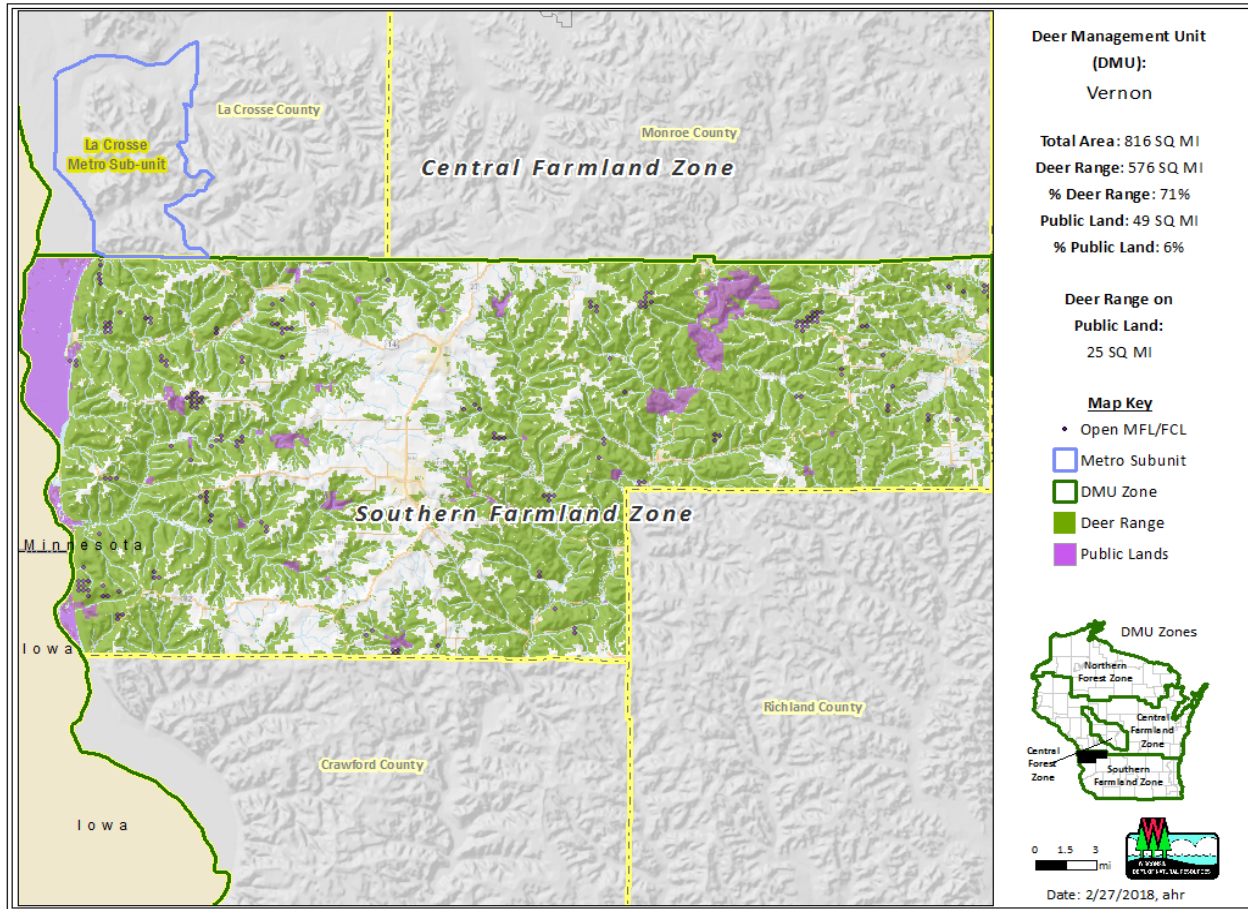


Vernon County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Vernon County Deer Management Unit is located in the Southern Farmland Zone. Approximately 71 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. The unit is characterized by gently rolling east-west ridges extending from a broad main ridge, with narrow, strongly rolling north-south ridges branching off of these. Extensive woodlands that follow steep hillsides and stream corridors, mixed with cash grain and dairy agriculture on ridge tops and valleys typify this unit's habitat. There is a strong presence of organic and Amish agriculture in the unit. Oaks often dominate the woodlands, but without active management much of the oak is converting to more shade-tolerant tree species. South-facing slopes are often snow-free during much of the winter. Most of the land is privately owned, but there is a total of 47.3 square miles of publicly accessible land in the county. The Kickapoo Valley Reserve and the Wildcat Mountain State Park provide a substantial block of public land along the Kickapoo River. There are numerous other scattered smaller public land ownerships throughout the management unit. Rural residences, vacation developments and hobby farms are common throughout the unit. Hunter densities on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season average about 14 hunters per square mile of deer range, and about 4.5 - 5.5 bucks per square mile