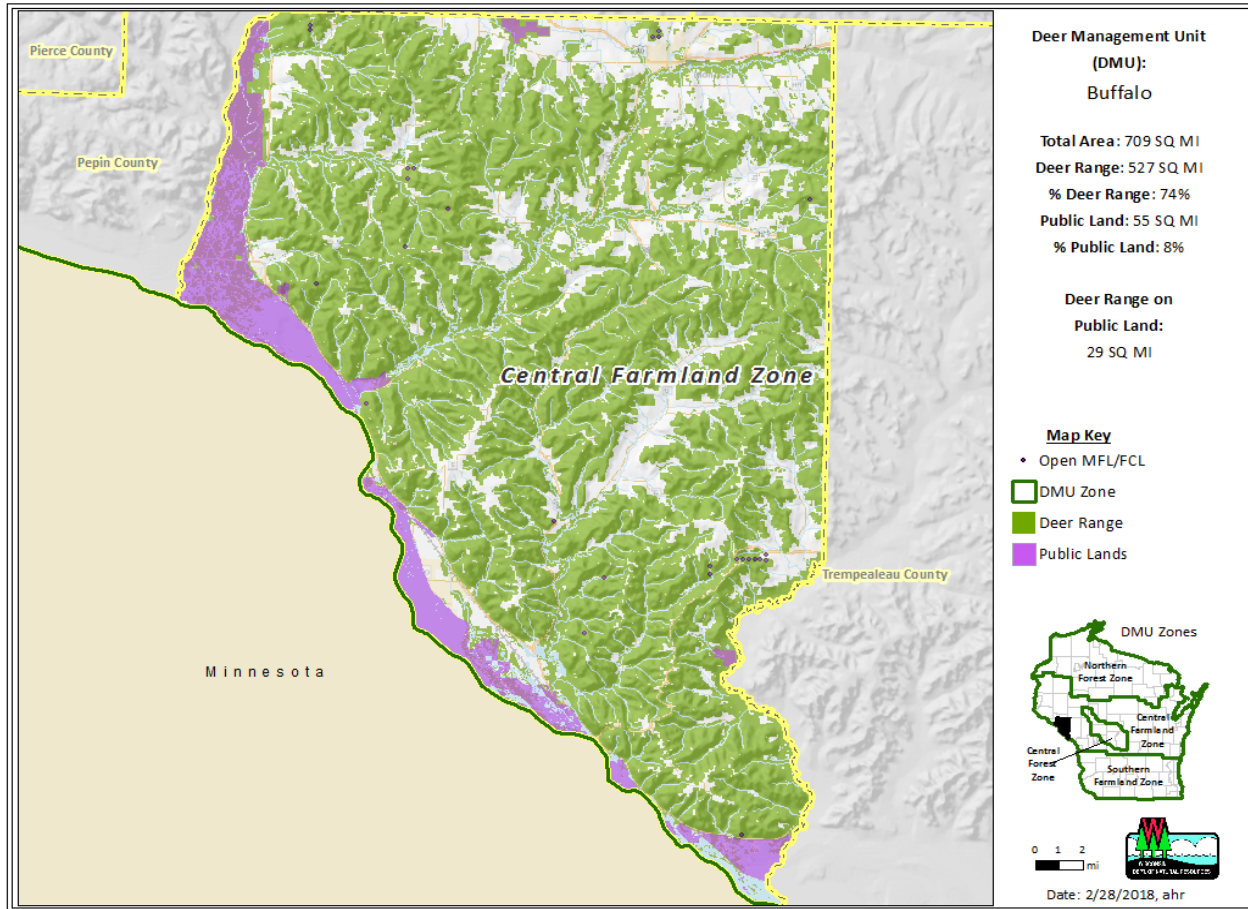


Buffalo County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Buffalo County Deer Management Unit is located in the Central Farmland Zone. Approximately 74 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. The unit is comprised of approximately 92 percent private land and 8 percent public land, with public land ownership including the Tiffany Wildlife Area and Big Swamp Wildlife Area. The unit is typical of the Driftless Area of the state, with many agricultural valleys and ridge tops and steep, heavily wooded hillsides providing ideal deer habitat. Although good deer habitat is found throughout the unit, deer are not evenly distributed across the landscape due to various factors including changes in land use, hunting techniques, and landownership changes, as well as variability in hunter selectivity. The unit has seen a steady increase in bow hunting pressure over the last 20 years due to the unit's national notoriety for producing trophy bucks. The annual harvest reflects an increasing percentage of bucks harvested during the bow season. Lower antlerless harvest rates, coupled with the deer herd's high reproductive capacity, has allowed the herd to remain at a high level. The current deer herd management objective is to maintain 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

