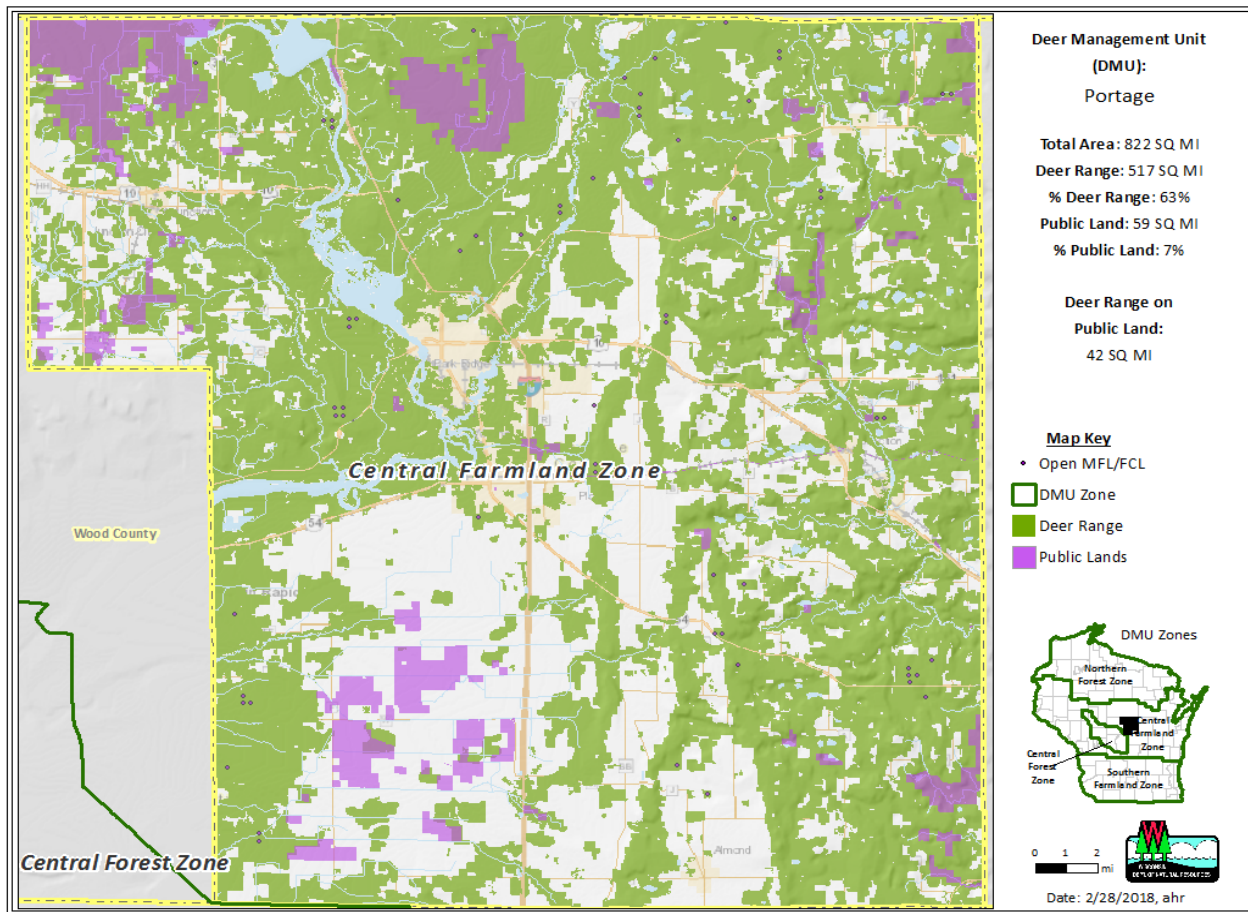


Portage County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Portage County Deer Management Unit is located in the Central Farmland Zone. Approximately 63 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. Habitat varies considerably from rolling moraines with dairy production and center-pivot irrigated agriculture in the eastern and southern portions of the unit, to flat, sandy plains in the central and southwestern portions, and to the gently rolling topography with numerous floodplains and wetlands in the northwestern portion. Such diverse habitats result in great differences in deer distribution throughout the unit. There are numerous public land hunting opportunities available with nearly 36,000 acres of land open. These public lands include George W. Mead Wildlife Area, Dewey Wildlife Area and Paul J. Olson Wildlife Area in the northwest; Buena Vista Wildlife Area in the southwest; Emmons Creek Fishery Area, Radley Creek Fishery Area, Hartman Creek State Park and Pickerel Lake State Natural Area in the southeast; and Peterson-Sannes Creek Fishery Area, Richard Hemp Fishery Area, Little Wolf Fishery Area and New Hope Pines State Natural Area in the northeast. The county-owned Wisconsin River Recreation Area north of the city of Stevens Point and the Becker Lake Recreation Area north of Ellis are also managed as public hunting areas. 