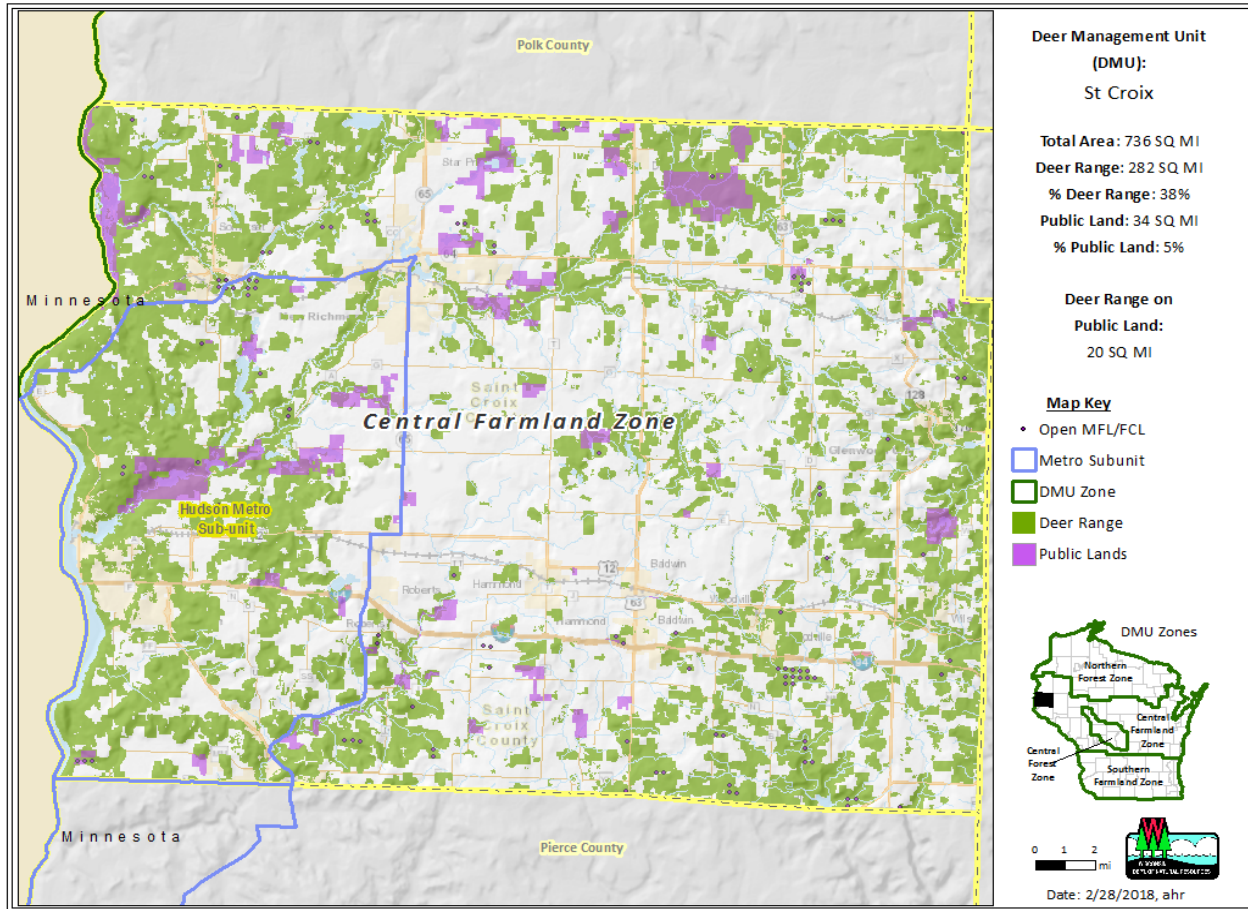


St. Croix County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The St. Croix Deer Management Unit is located in the Central Farmland Zone. Approximately 38 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range (283 square miles). The predominant land-use in the unit is agriculture. Deer range is scattered throughout the unit and not evenly distributed. Suitable habitat is comprised of broken mixed-hardwood woodlots, wooded riverine systems including the Apple, Willow and St. Croix Rivers and scattered grassland and wetlands. The topography is dominated by flat agricultural lands in the central portion, extensive river bluffs along the St. Croix River in the west and wooded ridges with agriculture in the valleys in the far eastern portion. The southwest portion contains the Hudson Metro subunit which is a large urban interface with large growing communities influenced by the Twin Cities in Minnesota. This area provides additional hunting opportunities unique to Metro subunits. The vast majority of land in the county is in private landownership (~95%). Public hunting opportunities exist on over 8,500 acres of state-owned lands including the Cylon Wildlife Area, St. Croix County Islands Wildlife Area, small scattered fish and wildlife areas associated with the Western Prairie Habitat Restoration Area and ~4,000 acres of grassland-wetland habitat on St. Croix Wetland Management District properties. The Willow River State Park is located within the Hudson Metro subunit, providing public hunting access during the extended opportunities for Metro subunits. There are