

To:

Montgomery County State Delegation, Councilmembers, County Executive, MNCPPC Planning Board

Subject:
Your Suggested Amendments to MC 06-20, Montgomery County - Agricultural Reserve - Deer Management Permits

Dear Delegate Luedtke,

Thank you for your response on MC 06-20.

1) Again, allowing High Powered Rifles for Hunting in Montgomery County is Irresponsible

- Regarding your amendment #1
 - Reducing the days for a high powered rifle to be fired in a hunt season is still using a high powered rifle
- Regarding your amendment #2
 - A "walled" hunting cartridge for a high powered rifle is a pistol cartridge fired in a high powered rifle. *There are several gun makers offering rifles chambered for straight walled cartridges, meaning a new gun must be purchased to use the walled hunting cartridge.*
 - A "walled" high powered rifle cartridge can travel an average velocity of 2,500 fps (feet per second) thus will still travel 2-3 miles and retains the velocity to kill at that range.
 - I found the article of Ohio and lower Michigan re-instating high powered rifle hunting; the article also stated that slug guns (shotguns using a rifled barrel and 1oz slug bullet) have improved dramatically in accuracy from a decade ago.

2) Hunter Education Safety Ethics are Missing in MC 06-20

- A hunter is to hunt at a distance equal with their marksmanship accuracy and proficiency.
 - There is a maximum range for every weapon: rifle, shotgun, pistol and bow. The velocity of the projectile fired loses accuracy and velocity once leaving the muzzle or bow; however the projectile still has the accuracy to kill at it's furthest point of travel.
 - A hunter's marksmanship accuracy is RARELY 2-3 miles. There are many variables which are at play while hunting: excitement of finding the game, weather is a huge factor, is the game moving or standing still, the hunter's marksmanship proficiency, gun malfunction (sometimes from lack of regular use), breathing (yes, breathing). Remember, there is only one projectile (bullet) leaving the gun, and a breath or heart beat causes the body to move even while holding the rifle, especially at long ranges. Another remember, these rifles are scoped which magnifies every move the body makes.
 - A slug shotgun has a rifled barrel, thus improving its accuracy. Slug shotguns have true accuracy of 1/4 mile (440 yards) to hit their intended target. This is 4.4 football fields. There is no reason to shoot at a longer in Montgomery County than the length of 4.4 football fields.

3) My Observation and Recommendation

- As a concerned citizen, hunter and marksman, I have the following comments:
 - With all due respect for you, Delegate Luedtke and our Legislators - it is evident that no Montgomery County Delegate is a hunter or is proficient with firearms or archery rules and regulations. If this bill was about the budget, taxes, of a judicial matter, you would have heard from those Delegates who are educated and professional in their fields; and this bill would be thrown out.

- Again, what is NOT being addressed is the unfortunate reality that the DNR Deer Management Permits in the east and west areas of our Ag Reserve are not being fully utilized. There is a necessity for accountability by the DNR Permit holders and their hunters to take full advantage of the offerings by having such a privileged Permit.
- It is unconscionable to me that no one has reached out to experts in the field of hunting and firearm safety and education such as the NRA, DNR or the police for their guidance. There have been plenty of statistics in your second email describing crop damage, but NO statistics about the number of days hunted on those Permits, or the hunters' marksmanship proficiency. This is a stark omission. Safety and Education are a MUST for Legislators when deciding issues about guns; and the Montgomery County Legislators need to be educated on the responsibly of hunting with a DNR Permit in our County.