

Annual Summary of Ohio's Deer Program



DID YOU KNOW?

- A record 107,730 deer were harvested during the 2024-25 archery season and 72% of them were taken with a crossbow.
- The 2024-25 buck harvest of 100,766 is a new all-time record, eclipsing the previous mark of 95,704 set in 2006.
- Hunters recorded an unprecedented success rate in the 2024-25 season with 49% of permit buyers recording at least one deer harvest.
- Although antlerless harvest was up 18% over the 3-year average, antlerless deer still only comprised 58% of the total harvest – a harvest composition unlikely to prevent further herd growth.
- The number of deer killed on Deer Damage Control Permits has nearly tripled since 2019.



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Summer 2025

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SEASONS AND PERMITS

A valid hunting license (resident = \$19, nonresident = \$180.96, youth = \$10, senior = \$10) and a deer permit (resident either-sex = \$31.20, nonresident either-sex = \$76.96, deer management = \$15, youth = \$16, senior = \$12) are required to hunt deer in Ohio. Hunters could harvest up to six deer with any combination of permits (Figure 1). Deer management permits were valid statewide through Dec. 22, as well as during all Division of Wildlife controlled hunts. Antlerless deer harvested during controlled hunts (maximum of six) did not count against a hunter's statewide or county bag limits.

Hunters had the opportunity to hunt deer during Ohio's four seasons, including archery (Sep. 28, 2024 - Feb. 2, 2025), gun (Dec. 2 - 8, 2024), bonus gun (Dec. 21-22, 2024), and muzzleloader (Jan. 4-7, 2025). Youth (17 and under) season was Nov. 16-17, 2024.

The Division of Wildlife issued 431,660 deer permits during the 2024-25 license year (Table 1). Permit sales were down 31% from the peak in 2009-10. The decrease is likely due to several factors, the most notable of which are fewer hunters and decreased demand for antlerless deer. The number of individuals purchasing at least one deer permit in 2024 (292,000) was 19% fewer than the 360,000 permit buyers in the 2011 season (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Harvest regulations for the 2024-25 season as presented in the Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations, Publication 5085.

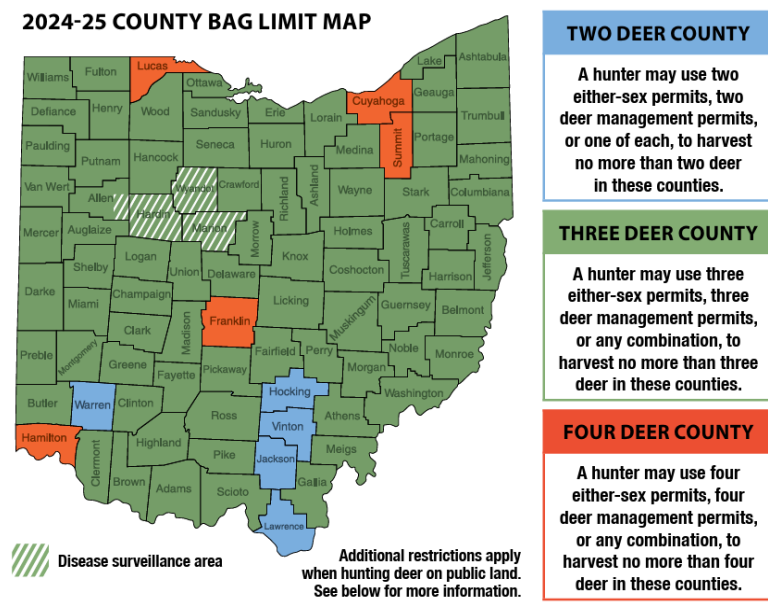


Table 1. Deer permits issued¹, 2007 - 2024.

Year	Permit			Total
	Youth	Either-Sex	Deer Management ²	
2007-08	65,647	411,522	101,197	578,366
2008-09	67,338	396,704	147,400	611,442
2009-10	67,828	394,620	162,460	624,908
2010-11	66,300	380,462	162,655	609,417
2011-12	62,864	377,302	163,383	603,549
2012-13	64,634	397,333	126,918 ³	588,885
2013-14	60,961	373,315	101,400	535,676
2014-15	58,227	378,921	57,230	494,378
2015-16	58,055	392,533	15,514	466,102
2016-17	52,706	373,791	18,669	445,166
2017-18	49,529	367,753	11,724	429,006
2018-19	42,781	345,408	11,117	399,306
2019-20	45,755	339,077	8,535	393,367
2020-21	50,490	346,620	12,698	409,808
2021-22	48,516	333,136	23,148	404,800
2022-23	49,933	331,761	27,978	409,672
2023-24	52,808	333,465	29,437	415,710
2024-25	54,154	323,513	53,993	431,660

¹Includes all permits sold (resident, nonresident, reduced-cost) and those acquired for free by seniors and/or disabled veterans.

²Formerly called the Antlerless-only Permit. Renamed "Deer Management Permit" in 2019.

³Restrictions on the use of the Deer Management Permit began in 2012 and continued through 2020.

Figure 2. Number of hunters, by permit type, 2011 – 2024.

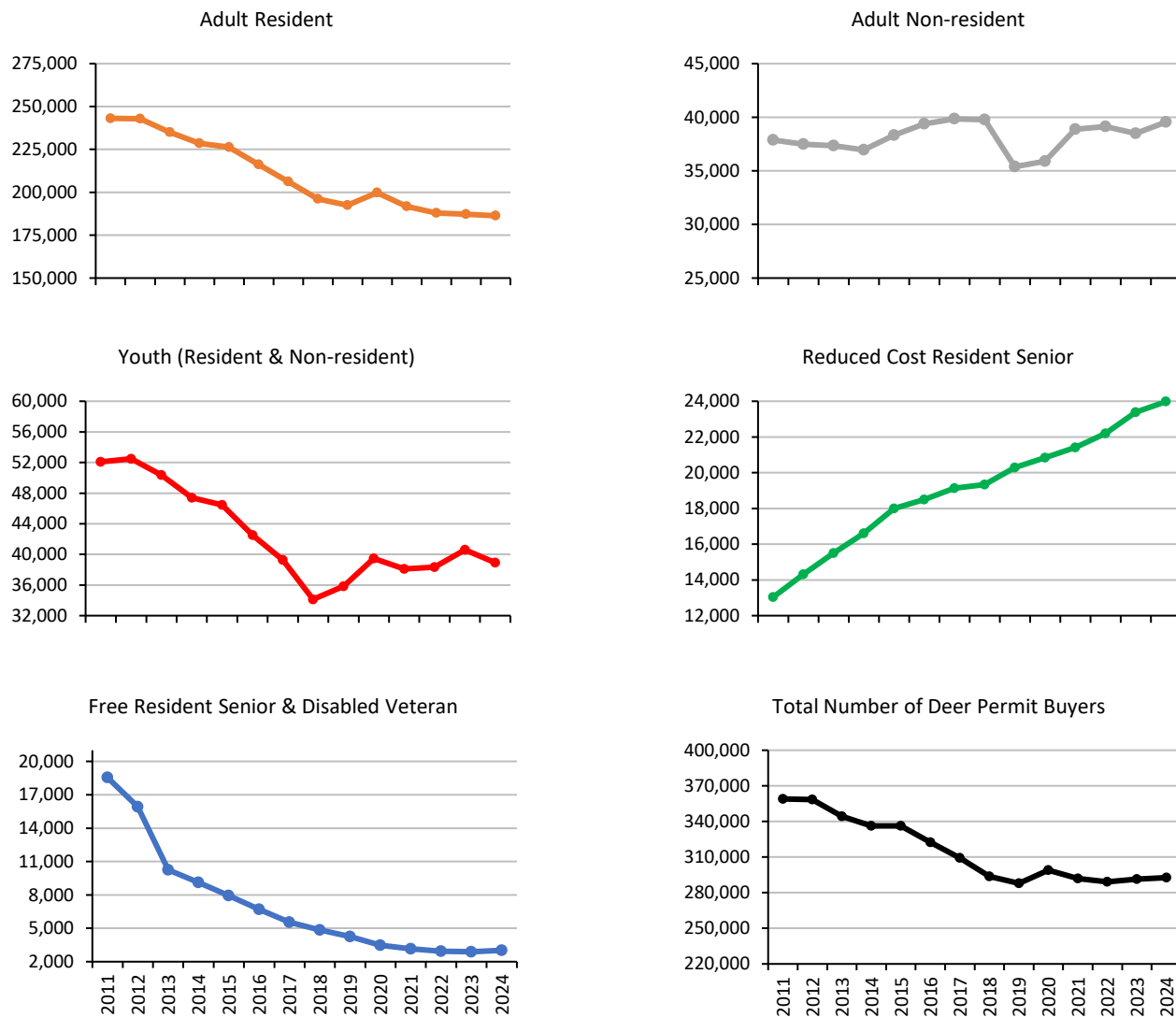


Table 2. Buck, doe, button buck, and total harvests by season, 2024-25 and three-year average¹.

	Bucks ²		Does		Buttons		Total		
	2024	3yr avg.	2024	3yr avg.	2024	3yr avg.	2024	3yr avg.	Diff. (%)
Gun									
Traditional (7-day)	29,684	26,615	47,963	36,334	9,544	7,856	87,191	70,805	23.1
Bonus (2-day)	4,685	4,049	10,317	7,570	1,949	1,488	16,951	13,107	29.3
Youth	6,153	5,106	3,234	3,055	1,049	898	10,436	9,058	15.2
DSA Early Gun	269	210	417	371	91	85	777	666	16.8
Total	40,791	35,909	61,931	47,206	12,633	10,299	115,355	93,414	23.5
Archery									
Crossbow	40,237	37,055	31,341	28,659	5,598	5,362	77,176	71,076	8.6
Vertical Bow	15,173	14,119	13,451	12,335	1,810	1,756	30,434	28,209	7.9
DSA Early Archery	42	40	68	81	10	8	120	128	-6.3
Total	55,452	51,200	44,860	41,048	7,418	7,123	107,730	99,371	8.4
Muzzleloader	3,570	3,482	7,489	7,491	1,352	1,311	12,411	12,284	1.0
Total	100,766	91,441	115,682	96,860	21,689	18,995	238,137	207,296	14.9

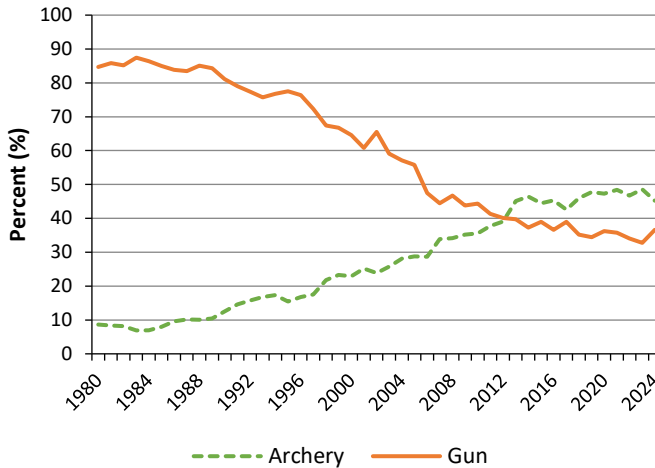
¹Average of 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 seasons.

²Includes bucks with antlers less than three inches in length (2,258) and those with shed antlers (890).

HARVEST SUMMARY

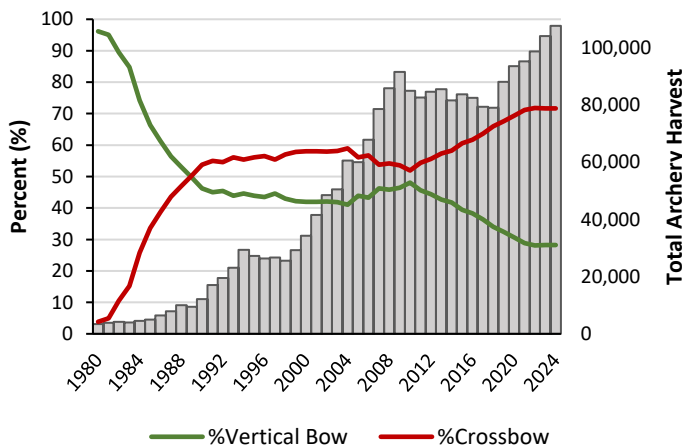
Hunters harvested 238,137 deer during the 2024-25 season, 15% more than the three-year average (Table 2). The total includes 100,766 bucks, 115,682 does, and 21,689 button bucks. Coshocton County once again led the state with 8,196 deer killed. A complete harvest summary by county and season is available in Appendix 1.

Figure 3. Percent of the total annual deer harvest taken during the archery and traditional 7-day gun season, 1977-2024.



The harvest total during the traditional statewide gun season was 87,191 deer, 23% more than the three-year average. Similarly, the bonus gun season harvest was nearly 30% more than the three-year average, at 16,951 deer. Archers reported harvesting 107,730 deer, the largest archery harvest on record and 8% more than the three-year average (Table 2). Archers accounted for 45% of the entire deer harvest, and for the 12th year in a row, more deer were taken during archery season than the week of gun season. By comparison, just 15 years ago the archery harvest only accounted for about one-third of the annual harvest (Figure 3). This shift in the harvest is likely due to the ever-increasing interest and participation in archery hunting - almost 80% of gun hunters also hunted the archery season in 2024.

Figure 4. Total archery harvest and proportion taken by crossbows and longbows, 1977-2024.



The number of deer harvested with a crossbow (77,176) and vertical bow (30,434) was 9% and 8% more than the three-year average, respectively (Table 2). Crossbows accounted for 72% of the archery harvest in 2024, consistent with the trend that has been occurring over the last decade (Figure 4). There were 12,411 deer harvested during the four-day statewide muzzleloader season, and the youth season harvest (10,436) was 15% more than the three-year average (Table 2).

Antlerless deer harvest is the key to managing Ohio's deer herd. Historically, a harvest of approximately 1.5 antlerless deer for every buck was necessary to prevent population growth. For example, if hunters in a county reported harvesting

1,000 bucks, a minimum of 1,500 antlerless deer would need to be harvested to prevent the population from increasing the following year. Given the changes in hunting pressure, hunter access, and hunter selectivity that have occurred over the last decade, it is likely that this level of antlerless harvest is now insufficient to limit population growth in most counties. Even so, only 21 of 88 counties (24%) met or exceeded 1.5 antlerless deer per buck in their 2024-25 harvest. Hunters in Ashtabula County topped all others with more than two antlerless deer harvests per buck. Other top counties were Knox (1.75), Geauga (1.70), Holmes (1.68) and Trumbull (1.67). Regularly harvesting antlerless deer at this rate, as well as increasing antlerless harvest rates in many others, will be necessary to meet population objectives (see page 23 for discussion on setting population goals).

Nonresident Hunters

Approximately 13% of permit buyers were nonresidents and they accounted for 13% and 4% of the antlered and antlerless harvest, respectively, in the 2024-25 season. Just over 15% of the nonresident harvest (2,894 deer) was taken on public land, which is 2.6 times the rate of residents (5.9%). The nonresident harvest was 67% antlered. By comparison, the resident harvest was only 39% antlered. The top five nonresident states (by total harvest) were Pennsylvania (3,504), Michigan (2,164), West Virginia (1,484), North Carolina (1,356), and Florida (1,236). The top five counties for nonresident deer harvest were Meigs (21.8%), Adams (20.8%), Morgan (20.0%), Lawrence (19.4%), and Pike (19.3%).

Almost two-thirds of the nonresident harvest (64%) occurred during archery season, with the gun and muzzleloader seasons accounting for an additional 26% and 6%, respectively (Table 3). Nonresidents took a much larger percentage of their harvest during archery season than either residents or landowners. More than 70% of the antlered and nearly half of the antlerless deer harvested by nonresidents were taken during archery season.

Table 3. Percentage of antlered, antlerless, and total harvest by season, for adult residents, adult nonresidents, and landowners during the 2024-25 deer season.

	Antlered Harvest (%)			Antlerless Harvest (%)			Total Harvest (%)		
	Resident	Non-resident	Landowner	Resident	Non-resident	Landowner	Resident	Non-resident	Landowner
Archery	58	71	59	40	49	38	47	64	46
Gun	33	22	33	43	35	47	40	26	42
Bonus Gun	5	2	5	10	6	9	8	4	7
Muzzleloader	4	5	3	7	10	7	5	6	6

Landowners

Landowners reported harvesting 66,510 deer, nearly 28% of the total harvest. The proportion of the harvest taken by landowners increased substantially from 1995 (19%) to 2005 (28%), remained relatively stable at about 27% until 2017, and has increased slightly since. While the total landowner harvest was relatively split between the gun (42%) and archery (46%) seasons, there was a notable difference in the timing of antlered and antlerless harvests. Most (59%) antlered deer were taken during the archery season (Table 3), but only 38% of antlerless deer were taken with a bow. Landowner proportion of the total county harvest varied considerably across the state but was greatest among southeastern counties. Washington County led the state with landowners accounting for 43% of the total reported harvest. Landowners also accounted for a significant portion of the total harvest in Holmes (42%), Meigs (42%), Gallia (38%), and Athens (37%) counties.

Public Land

While public land only accounts for roughly 4% of the total land area in the state, hunters reported harvesting 15,785 deer, 7% of the season total, on public land. Antlered bucks accounted for 44% of the public land harvest, slightly more than the proportion of antlered bucks in the private land harvest (41%). It is worth noting that the proportion of antlered bucks in the public land harvest increased substantially with the implementation of antlerless harvest restrictions in 2018. Prior to the public land antlerless restrictions, antlered deer comprised only 38% of the public land harvest – a bit lower than the average private land harvest (41%). With just over 80,000 acres of public land including the Wayne National Forest, Crown City Wildlife Area, and Dean State Forest, Lawrence County once again held the top spot for the proportion of harvest taken on public land (30%). The other top counties were Marion (17.9%), Hocking (16.3%), Morgan (16.0%), and Vinton (15.9%). Nonresident hunters accounted for more than 25% of the public land harvest in eight of the top 10 counties (Table 4).

Table 4. Public land and total harvest, by residency status, in the top 10 counties for public land acreage during the 2024-25 deer season.

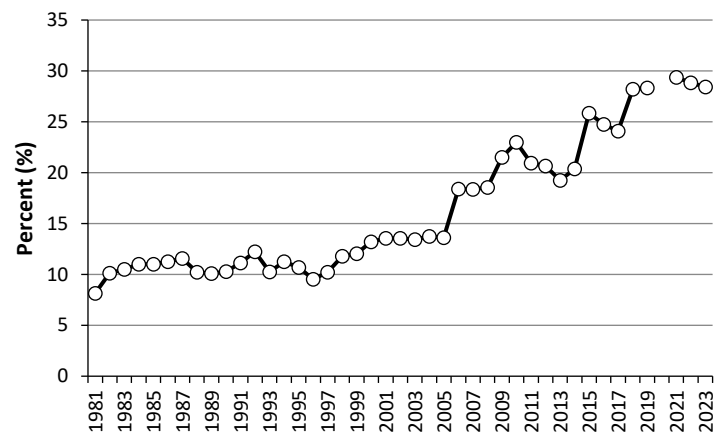
County	Public Land			Resident Harvest			Nonresident Harvest				
	Acres*	% of Total Land in County	% of County Harvest	Public Land	County Total	% of Harvest Taken on Public Land	Public Land	County Total	% of Harvest Taken on Public Land	% of County's Total Harvest Taken by NR	% of County's Public Land Harvest Taken by NR
Lawrence	82,000	28	29.6	364	1,576	23.1	215	379	56.7	19.4	37.1
Scioto	72,000	18	13.0	209	2,112	9.9	118	400	29.5	15.9	36.1
Muskingum	50,000	12	15.4	704	5,352	13.2	260	917	28.4	14.6	27.0
Vinton	49,000	19	15.9	228	1,770	12.9	115	386	29.8	17.9	33.5
Hocking	45,000	17	16.3	332	2,459	13.5	146	470	31.1	16.0	30.5
Washington	40,000	10	7.3	265	3,914	6.8	62	578	10.7	12.9	19.0
Morgan	38,000	14	16.0	440	3,111	14.1	184	779	23.6	20.0	29.5
Coshocton	37,000	10	11.6	703	7,291	9.6	251	905	27.7	11.0	26.3
Athens	33,000	10	8.2	202	2,969	6.8	100	694	14.4	18.9	33.1
Monroe	31,000	10	9.4	233	2,870	8.1	69	354	19.5	11.0	22.8

*Lands open to public hunting that are owned or administered by the ODNR or U.S. Forest Service (Wayne National Forest), rounded to the nearest 1,000 acres.