also over 3,000 acres enrolled in the Voluntary Public Access program providing public access to private lands. Hunter densities on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season average 19 hunters per square mile of deer range with an average harvest of 14 deer harvested per square mile of deer range. The general deer population trend in the county has been increasing. 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

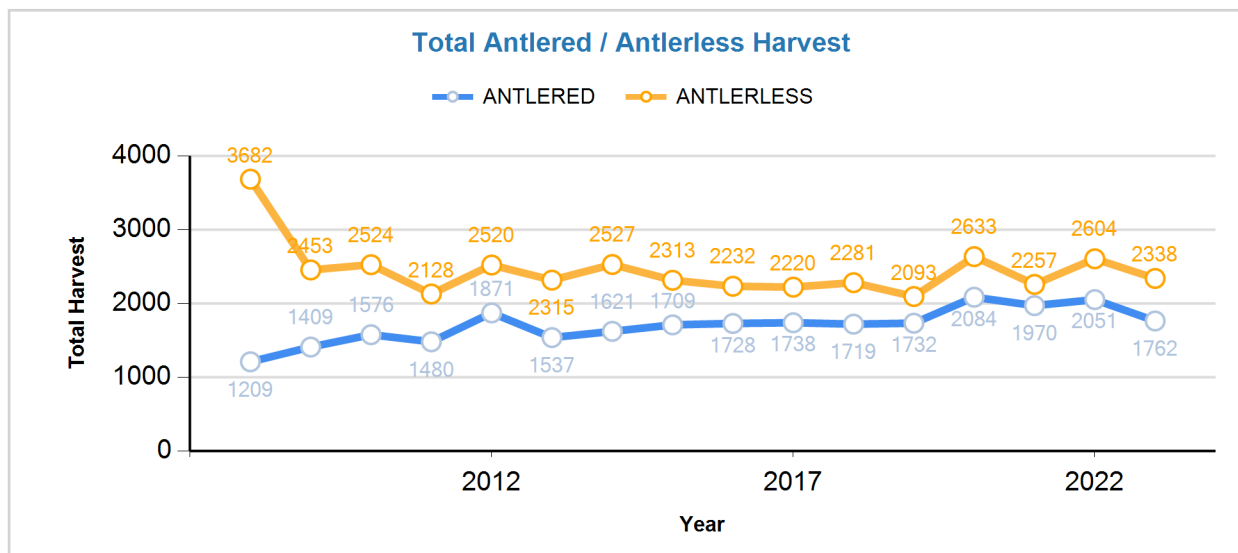
Total Area of Unit (Sq. Miles): 736.00

Deer Range of Unit (Sq. Miles): 282.60

Total Harvest for St. Croix County - Central Farmland Management Zone

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	1621	1709	1728	1738	1719	1732	2084	1970	2051	1762
Antlerless	2543	2313	2232	2220	2281	2093	2633	2257	2604	2338
Total	4164	4022	3960	3958	4000	3825	4717	4227	4655	4100
Gun										
Antlered	1025	1039	1075	1067	1077	952	1048	1006	1173	1008
Antlerless	1883	1730	1622	1577	1578	1375	1672	1521	1813	1663
Total	2908	2769	2697	2644	2655	2327	2720	2527	2986	2671
Bow										
Antlered	441	440	401	398	347	380	474	434	359	336
Antlerless	517	410	411	364	395	340	439	320	336	300
Total	958	850	812	762	742	720	913	754	695	636
Crossbow										
Antlered	154	230	252	273	295	400	561	530	519	418
Antlerless	143	171	198	279	308	378	521	416	454	375
Total	297	401	450	552	603	778	1082	946	973	793
Tribal*										
Antlered	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Antlerless	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Total	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Youth Antlerless*										
Antlerless	0	0	162	119	114	90	135	100	98	107

