APPENDICES

B · Printable Checklists

Check these off in the gear closet in summer and again at the tailgate, from the first paperwork to the knife and gloves you'll want after the shot.

Print these lists from the companion page at the front of the book, or photograph a page and check the boxes on your phone; the chapter number at the end of each line points to the explanation.

01 / BEFORE THE SEASON

☐	Hunter education passed, with a photo of the certificate on your phone	CH. 2
☐	Draw deadlines on the calendar, and the last day of your license year	CH. 1
☐	License, tags and any stamp or permit, checked against your state's list for this species and weapon	CH. 2
☐	This year's regulations read, the answers for your hunt copied onto one index card	CH. 3
☐	CWD testing and carcass-transport rules, where you hunt and at home	CH. 25, 26
☐	Written permission for any private ground	CH. 16, 63
☐	Spot walked in daylight; parking and route in pinned	CH. 16
☐	Main stand and a backup for the opposite wind	CH. 18
☐	Stand and lifeline hung within the dates the property allows	CH. 13
☐	Blind brushed in, with practice shots from the chair you'll sit in	CH. 19
☐	Boots worn on every walk since summer	CH. 4
☐	Two boxes of your exact hunting load	CH. 9
☐	Rifle zeroed with that load, shotgun patterned, or bow fitted to you and practiced at hunting weight	CH. 9, 10, 11
☐	Plate test passed at each position; limits on a strip of tape on the stock, riser or rangefinder	CH. 12
☐	A practice session from the stand in hunting clothes, clipped in	CH. 12
☐	Harness checked for expiration date and frayed webbing; one practice hang at ground level with another adult	CH. 13
☐	Zero rechecked in the two weeks before the opener	CH. 1, 9
☐	Offline maps opened at home in airplane mode	CH. 14
☐	Survival kit sealed in its gallon bag, power bank charged, medication refreshed	CH. 14
☐	Western mountains: walks under a loaded pack from early summer	CH. 27
☐	Your state's success rate looked up for the same species, weapon and kind of tag	CH. 5

02 / THE PACK FOR EVERY HUNT

- [ ] License and tag in a zip-top bag with a pen and zip ties, in a jacket pocket — CH. 32, 50
- [ ] Blaze-orange hat and vest whenever rifles and shotguns are out — CH. 3, 4
- [ ] Broadheads in a hard quiver — CH. 11
- [ ] No-cotton base layers and a rain shell — CH. 4
- [ ] Headlamp in a pocket, spare batteries in the pack — CH. 14
- [ ] Whistle and fire starter — CH. 4
- [ ] Water and food — CH. 4
- [ ] Tape with your limits and today's legal shooting hours — CH. 12, 32
- [ ] Hunt plan handed over, back-by time agreed — CH. 14
- [ ] Your regulations index card — CH. 3
- [ ] Gun cased and empty, ammunition packed apart — CH. 7
- [ ] Binoculars — CH. 21
- [ ] A warm middle layer, plus one more to pull on once you sit — CH. 4, 14
- [ ] Map, compass and a charged phone with the area saved offline — CH. 14
- [ ] Survival kit in its gallon bag: lighter, tinder, power bank — CH. 14
- [ ] Small first-aid kit with a tourniquet — CH. 4, 65
- [ ] PLB, registered with NOAA, where there's no signal — CH. 14
- [ ] After-the-shot kit, from the list below — CH. 32

03 / ADD FOR YOUR HUNT

DEER FROM A STAND OR BLIND

- [ ] Full-body harness with tether and relief strap — CH. 13
- [ ] Phone on your body for the climb — CH. 13
- [ ] Wind checker: powder, milkweed fluff or ribbon — CH. 18
- [ ] Food and water for an all-day sit near the rut peak — CH. 25
- [ ] Haul line — CH. 13
- [ ] Rangefinder, or paces counted to a few landmarks — CH. 4, 32
- [ ] Grunt tube or can call — CH. 22
- [ ] Blind: the low chair, and any orange your state wants on it — CH. 19

SPRING TURKEY

- [ ] Turkey choke and the shells you patterned — CH. 10
- [ ] Blaze-orange cap or vest for the walk in, and a band of it for your tree — CH. 34
- [ ] Camouflage or dark, solid clothes; nothing red, white or blue — CH. 4
- [ ] Hen decoy, carried in a bag — CH. 34
- [ ] One call you can run — CH. 22
- [ ] Orange game bag for carrying the bird out — CH. 34

SQUIRRELS AND RABBITS

- [ ] Shells or .22 cartridges legal for small game — CH. 4, 35
- [ ] Orange in the brush, required or not — CH. 36
- [ ] Cooler and ice in the warm weeks — CH. 35
- [ ] Game vest — CH. 4
- [ ] Rubber, latex or nitrile gloves for cleaning — CH. 35, 36

