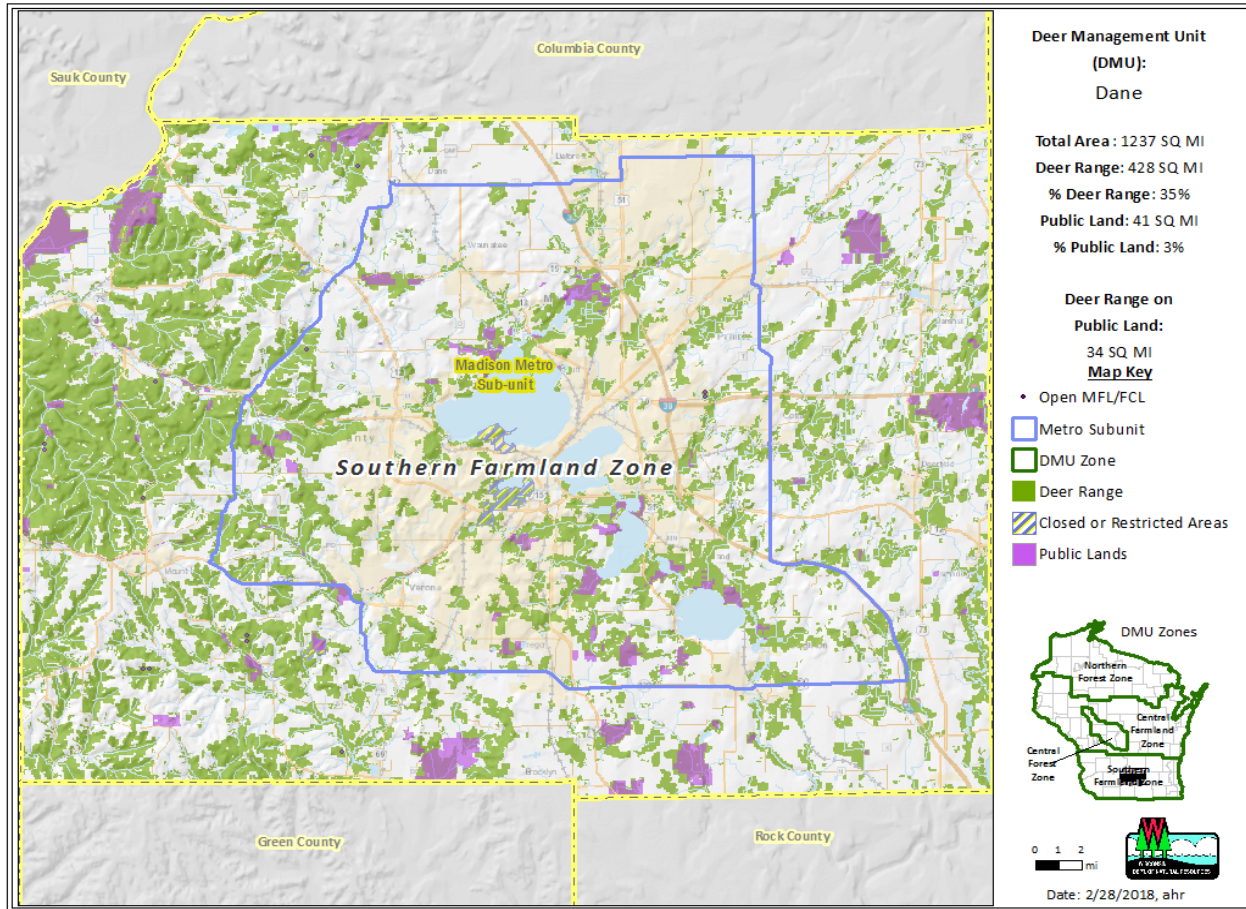


Dane County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Dane County Deer Management Unit is located in the Southern Farmland Zone. Approximately 34 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. The unit is one of Wisconsin's larger units (1,238 square miles) and contains a diverse array of habitats and land-use types as it lies at the intersection of four of Wisconsin's 16 Ecological Landscapes. Large agricultural operations dominate the eastern and northern portions of the unit with deer range increasing in prevalence as you move south and west into the Driftless Area. Approximately 90 percent of deer range is located on private lands although high-quality public hunting opportunities do exist on state, federal and county properties including Brooklyn Wildlife Area, Badfish Creek Wildlife Area, Goose Lake Wildlife Area, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Waterfowl Production Areas and a number of Dane County parks. Chronic Wasting Disease is present in the unit with the highest prevalence rates around 25% in adult bucks focused in the Black Earth area. The prevalence of Chronic Wasting Disease is increasing in all sex and age classes of deer in this area. The deer herd in the unit is strong and despite liberal hunting regulations, has increased in recent years with reduced antlerless harvests. For the latest information on CWD in this unit, please visit the DNR webpage: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/prevalence.html>. Hunter densities are low relative to the surrounding units with an average hunter density on the opening day of the 9-day gun deer season of about 10 hunters per square mile. Buck harvest density per square mile of deer range is lower in this unit compared with surrounding units which reflects the lower hunter densities and relatively low amounts of public hunting land access. The current deer herd management objective is to stabilize the population.