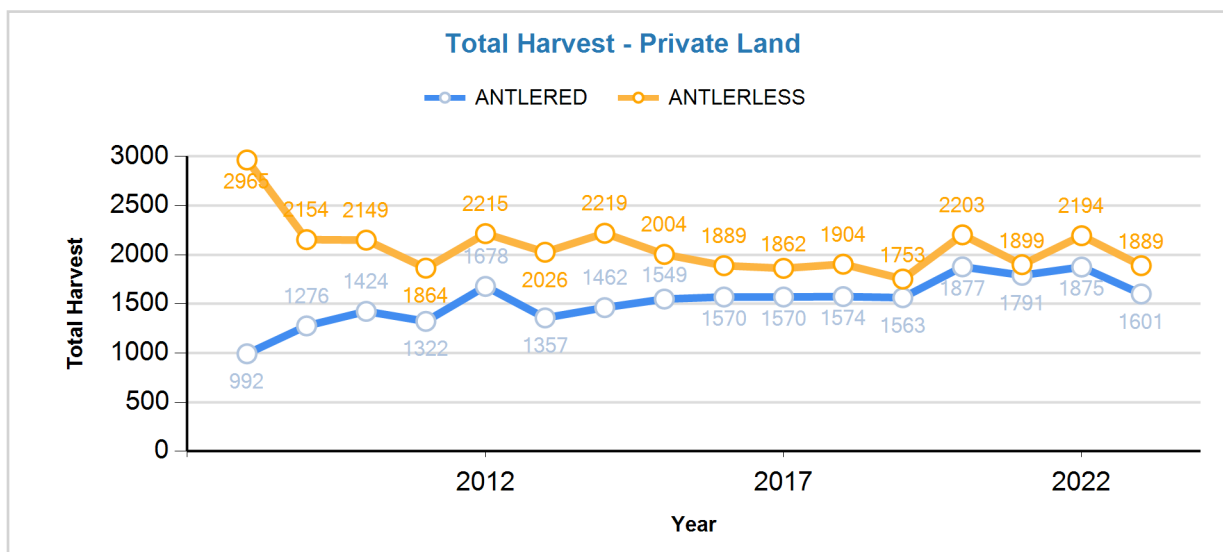
* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



Total Harvest for St. Croix County - Central Farmland Management Zone - Private Land

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	1462	1549	1570	1570	1574	1563	1877	1791	1875	1601
Antlerless	2235	2004	1889	1862	1904	1753	2203	1899	2194	1889
Total	3697	3553	3459	3432	3478	3316	4080	3690	4069	3490
Gun										
Antlered	914	942	977	965	988	866	933	922	1094	931
Antlerless	1652	1503	1377	1327	1322	1171	1409	1281	1547	1345
Total	2566	2445	2354	2292	2310	2037	2342	2203	2641	2276
Bow										
Antlered	404	392	361	357	311	330	425	394	309	288
Antlerless	449	349	347	303	313	275	357	260	267	241
Total	853	741	708	660	624	605	782	654	576	529
Crossbow										
Antlered	144	215	232	248	275	367	519	475	472	382
Antlerless	134	152	165	232	269	307	437	358	380	303
Total	278	367	397	480	544	674	956	833	852	685
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	148	109	108	89	126	98	92	102