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.

Central Farmland Management Zone

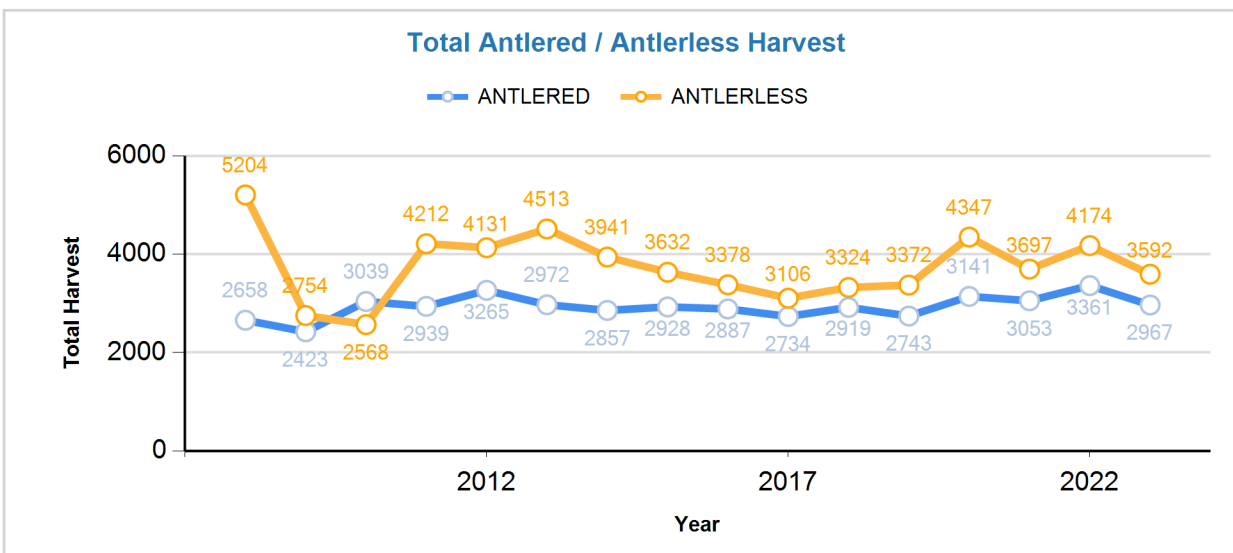
Total Area of Unit (Sq. Miles): 822.10

Deer Range of Unit (Sq. Miles): 517.10

Total Harvest for Portage County - Central Farmland Management Zone

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	2857	2928	2887	2734	2919	2743	3141	3053	3361	2967
Antlerless	3965	3632	3378	3107	3324	3372	4347	3697	4174	3592
Total	6822	6560	6265	5841	6243	6115	7488	6750	7535	6559
Gun										
Antlered	1998	1950	1988	1843	2104	1790	1965	1914	2277	1979
Antlerless	3160	2880	2678	2408	2640	2517	3260	2765	3239	2745
Total	5158	4830	4666	4251	4744	4307	5225	4679	5516	4724
Bow										
Antlered	558	576	478	440	378	403	495	435	421	389
Antlerless	535	456	361	337	327	397	455	361	372	350
Total	1093	1032	839	777	705	800	950	796	793	739
Crossbow										
Antlered	301	402	421	451	437	550	681	704	663	599
Antlerless	270	296	339	362	357	458	632	571	563	497
Total	571	698	760	813	794	1008	1313	1275	1226	1096
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	203	183	207	149	190	132	169	146