Deer Age Structure

In 2023, Division of Wildlife personnel aged 5,081 deer during the weeklong gun season (7% of the reported harvest) from 40 processors in 34 counties as well as from inspection stations (staffed locations in the Disease Surveillance Area where harvested deer can be taken for CWD sampling). Figure 5 shows how the age structure of the gun season harvest has changed over time. The proportion of adults (3.5 years old or older) in the antlered buck harvest has been steadily increasing since the late 1990s. In the early to mid-1980s, only 10% of the bucks harvested were adults. Today, nearly one-third of antlered deer taken during the

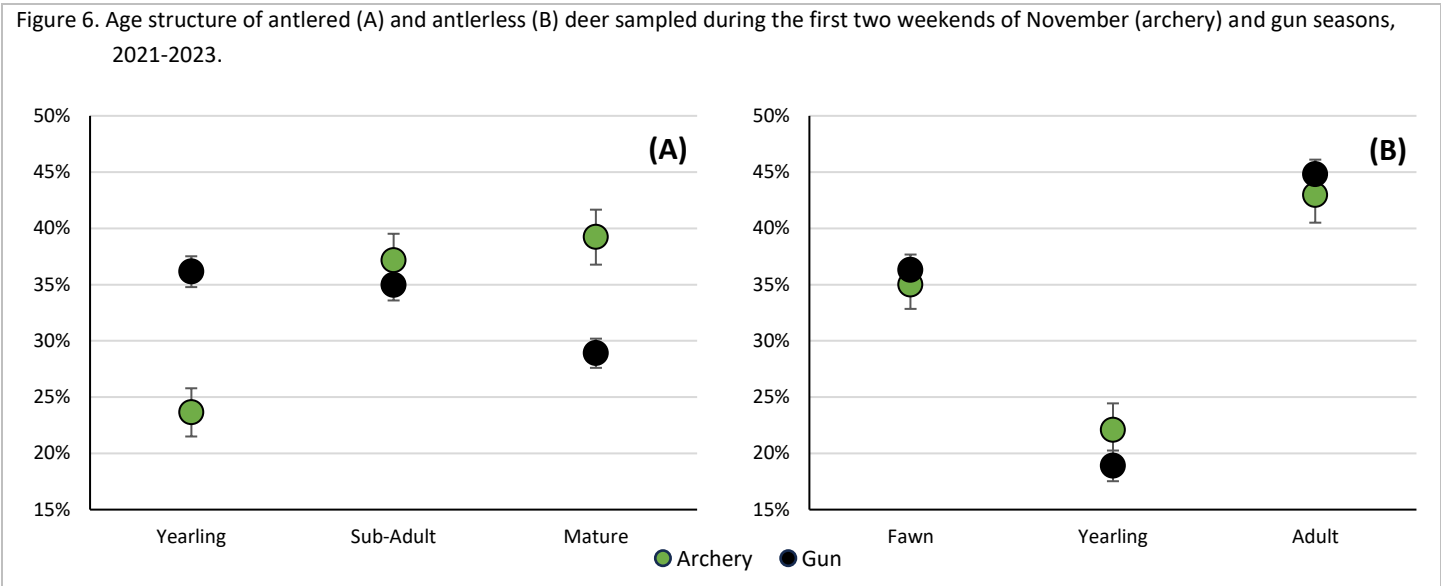
Figure 5. Proportion of antlered deer sampled during the gun season that were aged as adults (3.5+ years old), 1980 – 2023.



gun season are aged as 3.5 years old or older. A change of this magnitude would normally be a result of some type of regulation change, such as antler point restrictions. In Ohio's case, the shift in age structure is likely due to at least two factors, increased hunter selectivity (self-imposed harvest restrictions) and liberal antlerless opportunities. The growth of the deer herd over time, coupled with liberal antlerless harvest opportunities, has afforded many hunters the luxury of passing on young bucks in favor of waiting for an opportunity at an older (and, presumably, larger-antlered) deer.

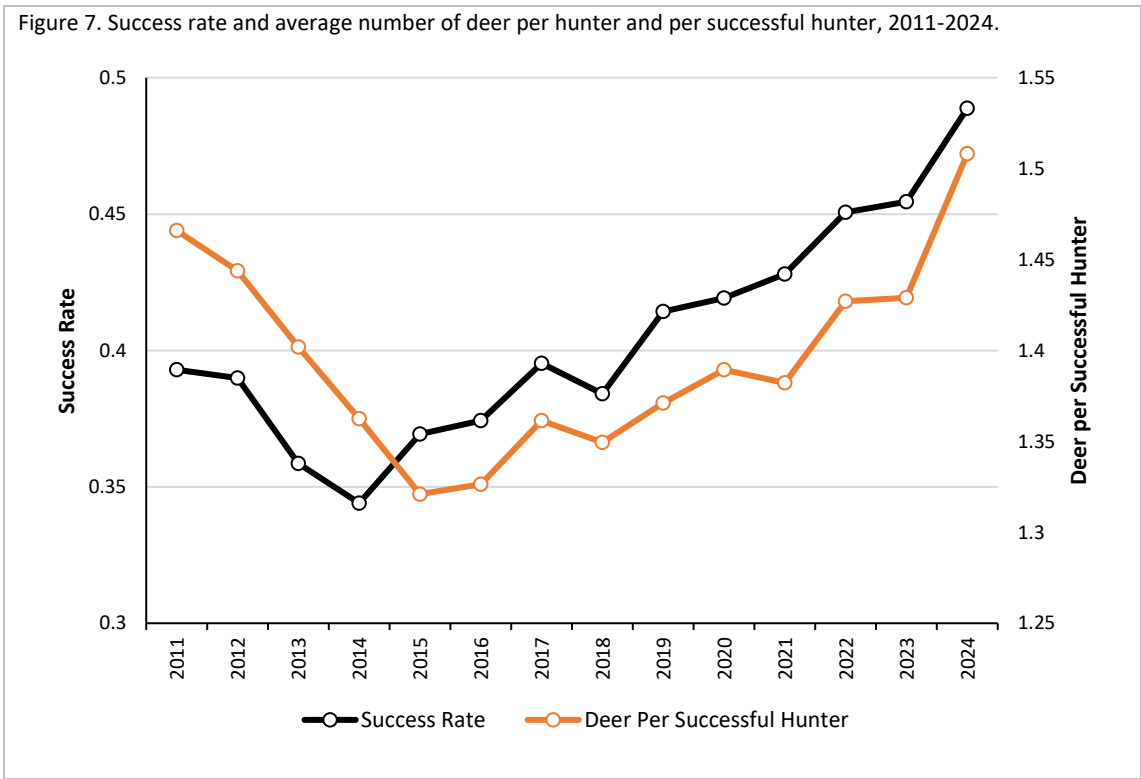
Due to the large number of deer taken in a short time window, the gun season has always served as the most efficient means for collecting biological data. However, a significant shift in the harvest away from gun and into the archery season has raised questions of whether data collected during the gun season continue to provide a valid snapshot of herd demographics and/or harvest selectivity. From 2021-2023 an effort was made to quantify any differences in deer aged during the gun season and deer aged during the two most significant archery weekends – the first and second weekends of November. Over the three-year period, Division of Wildlife staff aged 3,433 and 16,353 deer during the bow and gun seasons, respectively. Significant differences in buck age structure were observed between the two sampling periods, with archery season samples containing a much larger proportion of mature bucks (aged 3.5 years old or older; 39.2%) than the gun season sample (28.9%; Figure 6). Fewer than 25% of the bucks aged in archery

season were yearlings (1.5 years old), but they comprised more than one-third of the bucks aged during the gun season sampling. No significant differences were observed in the antlerless age structure, so important metrics like fawns per doe (recruitment) appear to be consistent across sampling periods.



HUNTER SUCCESS, PARTICIPATION, AND EFFORT

In the 2024-25 season, 186,319 resident adults purchased at least one either-sex or deer management permit and 91,073 harvested at least one deer, resulting in a 49% hunter success rate (Table 5, Figure 7). Hunter success rates have increased steadily over the last decade with this season’s success rate signifying a 42% jump over the 2014 season. Success rates differed significantly between private (49%) and public land hunters (16%).



Based on survey responses from adult resident permit buyers, 82% bowhunted during the 2024-25 season, while 79%, 46%, and 32% reported hunting in the gun, bonus gun, and muzzleloader seasons, respectively (Table 5; Figure 8). Hunter effort remained relatively constant at an average of 18.5 days since 2001. During the 2024-25 season, archery, gun, and muzzleloader hunters spent, on average, 18.9, 3.6, and 2.2 days hunting those seasons, respectively, with hunters averaging 19.8 days in the field over the course of the entire season (Table 6). Almost one in three gun hunters reported a deer harvest and archery hunters posted a success rate of over 31% (Table 5). When considering success rates, it is important to remember that success in any particular season is very much dependent upon success in other seasons. Nearly 80% of gun hunters also hunt during the archery season, and most likely do so prior to the gun season. Because most hunters participate in multiple seasons and many choose to hunt bucks only, season-specific success rates have limited value and certainly cannot be compared with other states where hunters have season-specific permits. Additionally, these estimates are derived from surveys of adult, resident hunters that purchased a deer permit. Therefore, season participation and success rates of nonresidents, youth, disabled veterans, seniors, and landowners are currently unknown.

Figure 8. Season-specific participation rates based on results of the 2024-25 deer hunter survey.

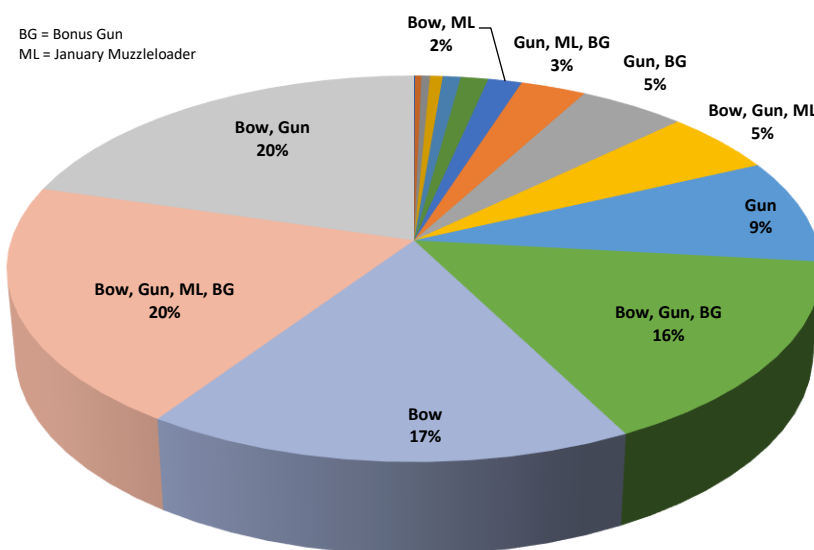


Table 5. Participation and success rates for the 2024-25 deer season compared to the three-year average¹.

	Participation Rate (%)		Estimated Number of Hunters		Number of Successful Hunters		Success Rate (%)	
	2024	3yr avg.	2024	3yr avg.	2024	3yr avg.	2024	3yr avg.
Nonresident			39,559	38,841	14,806	13,223	37.4	34.1
Resident			186,319²	188,982	91,073³	83,960	48.8⁴	44.4
Private			174,499 ⁵	178,099	84,772	78,149	48.6	43.9
Public			60,994 ⁶	52,284	9,521	8,321	15.6	15.9
Archery	82 ⁷	78	152,500 ⁸	147,097	48,336	45,571	31.7	31.0
Gun	79	78	146,999	147,361	44,291	37,334	30.1	25.3
Bonus Gun	46	43	85,674	80,650	10,173	7,942	11.9	9.8
Muzzleloader	32	33	58,980	62,996	7,128	7,130	12.1	11.3

¹Average of 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 deer seasons.

²The number of adult resident hunters who purchased at least one deer permit during the 2024-25 season. Excludes nonresidents, youth, seniors, disabled veterans, and landowners.

³The number of adult resident hunters that reported harvesting at least one deer during the 2024-25 season.

⁴The number of successful adult resident hunters divided by the total number of adult resident hunters that purchased a deer permit.

⁵Among respondents to the 2024-25 deer hunter survey, 94% indicated that they hunted at least once on private land. This rate is applied to the known number of licensed adult hunters to estimate the total number hunting private land at least once during the 2024-25 season.

⁶Among respondents to the 2024-25 deer hunter survey, 32.7% indicated that they hunted at least once on public land. This rate is applied to the known number of licensed adult hunters to estimate the total number hunting public land at least once during the 2024-25 season.

⁷Among respondents to the 2024-25 deer hunter survey, 82% indicated that they hunted at least one day during the 2024-25 archery season.

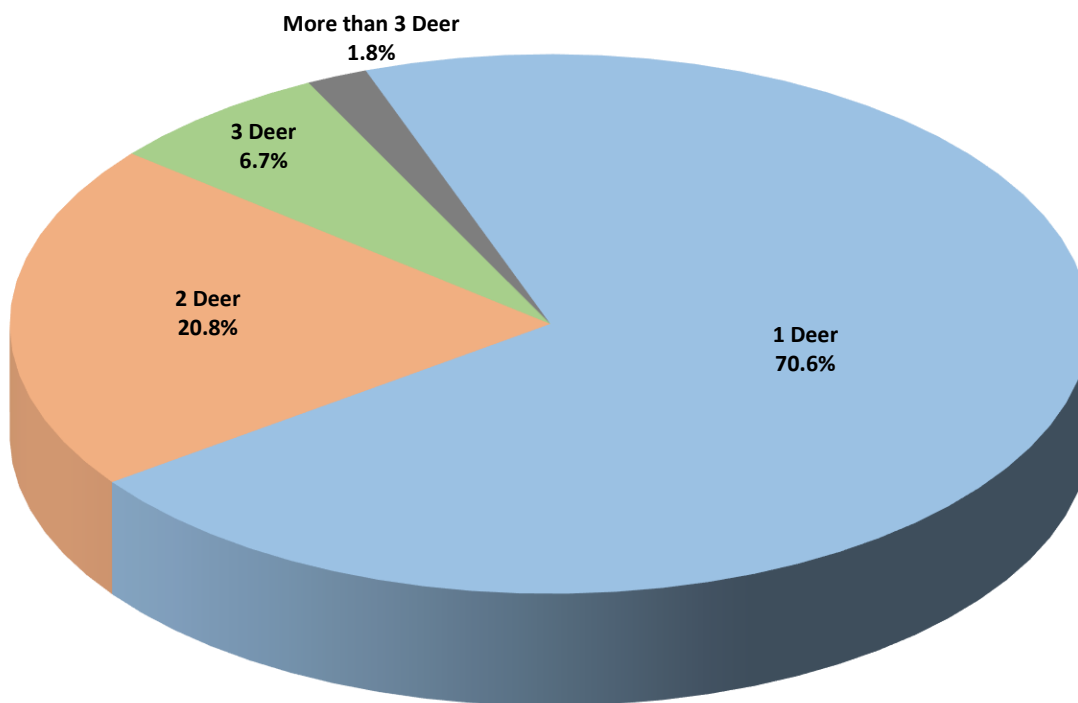
⁸Estimated total number of licensed resident adults that hunted during the 2024-25 archery season. Estimate is based on an 82% participation rate among the 186,319 resident adults who purchased at least one deer permit during the 2024-25 deer season.

Despite large deer populations and liberal bag limits, only 18% of successful hunters harvested more than one deer during the 2006 season. This changed dramatically with the introduction of the \$15 antlerless permit in 2007. From 2007 to 2011, there was a steady increase in the percentage of successful hunters harvesting more than one deer, peaking at 27% in 2011. Then, as deer populations were reduced and restrictions were placed on the use of the antlerless deer permit, the proportion of hunters taking more than one deer steadily declined, reaching 22% in 2016. Not surprisingly, given that all significant measures of the deer population indicate that herd growth has occurred over the last decade and discounted permits are once again available statewide for the taking of additional antlerless deer, the proportion of hunters harvesting more than a single deer increased to 29% in 2024. Of important note is the fact that large statewide bag limits have little impact on both the number of deer harvested per hunter and the percentage of hunters harvesting multiple deer. For example, the statewide bag limit in 2012 was 18 deer, yet successful hunters averaged 1.44 deer and only 27% reported harvesting more than one. The 2024 figures represent new record highs (1.51 deer per successful hunter and 29% harvested more than one), even though the statewide bag limit (6 deer) was 67% lower than the 18-deer bag limit in 2012.

Table 6. Average number of days hunting in 2001-02 and select seasons from 2012-13 to present.

	2001	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2024
Archery	20.8	19.2	17.2	17.0	15.4	19.4	18.9
Gun	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.8	3.6
Bonus Gun	-	1.5	-	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5
Muzzleloader	2.8	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2
All Seasons	17.3	20.0	17.8	18.0	15.1	19.4	19.8

Figure 9. Percent of successful hunters taking one, two, three, or more than three deer during the 2024-25 season.



As in years past, the vast majority of successful hunters (71%) harvested only a single deer in the 2024-25 season. About 21% of successful hunters bagged two deer, 6.7% harvested three, and 1.8% took four or more deer (Figure 9). Again, to emphasize the limited influence of a large bag limit, of successful hunters, only about 2% harvest more than three deer in a single season, and specifically in 2024, only 331 of the 186,319 permit buyers (0.2%) filled their 6-deer bag limit.

Once populations have reached or exceeded goals, increasing the bag limit beyond 3-deer is not sufficient to stabilize or reduce populations. The key to reducing deer populations when and where needed is to increase the proportion of harvest that is antlerless. Since hunters, in general, are not interested in filling a 3+ deer bag, incentives and alternative regulations are needed to shift a portion of the hunters harvesting zero or one antlerless deer to harvesting one or two. This has been generally accomplished by incentivizing hunters to purchase multiple permits at the same time (via discounts) and encouraging them to harvest an antlerless deer early in the season (discounted permits for antlerless deer only valid early in the deer season). The evidence is clear that these two factors have a substantial influence on the proportion of the harvest that is antlerless as well as the average number of deer harvested (Figure 10, Figure 11).

Figure 10. Harvest composition and average number of deer harvested for multi-permit buyers that purchase one permit at a time versus those that purchase multiple permits in a single transaction.

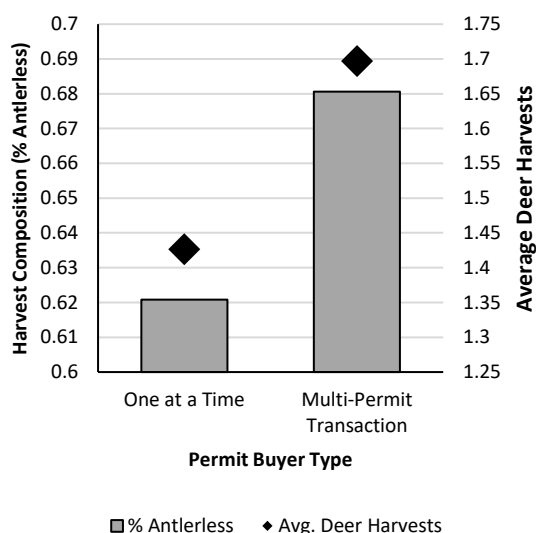
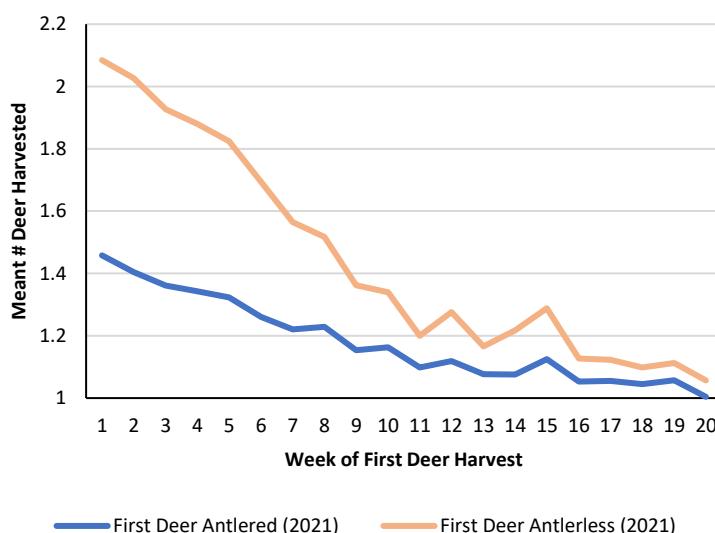


Figure 11. Average number of deer harvested by week of hunter's first harvest and whether their first deer was antlered or antlerless. The earlier a hunter harvests a deer, the more deer, on average, they will harvest over the course of the deer season. This effect is much more pronounced if their first deer is antlerless.



