

News Release

Department of the Interior / U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge
1428 Highway 27
Bell City, LA 70630
337-598-2216

For Immediate Release
September 1, 2011

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Application Period Opens for Cameron Prairie and Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge Lottery Waterfowl Hunts

The Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex has four different Lottery Drawn Waterfowl Hunt opportunities on Cameron Prairie and Lacassine refuges. The application period for all lottery waterfowl hunts is September 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011. All applications will be mailed or delivered to the Complex Headquarters at Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. Below is a description of each hunt, which hunters are eligible to apply, and how to apply.

The *Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Youth Lottery Waterfowl Hunt* is open to hunters 10–17 years of age. The youth hunts, with five blinds, are scheduled on Saturdays and selected school holidays within the western zone Louisiana waterfowl hunting season. The 14 available hunt dates for the 2011-2012 Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge youth hunt are November 5* (*Youth only hunt on youth waterfowl day. Adults must supervise youth, but adults cannot hunt on this day). November 12, 19, 23, 26 and (2011), December 3, 17, 21, 24, 28 and 31 (2011), and January 7, 14, and 21 (2012) youth and adult supervisor can hunt on these dates in compliance with state law. Youth hunters must harvest their own limit.

The *Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge Youth Lottery Waterfowl Hunt* is open to hunters 10–17 years of age. The youth hunts, with five blinds, are scheduled on Saturdays and selected school holidays within the western zone Louisiana waterfowl hunting season. The 14 available hunt dates for the 2011-2012

Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge youth hunt are November 5* (*Youth only hunt on youth waterfowl day. Adults must supervise youth, but adults cannot hunt on this day). November 12, 19, 23, 26 and (2011), December 3, 17, 21, 24, 28 and 31 (2011), and January 7, 14, and 21 (2012) youth and adult supervisor can hunt on these dates in compliance with state law. Youth hunters must harvest their own limit.

For both the Cameron Prairie and Lacassine Youth Hunts, youth hunter applicants and their youth guest must be 10-17 years of age by October 15, 2011. One adult will supervise no more than two youth hunters. Youth hunters and supervisors born after September 1, 1969, are required to possess a Louisiana Hunter Safety Certification card or equivalent from another state prior to application. If the course has been taken, but the card has not been received, youth hunters will be required to carry a copy of their course completion certificate while hunting. Three hunters (an adult 21 years of age or older, youth applicant and youth guest) are allowed in each of the pit blinds. Decoys are provided.

The *Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge Senior Lottery Waterfowl Hunt* is open to seniors age 55 and older by October 15, 2011. Senior hunts, with 5 blinds, are scheduled on most Wednesdays during the western zone Louisiana waterfowl hunting season. The five available dates for the 2011-2012 Lacassine Senior Lottery Waterfowl Hunt are November 16 and 30 (2011) and January 4, 11 and 18 (2012). Chosen senior hunters are permitted to bring two guests of any age. Blinds and decoys are provided.

The *Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Senior Lottery Waterfowl Hunt*. This hunt is open to seniors age 55 and older by October 15, 2011. Senior hunts, with 5 blinds, are scheduled on most Wednesdays during the western zone Louisiana waterfowl hunting season. The five available dates for the Cameron Prairie Senior Lottery Waterfowl Hunt are November 16 and 30 (2011) and January 4, 11 and 18 (2012). Chosen senior hunters are permitted to bring two guests of any age. Blinds and decoys are provided.

The *Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge Duck Pond Lottery Waterfowl Hunt* has been discontinued due to ongoing poor habitat conditions since Hurricane Rita in 2005. Poor habitat conditions have led to low harvest success and declining public interest in this hunt opportunity. The Duck Pond area is closed to all hunting.

To apply for refuge Lottery Hunts: Submit **Only ONE 3" x 5"** index card for each hunt that you are applying for. There are four different lottery hunts, they are: 1) Cameron Prairie Youth Waterfowl Hunt, 2) Lacassine Youth Waterfowl Hunt, 3) Lacassine Senior Waterfowl Hunt, and the 4) Cameron Prairie Senior Waterfowl Hunt. Application index cards should be sent or delivered to: SW LA National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters, Cameron Prairie National Wildlife

Refuge, 1428 Highway 27, Bell City, LA 70630, by 3:00 pm, Friday, September 30, 2010. Each card must contain the following information:

- 1) **Print or Type** Name of Hunt that you are applying for:
Cameron Prairie Youth Waterfowl Hunt or Lacassine Youth Waterfowl Hunt or
Lacassine Senior Waterfowl Hunt or Cameron Prairie Senior Waterfowl Hunt
(only one card per hunt, not one per hunt date)
- 2) **Print or Type** Applicant name
- 3) **Print or Type** Applicant age by Oct. 15, 2011
- 4) **Print or Type** Applicants complete mailing address
- 5) **Print or Type** Applicants complete contact telephone number
- 6) **Print or Type** Applicants preferred Hunt Date and **FOUR** alternate dates, in
priority order.

No phone applications will be accepted. If the required information is not provided, the applicant will be ineligible for the drawing. Individuals submitting more than one card per hunt will be disqualified from the drawing.

Successful applicants will be issued a special permit for each hunt they are chosen to participate in. All applicants will be notified of the results by November 4, 2011.

For additional information about any of the SW LA National Wildlife Refuges call 337-598-2216 or view our website at <http://www.fws.gov/swlarefugecomplex>.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System that encompasses more than 540 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. The agency also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.