



Your cooperation and participation are essential to responsible resource management, and are greatly appreciated by all those who enjoy our migratory game birds.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT HIP

WHAT IS HIP?

HIP stands for Harvest Information Program. It is a federally-mandated and cooperative state program to expand and improve our data base for harvest surveys of all migratory game birds. It will enable us to improve management of migratory species and thus enhance our ability to provide better opportunity and protect hunting from potential legal challenges.

Why collect harvest information?

HIP will provide better information will be available to wildlife professionals so they can better manage your wildlife resources. Inadequate information about the impacts of hunting on species populations has been used as a reason to challenge hunting regulations in some states. Thus your cooperation is extremely important.

For a number of years the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) surveyed a small number of federal duck stamp buyers about their hunting, but the precision of the estimates of waterfowl needed to be improved. Also this survey did not include millions of hunters who hunt doves, woodcocks and other migratory game birds. And differing methods and

timings of state surveys make it impossible for them to add up to a valid estimate of the migratory game bird harvest at regional and national levels.

Who participates in HIP?

Anyone who is required to purchase a hunting license and plans to hunt migratory birds must be HIP certified. This means any licensed hunter who intends to hunt doves, ducks, geese, coots, snipe, rails, gallinules, sandhill cranes, or woodcock will need to be HIP certified by answering the HIP questions. Lifetime hunting license holders who intend to hunt migratory birds must get HIP certified at any license vendor. Those exempt from a license are exempt from HIP requirements.

How does a hunter get HIP certified?

It's easy. Whenever a hunter goes to buy a hunting license, they will be asked if they intend to hunt migratory birds in the upcoming season. Hunters who answer "Yes" will be asked a few other simple questions about their previous year's hunting experiences. That's it. A HIP stamp is issued, validated by signing across the face and placed on the license to indicate that the hunter is HIP certified. Hunters who answer "No," but later decide to hunt migratory birds, may get certified at any time by answering the questions.

How will this information be used?

All HIP certified hunters will become part of a pool of hunters from which samples for federal harvest surveys will be drawn. These surveys are conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to gain important information about species-specific hunting activities. The data collected about birds killed the previous year are used only to categorize hunters in harvest levels for statistical purposes. The lists of hunters will be used in the future by the state to assess preferences and increase hunting opportunity.

Does it cost anything to get HIP certified?

There is a \$.50 service fee (\$1.00 at some county clerk vendors) for the stamp and to participate in the Harvest Information Program. It will only take a little extra time to provide the information requested for the license. The screening questions are general and do not take long to answer.

What are the HIP questions?

Basically there are 3 questions:

1. Do you intend to hunt any migratory game birds during the coming hunting season? (ducks, geese, doves, sandhill cranes, coots, gallinules, woodcock, rails or snipe)
2. About how many of these did you bag last season:
Ducks ____ Geese ____ Doves ____
3. Which of these types of migratory birds did you hunt last year?
Coots ____ Snipe ____ Rails/Gallinules ____
Sandhill Cranes ____ Woodcock. ____

When does the HIP program begin?

The HIP screening questions will be asked of all persons who purchase a hunting license or any migratory game bird hunting stamp/permit.

How does HIP work?

Of the total group of HIP certified migratory game bird hunters, the FWS will select a small sample (about 1 or 2 percent) to represent all migratory game bird hunters. These selected hunters will receive hunter record cards prior to the migratory bird hunting season or soon thereafter, and will be asked to record their daily harvests of various migratory game birds, and to return to the completed record card at the end of the hunting season. This survey will provide much more accurate harvest information than previous ones, and will make it possible for the FWS and Kansas to more accurately determine the status and needs of our migratory game bird resources.

