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Wrangler® ProGear™ Hunting Tips *April 2008*

GREENSBORO, N.C. (April 22, 2008)

The West Nile Virus “dress code”

Certain tiny critters can lead to big trouble. Deer ticks carrying dreaded and debilitating Lyme Disease are still very active during warm weather hunting seasons. Mosquitoes carrying the West Nile Virus also pose a threat. Ron Tussel of the Wrangler ProGear Outdoor Advisory Team says hunters should wear long pants, tucked at the cuff and tucked in long-sleeve shirts. Complete the wardrobe with hat, head and face cover and gloves. Tussel also recommends treating your clothes (not the skin) with a "scent-free" repellent that contains DEET. “When you return,” he says, “check your clothes and skin carefully for the tiny deer ticks.”

Tree stand optical illusion

A bow shoots with the same accuracy from the ground as from a deer stand 20 feet high. But most hunters don't, which causes them to miss their target. Dean Capra, of Capra's Sporting Goods, is a Wrangler ProGear professional in Blaine, Minn. Capra says the mistake most tree stand hunters make is lowering their bow arm. While it seems the sight and target are lined up, it is misleading. The aim is too high. The remedy? Capra advises tree stand hunters to bend their upper body, not their bow arm. This keeps the bow-sight-arrow-peep-target all on the same plane and straightens the aim. Now the arrow should hit its mark.

Use the buddy system for hard-hunted gobblers

The buddy system is one of the best strategies to clobber a hard-hunted gobbler. During this strategy, Mark Kayser, a member of the Wrangler ProGear Outdoor Advisory Team, says one buddy is the caller while the other is the shooter. The caller and the decoys should be set up 20 to 30 yards apart, while the shooter is closer to the expected route the turkeys will take. The suspicious gobbler or gobblers will want to get a not-too-close peek at the decoys. Doing so, they will be in the ideal range of the shooter. Kayser says he once used this setup with a young hunter. The gobblers were in such a rush to see the decoys they nearly ran over the lad hiding along the trail that opened to the field before him.

The Texas deer two-step

A lot has been written about how to walk (and *not* walk) when silently stalking deer. Texas' Larry Bozka, a member of the Wrangler ProGear Outdoor Advisory Team, has had success with heel-to-heel walking. “Walk your favorite stalking area in normal fashion,” said Bozka. “Then reverse your direction, but on the return, make sure the ball of your heel contacts the ground first. Lower the forward half of your foot slowly or, better yet and as much as possible, simply walk on your heels. Though it feels unnatural – hey, it *is* unnatural – it helps eliminate the snap of breaking twigs and the telltale crunch of walking on fallen leaves.”

Get into shape before you pull the trigger

Hunting for trophy whitetails isn't as physically demanding as a Rocky Mountain elk hunt. Although, Mark Kayser, member of the Wrangler ProGear Outdoor Advisory Team, points out that you can't expect to shoot the trophy of a lifetime if you can't get to the buck. Surprisingly, more and more hunters are out of shape, which limits their quest to taking a trophy. Kayser recommends workouts with aerobic and muscle training exercises at least three times a week for 45 minutes or more during each session. If you start this routine three months before the season, you'll be a better hunter when the season kicks off.

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An issue with fixed-blade broadheads

Do broadhead arrows shoot the same as target tip arrows? Yes and no, according to Wrangler ProGear professional staffer Dean Capra. Capra says the issue of broadhead tips versus target tips is one of the most talked about at Capra's Sporting Goods in Blaine, Minn. Capra said that expandable broadheads do shoot nearly the same as target tips of the same grain weight. However, Capra said that fixed-blade broadheads of the same weight "are a whole different animal." He added, "A lot of bow hunters like fixed-blade broadheads and I recommend they buy the kind that can be tuned with an arrow spinner. A properly tuned fixed-blade broadhead will shoot nearly the same as target tips of the same grain weight." But Capra also recommends shooting either type of broadhead before going into the field.

Got bobble-head?

A decoy can make all the difference in bringing bucks and does up close and personal. Ron Tussel, from TV's "The Pennsylvania Sportsman", is a member of the Wrangler ProGear Outdoor Advisory Team who has had success with bobble-headed decoys. Motion or not, Tussel recommends hunters keep their decoy scent-free by storing it in a plastic bag. "On the deer stand," he said, "they should place the decoy so approaching deer pass the shooting lane. Add deer scents to the ground, but not the decoy."

Hide in closer to wary gobblers

Before you call to a wary gobbler you need to eliminate as much real estate as possible between you and your feathered goal. Mark Kayser of the Wrangler ProGear Outdoor Advisory Team recommends using forest cover, coulees, river banks and darkness to cut the distance. The further you have to call a gobbler the less likely you'll be to spark his interest. "Remember this," said Kayser. "You are not only dealing with the whims of a gobbler, but many times the attitude of a boss hen. If you can spark her curiosity or disdain from a nearby position, you're more than likely going to lure her and the gobbler in for a close shot."

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