

# **APPRENTICE DEER**

The Apprentice season was separated into Youth and Apprentice seasons in 2021. See separate Youth season report for license sales and estimated harvest.

There were 653 resident single-tag antlerless licenses issued for the 2023 Apprentice Deer hunting season. All license holders that provided a valid email address were surveyed and 217 responses (33%) were received.

The Apprentice season ran from September 9, 2023, through January 1, 2024. Respondents reported hunting an average of 4.27 days each, which projected to 2,790 recreation days for the season.

Projections for the season indicated that 36 whitetail buck fawns, 277 whitetail does, 15 whitetail doe fawns, 3 mule deer buck fawns, and 29 mule deer does were harvested. The estimated total harvest for the Apprentice Deer season was 361, and the overall success rate was 55%. The five deer management units with the highest reported harvest were the Black Hills, Minnehaha, Brookings, Butte, and E Custer/S Pennington, which accounted for 50% of the total season harvest.

The average satisfaction rating for those responding (1 being very dissatisfied and 7 very satisfied) was 5.69.

## Comparison of the 2018 - 2023 Apprentice Deer hunting seasons

YEAR	Licenses Sold	Harvest						Success	Avg Days Hunted	Average Satisfctn
		Bucks		Does		Total				
		WT	Mule	WT	Mule					
2018	4,845	264	35	1,823	377	2,499	52%	3.85	5.72	
2019	4,424	263	37	1,722	297	2,319	52%	3.93	5.70	
2020	4,302	249	26	1,846	372	2,493	58%	3.71	5.73	
2021	641	21	0	323	18	362	57%	3.09	6.10	
2022	527	29	4	210	22	263	50%	4.10	5.82	
2023	653	36	3	292	29	361	55%	4.27	5.69	

\*The Apprentice season was separated into Youth and Apprentice seasons in 2021. See separate Youth season report for license sales and estimated harvest.

## 2023 Apprentice Deer Harvest Projections

Last Revised:		Harvest Projections											Average	Avg	
29-Apr-24	License	Licenses	Licenses Sold		Response	Tag	Whitetail			Mule Deer			Total	Satisfaction	Days
Unit-Type	Holders	Available	Resident	Nonresident	Rate	Success	Bucks	Does	Doe Fawns	Bucks	Does	Doe Fawns	Harvest	Score **	Hunted
APD-03	112	Unlimited	112	0	34%	58%	3	29	0	3	29	0	65	--	--
APD-13	541	Unlimited	541	0	33%	55%	33	248	15	0	0	0	296	--	--
<b>Totals</b>	<b>653</b>		<b>653</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33.2%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>5.69</b>	<b>4.27</b>

\*\* Refers to a satisfaction scale of 1=very dissatisfied to 7=very satisfied.

# 2023 Apprentice Deer Harvest Distribution

Last Revised:  
30-Apr-24

Unit	Projected Harvest								Total	%
	Whitetail			Mule Deer						
	Bucks	Does	Fawn	Bucks	Adult	Does	Fawn			
01A (Minnehaha)	9	18	0	0	0	0	0	27	7.5%	
02A (NE Penn/SE Meade)	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0.8%	
02C (SE Pennington)	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	9	2.5%	
03A (Brown)	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	1.7%	
04A (Beadle)	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	1.7%	
05A (Codington)	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	12	3.3%	
06A (Brookings)	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	24	6.7%	
07A (Yankton)	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0.8%	
08A (Davison)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.8%	
10A (Aurora)	0	9	3	0	0	0	0	12	3.3%	
11A (N Bennett)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
11B (S Bennett)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
12A (Bon Homme)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
13A (Brule)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
13L (Brule GPA's/Corps)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
14A (Buffalo)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
15A (Butte)	0	9	0	0	9	0	0	18	5.0%	
15B (SW Butte/Lawrence)	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	1.7%	
16A (Campbell)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
17A (Charles Mix)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
18A (Clark)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.8%	
19A (Clay)	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	9	2.5%	
20A (Corson)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
21A (E Custer/S Penn)	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	18	5.0%	
21B (C Custer/C Penn)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.8%	
22A (Day)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.8%	
23A (Deuel)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
24A (Dewey)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
24B (Little Moreau)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
25A (Douglas)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.8%	
26A (Edmunds)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
27A (NW FRiver/SW Cust)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
27B (Fall River)	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	6	1.7%	
27L (Hill Ranch Area)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.8%	
28A (Faulk)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
29A (Grant)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.8%	
30A,B (Gregory)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.8%	
31A (Haakon)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
32A (Hamlin)	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	9	2.5%	
33A (Hand)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
34A (Hanson)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
35A (W Harding)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
35C (E Harding)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
35L (Custer Nat Forest)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.8%	
36A (Hughes)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
37A (Hutchinson)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.8%	
38A (Hyde)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
39A (N Jackson)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
39B (S Jackson)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
40A (Jerauld)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
41A (Jones)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
42A (Kingsbury)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
43A (Lake)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.8%	
44A (Lincoln)	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	6	1.7%	
45A (W Lyman)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
45B (E Lyman)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
45C (NE Lyman/SE Stanley)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
45D (Ft Pr Nat Grslnd)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
46A (McCook)	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	6	1.7%	
47A (McPherson)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
48A (Marshall)	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	6	1.7%	
49A (W Meade)	0	6	0	3	6	0	0	15	4.1%	
49B (NE Meade)	3	3	0	0	3	0	0	9	2.5%	
50A,B (Mellette)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
51A (Miner)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
52A (Moody)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.8%	
53A (N Perkins)	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	6	1.6%	
53C (S Perkins)	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	6	1.7%	
54A (Potter)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
55A (Roberts)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
56A (Sanborn)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.8%	
57A (Spink)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
58A (Stanley)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
59A (W Sully)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
59B (E Sully)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.8%	
60A (Tripp)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
61A (Turner)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
62A (Union)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.8%	
63A (Walworth)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
64A (Ziebach)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
65A (Oglala Lakota)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
67A (Todd)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
BH (Black Hills)	9	78	6	0	0	0	0	93	25.9%	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>361</b>		

Use these figures for approximations only!