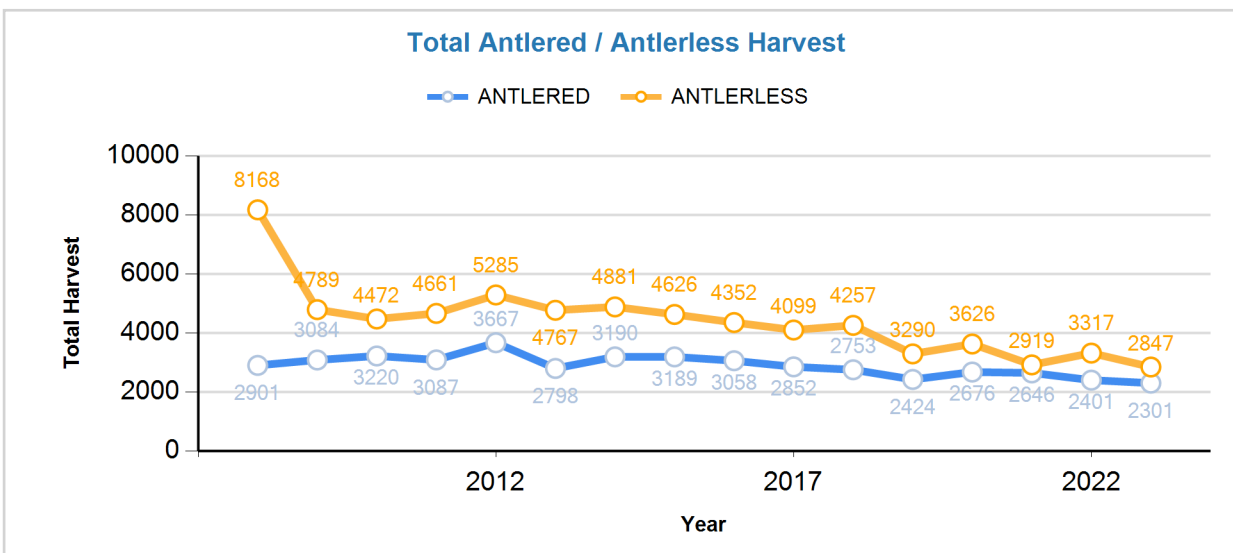
Total Area of Unit (Sq. Miles): 709.40

Deer Range of Unit (Sq. Miles): 527.60

Total Harvest for Buffalo County - Central Farmland Management Zone

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	3190	3189	3058	2852	2753	2424	2676	2646	2401	2301
Antlerless	4935	4626	4352	4099	4257	3290	3626	2919	3317	2847
Total	8125	7815	7410	6951	7010	5714	6302	5565	5718	5148
Gun										
Antlered	1958	1869	1815	1718	1735	1311	1388	1392	1411	1247
Antlerless	3857	3571	3361	3218	3388	2528	2756	2362	2640	2308
Total	5815	5440	5176	4936	5123	3839	4144	3754	4051	3555
Bow										
Antlered	923	945	817	686	589	607	678	700	477	525
Antlerless	799	722	633	527	485	419	469	303	330	247
Total	1722	1667	1450	1213	1074	1026	1147	1003	807	772
Crossbow										
Antlered	309	375	426	448	429	506	610	554	513	529
Antlerless	279	333	358	354	384	343	401	254	347	292
Total	588	708	784	802	813	849	1011	808	860	821
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	234	200	198	137	152	128	118	95

