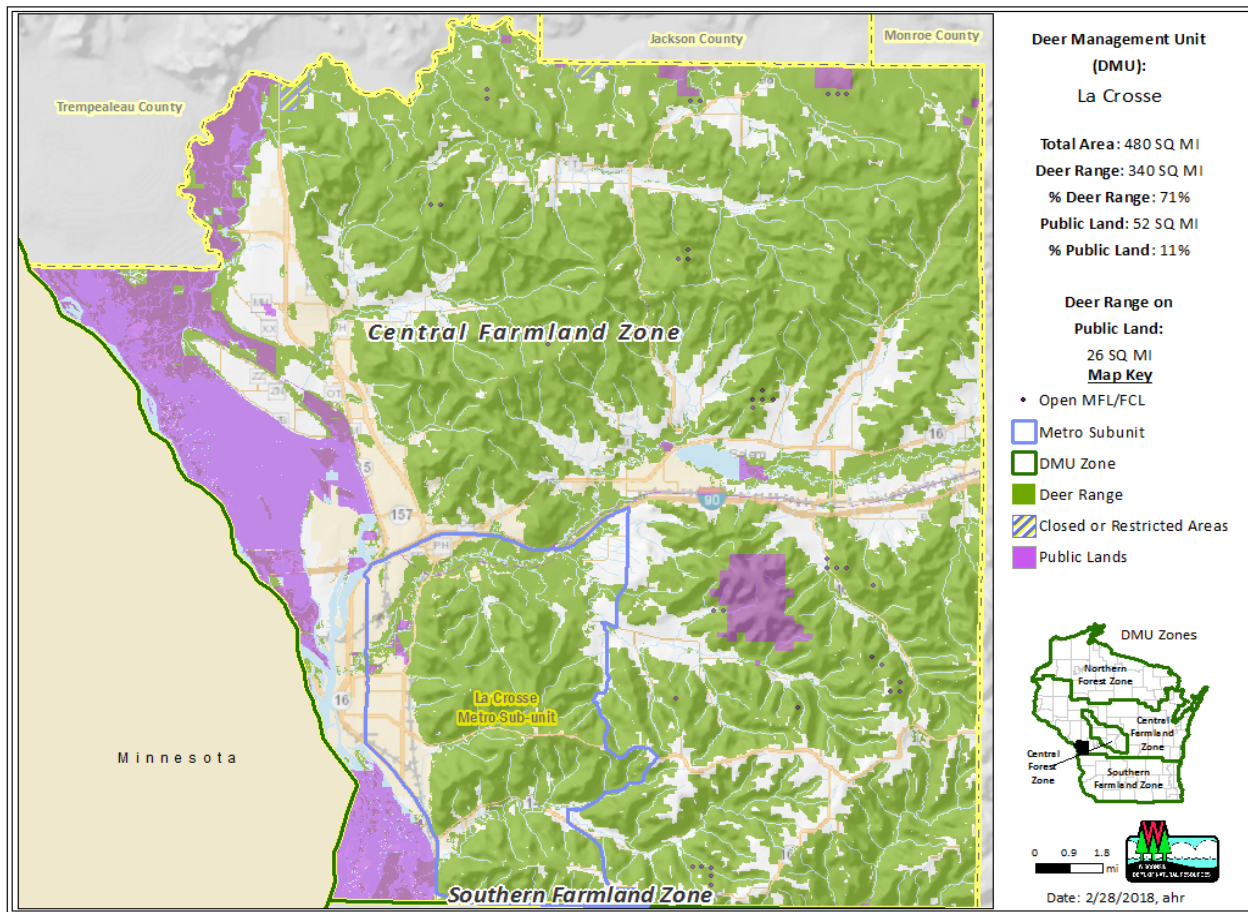


La Crosse County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The La Crosse Deer Management Unit is located in the Central Farmland Zone. Approximately 70 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. The unit is located in what is frequently referred to as the Coulee Region. Coulees are made up of steep-walled valleys and ravines varying greatly in size and width, with many having streams or dry washes at the bottom. Most of the farmland in this unit is located on top of flat ridges or wide valley bottoms with forested areas on the hillsides. Forested areas are mainly dominated by oak and central hardwood species. The Black River delineates the northwest boundary and the Mississippi River delineates the western boundary of the unit, providing flood plain forest habitat for deer. This mix of habitat and agricultural lands provide ideal deer habitat. Roughly 90 percent of the unit is in private landownership and landowner permission is needed to hunt. State-owned public lands available for deer hunting include Coulee Experimental Forest and Van Loon Wildlife Area, with smaller state-owned parcels and easements along various trout streams. County-owned lands open to deer hunting include Hoeth County Forest and Brice County Forest. Other hunting opportunities exist on some local municipality lands and lands owned by non-profit organizations. Deer and hunter densities vary across the unit with numerous factors influencing local deer populations and hunter densities. Hunter densities on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season