DISEASE UPDATE

Hemorrhagic Disease

Hemorrhagic Disease (HD) is the most important viral disease of white-tailed deer in the United States. It is caused by related orbiviruses of the epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) or bluetongue (BT) virus serogroups. Since disease caused by EHD and BT viruses are indistinguishable without laboratory testing, the general term, hemorrhagic disease (HD), is often used. The virus is transmitted by biting flies of the genus *Culicoides*, which are commonly called midges, sand gnats, or no-see-ums. The occurrence of HD is seasonal and coincides with periods of the year when these biting flies are abundant - typically late July through November. The first hard freeze of the fall causes a sudden decline in *Culicoides* activity, eliminating new cases of HD.

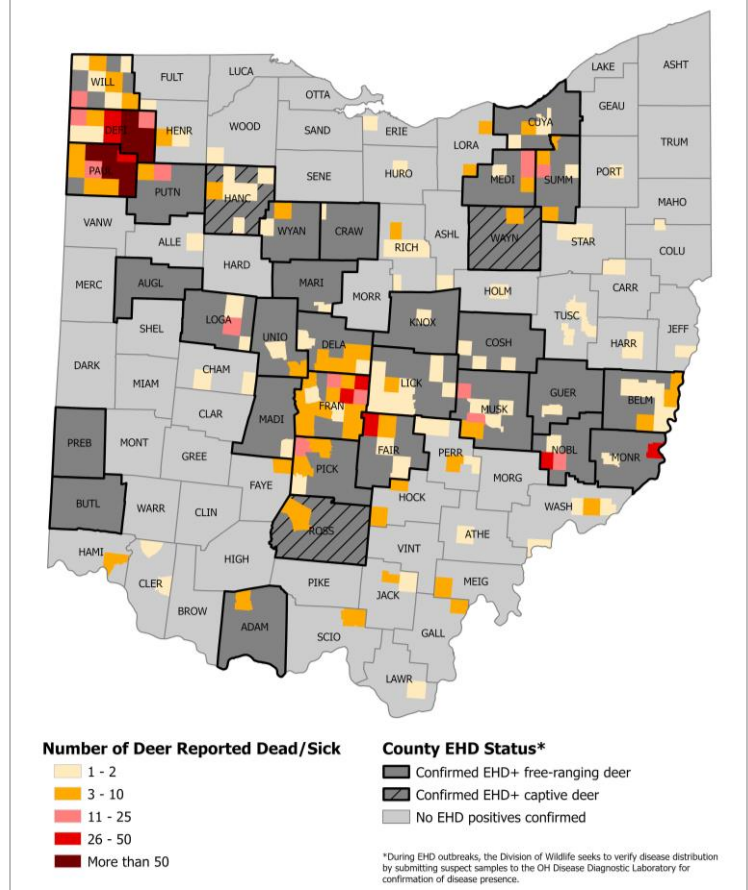
Deer develop signs of illness about seven days after exposure and symptoms include loss of appetite and fear of humans, excessive salivation, rapid pulse and respiration rate, and high fever (which cause deer to seek water to lie in to reduce their body temperature). Midwestern deer populations have developed little resistance to HD and are likely to die within three days of the onset of symptoms. Hemorrhagic disease does not affect humans, impact the safety of consuming venison, nor pose a serious threat to cattle (EHD generally does not affect sheep, but BT can cause serious disease). The severity and distribution of HD outbreaks are highly variable. While HD outbreaks only occur sporadically in Ohio (recent significant disease events include 2007, 2012, 2017, and 2022), they can be severe with locally high

mortality. Presently, there are no wildlife management tools that can prevent or control HD in free-ranging deer herds. Repeated exposure to the virus will eventually lead to herd immunity. While significant localized mortality can cause alarm among the public, past experiences show that HD will not eliminate entire populations, the disease will come to an end with the onset of cold weather, and deer populations will bounce back within a few years.

In 2024, the Division of Wildlife confirmed HD mortality in 32 Ohio counties. Reports of dead or sick deer from the public were generally lacking across most of the state (Figure 12). While not widespread, significant mortality did occur in portions of the state. The Division of Wildlife received more than 400 reports, totaling more than 1,000 dead or sick deer observations, from Defiance and Paulding counties. While not as severe, the greater Columbus area in central Ohio also appeared to experience substantial mortality due to HD (Figure 12).

The Division of Wildlife relies heavily on reports from the public to document HD activity every summer and fall. Our online species reporting page is the most efficient means to gather public reports of dead or sick deer. Please help us track HD activity each year by visiting <https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-ODNR/wildlife/Report+Wildlife+Sightings> to report any deer that appear sick or those that you find dead.

Figure 12. Counties with confirmed or suspected EHD activity in 2024.



Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal disease of the central nervous system of mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, moose, and reindeer. CWD is caused by abnormal proteins, or prions (not a bacteria or virus), that ultimately destroy brain tissue. CWD can be spread through direct animal-to-animal contact or indirectly via contact with saliva, urine, feces, carcass parts of an infected animal, or contaminated materials in the environment (plants and soil). Prions released into the environment through bodily fluids or diseased carcasses are extremely resistant to degradation and can remain infectious for years. CWD is known as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy, a family of diseases that includes bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease), scrapie, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease in humans.

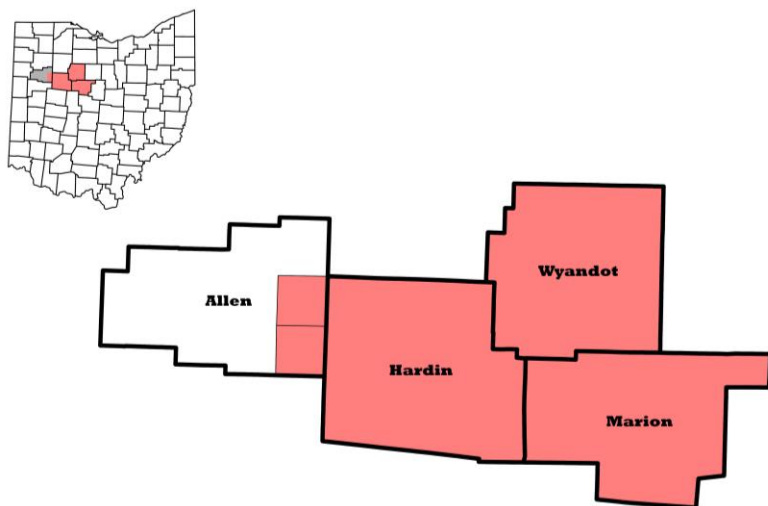
The Division of Wildlife has conducted CWD surveillance since 2002, testing nearly 52,000 deer. In 2024, 5,955 deer were tested for CWD. Hunters submitted 3,706 deer via cooperating taxidermists and processors. An additional 1,976 deer were submitted by hunters at collection and inspection stations. Additional deer (273) were collected and tested through various means (deer displaying abnormal behavior and/or poor physical condition, found dead under suspicious circumstances, removed in conflict or culling situations, etc.). Twenty-four deer tested positive for CWD in 2024-25, bringing the total number of free-ranging, CWD-positive deer detected in Ohio to 73. Positive deer were detected in Wyandot, Marion, Allen, Hardin, and Morrow counties.

Initial Response and Positive Detections

In December 2020, the Division of Wildlife received test results that a mature buck harvested in southern Wyandot County tested positive for CWD. Once confirmed, a 15-township area surrounding the positive location was designated

for additional surveillance where hunters were encouraged to submit deer for testing throughout the remainder of the deer season, particularly during the two-day bonus gun and muzzleloader seasons. Additionally, given the proximity to Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area and Refuge, all deer harvested on the remaining controlled hunts were submitted for testing (n = 171). This additional surveillance produced a second positive, a yearling doe. Additional targeted removal was implemented on the refuge and surrounding area following the deer season to 1) obtain more information about the prevalence and distribution of the disease, 2) reduce population density (aerial surveys revealed an abnormally high deer density within and surrounding the refuge), and 3) potentially remove additional CWD-positive deer from the herd. In three nights of operations, Division of Wildlife staff removed and tested 72 deer with no additional positives.

Figure 13. Disease Surveillance Area (DSA) for the 2024-25 season.



A 22-township area covering all of Wyandot and parts of Hardin and Marion counties was declared a Disease Surveillance Area in summer 2021 (see wildohio.gov for complete list of DSA regulations). During the 2021 season, a total of 1,030 hunter-harvested deer were sampled from the DSA with eight testing positive. Post-season targeted efforts in the immediate vicinity of known positives uncovered one additional CWD-positive deer in March 2022.

Prior to the 2022-23 deer season, the Disease Surveillance Area was expanded to include the entirety of Wyandot, Marion, and Hardin counties. Additionally, DSA-specific deer harvest regulations – an

earlier start to the archery season and a three-day October firearms season – were implemented in an effort to shift a portion of the annual harvest earlier in the season. During the 2022-23 hunting season, 2,742 deer were sampled from the DSA with seven testing positive. Post-season targeted efforts in the immediate vicinity of known positives resulted in the removal of 132 deer, four of which were positive for CWD.

During the 2023-24 sampling season, 2,638 deer were sampled from the DSA with 26 testing positive. Landowners removed an additional 50 deer in a post-season effort with one testing positive for CWD. USDA-Wildlife Services removed an additional 130 deer in a two-night effort to conduct additional surveillance around the fringe of the known CWD distribution. No additional positives were found.

Disease Surveillance Area, 2024-25 Surveillance, and Post-season Removals

As a result of positive detection in eastern Allen County during the 2023-24 season, the DSA was expanded to include Jackson and Auglaize townships prior to the 2024-25 season (Figure 13). Sampling was mandatory for any deer harvested in the DSA during the first two days of both the early firearms (Oct. 12-13) and gun seasons (Dec. 2-3). Collection stations were distributed throughout the DSA and were available for hunters to leave their deer head for testing at any point during the season, including mandatory sampling days. During the 2024-25 sampling season, 2,334 deer were sampled from the DSA with 23 testing positive (Table 7, Figure 14). An additional CWD-positive deer was detected outside of the DSA during the 2024-25 season – an adult female harvested on a portion of Delaware Wildlife Area in extreme southwestern Morrow County.

Following deer season, landowners within the DSA and those in townships outside of the DSA but within 6 miles of known CWD-positive deer were authorized to remove additional deer. Utilizing our existing deer damage permitting procedure, 241 landowners were issued up to 10 permits to remove antlerless deer on their properties from February 3 - March 2, 2025. A total of 319 deer were removed on 99 of the 241 permitted properties. Testing was not mandatory for deer harvested on these permits, but of those that were submitted, none were positive for CWD. Permits were granted under the following conditions:

- Complete an online application for a Deer Damage Control Permit
- Permitted landowners or their designees may remove up to 10 deer (antlerless only)
- Opportunity to name up to five individuals who will be allowed to remove deer on the property
- Unless a landowner, shooters must possess a valid hunting license
- Transportation of deer carcasses out of the DSA not allowed unless complying with carcass movement regulations
- All deer must be disposed of properly
- All deer must be reported within 72 hours of removal
- All legal deer hunting implements are valid for removal activities from 30 minutes before sunrise to midnight

Figure 14. Distribution of CWD-positives detected in Ohio.

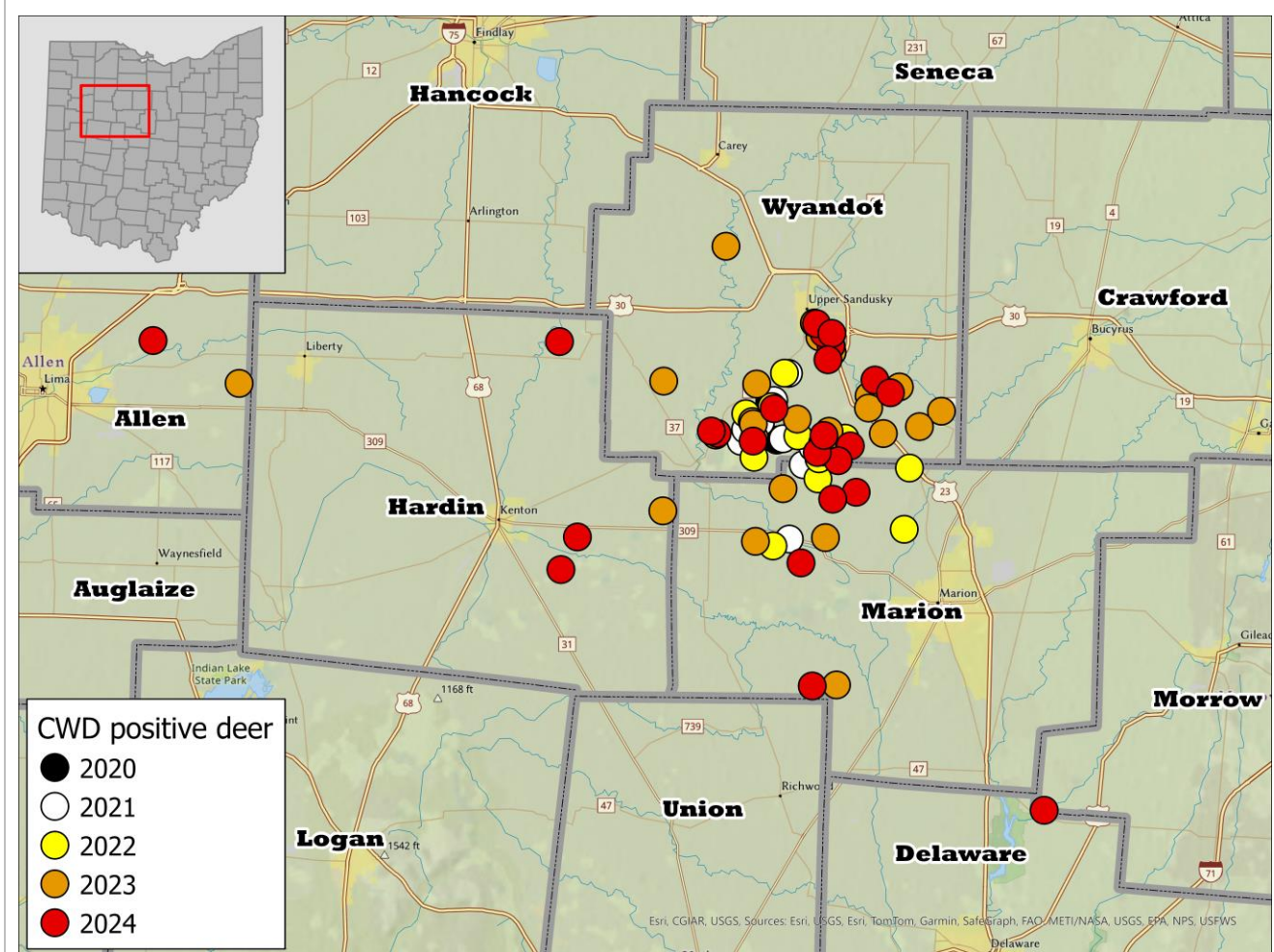


Table 7. Samples collected in Disease Surveillance Area 2021-01 during the 2024-25 season.

County	Township	Surveillance		Post-season Removal		Total	
		Total Samples	Positives	Total Samples	Positives	Total Samples	Positives
Allen	Auglaize	20		2		22	
	Jackson	54	1	20		74	1
	Total	74	1	22		96	1
Hardin	Blanchard	34		3		37	
	Buck	46	1			46	1
	Cessna	47		2		49	
	Dudley	63	1	23		86	1
	Goshen	38		7		45	
	Hale	9				9	
	Jackson	37	1	2		39	1
	Liberty	25		16		41	
	Lynn	27				27	
	Marion	13				13	
	McDonald	33		3		36	
	Pleasant	54				54	
	Roundhead	38				38	
	Taylor Creek	19				19	
	Washington	20		10		30	
	Unknown	130		2		132	
	County Total	633	3	68		701	3
Marion	Big Island	79	1			79	1
	Bowling Green	14				14	
	Claridon	16				16	
	Grand	51		5		56	
	Grand Prairie	16		2		18	
	Green Camp	27	1	2		29	1
	Marion	36		2		38	
	Montgomery	35		6		41	
	Pleasant	13		1		14	
	Prospect	13				13	
	Richland	21		2		23	
	Salt Rock	26	2	2		28	2
	Scott	3				3	
	Tully	21				21	
	Waldo	14				14	
	Unknown	75		1		76	
	County Total	460	4	23		483	4
Wyandot	Antrim	35				35	
	Crane	72	4	9		81	4
	Crawford	48		4		52	
	Eden	55				55	
	Jackson	47				47	
	Marseilles	73	2	13		86	2
	Mifflin	106	1	11		117	1
	Pitt	191	8	1		192	8
	Richland	23				23	
	Ridge	13				13	
	Salem	60		1		61	
	Sycamore	68		5		73	
	Tymochtee	104		1		105	
	Unknown	111		3		114	
	County Total	1,006	15	48		1,054	15
DSA Total		2,173	23	161		2,334	23

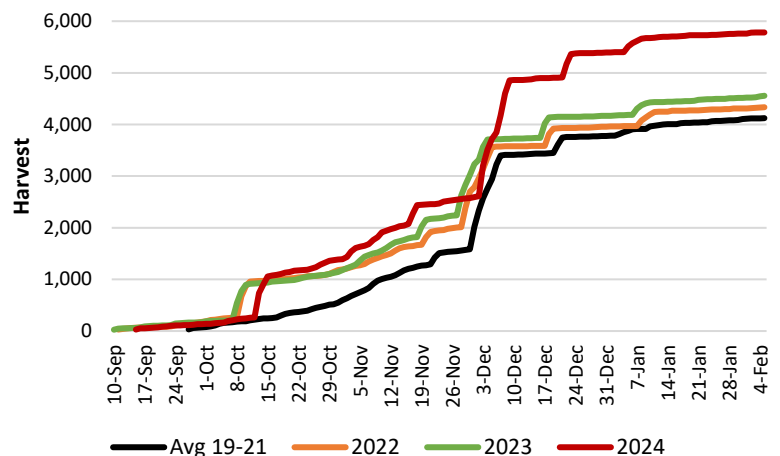
A CLOSER LOOK AT THE 2024-25 SEASON

Early Season Opportunities in the DSA

As mentioned above, additional deer harvest opportunities - an earlier start to archery season and an October firearms season - were made available in the DSA beginning in the 2022-23 deer season. The purpose of these additional opportunities was twofold: 1) shift a large portion of the annual harvest, particularly the harvest of CWD-positive deer, earlier and 2) as a result of the first, to increase the total harvest in the DSA (see Figure 11). Removing positive deer prior to the annual breeding season - a period when deer typically make longer and more frequent movements across the landscape interacting with other individuals in the population – could be an important factor in reducing the spread of CWD. A head start on the archery season did not produce a very significant harvest, as only 120 deer were harvested across the DSA during those two weeks. However, a three-day firearms season in early October produced a significant harvest with hunters taking 777 deer. While season-long harvest gains have been noted in each of the last three years, these are likely a result of increasing deer populations rather than the extra opportunity provided by these early seasons. Similar patterns of incrementally larger harvests are also evident in the counties surrounding the DSA (i.e., those counties without early seasons).

