



COMMERCIAL SHOOTING PRESERVE INFORMATION SHEET

AUTHORITY

N.J.S.A 23:3-29 provides the authority to the Division of Fish and Wildlife to issue a license to operate commercial shooting preserves for mallard, pheasant, quail and partridge. The applicant must be the owner or lessee of the property to be licensed.

Two or more non-contiguous tracts of land, each consisting of a minimum of 50 acres in size, excluding safety zones shall be covered under the same license.

DEFINITION

A commercial shooting preserve is defined as 50 acres or more of land, with the boundaries clearly posted at intervals of not more than 200 feet with signs containing the following wording:

COMMERCIAL SHOOTING PRESERVE – LICENSED UNDER N.J.S.A. 23:3-29

Signs must display the name of the club or the property owner.

SEASON AND BAG LIMIT

Under a commercial pheasant, quail, mallard or partridge shooting preserve license, stocked birds of either sex may be taken by shooting, only on lands designated in the application and license, by properly licensed hunters between September 1 and the following May 1, inclusive, without regard to daily bag limit.

NOTE: Captive bred mallards stocked and hunted on commercial shooting preserves must also meet the following criteria established by the United State Fish & Wildlife Service:

1. Proper identification by toe clipping of the helix on the left foot, tattooing of the webbing or leg banding with a closed band or seamless bank.
2. The use of steel or other U.S. Wildlife Service approved nontoxic shot.

FEES

The annual fee for a commercial shooting preserve license is \$320, plus an additional \$2.00 application fee for the first tract of land, and \$165 per season for each additional tract of land. Each piece of land must be at least 50 acres in size, excluding safety zones.

The cost of tags are \$.15 each.

CRITERIA FOR GRANTING LICENSE

The Division may, upon receipt of fees, issue to the applicant such a license when it appears that:

1. The operation of such a shooting preserve shall not conflict with prior reasonable public interest; and
2. The applicant has produced evidence (contract or purchases, etc), that a total of at least 500 pheasants, mallard, quail, or partridge or combination thereof, will be raised or purchased for liberation on the shooting preserve between September of the year of the license and the following May 1.
3. The applicant has produced a Verification of Lease Agreement, signed by both parties that is effective through the entire season.

To ascertain compliance with the above criteria, applicants are required to submit a completed application, evidence for purchase or raising of birds, and include two 8.5" x 11" photocopies of tax assessor's or survey maps showing acreage, and lot and block number. Maps should show the name of the Commercial Club and the license number if available. Maps must show the boundaries of the preserve outlined in RED. Maps should indicate buildings on the property and on each adjacent property, which might affect the amount of land hunted because of safety zones. Safety zones should be indicated in RED. A field inspection of new commercial shooting preserves, and of those with changes in property, will be conducted prior to issuing the license.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications for Commercial Shooting Preserve licenses received prior to August 1 will be issued by September 1. Applications received after that date are processed on a first come, first serve basis, with no guarantee that they will be issued by September 1. All applications must be accompanied by the required tax maps, lease agreement verification form (if property is leased), contract for a minimum of 500 birds, and an application to import (if applicable). A license will not be issued until the applicant has produced evidence that the required number of birds will be issued for liberation during the season.

TAGGING BIRDS

Every harvested game bird, including mallards, covered under the license must be tagged regardless of sex, including birds from the freezer and/or meat sale being transported or sold. Tags will be issued on an annual basis. Tags are numbered and dated; they are valid for the current season only. Tags are assigned to the individual preserve. Not tagging birds is a violation and may result in a fine and loss of license. Sufficient tags should be purchased to cover the anticipated number of birds harvested on the licensed premises. Tags are \$.15 each and no refunds will be issued for unused tags. Additional tags may be purchased as necessary. You may not purchase more tags than the number of birds stocked. Tags remaining at the end of the season should be destroyed. No transfer of tags from one licensed preserve to another will be allowed.

New applicants needing assistance in evaluating how many tags to purchase may call (609) 292-2966.

No mallards, pheasant, quail, partridge or their carcasses, shall be possessed or transported unless the bird is tagged. Tags must be kept available on the premises at a location available to all

members and guests. A daily record must be kept of the birds shot and tagged by each hunter. Records should include date, hunter name, species and quantity of birds shot on a daily kill sheet.

In addition, a daily record of birds released must be kept, indicating species and quantity of birds released. Daily stocking records and kill sheets must be filed with your annual report at the end of the license season.

Records must be available for inspection for up to three years after the close of a season.

CAPTIVE GAME LICENSES

The sale of game birds must be accompanied by a Game Bird Sales Receipt, which shall serve as a temporary possession permit for a period of 20 days. You must obtain a captive game permit if you purchase and possess game birds for more than 20 days. You must possess a captive game permit if you sell or transfer birds to another individual or club. You may apply for the captive game permit when you apply for your commercial preserve license.

Captive game permits are traditionally valid for the calendar year and expire on December 31. A recent legislative change now allows the Division to issue captive game permits, which coincide with the issue and renewal dates of the commercial preserve license. If you wish your future captive game permits for the propagation and sale of game birds to coincide with the commercial shooting preserve license, please indicate so on the commercial preserve license application. We will issue a captive game permit for the period of September 1 to August 31 of the following calendar year.

INFORMATION ON BIRDS

All live game birds, transported into the state must be accompanied by an official health certificate. A Division issued importation permit must be attached to the waybill or shall be in the possession of the driver of the vehicle or person in charge of the game birds. No game birds may be imported without prior written approval from the Division. Importation applications are available upon request at (609) 292-2966. Allow 20 working days for approval and issuance of an importation permit. There is no fee for this permit.

ANNUAL REPORT

Annual report forms can be downloaded from the Division web site at http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/comm_pres_annrpt.pdf. Annual report forms should be completed and submitted to the Division within 30 days of the close of the season. Annual report forms must be filed with a copy of your receipt(s) showing full payment or a summary statement showing full payment for the birds stocked. The receipts should indicate the species, quantity, and note if "Paid in full". Commercial Preserve license holders are also required to submit their daily kill sheets and stocking sheets.

ONE DAY HUNTING LICENSES

All persons hunting on a commercial preserve must possess a valid hunting license.

Commercial Shooting Preserve operators may purchase books of one-day hunting licenses from the Division. Books containing 20 licenses may be purchased for \$230.00. Individual licenses are to be sold for \$12.50. The books are issued with a receipt form. Sign and return to the Division.

Completed books should be returned **immediately** with your club name and number indicated on the front. **Before selling a one-day license you are required by law to check the individual's previous hunting license or hunter education certificate. Licenses must be filled out with complete information.**

Hunting in the state of New Jersey is a privilege, which can be revoked for cause. Any person violating any of the provisions of the state may be liable for a penalty of not less than \$50 or more than \$200 for each offense.

REFUNDS/TRANSFERS

No refunds for licenses or tags will be issued for loss of acreage resulting from township closures, lease cancellation, etc.

INFORMATION

Additional information regarding commercial preserve licenses or completing the application may be obtained by calling (609)292-2966. Incomplete applications and reports may be returned.

MAILING ADDRESS

**Division of Fish and Wildlife
Commercial Preserve Licenses
Mail Code 501-03
PO Box 420
501 East State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420**

Visit our web site at http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/comm_preserves.htm for more information on Commercial Shooting Preserves.