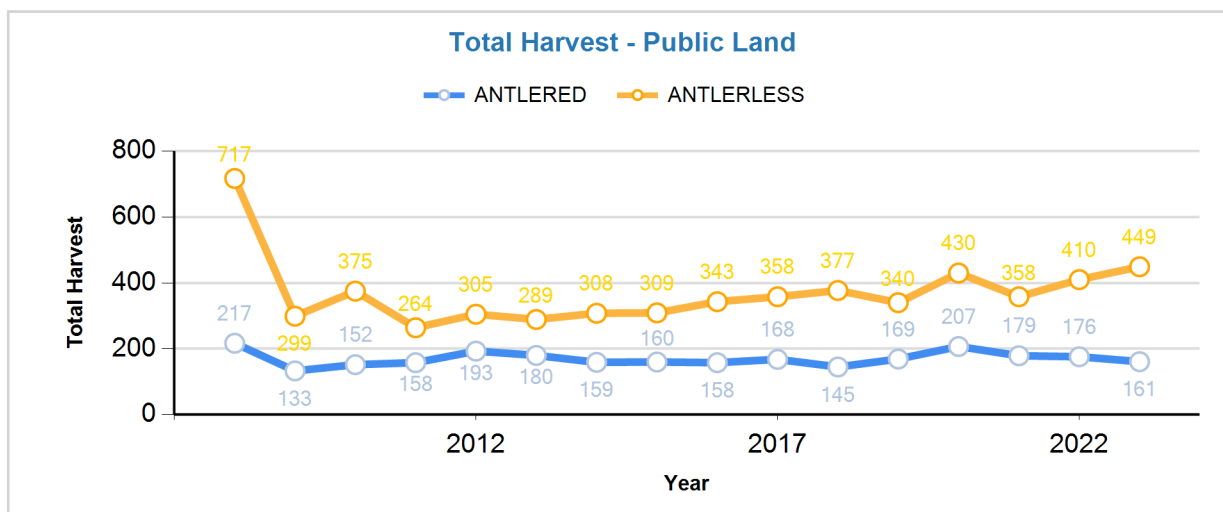
* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



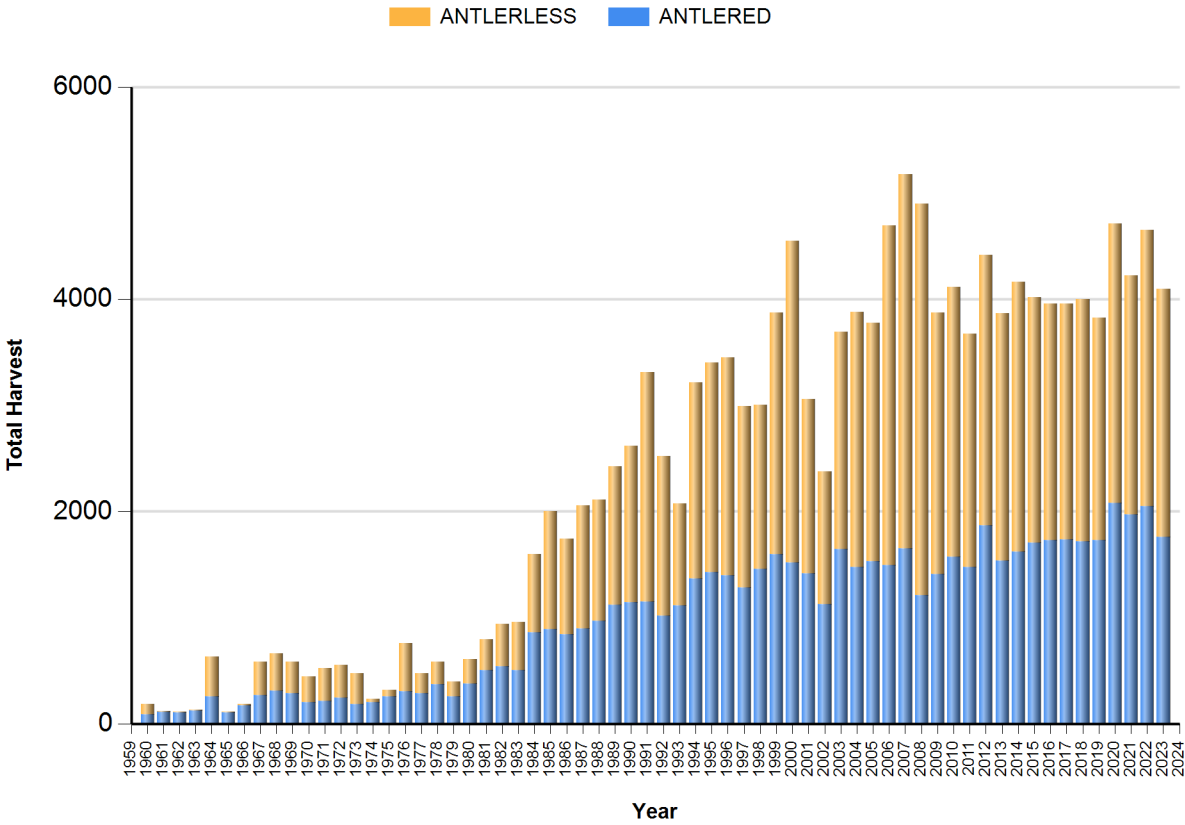
Total Harvest for St. Croix County - Central Farmland Management Zone - Public Land