UPLAND BIRDS AND DOVES

- [ ] Shot size and choke from the table — CH. 10
- [ ] Doves: plug in, HIP proof on you — CH. 40
- [ ] Dog: blaze vest or collar, its own water, a digital rectal thermometer — CH. 41
- [ ] Nontoxic loads, where the ground you hunt requires them — CH. 40
- [ ] More orange than the law asks for — CH. 40
- [ ] Trap release kit, wherever trapping is legal — CH. 41

DUCKS AND GEESE

- [ ] HIP proof — CH. 42
- [ ] Plug in: three shells in all — CH. 42
- [ ] Barrel and choke tube rated for steel — CH. 10, 42
- [ ] Life jacket, worn for wading too — CH. 42
- [ ] Decoys and a decoy bag — CH. 4, 42
- [ ] Retriever: neoprene vest and a towel for late-season water — CH. 41
- [ ] Duck Stamp signed, or the E-Stamp, at 16 and older — CH. 42
- [ ] Approved nontoxic shells, and no other kind in your pockets — CH. 10, 42
- [ ] Chest waders with the belt cinched — CH. 42
- [ ] Staff to probe ahead in the dark — CH. 42
- [ ] Sunset time for your zone — CH. 3

WESTERN BIG GAME

- [ ] Elk: a bullet built for elk-size game, sighted in — CH. 27
- [ ] Shooting sticks, or your pack as a rest — CH. 12, 28
- [ ] At altitude, 3 to 4 quarts of water a day — CH. 27
- [ ] Ice chest full of ice, big enough for a deer's or pronghorn's four quarters — CH. 28, 54
- [ ] Spotting scope — CH. 21
- [ ] Pack frame and a partner who'll haul with you — CH. 27, 31
- [ ] Bear spray in a hip or chest holster, in grizzly country — CH. 29
- [ ] Motor vehicle use map (MVUM) for national forest roads — CH. 16

04 / AFTER-THE-SHOT KIT

- [ ] Sharp fixed-blade knife and sharpener — CH. 4, 51
- [ ] Rubber gloves and safety glasses, for a hog — CH. 30
- [ ] Two gallon-size zip-top bags — CH. 51
- [ ] A bottle of clean water — CH. 51
- [ ] Cord, and a 10–15 ft rope for a drag — CH. 4, 53
- [ ] Breathable game bags, one per quarter plus two or three for the boneless cuts — CH. 52, 53
- [ ] Two pairs of nitrile gloves — CH. 51
- [ ] String or zip ties — CH. 51
- [ ] Paper towels and wet wipes — CH. 51
- [ ] A full roll of orange flagging — CH. 32
- [ ] Small saw for an older deer's breastbone — CH. 51
- [ ] A clean tarp or space blanket — CH. 52, 53

05 / AFTER THE SHOT, IN ORDER

- [ ] Reload, eyes on the deer; if it's down but moving, shoot again at once if it's safe and legal, then safety on. Note the time, then pick a landmark where it stood and one where it vanished — CH. 32, 48
- [ ] Wait 30–60 min for a heart or lung hit, at least 4 hours for the liver, at least 6 hours for a gut hit or when you can't tell where you hit — CH. 48
- [ ] Unload, or cover the arrows and take the bolt off a crossbow, before you climb down — CH. 32
- [ ] On the ground, load only in legal hours and where your state allows, safety on; otherwise track unarmed. Unload at a fence or before you walk up to anyone — CH. 7, 32, 48
- [ ] Text your contact if the search will run past your back-by time — CH. 32
- [ ] Start at the first landmark, even if you're sure you missed; walk beside the trail and flag it — CH. 32, 49
- [ ] Come in from above and behind the head, safety on; if it's breathing, stay back — CH. 32, 48
- [ ] Once it's surely dead, unload; then tag it before field dressing, if your state requires it — CH. 48, 50
- [ ] Field-dress it (Ch. 51), or use the gutless method — CH. 52
- [ ] Bag the heart and liver; leave a spotted or lumpy liver, and eat nothing that smells bad — CH. 51
- [ ] In grizzly country, drag the carcass more than 100 yd from the gut pile — CH. 29
- [ ] Get it into the shade. If ice is hours away, skin it where it lies — CH. 28, 54
- [ ] Take down every flag — CH. 32
- [ ] Ducks and geese: head or one fully feathered wing left on until you're home; upland birds, your state's rule — CH. 42, 58
- [ ] Birds laid out to cool, never piled in a bag — CH. 54
- [ ] Report it by your state's deadline — CH. 3, 50
- [ ] Keep the head or hide unfrozen if a check or inspection is due — CH. 29, 31
- [ ] Write it up in the harvest log (Appendix C)