average about 15-20 hunters per square mile of deer range. Buck harvests average 3-4 bucks per square mile of deer range. The La Crosse Metro subunit is primarily an urbanized area with extended harvest seasons to increase deer hunting effectiveness and management of the deer herd. The current deer herd management objective is to stabilize the population. New baiting and feeding bans will go into affect for La Crosse County in 2018 due to the proximity of recent CWD positives found in Vernon County.

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

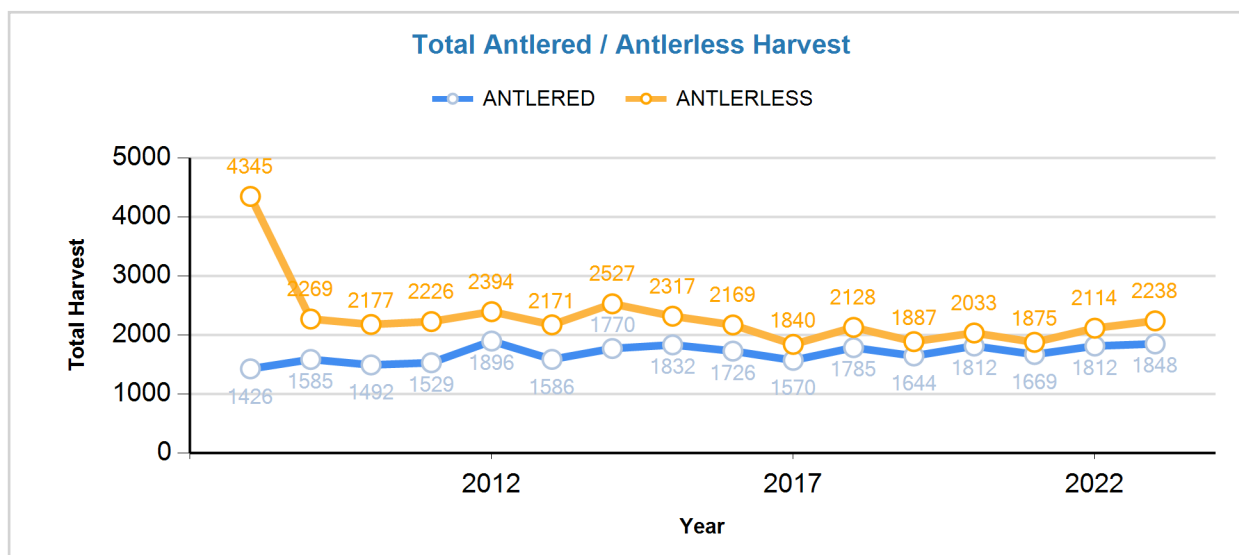
Total Area of Unit (Sq. Miles): 479.70

Deer Range of Unit (Sq. Miles): 339.60

Total Harvest for La Crosse County - Central Farmland Management Zone

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	1770	1832	1726	1570	1785	1644	1812	1669	1812	1848
Antlerless	2544	2317	2169	1843	2128	1887	2033	1875	2114	2238
Total	4314	4149	3895	3413	3913	3531	3845	3544	3926	4086
Gun										
Antlered	1189	1223	1120	1005	1244	973	1058	966	1170	1136
Antlerless	1949	1844	1650	1453	1712	1477	1597	1508	1707	1771
Total	3138	3067	2770	2458	2956	2450	2655	2474	2877	2907
Bow										
Antlered	415	413	381	326	304	358	392	362	337	371
Antlerless	435	316	322	212	203	183	217	198	203	225
Total	850	729	703	538	507	541	609	560	540	596
Crossbow										
Antlered	166	196	225	239	237	313	362	341	305	341
Antlerless	160	157	197	178	213	227	219	169	204	242
Total	326	353	422	417	450	540	581	510	509	583
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	127	129	138	143	131	86	86	114

