

People have options to purchase licenses

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press
ackermanjk@ruraltel.net

An increasing number of baby boomers joining the ranks of senior citizens is forcing the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to re-think its policy of free hunting licenses for that group.

While Kansas hunting licenses will cost the same this year as they did last year, officials say, that may change next year, especially for senior citizens.

Baby boomers form a huge generation born in a period of increased birth rates between 1946 and 1964. Today there are close to 80 million Boomers in the United States, according to Census records.

Mike Miller, a public information specialist based in Pratt, said as more people reach retirement age, currently 62 to 65, issuing free hunting licenses is hurting the Kansas economy. He said federal wildlife money coming into Kansas is less than it could be because of free licenses.

"Some federal funding is based on the number of fishing licenses sold and on the excise tax (on outdoor gear)," Miller said. "It truly is a user-based system."

Miller said while fees will stay the same this year, there have been two changes to the 2007 hunting season that hunters need to be aware of.

"We've got game tags for white-tail antlerless deer," he said. "We use that as a population control and in Units 1 and 2, they will be available."

Kansas is outlined for big-game hunting by regions called units. There are 30 units in the state with four in Northwest Kansas.

One northwest Kansas license vendor who closely watches changes in state law is Bob Woolsey, manager of Dale's Fish 'n' Fun in Oberlin.

"I don't think anything went south," he said, noting the lack of changes. "Nothing has changed that's going to complicate anything this year."

A new category of license was added this year allowing young hunters to skip hunter education classes the first time out. Kansas will issue apprentice licenses to beginners who want to see whether they like the sport.

"We are not seeing this as making hunting less safe, but as a way to get more people involved, and if they like hunting, they'll have to buy a license and go through hunter safety (course) next year," said Miller.

Hunting licenses can be purchased in person at vendors throughout the 12-county region of northwest Kansas. They also can also be purchased from vendor locations through the state's new Outdoor Automated Licensing System, which allows hunters to put their information into a machine that calculates the type and cost of the license. Licenses can also be purchased over the Internet at www.kdwp.state.ks.us or by calling (800) 918-2877.

All Kansas resident hunters 16 to 64 must have a resident hunting license unless exempt. Non-resident hunters, regardless of age, must have a nonresident license. Hunters can contact the

department or an area license vendor for the list of exemptions. And all firearms deer hunters and persons with them must wear blaze orange in the field.

LICENSE FEES

Resident: \$20.15
Residents under 16: No license required
Resident Combination Hunt & Fish: \$38.15
Nonresident: \$72.15
Nonresident under 16: \$37.15
Nonresident Combination Hunt & Fish: \$112.15
Disability permit required: No fee
National Guard Permit: free hunting and fishing licenses to active members of the Kansas National Guard.
Lifetime Hunting License, residents only: \$442.15 or \$61.15 quarterly until the full amount is paid.
Lifetime Hunting & Fishing Combination License, residents only: \$882.15 or \$121.15 quarterly until the full amount is paid.
Lifetime Furharvester License, residents only: \$442.15 or \$61.15 quarterly until the full amount is paid.
Controlled Shooting Area: \$17.15
Duplicates (all permits): \$12.15
Dogs, commercial or field trial: \$21.50

Where to buy licenses:

Cheyenne County

Kugler K-Store, Dennison and U.S. 36, St. Francis, (785) 332-3222.
Majestic Service, 405 S River, St. Francis, (785) 332-2905.
Cheyenne County Clerk, 212 E. Washington, St. Francis, (785) 332-8800.

Rawlins County

Beaver Creek Ranch, Atwood, (785) 626-3688.
Northwest Arms Service, 720 S. Second, Atwood, (785) 626-3078.
Rawlins County Clerk, 607 Main, Atwood, (785) 626-3351.

Decatur County

Dale's Fish 'n' Fun, 502 E. Frontier Parkway, Oberlin, (785) 475-2201.

Norton County

Pamida, 505 W. Holmes, Norton, (785) 877-3363.
Jamboree Foods, 117 N. Second, Norton, (785) 877-2551.
Hi-Plains Co-Op, West K-9, Lenora, (785) 567-4296.
Rockbranch Hunting Lodge, Norton, (785) 877-3785.
Endzone Sports and Office Supplies Inc., 102 S. Second, Norton, (785) 877-2611.
Prairie Dog State Park, four miles west, one mile south of Norton, (785) 877-2953.

Sherman County

Bill's Shootin Shop, 1907 Cherry, Goodland, (785) 890-6456.
Wal-Mart, 2160 Commerce Rd., Goodland, (785) 899-2111.
Kansas Travel Information Center, I-70 East Milepost 7, between Kanorado and Goodland, (785) 899-6695.

Thomas County

Wal-Mart, 1915 S. Range, Colby, (785) 462-8634.
Dillon's, 1605 S. Range, Colby, (785) 462-1300.
Thomas County Clerk, 300 N. Court, Colby, (785) 460-4500.

Sheridan County

Bainter Oil Service, 929 Main St., Hoxie, (785) 675-3903.
Reds, 1641 Oak Ave, Hoxie, (785) 675-3327.
Sheridan County Clerk, 925 Ninth, Hoxie, (785) 675-3361.

Logan County

Oakley Shurfine Foods, 127 Converse Ave, Oakley, (785) 672-3205.
Smoky River Rendezvous Inc., 115 Bellview, Winona, (785) 846-7785.
Logan County Clerk, 710 W. Second, Oakley, (785) 672-4244.

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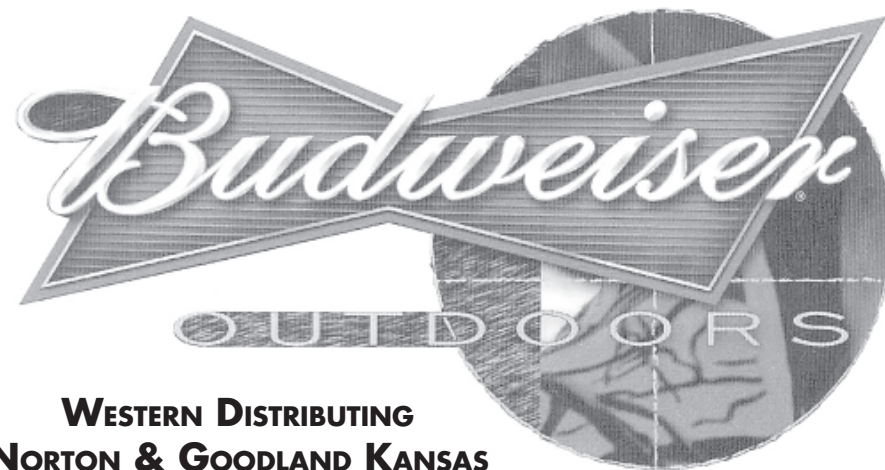


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