Management Unit:

Manager's Note:

The Door County Deer Management Unit is located in the Central Farmland Zone. Approximately 61.5 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. Deer range varies considerably from nearly 100 percent forested habitat on the islands to less than 30 percent scattered woodlots in the southern agricultural areas of the unit. Habitat quality also varies greatly, creating a tremendous disparity in the distribution of the deer herd from north to south. Deer range varies from dense cedar forests similar to Canadian boreal areas supporting low deer numbers in the north, to flat farmlands with hardwoods and shallow productive agricultural soils in the south capable of supporting many more deer. Available winter browse in the southern portion of the unit and on islands is very limited and winter impacts on the herd can occur fairly quickly compared with cedar swamp habitats of the northern portion. Public hunting opportunities are well scattered, but total only a small percent of the acreage available. Most public land acreage is in State Park and conservancy areas which allow deer hunting, but in a much reduced season structure. A unique aspect of this unit is that the vast majority the boundary is surrounded by large water bodies, essentially functioning as a large linear island. Also, impacts of deer migration and hunting in adjacent units are minimal. In this unit it is important to maintain an adequate antlerless harvest to avoid excessive browse and agricultural damage. Due to unique fruit and vegetable agricultural farms in the unit, deer damage thresholds are more quickly met than traditional corn and soybean rotations. The current deer herd management objective is to decrease 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.
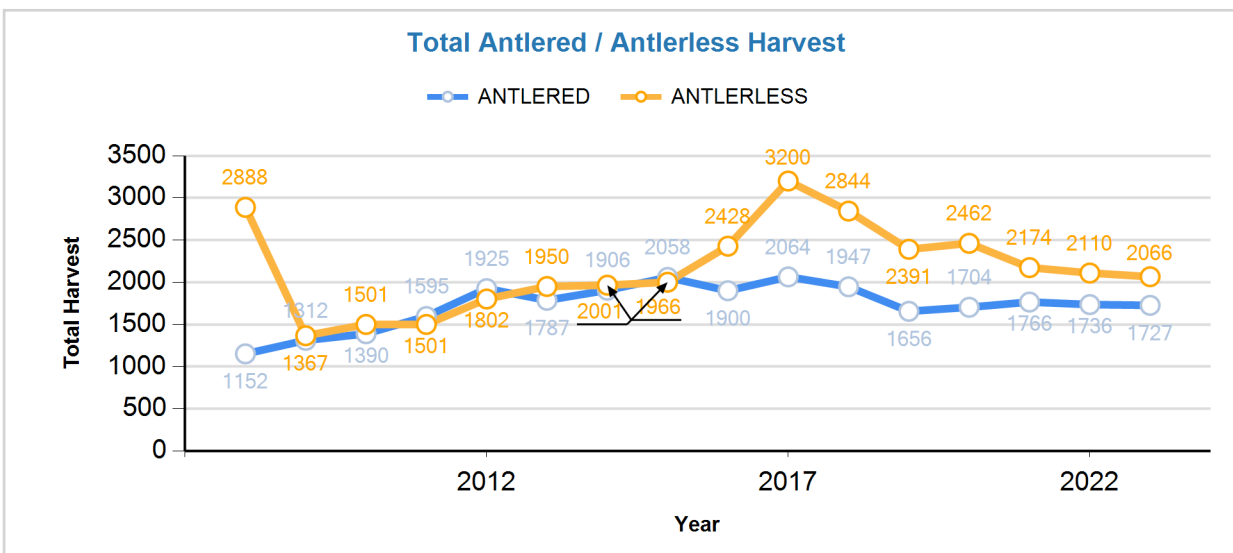
Central Farmland Management Zone

Total Area of Unit (Sq. Miles): 489.10

Deer Range of Unit (Sq. Miles): 300.70

Deer Management Unit Harvest History

Total Harvest for Door County - Central Farmland Management Zone

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	1906	2058	1900	2064	1947	1656	1704	1766	1736	1727
Antlerless	1983	2001	2428	3200	2844	2391	2462	2174	2110	2066
Total	3889	4059	4328	5264	4791	4047	4166	3940	3846	3793
Gun										
Antlered	1473	1446	1335	1517	1443	1075	1020	1115	1217	1185
Antlerless	1554	1528	1791	2366	2094	1750	1717	1600	1605	1497
Total	3027	2974	3126	3883	3537	2825	2737	2715	2822	2682
Bow										
Antlered	263	324	261	224	167	195	217	189	126	140
Antlerless	247	240	277	348	285	248	258	165	164	197
Total	510	564	538	572	452	443	475	354	290	337
Crossbow										
Antlered	170	288	304	323	337	386	467	462	393	402
Antlerless	182	233	360	486	465	393	487	409	341	372
Total	352	521	664	809	802	779	954	871	734	774
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	101	137	111	70	90	101	74	64