of deer range are harvested in the county. The county's 2020 harvest averaged about 15.4 deer/square mile of deer range. The current deer herd management objective is to stabilize the population. Chronic wasting disease was first confirmed in the county during 2017 when 3 deer tested positive for the disease. In 2020 an additional 15 deer tested positive for CWD, bringing the cumulative total to 37.

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

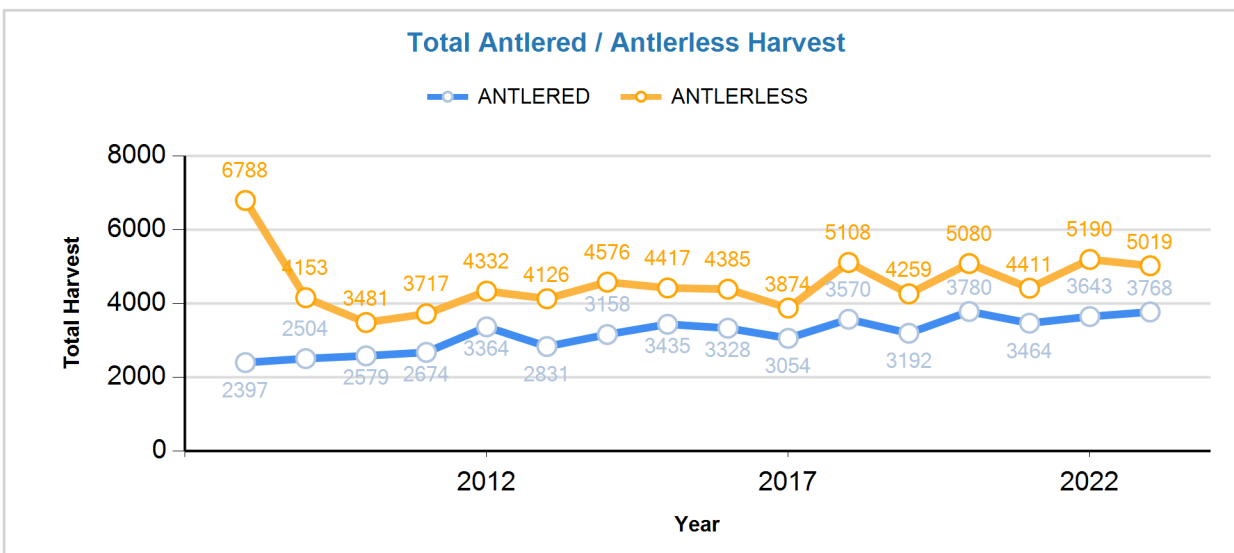
Total Area of Unit (Sq. Miles): 815.80

Deer Range of Unit (Sq. Miles): 576.00

Total Harvest for Vernon County - Southern Farmland Management Zone

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	3158	3435	3328	3054	3570	3192	3780	3464	3643	3768
Antlerless	4606	4417	4385	3877	5108	4259	5080	4411	5190	5019
Total	7764	7852	7713	6931	8678	7451	8860	7875	8833	8787
Gun										
Antlered	2353	2544	2410	2114	2662	2081	2476	2188	2484	2457
Antlerless	3839	3805	3788	3267	4277	3483	4114	3671	4284	4101
Total	6192	6349	6198	5381	6939	5564	6590	5859	6768	6558
Bow										
Antlered	630	621	639	558	550	654	715	716	604	662
Antlerless	603	441	374	366	511	469	495	405	457	468
Total	1233	1062	1013	924	1061	1123	1210	1121	1061	1130
Crossbow										
Antlered	175	270	279	382	358	457	589	560	555	649
Antlerless	164	171	223	244	320	307	471	335	449	450
Total	339	441	502	626	678	764	1060	895	1004	1099
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	207	204	211	140	217	162	173	167

