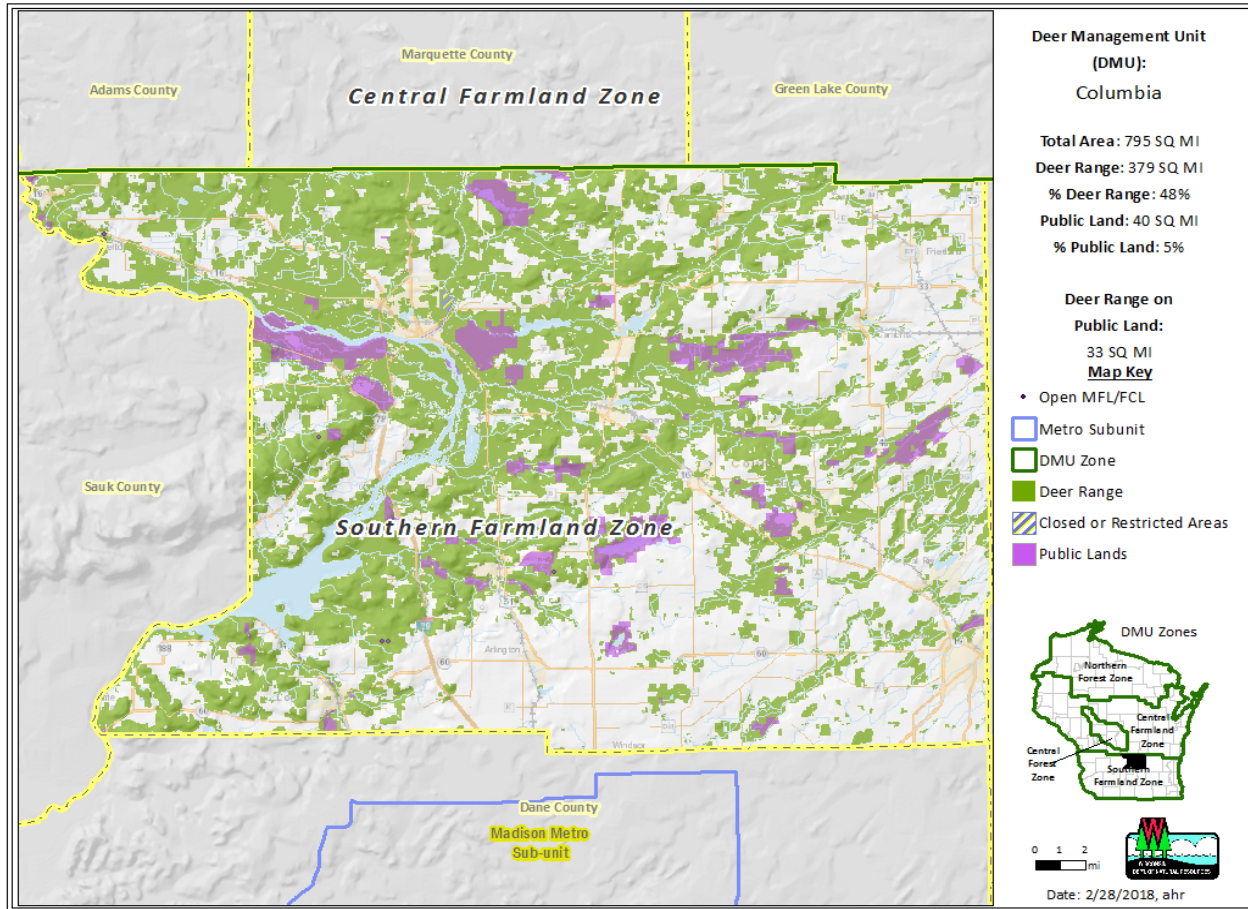


Columbia County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Columbia County Deer Management Unit is located in the Southern Farmland Zone. Approximately 48 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range with a significant amount of agricultural land interspersed across the landscape. Approximately 6 percent of the unit is open to public hunting (~30,500 acres). A wide variety of public lands are located within this unit which include several Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources lands, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service land, private properties enrolled in the open Voluntary Public Access program and the Columbia Power Plant Wisconsin Power and Light land. Hunting pressure on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season can vary from 15 to 33 hunters per square mile of deer range in any given year. The deer herd has the potential to be very productive with winter weather typically having little impact on adult survival and fawn recruitment. Chronic Wasting Disease has been confirmed in West Point, Lodi, Caledonia, Dekorra, Arlington, Leeds, Lowville, Otsego, Fountain Prairie, Courtland, Pacific, Fort Winnebago and Marcellon Townships. For the latest information on CWD in this unit, please visit the following DNR webpage: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/prevalence.html>. The current deer herd management objective is to decrease 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.