However, while these extra opportunities were not the cause for significant gains in the annual harvest, they have shifted a large portion of the harvest forward (Figure 15). Prior to offering early season opportunities, on average, only 14% of the annual harvest occurred prior to Nov. 1. Over the three years that early archery and firearms seasons have been available, an average of 25% of the total deer harvest in the DSA occurred prior to Nov. 1. Not only did a much larger portion of the harvest occur prior to breeding season, but over the past three years, 14 CWD-positive deer have been harvested during the early firearms seasons, eliminating their potential for further disease transmission.

Figure 15. Cumulative harvest in the Disease Surveillance Area (DSA), 3-year average prior to early season opportunities (2019-21), 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25 seasons.



Deer Management Permit – Valid Dates Extended

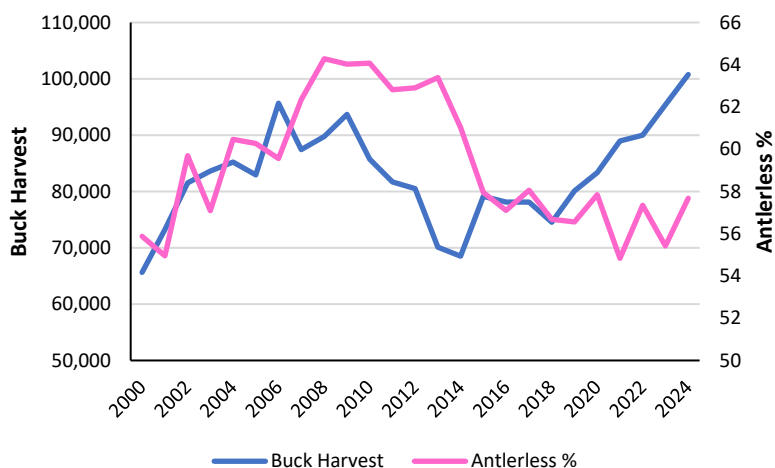
The most significant deer regulation change in 2024 was the extension of the valid dates of the Deer Management Permit (DMP) through the end of the bonus gun season (Dec. 22). Historically, this reduced-cost permit, good for antlerless deer only, was valid only during the portion of the archery season prior to the start of gun season (as well as during controlled hunts). The rationale for the expiration date was simple – encourage hunters to harvest antlerless deer early to increase the odds that they would harvest another before season’s end (Figure 11). This approach worked very well in the late-2000s and was the primary driver of antlerless harvest increases that ultimately led to population reductions from 2007-2013. The DMP, with its expiration date, was so effective that from 2014-2020 it was not available in most counties. The DMP was once again available to hunters statewide beginning in 2021, but compared to permit buying patterns 10-15 years ago, hunters have been reluctant to purchase them (160,000+ purchased in 2009 vs. less than 30,000 in 2023). In an attempt to spark more interest in obtaining these reduced-cost permits and increase antlerless harvest, the Division of Wildlife extended the permit’s valid dates through the end of the bonus gun season in hopes that more hunters would take advantage of having nine days of firearm hunting to harvest an extra antlerless deer with a less expensive permit.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to isolate the impact of this regulation change because it was paired with a substantial marketing campaign that brought increased awareness to the availability of the permit as well as encouragement to use it to harvest additional antlerless deer. However, at first glance, it appears that hunters responded positively, as the number of DMPs issued increased 83% from just over 29,000 in 2023 to 53,993 in 2024. There is evidence that the large increase in DMPs issued was somewhat offset by a decrease of about 10,000 either-sex deer permits (from 333,500 in 2023 to 323,500 in 2024). Thus, it is likely that part of the increase in the sales of DMPs was simply a result of permit switching. For example, rather than buying multiple either-sex permits, some hunters opted to purchase the same number of permits as they have in the past, just at a cheaper cost (rather than purchasing two either-sex permits at a cost of \$62.40, a hunter could have purchased one either-sex permit and one DMP at a cost of \$46.20).

Since the antlered harvest (an indicator of population size) was up 11% over the three-year average, we would have expected the antlerless harvest to follow suit had there not been any changes to the regulations. The antlerless harvest increased 18% over the three-year average – an increase of roughly 7% more than would be expected due to population growth alone. Given that such a large proportion of this harvest increase occurred during the gun season (antlerless harvest during the 2024 gun season signified a 29% increase over the three-year average) and nearly one in five antlerless deer harvested during the gun season were checked using a DMP, it appears that extending the valid dates of the DMP was responsible for a significant portion of the antlerless harvest gains observed in the 2024-25 season. Additionally, it appears the regulation change may have had a positive impact on the permit success rate – 46% of the ~54,000 DMPs issued in 2024 were filled, compared to just 32% in 2023.

However, caution should be exercised when interpreting these results given the optimal conditions hunters experienced across most of the state for the entirety of the 2024 gun season. It is yet to be seen how antlerless harvest could be impacted by poor weather on key harvest days. Should hunters delay antlerless harvest until gun season with the expectation of filling their DMP with a firearm, poor weather during the week of gun season could have a much more pronounced negative impact on the year's antlerless harvest than it has in the past.

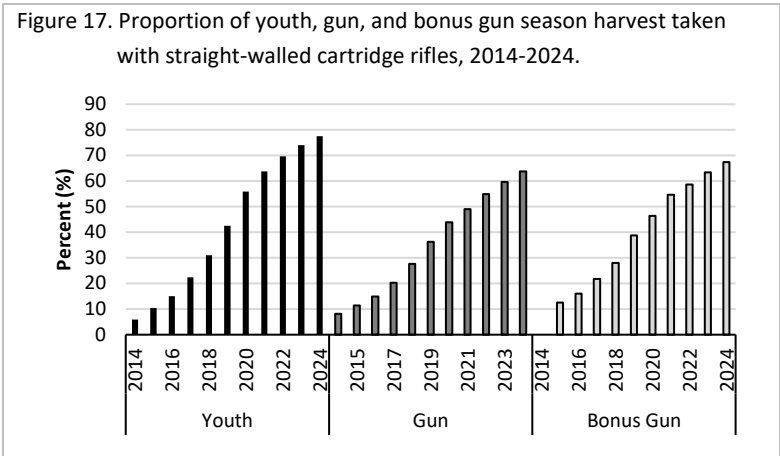
Figure 16. Trends in antlerless harvest as a proportion of the total (pink) and buck harvest (blue), 2000-2024. Note that antlerless harvest percentages over the last decade have generally resulted in population increases (as indicated by the buck harvest trend).



While the increase in the number of antlerless deer harvested was encouraging, it is the proportion of the standing population removed that dictates future herd size. The percentage of the total harvest consisting of does and button bucks (% antlerless) is often used as a metric to gauge this important variable. Unfortunately, even with significant gains in raw harvest, the antlerless harvest as a proportion of the total only saw minimal change in 2024 – from a three-year average of 55.9% to 57.7% in 2024. Analysis of historical harvest data would suggest the 2024 antlerless harvest is still well short of achieving the levels necessary to arrest herd growth or result in population reduction (Figure 16).

Straight-walled Cartridge Rifles

The 2024-25 season marked the tenth year that straight-walled cartridge (SWC) calibers were legal for deer hunting. Hunters harvested 8,091; 55,610; and 11,423 deer with SWC rifles during the youth, gun and bonus gun seasons, respectively, accounting for 78%, 64%, and 67% of the total reported harvest during those seasons. The proportion of the harvest taken with SWC rifles has increased each year since the 2014 season when they were first legalized for deer hunting (Figure 17). According to the results of the 2024-25 Deer Hunter Survey (a survey of adult resident hunters), 28% still used a shotgun during the traditional seven-day gun season, 6% used a muzzleloader, and 63% used a SWC rifle. The 350 Legend was the most popular choice among hunters, with 41% opting for this caliber. Other popular choices included the 450 Bushmaster (29%), .45-70 (14%), and the 44 Magnum (5%).



Deer Damage Control Permits

Landowners that experience deer damage to their crops (e.g., depredation or rub damage) may be issued Deer Damage Control Permits (DDCP) at the time damage is occurring to kill deer during the dates and under the conditions specified on the permit. For most agricultural problems (row crop), these permits are valid until August 15. Permits may be valid year-round to control damage at orchards, nurseries, inside municipalities, and airports. Except in the case of rub damage, permit holders are strongly encouraged to kill antlerless deer (the antlers of any deer killed on DDCPs must be destroyed). Concordant with other indices indicating a growing deer herd and a goal setting process that indicated populations have exceeded social tolerance in many parts of the state, the total number of complaints (1,722), number of complaints resulting in issuance of permits (1,489), and total permits issued (11,352) increased by 46%, 46%, and 57%, respectively, over the three-year average (Table 8). The total number of deer reported killed on damage permits (5,785) was 62% more than the three-year average and has nearly tripled since 2019 (Figure 18).

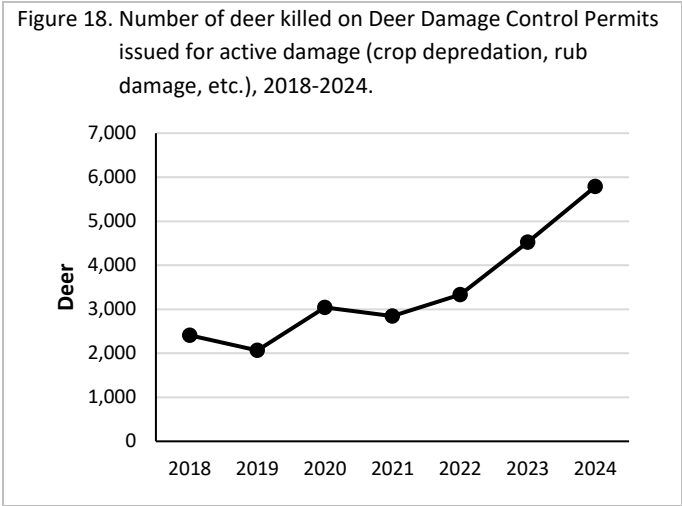


Table 8. Issuance and utilization of Deer Damage Control Permits, 2024 and the three-year average.

		3yr	2024	Diff (%)
Traditional Procedure (Active damage)	Complaints	1,183	1,722	45.6
	Complaints Authorized for DDCPs	1,022	1,489	45.7
	Permits Issued	7,221	11,352	57.2
	Deer Killed	3,568	5,786	62.2
Population Management	Applications	26	26	0
	Permits Issued	3,727	3,456	-7.3
	Deer Killed	3,313	3,006	-9.3

In addition to issuing permits for active damage, we also have a procedure for issuing permits to address public safety or biodiversity issues. These situations typically involve cities and park districts, require a request for permits (number of tags requested and justification submitted annually), and an annual report of activities. In 2024, we used this procedure in 26 cases to issue 3,456 permits. These operations resulted in 3,006 deer killed.

2025-26 SEASON PREVIEW

In the mid- to late-2000s, deer populations across most of the state had reached record-highs - well above population goals that had been established in 2000. Through a combination of liberal bag limits, reduced cost antlerless permits, education on the importance of an adequate doe harvest, and other programmatic changes, deer populations in most areas of Ohio were reduced. As a result, regulations became increasingly conservative to alleviate harvest pressure on antlerless deer and stabilize populations. Predictably, deer populations have responded and data indicate that many areas of the state are experiencing significant herd growth. In fact, 58 of the state's 88 counties have recorded new buck harvest records within the last three seasons and recent survey results have dictated population reductions in many areas of the state (see *Periodic Goal Setting Survey* on page 24). With a smaller pool of deer hunters and less demand for antlerless deer, it is likely that novel approaches to deer management will soon be necessary to achieve desired outcomes.

Aside from minor calendar adjustments, season dates will remain the same for the 2025-26 season. In response to the significant outbreak of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease in Defiance and Paulding counties in the fall of 2024, the bag limit in those two counties will decrease from three to two (Figure 19). The only other significant changes in 2025 will be expanding antlerless deer opportunities on public lands. The bag limit will increase from one to two antlerless deer and the Deer Management Permit, previously only valid for use on private land, will be available to public land hunters. These regulation changes are in response to survey and research data

collected over the previous five years that indicated both deer hunter satisfaction (Figure 20) and deer populations (Figure 21) have increased significantly since antlerless harvest restrictions were established on public lands in 2018.

Figure 19. Deer harvest regulations for 2025-26 season.



Figure 20. Satisfaction scores of self-identified public land hunters in the three years preceding antlerless harvest restrictions (2015-17) and in 2024.

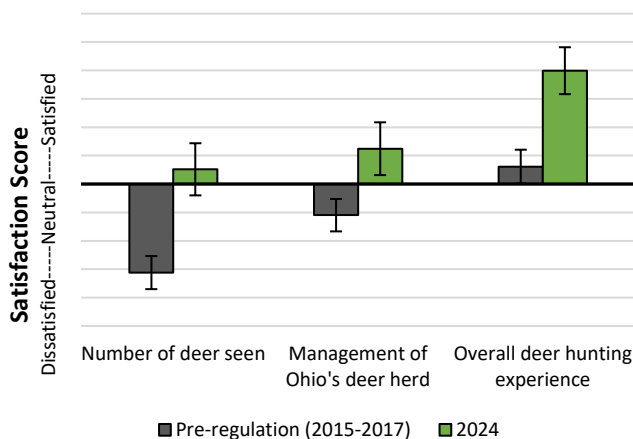
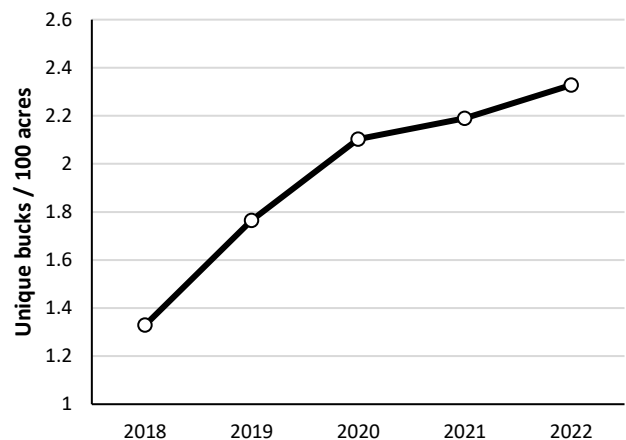


Figure 21. Trend in deer abundance on public lands based on pre-season camera surveys conducted on 17 wildlife areas across the state, 2018-2022.



BUCKEYE BIG BUCK CLUB

The Buckeye Big Buck Club (BBBC) was founded by former Division of Wildlife biologist and writer Merrill C. Gilfillan in 1957. The primary purposes of the organization are to increase the appreciation of Ohio's white-tailed deer herd, maintain a permanent record of Ohio's trophy deer, and foster wise management of the resource. Membership is open to any hunter who legally harvests a qualifying deer (minimum 140 inches typical or 160 inches non-typical). The club hosts a banquet each year to showcase deer entering the club and recognize the hunters who harvested them (most deer entering the club in any given year were harvested in the season prior). The list of special award winners can be found in Table 9, the top three entries by implement in Table 10, and the top five typicals and non-typical of all time in Table 11. A searchable database is available online at <https://apps.ohiodnr.gov/wildlife/bigbuck/>, and a list of official scorers can be found in Appendix 2.

Table 9. 2024 Buckeye Big Buck Club special award winners.

Award	Description	Name	Score	County
Guilliams-McWilliams Trophy	Top typical	Carter Sanders	184 ³ / ₈	Gallia
Hill-Hill Trophy	Top non-typical	Tom Stull	209 ⁵ / ₈	Tuscarawas
BBBC Young Hunter Award	Youngest new member (typical and non-typical for male and female)	Alaina Young – Age 11	142 ⁷ / ₈	Summit
		Brantly Greve – Age 6	145 ¹ / ₈	Auglaize
		Terence Hinkle – Age 9	172 ⁶ / ₈	Warren
George Applegarth Senior Hunter Award	Oldest new member	Robert Danner – Age 80	147 ⁵ / ₈	Ross
Lori Byers Female Hunter Award	Top scoring typical and non-typical by a female	Typical – Monica Carbary	176 ⁷ / ₈	Huron
		Non-typical – Tricia Lucius	204 ² / ₈	Wyandot
President Weisenbarger Award	Outstanding service to the BBBC	Roxie Williamson		

Table 10. 2024 Buckeye Big Buck Club top three typical and non-typical entries by implement type.

Implement	TYPICAL			NON-TYPICAL		
	Name	Score	County	Name	Score	County
Longbow	Ryan Wagner	181 ⁷ / ₈	Washington	Zach Kemper	205 ³ / ₈	Shelby
	Jeff Cooper	173 ² / ₈	Hocking	Ashton Jankowski	204 ¹ / ₈	Marion
	Logan Patterson	170 ⁴ / ₈	Pickaway	Jack Daniel	197 ⁶ / ₈	Seneca
Crossbow	Carter Sanders	184 ³ / ₈	Gallia	Tom Stull	209 ⁵ / ₈	Tuscarawas
	Jim Hawkins	177 ⁴ / ₈	Franklin	Trisha Lucius	204 ² / ₈	Wyandot
	Paul Campbell	176 ⁰ / ₈	Delaware	Greg Carlisle	200 ⁰ / ₈	Wayne
Shotgun	Kidron Wetcher	179 ⁵ / ₈	Crawford	Trace Geyer	169 ⁵ / ₈	Madison
	Conner Muldowney	178 ⁴ / ₈	Portage	Greg Washington	164 ⁶ / ₈	Gallia
	John Shouse	164 ⁷ / ₈	Ashland			
Muzzleloader	James Grubb	170 ¹ / ₈	Fairfield	Jeremy Smith	189 ⁴ / ₈	Huron
	Emma Lyons	165 ² / ₈	Portage	Jaron Vanfossen	189 ⁰ / ₈	Noble
	Shane Heath	163 ⁰ / ₈	Logan	Brad Ault	177 ⁵ / ₈	Ross
Rifle	Monica Carbary	176 ⁷ / ₈	Huron	Tucker Shepard	202 ⁵ / ₈	Henry
	Annabel Stalnaker	176 ¹ / ₈	Ashland	Cobin Bentz	201 ⁰ / ₈	Knox
	Mike VanCise	169 ⁶ / ₈	Mahoning	Randy Dixon	196 ³ / ₈	Clinton

Table 11. Buckeye Big Buck Club's top five typical and non-typical entries of all time.

	Rank	Hunter	Harvest Year	County	Implement	Score
Typical	1	Brad Jerman	2004	Warren	Crossbow	201 ¹ / ₈
	1	William Kontras	1986	Clark	Vertical Bow	201 ¹ / ₈
	3	Tim Reed	2004	Muskingum	Vertical Bow	198 ³ / ₈
	4	Tim Newman	2022	Morrow	Rifle	196 ⁶ / ₈
	5	Steve Davis	2016	Clinton	Crossbow	194 ³ / ₈
Non-typical	1	Michael Beatty	2000	Greene	Vertical Bow	304 ⁴ / ₈
	2	Jonathan Schmucker	2006	Adams	Crossbow	295 ³ / ₈
	3	Daniel Coffman	2015	Fairfield	Vertical Bow	287 ⁵ / ₈
	4	Dave Kopp	2016	Stark	Crossbow	267 ³ / ₈
	5	Chester Veach	1971	Pike	Shotgun	261 ⁵ / ₈

While some biases exist in the data (differences in regional/local awareness of the club, varying interest in entering a qualifying deer, regional availability of official BBBC scorers and scoring events, etc.), a summary of the record book entries provides a general indication of how trophy deer are distributed throughout the state. For instance, it should be no surprise that over the course of the club's history, the counties with the most record book entries are those in east-central and southeast Ohio, where deer have typically been most abundant and buck harvests the largest (Figure 22). However, accounting for differences in population size shows that a larger percentage of the bucks harvested in western Ohio counties end up in the BBBC (Figure 23). All else being equal, if you were fortunate enough to harvest a buck, the odds that it qualifies for the BBBC are much better if it came from Auglaize County than if it was a deer from Ashtabula County.

Figure 22. Total Buckeye Big Buck Club entries by county.