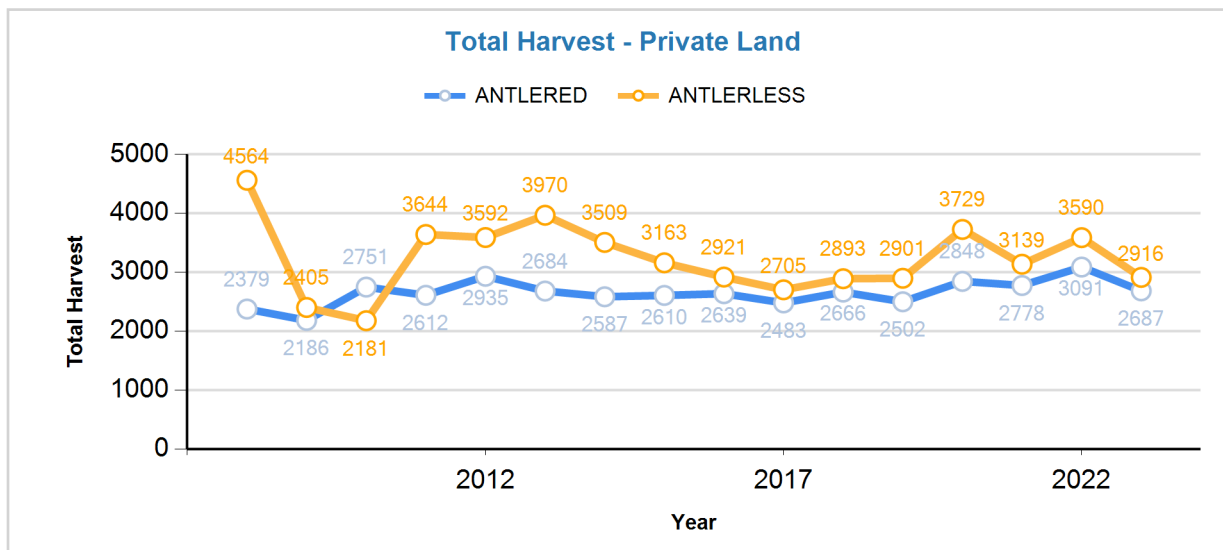
* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



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

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	2587	2610	2639	2483	2666	2502	2848	2778	3091	2687
Antlerless	3531	3163	2921	2706	2893	2901	3729	3139	3590	2916
Total	6118	5773	5560	5189	5559	5403	6577	5917	6681	5603
Gun										
Antlered	1827	1769	1842	1690	1938	1646	1800	1750	2117	1817
Antlerless	2839	2531	2355	2123	2332	2203	2824	2382	2818	2236
Total	4666	4300	4197	3813	4270	3849	4624	4132	4935	4053
Bow										
Antlered	488	477	416	370	324	346	424	372	357	330
Antlerless	449	378	286	282	264	297	353	278	288	255
Total	937	855	702	652	588	643	777	650	645	585
Crossbow										
Antlered	272	364	381	423	404	510	624	656	617	540
Antlerless	243	254	280	301	297	401	552	479	484	425
Total	515	618	661	724	701	911	1176	1135	1101	965
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	181	167	184	141	173	124	155	138