Southern Farmland Management Zone

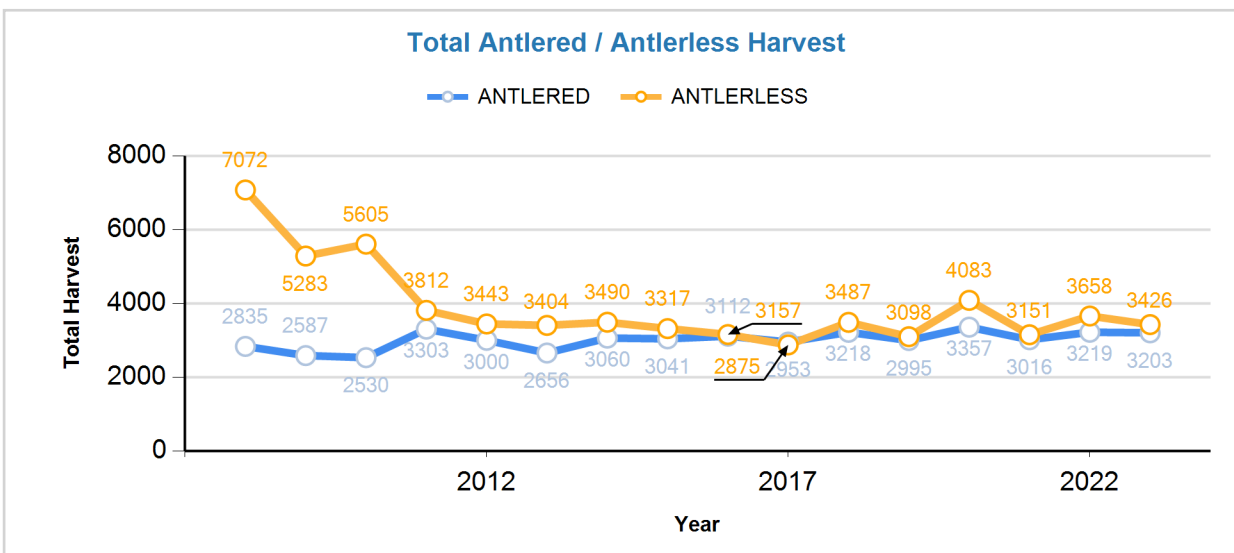
Total Area of Unit (Sq. Miles): 795.10

Deer Range of Unit (Sq. Miles): 379.20

Total Harvest for Columbia County - Southern Farmland Management Zone

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	3060	3041	3112	2953	3218	2995	3357	3016	3219	3203
Antlerless	3562	3318	3157	2875	3487	3098	4083	3151	3658	3426
Total	6622	6359	6269	5828	6705	6093	7440	6167	6877	6629
Gun										
Antlered	1962	1975	2071	1841	2189	1754	1987	1771	2091	1914
Antlerless	2757	2591	2578	2225	2823	2404	3216	2472	2861	2698
Total	4719	4566	4649	4066	5012	4158	5203	4243	4952	4612
Bow										
Antlered	758	649	597	601	532	619	644	588	512	565
Antlerless	560	462	350	371	355	329	437	317	367	315
Total	1318	1111	947	972	887	948	1081	905	879	880
Crossbow										
Antlered	340	417	444	511	497	622	726	657	616	724
Antlerless	245	265	229	279	309	365	430	362	430	413
Total	585	682	673	790	806	987	1156	1019	1046	1137
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	204	168	171	122	177	127	155	123