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

Total Antlered / Antlerless Harvest

Total Harvest for Door County - Central Farmland Management Zone - Private Land

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	1745	1878	1721	1892	1796	1530	1584	1613	1584	1567
Antlerless	1750	1772	2105	2865	2526	2138	2188	1920	1858	1715
Total	3495	3650	3826	4757	4322	3668	3772	3533	3442	3282
Gun										
Antlered	1353	1323	1201	1398	1338	1000	946	1021	1124	1067
Antlerless	1379	1349	1581	2149	1879	1590	1539	1419	1419	1235
Total	2732	2672	2782	3547	3217	2590	2485	2440	2543	2302
Bow										
Antlered	238	294	234	199	152	173	205	165	107	123
Antlerless	215	217	220	283	237	213	213	136	142	163
Total	453	511	454	482	389	386	418	301	249	286
Crossbow										
Antlered	154	261	286	295	306	357	433	427	353	377
Antlerless	156	206	304	433	410	335	436	365	297	317
Total	310	467	590	728	716	692	869	792	650	694
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	92	132	105	66	86	96	69	60

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


Total Harvest - Private Land
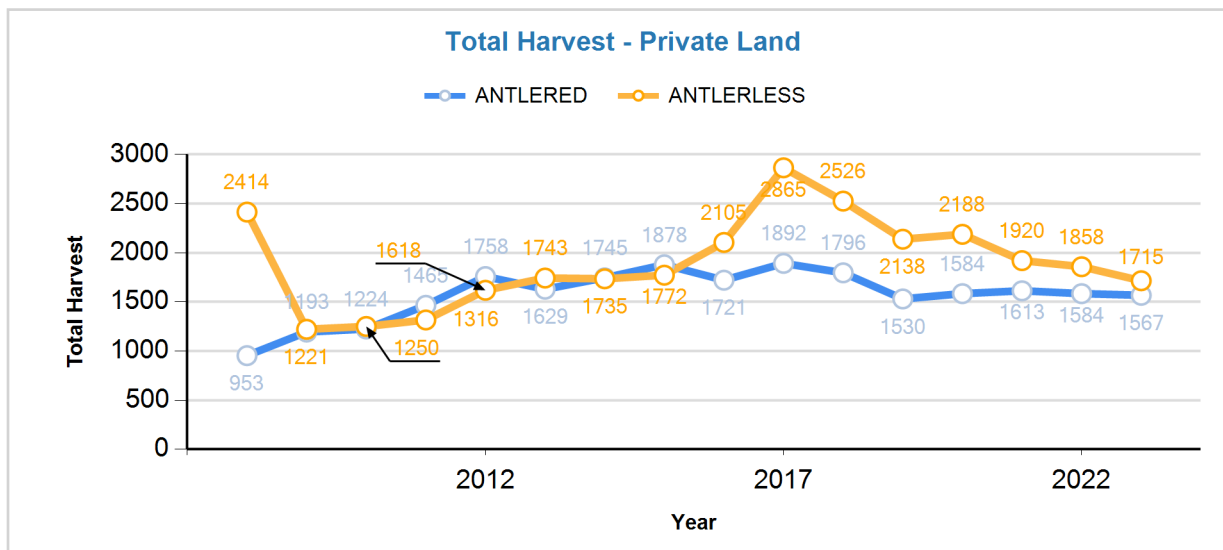
Total Harvest for Door County - Central Farmland Management Zone - Public Land

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	161	180	179	172	151	126	120	153	152	160
Antlerless	233	229	323	335	318	253	274	254	252	351
Total	394	409	502	507	469	379	394	407	404	511
Gun										
Antlered	120	123	134	119	105	75	74	94	93	118
Antlerless	175	179	210	217	215	160	178	181	186	262
Total	295	302	344	336	320	235	252	275	279	380
Bow										
Antlered	25	30	27	25	15	22	12	24	19	17
Antlerless	32	23	57	65	48	35	45	29	22	34
Total	57	53	84	90	63	57	57	53	41	51
Crossbow										
Antlered	16	27	18	28	31	29	34	35	40	25
Antlerless	26	27	56	53	55	58	51	44	44	55
Total	42	54	74	81	86	87	85	79	84	80
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	9	5	6	4	4	5	5	4