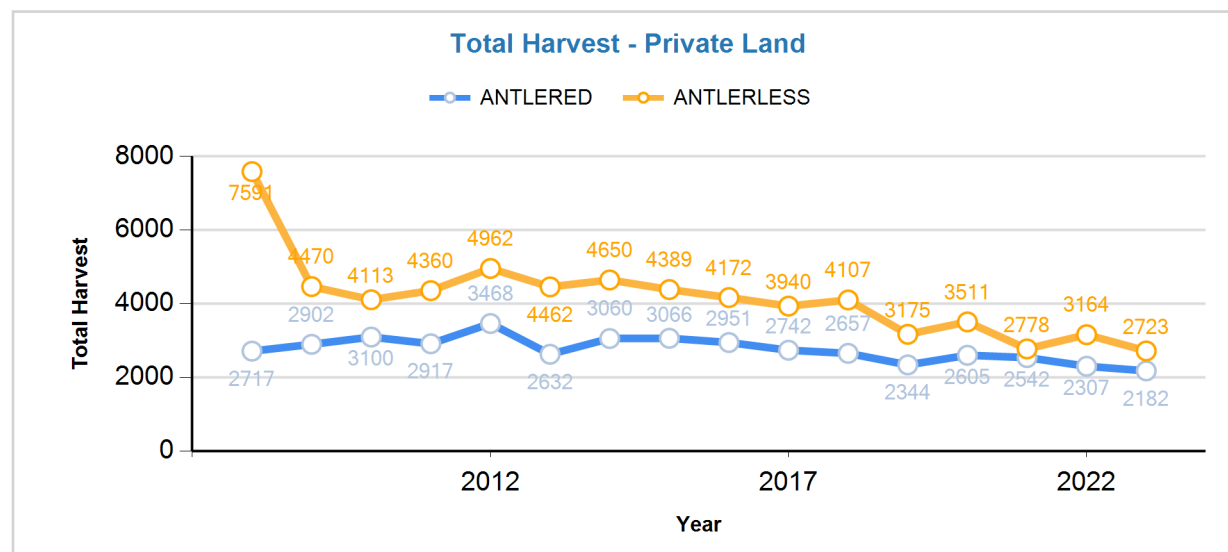
* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



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

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	3060	3066	2951	2742	2657	2344	2605	2542	2307	2182
Antlerless	4701	4389	4172	3940	4107	3175	3511	2778	3164	2723
Total	7761	7455	7123	6682	6764	5519	6116	5320	5471	4905
Gun										
Antlered	1870	1794	1744	1656	1675	1274	1343	1334	1354	1175
Antlerless	3666	3393	3225	3097	3286	2445	2672	2254	2525	2219
Total	5536	5187	4969	4753	4961	3719	4015	3588	3879	3394
Bow										
Antlered	894	907	793	658	565	581	660	669	453	492
Antlerless	768	685	603	502	462	399	450	289	311	233
Total	1662	1592	1396	1160	1027	980	1110	958	764	725
Crossbow										
Antlered	296	365	414	428	417	489	602	539	500	515
Antlerless	267	311	344	341	359	331	389	235	328	271
Total	563	676	758	769	776	820	991	774	828	786
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	229	195	197	134	152	126	115	94

