SPORTS

DNR asks public to help shape deer management in Wisconsin

This January, Wisconsinites have the opportunity to weigh in on the next three years of deer management in their counties.

Photo Credit: iStock/LeFion

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Hunters, farmers, foresters and anyone interested in Wisconsin's deer herd can help shape deer management in Wisconsin. Now through Jan. 13, 2021, the public is invited to comment on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) herd size objectives and deer management unit (DMU) boundaries for the next three years.

Each County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) has provided preliminary recommendations to increase, decrease or maintain herd size. In addition, the public has the opportunity to comment on DMU boundary recommendations proposed by the DNR. To view the preliminary recommendations for each county and provide feedback, visit the DNR's website.

Following the public comment period, each county's deer advisory council will meet virtually between Jan. 19-25 to discuss input received and determine final recommendations. The public is invited to attend these meetings, listed on the CDAC webpage. Preregistration is not required.

The DNR will review final council recommendations and present them to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board for approval in February.

CDAC council members represent stakeholder groups impacted by deer management. Members work with local DNR staff to schedule meetings and provide community outreach and an opportunity for public input.

Members review county-level population data and deer impacts on forests and agriculture and develop three-year recommendations on county population objectives as well as annual antlerless harvest quotas. These councils provide the people of Wisconsin greater input into local deer management decisions and are essential for shaping the future of deer hunting and management.

Learn more about the process on the DNR's website: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Hunt/cdac

Recipe of the Week

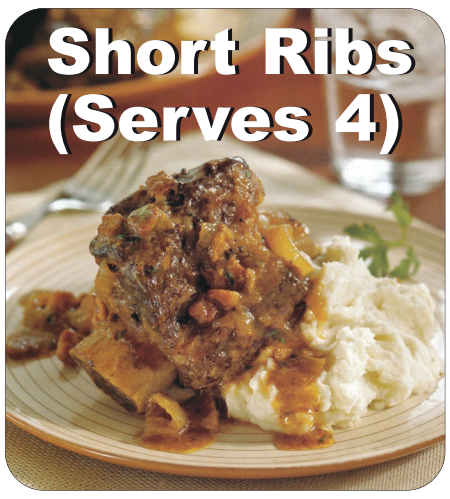
Bacon, Onion & Stout Braised Short Ribs

from "Crock-Pot 365 Year-Round Recipes" (Publications International, Ltd.) from The Crock-Pot Kitchens.

Slow-cooked short ribs and mashed potatoes make for a tasty meal.

Slow cookers are a handy tool for any home chef, particularly those who juggle busy daily schedules. With slow cookers, meals can be prepared in advance and then left to simmer for hours while they develop deep flavors as meats become tender and succulent.

When cooking recipes in a slow cooker, it's best to choose cuts of meats and poultry that can stand up to long cook times. These cuts tend to be more fibrous and tough, but will tenderize with time. Short ribs, for example, are a prime option for slow cooking magic. They're the star of this recipe for "Bacon, Onion & Stout Braised Short Ribs" from "Crock-Pot 365 Year-Round Recipes" (Publications International, Ltd.) from The Crock-Pot Kitchens.



INGREDIENTS

- 4 pounds bone-in beef short ribs, well trimmed
- 1 teaspoon salt, plus additional for seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper, plus additional for seasoning
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 6 ounces thick-cut bacon cut into 1/4-inch dice
- 1 large onion, halved and cut into 1/4-inch slices
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons spicy brown mustard
- 1 bottle (12 ounces) Irish stout
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 cup beef broth
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley leaves
- Hot mashed potatoes or cooked egg noodles (optional)

DIRECTIONS

Season beef with salt and pepper. Heat oil in large skillet over medium-high heat until almost smoking. Working in batches, cook short ribs in skillet, turning to brown on all sides. Transfer each batch to a slow cooker as it is finished. Wipe out pan with paper towels and return to heat.

Cook bacon, stirring occasionally, until crisp, about 4 minutes. Transfer with a slotted spoon to a paper towel-lined plate to drain. Remove and discard all but 1 tablespoon drippings from pan. Reduce heat to medium and add onion. Cook until softened and translucent, stirring occasionally.

