

Nation's Earliest Deer Season Kicks Off This Month In California Area

SACRAMENTO (UPI)—The nation's earliest deer season of 1959 starts in California this month—but nobody apparently knows a good reason why it should.

"It's just tradition," said big game coordinator Fred Jones of the California Fish and Game Department. "There's really no good biological reason for it."

Go down the list of starting dates for the nation's deer hunting seasons and you will find that they all start in either late September, October, November or even December.

In California, the coastal deer season started for gun hunters this year on July 25.

Jones admitted frankly that he knows of no good reason why the season along California's coast should start so early.

In the middle of July, temperatures in the valleys of the coast range swelter in the immediate vicinity of 100 degrees.

This makes for hardship for the hunters—both in getting to the spot and in carrying out his meat.

But the hunters continue to come. Last year 400,000 of them

bought tags in California to shoot their deer. It's probable that at least 100,000 of the hunters trekked after their deer in the coastal area because 35 per cent of the deer were shot in that season.

Of the total known deer kill of about 58,000, the department estimated that 20,348 were shot in the coast and 38,321 in the inland season which includes the high mountains of the Sierras.

The early season tradition started many, many years ago. Back in 1893, for instance, there were many seasons in the state of California. The earliest was in small Del Norte County, in the northwestern corner of the state. It started June 1.

Things began to settle down toward an eventual two separate seasons—although one year the legislature decreed that each of the 58 counties would set its own

deer season.

California's late deer season starts September 26—almost two months to the date after the early season begins, but only 13 days after it ends.

This is more in line with seasons in other parts of the nation.

Jones said there are a couple of reasons, besides tradition, for the early season starting long before the inland season.

"Deer in the coastal area do things earlier by a month than the mountain deer," he said.

"They breed earlier, fawn earlier, lose their velvet earlier and change their coats earlier."

There's a sort of hunters' old maids tale about deer meat not being good to eat during the breeding season and that is one reason for the early season.

Jones said this has been disproved in California. Several

years ago, the Fish and Game Department asked some home economics students at the University of California at Davis to cook up some deer meat and taste it. They were supposed to tell researchers which meat tasted worst. Their reactions showed no difference.

The coastal deer of California, for the most part blacktails, are rather unique in one respect. They are "resident deer." By this it is meant that they stay in one place.

"We've found that they live and die within an area of one or two miles in some cases," said Jones. "Migratory deer, on the other hand, sometimes range as far as 75 miles."

The hunter in California's coastal area must be very careful that the meat does not spoil before he gets it home. Sometimes this is

difficult in temperatures of 100 degrees.

Jones offered a suggestion. "The mistake some hunters make is not to cut their deer on the scene shortly after they are killed. If you cut them open and hang them in the shade they will be all right."

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Bee Colony Registration Set To Go

Klamath County bee owners who have not registered their colonies for this year may do so by contacting the local deputy state bee inspector for their area, Ivan Rifley, 5244 Bristol Avenue, Klamath Falls. Or they may contact the state department of agriculture headquarters at Salem.

This inspection program is to protect the Oregon bee industry against American foul brood, a highly contagious bacterial disease which destroys bees. The bacteria causing this disease are extremely hard to destroy and for that reason any colonies infected with American foul brood are burned and buried below the plow line.

Without this control measure, which is written into the state apiary law, Oregon would have a greatly reduced bee population—much to the detriment of thousands of acres of crops primarily dependent upon the bee for pollination.

The Oregon law requires all beekeepers to register their bees, whether they have one colony or 500 colonies. The annual registration fee is \$1 which covers up to six colonies, and 15 cents for each colony over six.

Last year 27,254 colonies of bees were registered by 1316 beekeepers in Oregon, according to Kenneth E. Goeden, Salem, department supervisor of this program.

BEEFING IT UP

NEW YORK (UPI) — For an easy luncheon dish, add 1½ cups shredded dried beef to easy corn bread mix. Place beef in plastic bag of cornbread ingredients, mix and bake according to package directions. Slice hot cornbread squared horizontally and serve with creamed peas between slices and over top of each serving.

LAWYER - PRIEST

MELROSE, Mass. (UPI) — The Rev. George B. Gray, 44-year-old lawyer-priest, has been admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. At least 100,000 of the hunters trekked curate at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church here, says he uses his legal knowledge "for the glory of God." He serves as counsel for the needy and never charges a fee.



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