Deer Management Unit Harvest History

Fawn to doe ratios collected in late summer give information on fawn recruitment and survival and are used as an input into the formula for annual deer herd abundance estimation. Fawn to doe ratios were summarized using groups of county deer management units. County deer management units were grouped based on location, habitat characteristics, and deer demography.

Southern Farmland Management Zone

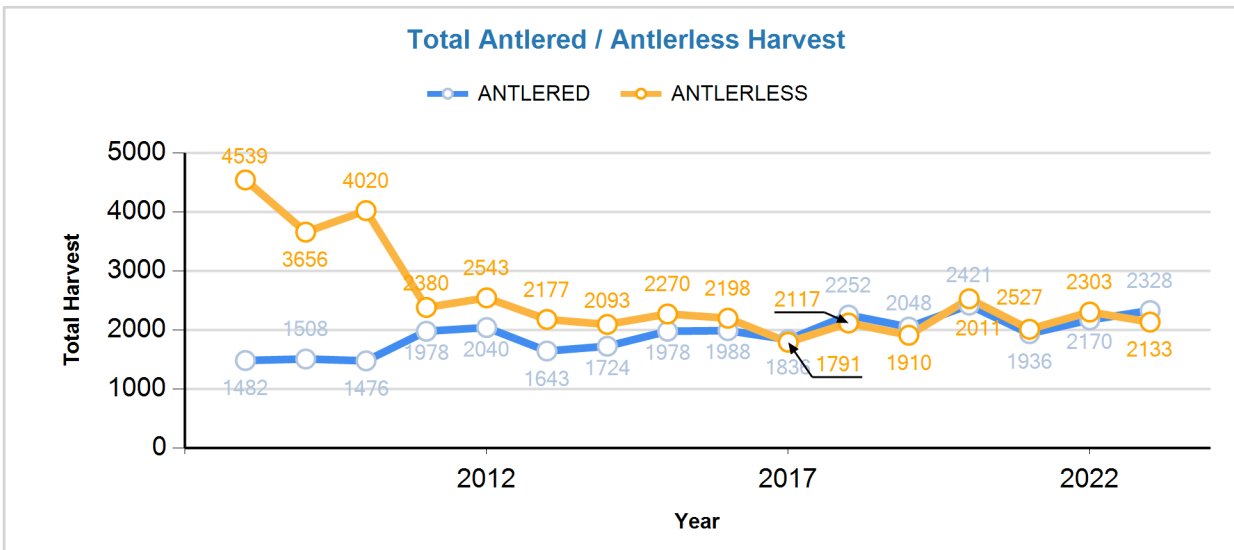
Total Area of Unit (Sq. Miles): 1,237.40

Deer Range of Unit (Sq. Miles): 427.90

Total Harvest for Dane County - Southern Farmland Management Zone

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	1724	1978	1988	1836	2252	2048	2421	1936	2170	2328
Antlerless	2175	2271	2198	1794	2117	1910	2527	2011	2303	2133
Total	3899	4249	4186	3630	4369	3958	4948	3947	4473	4461
Gun										
Antlered	1058	1233	1220	1085	1439	1096	1362	1065	1311	1330
Antlerless	1607	1675	1654	1285	1593	1355	1847	1466	1722	1603
Total	2665	2908	2874	2370	3032	2451	3209	2531	3033	2933
Bow										
Antlered	549	531	507	452	479	548	576	435	458	523
Antlerless	467	441	364	311	302	284	376	276	329	295
Total	1016	972	871	763	781	832	952	711	787	818
Crossbow										
Antlered	117	214	261	299	334	404	483	436	401	475
Antlerless	101	155	180	198	222	271	304	269	252	235
Total	218	369	441	497	556	675	787	705	653	710
Tribal*										
Antlered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Antlerless	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth Antlerless*										
Antlerless	0	0	137	106	109	68	125	85	81	70

