

hunt. Landowners simply choose the date(s) they'd like to host a youth hunt on their property and the biologist and landowner work together to determine the number of youth hunters eligible for the size of the property. There is a 1,000-acre minimum acreage requirement, but multiple landowners can combine their acreage to meet the minimum. While lodging and/or meals are

offered by some landowners for the youth participants and their accompanying adult, this is not a requirement for the program. Additionally, the Wildlife Department handles the administrative side of the hunts including the collecting of the youth hunt applications, licensing, and safety orientation. However when it comes to the hunt, enrolled landowners take the lead

in assisting youth participants and their accompanied adult to their pre-determined hunt locations. Whether you are a landowner interested in the program or a family member interested in applying a young hunter for one of the fall 2019 private lands youth deer hunt spots, more information is available by contacting 405-590-2584.

## Help the Wildlife Department Learn What's Buzzing with Bumble Bees

By Matt Fullerton, Wildlife Biologist



So far, this year is stacking up to be one of the wettest on record and that spells good things for Oklahoma's wildflowers and our pollinator

community.

The American bumble bee is part of that pollinator community, and the Wildlife Department is trying to find out if the buzz pollinator is still one of our state's most common bumble bees. At least 10 species of bumble bees have been found in our state, and some are experiencing declines in other parts of their range.

Sharing photos of American bumble bees – or bumble bees in general – on the free online nature crowdsourcing platform iNaturalist, along with information about when and where the bee was spotted can help the Wildlife Department check back in on the species' distribution and status.



Queen American bumble bees emerge from their hibernation burrows in early to mid-spring and begin creating an underground colony of worker bees. New queens and male bees are produced in autumn, and all but mated queens die before winter.

Bumble bees are familiar insects for most Oklahomans, but what makes the American bumble bee distinguishable is its pattern of black and yellow bands. These

bees have three black and two yellow bands. The first yellow band is just behind the eyes on the thorax or body of the bee, with the second band located in the middle of the abdomen. Another feature that separates bumble bees from the common carpenter bee is a hairy abdomen. Carpenter bees have a shiny abdomen and a "bald spot" on the thorax.

Share your sightings at [inaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org).