

# offers more sport for hunters

"Most hunters take their shot at 20 to 30 yards. When you get eye-to-eye with an animal, it makes it pretty exciting."

Manning said he has hunted antelope, deer and turkey with a bow. Next year, he plans to add elk to his list. He said because of the proximity of the hunter to the game, it's important to learn the animal's habits and its habitat. He will locate a vantage point, and using a pair of binoculars or a spotting scope, he will try to locate the game.

"Once I've spotted the animal, I try to get the wind in my favor and then move in on it," Manning said.

Another method used by bow hunters is a blind. The hunter finds a spot or trail where game travels between food and a bedding area. The hunter will position himself in a ground blind hidden by brush and branches or in a tree blind hidden with camouflage. Both require great patience and the ability to remain perfectly still; the slightest movement will alert the animal and cause it to bolt.

He said the bow season on deer is a little longer because it's more difficult to get an animal with a bow.

"The one advantage is it (the season) runs through the prime rut (breeding season)," he said. "That's when bow hunters are the most successful."

He said the deer are on the move, thinking of

something else, and their wariness is down, but just a little.

Manning said he got figures from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks on the number of bow hunters compared to guns.

"The guns definitely outnumber the bow hunters," he said, "about three to one."

Kansas has adopted the National Bow Hunter Education Foundation's program for beginning hunters. This course teaches bow hunters to be ethical, considerate, humane and safe. Volunteer instructors are experienced bow hunters certified to present the materials in the course.

A few of the topics covered in a bowhunter course include ethics, tree stand safety, shot placement and selection, and blood trailing.

Manning said hunters today use basically two kinds of bows, recurve and compound, although he shoots both.

"It just depends on the circumstances," he said.

"You have greater range and consistency with the compound bow," he said, adding that there are also more mechanical parts and things that could break.

He said the recurve bow is simple, a bow, a string and an arrow. Among hunters, he said, it's just called "stick and string".

A recurve bow is defined by the side-view profile. The string touches sections of the limbs of recurve bows when the bow is strung. A

recurve bow stores more energy than an equivalent straight-limbed bow, giving a greater cast to the arrow, said Manning.

The modern recurve is the only type permitted in Olympics archery competition.

A compound bow, by comparison, is a modern bow that uses a levering system of cables and usually cams and pulleys to draw the limbs back.

The limbs of a compound bow are usually much stiffer than those of a recurve bow or longbow.

This stiffness makes the compound bow more energy efficient than other bows, but the limbs are too stiff to be drawn comfortably with a string attached directly to them. The compound bow has the string attached to pulleys, one or both of which has one or more cables attached to the opposite limb.

When the string is drawn back, the string causes the pulleys to turn. This causes the pulleys to pull the cables, which in turn causes the limbs to bend and thus store energy.

The use of this levering system gives the compound bow a characteristic draw-force curve which rises to a peak weight and then "lets off" to a lower holding weight.

### BOW HUNTING SEASONS

Deer: Oct. 1 through Dec. 31.

Youth (15 and under): Sept. 29 and 30 (archery, muzzle or rifle).

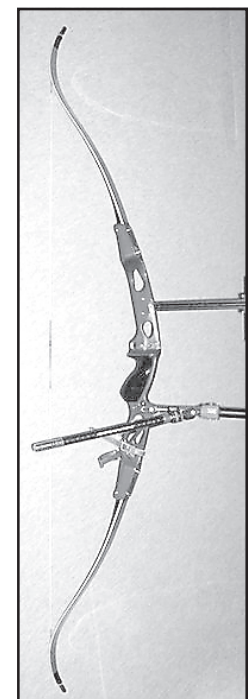
Fall turkey: Oct. 1 through Nov. 27; Dec. 10 through Dec. 31; and Jan. 7 through Jan. 31.

Rabbit: Year around.

For information on hunting with bow and arrow, go to [www.bowhunting.com](http://www.bowhunting.com).



Compound Bow



Recurve Bow

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Saturday ..... November 24	Saturday ..... February 2	Saturday ..... March 22
Saturday ..... December 15	Saturday ..... February 16	Saturday ..... March 29
	Saturday ..... March 1	

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For lodging, dining and more information, go to: [www.beavercreekgamebirds.com](http://www.beavercreekgamebirds.com)



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