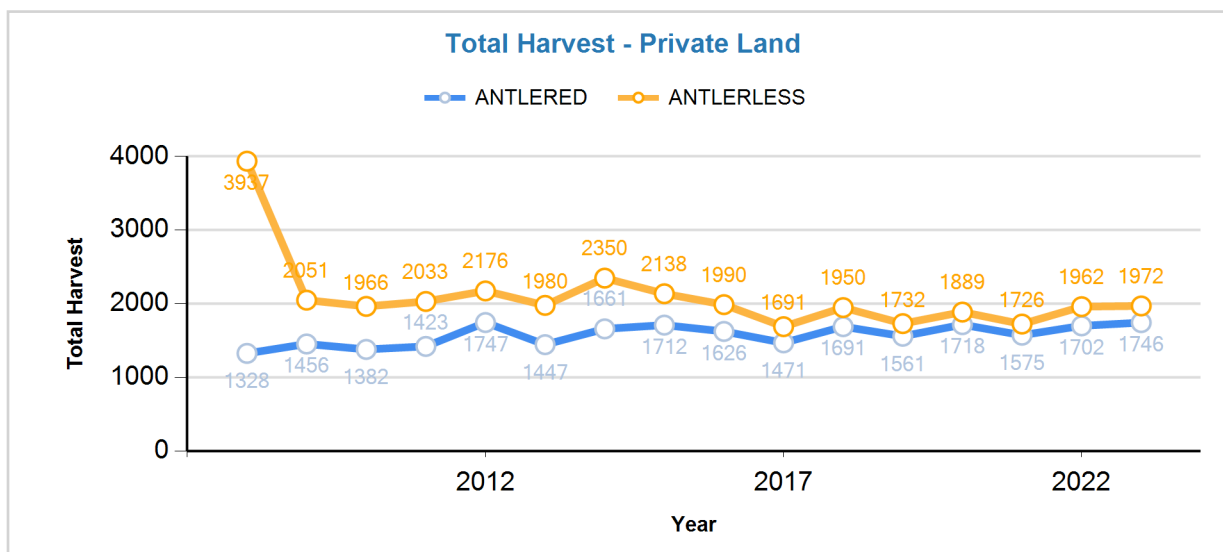
* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



Total Harvest for La Crosse County - Central Farmland Management Zone - Private Land

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	1661	1712	1626	1471	1691	1561	1718	1575	1702	1746
Antlerless	2367	2138	1990	1693	1950	1732	1889	1726	1962	1972
Total	4028	3850	3616	3164	3641	3293	3607	3301	3664	3718
Gun										
Antlered	1128	1154	1060	948	1182	939	1009	920	1102	1079
Antlerless	1828	1710	1530	1355	1591	1377	1503	1393	1593	1557
Total	2956	2864	2590	2303	2773	2316	2512	2313	2695	2636
Bow										
Antlered	376	382	356	301	285	329	364	334	311	351
Antlerless	394	282	286	180	178	160	190	176	183	197
Total	770	664	642	481	463	489	554	510	494	548
Crossbow										
Antlered	157	176	210	222	224	293	345	321	289	316
Antlerless	145	146	174	158	181	195	196	157	186	218
Total	302	322	384	380	405	488	541	478	475	534
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	122	125	131	138	127	84	83	108