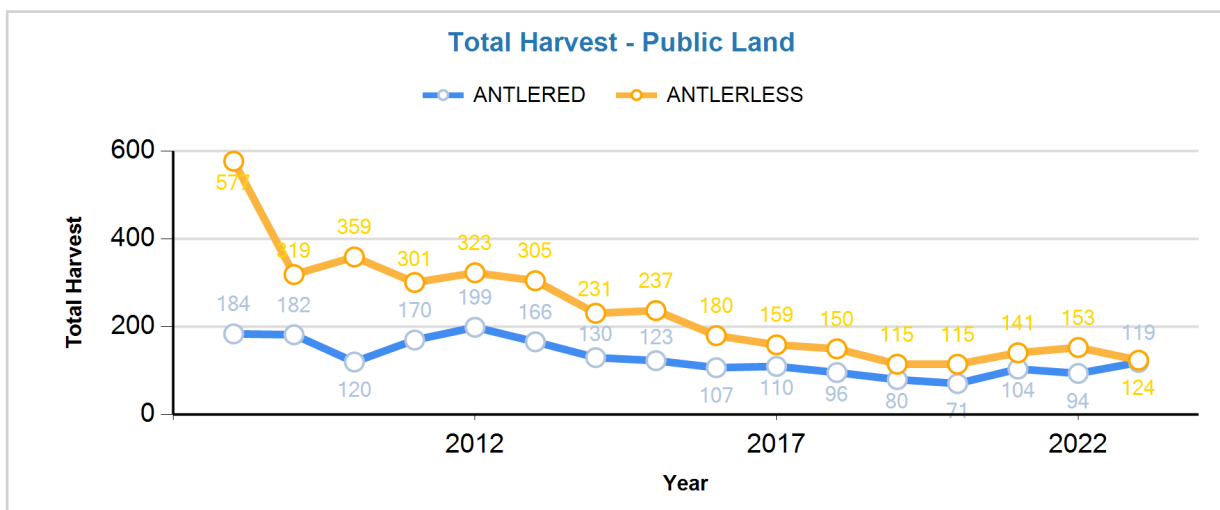
* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



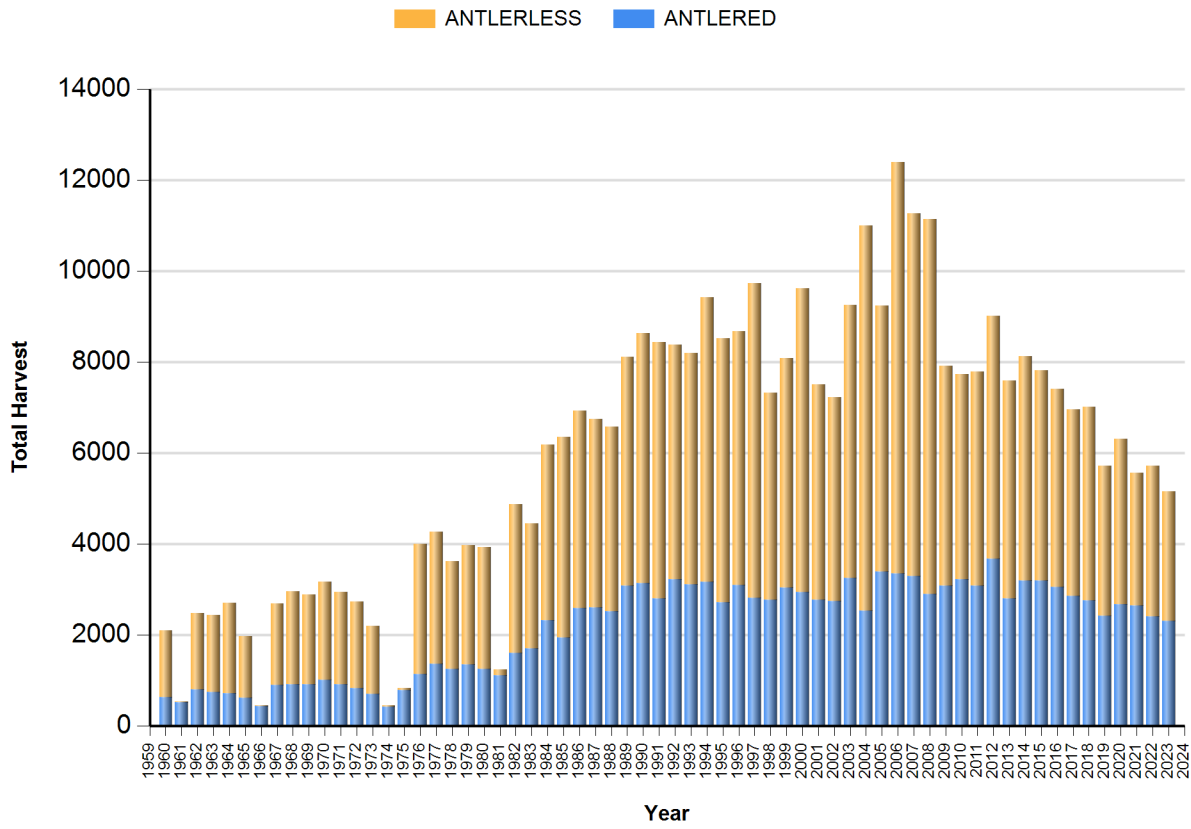
Total Harvest for Buffalo County - Central Farmland Management Zone - Public Land

