

## **2009 Earn-A-Buck (EAB) Frequently Asked Questions**

**Earn-a-buck regulations only apply to CWD Units during the 2009 season**

**1. What is Earn-A-Buck (EAB)?**

Earn-A-Buck requires a hunter to tag an antlerless deer prior to being authorized to tag an antlered deer (has at least one antler at least 3" in length) in Deer Management Units (DMUs) where other population control measures have not been effective in reducing the deer population toward goal. Earn-a-buck is an effective herd control measure which increases harvest pressure on antlerless deer.

**During the 2009 deer season, no DMUs outside of the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Zone will have earn-a-buck regulations.**

**All CWD DMUs will continue to have unlimited earn-a-buck regulations:**

DMUs 54B-CWD, 70, 70A, 70B, 70C, 70D, 70E, 70F, 70G, 71, 73B-CWD, 73E, 75A, 75B, 75C, 75D, 76, 76A, 76M, 77A, 77B and 77C-CWD which are located in the CWD Management Zone.

**2. What are the requirements under earn-a-buck?**

Under the earn-a-buck season structure, a hunter must first tag an antlerless deer before obtaining authorization to harvest an antlered deer.

Buck authorization may be obtained in two ways:

1) Once an antlerless deer is tagged, the hunter may continue to hunt until the registration deadline of 5:00 pm the day after the deer was killed. Within this time-frame, an antlered deer may also be killed and tagged by the same hunter. Both the antlerless deer and the antlered buck deer must be registered together by the same hunter, which would validate the buck. If the antlerless deer does not have a buck sticker attached to its carcass tag, and a tagged buck is accompanying the antlerless deer, the hunter will not receive a buck authorization sticker from the registration station to shoot another buck.

2) A deer harvested from a CWD Management unit must be registered at a registration station within the CWD Management Zone. When an antlerless deer is properly tagged and registered (during any 2009 deer season), the hunter should request a buck authorization sticker at the deer registration station.

**3. I earned a yellow buck sticker in 2008 from a normal EAB unit. Is my sticker still valid?**

Buck authorization is no longer required in former EAB units outside of the CWD Management Zone in 2009, so the buck sticker will not be required to harvest a buck in those units. However, the yellow 2008-2009 buck authorization sticker may still be used to tag a buck in any CWD Management unit during the 2009

season. The future of EAB outside of the CWD Management Zone after 2009 is unknown at this time as alternative strategies are being considered.

**4. Can I earn a buck by harvesting an antlerless deer from a Herd Control or Regular Unit?**

No. Hunters can only receive buck authorization if they tag a deer harvested from a CWD unit in 2009. However, hunters who received yellow buck authorization stickers from a designated “EAB” unit outside of the CWD Management Zone in 2008, may use those stickers to validate a buck in a CWD unit in 2009.

**5. If I have a buck sticker, can I use it to tag a buck during the 4-day October and December antlerless hunts?**

No. Only antlerless deer may be harvested during these special gun seasons by both gun and archery deer hunters (see exceptions for certain disabled and armed forces hunters in question #14). However, a hunter may register an antlerless deer during these seasons, which earns them a buck authorization sticker from the registration station that will be valid to tag a buck during another season. Buck authorization stickers will be valid to take bucks during the separate “Holiday Hunt” beginning in late December.

**6. Does my buck authorization sticker expire, and when?**

Buck authorization stickers will expire and have an expiration date on them. After a hunter has tagged an antlerless deer in a CWD unit, they will be authorized to shoot a buck for the remainder of the deer season. If the hunter did not shoot a buck for the remainder of that season, their buck authorization sticker will carry-over into the next year. For example, if a hunter registers an antlerless deer in October of 2009, their buck sticker will authorize them to shoot a buck through the 2010 gun and archery deer seasons (archery season ending in early January - 2011) if they buy another deer hunting license for the 2010 season.

**7. Can I pre-qualify if my unit goes back into EAB next year?**

This modification to the EAB program enables hunters to plan ahead for the next season. If the unit a hunter hunts in becomes EAB in the following year, they can prepare by registering an antlerless deer in that unit so that they are pre-qualified for a buck the following year if EAB is approved. Buck authorization stickers would be mailed to those hunters the next summer. Significant antlerless harvest in certain units could be enough to keep the unit out of earn-a-buck the following year.