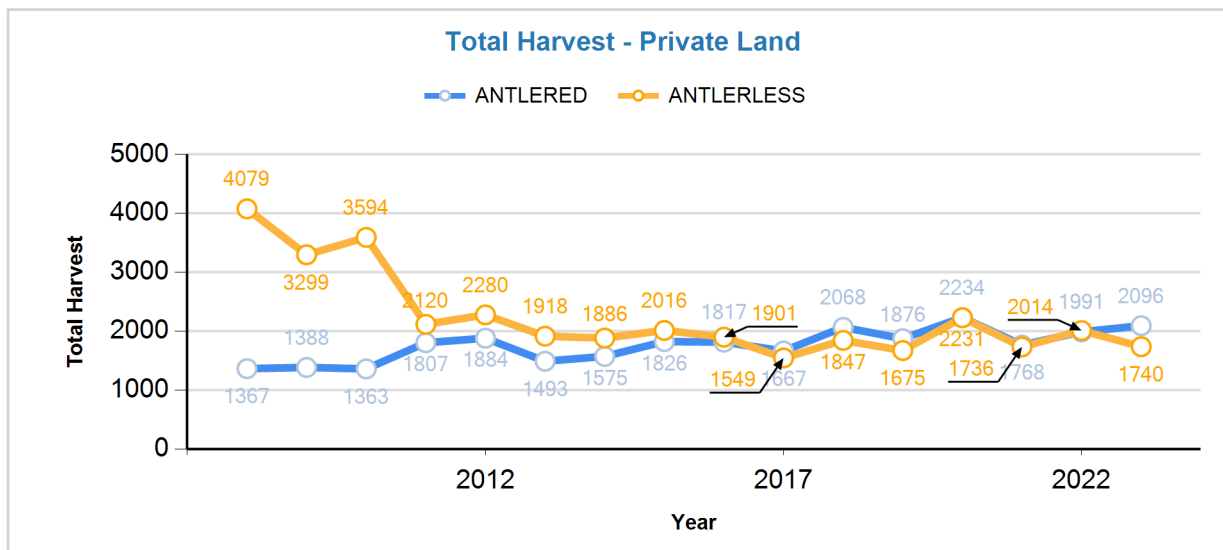
* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



Total Harvest for Dane County - Southern Farmland Management Zone - Private Land

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	1575	1826	1817	1667	2068	1876	2234	1768	1991	2096
Antlerless	1963	2017	1901	1552	1847	1675	2231	1736	2014	1740
Total	3538	3843	3718	3219	3915	3551	4465	3504	4005	3836
Gun										
Antlered	986	1152	1122	1008	1360	1035	1282	987	1239	1225
Antlerless	1471	1528	1458	1130	1430	1225	1669	1308	1549	1324
Total	2457	2680	2580	2138	2790	2260	2951	2295	2788	2549
Bow										
Antlered	482	478	460	395	406	476	520	391	389	441
Antlerless	406	354	298	253	246	230	299	207	257	231
Total	888	832	758	648	652	706	819	598	646	672
Crossbow										
Antlered	107	196	235	264	302	365	432	390	363	430
Antlerless	86	135	145	169	171	220	263	221	208	185
Total	193	331	380	433	473	585	695	611	571	615
Tribal*										
Antlered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Antlerless	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth Antlerless*										
Antlerless	0	0	126	99	104	66	119	80	79	66

