

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

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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 hunts is September 1, 2009 through October 15, 2009. 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 are scheduled on Saturdays and selected school holidays within the western zone Louisiana waterfowl-hunting season. The 14 available hunt dates for the 2009-2010 Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge youth hunt are November 7* (*Youth only hunt on youth waterfowl day. Adults must supervise youth, but adults cannot hunt on this day). November 14, 21, 25, 28 and (2009), December 5, 19, 23, 26 and 30 (2009), and January 2, 9, 16, and 23 (2010) 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 four blinds, are scheduled on Saturdays within the second split of the western zone Louisiana waterfowl-hunting season. The six available dates for the 2009-2010 Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge youth hunt are December 19 and 26 (2009), and January 2,9,16

and 23 (2010). The adult hunter will be allowed to harvest a limit of waterfowl 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, 2009. 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 Duck Hunt is open to seniors age 55 and older by October 15, 2009. Senior hunts, with 4 blinds, are scheduled on Wednesdays during the second split of the western zone Louisiana Duck Season. The five available dates for the Lacassine Senior Hunt are December 23 and 30 (2009) and January 6, 13 and 20 (2010). Chosen senior hunters are permitted to bring two guests of any age. Blinds and decoys are provided.

Lacassine National Wildlife Refuges Managed "Duck Pond" Hunt is open to hunter applicants 21 years of age or older as of Oct. 15, 2009. Applicants are drawn for one of two hunt sites for each date. Blinds and decoys are not provided and a boat is required to access and hunt these hunt sites. Each selected applicant will be allowed to bring two guests. Available dates for the Lacassine Managed "Duck Pond" Hunt are: November 14, 18, 21, 25 and 28 (2009), December 2, 5, 19, 23, 26 and 30 (2009), and January 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20 and 23 (2010).

To apply for refuge Lottery Hunts: Submit ONE 3 x 5 index card for each hunt that you are applying for to: SW LA National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters, Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, 1428 Highway 27, Bell City, LA 70630, by 4:00 pm Thursday, October, 15, 2009 with the following information:

1) Name of Hunt Applying for:

Cameron Prairie Youth Hunt or Lacassine Youth Hunt or Lacassine Senior Hunt or Lacassine Managed "Duck Pond" Hunt (only one card per hunt)

2) Applicant name

3) Applicant age by Oct. 15, 2009

4) Applicant address

5) Applicant telephone number

6) Preferred Hunt Date and TWO alternate dates.

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 3, 2009.

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.

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