

YOUTH DEER

The Youth season was modified into the Apprentice season in 2018 and then separated from the Apprentice season in 2021. See Apprentice season report for license sales and estimated harvest for that season.

There were 3,286 single-tag antlerless licenses issued for the 2023 Youth Deer hunting season (2,964 resident, 322 nonresident). All license holders that provided a valid email address were surveyed and 930 responses (28%) were received.

The Youth season ran from September 9, 2023, through January 1, 2024. Respondents reported hunting an average of 4.82 days each, which projected to 15,826 recreation days for the season.

Projections for the season indicated that 145 whitetail bucks, 1,191 whitetail does, 3 mule deer bucks, and 121 mule deer does were harvested. The estimated total harvest for the Youth Deer season was 1,460, and the overall success rate was 44%. The six deer management units with the highest reported harvest were the Black Hills, Minnehaha, Brown, Codington, Brookings, and Grant, which accounted for 31% of the harvest.

The average satisfaction rating for those responding (1 being very dissatisfied and 7 very satisfied) was 5.05.

Comparison of the 2013 - 2023 Youth Deer hunting seasons

YEAR	Licenses Sold	Harvest					Total	Success	Avg Days Hunted	Average Satisfctn
		Bucks		Does						
		WT	Mule	WT	Mule					
2013	5,548	346	32	1,756	344	2,477	45%	4.64	5.23	
2014	5,038	317	37	1,924	287	2,565	51%	4.61	5.47	
2015	5,331	329	33	2,137	333	2,831	53%	4.54	5.59	
2016	4,861	322	29	1,896	324	2,571	53%	4.15	5.65	
2017	5,325	292	35	2,072	426	2,825	53%	4.17	5.65	
2018-20	Modified into Apprentice Deer season									
2021	3,812	175	8	1,523	156	1,861	49%	3.89	5.57	
2022	3,448	151	4	1,282	235	1,672	48%	4.08	5.38	
2023	3,286	145	3	1,191	121	1,460	44%	4.82	5.05	

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2023 Youth Deer Harvest Projections

Last Revised:		Harvest Projections											Average	Avg		
29-Apr-24	License Holders	Licenses Available	Licenses Sold			Response Rate	Tag Success	Whitetail			Mule Deer			Total Harvest	Score **	Days Hunted
Unit			Resident	Nonresident	Tags Sold			Bucks	Does	Doe Fawns	Bucks	Does	Doe Fawns			
YOD-03	363	Unlimited	283	80	363	31%	52%	13	52	0	3	114	7	190	--	--
YOD-13	2,923	Unlimited	2,681	242	2,923	28%	43%	132	1021	118	0	0	0	1,271	--	--
Totals	3,286		2,964	322	3,286	28.3%	44%	145	1,073	118	3	114	7	1,460	5.05	4.82

