

EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE

The 2015 Early Fall Canada goose season was open from 1-30 September in the Unit 1 counties specified in the 2015 hunting guide, which included most of the state. However, nonresidents were prohibited from hunting in the counties of Beadle, Brookings, Hanson, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Sanborn, Turner and Union during these dates. The daily bag limit was 15 geese and possession was 45. To hunt geese, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult, senior or junior combination, or youth small game licenses plus a migratory bird certification. Nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident waterfowl license. All hunters age 16 and over were also required to obtain a federal waterfowl stamp.

Resident hunters were surveyed utilizing the Migratory Bird Harvest Survey that is used to assess all migratory bird harvest for the year. Hunters were asked to break down how many geese they harvested during the Early Fall season out of the total number they harvested for the year. Nonresident hunters were surveyed using a separate Early Fall Canada Goose season survey.

In 2015, there were 29,392 hunters licensed to hunt the Early Fall Canada goose season (29,065 residents, 327 nonresidents). Approximately 17% (4,861) of the resident hunters and 89% (292) of the nonresident hunters were surveyed. The survey response rates were 64% for residents and 52% for nonresidents.

In 2015, there were a projected 3,883 hunters who hunted at least one day in Unit 1 during the Early Fall season. There were a projected 20,735 geese harvested.

Comparison of the 2006 - 2015 Early Fall Canada goose harvests

Year	Number Hunters	Harvest	Average Season Bag
2006	6,095	25,755	4.23
2007	5,876	26,698	4.54
2008	5,275	27,924	5.29
2009	6,157	39,275	6.38
2010	5,767	44,183	7.66
2011	5,417	50,361	9.30
2012	3,636	28,788	7.92
2013	4,528	29,887	6.60
2014	5,106	28,814	5.64
2015	3,883	20,735	5.34

EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2015

Last Revised: 1 June 2016

	Resident	Non Resident
EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE SEASON Licenses Sold *1*	29,115	327
Unique Licenseholders	29,065	327
Projected No. Early Fall Canada Goose Hunters	3,608	275
Number Sampled by Survey	4,861	292
Number Responded to Survey	3,126	151
Responded and Participated in Season	388	127
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	2,738	24
Survey Response Rate	64.3%	51.7%
No. Hunters Reporting Early Fall Canada Goose Days	388	127
Total Reported Early Fall Canada Goose Hunted Days	UNK	431
Average Days Hunted Canada Geese	UNK	3.39
Total Reported Canada Geese Bagged	1,939	1,250
Average Canada Goose Bag for Early Fall	5.00	9.84
Projected Days Canada Goose Hunting Early Fall	UNK	933
Projected No. Early Fall Canada Goose Hunters	3,608	275
Projected Canada Goose Bag	18,028	2,707
TOTAL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST EARLY FALL SEASON = 20,735		
Canada Goose Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *2*	4.81	4.76

1 For residents: number of licenses based on # Migratory Bird Certificates in the 2015 GF82 database

For nonresidents: number of Nonresident Waterfowl licenses sold in GF79

2 Based on a scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied

EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST, 1996-2015