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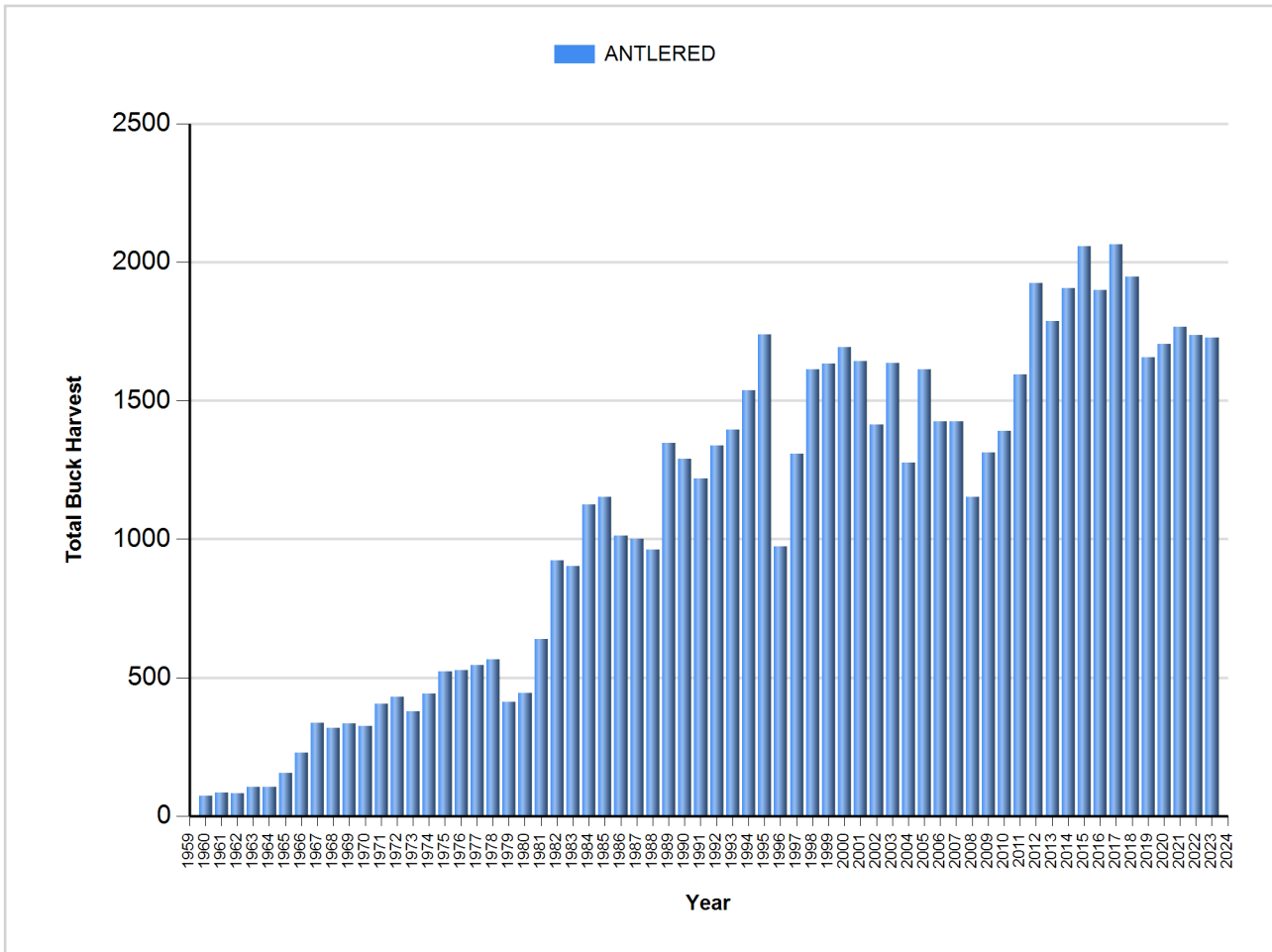