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

2023 Youth Deer Harvest Distribution by Management Unit

Unit	Projected Harvest							Estimate	%
	Whitetail			Mule Deer					
	Bucks	Does	Fawn	Bucks	Does	Fawn			
	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Fawn	Adult	Fawn			
01A (Minnehaha)	11	39	7	0	0	0	57	3.9%	
02A (NE Penn/SE Meade)	0	4	0	0	7	0	10	0.7%	
02C (SE Pennington)	0	14	0	0	0	0	14	1.0%	
03A (Brown)	7	25	7	0	0	0	39	2.7%	
04A (Beadle)	11	11	4	0	0	0	25	1.7%	
05A (Codington)	7	28	4	0	0	0	39	2.7%	
06A (Brookings)	4	46	0	0	0	0	50	3.4%	
07A (Yankton)	0	14	4	0	0	0	18	1.2%	
08A (Davison)	0	7	0	0	0	0	7	0.5%	
10A (Aurora)	4	25	4	0	0	0	32	2.2%	
11A (N Bennett)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
11B (S Bennett)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%	
12A (Bon Homme)	0	11	0	0	0	0	11	0.7%	
13A (Brule)	0	7	0	0	0	0	7	0.5%	
13L (Brule GPA's/Corps)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
14A (Buffalo)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
15A (Butte)	0	11	0	0	13	3	27	1.8%	
15B (SW Butte/Lawrence)	7	4	0	0	7	0	17	1.2%	
16A (Campbell)	4	4	0	0	0	0	7	0.5%	
17A (Charles Mix)	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	0.2%	
18A (Clark)	0	28	4	0	0	0	32	2.2%	
19A (Clay)	0	14	0	0	0	0	14	1.0%	
20A (Corson)	0	4	4	0	0	0	7	0.5%	
21A (E Custer/S Penn)	4	11	7	0	0	0	21	1.5%	
21B (C Custer/C Penn)	0	7	0	0	0	0	7	0.5%	
22A (Day)	4	28	0	0	0	0	32	2.2%	
23A (Deuel)	4	4	4	0	0	0	11	0.7%	
24A (Dewey)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
24B (Little Moreau)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
25A (Douglas)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%	
26A (Edmunds)	4	25	4	0	0	0	32	2.2%	
27A (NW FRiver/SW Cust)	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	0.2%	
27B (Fall River)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
27L (Hill Ranch Area)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
28A (Faulk)	0	7	4	0	0	0	11	0.7%	
29A (Grant)	7	32	0	0	0	0	39	2.7%	
30A,B (Gregory)	4	4	4	0	0	0	11	0.7%	
31A (Haakon)	0	11	0	0	10	0	20	1.4%	
32A (Hamlin)	0	32	0	0	0	0	32	2.2%	
33A (Hand)	4	25	0	0	0	0	28	1.9%	
34A (Hanson)	4	25	7	0	0	0	36	2.4%	
35A (W Harding)	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	0.7%	
35C (E Harding)	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	0.7%	
35L (Custer Nat Forest)	4	0	0	0	13	0	17	1.1%	
36A (Hughes)	0	11	0	0	0	0	11	0.7%	
37A (Hutchinson)	4	21	0	0	0	0	25	1.7%	
38A (Hyde)	7	7	4	0	0	0	18	1.2%	
39A (N Jackson)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
39B (S Jackson)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
40A (Jerauld)	0	11	0	0	0	0	11	0.7%	
41A (Jones)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
42A (Kingsbury)	0	7	0	0	0	0	7	0.5%	
43A (Lake)	0	32	4	0	0	0	36	2.4%	
44A (Lincoln)	0	11	0	0	0	0	11	0.7%	
45A (W Lyman)	0	7	0	0	0	0	7	0.5%	
45B (E Lyman)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%	
45C (NE Lyman/SE Stanley)	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	0.2%	
45D (Ft Pr Nat Grslnd)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
46A (McCook)	4	25	4	0	0	0	32	2.2%	
47A (McPherson)	4	14	4	0	0	0	21	1.5%	
48A (Marshall)	0	18	4	0	0	0	21	1.5%	
49A (W Meade)	0	11	0	0	3	0	14	1.0%	
49B (NE Meade)	4	4	0	0	7	0	14	0.9%	
50A,B (Mellette)	0	7	4	0	0	0	11	0.7%	
51A (Miner)	0	11	4	0	0	0	14	1.0%	
52A (Moody)	0	28	0	0	0	0	28	1.9%	
53A (N Perkins)	0	4	0	3	23	0	30	2.0%	
53C (S Perkins)	0	7	0	0	10	0	17	1.2%	
54A (Potter)	4	7	4	0	0	0	14	1.0%	
55A (Roberts)	4	21	0	0	0	0	25	1.7%	
56A (Sanborn)	0	7	0	0	0	0	7	0.5%	
57A (Spink)	0	28	0	0	0	0	28	1.9%	
58A (Stanley)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
59A (W Sully)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%	
59B (E Sully)	0	7	0	0	0	0	7	0.5%	
60A (Tripp)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%	
61A (Turner)	7	21	0	0	0	0	28	1.9%	
62A (Union)	0	7	0	0	0	0	7	0.5%	
63A (Walworth)	0	14	0	0	0	0	14	1.0%	
64A (Ziebach)	0	4	0	0	3	3	10	0.7%	
65A (Oglala Lakota)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
67A (Todd)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%	
BH (Black Hills)	21	195	14	0	0	0	231	15.8%	
TOTALS	145	1,073	118	3	114	7	1,460		

Use these figures for approximations only!

Youth Deer 1990-2023