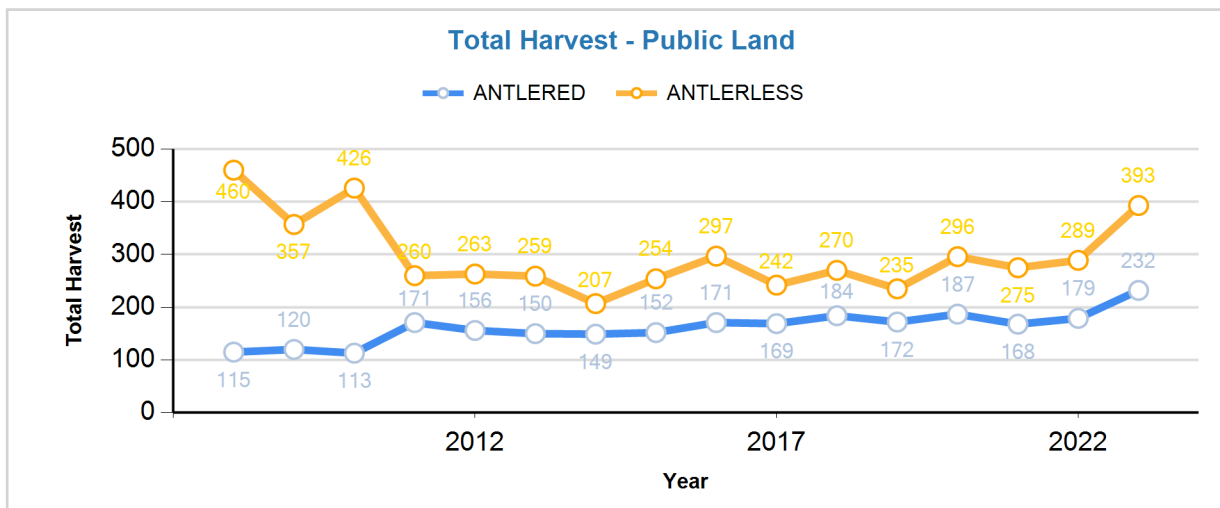
* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



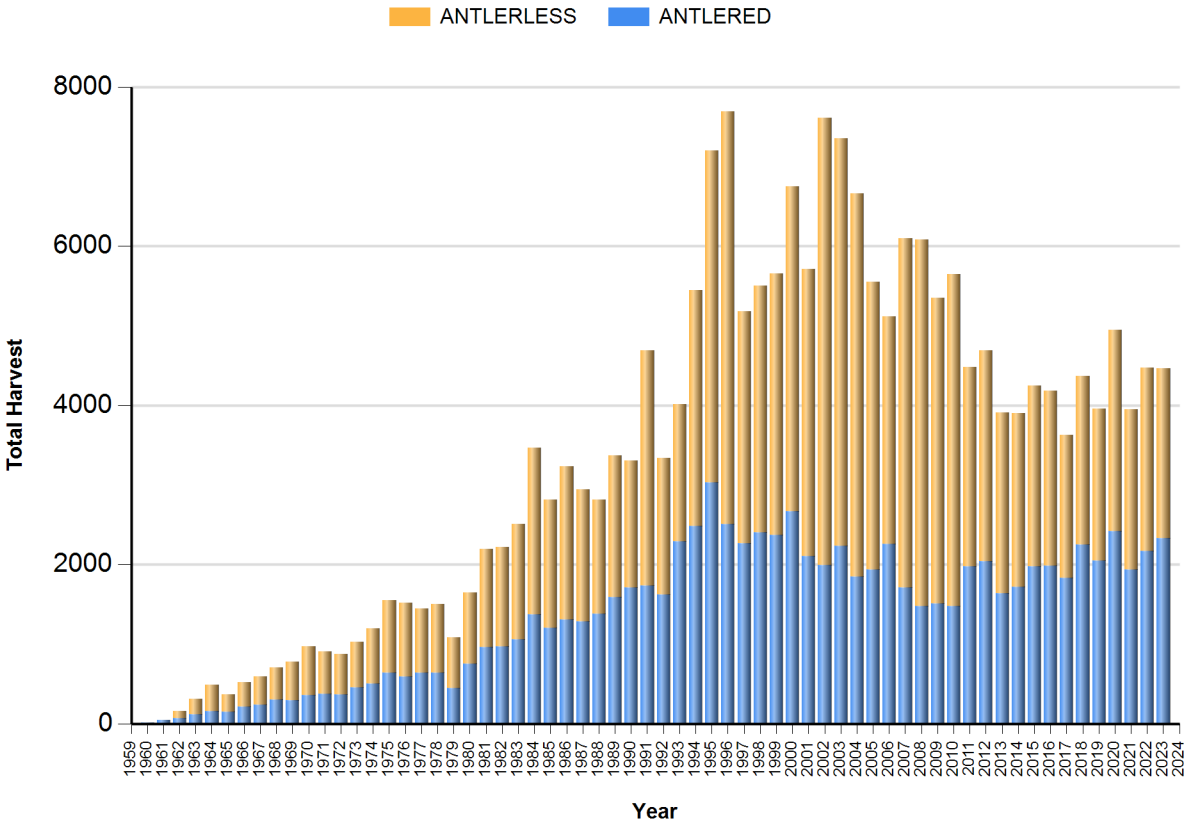
Total Harvest for Dane County - Southern Farmland Management Zone - Public Land