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	130	123	107	110	96	80	71	104	94	119
Antlerless	234	237	180	159	150	115	115	141	153	124
Total	364	360	287	269	246	195	186	245	247	243
Gun										
Antlered	88	75	71	62	60	37	45	58	57	72
Antlerless	191	178	136	121	102	83	84	108	115	89
Total	279	253	207	183	162	120	129	166	172	161
Bow										
Antlered	29	38	24	28	24	26	18	31	24	33
Antlerless	31	37	30	25	23	20	19	14	19	14
Total	60	75	54	53	47	46	37	45	43	47
Crossbow										
Antlered	13	10	12	20	12	17	8	15	13	14
Antlerless	12	22	14	13	25	12	12	19	19	21
Total	25	32	26	33	37	29	20	34	32	35
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	5	5	1	3	0	2	3	1

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



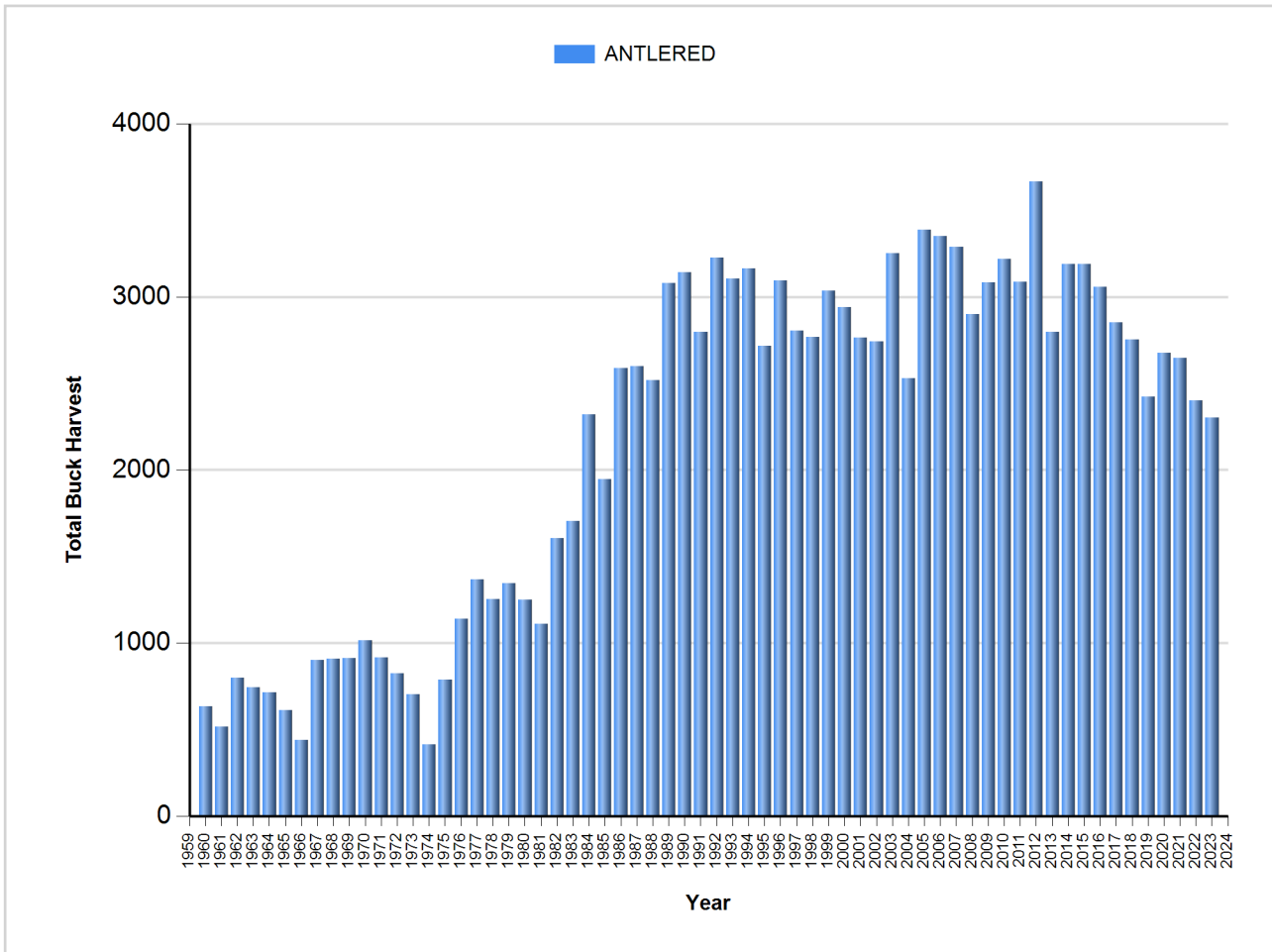
Total Deer Harvest 1960 - Present



Total Buck Harvest 1960 - Present

Historic High: 2012 - 3,667

Historic Low: 1974 - 412