Total Harvest - Public Land
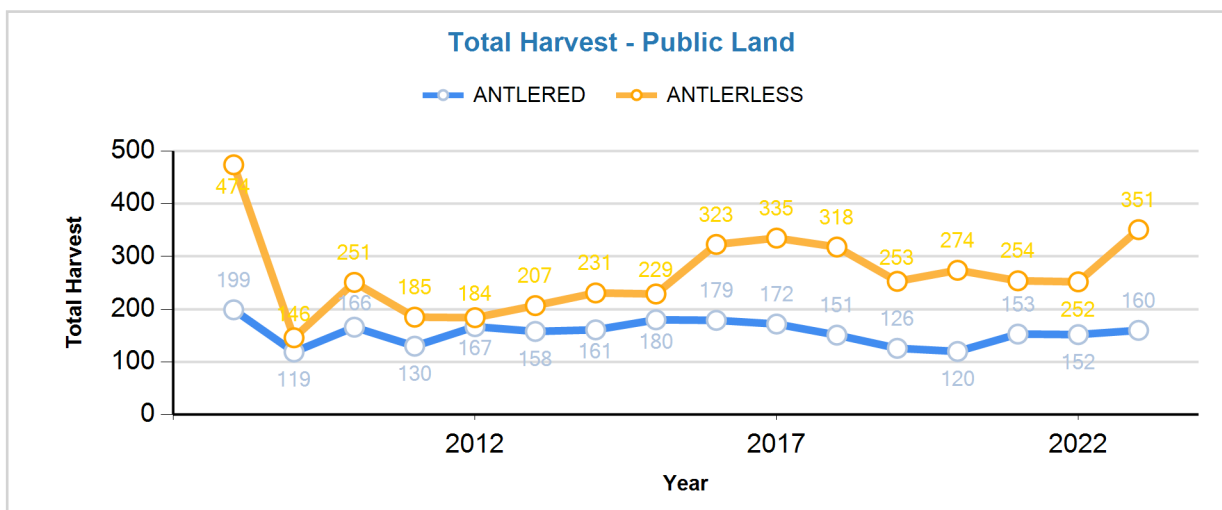
Total Deer Harvest 1960 - Present
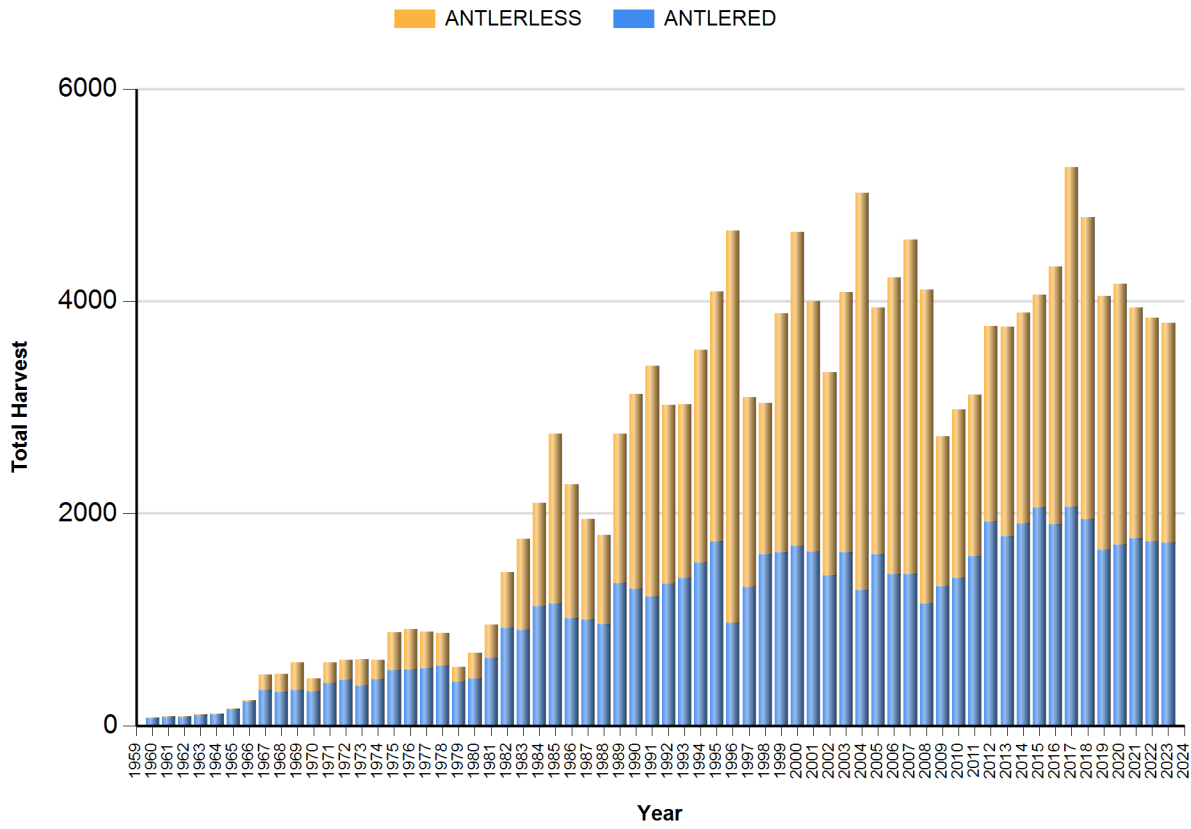
Total Buck Harvest 1960 - Present