Add tomato paste, flour, mustard, 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon pepper. Cook, stirring constantly, 1 minute. Remove from bottom of pan. Pour over short ribs. Add drained bacon, bay leaf and beef broth. Cover and cook on low 8 hours, or until meat is tender and falls off the bone. Remove beef and skim fat from cooking liquid. Remove bay leaf and stir in parsley. Serve with mashed potatoes or egg noodles.

Tip: This recipe can be cooked ahead and refrigerated overnight.

Share your favorite dish with us!

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SPORTS

Snowmobilers: think smart before you start

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

With winter officially in full swing in Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds snowmobilers that safety is key for the best ride.

Snowmobiling got off to a deadly start last year. There were 19 snowmobile fatalities between January and March, 2020, three of those involving someone under the age of 18.

"Most snowmobile crashes are preventable. Alcohol, excess speed, driver inexperience and operator error are the leading causes of snowmobile fatalities," said DNR Conservation Warden Lt. Martin Stone. "Safety is an important part of the ride. Make sure to brush up on safety rules and regulations before you head out this winter."

There is no such thing as 100% safe ice. Snowmobilers cannot judge ice's strength by factors like appearance, age, thickness or temperature, especially when the ice is snow-covered. Before heading out, snowmobilers are encouraged to contact local fishing clubs, snowmobile clubs or outfitters, to inquire about ice conditions, as the DNR does not monitor these conditions.

Any person who is at least 12 years old and born on or after Jan. 1, 1985, is required to have a valid Snowmobile Safety Certificate to operate a snowmobile in most areas. Operators must carry the certificate while riding and display it to a law enforcement officer when requested. More snowmobile regulations are available here.

Think smart before you start this season by following these tips:

ON THE TRAILS

- Don't drink and ride.
- Stay on marked trails and routes.
- Always stay to the right side of the trail, especially in corners. The trails are public; never ride like there is no one else coming.
- Always come to a complete stop at all stop signs and road crossings and yield to motor vehicle traffic. When stopped, look both ways and cross only when it's safe.
- Always wear your helmet and safety gear.
- Use extra caution at night. When traveling at night, operate at reasonable speeds as to not overdrive what headlights can illuminate, such as trail markers or hazards. Remember that there is a 55 mph speed limit at night.
- Travel with a friend, carry a cell phone and let people know where you are going and when you'll return home.
- Dress appropriately and carry a first-aid kit and navigation tools.
- Take a snowmobile safety course. Visit the DNR Safety Education webpage for details and to locate a class or take an online course.

ICE SAFETY

The DNR does not monitor local ice conditions or the thickness of the ice. Local bait shops, fishing clubs and resorts serve winter anglers every day and often have the most up-to-date information about ice thickness on local lakes and rivers, as well as areas that are especially dangerous.

- Remember that ice is never completely safe under any conditions.
- Contact local sports shops to ask about ice conditions locally.
- Wear proper clothing and equipment, including a life jacket or a float coat to help stay afloat and slow body heat loss.
- Do not travel in unfamiliar areas.
- Slow down when traveling at night.
- Know if the lake has inlets, outlets or narrows with currents that can thin the ice.
- Watch out for pressure ridges or ice heaves. These can be dangerous due to thin ice and open water.

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TRIVIA

This week we will test your general knowledge. Credit this week goes to Cosmopolitan magazine, Good luck! Diane

1. What's the biggest animal in the world?
2. Which country is brie cheese originally from?
3. Who painted the Mona Lisa?
4. Which planet is closest to the sun?
5. What's a baby rabbit called?
6. Typically, what's the strongest muscle in the human body?
7. Name one landlocked country in Europe.
8. What does He stand for on the periodic table?
9. What does IPA stand for?
10. What is the largest country in the world?
11. How many valves does the heart have?
12. Typically, what four ingredients go into a cosmopolitan cocktail?

Bonus question #1: What year was Heinz established?

Bonus question #2: What is the Papaver rhoeas flower better known as?

Bonus question #3: What fruit takes the scientific name Mangifera indica?

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