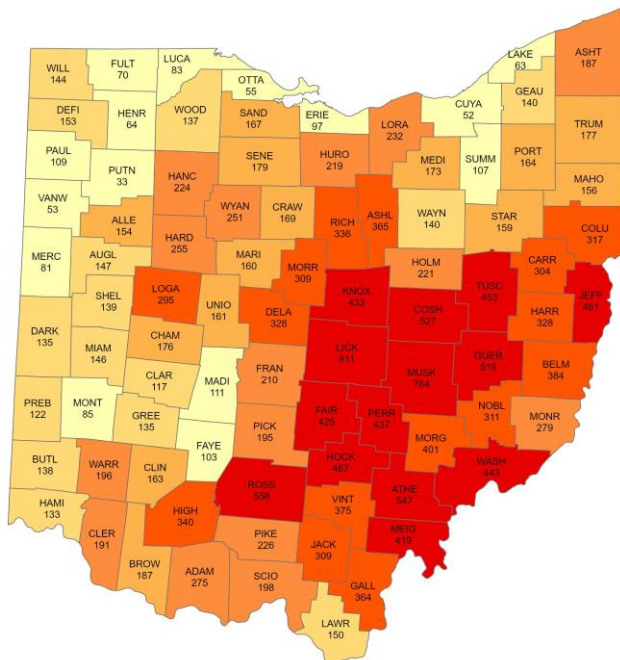
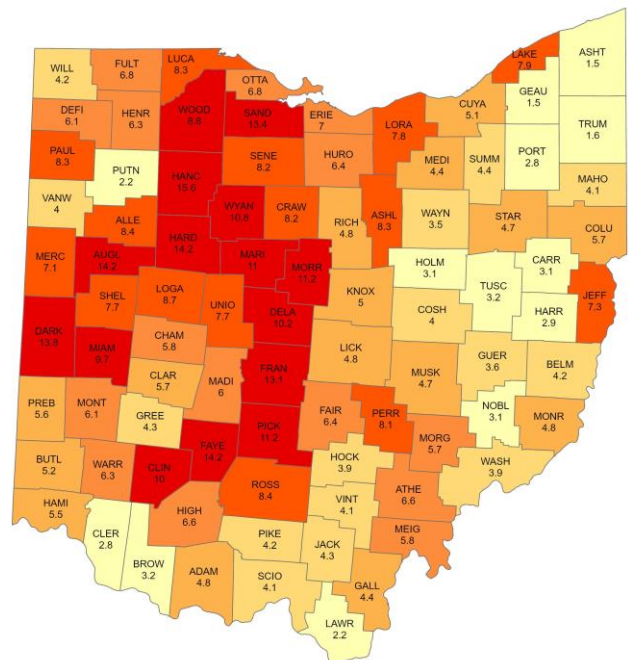


Figure 23. Number of Buckeye Big Buck Club entries for every 1,000 bucks harvested in the county, 2011-2020 average.



HUNTER FEEDBACK

Hunter surveys comprise a vital piece of the deer management process. Information gleaned from these surveys is critical for monitoring changes in hunter participation, effort, and deer observations as well as gathering opinions on various deer management issues. The Division of Wildlife’s deer program utilizes three primary surveys, with each serving a unique purpose.

Annual Deer Hunter Survey

Each year since 2011, and periodically over the last several decades, the Division of Wildlife has sent surveys to a random sample of adult resident deer permit buyers. The primary purpose of this survey is to monitor hunter participation and effort. In fact, much of the information provided in previous sections of this publication is derived from this annual survey. We also utilize this survey to collect hunter opinions on specific deer management issues that may be used to inform policy and develop or adjust deer hunting regulations. However, responses to this survey have been lacking in recent years, making detailed analyses of the data very difficult (of the 14,574 hunters invited to participate in the 2024 survey, only 2,111 (14%) completed it).

Deer Hunter Opinions and Satisfaction

Measuring hunter attitudes and opinions is a critical component of evaluating Ohio’s deer program. Of particular importance is an annual assessment of hunter satisfaction regarding the hunting experience. The number of deer observed or otherwise perceived to be on the landscape appears to be a primary driver of hunter satisfaction – in essence, tracking hunter attitudes over time can serve as a proxy for tracking deer population size. According to population trends (Figure 27), deer populations hit a recent low in 2014 and have been gradually increasing since. Likewise, hunter surveys since 2015 mirror this trend with decreases in the proportion of hunters reporting “too few deer” when asked their opinion of the deer herd in the area hunted most often (Figure 24). In the 2015 annual deer hunter survey, nearly 57% of hunters reported too few deer and only 37% reported that the number of deer in their area was just about right. Fast forward to 2024, and survey results show that only 28% of hunters feel the deer population is too low and more than half (54%) think that there are just about the right number of deer on the landscape. More than one out of 10 hunters reported there were “too many deer” where they hunted.

Similarly, hunters have reported steady increases in various measures of satisfaction related to number of deer seen, overall deer hunting experience, and management of Ohio’s deer herd (Figure 25). In 2015, 40% of hunters claimed they were at least somewhat satisfied with the number of deer seen, 61% were satisfied with their overall deer hunting experience, and 36% had a favorable opinion of the management of Ohio’s deer herd. With apparent growth in the deer population since then, 2024 survey results show that the proportion of hunters with a favorable opinion of deer numbers jumped to 67%, satisfaction with their deer hunting experience increased to 79%, and 56% of hunters gave the Division of Wildlife a favorable rating regarding the management of Ohio’s deer herd (Table 12).

Figure 24. Proportion of hunters reporting “too few deer” and “just about the right number of deer” on deer hunter surveys, 2016-2024.

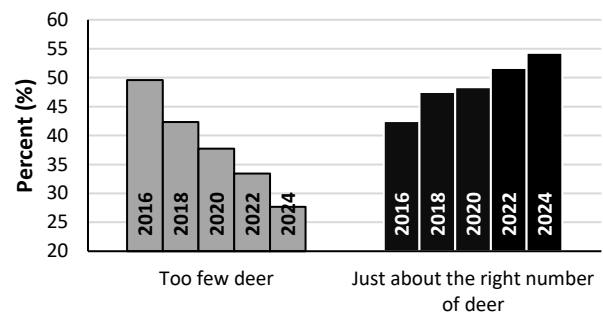


Figure 25. Satisfaction scores of deer hunters, 2015-2024.

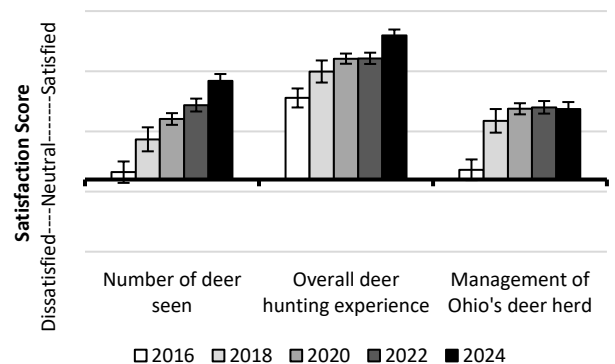


Table 12. Proportion of hunters reporting satisfaction or dissatisfaction with various items related to their deer season according to 2015 and 2024 annual deer hunter surveys.

	% Satisfied or Somewhat Satisfied		% Dissatisfied or Somewhat Dissatisfied	
	2015	2024	2015	2024
Deer numbers	40.1	66.7	51.4	21.3
Overall deer hunting experience	60.9	79.0	24.9	10.7
Management of Ohio's deer herd	36.4	55.9	38.7	20.8

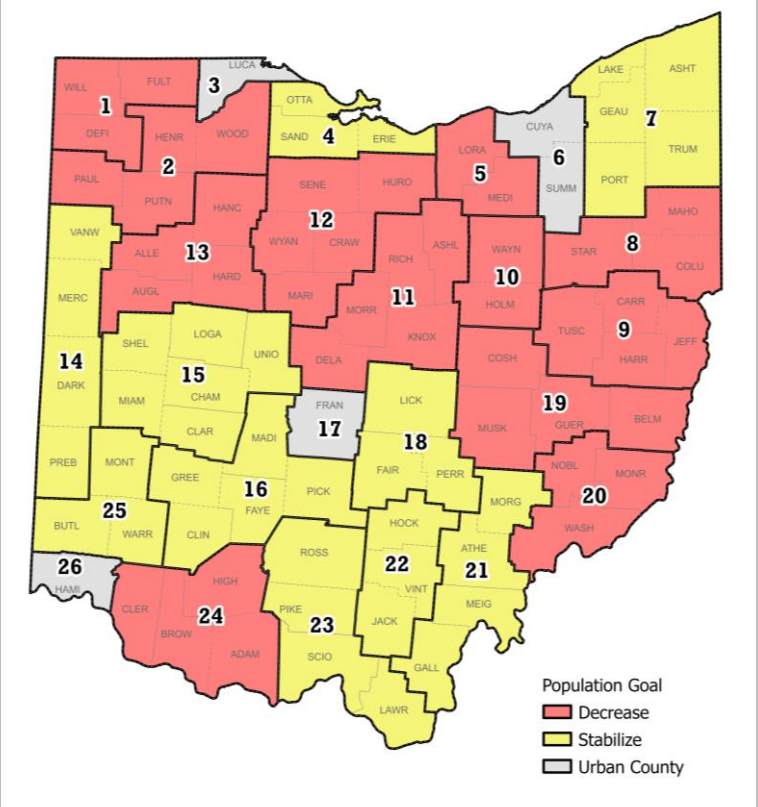
Annual Bowhunter Survey

The primary purpose of the annual bowhunter survey is to monitor trends in sighting rates of several furbearing species (coyote, bobcat, fox, raccoon, etc.), but it also serves as one of the deer program's most important population monitoring tools. By recording the number of hours spent hunting and the number of animals seen, hunters participating in this survey provide the data necessary to generate a sighting rate (deer observed per hour) that can be used to track populations over time. The bowhunter survey is not influenced by many of the biases that often impact harvest data (most notably hunter selectivity), making the sighting data an extremely important index to population size. Unlike other surveys, the bowhunter survey is open to anyone willing to participate. We offer two versions of the survey, paper and electronic. In 2024, 626 hunters completed the paper version and 584 hunters participated in the online survey. In all, these hunters reported spending 51,500 hours on stand and 53,200 deer sightings for a sighting rate of 1.03 deer/hour. While there is a substantial number of participants, it is not enough to make management decisions at a county level – there are just too few cooperating hunters in each county. If you would like to take an active role in the management of Ohio's deer herd, we encourage anyone interested in participating in the annual bowhunter survey to contact us by phone at 1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543) or via email at wildinfo@dnr.state.oh.us.

Periodic Goal Setting Survey

The third, and arguably most important survey we utilize is a periodic (every 3-5 years) survey of deer hunters and landowners to set population goals (increase, decrease, or stabilize). We conducted goal-setting surveys in 2015, 2019, and most recently in the summer of 2023. Participants in each group (farmers and hunters) were asked to answer the same question: *In the area that you hunt/farm, are there too many, too few, or just about the right number of deer?* Results of the 2015 survey suggested room for moderate herd growth across much of the state with 50% of hunters reporting *too few deer* and just 29% of farmers responding *too many deer*. With primary population indices indicating that population growth had occurred in many of these areas, the 2023 survey revealed the expected impact of recent herd increases on stakeholder opinions. Of the nearly 6,700 hunters who responded, just 28% felt there were *too few deer*, 57% said the deer numbers where they hunt were *just about the right*, and more than one in 10 deer hunters reported there were *too many deer* where they

Figure 26. Management direction resulting from the 2023 survey of deer hunters and production landowners.



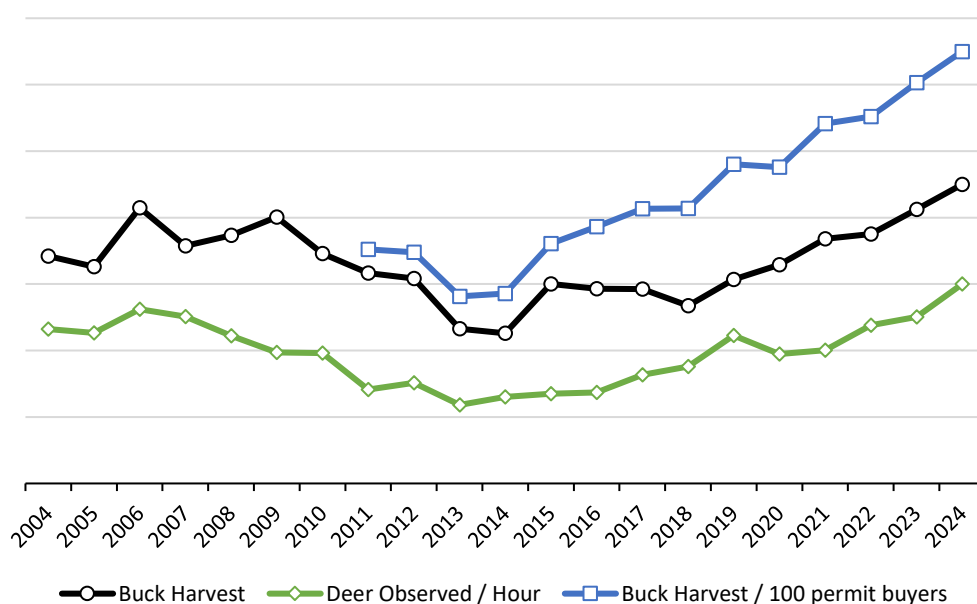
hunted. We received responses from 3,000 landowners, nearly half of which (46%) reported *too many deer* where they farm. Figure 26 summarizes the management goals derived from the results of this survey. The complete report, titled “Deer in Ohio: Results from the 2023 Survey of Hunters and Landowners” can be found in the list of documents available on our website at <https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-ODNR/wildlife/documents-publications/wildlife-management-documents>.

UNDERSTANDING POPULATION TRENDS

While the Division of Wildlife does not routinely count deer, several trends that reflect changes in the size of the deer population are monitored annually. Some of the trends used include: the number of bucks harvested, carcasses removed from roadways, deer seen per hour, and number of days to harvest a deer. Rather than direct population estimates, each of these measures serve as an index, or indirect estimate of relative population size. In other words, they change when the deer population changes. Contrary to popular belief, biologists do not need to know exactly how many deer are on the landscape to properly manage the population. Rather, determining 1) whether the population is stable, increasing, or decreasing, and 2) whether its current trajectory is in agreement with population objectives are key to making harvest management decisions. These indices provide this valuable information.

Though the annual buck harvest has been used as the primary index of deer population size, a host of variables can influence the number of bucks harvested each year. Crop harvest timing, mast availability, and weather on traditionally high harvest days (opening day of gun season) can certainly impact harvest. Using the annual buck harvest as an index to population size also assumes that hunter participation, effort, and selectivity is relatively constant from year to year. Unfortunately, as hunter numbers continue to decline, we have had to develop a buck harvest index that accounts for the annual decline in hunting pressure. Additionally, as noted, we rely heavily on annual hunter surveys. In the annual Deer Hunter Effort and Harvest Survey hunters provide information regarding their effort (number of days hunted), harvest, and opinions of the deer population in the area they hunt. Finally, participants in the annual Bowhunter Survey record time spent hunting and number of deer seen on each hunting trip. Collectively these data allow biologists to determine if the population is stable, growing, or declining and, most importantly, determine if trends are consistent with direction provided by the results of population goal setting surveys. Figure 27 illustrates general consistency in direction for the different indices that are used to monitor population trends.

Figure 27. Statewide deer population trends based on reported buck harvest, buck harvest per permit buyer, and deer observed per hour of bowhunting (annual bowhunter survey), 2004-2024.



APPENDIX 1

Historical Permit Sales and Harvest

Year	Counties Open in Gun Season	Permits Sold	Deer Harvested
1900	88	?	?
1901-42	Season closed		
1943	3	8,500	168
1944	3	9,200	117
1945	3	7,700	62
1946	Season closed		
1947	8	9,669	1,000
1948	13	23,044	1,600
1949	Season closed		
1950	19	22,728	3,500
1951	Season closed		
1952	27	14,081	450
1953	40	30,033	4,000
1954	Season closed		
1955	42	36,419	4,200
1956	88	48,263	3,911
1957	88	46,466	4,784
1958	88	42,777	4,415
1959	88	38,414	2,960
1960	88	27,430	2,584
1961	Season closed		
1962	88	23,049	2,114
1963	88	33,298	2,074
1964	88	32,400	1,326
1965	36	12,808	406
1966	48	24,079	1,073
1967	50	28,892	1,437
1968	50	35,322	1,396
1969	56	45,078	2,105
1970	51	54,807	2,387
1971	63	74,758	3,831
1972	63	88,919	5,074
1973	59	107,933	7,594
1974	65	106,867	10,747
1975	68	125,807	14,972
1976	68	138,946	23,431
1977	73	155,445	22,319
1978	74	175,314	22,967
1979	88	193,764	34,874
1980	88	216,055	40,499
1981	88	231,948	47,634
1982	88	257,504	52,885

Year	Counties Open in Gun Season	Permits Sold	Deer Harvested
1983	88	264,493	59,812
1984	88	273,205	66,860
1985	88	277,714	64,263
1986	88	290,293	67,626
1987	88	297,205	79,355
1988	88	373,435	100,674
1989	88	284,909	91,236
1990	88	295,127	98,468
1991	88	338,186	119,215
1992	88	359,250	126,113
1993	88	385,068	138,752
1994	88	425,797	170,527
1995	88	496,890	179,543
1996	88	475,288	158,000
1997	88	439,814	153,159
1998	88	365,875	118,270
1999	88	361,125	126,770
2000	88	438,744	150,432
2001	88	469,055	165,124
2002	88	507,723	204,652
2003	88	515,928	197,790
2004	88	520,458	216,443
2005	88	515,181	209,513
2006	88	543,614	237,316
2007	88	578,366	232,854
2008	88	611,442	252,017
2009	88	624,908	261,260
2010	88	609,417	239,475
2011	88	603,549	219,748
2012	88	588,885	218,910
2013	88	535,676	191,503
2014	88	494,378	175,801
2015	88	466,102	188,335
2016	88	445,166	182,169
2017	88	429,006	186,247
2018	88	399,306	172,049
2019	88	393,367	184,468
2020	88	409,808	197,721
2021	88	404,800	196,988
2022	88	409,672	210,974
2023	88	415,710	213,927
2024	88	431,660	238,137

APPENDIX 2

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks			Does		Button Bucks		Total Harvest		
		2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)
Adams	Gun	467	392	19.2	730	523	115	102	1,312	1,017	29.0
	Crossbow	677	594	14.0	452	415	63	63	1,192	1,071	11.3
	Longbow	324	277	17.0	212	184	30	21	566	482	17.4
	Bonus Gun	46	62	-25.8	166	119	22	21	234	202	16.0
	Muzzleloader	61	68	-9.9	81	125	8	19	150	212	-29.4
	Youth	91	75	21.3	65	48	14	6	170	129	31.4
	Total	1,672	1,475	13.3	1,712	1,428	253	236	3,637	3,139	15.9
Allen	Gun	215	174	23.6	281	196	67	48	563	417	34.9
	Crossbow	292	238	22.5	188	166	44	45	524	449	16.7
	Longbow	99	81	22.2	99	74	16	12	214	166	28.7
	Bonus Gun	41	28	44.7	68	47	16	12	125	87	43.1
	Muzzleloader	19	22	-12.3	39	30	9	6	67	58	16.2
	Youth	63	42	48.8	31	22	9	8	103	72	43.1
	DSA Early Archery	4	-	-	3	-	0	-	7	-	-
	DSA Early Gun	15	-	-	16	-	4	-	35	-	-
	Total	755	593	27.3	728	538	167	132	1,650	1,264	30.6
Ashland	Gun	569	468	21.7	1,079	788	245	178	1,893	1,434	32.0
	Crossbow	691	613	12.8	589	528	103	92	1,383	1,233	12.2
	Longbow	241	217	11.1	246	215	28	23	515	456	13.0
	Bonus Gun	91	83	9.6	229	186	47	42	367	311	18.1
	Muzzleloader	82	64	28.8	147	154	46	31	275	249	10.4
	Youth	99	95	4.6	80	68	13	19	192	182	5.3
	Total	1,795	1,554	15.5	2,393	1,959	490	392	4,678	3,906	19.8
Ashtabula	Gun	584	622	-6.2	1,309	1,118	388	332	2,281	2,072	10.1
	Crossbow	862	855	0.9	976	866	198	243	2,036	1,964	3.7
	Longbow	254	230	10.6	296	281	76	66	626	576	8.7
	Bonus Gun	145	100	45.0	334	233	88	57	567	390	45.4
	Muzzleloader	50	71	-29.9	162	198	57	51	269	320	-15.9
	Youth	79	67	17.3	65	73	27	33	171	173	-1.3
	Total	1,994	1,963	1.6	3,198	2,799	850	796	6,042	5,557	8.7