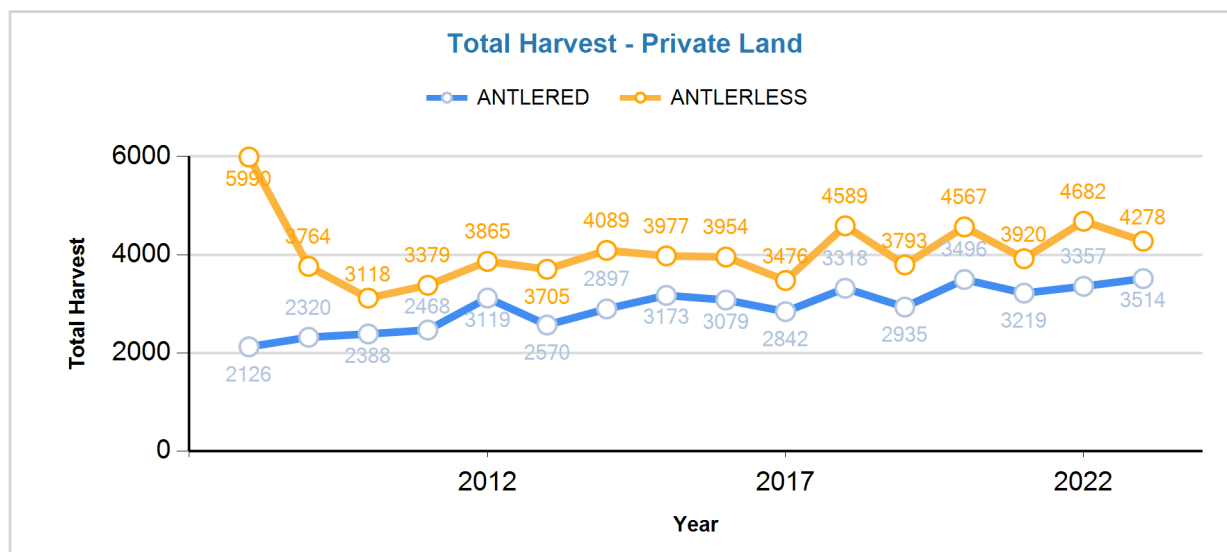
* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



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

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	2897	3173	3079	2842	3318	2935	3496	3219	3357	3514
Antlerless	4115	3977	3954	3479	4589	3793	4567	3920	4682	4278
Total	7012	7150	7033	6321	7907	6728	8063	7139	8039	7792
Gun										
Antlered	2156	2353	2236	1971	2491	1929	2308	2042	2311	2319
Antlerless	3446	3428	3442	2955	3872	3125	3759	3319	3916	3505
Total	5602	5781	5678	4926	6363	5054	6067	5361	6227	5824
Bow										
Antlered	581	567	590	526	505	591	648	658	545	596
Antlerless	527	401	330	321	442	398	421	321	378	395
Total	1108	968	920	847	947	989	1069	979	923	991
Crossbow										
Antlered	160	253	253	345	322	415	540	519	501	599
Antlerless	142	148	182	203	275	270	387	280	388	378
Total	302	401	435	548	597	685	927	799	889	977
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	188	195	194	136	206	155	166	158

