

2026 LANDOWNER PRAIRIE ELK



Over the Counter

Prairie elk units (09A, 11B, 15A, 27A, 35A, 35B, 49A, ERA, WRA)

Purchases Open

07/07/2026

Purchases Close

12/31/2026, 12:00 AM CDT

LICENSE AVAILABILITY

Unit	Type	Resident	
LOE-PRE	23	Unlimited	—

LICENSE CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR

▲ Increase — No Change ▼ Decrease ◆ New Type

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility: Resident landowners, owning or leasing a minimum of 240 acres of land within any open prairie elk hunting season unit. Any qualifying landowner's grandparent, parent, spouse, child, child's spouse, or grandchild who lives on the ranch unit or in the closest community and has an active role in the ranch operation also qualifies.

- A qualifying applicant for a ranch unit may not purchase the "antlerless elk" license if any qualifying member of the ranch unit holds an elk license obtained using landowner-operator preference in the prairie elk hunting season.
- The elk may be harvested only on land that is owned or leased by the qualifying landowner within the designated open prairie elk hunting season unit.
- Only one qualifying applicant per ranch unit per year may purchase the license.

Definitions

"Ranch unit" means all private property owned or leased for agricultural purposes by written agreement by an individual qualifying landowner in the state. *A ranch unit may not be subdivided for the purpose of qualifying for more than one Landowner Prairie Elk license.*

"Agricultural purposes" means the producing, raising, growing, or harvesting of food or fiber upon agricultural land, including dairy products, livestock, crops, timber, and grasslands. Land leased solely for hunting, fishing, or trapping is not considered agricultural purposes.

NOTICE: Successful hunters must have their elk checked by a GFP representative within 24 hours of the kill.

FEE SCHEDULE

License Types	Resident
23 - one antlerless elk	\$66.50

SEASON DATES

September 1 - December 31, 2026

GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

Visit <https://gfp.sd.gov/hunt-fish-license/> to view application information, residency and age requirements, landowner preference, preference points, and license fee explanations.

[Unit Descriptions and Map](#)

[Interactive Hunting Unit Map](#)

CONTACT US

GFP LICENSING OFFICE

20641 SD Hwy 1806

Fort Pierre, SD 57532

605.223.7660 | TTY: 605.223.7684

Monday - Friday | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

gfp.sd.gov

NOTE: All applications must be submitted [online](#).