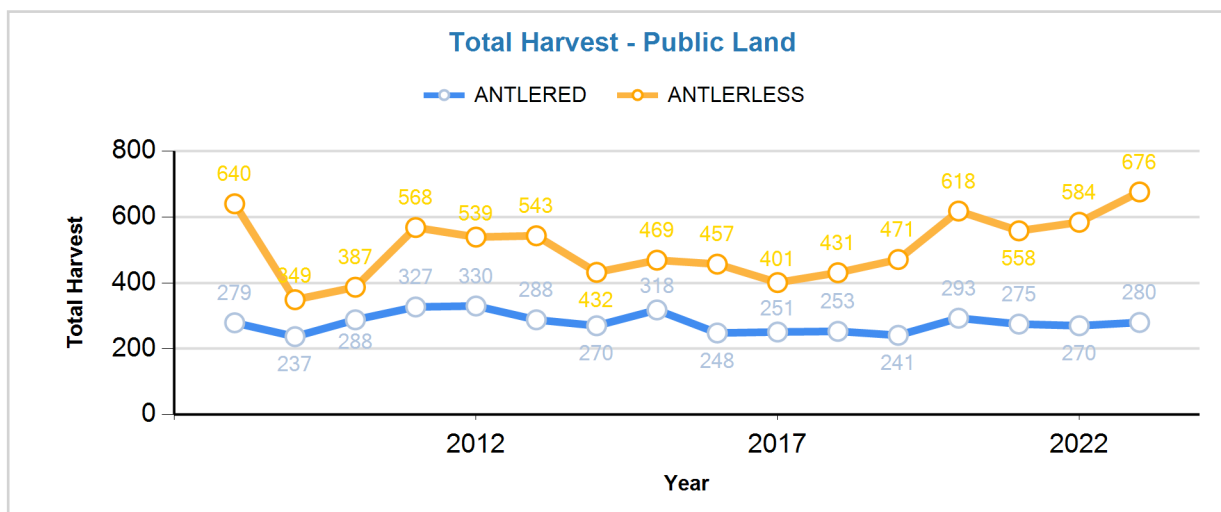
* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



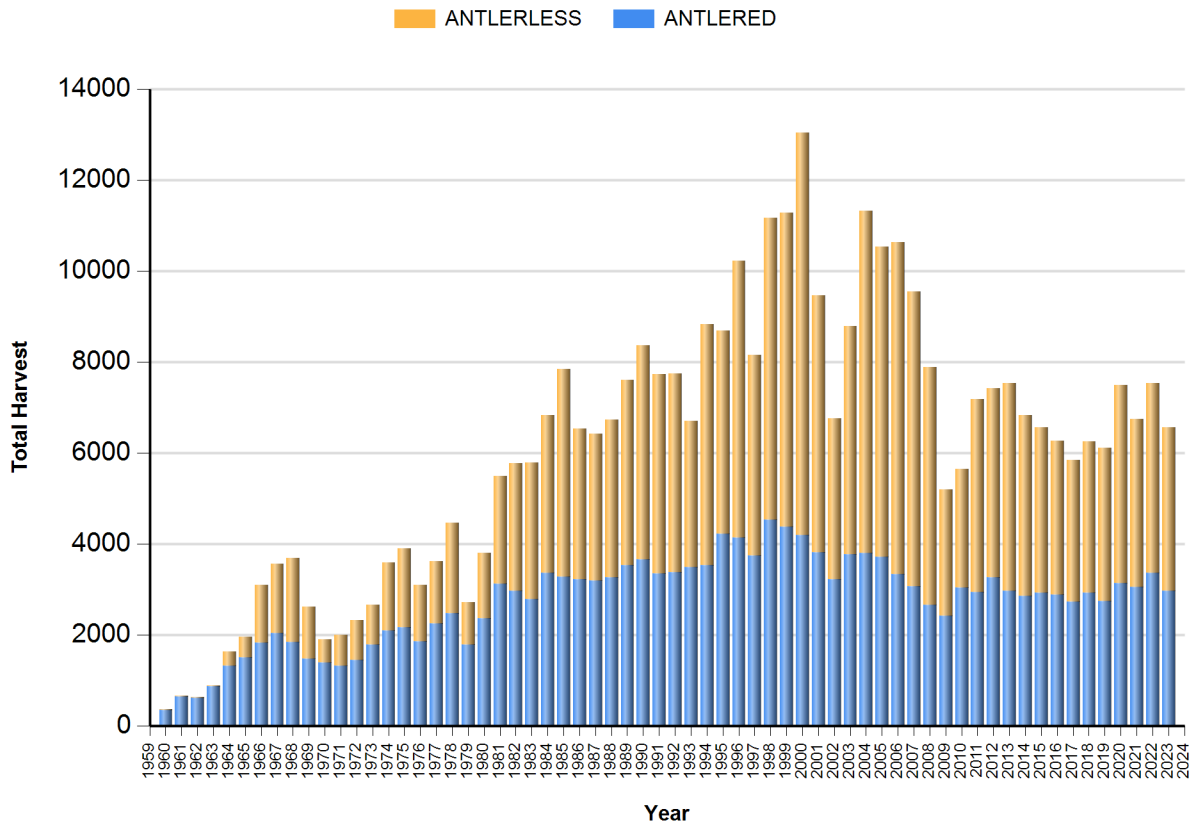
Total Harvest for Portage County - Central Farmland Management Zone - Public Land