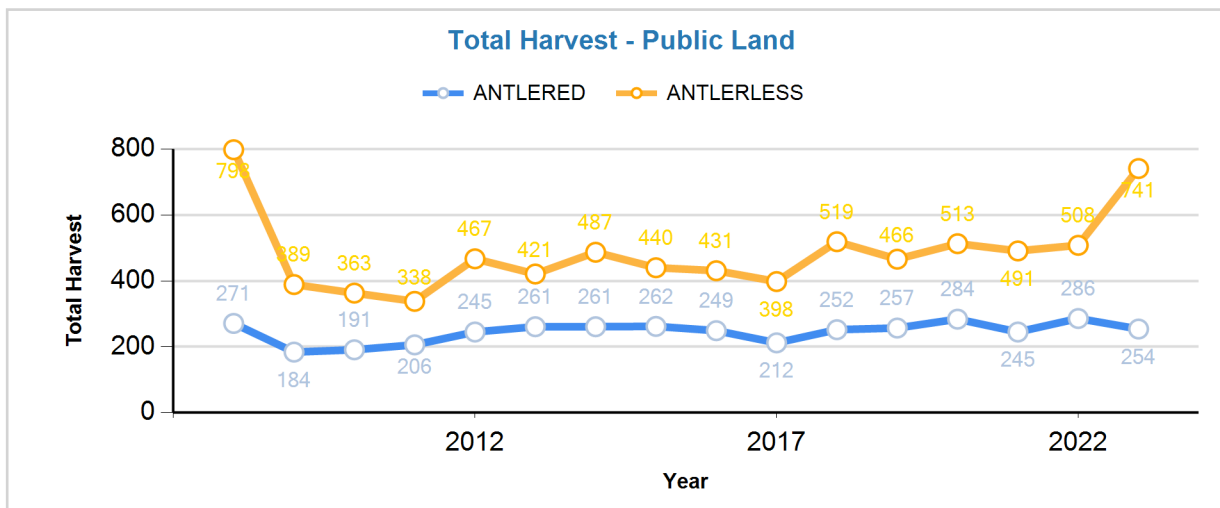
* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



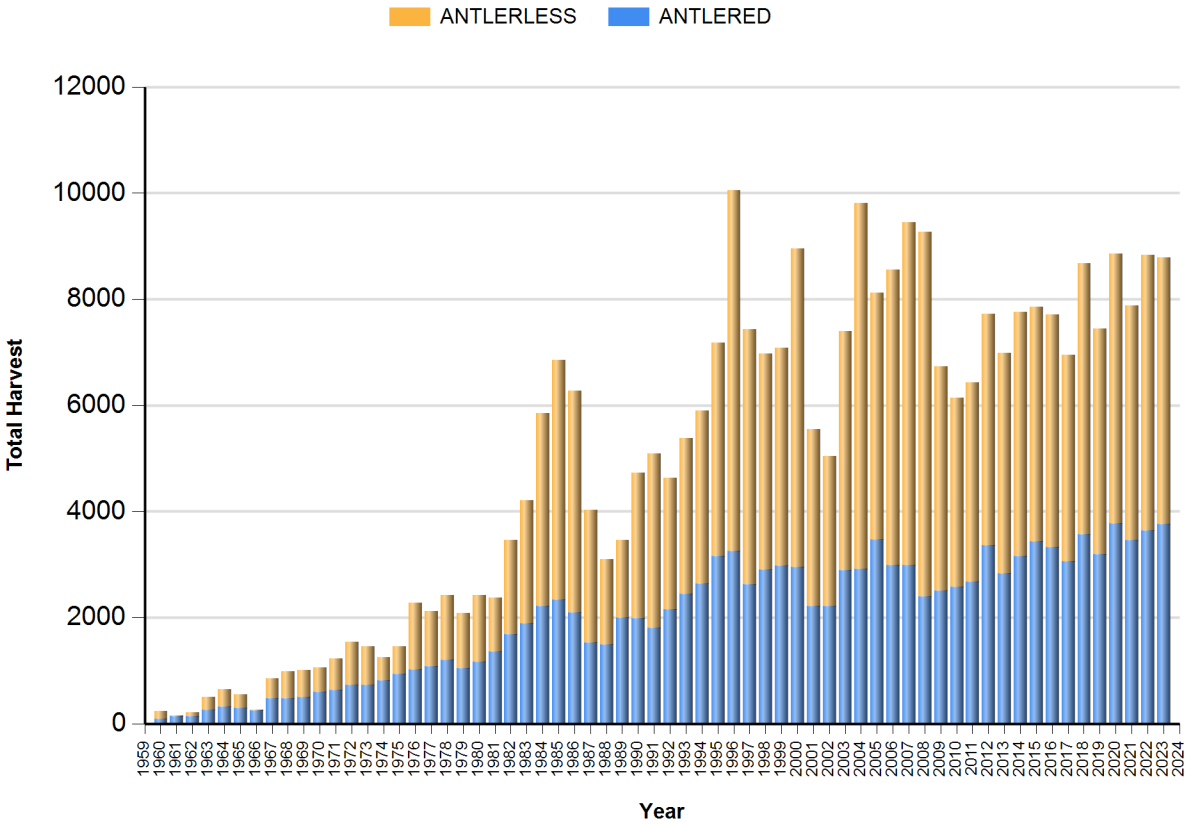
Total Harvest for Vernon County - Southern Farmland Management Zone - Public Land

