

APPRENTICE/YOUTH DEER

There were 4,302 single-tag antlerless licenses issued for the 2020 Apprentice Deer (formerly Youth Deer) hunting season (3,794 resident, 508 nonresident). All license holders were surveyed and 2,176 responses (51%) were received. All hunters responded through the Internet.

The Apprentice season ran from September 12, 2020 through January 1, 2021. Respondents reported hunting an average of 3.71 days each, which projected to 15,961 recreation days for the season.

Projections for the season indicated that 249 whitetail buck fawns, 1,846 whitetail does, 26 mule deer buck fawns, and 372 mule deer does were harvested. The estimated total harvest for the Apprentice Deer season was 2,493, and the overall success rate was 58%. The five deer management units with the highest reported harvest were the Black Hills, Minnehaha, Codington, Brookings, and McCook, which accounted for 27% of the total apprentice season harvest.

The average satisfaction rating for those responding (1 being very dissatisfied and 7 very satisfied) was 5.73.

Comparison of the 2011 - 2020 Apprentice/Youth Deer hunting seasons

YEAR	Licenses Sold	Harvest						Success	Avg Days Hunted	Average Satisfctn
		Bucks		Does		Total				
		WT	Mule	WT	Mule					
2011	7,033	339	43	2,349	322	3,053	43%	5.58	5.02	
2012	6,110	321	33	2,387	305	3,046	50%	4.87	5.32	
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	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	

2020 Apprentice Deer Harvest Projections

Last Revised:		Harvest Projections													Average	Avg	
9-Apr-21		License Holders	Licenses Available	Licenses Sold		Response Rate	Hunter Success	Tag Success	Whitetail			Mule Deer			Total Harvest	Satisfaction Score **	Days Hunted
Unit			Resident	Nonresident					Bucks	Does	Doe Fawns	Bucks	Does	Doe Fawns			
Statewide	4,302	Unlimited	3,794	508	51%	58%	58%	249	1,625	221	26	336	36	2,493	5.73	3.71	

