NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

Last Approved Date: ~~September 4, 2012~~ October 7, 2013

Title 163 - Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Chapter 4 - Wildlife Regulations

005 Game Birds (not including turkey, coots and migratory waterfowl), Furbearers, and Cottontail Rabbit ~~and Squirrels~~

The following regulations are prescribed by the Game and Parks Commission, State of Nebraska in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 37-314, 37-315, 37-502, 37-701. For purposes of these regulations, unless context otherwise requires, the definitions found in Chapter 37, sections 202 through 247 of the Game Law, are used. These regulations are effective following enactment by the Commission, approval by the Attorney General and Governor, and when five days have elapsed since filing with the Secretary of State.

For season dates, bag limits, possession limits, open areas and shooting hours see Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Order C05, Game Birds (not including turkey, coots and migratory waterfowl), Furbearers, Cottontail Rabbit and Squirrels on the Commission's website: outdoornebraska.gov.

~~005.01 Hunting Seasons~~

~~005.01A Rail (Sora and Virginia are the only species allowed to be hunted)~~

~~005.01A1 Open Season: September 1 through November 9, inclusive.~~

~~005.01A2 Daily Bag Limit: Ten (10) in the aggregate.~~

~~005.01A3 Possession limit: Thirty (30) in the aggregate~~

~~005.01A4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.~~

~~005.01A5 Open Area: Statewide except Federal or State refuges, unless otherwise specified.~~

~~005.01B Snipe~~

~~005.01B1 Open Season: September 1 through December 16, inclusive.~~

~~005.01B2 Daily Bag Limit: Eight (8).~~

~~005.01B3 Possession limit: Twenty-four (24).~~

~~005.01B4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.~~

~~005.01B5 Open Area: Statewide except Federal or State refuges, unless otherwise specified~~

~~005.01C Woodcock~~

~~005.01C1 Open Season: the Saturday closest to September 22 through the Monday closest to November 5.~~

~~005.01C2 Daily Bag Limit: Three (3).~~

~~005.01C3 Possession limit: Nine (9).~~

~~005.01C4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.~~

~~005.01C5 Open Area: Statewide except Federal or State refuges, unless otherwise specified.~~

~~005.01D Dove (Mourning, White-winged, and Eurasian Collared are the only species allowed to be hunted)~~

~~005.01D1 Open Season: September 1 through October 30, inclusive, for all legal species. Eurasian collared-doves may also be hunted October 31 through August 31, inclusive.~~

~~005.01D2 Daily Bag Limit: Fifteen (15) in the aggregate.~~

~~005.01D3 Possession limit: Forty-five (45) in the aggregate.~~

~~005.01D4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.~~

~~005.01D5 Open Area: Statewide except Federal or State refuges, unless otherwise specified.~~

~~005.01E~~ 005.01 Grouse (Greater prairie-chicken and Sharp-tailed are the only species allowed to be hunted~~; Zone Boundaries in 005.01E5).~~

~~005.01E1 Open Season: September 1, through January 31, inclusive.~~

~~005.01E2 Daily Bag Limit: Three (3) in the aggregate. Grouse taken in the East Zone (005.01E2b) must be legally tagged according to provisions of 005.01E6c.~~

~~005.01E3 Possession limit: Twelve (12) in the aggregate, no more than three (3) of which may be legally tagged grouse taken in the East Zone.~~

~~005.01E4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.~~

~~005.01E5 Area Open: Statewide, within Zones as delineated, except Federal or State sanctuaries or refuges unless otherwise authorized.~~

~~005.01E5a West Zone: That portion of Nebraska lying west of U.S. Hwy. 81.~~

~~005.01E5b East Zone: That portion of Nebraska lying east of U.S. Hwy. 81.~~

~~005.01E6 Special Permit: A special free permit is required for hunting grouse in the East Zone. Four hundred (400) permits will be made available, each allowing the harvest of three (3) grouse in the East Zone. Hunters may obtain no more than one (1) permit.~~

~~005.01E6a~~ 005.01A Special Permit Eligibility: Persons who have been issued a valid Nebraska small game hunting permit are eligible to apply for a special permit. Residents 12 through 15 years of age who have successfully completed a state-certified Hunter Education course, as well as persons who may legally hunt small game in the State of Nebraska without a valid small game hunting permit, are also eligible to apply.

~~005.01E6b~~ 005.01B Application Period and Procedure: Permits valid for the current calendar year may be applied for no sooner than July 15 of that year. Permits will be distributed to eligible applicants on a first-come, first-served basis, with permit requests accepted at the Lincoln Game and Parks office by mail, phone, or over-the-counter. Permit requests must include the applicant's name, address, and valid small game hunting permit number (or, for residents 12 through 15 years of age, their Hunter Education Certificate number). Persons who may legally hunt small game in the State of Nebraska without a valid small game hunting permit may provide documentation of such status with their application in lieu of a permit number.

~~005.01E6c~~ 005.01C Tagging: It shall be unlawful to fail or neglect to tag a grouse taken in the East Zone immediately after killing, with the tag furnished by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, or to transport or possess any grouse taken in the East Zone unless the tag is attached to the carcass.

~~005.01F~~ 005.02 Pheasant

~~005.01F1~~ 005.02A ~~Open Seasons:~~ Youth Eligibility:

~~General - Last Saturday in October through January 31.~~

~~Youth - The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding the opening of the general pheasant season.~~

~~005.01F1a~~ 005.02A1 Youth Eligibility: Youth 15 years of age or younger, and others as specified in ~~005.01F1b~~ 005.02A2.

