



DEER DAMAGE PERMIT - INFORMATION

What is a Deer Damage Permit?

Landowners with an agricultural interest can apply for Deer Damage Permits (DDP) from the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW). DDP are customizable to the mutual deer management goals of the landowner and DFW. DDPs allow the landowner and named individuals (“sub-permittees”) to remove deer outside of the hunting season. The landowner and DFW can choose an extended range of implements and equipment, shooting hours, and days of the week compared to those allowable during hunting season.

Why is the Nantucket Land Bank acquiring a DDP?

As the steward of its public property, the Nantucket Land Bank (NLB) practices ethical and scientifically backed wildlife management. MassWildlife has determined that Nantucket’s deer are overpopulated and the herd should be reduced for its own welfare, human public health, and to reduce browsing damage to crops and habitat. NLB Commission and Staff support MassWildlife’s scientifically backed deer management strategies and will pursue controlled deer removal in addition to supporting recreational hunting.

How will deer be removed under the DDP and what happens to them?

The NLB DDP will permit the named sub-permittees to utilize crossbows over bait with tree or tripod stands, night shooting Mon-Sat, night-vision and/or thermal scopes, and lights between 2/15 and 3/21/2026. All deer will be donated to MassWildlife’s Hunters Share the Harvest program.

What are the responsibilities of the sub-permittees?

NLB is looking for volunteers to become named sub-permittees on the DDP. Sub-permittees will read, understand, and follow the terms of the DDP. NLB requires that these sub-permittees supply the implements and other equipment necessary to remove the deer under the permit. The sub-permittees, as a cooperative group, will be responsible for baiting the stations daily at a set time and expertly shooting deer on assigned nights. A carcass dumpster will be provided at the site to facilitate field dressing. All deer shot will be tagged with provided metal seals, checked in online, and brought field-dressed to 19 Boynton Lane within 24 hours of being shot according to the terms of the DDP. Sub-permittees will be vital volunteer partners with NLB in our efforts to responsibly manage wildlife on our property for sustainable herd health. NLB will reimburse sub-permittees for the cost of bait and crossbow-bolts used for the DDP. All culled deer will be processed through MassWildlife’s Hunters Share the Harvest by the Agricultural Processing Center at 19 Boynton Lane and will feed food-insecure Nantucket residents.

What is the volunteer application process?

Prospective volunteers will fill out an application form, provide required documents, and allow NLB to obtain a CORI check. Applicants may be invited to interview with the DDP Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee will make the final decision on who is named as a sub-permittee on the DDP.

Thank you for your interest. If you would like to volunteer to remove deer for the Nantucket Land Bank as a sub-permittee please fill in the attached application form and return it to the Nantucket Land Bank offices at 22 Broad Street by 2/9/2026 during business hours. Please bring your current MA Driver’s License, Hunting License, and Firearms ID Card so that we can make copies.