Historic High: 2017 - 2,064

Historic Low: 1960 - 73

**Antlerless Tag Issuance & Success for Door County - Central Farmland**

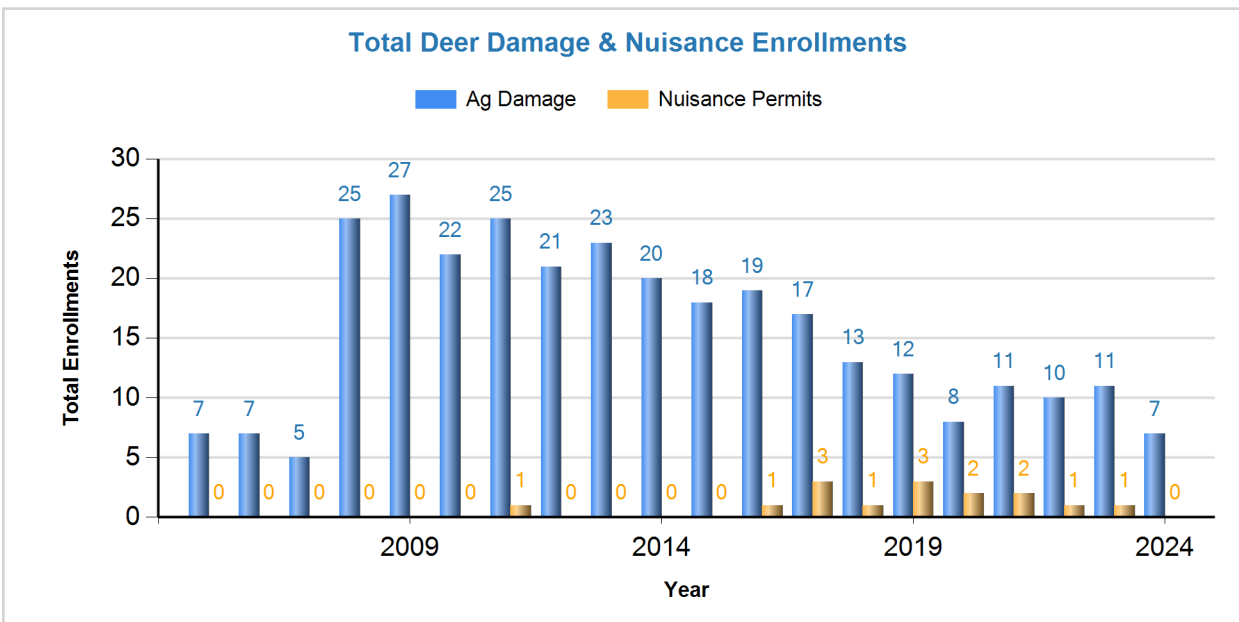| Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
Farmland - Public				
Issued	9,537	5,059	5,124	6,932
Killed	256	233	225	249
Success Rate (%)	2.7	4.6	4.4	3.6
Farmland - Private				
Issued	39,468	23,534	22,617	29,512
Killed	2,003	1,716	1,664	1,604
Success Rate (%)	5.1	7.3	7.4	5.4
Farmland - Total				
Issued	49,005	28,593	27,741	36,444
Killed	2,259	1,949	1,889	1,853
Success Rate (%)	4.6	6.8	6.8	5.1
Bonus- Public				
Available	250	250	250	250
Issued	138	163	165	152
Killed	11	11	17	15
Success Rate (%)	8.0	6.7	10.3	9.9
Bonus- Private				
Available	750	750	750	750
Issued	342	382	410	378
Killed	38	53	62	46
Success Rate (%)	11.1	13.9	15.1	12.2
Bonus- Total				
Available	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Issued	480	545	575	530
Killed	49	64	79	61
Success Rate (%)	10.2	11.7	13.7	11.5

