

2025 - 2026 Panhandle TAG OUT Whitetail Harvest Challenge

Whitetail deer cause significant damage to crops across Florida. This damage results in major economic losses for farmers. The UF/IFAS Extension Whitetail Deer Crop Damage Response Team is working to survey, quantify, and validate strategies to decrease this damage. A part of that effort is to increase deer harvest by hunters. The Panhandle Tag Out Challenge is to encourage deer harvest, specifically does, in the Florida Panhandle, to alleviate deer pressure on agricultural crops and encourage conservation-based hunting.

2025–2026 Florida Tag Out Deer Contest Official Rules & Regulations

All individuals participate at their own risk. By entering, participants agree not to hold the University of Florida, Holmes County Board of County Commissioners, or any associated persons/sponsors liable for any damage, injury, or claims resulting from participation.

Rules and regulations may be changed at the discretion of the volunteer contest director or host.

Eligibility

- Open to all hunters legally harvesting deer in Florida.
- Two divisions:
 - Youth Division – hunters 17 years of age and under
 - Adult Division – hunters 18 and older
- All participants must comply with Florida hunting laws and regulations. Any violation will result in immediate disqualification. [Florida Deer Hunting Regulations & FAQs](#)

Harvest Rules

- All legal methods of deer harvest in Florida are eligible (bow, rifle, muzzleloader, etc.).
- “Tag Out” is defined as legally harvesting and reporting the maximum number of deer allowed per hunter (5 total deer per season, buck or doe, as permitted by law).
- FWC Harvest Report Confirmation Numbers are required for entry. Each harvested deer will have a unique confirmation number. Numbers will be verified through FWC. [Harvest Reporting Info](#)

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Contest Entries

- Each harvested deer must be registered using the official online form:
www.go.ufl.edu/tagout25
- To enter, provide your FWC Harvest Report Confirmation Number.
- You may:
 - Enter each deer individually as they are harvested, or
 - Enter all deer at once at the end of the season.
- Every hunter who successfully “Tags Out” (5 deer) will be entered into the grand prize drawing.

Youth Lifetime License Nomination

- For each deer logged, hunters may nominate one youth for the Florida Lifetime Hunting License drawing.
- Youth must be 17 years of age or under and be a Florida resident
- Hunters may nominate the same youth multiple times or different youths for each harvest.

Prizes & Drawings

- Grand Prize Drawing – All hunters who “Tag Out” (harvest and log 5 deer) will be placed in the drawing for prize packages.
- Youth Drawing – Nominated youths will be entered into the drawing for a Florida Lifetime Hunting License.
- Drawing Date – All prizes will be drawn on March 10, 2026, after the close of Florida’s regular deer season.
- Winners do not have to be present to claim prizes.

Winners and Awards will be drawn at the UF/IFAS Extension Tag Out Banquet in Bonifay, FL, on March 10, 2025. More details will be announced as the date approaches.

**Contest Contact: Kalyn Waters or Kayla Welch, UF/IFAS Extension Holmes County
850-547-1108 or kalyn.waters@ufl.edu**

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WHITETAIL DEER
CROP
DAMAGE RESPONSE TEAM