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	270	318	248	251	253	241	293	275	270	280
Antlerless	434	469	457	401	431	471	618	558	584	676
Total	704	787	705	652	684	712	911	833	854	956
Gun										
Antlered	171	181	146	153	166	144	165	164	160	162
Antlerless	321	349	323	285	308	314	436	383	421	509
Total	492	530	469	438	474	458	601	547	581	671
Bow										
Antlered	70	99	62	70	54	57	71	63	64	59
Antlerless	86	78	75	55	63	100	102	83	84	95
Total	156	177	137	125	117	157	173	146	148	154
Crossbow										
Antlered	29	38	40	28	33	40	57	48	46	59
Antlerless	27	42	59	61	60	57	80	92	79	72
Total	56	80	99	89	93	97	137	140	125	131
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	22	16	23	8	17	8	14	8

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



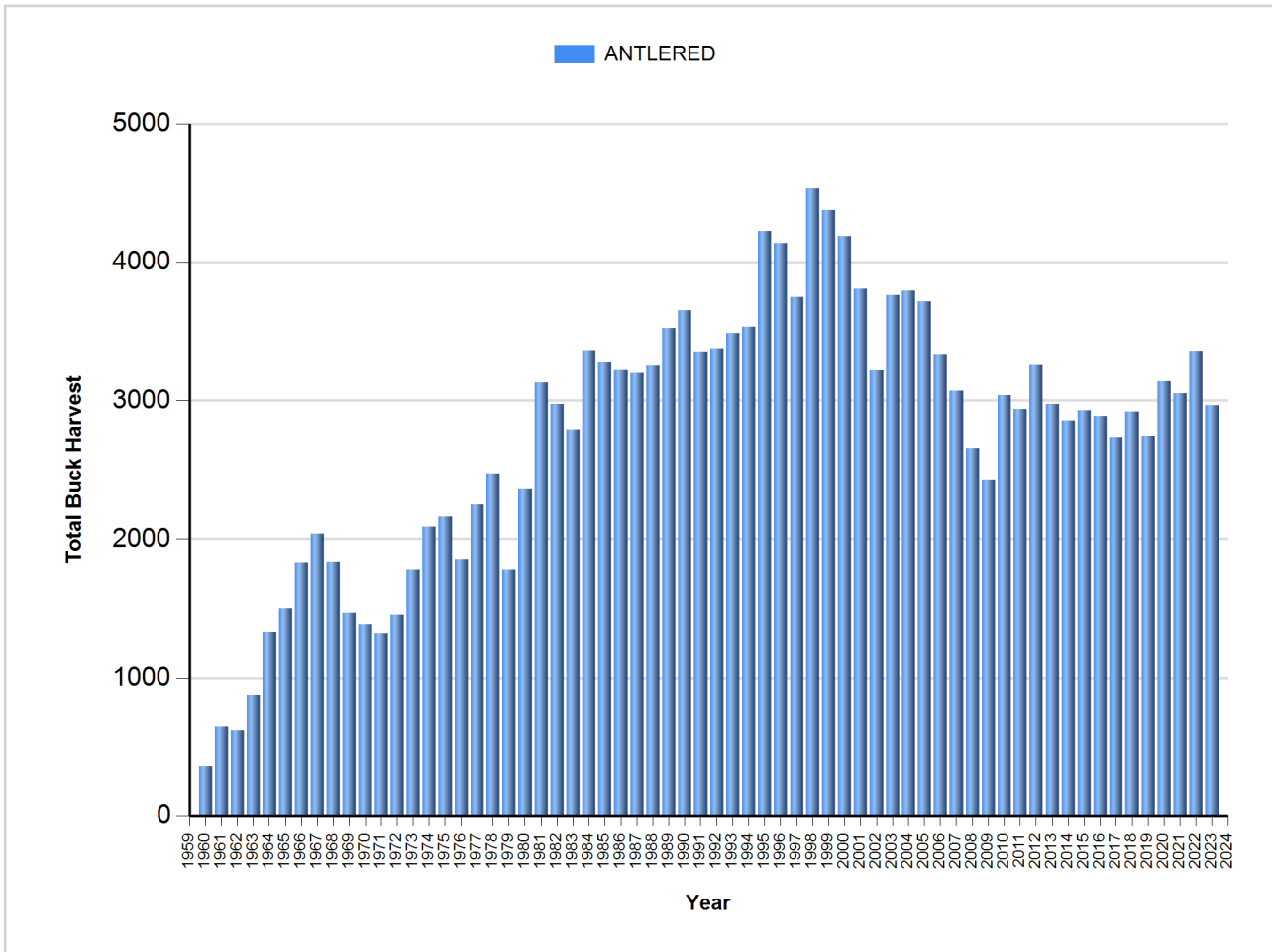
Total Deer Harvest 1960 - Present



Total Buck Harvest 1960 - Present

Historic High: 1998 - 4,534

Historic Low: 1960 - 360