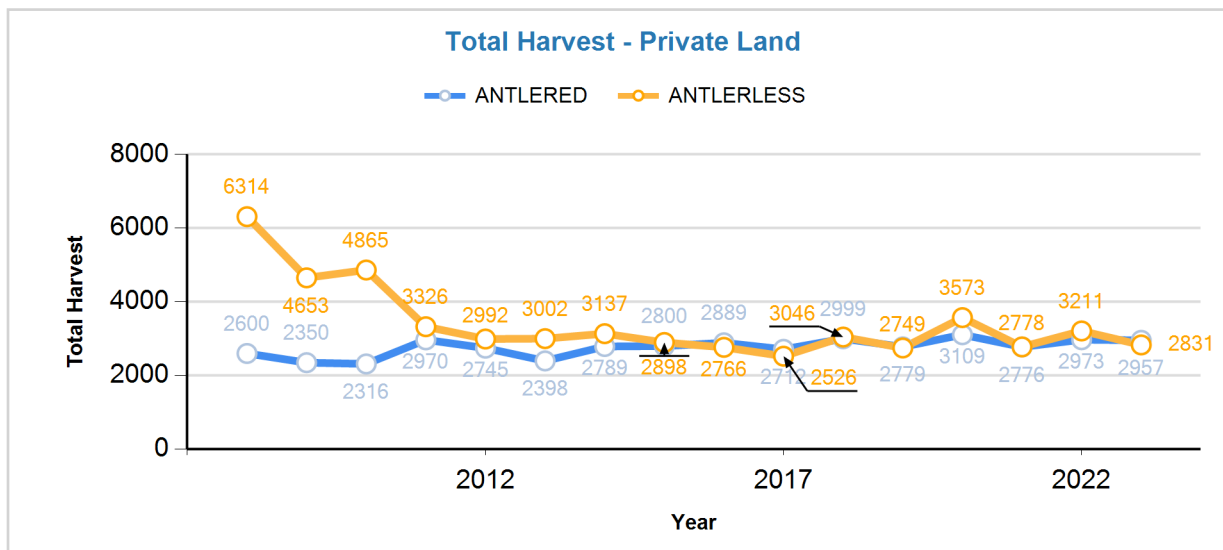
* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



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

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	2789	2800	2889	2712	2999	2779	3109	2776	2973	2957
Antlerless	3201	2899	2766	2526	3046	2749	3573	2778	3211	2831
Total	5990	5699	5655	5238	6045	5528	6682	5554	6184	5788
Gun										
Antlered	1813	1846	1936	1725	2068	1653	1863	1656	1963	1790
Antlerless	2489	2311	2287	2003	2498	2175	2875	2234	2569	2245
Total	4302	4157	4223	3728	4566	3828	4738	3890	4532	4035
Bow										
Antlered	670	578	536	516	477	547	577	516	449	489
Antlerless	491	370	288	292	282	259	348	247	292	242
Total	1161	948	824	808	759	806	925	763	741	731
Crossbow										
Antlered	306	376	417	471	454	579	669	604	561	678
Antlerless	221	218	191	231	266	315	350	297	350	344
Total	527	594	608	702	720	894	1019	901	911	1022
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	180	158	163	116	164	118	146	116