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

2020 Apprentice Deer Harvest Distribution by Management Unit

Unit	Projected Harvest								Total Estimate	%
	Whitetail			Mule Deer						
	Bucks		Does	Bucks		Does				
	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Fawn	Adult	Fawn				
01A (Minnehaha)	6	56	4	0	0	0		67	2.7%	
02A (NE Penn/SE Meade)	0	4	0	0	13	0		18	0.7%	
02C (SE Pennington)	0	15	0	0	13	2		31	1.2%	
03A (Brown)	4	52	2	0	0	0		58	2.3%	
04A (Beadle)	6	37	15	0	0	0		58	2.3%	
05A (Codington)	6	54	13	0	0	0		73	2.9%	
06A (Brookings)	12	52	2	0	0	0		66	2.7%	
07A (Yankton)	4	37	2	0	0	0		43	1.7%	
08A (Davison)	0	6	0	0	0	0		6	0.3%	
10A (Aurora)	2	30	4	0	0	0		37	1.5%	
11A (N Bennett)	0	6	0	0	2	0		9	0.3%	
11B (S Bennett)	0	0	0	0	2	0		2	0.1%	
12A (Bon Homme)	6	17	4	0	0	0		28	1.1%	
13A (Brule)	0	11	2	0	2	0		15	0.6%	
13L (Brule GPA's/Corps)	0	2	0	0	0	0		2	0.1%	
14A (Buffalo)	0	2	0	0	2	0		4	0.2%	
15A (Butte)	8	26	6	0	13	5		58	2.3%	
15B (SW Butte/Lawrence)	2	11	4	0	2	0		19	0.8%	
16A (Campbell)	0	6	2	0	7	0		15	0.6%	
17A (Charles Mix)	4	9	4	0	2	0		19	0.8%	
18A (Clark)	0	26	2	0	2	0		30	1.2%	
19A (Clay)	4	19	0	0	0	0		24	0.9%	
20A (Corson)	4	0	0	0	11	0		15	0.6%	
21A (E Custer/S Penn)	0	11	0	0	13	0		24	1.0%	
21B (C Custer/C Penn)	0	9	0	0	2	0		11	0.4%	
22A (Day)	4	35	2	0	0	0		41	1.6%	
23A (Deuel)	12	39	4	0	0	0		55	2.2%	
24A (Dewey)	4	9	0	0	2	0		15	0.6%	
24B (Little Moreau)	2	0	0	0	0	0		2	0.1%	
25A (Douglas)	0	9	0	0	0	0		9	0.3%	
26A (Edmunds)	0	19	2	0	0	0		22	0.9%	
27A (NW FRiver/SW Cust)	0	0	0	2	7	0		9	0.4%	
27B (Fall River)	2	11	0	2	11	2		29	1.1%	
27L (Hill Ranch Area)	0	4	0	0	0	0		4	0.2%	
28A (Faulk)	2	11	4	0	0	0		17	0.7%	
29A (Grant)	12	43	4	0	0	0		60	2.4%	
30A,B (Gregory)	0	39	10	0	2	2		54	2.2%	
31A (Haakon)	0	9	0	0	20	2		31	1.2%	
32A (Hamlin)	10	41	6	0	0	0		58	2.3%	
33A (Hand)	4	17	4	0	0	0		26	1.0%	
34A (Hanson)	2	4	0	0	0	0		6	0.3%	
35A (W Harding)	2	11	4	0	18	2		37	1.5%	
35C (E Harding)	2	4	0	0	11	2		20	0.8%	
35L (Custer Nat Forest)	0	4	0	0	4	2		11	0.4%	
36A (Hughes)	0	9	0	2	4	0		15	0.6%	
37A (Hutchinson)	2	15	0	0	0	0		17	0.7%	
38A (Hyde)	0	4	2	0	0	0		6	0.3%	
39A (N Jackson)	0	0	0	0	2	0		2	0.1%	
39B (S Jackson)	0	4	2	0	2	0		9	0.3%	
40A (Jerauld)	0	2	2	0	0	0		4	0.2%	
41A (Jones)	0	2	2	2	7	0		13	0.5%	
42A (Kingsbury)	10	39	4	0	0	0		53	2.1%	
43A (Lake)	4	28	4	0	0	0		36	1.5%	
44A (Lincoln)	4	26	2	0	0	0		32	1.3%	
45A (W Lyman)	0	9	4	0	0	0		13	0.5%	
45B (E Lyman)	2	4	0	0	0	0		6	0.3%	
45C (NE Lyman/SE Stanley)	0	0	0	2	0	0		2	0.1%	
45D (Ft Pr Nat Grslnd)	0	0	0	0	4	0		4	0.2%	
46A (McCook)	8	50	13	0	0	0		71	2.8%	
47A (McPherson)	8	22	2	0	0	0		32	1.3%	
48A (Marshall)	0	6	2	0	0	0		9	0.3%	
49A (W Meade)	2	19	4	0	9	0		34	1.4%	
49B (NE Meade)	2	11	0	0	11	0		24	1.0%	
50A,B (Mellette)	4	13	8	0	4	0		30	1.2%	
51A (Miner)	2	26	2	0	0	0		30	1.2%	
52A (Moody)	8	28	2	0	0	0		38	1.5%	
53A (N Perkins)	2	2	0	7	29	0		40	1.6%	
53C (S Perkins)	0	13	0	0	11	7		31	1.2%	
54A (Potter)	2	6	2	0	4	0		15	0.6%	
55A (Roberts)	6	48	6	0	0	0		60	2.4%	
56A (Sanborn)	0	15	0	0	0	0		15	0.6%	
57A (Spink)	2	35	8	0	0	0		45	1.8%	
58A (Stanley)	0	9	0	2	11	5		27	1.1%	
59A (W Sully)	4	0	2	2	7	0		15	0.6%	
59B (E Sully)	0	2	2	0	2	0		6	0.3%	
60A (Tripp)	2	17	0	0	2	0		22	0.9%	
61A (Turner)	12	17	0	0	2	0		32	1.3%	
62A (Union)	2	30	4	0	0	0		37	1.5%	
63A (Walworth)	4	6	0	2	4	0		17	0.7%	
64A (Ziebach)	0	4	0	0	2	0		7	0.3%	
65A (Oglala Lakota)	0	0	0	0	2	0		2	0.1%	
67A (Todd)	0	4	0	0	2	0		7	0.3%	
BH (Black Hills)	25	288	31	0	51	2		397	15.9%	
TOTALS	249	1,625	221	26	336	36		2,493		

Any by management unit projected harvest values will differ from statewide projected harvest values due to incorrect sampling proportions within units. Use these figures for approximations only!

Apprentice Deer 1990-2020