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	159	160	158	168	145	169	207	179	176	161
Antlerless	308	309	343	358	377	340	430	358	410	449
Total	467	469	501	526	522	509	637	537	586	610
Gun										
Antlered	111	97	98	102	89	86	115	84	79	77
Antlerless	231	227	245	250	256	204	263	240	266	318
Total	342	324	343	352	345	290	378	324	345	395
Bow										
Antlered	37	48	40	41	36	50	49	40	50	48
Antlerless	68	61	64	61	82	65	82	60	69	59
Total	105	109	104	102	118	115	131	100	119	107
Crossbow										
Antlered	10	15	20	25	20	33	42	55	47	36
Antlerless	9	19	33	47	39	71	84	58	74	72
Total	19	34	53	72	59	104	126	113	121	108
Tribal*										
Antlered	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Antlerless	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Total	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Youth Antlerless*										
Antlerless	0	0	14	10	6	1	9	2	6	5

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



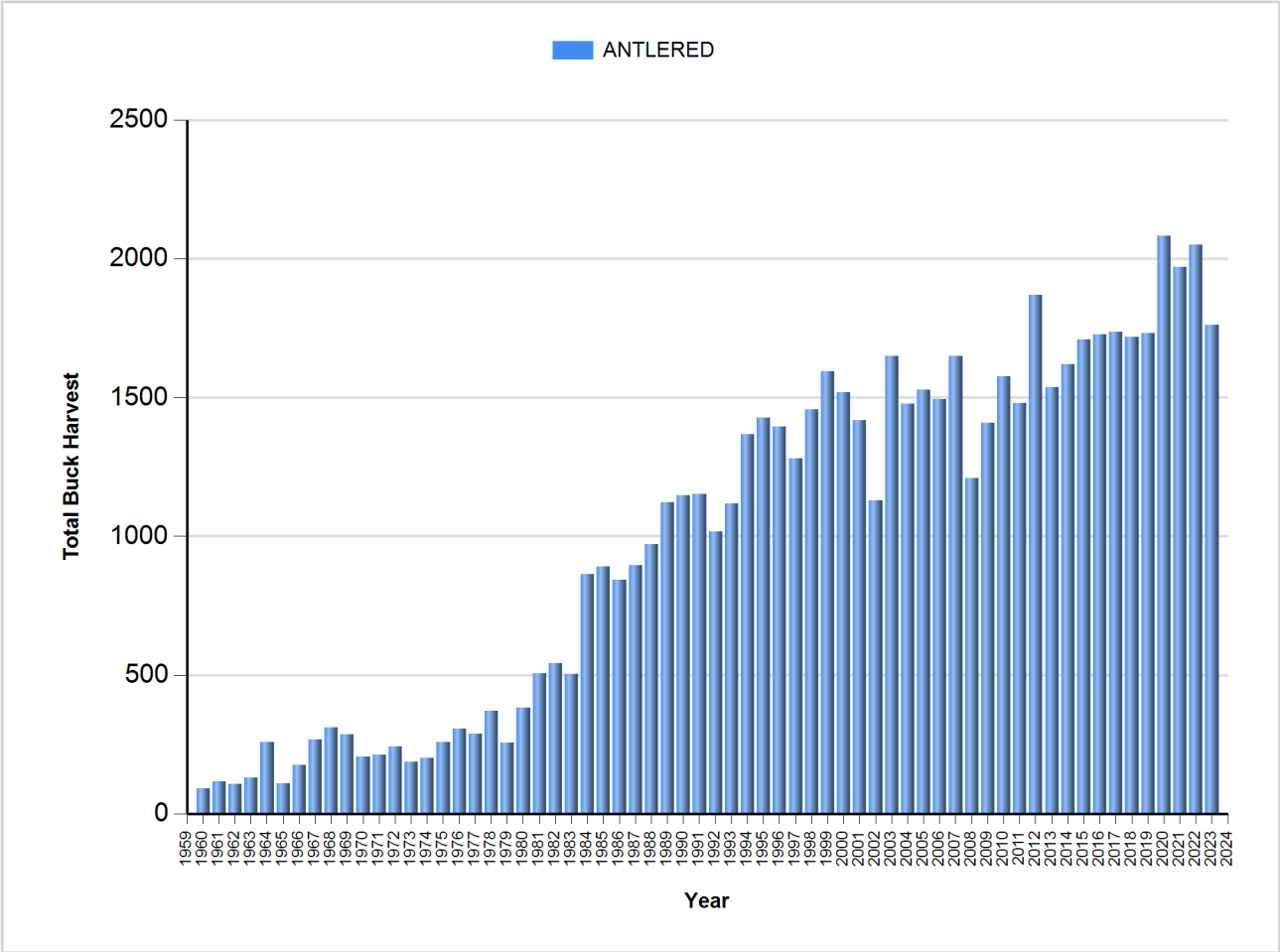
Total Deer Harvest 1960 - Present