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	149	152	171	169	184	172	187	168	179	232
Antlerless	212	254	297	242	270	235	296	275	289	393
Total	361	406	468	411	454	407	483	443	468	625
Gun										
Antlered	72	81	98	77	79	61	80	78	72	105
Antlerless	136	147	196	155	163	130	178	158	173	279
Total	208	228	294	232	242	191	258	236	245	384
Bow										
Antlered	67	53	47	57	73	72	56	44	69	82
Antlerless	61	87	66	58	56	54	77	69	72	64
Total	128	140	113	115	129	126	133	113	141	146
Crossbow										
Antlered	10	18	26	35	32	39	51	46	38	45
Antlerless	15	20	35	29	51	51	41	48	44	50
Total	25	38	61	64	83	90	92	94	82	95
Tribal*										
Antlered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Antlerless	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth Antlerless*										
Antlerless	0	0	11	7	5	2	6	5	2	4

* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



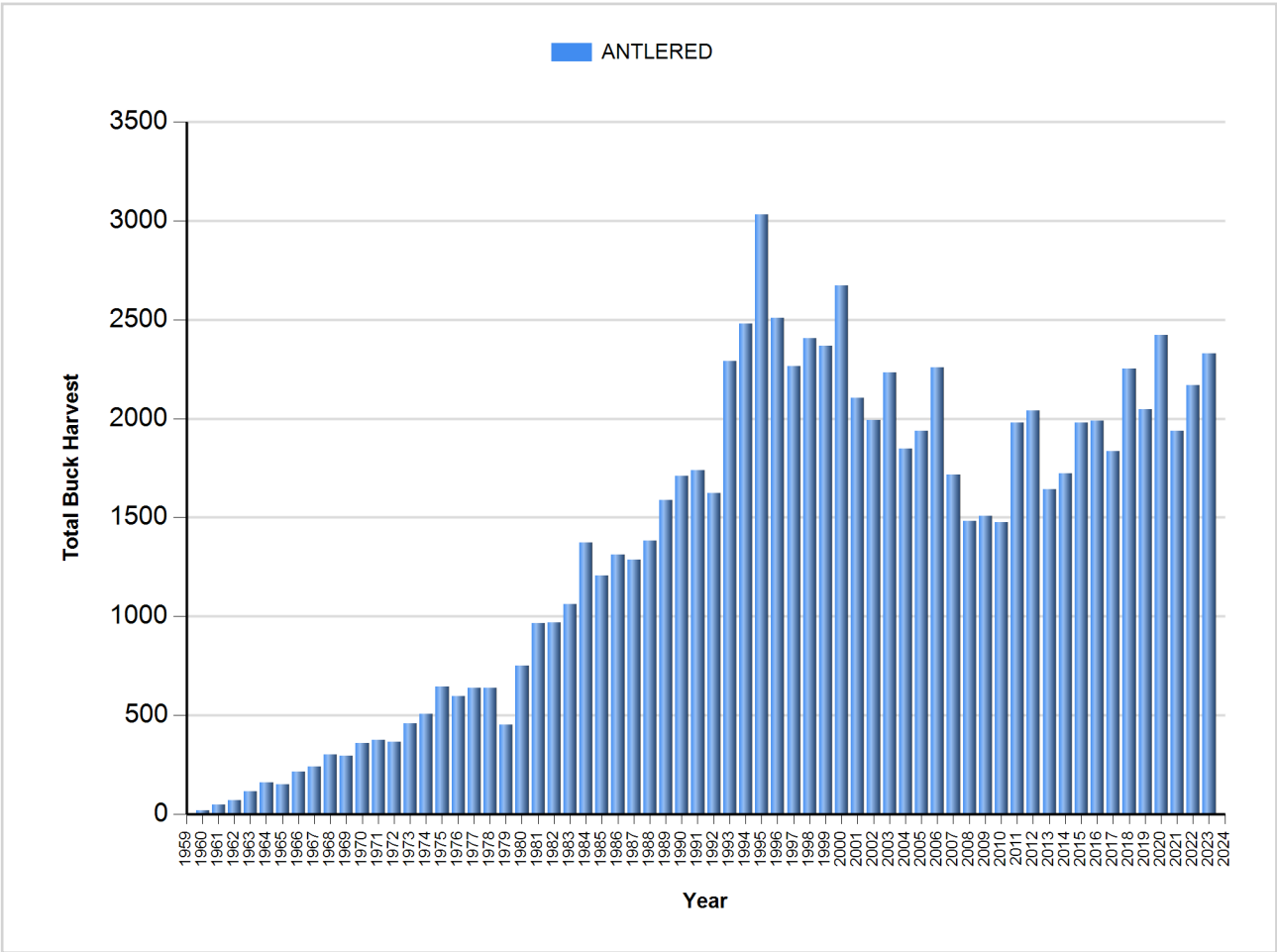
Total Deer Harvest 1960 - Present



Total Buck Harvest 1960 - Present

Historic High: 1995 - 3,032

Historic Low: 1960 - 17

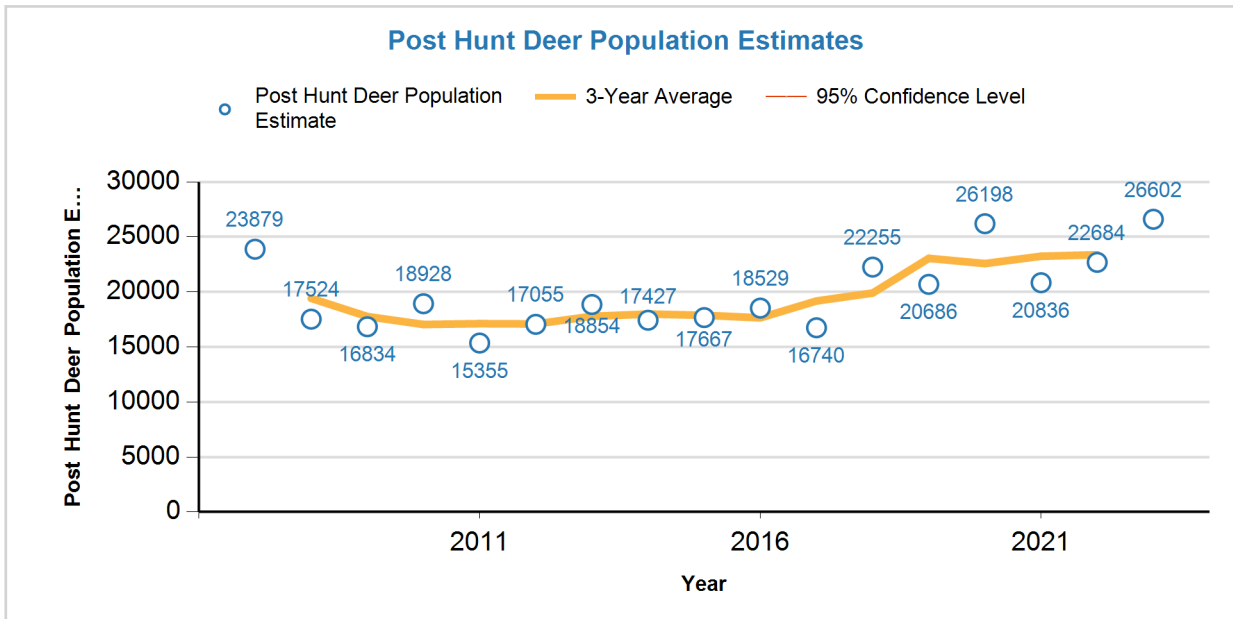


Antlerless Tag Issuance & Success for Dane County - Southern Farmland

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
Farmland - Public				
Issued	2,927	2,682	6,105	5,963
Killed	139	125	230	258
Success Rate (%)	4.7	4.7	3.8	4.3
Farmland - Private				
Issued	10,422	9,680	19,011	19,067
Killed	1,418	1,047	1,687	1,552
Success Rate (%)	13.6	10.8	8.9	8.1
Farmland - Total				
Issued	13,349	12,362	25,116	25,030
