

OUTLOOK FOR THE 2009 MISSOURI SEASON

Expectations for the 2009-2010 waterfowl season in Missouri will undoubtedly be high. Increased numbers of breeding ducks and above average production of young in the fall flight have set the stage for a potentially good duck season. The degree to which this potential is realized in Missouri is dependent upon weather and local habitat conditions. Currently, habitat conditions in Missouri appear to be favorable in most areas. Spring crop planting was delayed in some regions, but yields are not expected to be significantly affected. Production of moist soil vegetation also appears to be average to above average in most regions. Barring major late summer flooding, habitat conditions appear to be relatively good going into fall (Appendix F).

Poor production on northern goose breeding areas will result in a low proportion of young in migrant goose populations (snow geese, interior Canada geese, and white-fronted geese) but this will be offset by average to above average production of giant Canada geese. Snow and ice cover in states north of Missouri will determine to a large extent the degree to which Canada geese will arrive in Missouri.

Hunters will once again have the opportunity to take advantage of a 16-day teal season, a 60-day duck season, late season Canada goose hunting, and the light goose Conservation Order. Season dates that bracket both early and late hunting preferences should provide hunters with a variety of hunting opportunities during the upcoming waterfowl season.