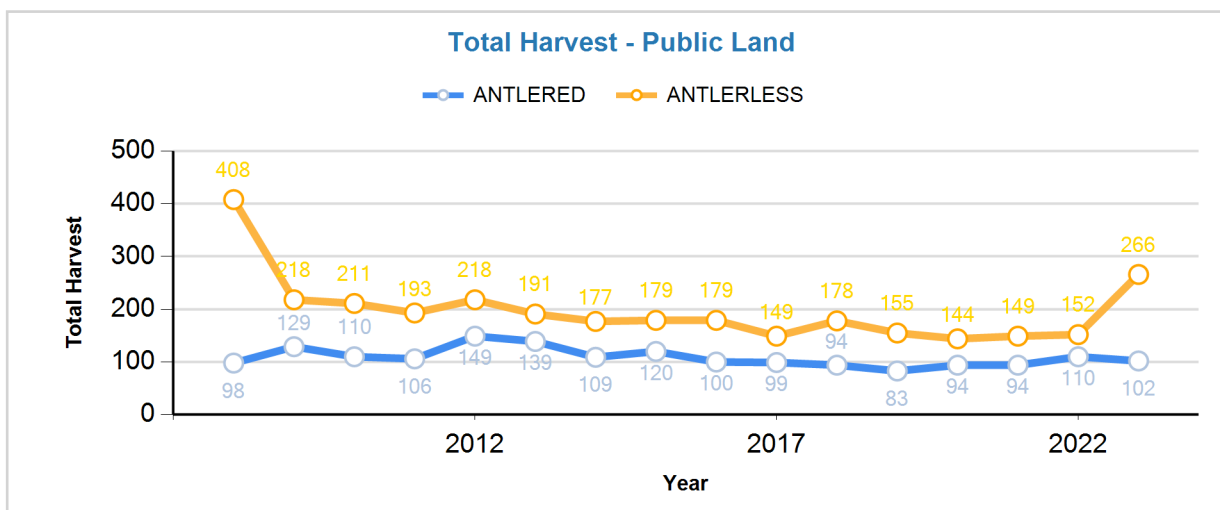
* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



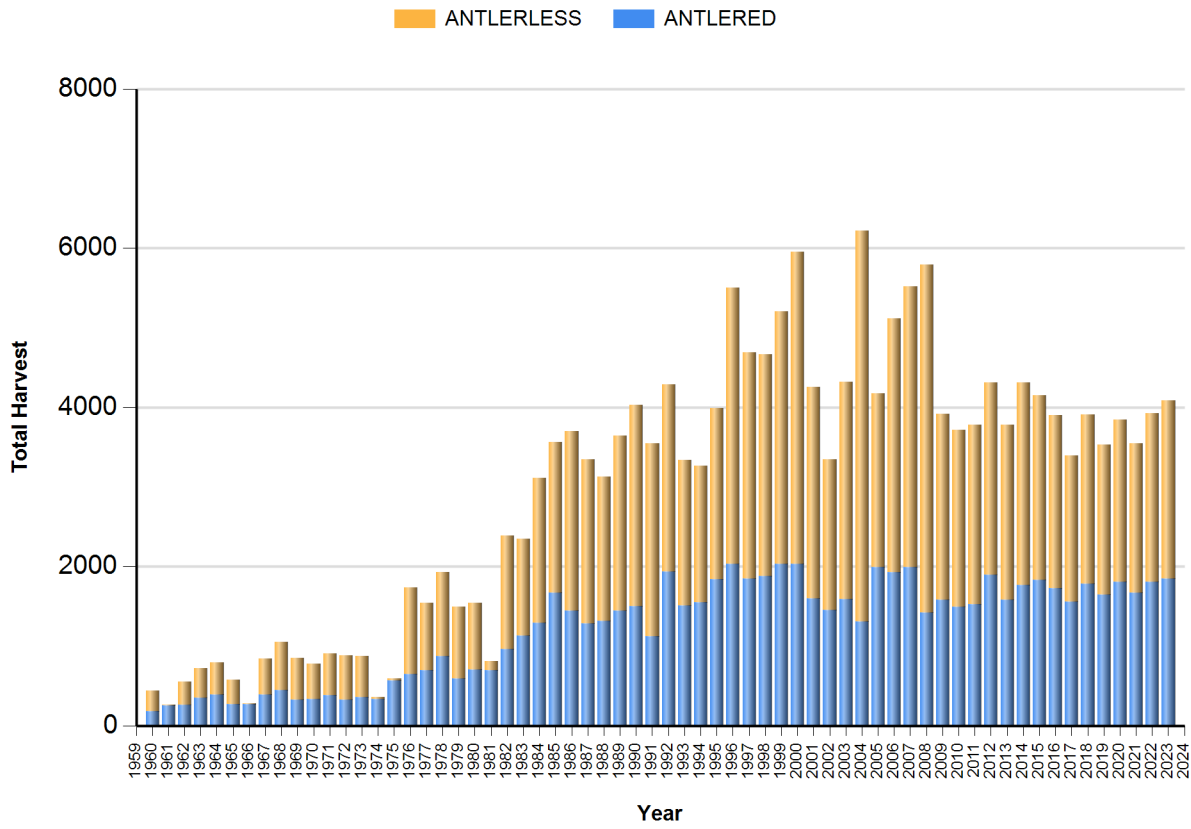
Total Harvest for La Crosse County - Central Farmland Management Zone - Public Land

