

# ENTER THE NATIONAL WILD GOAT HUNTING COMPETITION

1 August – 26 November 2023

Visit [www.doc.govt.nz/wild-goat-hunting-competition](http://www.doc.govt.nz/wild-goat-hunting-competition) to enter.



Department of  
Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai



## Key messages

- **Are you a keen hunter? Enter the National Wild Goat Hunting Competition**, compete for great prizes donated by the hunting and outdoor sector, and help protect the environment!
- **Targeting wild goats will help get numbers down.** Wild goats are abundant throughout New Zealand and do serious damage to farmlands and the natural environment.
- **Take part to do your part.** Goats are challenging to hunt so will be a test of your skills, there's the potential to win prizes, plus goat meat makes great eating.
- **The competition may occur across Aotearoa where you have permission to hunt from 1 August to 26 November.** Save up those wild goat heads and tails for entry days.
- **For more information on how to enter go to [www.doc.govt.nz/wild-goat-hunting-competition](http://www.doc.govt.nz/wild-goat-hunting-competition).**
- **This competition is brought to you by the Department of Conservation and the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association**, supported by Federated Farmers of NZ (Inc), and Hunting & Fishing Ltd.

## Other messages

- **Practice safe, ethical, and humane hunting.**
  - [Always follow the 7 rules of firearms safety](#), the [New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Code of Ethics](#), [DOC's hunter safety information](#), and the [Outdoor Access Code](#).
  - Hunters have responsibilities under Sections 30A and 30B of the [Animal Welfare Act 1999](#).
  - Information on hunting wild goats can be found on the [NZDA website](#) and [DOC website](#).
  - Be aware of livestock at the boundaries of hunting areas, be careful in steep terrain - especially if retrieving a goat, tell someone before you go, be visible, and check the weather.
- **Know the area you are hunting in.** Be aware of seasonal farming activity, be firesafe, take home any rubbish, consider others in the backcountry, and respect the wishes of landowners and facilities provided.
- **Get permission to hunt each time you visit.** The competition offers a way to build win-win relationships with your local landowners. Make sure you have permission to hunt, and you have a clear understanding when and where you will be hunting with the landowner or land manager.
- **Wild goat meat makes great eating** and would be a delicious addition to your family's table, and controlling numbers reduces pressure on farmland and native plants and habitats.

## Taglines:

- *Become the G.O.A.T. by taking out the goat! Enter the National Wild Goat Hunting Competition and do your part for the environment to give yourself a chance to win over \$50k worth of prizes and boast the crown title of the Greatest Of All Time (for 2023) goat hunter.*
- *Can you smell the win? Enter the National Wild Goat Hunting Competition and do your part for the environment to give yourself a chance to win over \$50k worth of prizes donated by the hunting and outdoor sector.*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What are the conditions of entry? Do I need to pay an entry fee?**

The competition is free to enter, and pre-registration is not required. To find the competition rules please visit the competition webpage: [www.doc.govt.nz/wild-goat-hunting-competition](http://www.doc.govt.nz/wild-goat-hunting-competition).

### **Do I need to be a member of the New Zealand Deer stalkers Association?**

No, the competition is open to everyone. Talk to your local [NZDA branch](#) if you would like to know more about membership.

### **Do I need a hunting permit?**

Yes, depending on where you hunt you will need a permit. If you plan to hunt on public land, you will require authority or a permit from the relevant organisation. The competition can also occur on private land. In this case you will need permission through landowner or land manager consent.

If you plan to hunt wild goats on public conservation land you need a current hunting permit from the Department of Conservation. Find out what you need here: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/things-to-do/hunting/permits-and-licences/hunting-permit/>. If you want to hunt on council land, please visit your local council website for information on permit requirements.

### **Where can I hunt, and where can I find wild goats?**

You may hunt anywhere on private and public land if you have the appropriate permissions and permits. Hunters are expected to follow the law and abide by their permit conditions. Wild goats are often seen in places where you are not allowed to hunt like on road edges, train tracks, river, and road reserves. For entry requirements please visit the competition [webpage](#).

Wild goats are found throughout New Zealand in both the North and South Islands. Concentrations of goats can be found in Taranaki, Hawke's Bay, Marlborough, and Otago. For more information on hunting wild goats please visit [DOC's website](#) or [NZDA's website](#).

Respect the wishes of private landowners when it comes to access arrangements. There is usually a reason why access is denied, such as having arrangements with other hunters, or seasonal farming activities taking place. If you do gain access to private land, ask if it is necessary to notify neighbouring properties so they are not concerned if they hear rifle shots or see hunters.

### **Where do I take my goat heads and tails?**

Places to enter your wild goat heads and tails are detailed on the competition [webpage](#).

### **How do I support people to hunt on my land?**

Get in contact with your local [New Zealand Deerstalkers Association branch](#).

### **Why do we need to reduce populations of wild goats?**

Wild goats eat New Zealand's native plants - stripping bark from trees, devouring any new seedlings as well as trampling and hardening soils. This contributes to erosion, takes vital food and shelter from native animals, and can prevent forest regeneration. On private land wild goats destroy young trees, native plantings, riparian margins, pasture, and damage fences. New Zealand's native plants are unique because a huge proportion are found nowhere else in the world; so, if they're gone from here, they're gone from everywhere. Wild goats breed quickly and can reproduce at a rate of up to 45% per year in the absence of hunting pressure. Large numbers cause serious damage to farmlands and the natural environment.

### **What if somebody trespasses on my land?**

Please report the incident to the Police immediately.

### **What if there is a backcountry or firearms injury or incident?**

Please report the incident to the Police immediately.

### **What if I see an animal welfare incident?**

If there is an animal welfare incident or concern to report, call MPI animal welfare hotline (0800 00 83 83). This hotline number can be rung at any time. Alternatively, you can complete this form on their [website](#).