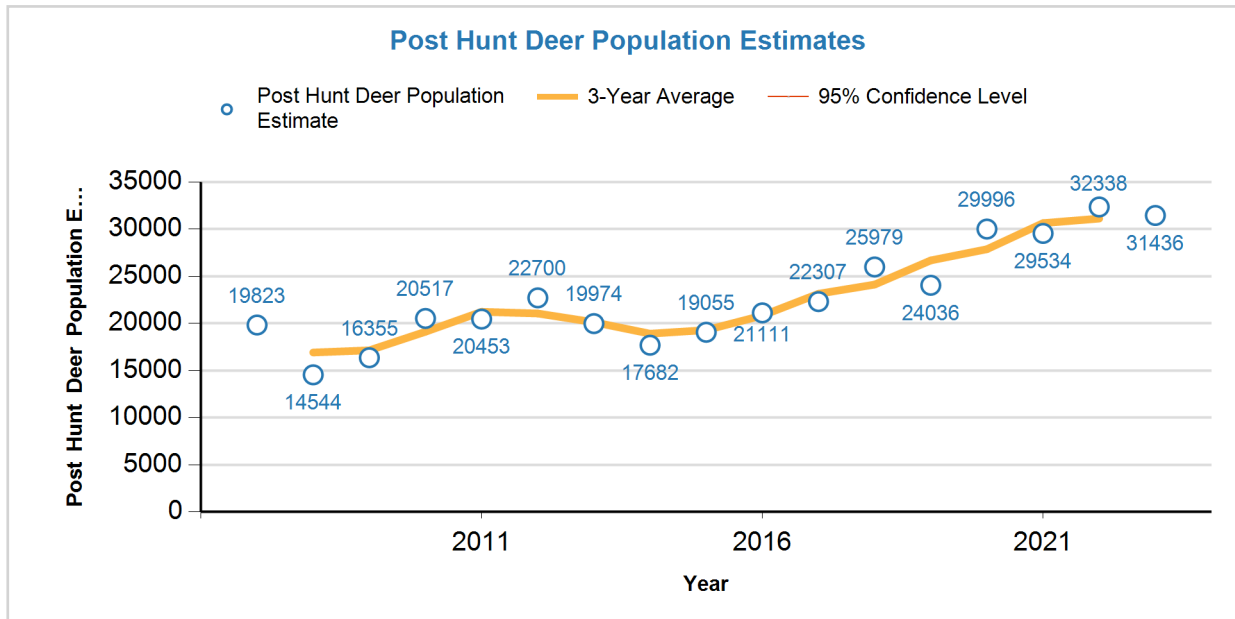


Antlerless Tag Issuance & Success for Portage County - Central Farmland

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
Farmland - Public				
Issued	7,231	7,283	7,125	7,361
Killed	551	492	510	475
Success Rate (%)	7.6	6.8	7.2	6.5
Farmland - Private				
Issued	25,789	24,999	24,909	25,001
Killed	3,233	2,688	3,060	2,622
Success Rate (%)	12.5	10.8	12.3	10.5
Farmland - Total				
Issued	33,020	32,282	32,034	32,362
Killed	3,784	3,180	3,570	3,097
Success Rate (%)	11.5	9.9	11.1	9.6
Bonus- Public				
Available	325	400	400	400
Issued	326	400	399	400
Killed	42	50	56	37
Success Rate (%)	12.9	12.5	14.0	9.3
Bonus- Private				
Available	1,200	5,450	5,450	5,450
Issued	1,042	926	936	970
Killed	186	169	185	174
Success Rate (%)	17.9	18.3	19.8	17.9
Bonus- Total				
Available	1,525	5,850	5,850	5,850
Issued	1,368	1,326	1,335	1,370
Killed	228	219	241	211
Success Rate (%)	16.7	16.5	18.1	15.4