Total Buck Harvest 1960 - Present

Historic High: 2020 - 2,083

Historic Low: 1960 - 90

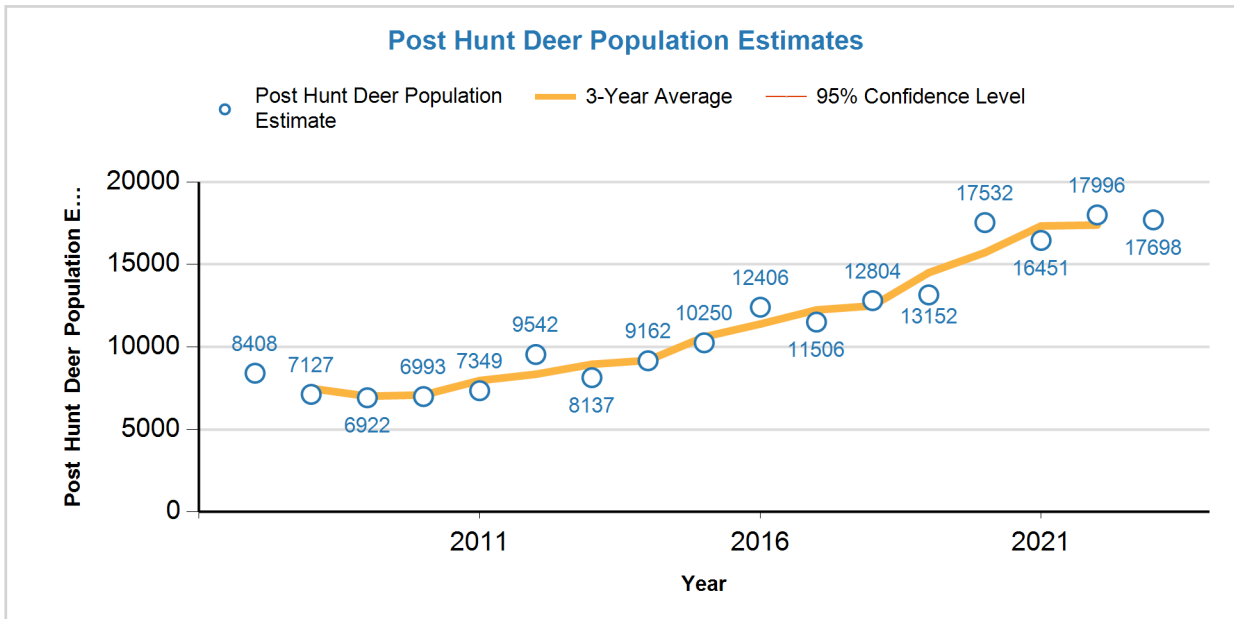


Antlerless Tag Issuance & Success for St. Croix County - Central Farmland

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
Farmland - Public				
Issued	5,793	5,651	5,747	8,488
Killed	257	223	295	245
Success Rate (%)	4.4	3.9	5.1	2.9
Farmland - Private				
Issued	18,163	17,005	17,011	24,794
Killed	1,548	1,372	1,631	1,381
Success Rate (%)	8.5	8.1	9.6	5.6
Farmland - Total				
Issued	23,956	22,656	22,758	33,282
Killed	1,805	1,595	1,926	1,626
Success Rate (%)	7.5	7.0	8.5	4.9
Bonus- Public				
Available	300	300	500	500
Issued	268	290	280	232
Killed	38	33	26	21
Success Rate (%)	14.2	11.4	9.3	9.1
Bonus- Private				
Available	2,000	2,000	1,500	1,500
Issued	596	574	605	506
Killed	96	87	94	78
Success Rate (%)	16.1	15.2	15.5	15.4
Bonus- Total				
Available	2,300	2,300	2,000	2,000
Issued	864	864	885	738
Killed	134	120	120	99
Success Rate (%)	15.5	13.9	13.6	13.4