APPENDIX 2

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks			Does		Button Bucks		Total Harvest		
		2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)
Athens	Gun	516	470	9.7	793	639	129	110	1,438	1,220	17.9
	Crossbow	659	558	18.2	365	359	43	46	1,067	962	10.9
	Longbow	294	283	4.0	191	173	21	13	506	468	8.1
	Bonus Gun	73	69	6.3	126	106	12	22	211	197	6.9
	Muzzleloader	88	77	13.8	149	152	25	27	262	256	2.3
	Youth	103	93	11.2	38	40	10	10	151	142	6.3
	Total	1,748	1,555	12.4	1,673	1,481	242	230	3,663	3,265	12.2
Auglaize	Gun	214	175	22.3	284	240	72	55	570	470	21.3
	Crossbow	195	181	7.7	194	176	40	43	429	399	7.4
	Longbow	64	61	4.3	63	59	14	11	141	131	7.4
	Bonus Gun	24	30	-20.9	68	46	14	8	106	84	26.2
	Muzzleloader	10	15	-31.8	33	32	6	9	49	56	-13.0
	Youth	69	37	88.2	31	24	13	13	113	74	53.4
	Total	579	505	14.7	677	580	159	141	1,415	1,226	15.4
Belmont	Gun	610	545	12.0	940	593	126	97	1,676	1,234	35.8
	Crossbow	701	620	13.1	330	255	32	30	1,063	905	17.5
	Longbow	240	205	17.3	182	106	24	7	446	318	40.3
	Bonus Gun	121	90	34.9	198	138	30	17	349	245	42.6
	Muzzleloader	92	84	9.5	183	166	26	21	301	271	10.9
	Youth	109	120	-8.9	34	47	7	13	150	180	-16.5
	Total	1,890	1,675	12.8	1,887	1,315	246	186	4,023	3,177	26.6
Brown	Gun	309	332	-7.0	590	474	93	74	992	881	12.6
	Crossbow	399	392	1.7	399	330	55	43	853	765	11.5
	Longbow	195	204	-4.3	197	186	19	18	411	408	0.7
	Bonus Gun	56	44	26.3	121	105	27	14	204	163	25.4
	Muzzleloader	36	45	-19.4	74	103	8	15	118	162	-27.3
	Youth	78	54	43.6	41	38	7	10	126	102	23.5
	Total	1,081	1,080	0.1	1,428	1,245	210	175	2,719	2,500	8.7
Butler	Gun	146	124	17.7	180	143	35	32	361	299	20.6
	Crossbow	331	295	12.3	255	267	59	56	645	618	4.4
	Longbow	126	116	8.9	118	124	13	19	257	259	-0.6
	Bonus Gun	31	28	9.4	61	48	5	13	97	89	9.4
	Muzzleloader	20	21	-6.2	29	37	7	7	56	65	-14.3
	Youth	32	27	20.0	10	14	7	4	49	45	9.7
	Total	694	616	12.7	657	635	127	132	1,478	1,383	6.9

APPENDIX 2

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks			Does		Button Bucks		Total Harvest		
		2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)
Carroll	Gun	757	639	18.4	1,387	991	253	214	2,397	1,844	30.0
	Crossbow	868	725	19.7	701	583	87	90	1,656	1,398	18.5
	Longbow	287	268	7.0	288	271	23	32	598	571	4.8
	Bonus Gun	101	91	11.4	284	216	39	35	424	341	24.2
	Muzzleloader	100	81	23.5	275	210	40	33	415	324	28.1
	Youth	125	97	28.4	75	64	17	15	217	177	22.8
	Total	2,258	1,918	17.7	3,039	2,361	462	421	5,759	4,700	22.5
Champaign	Gun	241	221	9.2	328	221	59	44	628	485	29.4
	Crossbow	301	266	13.3	255	216	33	44	589	526	12.0
	Longbow	132	119	11.2	134	122	10	15	276	255	8.1
	Bonus Gun	51	31	62.8	90	67	13	16	154	115	33.9
	Muzzleloader	24	27	-10.0	60	47	18	8	102	81	25.9
	Youth	51	38	33.0	30	17	8	4	89	59	50.0
	Total	810	707	14.6	911	697	143	131	1,864	1,535	21.5
Clark	Gun	100	92	8.3	139	110	21	16	260	219	18.9
	Crossbow	200	180	10.9	145	126	22	21	367	327	12.2
	Longbow	85	82	4.1	82	75	15	10	182	167	9.2
	Bonus Gun	23	21	7.8	41	25	5	5	69	51	34.4
	Muzzleloader	11	14	-21.4	19	27	2	5	32	46	-30.9
	Youth	20	18	13.2	9	11	0	1	29	29	-1.1
	Total	443	410	8.0	436	375	66	59	945	845	11.9
Clermont	Gun	248	227	9.3	404	322	77	65	729	614	18.7
	Crossbow	529	475	11.4	453	468	73	85	1,055	1,028	2.6
	Longbow	251	218	15.3	261	245	38	31	550	494	11.3
	Bonus Gun	62	47	31.0	100	72	10	17	172	137	25.9
	Muzzleloader	26	41	-36.1	47	73	5	9	78	123	-36.4
	Youth	47	37	27.0	28	16	5	5	80	57	39.5
	Total	1,165	1,052	10.8	1,302	1,204	208	214	2,675	2,470	8.3
Clinton	Gun	142	119	19.7	189	114	33	29	364	262	39.1
	Crossbow	157	162	-3.3	122	84	25	16	304	263	15.7
	Longbow	83	74	12.7	68	42	9	6	160	122	31.5
	Bonus Gun	16	20	-20.0	54	28	13	5	83	53	56.6
	Muzzleloader	16	10	65.5	38	32	2	2	56	43	30.2
	Youth	43	29	48.3	8	11	6	2	57	42	36.8
	Total	458	419	9.3	481	315	88	60	1,027	794	29.4

APPENDIX 2

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks			Does		Button Bucks		Total Harvest		
		2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)
Columbiana	Gun	688	566	21.6	931	697	208	161	1,827	1,424	28.3
	Crossbow	847	718	17.9	485	491	109	101	1,441	1,311	9.9
	Longbow	264	251	5.2	196	191	29	29	489	471	3.9
	Bonus Gun	95	96	-0.7	226	153	44	30	365	279	31.0
	Muzzleloader	73	72	0.9	196	161	34	27	303	260	16.5
	Youth	101	96	5.2	44	55	23	16	168	167	0.4
	Total	2,091	1,815	15.2	2,098	1,762	450	367	4,639	3,944	17.6
Coshocton	Gun	876	797	9.9	1,785	1,383	294	253	2,955	2,433	21.4
	Crossbow	1,354	1,293	4.7	1,152	1,152	144	167	2,650	2,612	1.5
	Longbow	506	492	2.8	562	538	61	59	1,129	1,089	3.6
	Bonus Gun	123	107	14.6	368	291	76	47	567	445	27.3
	Muzzleloader	131	119	10.1	315	297	54	48	500	464	7.8
	Youth	159	191	-16.9	116	121	29	33	304	345	-12.0
	Total	3,174	3,038	4.5	4,359	3,837	663	616	8,196	7,491	9.4
Crawford	Gun	300	258	16.3	424	304	97	86	821	648	26.6
	Crossbow	234	216	8.5	197	161	34	33	465	409	13.6
	Longbow	87	76	14.5	67	66	10	8	164	150	9.3
	Bonus Gun	44	35	25.7	83	56	24	12	151	104	45.7
	Muzzleloader	21	19	8.6	46	43	8	12	75	74	0.9
	Youth	39	38	2.6	25	21	15	11	79	70	13.4
	Total	732	646	13.4	853	657	190	163	1,775	1,466	21.1
Cuyahoga	Gun	33	24	39.4	23	20	6	5	62	49	26.5
	Crossbow	226	263	-14.0	275	329	48	50	549	642	-14.4
	Longbow	63	77	-18.2	105	111	13	19	181	207	-12.7
	Bonus Gun	2	3	-25.0	3	3	1	1	6	6	0.0
	Muzzleloader	3	2	80.0	1	1	0	0	4	3	20.0
	Youth	1	2	-40.0	1	0	1	0	3	2	50.0
	Total	328	369	-11.2	409	465	69	75	806	910	-11.4
Darke	Gun	143	132	8.1	258	159	58	46	459	337	36.1
	Crossbow	164	152	7.7	169	143	42	35	375	330	13.5
	Longbow	105	71	47.9	85	66	18	15	208	152	37.1
	Bonus Gun	35	20	75.0	51	32	15	9	101	61	66.5
	Muzzleloader	14	14	2.4	33	27	6	7	53	48	11.2
	Youth	44	27	61.0	19	21	12	9	75	58	29.3
	Total	508	420	21.0	619	452	151	122	1,278	994	28.6

APPENDIX 2

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks			Does		Button Bucks		Total Harvest		
		2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)
Defiance	Gun	230	320	-28.1	348	441	95	116	673	877	-23.3
	Crossbow	163	275	-40.7	145	254	34	46	342	575	-40.5
	Longbow	53	92	-42.6	83	90	12	12	148	194	-23.8
	Bonus Gun	38	38	0.9	66	85	26	19	130	142	-8.7
	Muzzleloader	17	25	-32.9	38	61	8	13	63	99	-36.6
	Youth	57	58	-1.7	31	50	9	17	97	126	-22.8
	Total	562	815	-31.0	721	993	185	227	1,468	2,034	-27.8
Delaware	Gun	203	195	4.3	224	196	68	41	495	432	14.6
	Crossbow	412	369	11.6	251	258	55	49	718	677	6.1
	Longbow	208	198	4.9	144	151	22	21	374	371	0.8
	Bonus Gun	28	32	-11.6	57	45	9	11	94	88	6.4
	Muzzleloader	23	22	4.5	31	38	9	8	63	68	-7.8
	Youth	34	26	29.1	17	12	6	3	57	42	35.7
	Total	913	847	7.8	734	709	171	136	1,818	1,692	7.4
Erie	Gun	134	114	17.5	204	146	50	39	388	298	30.1
	Crossbow	236	209	13.1	178	164	50	41	464	414	12.0
	Longbow	58	51	13.0	52	48	11	9	121	108	11.7
	Bonus Gun	29	18	64.2	45	36	17	8	91	61	48.4
	Muzzleloader	15	17	-10.0	37	24	5	5	57	46	23.9
	Youth	27	19	44.6	13	13	3	3	43	35	22.9
	Total	505	429	17.8	537	436	136	106	1,178	971	21.4
Fairfield	Gun	301	272	10.5	490	367	110	82	901	722	24.8
	Crossbow	377	363	3.9	270	292	42	43	689	698	-1.2
	Longbow	212	182	16.5	160	148	18	17	390	348	12.2
	Bonus Gun	53	43	22.3	112	76	18	17	183	137	33.9
	Muzzleloader	32	36	-11.1	73	73	8	15	113	124	-8.6
	Youth	73	45	61.0	31	27	10	8	114	80	41.9
	Total	1,053	950	10.9	1,144	990	206	185	2,403	2,125	13.1
Fayette	Gun	89	77	16.1	107	56	23	9	219	142	54.6
	Crossbow	106	82	28.7	58	35	8	8	172	125	37.2
	Longbow	38	31	23.9	20	17	5	2	63	50	25.2
	Bonus Gun	16	8	100.0	20	14	3	2	39	24	60.3
	Muzzleloader	8	9	-7.7	9	10	2	1	19	20	-3.4
	Youth	22	20	8.2	10	7	3	1	35	28	26.5
	Total	280	230	21.7	226	140	45	24	551	393	40.1

APPENDIX 2

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks			Does		Button Bucks		Total Harvest		
		2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)
Franklin	Gun	59	61	-3.3	72	89	18	20	149	170	-12.5
	Crossbow	119	197	-39.5	116	142	24	24	259	363	-28.7
	Longbow	63	101	-37.6	73	71	11	11	147	184	-20.0
	Bonus Gun	9	14	-34.1	26	19	4	6	39	39	0.9
	Muzzleloader	5	8	-40.0	15	16	3	4	23	28	-17.9
	Youth	8	11	-27.3	4	5	3	2	15	18	-15.1
	Total	268	394	-32.0	307	346	63	68	638	808	-21.1
Fulton	Gun	236	176	34.3	251	183	60	51	547	410	33.5
	Crossbow	178	155	14.8	147	104	35	30	360	289	24.7
	Longbow	59	59	-0.6	70	54	8	11	137	124	10.2
	Bonus Gun	40	29	39.5	48	24	4	9	92	62	49.2
	Muzzleloader	12	14	-16.3	22	20	2	8	36	42	-15.0
	Youth	40	24	66.7	19	12	7	6	66	42	58.4
	Total	567	461	23.0	558	405	118	117	1,243	983	26.4
Gallia	Gun	530	462	14.8	826	582	133	95	1,489	1,139	30.7
	Crossbow	560	491	14.1	318	280	41	34	919	804	14.3
	Longbow	233	191	21.8	126	103	11	11	370	306	20.9
	Bonus Gun	56	55	1.8	108	96	16	13	180	163	10.2
	Muzzleloader	39	61	-36.4	92	103	11	14	142	178	-20.1
	Youth	106	85	24.2	52	49	10	12	168	146	15.1
	Total	1,536	1,354	13.4	1,533	1,222	224	181	3,293	2,757	19.5
Geauga	Gun	282	239	18.0	449	339	152	107	883	685	28.8
	Crossbow	452	445	1.6	458	436	146	123	1,056	1,003	5.2
	Longbow	176	153	15.0	232	193	70	55	478	401	19.3
	Bonus Gun	41	40	2.5	87	68	22	20	150	128	17.2
	Muzzleloader	28	34	-18.4	59	74	21	21	108	130	-16.7
	Youth	42	38	9.6	24	33	13	13	79	84	-5.6
	Total	1,032	958	7.7	1,329	1,155	429	341	2,790	2,454	13.7
Greene	Gun	129	104	23.6	159	115	28	23	316	242	30.4
	Crossbow	205	184	11.4	167	133	34	28	406	345	17.7
	Longbow	89	82	8.1	60	65	13	14	162	161	0.4
	Bonus Gun	20	16	27.7	28	30	8	5	56	51	10.5
	Muzzleloader	20	19	5.3	20	30	0	8	40	57	-29.8
	Youth	29	20	45.0	13	9	5	4	47	33	41.0
	Total	500	430	16.2	453	385	90	82	1,043	898	16.2

APPENDIX 2

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks			Does		Button Bucks		Total Harvest		
		2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)
Guernsey	Gun	676	658	2.7	1,308	1,005	217	207	2,201	1,871	17.6
	Crossbow	928	907	2.4	722	676	125	97	1,775	1,680	5.7
	Longbow	301	303	-0.8	333	300	30	28	664	631	5.2
	Bonus Gun	99	92	8.0	226	191	46	33	371	316	17.3
	Muzzleloader	100	91	9.5	269	225	43	39	412	355	15.9
	Youth	153	132	15.6	111	91	27	20	291	244	19.4
	Total	2,273	2,197	3.5	2,999	2,507	490	428	5,762	5,132	12.3
Hamilton	Gun	67	50	34.9	77	63	11	11	155	124	25.3
	Crossbow	294	285	3.0	333	350	65	67	692	702	-1.4
	Longbow	138	132	4.5	156	201	21	32	315	365	-13.7
	Bonus Gun	14	11	27.3	18	17	1	2	33	30	8.8
	Muzzleloader	9	11	-15.6	8	14	3	2	20	27	-25.0
	Youth	8	5	71.4	4	2	1	1	13	8	56.0
	Total	531	496	7.1	596	649	102	116	1,229	1,260	-2.5
Hancock	Gun	319	268	19.0	407	300	74	68	800	637	25.7
	Crossbow	331	283	16.8	249	237	48	46	628	566	11.0
	Longbow	133	128	3.9	121	115	18	17	272	260	4.6
	Bonus Gun	53	39	37.1	110	62	25	12	188	113	66.9
	Muzzleloader	24	20	18.0	51	42	6	10	81	72	13.0
	Youth	82	57	44.7	43	32	11	15	136	104	31.2
	Total	952	803	18.6	987	794	188	168	2,127	1,765	20.5
Hardin	Gun	317	227	39.4	366	259	84	80	767	567	35.4
	Crossbow	205	163	26.0	193	131	32	27	430	320	34.2
	Longbow	80	75	6.2	75	77	11	15	166	167	-0.6
	Bonus Gun	38	34	12.9	71	61	21	13	130	107	21.1
	Muzzleloader	19	15	29.5	33	40	5	11	57	65	-12.8
	Youth	75	48	57.3	31	27	9	9	115	84	37.5
	DSA Early Archery	12	17	-29.4	15	32	2	1	29	50	-41.4
	DSA Early Gun	73	65	13.2	126	135	18	26	217	225	-3.6
	Total	833	625	33.4	922	720	183	175	1,938	1,520	27.5

APPENDIX 2

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks			Does		Button Bucks		Total Harvest		
		2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)
Harrison	Gun	586	560	4.7	1,050	715	168	130	1,804	1,404	28.5
	Crossbow	857	749	14.4	551	425	57	58	1,465	1,233	18.8
	Longbow	291	269	8.0	276	220	28	20	595	509	16.8
	Bonus Gun	97	85	14.1	252	146	37	24	386	255	51.2
	Muzzleloader	96	76	25.8	211	186	24	28	331	291	13.9
	Youth	147	121	21.5	56	72	20	17	223	211	5.9
	Total	2,091	1,873	11.7	2,414	1,784	336	281	4,841	3,938	22.9
Henry	Gun	200	201	-0.5	277	216	64	50	541	467	15.8
	Crossbow	130	120	8.3	110	79	24	26	264	225	17.3
	Longbow	51	60	-14.5	58	44	9	8	118	111	6.0
	Bonus Gun	19	22	-12.3	39	35	12	10	70	66	5.5
	Muzzleloader	10	11	-9.1	16	19	3	3	29	33	-12.1
	Youth	45	29	53.4	22	20	9	9	76	58	31.0
	Total	458	446	2.8	529	418	122	106	1,109	970	14.4
Highland	Gun	393	383	2.5	712	569	149	117	1,254	1,070	17.2
	Crossbow	512	384	33.3	444	392	87	66	1,043	842	23.8
	Longbow	219	189	15.7	205	170	30	30	454	389	16.6
	Bonus Gun	60	51	16.9	167	123	24	19	251	194	29.4
	Muzzleloader	49	62	-20.5	99	110	10	21	158	193	-18.0
	Youth	120	101	18.8	59	46	19	14	198	160	23.5
	Total	1,367	1,179	15.9	1,693	1,420	321	270	3,381	2,869	17.9
Hocking	Gun	477	419	13.9	682	565	96	102	1,255	1,086	15.6
	Crossbow	515	485	6.1	271	280	39	38	825	803	2.7
	Longbow	245	233	5.0	112	135	11	20	368	388	-5.2
	Bonus Gun	61	59	2.8	89	105	12	20	162	184	-12.1
	Muzzleloader	67	62	8.6	99	122	12	16	178	199	-10.7
	Youth	65	54	21.1	34	27	16	9	115	90	27.8
	Total	1,444	1,318	9.5	1,298	1,239	187	207	2,929	2,764	6.0
Holmes	Gun	562	495	13.6	1,055	883	187	180	1,804	1,557	15.8
	Crossbow	911	892	2.1	1,068	915	145	134	2,124	1,941	9.4
	Longbow	311	290	7.4	416	398	51	48	778	736	5.7
	Bonus Gun	90	78	15.4	215	188	34	31	339	297	14.1
	Muzzleloader	69	59	17.6	185	183	32	21	286	263	8.9
	Youth	154	145	6.0	86	94	27	25	267	265	0.9
	Total	2,123	1,984	7.0	3,075	2,702	486	451	5,684	5,137	10.6

