

Deer Task Force Meeting

7/20/21

Sheri Courteau

Local communities who have a Deer Management Program

**Lackawanna –**

- Anthony Catuzza – Police Dept. contact
- Program started in 2010
- Usual dates for bait/shoot are 9/1 – 3/31 – but they wait until cold out
- Ice Fishing sleds are used to ensure no blood left or trail left behind
- Elevated positioning
- Started with 100 deer per year, now maintain with about 25-50.
- 2 locations used to process deer – state pays for processing and meat is donated to local food pantries
- Cross Bows are also accepted to be used.
- Ammunition cost comes out of police/swat team budget

**Cheektowaga –**

- Police Department responsible
- Bait (corn) and shoot (rifles) – all from elevated position
- DNP required – must apply through DEC
- Ammunition cost comes out of police/swat team budget
- Use larger locations and parks for stands and suppressed rifles

**Amherst –**

- Police Department responsible
- Bait (corn) and shoot (rifles) – all from elevated position
- DNP required – must apply through DEC
- Start with over 100 a year, have lessened since then for maintenance
- Main reason was the huge increase in car accidents – along with a study done that showed the amount of deer present was much higher than the surrounding area was able to support
- Additional reasons were: tick illnesses, chronic waste disease, diseases were spreading to other animals.
- Ammunition cost comes out of police/swat team budget
- <https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1070&context=belj>

#### **Clarence –**

- Dennis Londo – contact
- Anyone can apply for the DMP through the DEC.
- Agreements can be filed between DMP agents and property owners if the property owner agrees to allow bait and shoot on their property. Must follow all DEC guidelines for size of lot, how far away from structure, etc.
- Cross Bows are also used
- All meat is donated (state pays the fees to process) to the food pantry.

#### **North Tonawanda –**

- Lt. Lea Balzar – contact
- Program in effect the last 10-15 years – Car accidents were main reason to start program
- 3 Police Officers apply for permit (DMP)
- While assessing, helicopters were used to see how many deer there were vs. what the area could support – it was well beyond that limit.
- Started with 75-100 deer, now 25-30 to maintain
- Elevated stands, climber stands, bows can be used
- Donate meat to Buck and Doe – state pays and food goes to pantries
- Ammunition cost comes out of police/swat team budget
- Female Deer only

Common contact - Ryan Rockefeller – Allegheny DEC – permits and other assistance with program

#### **Batavia –**

“After careful review, the Deer Management Committee recommends reduction of the deer herd through an archery-only hunting/culling during regulated hunting seasons (October – December), followed by an extended archery-only option (January – March), if necessary, for additional removal of deer. This recommendation is not designed to permit unlawful recreational hunting within the City”

[https://www.batavianewyork.com/sites/g/files/vyhlif286/f/uploads/deer\\_management\\_plan\\_-\\_city\\_of\\_batavia\\_final\\_9.25.20.pdf](https://www.batavianewyork.com/sites/g/files/vyhlif286/f/uploads/deer_management_plan_-_city_of_batavia_final_9.25.20.pdf)

General consensus amongst the towns I spoke with is that the Deer Management Program was necessary for need of curbing disease, car accidents, plant destruction and aggressive deer/human/animal interactions. All of the towns that I spoke with found the bait and shoot program an overwhelming success in their towns.