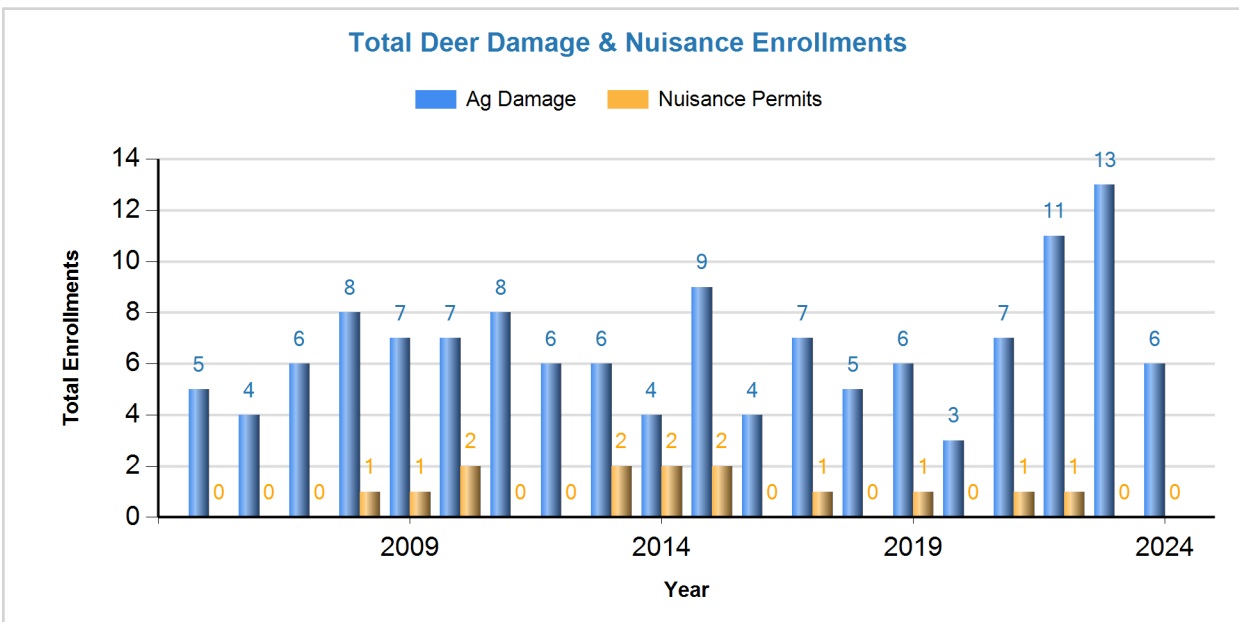
Herd Abundance

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

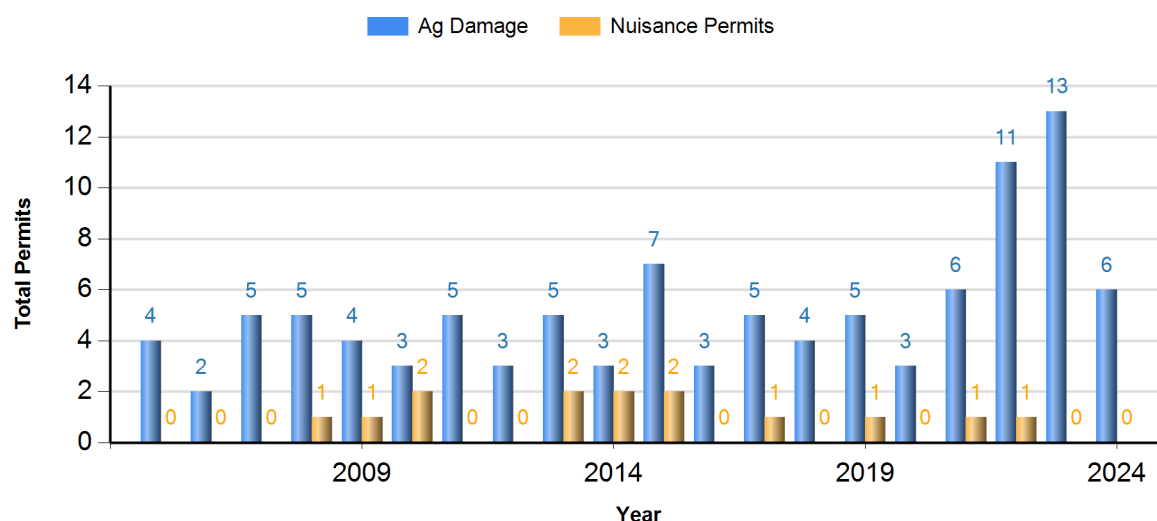


Deer Impacts – Agriculture & Nuisance Impacts