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	261	262	249	212	252	257	284	245	286	254
Antlerless	491	440	431	398	519	466	513	491	508	741
Total	752	702	680	610	771	723	797	736	794	995
Gun										
Antlered	197	191	174	143	171	152	168	146	173	138
Antlerless	393	377	346	312	405	358	355	352	368	596
Total	590	568	520	455	576	510	523	498	541	734
Bow										
Antlered	49	54	49	32	45	63	67	58	59	66
Antlerless	76	40	44	45	69	71	74	84	79	73
Total	125	94	93	77	114	134	141	142	138	139
Crossbow										
Antlered	15	17	26	37	36	42	49	41	54	50
Antlerless	22	23	41	41	45	37	84	55	61	72
Total	37	40	67	78	81	79	133	96	115	122
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	19	9	17	4	11	7	7	9

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



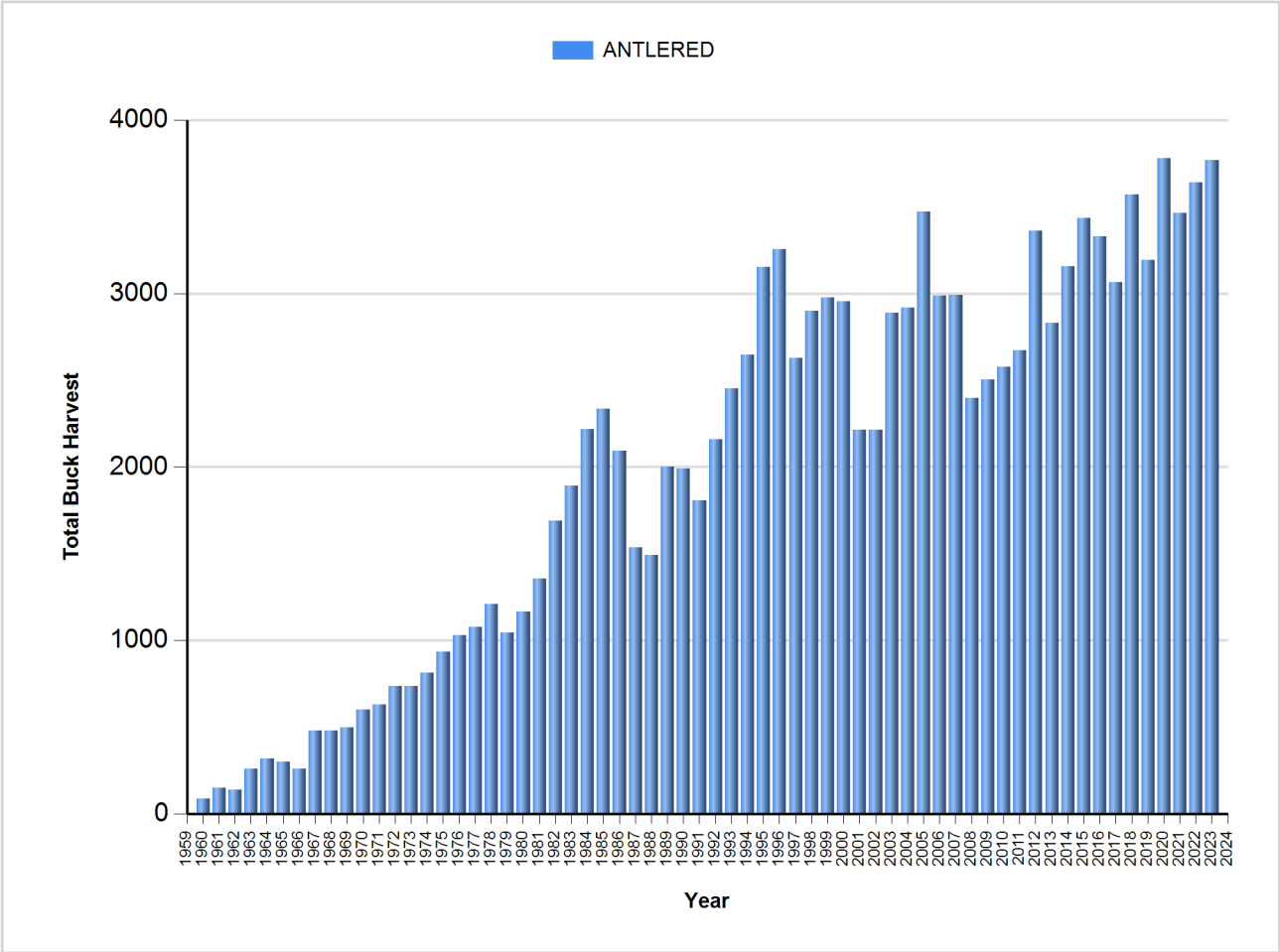
Total Deer Harvest 1960 - Present



Total Buck Harvest 1960 - Present

Historic High: 2020 - 3,780

Historic Low: 1960 - 88