APPENDIX 2

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks			Does		Button Bucks		Total Harvest		
		2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)
Huron	Gun	482	418	15.4	779	578	196	164	1,457	1,159	25.7
	Crossbow	479	376	27.4	352	276	87	61	918	713	28.8
	Longbow	120	132	-9.1	143	120	13	18	276	271	2.0
	Bonus Gun	70	53	31.3	168	109	39	26	277	189	46.8
	Muzzleloader	46	38	21.1	92	92	26	22	164	152	7.9
	Youth	101	78	29.5	64	55	32	20	197	153	28.8
	Total	1,305	1,103	18.3	1,606	1,246	397	313	3,308	2,661	24.3
Jackson	Gun	391	375	4.4	661	544	99	99	1,151	1,018	13.1
	Crossbow	533	546	-2.4	365	360	50	51	948	957	-0.9
	Longbow	228	214	6.5	130	152	19	16	377	382	-1.2
	Bonus Gun	59	49	20.4	100	106	21	15	180	170	5.9
	Muzzleloader	44	60	-27.1	97	125	14	16	155	201	-22.8
	Youth	84	71	18.3	43	44	9	10	136	125	8.5
	Total	1,346	1,322	1.8	1,402	1,340	214	208	2,962	2,870	3.2
Jefferson	Gun	576	443	30.1	738	443	124	76	1,438	962	49.5
	Crossbow	704	574	22.6	320	223	34	31	1,058	828	27.7
	Longbow	281	232	21.3	148	92	8	9	437	333	31.4
	Bonus Gun	69	79	-13.0	169	105	19	17	257	202	27.2
	Muzzleloader	71	62	14.5	125	116	23	20	219	198	10.6
	Youth	102	84	21.4	43	34	16	8	161	126	27.8
	Total	1,815	1,484	22.3	1,560	1,020	226	164	3,601	2,668	35.0
Knox	Gun	739	622	18.8	1,481	1,106	305	208	2,525	1,936	30.4
	Crossbow	974	824	18.2	981	778	145	123	2,100	1,726	21.7
	Longbow	341	346	-1.5	474	386	50	58	865	790	9.4
	Bonus Gun	114	97	17.1	321	207	50	35	485	339	43.1
	Muzzleloader	88	87	0.8	255	229	29	38	372	354	5.0
	Youth	167	142	17.9	119	94	28	29	314	264	18.8
	Total	2,449	2,135	14.7	3,669	2,832	612	497	6,730	5,464	23.2
Lake	Gun	65	65	-0.5	97	90	17	21	179	177	1.3
	Crossbow	269	259	3.9	298	306	60	65	627	630	-0.5
	Longbow	63	64	-1.6	96	91	13	15	172	170	1.2
	Bonus Gun	21	14	50.0	38	17	15	4	74	34	115.5
	Muzzleloader	7	6	10.5	30	19	9	5	46	30	51.6
	Youth	13	8	56.0	5	4	2	3	20	15	33.3
	Total	438	419	4.5	569	531	116	114	1,123	1,064	5.6

APPENDIX 2

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks			Does		Button Bucks		Total Harvest		
		2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)
Lawrence	Gun	404	328	23.3	368	318	57	48	829	694	19.4
	Crossbow	395	356	11.0	113	131	15	18	523	505	3.6
	Longbow	221	181	22.1	51	64	8	7	280	252	11.3
	Bonus Gun	48	44	8.3	69	53	12	5	129	102	26.5
	Muzzleloader	31	38	-19.1	35	45	6	8	72	92	-21.5
	Youth	78	62	25.8	26	24	6	6	110	93	18.7
	Total	1,182	1,014	16.6	669	640	104	93	1,955	1,747	11.9
Licking	Gun	606	606	0.0	1,049	899	202	164	1,857	1,670	11.2
	Crossbow	1,040	1,023	1.7	786	758	131	126	1,957	1,907	2.6
	Longbow	440	420	4.7	374	393	39	39	853	853	0.0
	Bonus Gun	126	101	25.2	277	204	43	37	446	342	30.5
	Muzzleloader	102	98	4.4	201	209	27	31	330	338	-2.3
	Youth	150	119	25.7	80	73	23	22	253	214	18.4
	Total	2,488	2,391	4.1	2,797	2,565	469	424	5,754	5,380	7.0
Logan	Gun	308	266	15.6	507	399	115	92	930	758	22.7
	Crossbow	365	353	3.4	379	321	76	65	820	739	11.0
	Longbow	172	166	3.6	196	159	21	24	389	348	11.7
	Bonus Gun	62	51	20.8	127	95	25	22	214	168	27.4
	Muzzleloader	45	36	23.9	91	73	12	11	148	120	23.7
	Youth	87	58	50.0	48	48	18	8	153	114	34.2
	Total	1,046	939	11.4	1,358	1,103	269	223	2,673	2,265	18.0
Lorain	Gun	330	281	17.3	520	363	94	82	944	726	30.0
	Crossbow	588	502	17.1	468	412	107	92	1,163	1,007	15.5
	Longbow	181	155	17.0	160	139	27	20	368	313	17.6
	Bonus Gun	63	49	27.7	153	92	28	23	244	164	48.8
	Muzzleloader	55	36	51.4	95	89	24	15	174	141	23.4
	Youth	69	43	59.2	26	27	12	10	107	80	33.8
	Total	1,302	1,078	20.7	1,442	1,135	296	244	3,040	2,457	23.7
Lucas	Gun	69	57	21.1	81	45	21	14	171	116	47.8
	Crossbow	226	195	15.7	215	201	59	48	500	445	12.4
	Longbow	69	68	1.0	61	65	18	14	148	147	0.9
	Bonus Gun	10	6	57.9	19	11	3	3	32	21	52.4
	Muzzleloader	5	4	15.4	9	9	2	1	16	14	14.3
	Youth	11	6	73.7	5	5	2	1	18	12	54.3
	Total	392	339	15.5	398	337	105	81	895	757	18.2

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COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks			Does		Button Bucks		Total Harvest		
		2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)
Madison	Gun	100	92	9.1	125	87	30	16	255	195	31.0
	Crossbow	149	135	10.1	111	90	16	15	276	240	15.2
	Longbow	67	64	5.2	63	40	9	3	139	107	30.3
	Bonus Gun	17	17	-1.9	35	18	7	4	59	40	48.7
	Muzzleloader	4	12	-66.7	20	16	5	3	29	31	-7.4
	Youth	17	20	-13.6	13	8	3	2	33	29	12.5
	Total	359	342	5.0	375	261	70	43	804	646	24.5
Mahoning	Gun	273	225	21.3	380	286	105	84	758	594	27.5
	Crossbow	501	493	1.6	452	395	104	95	1,057	984	7.4
	Longbow	124	135	-8.1	145	135	30	20	299	290	3.2
	Bonus Gun	65	39	65.3	105	80	31	22	201	142	41.9
	Muzzleloader	23	31	-25.8	80	66	15	15	118	112	5.0
	Youth	39	28	37.6	16	21	6	6	61	55	10.9
	Total	1,034	959	7.9	1,206	992	297	247	2,537	2,198	15.4
Marion	Gun	206	169	22.1	212	159	41	39	459	367	25.0
	Crossbow	138	130	6.2	74	85	24	14	236	228	3.4
	Longbow	78	74	4.9	46	45	11	6	135	125	7.7
	Bonus Gun	28	30	-7.7	49	30	20	9	97	69	41.3
	Muzzleloader	20	19	3.4	26	25	13	5	59	49	21.2
	Youth	34	27	24.4	6	11	3	3	43	41	4.9
	DSA Early Archery	15	10	50.0	24	22	3	2	42	34	25.4
	DSA Early Gun	80	50	60.0	104	81	23	20	207	151	37.1
	Total	604	494	22.2	546	426	139	91	1,289	1,011	27.5
Medina	Gun	318	266	19.5	474	354	111	76	903	696	29.7
	Crossbow	539	547	-1.5	519	514	125	120	1,183	1,181	0.1
	Longbow	175	165	5.8	209	183	36	34	420	383	9.8
	Bonus Gun	61	53	14.4	142	109	32	20	235	183	28.4
	Muzzleloader	41	42	-1.6	83	88	25	19	149	148	0.4
	Youth	41	40	2.5	22	25	7	9	70	74	-5.0
	Total	1,184	1,126	5.2	1,475	1,292	341	283	3,000	2,701	11.1

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COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks			Does		Button Bucks		Total Harvest		
		2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)
Meigs	Gun	463	445	4.1	807	660	103	88	1,373	1,192	15.2
	Crossbow	698	574	21.7	412	368	33	43	1,143	985	16.0
	Longbow	250	224	11.4	154	156	11	15	415	395	5.1
	Bonus Gun	72	71	1.9	167	119	22	16	261	205	27.3
	Muzzleloader	79	82	-4.0	125	197	17	27	221	306	-27.8
	Youth	119	106	12.6	55	51	10	8	184	165	11.5
	Total	1,687	1,510	11.7	1,730	1,563	197	200	3,614	3,273	10.4
Mercer	Gun	188	161	17.0	248	197	73	60	509	418	21.9
	Crossbow	183	146	25.6	169	144	48	36	400	326	22.7
	Longbow	56	53	6.3	78	63	16	19	150	135	11.4
	Bonus Gun	32	22	43.3	50	31	12	11	94	64	46.9
	Muzzleloader	10	10	3.4	23	25	10	3	43	38	14.2
	Youth	48	31	53.2	33	16	13	10	94	58	62.1
	Total	525	426	23.1	609	479	173	143	1,307	1,048	24.8
Miami	Gun	128	106	21.1	158	120	30	32	316	258	22.5
	Crossbow	196	200	-1.8	164	157	38	34	398	390	2.1
	Longbow	88	74	19.5	76	64	15	10	179	147	21.5
	Bonus Gun	24	16	46.9	55	26	5	6	84	49	72.6
	Muzzleloader	11	16	-32.7	26	30	3	7	40	53	-24.5
	Youth	34	20	67.2	14	14	4	3	52	37	40.5
	Total	484	433	11.7	495	414	95	92	1,074	940	14.3
Monroe	Gun	518	471	10.1	800	582	160	115	1,478	1,168	26.5
	Crossbow	531	496	7.1	261	238	44	37	836	771	8.4
	Longbow	141	122	15.3	83	59	13	9	237	190	24.5
	Bonus Gun	67	55	21.1	151	96	30	17	248	168	47.6
	Muzzleloader	79	66	20.3	142	135	25	24	246	225	9.3
	Youth	102	91	12.5	37	46	13	11	152	147	3.2
	Total	1,452	1,313	10.6	1,485	1,166	287	214	3,224	2,692	19.8
Montgomery	Gun	88	74	18.4	83	87	14	23	185	184	0.5
	Crossbow	176	191	-7.9	196	181	53	38	425	409	3.8
	Longbow	68	69	-1.0	74	83	9	16	151	168	-9.9
	Bonus Gun	26	15	69.6	26	22	5	3	57	41	40.2
	Muzzleloader	10	9	15.4	16	16	5	5	31	30	4.5
	Youth	14	12	16.7	10	4	5	2	29	19	55.4
	Total	385	371	3.7	407	397	92	88	884	857	3.2

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COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks			Does		Button Bucks		Total Harvest		
		2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)
Morgan	Gun	494	446	10.8	951	734	181	146	1,626	1,326	22.7
	Crossbow	553	499	10.9	418	365	54	52	1,025	915	12.0
	Longbow	261	233	12.0	155	130	16	16	432	380	13.8
	Bonus Gun	81	65	24.0	143	123	27	22	251	210	19.7
	Muzzleloader	107	72	48.6	165	157	28	29	300	259	16.0
	Youth	108	84	28.1	42	47	21	14	171	146	17.4
	Total	1,631	1,416	15.2	1,922	1,592	337	287	3,890	3,295	18.1
Morrow	Gun	301	259	16.1	517	347	117	89	935	695	34.5
	Crossbow	401	373	7.5	316	275	52	50	769	698	10.2
	Longbow	168	137	22.9	132	116	14	17	314	270	16.4
	Bonus Gun	45	40	13.4	115	75	22	16	182	131	39.3
	Muzzleloader	33	30	11.2	79	60	20	17	132	106	24.1
	Youth	55	51	7.1	28	27	10	6	93	85	9.8
	Total	1,014	898	12.9	1,197	910	235	198	2,446	2,006	21.9
Muskingum	Gun	745	781	-4.6	1,513	1,148	258	241	2,516	2,170	16.0
	Crossbow	983	1,009	-2.6	690	628	72	86	1,745	1,723	1.3
	Longbow	450	432	4.2	374	294	24	30	848	756	12.2
	Bonus Gun	82	97	-15.8	280	214	35	38	397	349	13.6
	Muzzleloader	107	109	-1.8	286	243	41	38	434	390	11.4
	Youth	175	148	18.0	78	96	31	21	284	265	7.0
	Total	2,557	2,593	-1.4	3,245	2,646	467	462	6,269	5,700	10.0
Noble	Gun	482	445	8.2	813	685	127	134	1,422	1,265	12.4
	Crossbow	665	610	9.1	467	412	54	66	1,186	1,088	9.0
	Longbow	222	182	22.2	204	171	20	16	446	369	21.0
	Bonus Gun	58	62	-7.0	133	119	17	16	208	198	5.1
	Muzzleloader	69	68	2.0	143	151	17	21	229	240	-4.5
	Youth	105	86	21.6	46	57	12	8	163	151	8.2
	Total	1,611	1,466	9.9	1,827	1,608	252	264	3,690	3,339	10.5
Ottawa	Gun	82	63	30.2	138	89	34	29	254	180	40.9
	Crossbow	169	149	13.4	140	123	37	24	346	296	16.9
	Longbow	38	37	2.7	36	33	9	5	83	75	10.2
	Bonus Gun	21	16	34.0	46	19	7	4	74	38	93.0
	Muzzleloader	10	6	57.9	13	17	4	4	27	27	-1.2
	Youth	19	11	67.6	9	7	6	1	34	20	70.0
	Total	341	283	20.4	382	291	98	68	821	642	27.9

APPENDIX 2

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks			Does		Button Bucks		Total Harvest		
		2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)
Paulding	Gun	168	226	-25.8	253	269	63	73	484	568	-14.8
	Crossbow	125	187	-33.0	101	161	32	41	258	389	-33.6
	Longbow	38	64	-40.3	40	70	12	12	90	145	-37.9
	Bonus Gun	19	37	-48.6	48	53	15	16	82	105	-22.2
	Muzzleloader	17	15	13.3	36	39	8	9	61	62	-2.1
	Youth	44	53	-17.0	25	34	6	11	75	99	-24.0
	Total	416	589	-29.3	507	630	139	161	1,062	1,380	-23.1
Perry	Gun	439	405	8.3	667	586	146	123	1,252	1,114	12.4
	Crossbow	480	469	2.4	349	303	53	62	882	834	5.8
	Longbow	221	187	18.2	159	133	29	19	409	338	20.9
	Bonus Gun	76	49	54.1	127	117	30	23	233	189	23.1
	Muzzleloader	62	54	15.5	148	127	24	21	234	202	15.8
	Youth	80	72	10.6	54	41	15	10	149	123	20.8
	Total	1,365	1,245	9.6	1,517	1,320	297	260	3,179	2,825	12.5
Pickaway	Gun	144	147	-2.0	259	133	55	24	458	305	50.3
	Crossbow	169	153	10.2	158	92	31	21	358	266	34.4
	Longbow	69	62	11.9	59	48	7	5	135	115	17.7
	Bonus Gun	15	22	-30.8	57	35	20	5	92	62	47.6
	Muzzleloader	15	16	-6.3	42	26	9	4	66	46	44.5
	Youth	39	27	42.7	12	13	9	4	60	44	36.4
	Total	456	432	5.6	594	352	131	64	1,181	848	39.3
Pike	Gun	298	260	14.6	431	344	69	63	798	667	19.6
	Crossbow	442	387	14.3	266	243	34	39	742	668	11.0
	Longbow	198	166	19.0	79	87	10	9	287	262	9.4
	Bonus Gun	40	41	-1.6	92	59	10	10	142	110	29.5
	Muzzleloader	37	42	-11.2	50	68	10	11	97	121	-19.6
	Youth	66	50	31.1	35	21	9	5	110	76	44.1
	Total	1,092	950	14.9	957	828	144	137	2,193	1,915	14.5
Portage	Gun	288	265	8.8	449	332	120	99	857	696	23.2
	Crossbow	573	602	-4.9	482	485	117	124	1,172	1,212	-3.3
	Longbow	181	181	-0.2	156	175	43	34	380	391	-2.8
	Bonus Gun	56	52	8.4	88	75	33	22	177	149	18.8
	Muzzleloader	37	31	18.1	60	70	14	18	111	120	-7.5
	Youth	48	38	27.4	15	27	10	11	73	76	-4.4
	Total	1,247	1,228	1.6	1,432	1,246	380	332	3,059	2,806	9.0

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COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks			Does		Button Bucks		Total Harvest		
		2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)
Preble	Gun	133	137	-2.7	201	156	41	31	375	323	16.0
	Crossbow	227	208	9.0	187	169	37	35	451	412	9.4
	Longbow	97	87	11.5	81	76	16	11	194	174	11.7
	Bonus Gun	35	24	47.9	63	45	10	11	108	79	36.1
	Muzzleloader	14	15	-6.7	30	37	3	5	47	57	-18.0
	Youth	21	28	-25.9	13	12	7	4	41	44	-6.8
	Total	532	502	6.0	579	501	114	98	1,225	1,101	11.3
Putnam	Gun	166	168	-1.0	250	206	61	57	477	431	10.7
	Crossbow	178	157	13.6	185	136	35	32	398	325	22.6
	Longbow	66	62	5.9	72	68	8	15	146	145	0.7
	Bonus Gun	18	21	-14.3	57	29	6	11	81	61	33.5
	Muzzleloader	10	15	-34.8	8	22	3	3	21	40	-47.1
	Youth	57	32	78.1	41	29	9	10	107	71	51.4
	Total	501	459	9.2	617	491	124	129	1,242	1,078	15.2
Richland	Gun	574	454	26.4	1,022	705	224	175	1,820	1,334	36.5
	Crossbow	833	690	20.8	719	577	122	122	1,674	1,388	20.6
	Longbow	291	265	9.9	263	233	35	43	589	541	8.9
	Bonus Gun	110	73	50.0	270	154	59	36	439	264	66.3
	Muzzleloader	65	65	0.5	170	137	29	23	264	224	17.7
	Youth	112	99	12.8	63	56	20	22	195	177	10.2
	Total	1,998	1,662	20.2	2,536	1,879	494	425	5,028	3,966	26.8
Ross	Gun	496	438	13.2	629	515	116	77	1,241	1,030	20.5
	Crossbow	610	528	15.5	368	337	63	49	1,041	914	13.9
	Longbow	279	225	24.2	169	159	19	24	467	407	14.6
	Bonus Gun	65	64	1.6	141	99	27	18	233	181	28.7
	Muzzleloader	61	73	-16.1	84	116	19	23	164	212	-22.6
	Youth	111	97	14.4	42	39	21	15	174	151	15.2
	Total	1,633	1,434	13.9	1,439	1,275	266	209	3,338	2,918	14.4
Sandusky	Gun	137	124	10.2	229	151	71	45	437	320	36.6
	Crossbow	273	229	19.0	248	202	51	39	572	471	21.4
	Longbow	64	65	-1.5	60	55	10	14	134	134	0.0
	Bonus Gun	24	22	7.5	62	34	10	9	96	65	46.9
	Muzzleloader	20	16	22.4	23	33	8	9	51	58	-11.6
	Youth	25	24	4.2	22	14	12	8	59	46	27.3
	Total	547	486	12.5	654	495	163	125	1,364	1,106	23.3