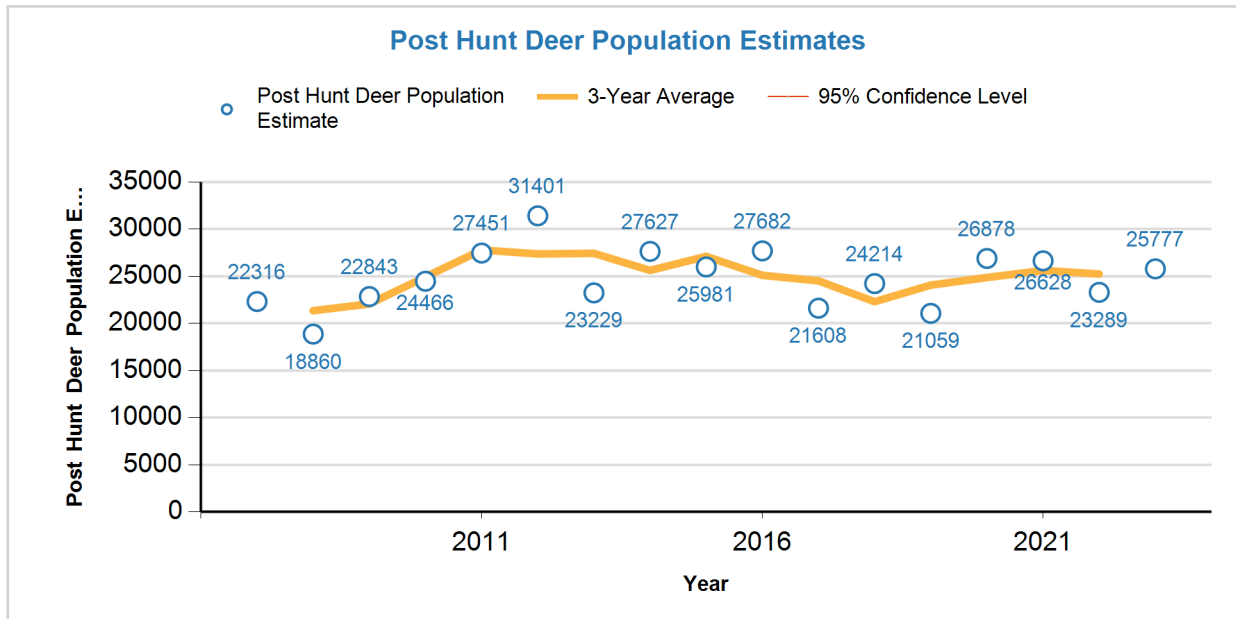


Antlerless Tag Issuance & Success for Buffalo County - Central Farmland

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
Farmland - Public				
Issued	2,843	2,796	2,781	2,941
Killed	98	124	136	109
Success Rate (%)	3.4	4.4	4.9	3.7
Farmland - Private				
Issued	34,007	32,910	31,650	31,208
Killed	3,210	2,515	2,852	2,475
Success Rate (%)	9.4	7.6	9.0	7.9
Farmland - Total				
Issued	36,850	35,706	34,431	34,149
Killed	3,308	2,639	2,988	2,584
Success Rate (%)	9.0	7.4	8.7	7.6
Bonus- Public				
Available	250	175	175	175
Issued	143	162	117	158
Killed	11	14	11	10
Success Rate (%)	7.7	8.6	9.4	6.3
Bonus- Private				
Available	1,500	1,000	750	750
Issued	619	581	591	553
Killed	93	79	105	97
Success Rate (%)	15.0	13.6	17.8	17.5
Bonus- Total				
Available	1,750	1,175	925	925
Issued	762	743	708	711
Killed	104	93	116	107
Success Rate (%)	13.6	12.5	16.4	15.0