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	109	120	100	99	94	83	94	94	110	102
Antlerless	177	179	179	150	178	155	144	149	152	266
Total	286	299	279	249	272	238	238	243	262	368
Gun										
Antlered	61	69	60	57	62	34	49	46	68	57
Antlerless	121	134	120	98	121	100	94	115	114	214
Total	182	203	180	155	183	134	143	161	182	271
Bow										
Antlered	39	31	25	25	19	29	28	28	26	20
Antlerless	41	34	36	32	25	23	27	22	20	28
Total	80	65	61	57	44	52	55	50	46	48
Crossbow										
Antlered	9	20	15	17	13	20	17	20	16	25
Antlerless	15	11	23	20	32	32	23	12	18	24
Total	24	31	38	37	45	52	40	32	34	49
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	4	7	5	4	2	3	6

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



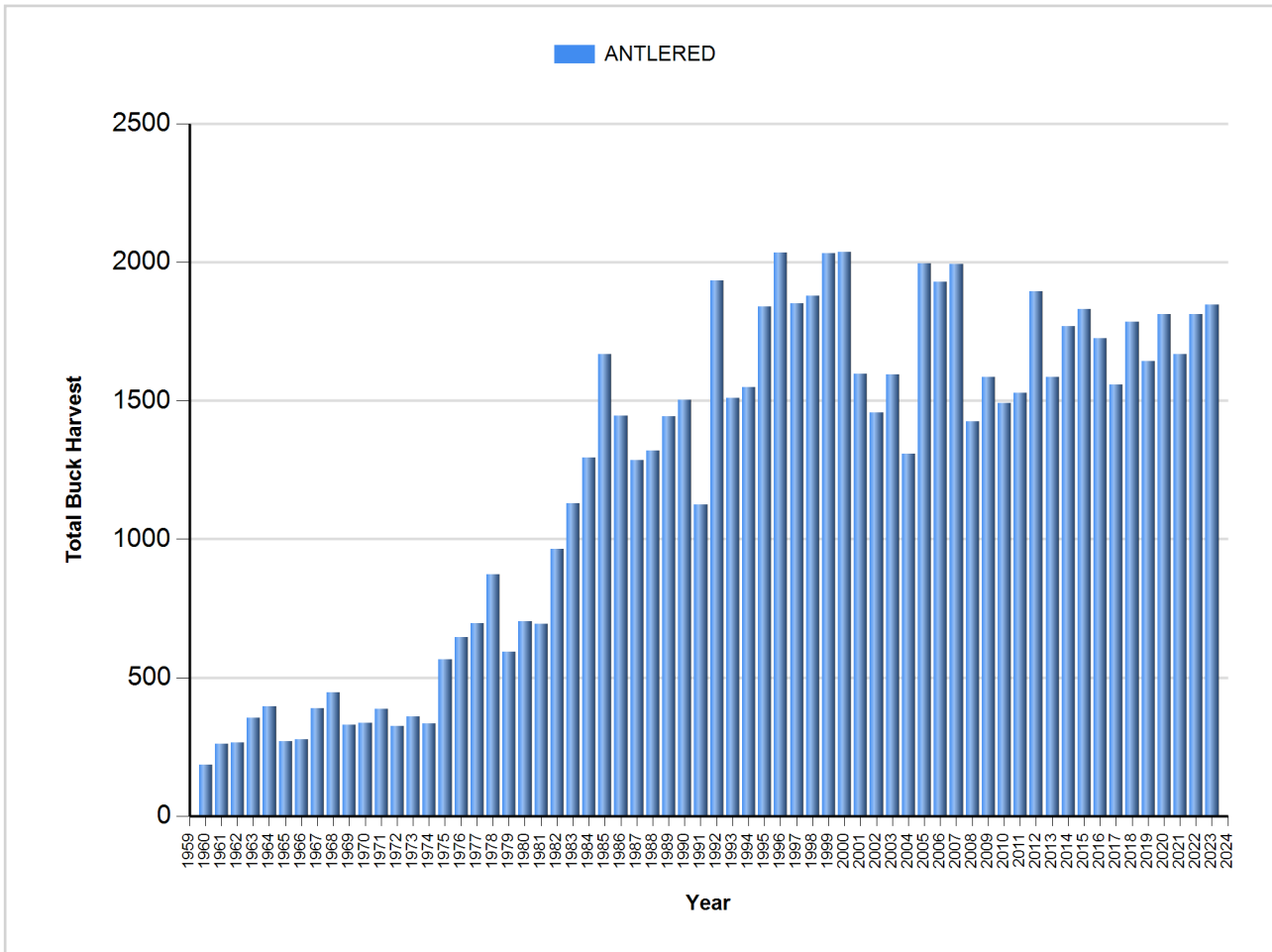
Total Deer Harvest 1960 - Present



Total Buck Harvest 1960 - Present

Historic High: 2000 - 2,037

Historic Low: 1960 - 184

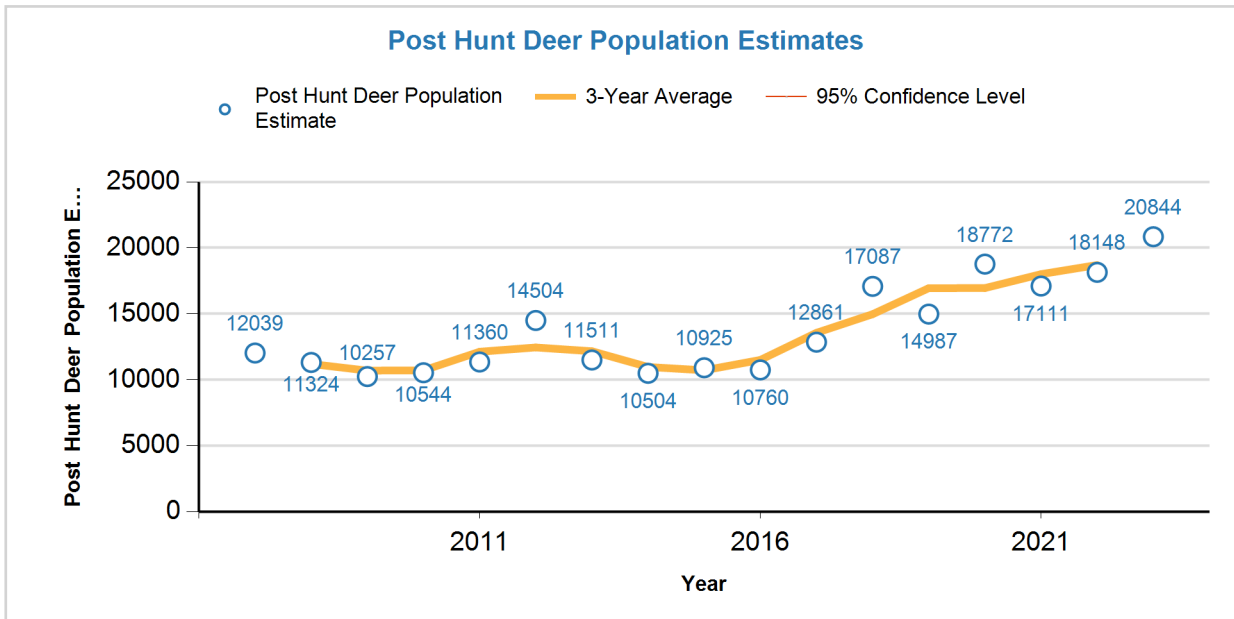


Antlerless Tag Issuance & Success for La Crosse County - Central Farmland

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
Farmland - Public				
Issued	1,173	2,528	2,592	2,539
Killed	79	102	100	107
Success Rate (%)	6.7	4.0	3.9	4.2
Farmland - Private				
Issued	7,872	15,130	14,706	15,093
Killed	1,230	1,337	1,559	1,530
Success Rate (%)	15.6	8.8	10.6	10.1
Farmland - Total				
Issued	9,045	17,658	17,298	17,632
Killed	1,309	1,439	1,659	1,637
Success Rate (%)	14.5	8.1	9.6	9.3
Bonus- Public				
Available	400	400	400	400
Issued	229	193	190	153
Killed	12	10	14	8
Success Rate (%)	5.2	5.2	7.4	5.2
Bonus- Private				
Available	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Issued	800	516	515	540
Killed	169	87	88	108
Success Rate (%)	21.1	16.9	17.1	20.0
Bonus- Total				
Available	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600
Issued	1,029	709	705	693
Killed	181	97	102	116
Success Rate (%)	17.6	13.7	14.5	16.7

