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Office of Information, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

PROTECT THE DEER THIS YEAR.

Washington, D. C. While 15 States will have no big-game hunting this year because deer have been exterminated or because the stock has been so reduced that the season is closed, there are 33 other States, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture which will have an open season for deer hunting. This season ranges from 4 days in New Jersey and 6 days in Massachusetts and Vermont, to 2 months or more in some of the Southern States. These seasons will open in August in Oregon and in most parts of California; in September in the rest of California and in Idaho, South Carolina, and Virginia; in October in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Georgia, Montana, Wyoming, Washington, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico; in November in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and several of the Southern States; and in December in Pennsylvania. In about one-third of the States the law allows the hunter one deer a year, and in most others, two.

The Department of Agriculture urges all persons to cooperate to secure the best possible protection of deer so as to get the maximum amount of venison as a source of meat.

It is estimated that about 80,000 deer are killed legally in the United States each year. These produce nearly 10,000,000 pounds of venison. The Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture says that this number of deer can be very largely increased, since only two or three States produce more than 10,000 deer a year and many less than 1,000. When 1,100 deer are obtained in a State as densely populated as Massachusetts it should not be difficult, says the Department, to increase the total in the other States by at least 25 per cent. Every pound of venison brought in from the woods should be made to save a pound of beef, mutton or pork raised on ranch or farm.

The cooperation of game commissioners, conservation associations and other organizations is requested by the Department as an aid in securing accurate reports of the number of deer killed in each State this year. Such reports should prove of value for comparison with the returns from other years and may tell whether the number of deer annually taken in any State may be increased without impairing the breeding stock.