Herd Abundance

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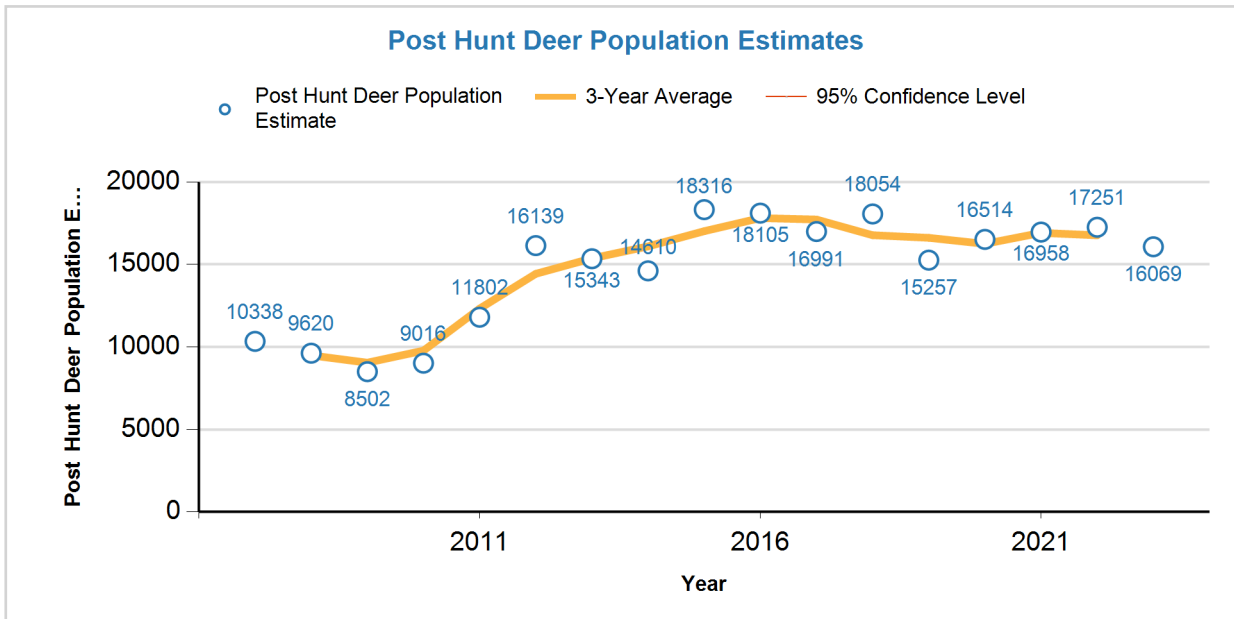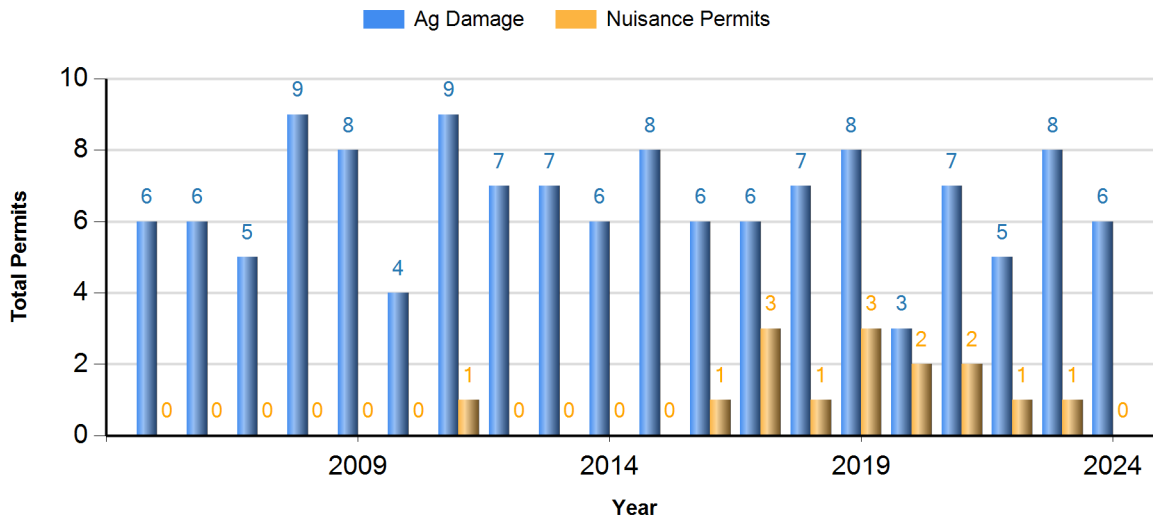