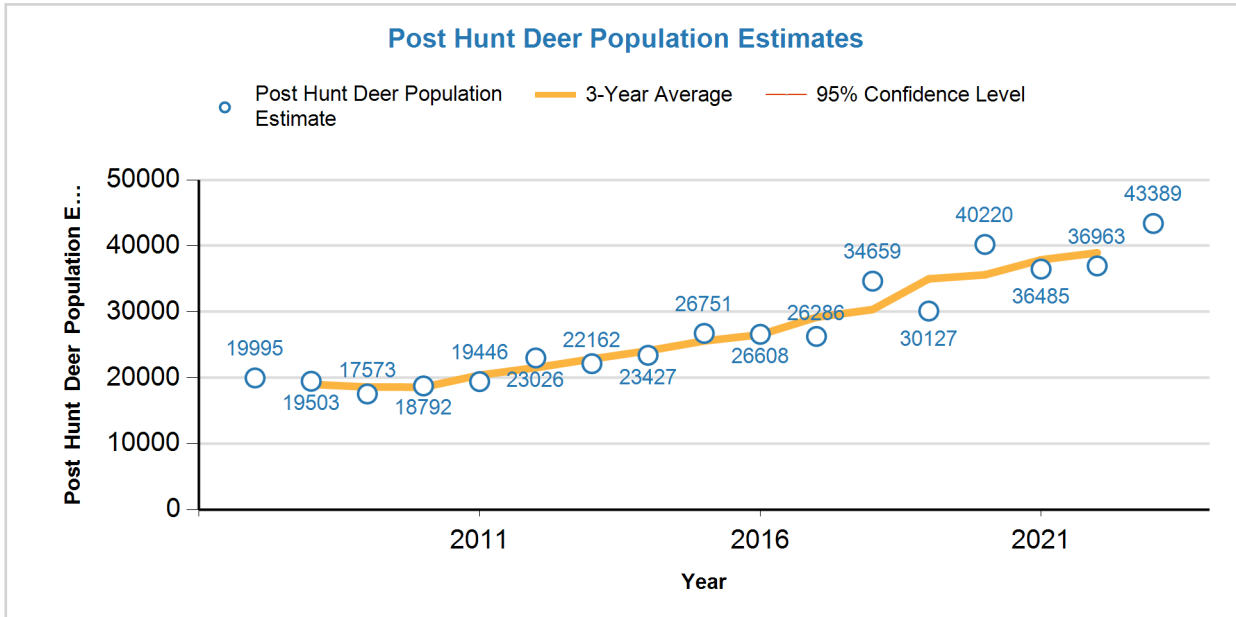


Antlerless Tag Issuance & Success for Vernon County - Southern Farmland

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
Farmland - Public				
Issued	7,722	7,931	7,661	8,042
Killed	481	460	468	509
Success Rate (%)	6.2	5.8	6.1	6.3
Farmland - Private				
Issued	39,012	39,016	38,566	39,241
Killed	4,091	3,469	4,165	4,006
Success Rate (%)	10.5	8.9	10.8	10.2
Farmland - Total				
Issued	46,734	46,947	46,227	47,283
Killed	4,572	3,929	4,633	4,515
Success Rate (%)	9.8	8.4	10.0	9.5
Bonus- Public				
Available	250	300	300	300
Issued	251	300	300	283
Killed	17	16	27	13
Success Rate (%)	6.8	5.3	9.0	4.6
Bonus- Private				
Available	1,200	1,200	1,200	2,800
Issued	691	606	595	651
Killed	103	110	121	120
Success Rate (%)	14.9	18.2	20.3	18.4
Bonus- Total				
Available	1,450	1,500	1,500	3,100
Issued	942	906	895	934
Killed	120	126	148	133
Success Rate (%)	12.7	13.9	16.5	14.2