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COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks			Does		Button Bucks		Total Harvest		
		2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)
Scioto	Gun	360	278	29.3	540	412	76	64	976	754	29.4
	Crossbow	488	425	14.8	277	291	34	40	799	756	5.7
	Longbow	205	220	-7.0	115	128	14	14	334	362	-7.6
	Bonus Gun	60	48	25.0	115	83	7	11	182	142	28.2
	Muzzleloader	39	41	-5.6	52	82	5	7	96	130	-26.3
	Youth	68	52	29.9	33	37	15	10	116	99	17.6
	Total	1,224	1,070	14.4	1,135	1,040	153	146	2,512	2,256	11.3
Seneca	Gun	453	382	18.6	613	448	161	118	1,227	947	29.5
	Crossbow	433	360	20.3	335	282	62	58	830	700	18.6
	Longbow	111	92	20.2	102	93	9	13	222	198	11.9
	Bonus Gun	80	48	65.5	163	85	20	21	263	155	70.0
	Muzzleloader	37	35	4.7	78	61	17	18	132	115	15.1
	Youth	105	70	49.3	64	48	17	14	186	133	39.8
	Total	1,226	995	23.2	1,364	1,024	291	243	2,881	2,262	27.3
Shelby	Gun	211	158	33.3	285	221	61	66	557	445	25.1
	Crossbow	219	188	16.7	178	176	46	43	443	407	8.8
	Longbow	103	83	24.6	73	88	11	14	187	184	1.6
	Bonus Gun	32	27	18.5	73	49	13	12	118	89	33.1
	Muzzleloader	20	20	1.7	39	37	14	8	73	65	12.9
	Youth	53	38	39.5	32	21	13	10	98	70	40.7
	Total	643	520	23.7	684	597	158	155	1,485	1,273	16.7
Stark	Gun	412	366	12.7	698	515	147	119	1,257	1,000	25.7
	Crossbow	818	740	10.5	633	602	141	126	1,592	1,469	8.4
	Longbow	222	214	3.7	268	227	41	33	531	474	11.9
	Bonus Gun	72	59	22.0	180	128	41	26	293	212	38.0
	Muzzleloader	76	52	45.2	141	108	30	20	247	180	37.0
	Youth	87	66	31.2	48	37	15	13	150	117	28.6
	Total	1,705	1,511	12.8	1,991	1,634	418	339	4,114	3,484	18.1
Summit	Gun	80	86	-7.3	132	92	27	23	239	201	18.9
	Crossbow	483	551	-12.3	510	509	144	125	1,137	1,184	-4.0
	Longbow	144	142	1.6	164	150	25	25	333	316	5.3
	Bonus Gun	14	11	23.5	25	24	7	4	46	39	17.9
	Muzzleloader	7	13	-44.7	29	21	5	3	41	36	12.8
	Youth	10	8	25.0	6	7	2	1	18	16	14.9
	Total	741	815	-9.1	871	807	211	181	1,823	1,803	1.1

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COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks			Does		Button Bucks		Total Harvest		
		2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)
Trumbull	Gun	451	417	8.2	1,011	639	281	208	1,743	1,263	38.0
	Crossbow	897	833	7.7	751	786	224	216	1,872	1,835	2.0
	Longbow	234	196	19.2	234	241	52	64	520	501	3.9
	Bonus Gun	83	65	27.0	154	147	36	42	273	254	7.3
	Muzzleloader	45	50	-10.0	113	126	28	27	186	203	-8.4
	Youth	55	49	13.0	35	49	17	18	107	116	-7.5
	Total	1,816	1,667	9.0	2,378	2,056	658	594	4,852	4,316	12.4
Tuscarawas	Gun	790	799	-1.1	1,625	1,225	258	237	2,673	2,261	18.2
	Crossbow	1,204	1,114	8.0	1,008	961	129	138	2,341	2,213	5.8
	Longbow	460	456	1.0	502	494	44	53	1,006	1,002	0.4
	Bonus Gun	108	117	-7.4	337	265	57	48	502	430	16.7
	Muzzleloader	125	98	28.0	249	285	36	38	410	421	-2.6
	Youth	194	209	-7.0	124	133	33	32	351	374	-6.1
	Total	2,920	2,825	3.4	3,885	3,405	568	555	7,373	6,785	8.7
Union	Gun	180	159	13.0	237	186	55	39	472	384	22.9
	Crossbow	219	200	9.3	157	140	40	32	416	372	11.8
	Longbow	116	98	18.0	102	94	15	17	233	209	11.5
	Bonus Gun	31	22	38.8	59	35	16	8	106	66	61.4
	Muzzleloader	16	19	-17.2	36	32	7	6	59	57	2.9
	Youth	38	32	18.8	20	22	12	7	70	61	14.8
	Total	608	538	13.1	619	512	145	110	1,372	1,159	18.3
Van Wert	Gun	163	134	21.9	217	121	42	29	422	284	48.8
	Crossbow	139	122	13.6	124	77	23	23	286	222	28.6
	Longbow	38	32	20.0	31	31	11	4	80	67	18.8
	Bonus Gun	26	16	62.5	50	28	7	9	83	52	58.6
	Muzzleloader	7	10	-32.3	9	15	4	4	20	29	-30.2
	Youth	34	28	21.4	19	13	7	6	60	46	29.5
	Total	408	345	18.4	451	288	94	75	953	707	34.7
Vinton	Gun	338	305	10.7	460	384	70	79	868	768	13.1
	Crossbow	402	379	6.1	222	226	31	39	655	644	1.8
	Longbow	184	172	6.8	92	84	5	10	281	266	5.8
	Bonus Gun	34	45	-24.4	67	68	22	14	123	127	-3.4
	Muzzleloader	32	42	-24.4	69	87	11	15	112	144	-22.2
	Youth	59	51	15.7	35	24	8	7	102	82	24.4
	Total	1,057	1,000	5.7	951	879	148	163	2,156	2,042	5.6

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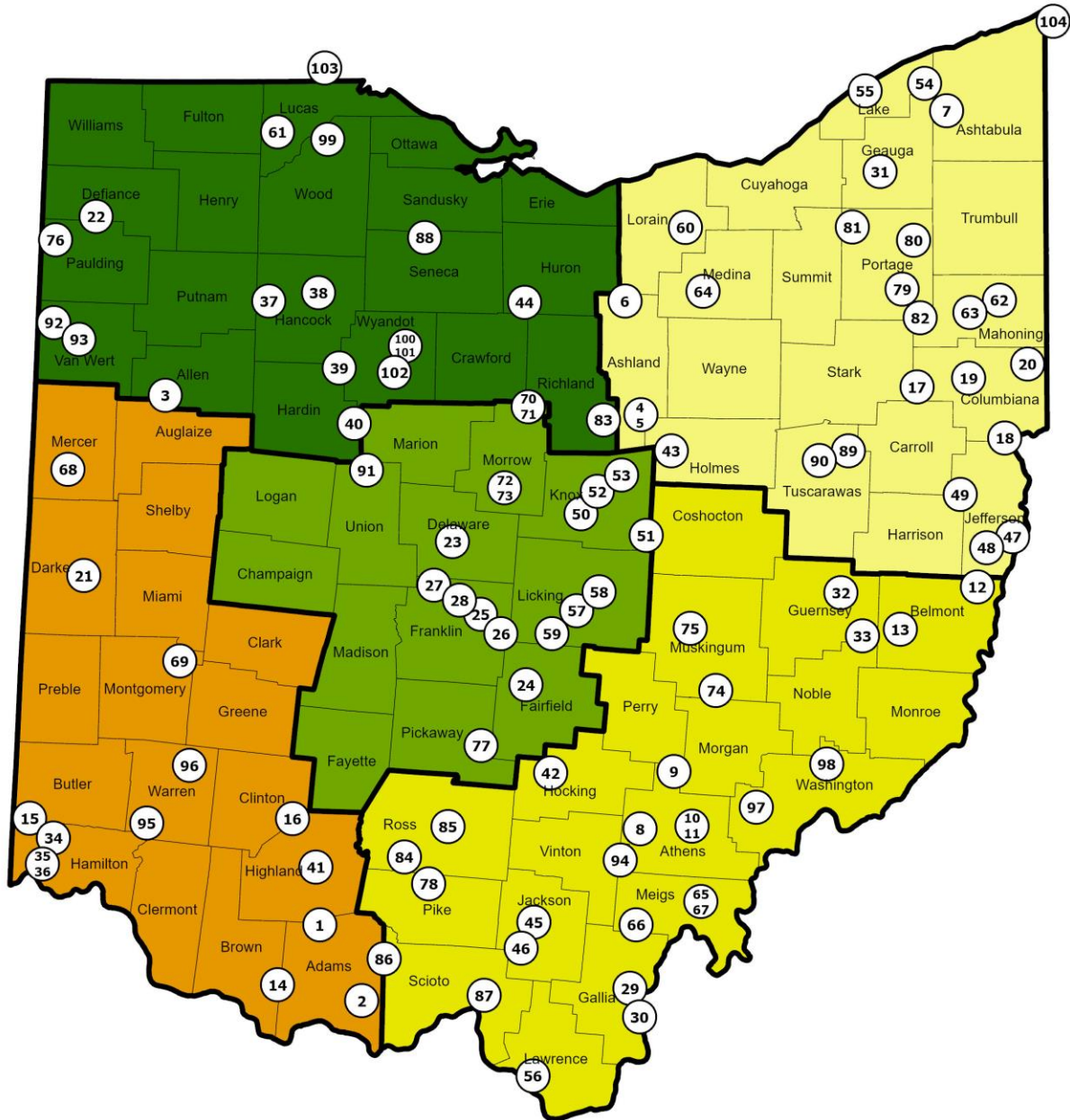
County	Season	Bucks			Does		Button Bucks		Total Harvest		
		2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)
Warren	Gun	140	130	7.7	204	127	15	31	359	288	24.5
	Crossbow	326	251	29.9	165	162	39	36	530	448	18.2
	Longbow	115	113	1.5	81	95	10	15	206	224	-7.9
	Bonus Gun	25	22	11.9	44	39	10	5	79	66	19.7
	Muzzleloader	15	18	-16.7	23	31	3	8	41	57	-28.1
	Youth	35	16	123.4	11	10	3	3	49	28	72.9
	Total	663	554	19.6	532	468	80	100	1,275	1,122	13.7
Washington	Gun	664	642	3.5	1,118	796	188	127	1,970	1,565	25.9
	Crossbow	749	662	13.2	404	336	40	43	1,193	1,040	14.7
	Longbow	265	239	10.7	171	124	8	8	444	371	19.6
	Bonus Gun	89	77	15.6	187	132	31	14	307	223	37.5
	Muzzleloader	79	81	-2.5	210	175	31	18	320	274	16.6
	Youth	140	130	8.0	68	65	19	15	227	210	8.3
	Total	1,996	1,843	8.3	2,174	1,646	322	226	4,492	3,716	20.9
Wayne	Gun	367	309	18.6	644	470	158	111	1,169	890	31.4
	Crossbow	534	503	6.2	503	436	96	98	1,133	1,037	9.3
	Longbow	158	181	-12.5	228	173	27	27	413	381	8.4
	Bonus Gun	58	52	11.5	153	114	34	25	245	191	28.3
	Muzzleloader	36	31	17.4	99	66	30	18	165	115	43.9
	Youth	87	63	38.1	51	46	14	11	152	120	26.7
	Total	1,267	1,155	9.7	1,719	1,328	373	296	3,359	2,779	20.9
Williams	Gun	362	294	23.1	485	356	106	89	953	739	28.9
	Crossbow	373	331	12.6	300	266	65	49	738	647	14.1
	Longbow	158	142	11.5	118	115	19	14	295	271	8.9
	Bonus Gun	68	50	36.9	144	87	21	18	233	154	51.3
	Muzzleloader	29	30	-3.3	54	62	14	17	97	109	-11.0
	Youth	64	39	65.5	36	31	11	11	111	80	38.2
	Total	1,065	893	19.3	1,142	928	236	201	2,443	2,022	20.8
Wood	Gun	205	163	26.0	239	171	50	37	494	371	33.3
	Crossbow	241	226	6.6	177	148	29	31	447	404	10.6
	Longbow	92	79	16.0	77	68	16	14	185	162	14.4
	Bonus Gun	32	27	20.0	56	38	9	6	97	71	37.3
	Muzzleloader	23	19	19.0	35	26	4	4	62	50	24.8
	Youth	44	30	48.3	11	13	6	8	61	51	19.6
	Total	639	549	16.4	600	469	115	102	1,354	1,120	20.9

APPENDIX 2

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks			Does		Button Bucks		Total Harvest		
		2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	2023	3-year average	Diff. (%)
Wyandot	Gun	361	249	44.8	447	328	106	97	914	675	35.5
	Crossbow	169	166	2.0	117	122	17	22	303	310	-2.3
	Longbow	104	95	9.5	69	68	8	13	181	176	2.6
	Bonus Gun	53	45	18.7	112	74	31	17	196	136	43.8
	Muzzleloader	30	26	16.9	51	65	18	8	99	99	0.3
	Youth	65	53	21.9	41	35	16	12	122	100	22.0
	DSA Early Archery	11	13	-12.0	26	28	5	5	42	45	-6.7
	DSA Early Gun	101	95	6.3	171	155	46	40	318	290	9.8
	Total	907	719	26.1	1,068	857	263	213	2,238	1,789	25.1

Buckeye Big Buck Club Official Scorers



APPENDIX 3

Buckeye Big Buck Club Official Scorers

ID	County	Name	City	Phone
1	Adams	Brian Smalley	Seaman	937-217-6332
2	Adams	Jeffrey Sperry	Blue Creek	304-669-6901
3	Allen	William Bellman	Lima	419-303-8427
4	Ashland	Jon Byers	Loudonville	419-651-0501
5	Ashland	Lori Byers	Loudonville	419-908-5625
6	Ashland	Steve Reinhold	Nova	440-865-7196
7	Ashtabula	Larry Laurenty	Rock Creek	440-251-8175
8	Athens	Llyod Culbertson	Athens	740-664-5021
9	Athens	Bill Peneston	Glouster	740-646-5061
10	Athens	Corey Rex	Athens	740-818-9301
11	Athens	Mike Rex	Athens	740-591-4746
12	Belmont	Tom DeVaul	Bridgeport	740-310-0238
13	Belmont	Devin Stephen	Barnesville	740-827-1674
14	Brown	Hannah Byrd	Winchester	740-274-0738
15	Butler	Megan Lockwood	Okeana	513-806-8556
16	Clinton	Kevin Garen	New Vienna	937-728-9082
17	Columbiana	Joe Conner	Minerva	330-771-3261
18	Columbiana	Bill Lawrence	Wellsville	330-532-4259
19	Columbiana	Kerry Mora	Lisbon	330-222-1840
20	Columbiana	Ray Ward	New Waterford	330-501-0443
21	Darke	Luke Shellhaus	Greenville	937-621-2190
22	Defiance	Shane Beardsley	Sherwood	419-670-3681
23	Delaware	Steve Boham	Delaware	740-815-5113
24	Fairfield	Tom Moore	Carroll	614-204-3334
25	Franklin	Shawn Haines	Columbus	614-296-3839
26	Franklin	Clint McCoy	Blacklick	828-712-5173
27	Franklin	Rod Nutter	Columbus	614-439-2874
28	Franklin	Matt Olson	Columbus	614-774-5174
29	Gallia	Ron Tawney	Gallipolis	740-645-3099
30	Gallia	Shannon Webb	Gallipolis	614-318-9472
31	Geauga	Roger Davis	Newbury	440-564-5092
32	Guernsey	Max Hartung	Lore City	252-267-7925
33	Guernsey	Evan Hastings	Quaker City	740-679-2275
34	Hamilton	Michael Serio	Cincinnati	513-385-7064
35	Hamilton	Robert Wood	Cincinnati	513-604-2151
36	Hamilton	Jennifer Wood	Cincinnati	513-720-7406
37	Hancock	Jason Collert	Mt Cory	419-889-1700
38	Hancock	Robert Ebert	Findlay	419-420-4316
39	Hardin	Chris Atha	Forest	419-792-2222
40	Hardin	Gary Oates	Kenton	419-673-5910
41	Highland	Tim Schlater	Hillsboro	937-403-5811

APPENDIX 3

Buckeye Big Buck Club Official Scorers

ID	County	Name	City	Phone
42	Hocking	Jeff Hill	Rockbridge	614-563-1329
43	Holmes	Chad Dial	Big Prairie	330-231-2826
44	Huron	Bruce Buurma	Willard	567-227-0134
45	Jackson	David Haynes	Jackson	740-988-6278
46	Jackson	Seth Newkirk	Jackson	740-418-5011
47	Jefferson	Ken Bake	Mingo Junction	740-381-4820
48	Jefferson	Robert Roush	Rayland	740-381-2981
49	Jefferson	Jim Williamson	Bloomingtondale	740-543-4367
50	Knox	Adam Cramer	Mt Vernon	614-395-1004
51	Knox	Todd Fogress	Walhonding	740-485-3513
52	Knox	Chris Lepley	Mt. Vernon	740-504-8986
53	Knox	Ed Robinson	Howard	740-507-6722
54	Lake	Mike Irwin	Madison	440-622-5187
55	Lake	Mark McGrath	Mentor	440-352-0999
56	Lawrence	Mike Dickess	Ironton	740-532-0142
57	Licking	Kyle Brubaker	Newark	330-531-3445
58	Licking	Steve Shannon	Newark	740-973-4784
59	Licking	Randy Weisenstein	Pataskala	740-739-1217
60	Lorain	Eric Feron	Grafton	440-506-3540
61	Lucas	Steve Siegfried	Monclova	419-466-7805
62	Mahoning	Joe Bouch	Canfield	330-717-8001
63	Mahoning	Dusty Briceland	Canfield	330-727-9888
64	Medina	Tom Posey	Lodi	330-416-1281
65	Meigs	John Riebel	Pomeroy	740-416-3029
66	Meigs	Jack Satterfield	Langsville	740-742-0618
67	Meigs	Ethan Steger	Pomeroy	740-416-5717
68	Mercer	Matt Kuess	Cold Water	419-852-7003
69	Montgomery	Matt Hentrick	Dayton	575-706-4292
70	Morrow	Chip Grauer	Galion	419-295-0096
71	Morrow	Frank Grauer	Galion	419-564-8133
72	Morrow	Shane Holtrey	Marengo	740-272-6103
73	Morrow	Caden Holtrey	Marengo	
74	Muskingum	Greg Smith	Blue Rock	740-607-6142
75	Noble	Michael Lewis	Zanesville	740-630-8894
76	Paulding	Charles West	Antwerp	419-789-9622
77	Pickaway	Ron Elkins	Circleville	614-296-1199
78	Pike	Toby Williams	Waverly	740-947-7252
79	Portage	Kenneth Haney	Rootstown	330-687-7884
80	Portage	Meredith Hoover	Garrettsville	419-957-2955
81	Portage	Kevin Miller	Aurora	330-612-1764
82	Portage	Jerry Weingart	North Benton	330-420-8859

APPENDIX 3

Buckeye Big Buck Club Official Scorers

ID	County	Name	City	Phone
83	Richland	Carter Quay	Lucas	419-564-4045
84	Ross	Wes Spradlin	Bainbridge	740-656-0785
85	Ross	JR Tucker	Chillicothe	740-649-2474
86	Scioto	Scott Hoffer	Peebles	937-752-8056
87	Scioto	Gene Peach	Portsmouth	740-876-4234
88	Seneca	Dennis Heilman	Old Fort/ Tiffin	419-334-1560
89	Tuscarawas	Michael Budd	Summerdale	740-973-1752
90	Tuscarawas	Brett Burrier	Dover	330-447-1437
91	Union	Mike Cline	Richwood	740-262-5982
92	Van Wert	Rob Miller	Convoy	419-203-5510
93	Van Wert	Rick Waltmire	Van Wert	419-203-8011
94	Vinton	John Ator	McAurthur	740-590-2400
95	Warren	Doug Deel	Maineville	513-505-0455
96	Warren	Gary Trent	Waynesville	937-307-7523
97	Washington	Ryan Huffman	Waterford	740-516-8078
98	Washington	Jill Treadway	Lowell	740-525-4933
99	Wood	Michael Thompson	Perrysburg	419-575-4429
100	Wyandot	Will Ogden	Upper Sandusky	419-561-1951
101	Wyandot	Wesley Ogden	Upper Sandusky	419-617-6518
102	Wyandot	Steve Swihart	Upper Sandusky	419-294-8392
103		Bill Nash	Lambertville	734-847-0405
104		David Pasky	West Springfield	814-922-3043