**8. Can I get a replacement sticker if I lost mine or didn't get one at the registration station?**

Yes. Buck stickers may be replaced at DNR Service Centers during open hours. A thorough check of deer registration records will be conducted to verify that you harvested an antlerless deer from a 2008 or 2009 EAB or CWD unit. Upon verification, you will be required fill out and sign a sworn affidavit. Any intentional false claims of deer registered or misuse of Buck Authorization

Stickers may result in penalties and revocation of hunting, fishing and trapping privileges for up to 3 years. Please make sure to make a thorough attempt to locate a misplaced buck sticker before you claim it to be lost.

**9. What tags can I use with my buck authorization sticker?**

Any deer carcass tag valid during the 2009 deer season may be used to tag a buck within the CWD Management Zone. The buck authorization sticker must be attached to the back of the carcass tag unless the buck will be registered with an antlerless deer tagged by the same hunter. Carcass tags used must be valid for the weapon type used by the hunter and during the respective season (gun vs. archery). All hunters must show their valid back-tag upon registration of any deer.

**Tip:** If you will also be hunting in a non-CWD unit, you may want to save your “Archery Buck Deer Carcass Tag” or “Gun Buck Deer Carcass Tag” for the possibility of tagging a buck in those units later. Instead, free “CWD Deer Carcass Tags” may be used to tag bucks with a buck sticker in the CWD Management Zone.

**10. How many buck stickers can I earn and how do “unlimited earn-a-buck regulations” work?**

In the CWD Management Zone, a hunter will receive a buck authorization sticker for every antlerless deer they register. A hunter may harvest as many bucks as the number of antlerless deer previously harvested within EAB or CWD units. In other words, a hunter may shoot as many bucks as they have valid buck authorization stickers and corresponding carcass tags for, during any season open to buck hunting.

**11. Is the buck sticker weapon or season specific?**

No. Buck stickers are not weapon or season specific. However, carcass tags may be weapon specific (see question #9). A buck sticker earned from an archery harvested antlerless deer may be used to tag a buck harvested by gun during the gun season, and visa-versa.

**12. How do I use my buck sticker?**

A buck sticker is required to harvest and register an antlered buck in a CWD unit, unless an antlerless deer accompanies an antlered buck and is registered at the same time by the same hunter. After harvest, the buck sticker must be immediately attached to the back of the validated carcass tag, which is attached to the buck’s ear or antler upon harvest.

**Tip:** Do not put the buck sticker on your carcass tag before harvesting an antlered deer, you may not end up using this carcass tag on a buck. You may end up using your buck sticker on a different carcass tag (archery or gun) or on a different tag used the following year. Try to avoid getting buck stickers and deer carcass tags wet before tagging the deer.

**13. Can I earn a buck for someone else?**

No, buck stickers are non-transferable. However, in legal group hunting situations, a hunter carrying a buck sticker may agree to tag a buck harvested by a different member of his/her hunting group who does not have a buck authorization sticker.

**14. Are there any exceptions to hunters that don't have to follow earn-a-buck requirements?**

Yes. The following hunters are not required to follow earn-a-buck under the following circumstances:

- a. Youth hunters ages 12-15 may use their "Gun Buck Deer Carcass Tag" to tag a buck only during the special 2-day Youth Gun Deer Hunt (Oct. 10-11, 2009) without having to tag an antlerless deer first. Youth hunters must follow earn-a-buck requirements during all other hunting periods in the CWD Management Zone.
- b. Hunters with a Class A or C disabled hunting permit may use their one "Gun Buck Deer Carcass Tag" on a buck that they harvest during any gun deer season (including the Oct. and Dec. antlerless-only hunts) without having to follow earn-a-buck requirements.
- c. U.S. armed forces members who are Wisconsin residents or were Wisconsin residents when they entered active service may use their one "Gun Buck Deer Carcass Tag" on a buck that they harvest during any gun deer season (including the Oct. and Dec. antlerless-only hunts) without having to follow earn-a-buck requirements. This situation only applies if the armed forces member is officially on furlough or leave from outside of the state.
- d. During the 9-day gun season and the late December Holiday gun season, gun hunters in legal group-hunting situations may shoot a buck for another hunter who will use their buck authorization sticker and carcass tag on the deer. Hunters should agree on this situation before heading out into the field to avoid conflicts or potential violations.