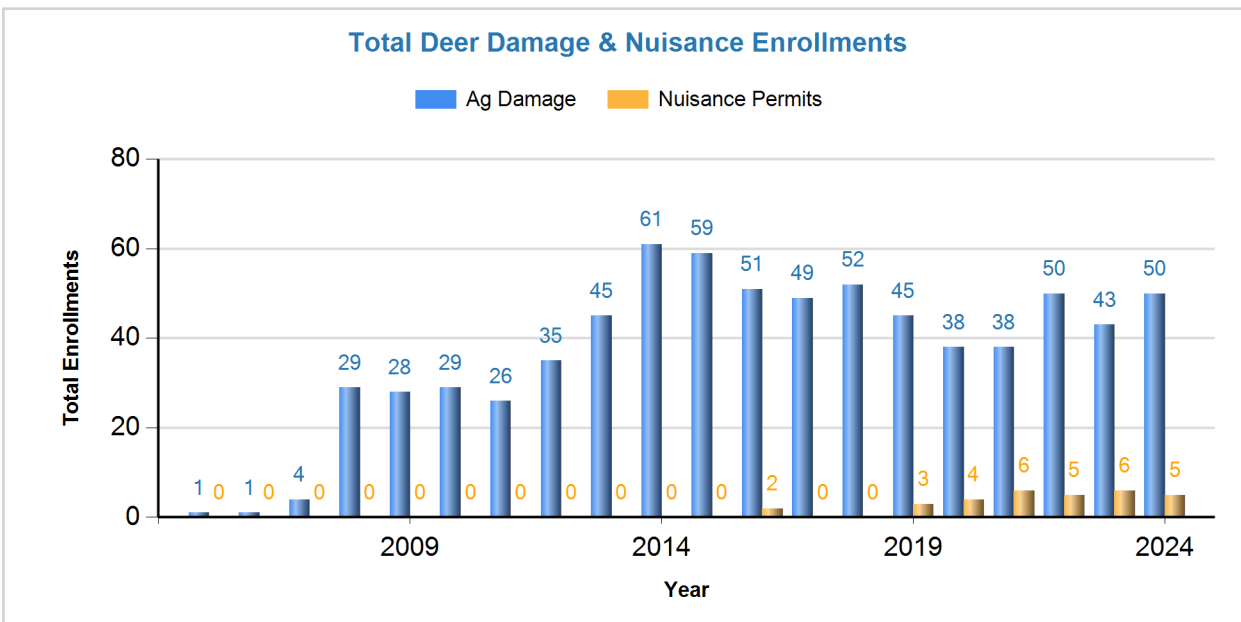
Herd Abundance

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

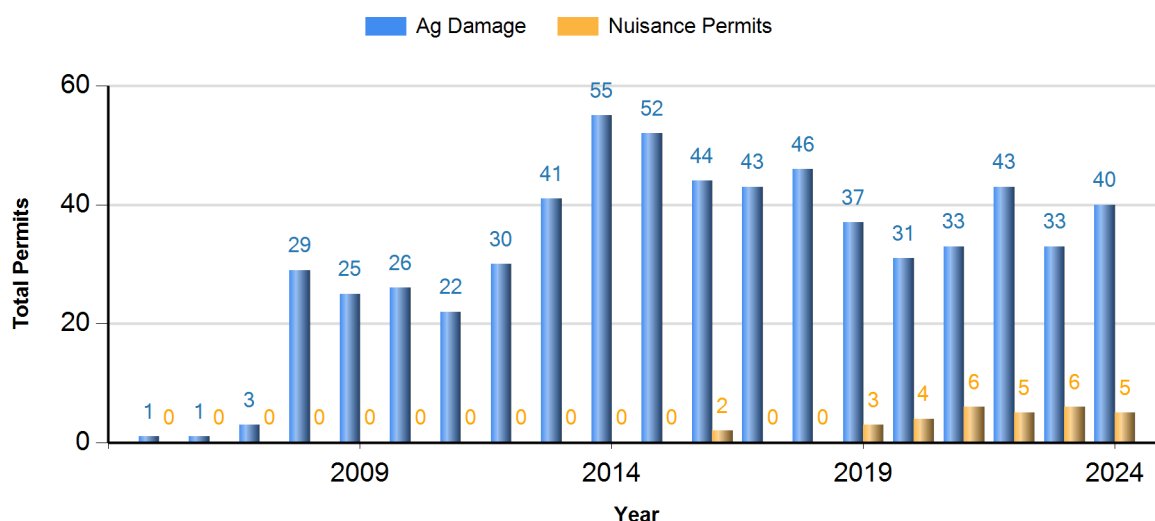


Deer Impacts – Agriculture & Nuisance Impacts