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



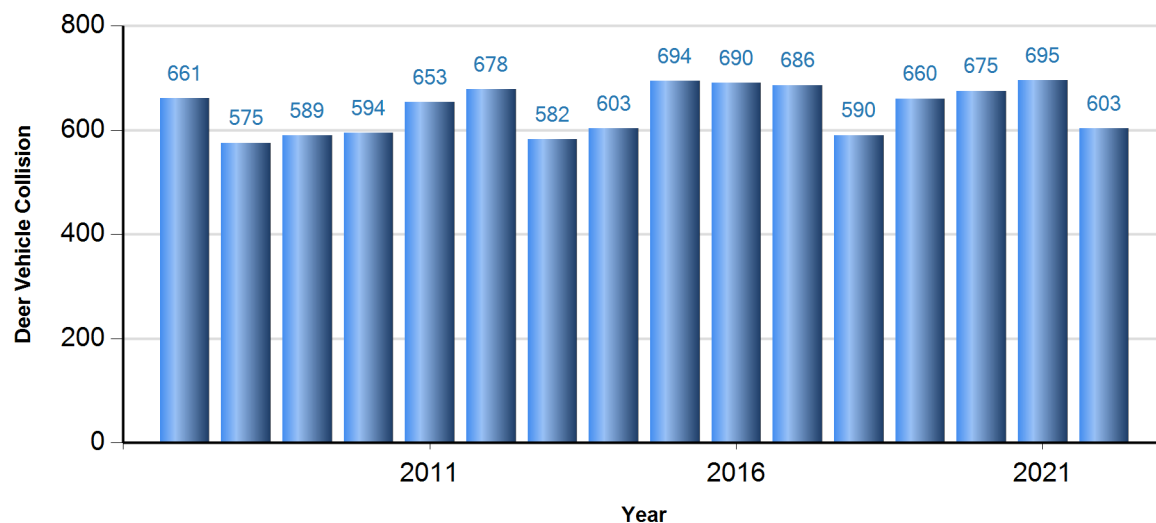
Total Deer Damage & Nuisance Shooting Permits Issued



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