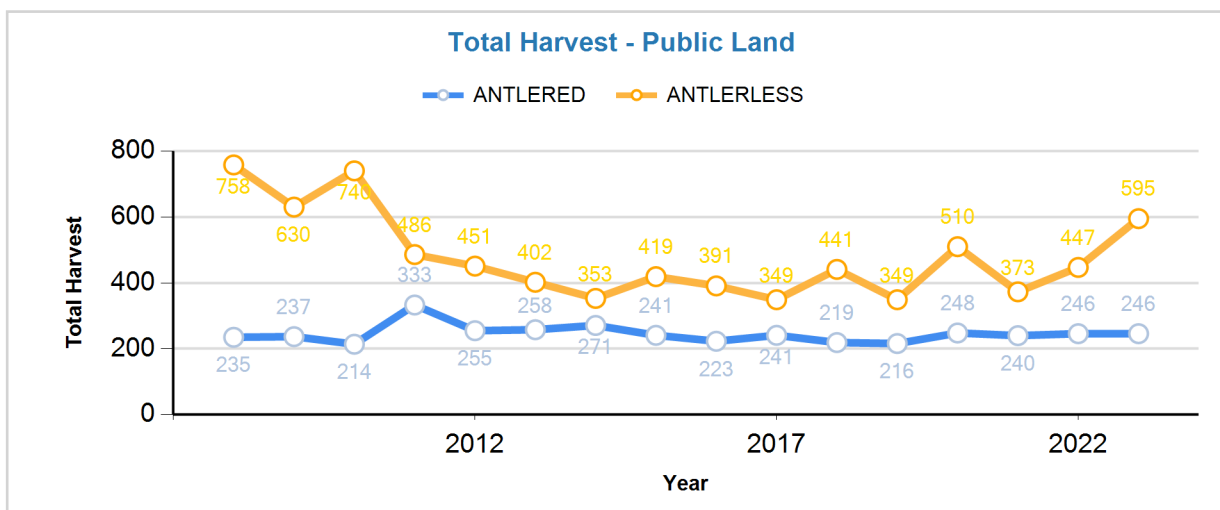
* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply

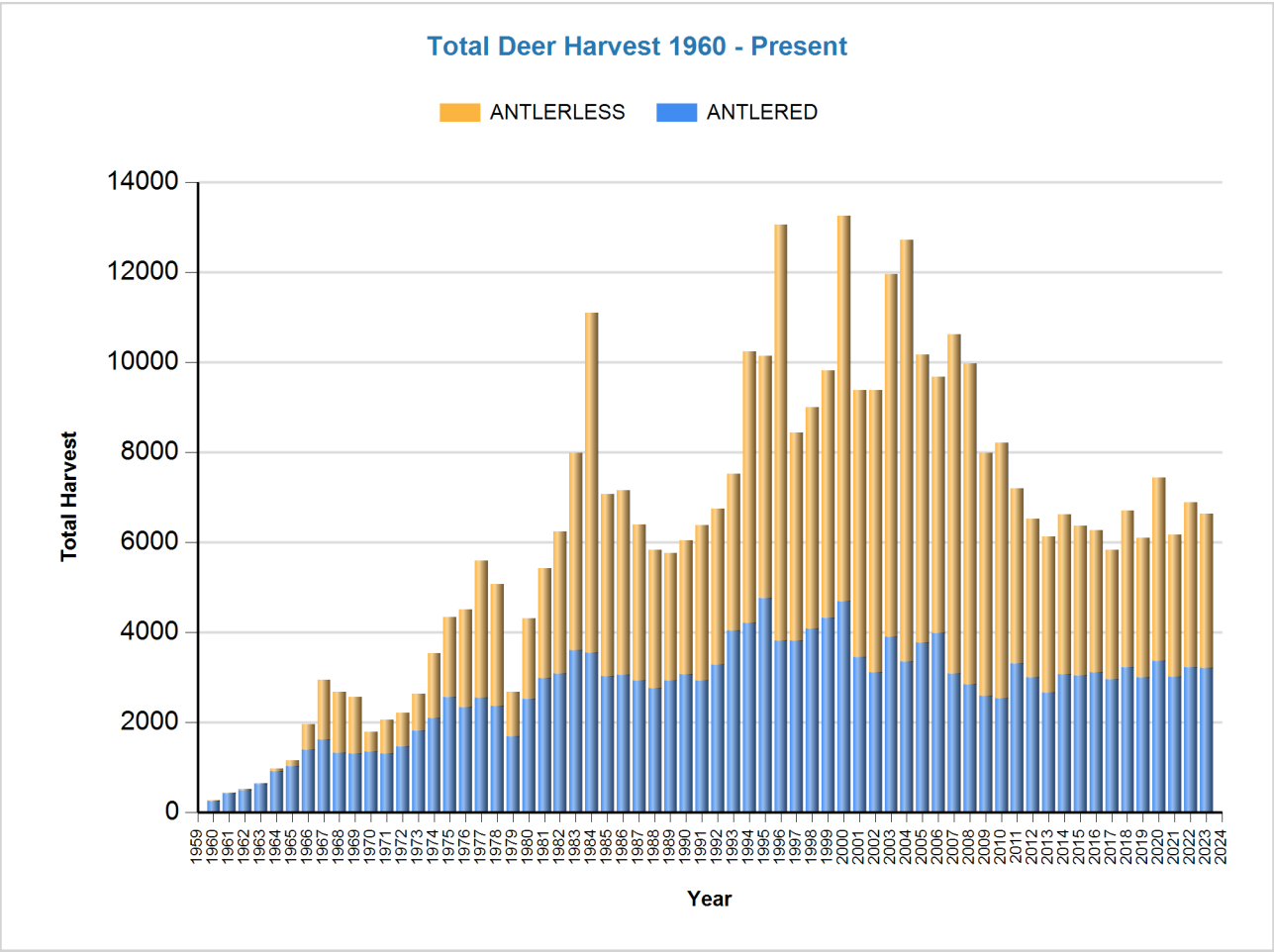


Total Harvest for Columbia County - Southern Farmland Management Zone - Public Land

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	271	241	223	241	219	216	248	240	246	246
Antlerless	361	419	391	349	441	349	510	373	447	595
Total	632	660	614	590	660	565	758	613	693	841
Gun										
Antlered	149	129	135	116	121	101	124	115	128	124
Antlerless	268	280	291	222	325	229	341	238	292	453
Total	417	409	426	338	446	330	465	353	420	577
Bow										
Antlered	88	71	61	85	55	72	67	72	63	76
Antlerless	69	92	62	79	73	70	89	70	75	73
Total	157	163	123	164	128	142	156	142	138	149
Crossbow										
Antlered	34	41	27	40	43	43	57	53	55	46
Antlerless	24	47	38	48	43	50	80	65	80	69
Total	58	88	65	88	86	93	137	118	135	115
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	24	10	8	6	13	9	9	7