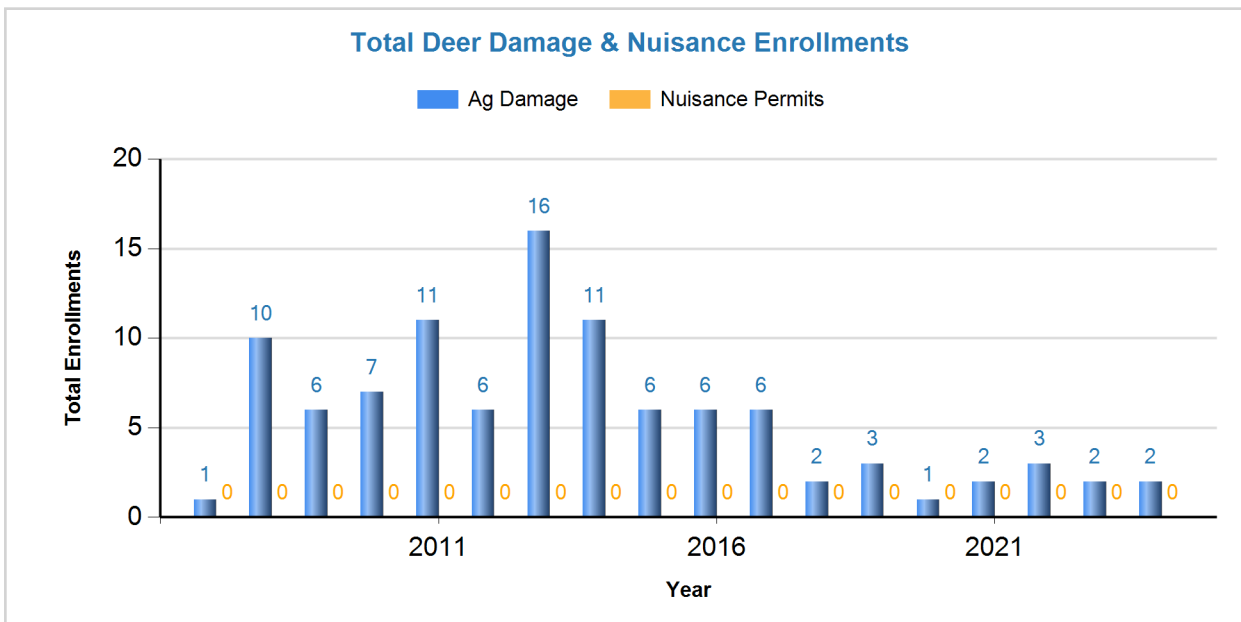
Herd Abundance

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

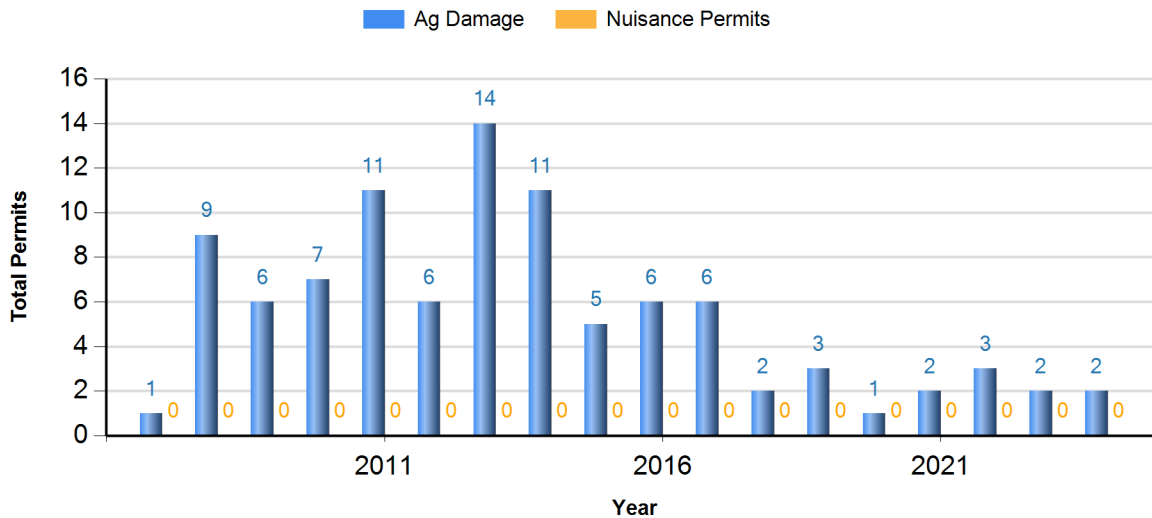


Deer Impacts – Agriculture & Nuisance Impacts