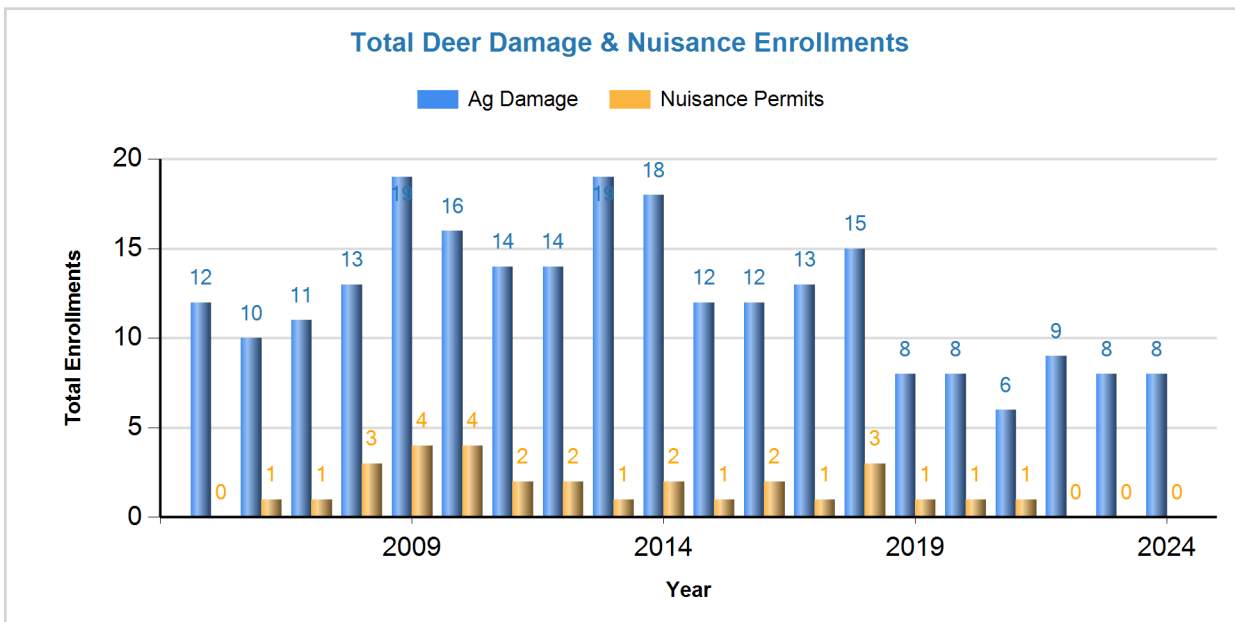
Herd Abundance

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

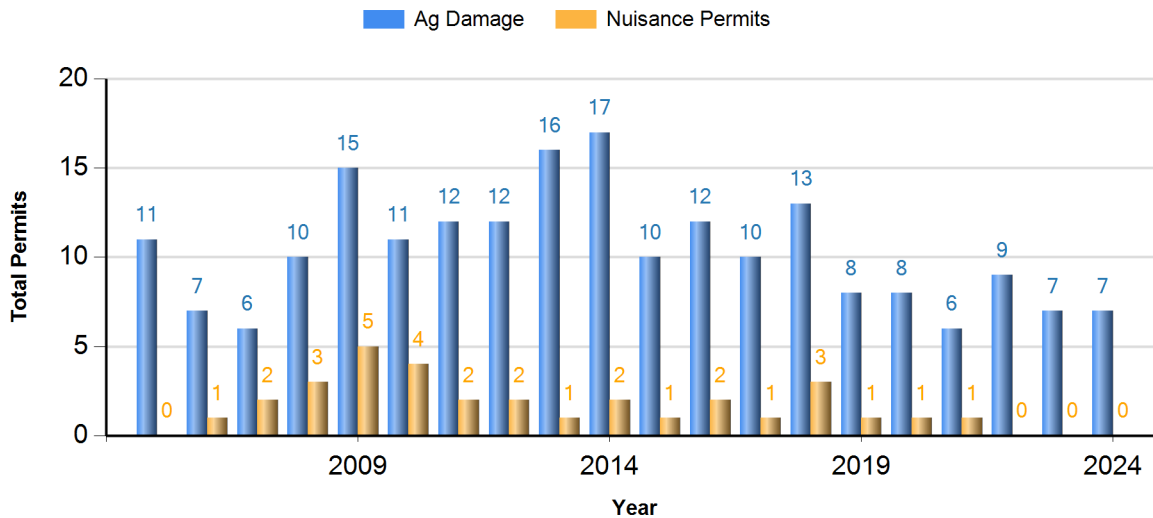


Deer Impacts – Agriculture & Nuisance Impacts