~~005.01F1b~~ 005.02A2 Adults accompanying youth will not be allowed to shoot pheasants, except on Wildlife Management Areas where special hunts have been declared according to 018.13.

~~005.01F2 Daily Bag Limit:~~

~~General Season - Three (3) cocks.~~

~~Youth Season - Two (2) cocks for youth 15 years of age or younger, and one (1) cock for eligible adults as specified in 005.02A2.~~

~~005.01F3 Possession Limit: Twelve (12) cocks.~~

~~005.01F4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.~~

~~005.01F5 Area Open: Statewide except Federal or State refuges, unless otherwise specified.~~

~~005.01G~~ 005.03 Quail

~~005.01G1~~ 005.3A ~~Open Seasons:~~ Youth Eligibility:

~~General - The last Saturday in October through January 31.~~

~~Youth - The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding the opening of the general quail season.~~

~~005.01G1a~~ 005.03A1 Youth Eligibility: Youth 15 years of age or younger.

~~005.01G1b~~ 005.03A2 Adults accompanying youth will not be allowed to shoot quail.

~~005.01G2 Daily Bag Limit:~~

~~General Season - Six (6).~~

~~Youth Season - Two (2).~~

~~005.01G3 Possession Limit: Twenty-four (24).~~

~~005.01G4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.~~

~~005.01G5 Area Open: Statewide, except Federal or State sanctuaries or refuges unless otherwise authorized.~~

~~005.01H~~ 005.04 Partridge (Gray [Hungarian] and Chukar are the only species allowed to be hunted)

~~005.01H1~~ 005.04A ~~Open Seasons:~~ Youth Eligibility:

~~General - The last Saturday in October through January 31.~~

~~Youth - The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding the opening of the general partridge season.~~

~~005.01H1a~~ 005.04A1 Youth Eligibility: Youth 15 years of age or younger.

~~005.01H1b~~ 005.04A2 Adults accompanying youth will not be allowed to shoot partridge.

~~005.01H2 Daily Bag Limit:~~

~~General Season - Three (3) birds in the aggregate for all partridge species.~~

~~Youth Season - Two (2) birds in the aggregate for all partridge species.~~

~~005.01H3 Possession Limit: Twelve (12) birds in the aggregate.~~

~~005.01H4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.~~

~~005.01H5 Area Open: Statewide except Federal or State refuges, unless otherwise specified.~~

~~005.02~~ 005.05 Cottontail Rabbit ~~and Squirrel~~

~~005.02A Cottontail Rabbit~~

~~005.02A1 Open Season: September 1 through the last day of February, inclusive.~~

~~005.02A2 Daily Bag Limit: Seven (7).~~

~~005.02A3 Possession limit: Twenty-eight (28).~~

~~005.02A4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.~~

~~005.02A5 Area Open: Statewide, except Federal or State refuges, unless otherwise specified.~~

~~005.02A6~~ 005.05A Running: Running is defined as pursuing or chasing of these animals, but not the killing. Running season is provided for cottontail rabbits. See C05.01I6 for cottontail running season.

~~005.02A6a Cottontail rabbit running season shall be open year round.~~

~~005.02B Squirrel~~

~~005.02B1 Open Season: August 1 through January 31, inclusive.~~

~~005.02B2 Daily Bag Limit: Seven (7).~~

~~005.02B3 Possession limit: Twenty-eight (28).~~

~~005.02B4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.~~

~~005.02B5 Area Open: Statewide, except Federal or State refuges, unless otherwise specified.~~

~~005.03~~ 005.06 FURBEARER SEASONS

~~005.03A Area Open: Entire state except for Commission-owned or controlled lands, waters or marshes or areas closed by Federal, State or Municipal law. Provided that trapping is permitted on State Wildlife Management Areas and State Recreation Areas in accordance with general state trapping regulations and provided further that any such area or portion thereof may be closed to trapping by proper signs, or as noted in 018.06E, 018.16A1.~~

~~005.03B Hours Open Each Day: All hours, except opens at 12:01 a.m. opening day.~~

~~005.03C Daily Bag Limit: No limit.~~

~~005.03D Possession Limit: No limit.~~

~~005.03E Trapping and Hunting~~

~~005.03E1 Long-tailed Weasel, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Mink and Badger - Open Season: November 1 through the last day in February.~~

~~005.03E2 Bobcat - Open Season: December 1 through the last day in February.~~

~~005.03E3 Striped Skunk - Open Season: Year-round.~~

~~005.03E4 Raccoon and Virginia Opossum - Open Season: November 1 through the last day in February.~~

~~005.03E4a - Hunting Only - Open Season: September 1 through October 31.~~

~~005.03F Trapping Only~~

~~005.03F1 Beaver and Muskrat - Open Season: November 1 through March 31.~~

~~005.03G~~ 005.06A ~~Running - Running season is provided for raccoon, Virginia opossum, bobcat and red fox~~. Running is defined as the pursuing or chasing of

these animals but not killing except during the taking (hunting, trapping) season. See C05.02G for running seasons for raccoon, Virginia opossum, bobcat and red fox.

~~005.03G1 Raccoon and Virginia Opossum - Open Season: March 1 to the opening of the raccoon and opossum hunting season.~~

~~005.03G2 Bobcat - Open Season: March 1 to the opening of the bobcat taking season.~~

~~005.03G3 Red Fox - Open Season: March 1 to the opening of the red fox taking season.~~

~~005.03H~~ 005.06B Pursuant to this sub-section and Nebraska Statute 37-225, fur harvesting shall mean to chase or pursue or take or attempt to take any furbearers during their respective open trapping and/or hunting seasons.