Killed	1,557	1,172	1,917	1,810
Success Rate (%)	11.7	9.5	7.6	7.2
Bonus- Public				
Available	700	700	700	700
Issued	674	665	590	612
Killed	55	45	53	34
Success Rate (%)	8.2	6.8	9.0	5.6
Bonus- Private				
Available	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Issued	1,437	1,343	1,041	1,021
Killed	289	228	160	142
Success Rate (%)	20.1	17.0	15.4	13.9
Bonus- Total				
Available	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200
Issued	2,111	2,008	1,631	1,633
Killed	344	273	213	176
Success Rate (%)	16.3	13.6	13.1	10.8

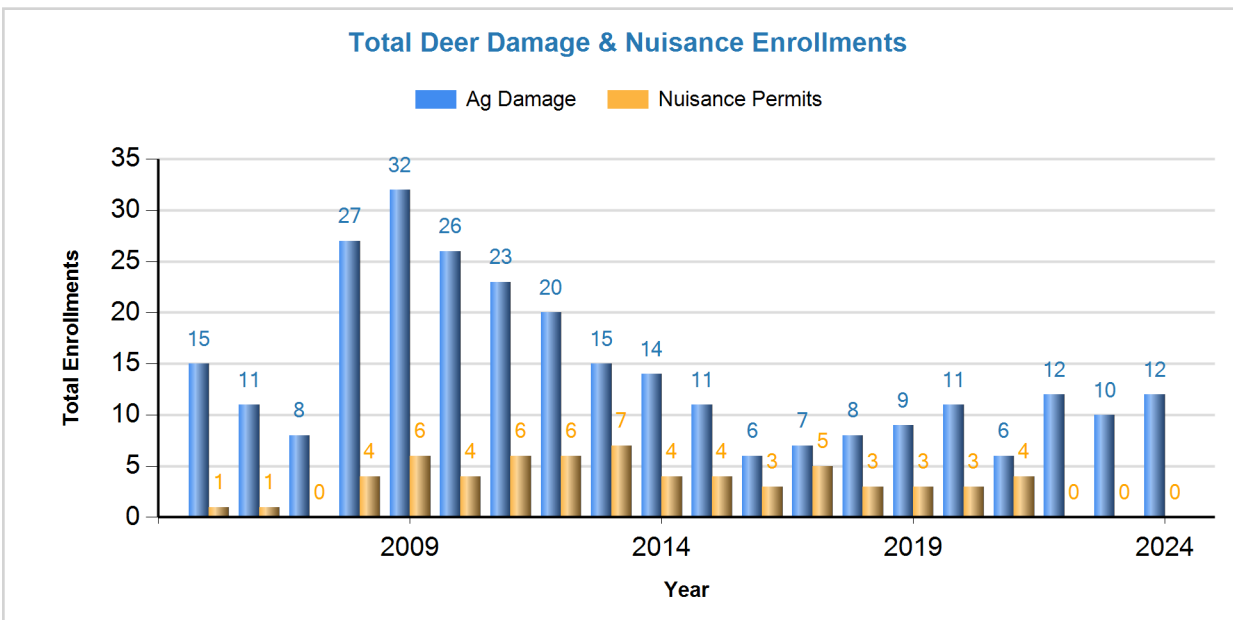
Herd Abundance

Deer herd abundance is estimated annually with hunter-collected data and a mathematical model to get post hunt deer population estimates.