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



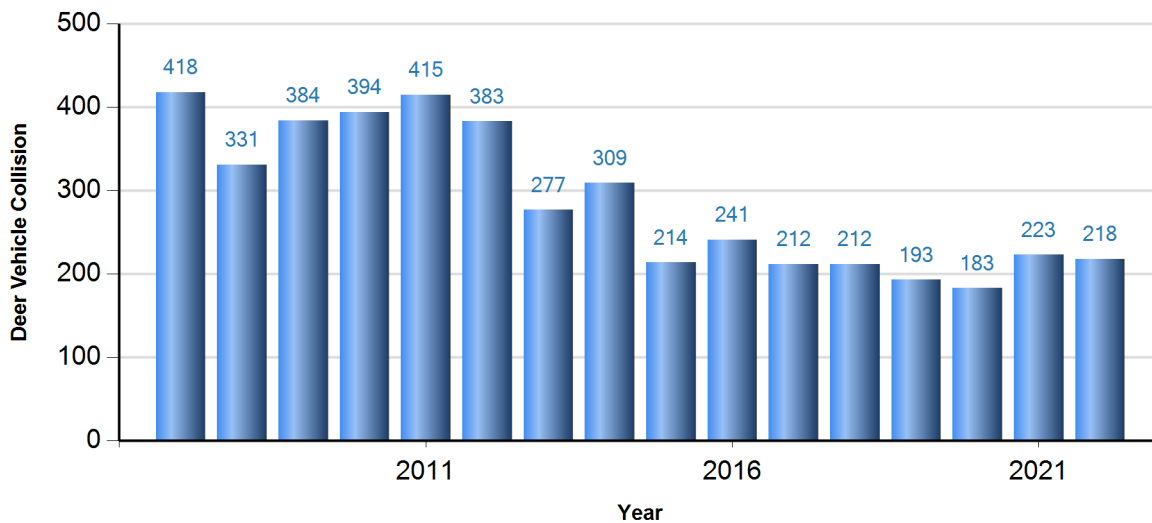
Total Deer Damage & Nuisance Shooting Permits Issued



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