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



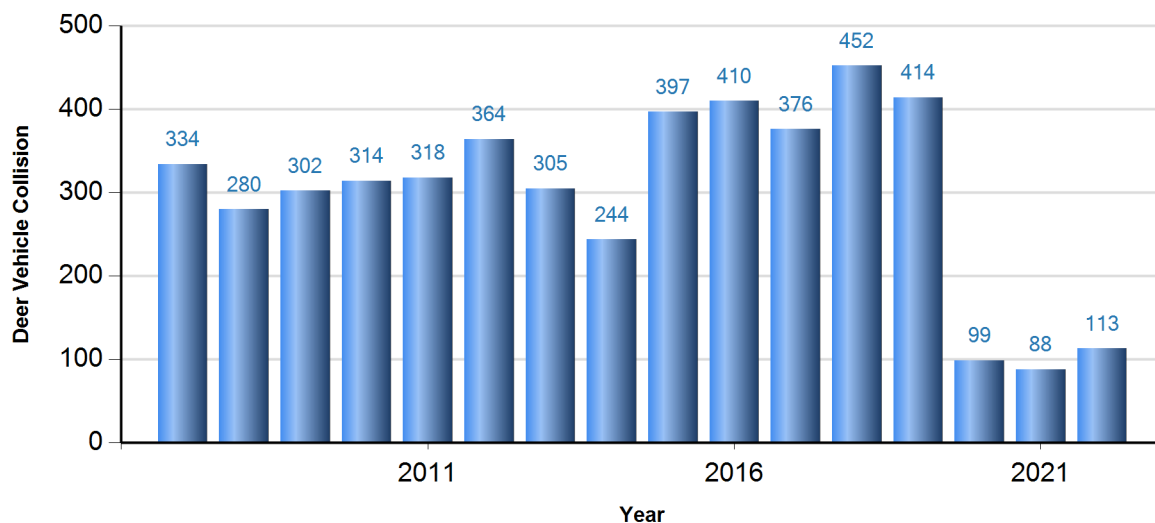
Total Deer Damage & Nuisance Shooting Permits Issued



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

