

Venison Meat Yield

How much venison does an average white-tailed deer yield? It's a common question asked among hunters. **The average Ohio white-tailed deer yields 52.19 pounds of venison.**

How do we know this?

In 2017, Ohio state wildlife officers needed to determine the average venison yield from one white-tailed deer to support a case. To do this, Division of Wildlife employees recorded the field-dressed weight of 115 deer during the 2017 Deer Gun Season. Field-dressed white-tailed deer are those that have had their internal organs removed while everything else remains intact. Once the field-dressed weight was recorded, each deer was butchered, and the venison produced from the butchering process was weighed to determine the yield. Of the white-tailed deer weighed, 47 were antlered (commonly referred to as bucks) and 68 were antlerless (including both does and button bucks).

What were the results?

In total, the 115 field-dressed weight white-tailed deer weighed 12,370 pounds before processing. After processing, the 115 white-tailed deer yielded a total of 6,001.8 pounds of venison. The average deer weighed 107.56 pounds field dressed and yielded 52.19 pounds of venison, or a 48.52% meat yield. Below are the average yields for one deer according to Antlered (bucks), Antlerless (does and button bucks), and Combined (bucks, does, and button bucks).

	Average Field-Dressed Weight (lbs)	Average Meat Yield (lbs)	Average Meat Yield (%)
Antlered	129.69	62.51	48.20
Antlerless	92.27	45.05	48.83
Combined	107.56	52.19	48.52

Several factors determine venison yield. One large factor is shot placement. In addition to allowing for an ethical shot, a shot placed behind the shoulder blade will allow for a greater meat yield. A shot taken directly at the shoulder blade will greatly reduce the meat yield from the front quarters. Yield will also be dependent on how much effort is put into butchering as well as skill and experience.

Additional Resources

In efforts to assess the economic, conservation and social benefits of wild game harvest, the [Conservation Vision](#) has launched the [Wild Harvest Initiative](#). The Initiative has compiled harvest and meat yield data for white-tailed deer across the United States and Canada. View the White-tail Deer Factsheet [here](#).