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

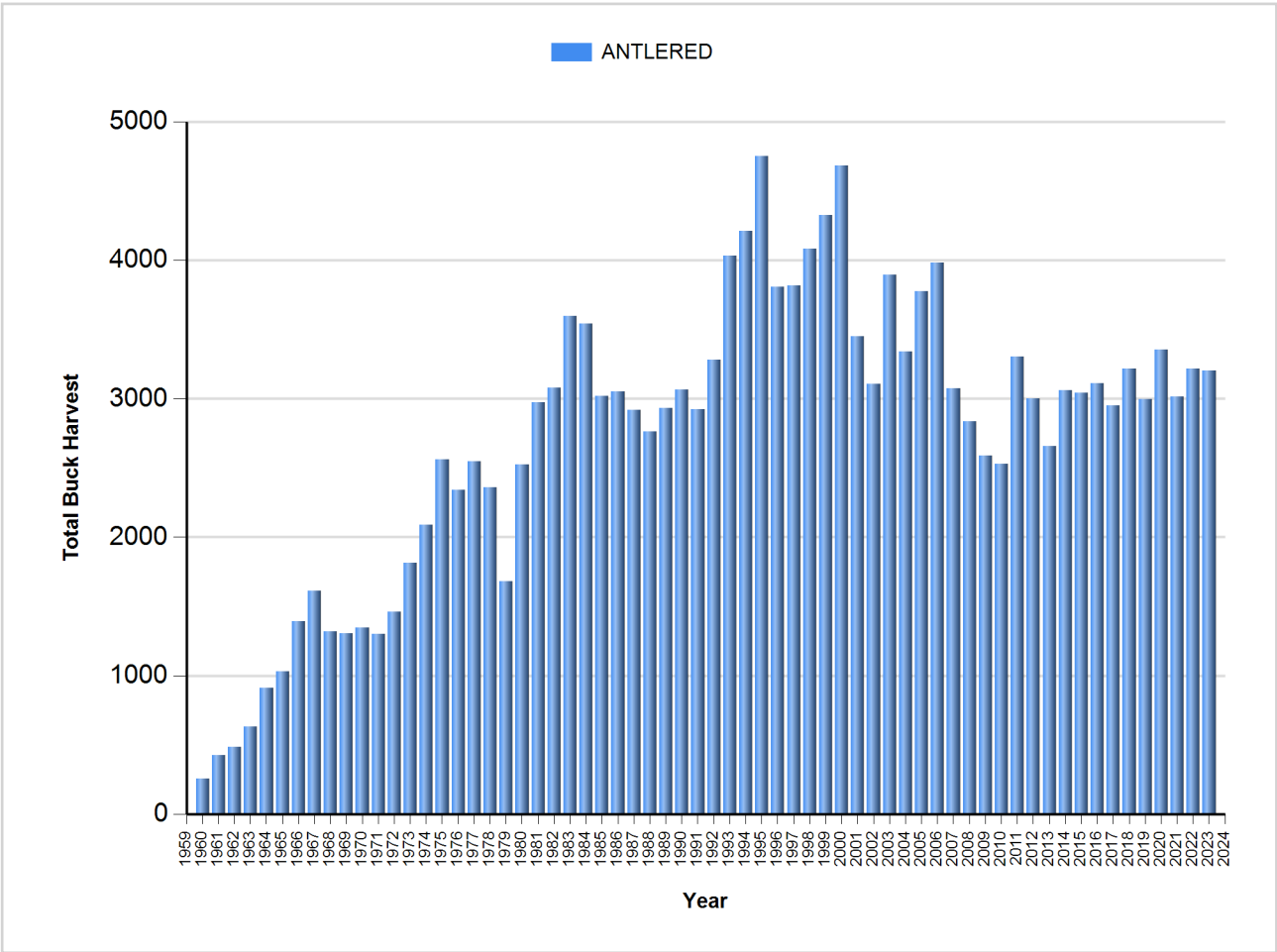




Total Buck Harvest 1960 - Present

Historic High: 1995 - 4,753

Historic Low: 1960 - 257

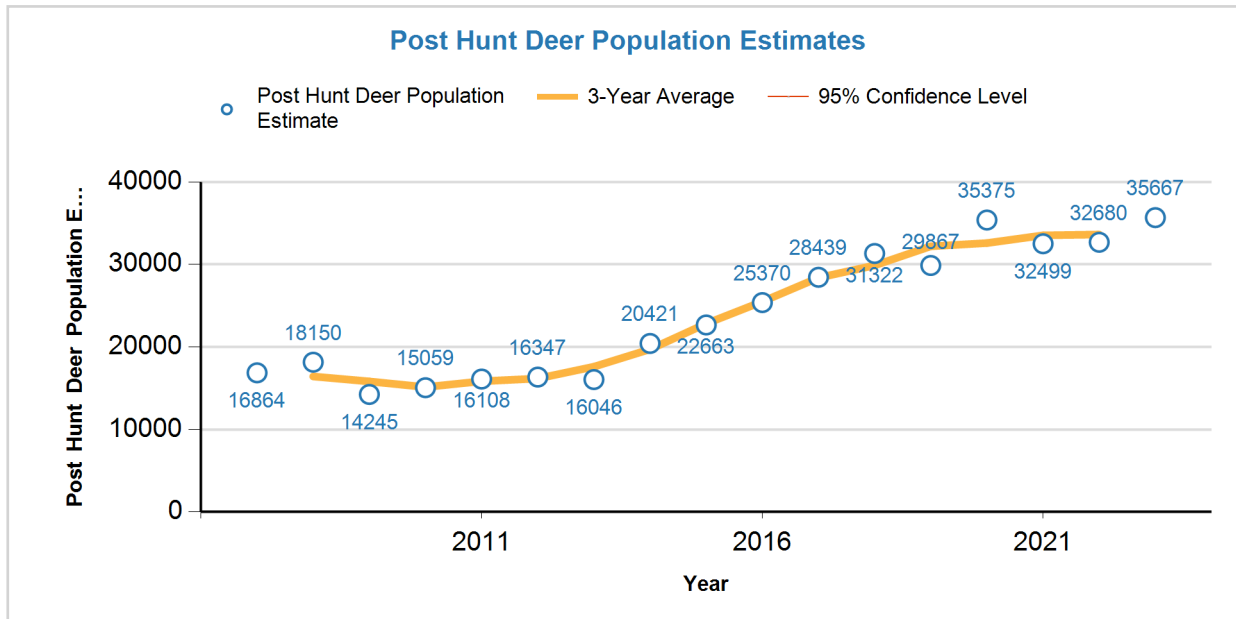


Antlerless Tag Issuance & Success for Columbia County - Southern Farmland

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
Farmland - Public				
Issued	6,451	6,378	6,284	5,987
Killed	424	320	378	326
Success Rate (%)	6.6	5.0	6.0	5.4
Farmland - Private				
Issued	24,175	22,836	22,564	22,685
Killed	2,999	2,358	2,716	2,516
Success Rate (%)	12.4	10.3	12.0	11.1
Farmland - Total				
Issued	30,626	29,214	28,848	28,672
Killed	3,423	2,678	3,094	2,842
Success Rate (%)	11.2	9.2	10.7	9.9
Bonus- Public				
Available	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Issued	627	560	595	560
Killed	65	41	51	58
Success Rate (%)	10.4	7.3	8.6	10.4
Bonus- Private				
Available	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Issued	915	815	859	899
Killed	209	158	179	180
Success Rate (%)	22.8	19.4	20.8	20.0
Bonus- Total				
Available	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Issued	1,542	1,375	1,454	1,459
Killed	274	199	230	238
Success Rate (%)	17.8	14.5	15.8	16.3

