county name. Each number should be pressed only once; the system will not understand if a number is pressed several times to "scroll" to the correct letter. For example, Clark County (CLA) would be entered as 252. View the [complete list](#) of county codes.
- What is the correct format for entering the date of birth through the phone registration system?  
Dates should always be entered in the format of mm/dd/yyyy. For example, for January "two-digit month of birth" would be entered as "01."
- What are hunters asked when registering a goose through this system?  
The unique carcass tag number, the hunter's date of birth, county, date of kill, number harvested, will be required.

### Methods

- How does registering an animal by internet work?  
The successful hunter goes to [gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov) and answers a short list of questions. The process takes less than two minutes, and is the fastest and easiest option. At the end of registration, the hunter is issued a 10-character confirmation number that must be written legibly on the carcass tag. This will indicate to a conservation warden, wildlife biologist or meat processor that the animal has

## Frequently Asked Questions: Electronic Harvest Registration – October 12, 2016

been properly registered. The information the hunter provides will then be loaded to the system and available for department use.

- How does registering an animal by telephone work?  
The successful hunter calls in to a toll-free number (1-844-GAME-REG) and is then asked a short list of questions which takes only a few minutes. At the end of registration, the hunter is issued a 10-character confirmation number that must be written legibly on the carcass tag. This will indicate to a conservation warden, wildlife biologist or meat processor that the animal has been properly registered. The information the hunter provides will then be loaded to the system and available for department use.
- Is there a smartphone app or link in the Pocket Ranger<sup>®</sup> app that takes hunters directly to the GameReg site?  
Yes. The Pocket Ranger<sup>®</sup> app will include a link to the e-registration system, which will take users directly to the online GameReg site, the call-in number or a searchable list of walk-in registration stations. There is no independent smartphone app that will register your goose; Pocket Ranger<sup>®</sup> only redirects you to the GameReg mobile website.
- What if miss the confirmation number provided?  
Registration is not complete until the confirmation number is written on the tag. As a reminder, make sure you have a writing utensil before you go afield to write down the confirmation number. The online method of GameReg offers hunters the opportunity to print or email the confirmation number, while the phone method offers to repeat the confirmation number for those who may not have gotten it the first time. If you need assistance in retrieving a confirmation number, you can always call the Call Center at 1-888-936-7463. Be aware there may be a wait due to high call volume during the gun deer season.
- Do we expect all options to get an equal amount of use?  
In 2015, about 70% of hunters used the internet on their phone or computer, and the remaining hunters registered using the telephone. Hunters and DNR staff report that the online method (gamereg.wi.gov) is much easier and faster for registration.