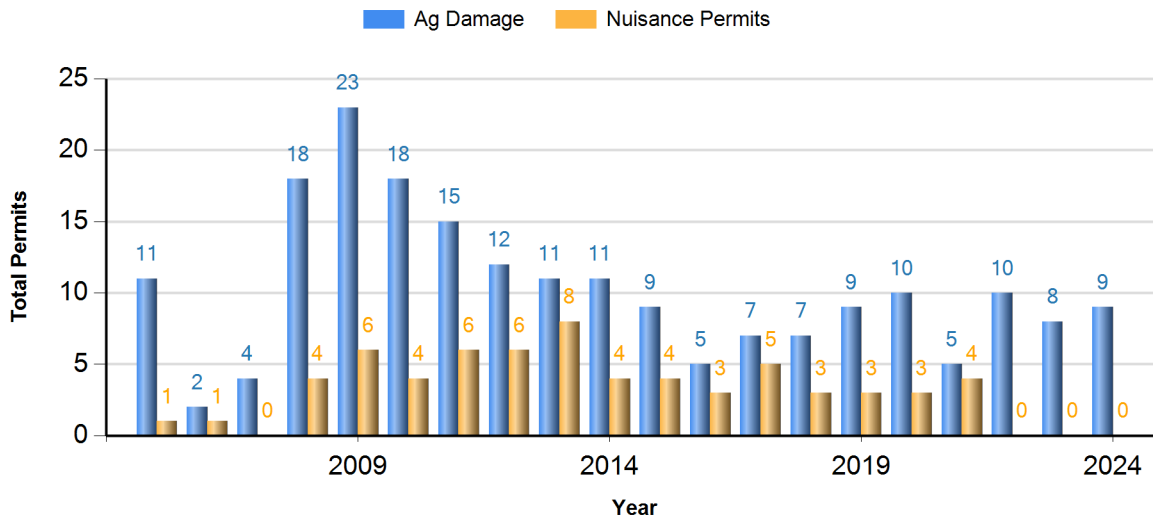


Deer Impacts – Agriculture & Nuisance Impacts

View trends in county and statewide enrollment, shooting permit, Ag Damage, and Nuisance harvest numbers over the years.



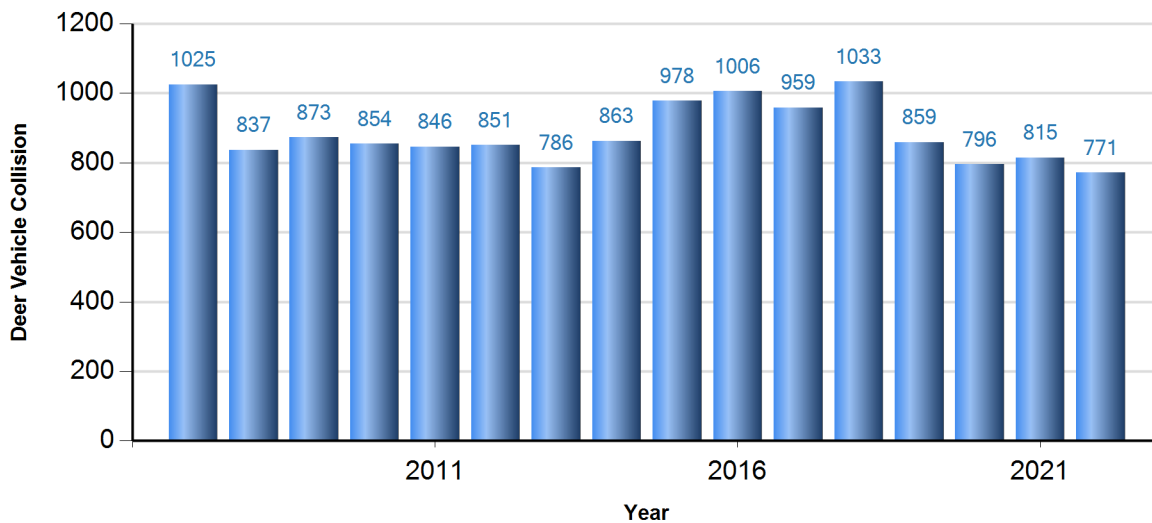
Total Deer Damage & Nuisance Shooting Permits Issued



Deer Impacts - Deer Vehicle Collision

Deer-vehicle collisions (DVCs) are one of the most visible negative impacts that deer populations have on society. As managing deer involves balancing the positive benefits of deer with their negative impacts, it makes sense to consider DVCs when making deer management decisions.

Deer Vehicle Collisions



Hunter Dynamics - Hunter Field Observations

This metric provides voluntary hunter observation data that is collected either during the process of registering a deer, or from submitted field observations through an on-line reporting form.

Deer Seen Per Hunted Hour