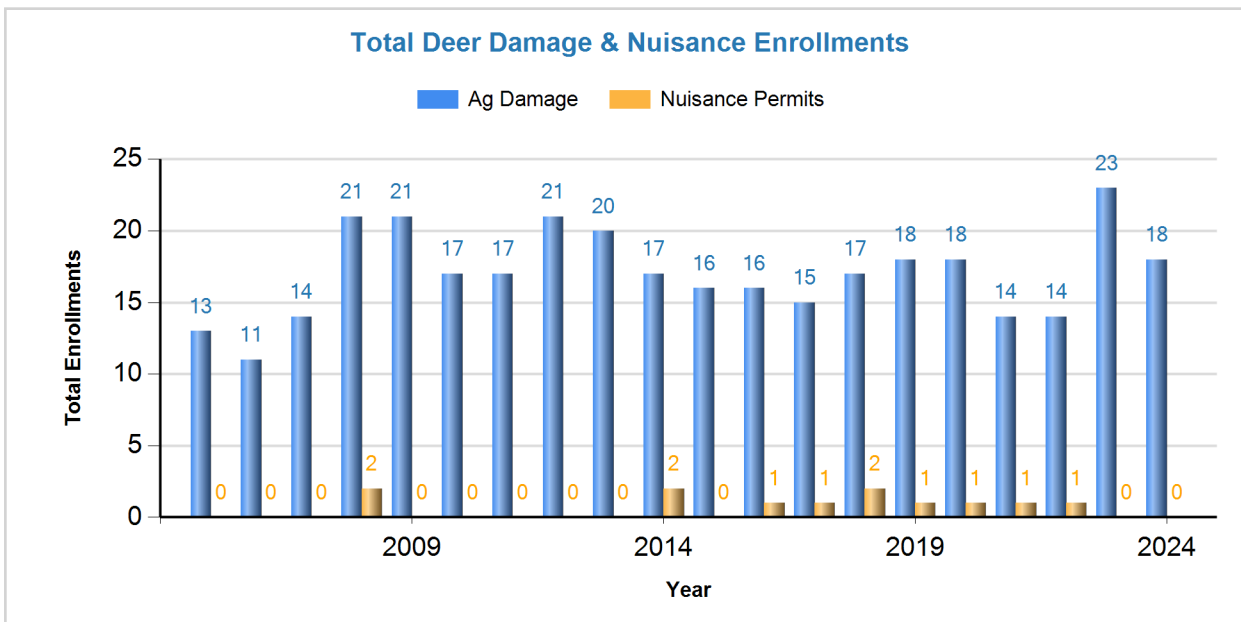
Herd Abundance

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

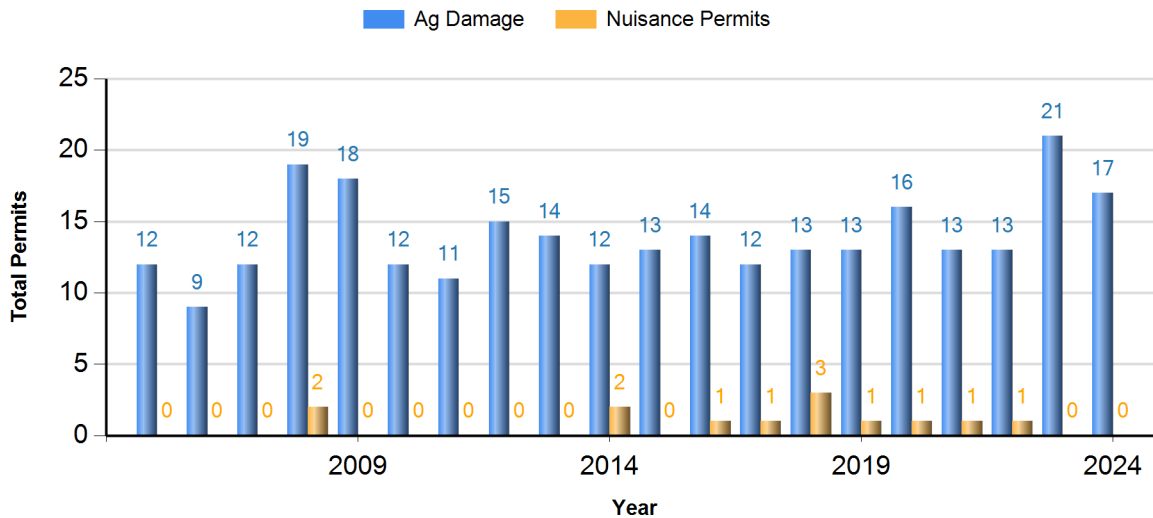


Deer Impacts – Agriculture & Nuisance Impacts

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



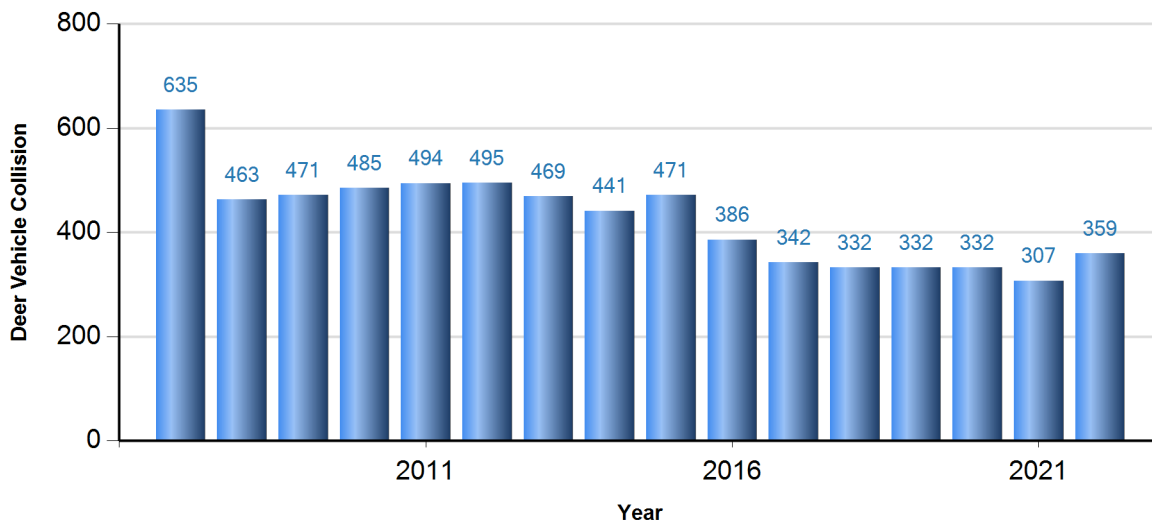
Total Deer Damage & Nuisance Shooting Permits Issued



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