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



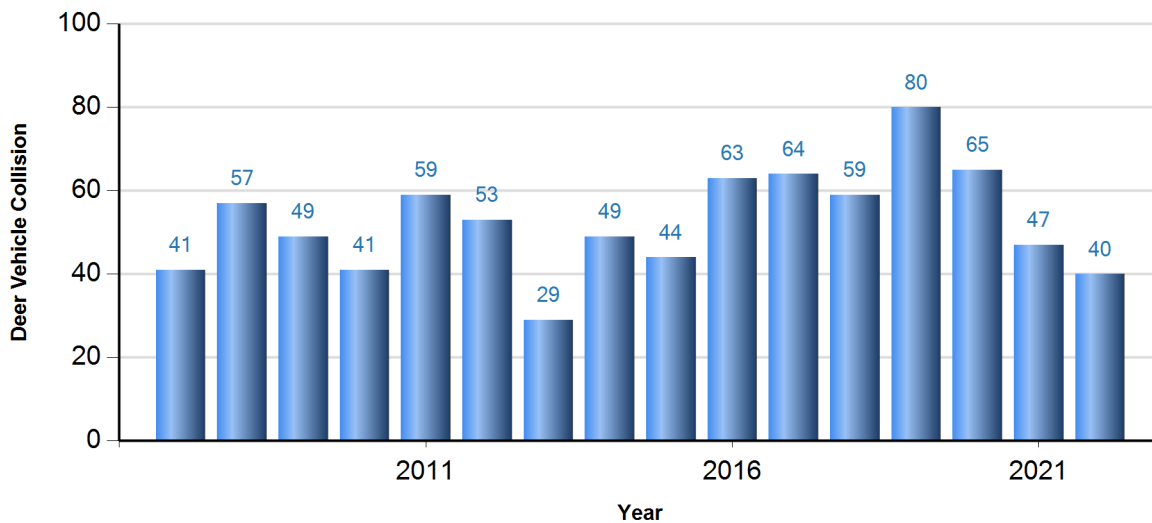
Total Deer Damage & Nuisance Shooting Permits Issued



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