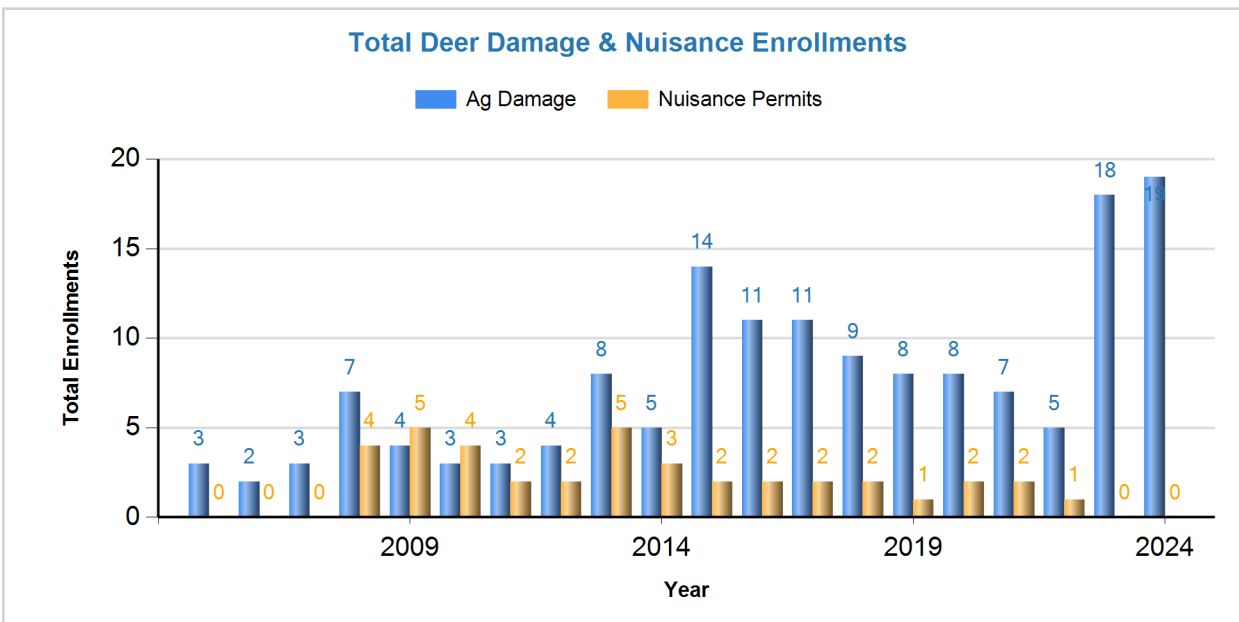
Herd Abundance

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

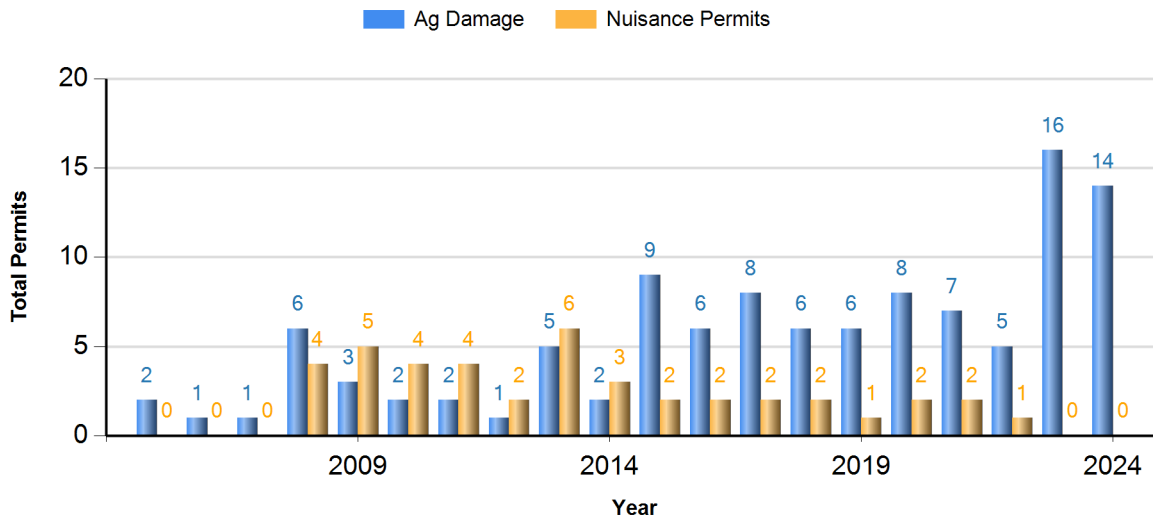


Deer Impacts – Agriculture & Nuisance Impacts