Deer Impacts – Agriculture & Nuisance Impacts

View trends in county and statewide enrollment, shooting permit, Ag Damage, and Nuisance harvest numbers over the years.
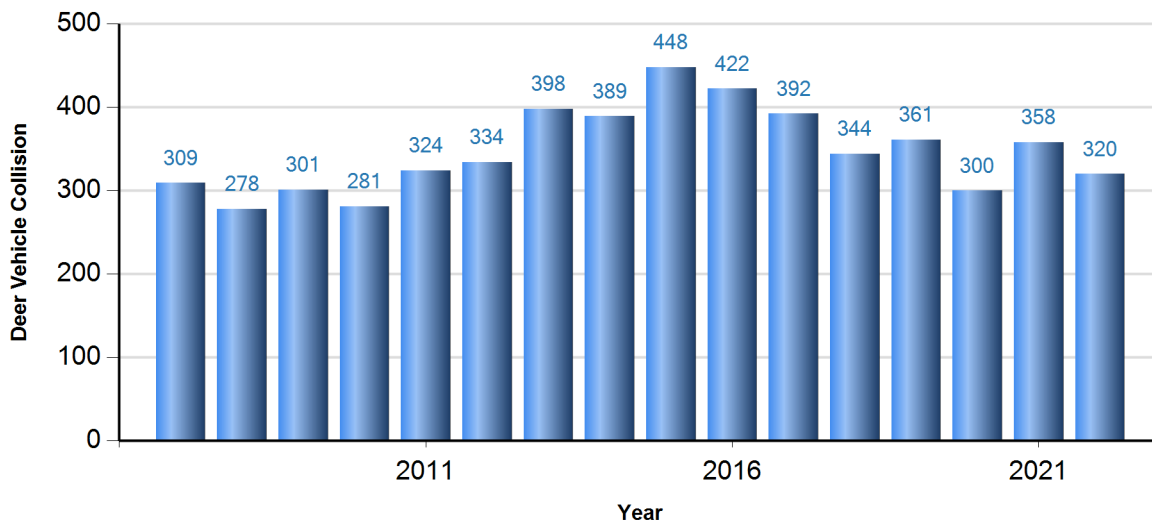
Total Deer Damage & Nuisance Shooting Permits Issued

■ Ag Damage ■ Nuisance Permits

[Bar chart showing Total Permits by Year from before 2009 to 2024. Ag Damage values (blue): 6, 6, 5, 9, 8, 4, 9, 7, 7, 6, 8, 6, 6, 7, 8, 3, 7, 5, 8, 6. Nuisance Permits values (orange): 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 3, 1, 3, 3, 2, 2, 1, 1, 0. X-axis labeled Year with marks at 2009, 2014, 2019, 2024. Y-axis labeled Total Permits, 0 to 10.]

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

[Bar chart showing Deer Vehicle Collision by Year. Values: 309, 278, 301, 281, 324, 334, 398, 389, 448, 422, 392, 344, 361, 300, 358, 320. X-axis labeled Year with marks at 2011, 2016, 2021. Y-axis labeled Deer Vehicle Collision, 0 to 500.]

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

Legend: Hunter Survey · 3-Year Avg Hunter Survey · Registration Survey · 3-Year Avg Registration Survey

Y-axis: Deer Seen Per Hour Hunted

X-axis: Year

Registration Survey values: 0.69, 0.84, 0.81, 0.96, 0.92, 0.98, 0.97, 0.96, 1.07, 1.08, 1.05, 1.03, 1.01, 1.1, 0.99

Hunter Survey values: 0.14, 0.14, 0.57, 1, 0.78, 0.56, 1.15, 0.32, 0.82, 0.56, 0.64, 0.48, 0.94, 0.45, 0.62