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



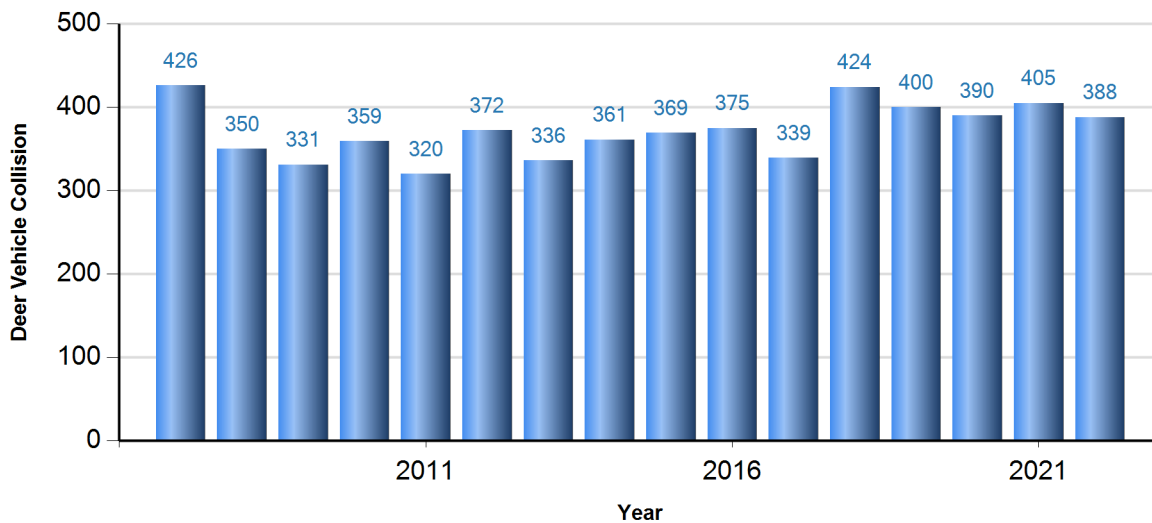
Total Deer Damage & Nuisance Shooting Permits Issued



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

