

COTTONTAIL & SQUIRREL

The 2017 cottontail rabbit and tree squirrel seasons covered 1 September 2017 - 28 February 2018. Harvest surveys were sent to resident and nonresident hunters after the close of the pheasant season on 1 January 2017. It is assumed that this captured the majority of cottontail and squirrel hunting and harvest.

For cottontail, the daily limit was 10, possession 30, and the season was open statewide. For squirrel, the daily limit was 5, possession 15, and the season was open statewide. Residents holding small game, 1-day small game, adult, senior or junior combination, or youth small game licenses were eligible to participate in the season. Nonresidents were required to obtain either a small game or a youth small game license to hunt upland game.

In 2017, there were 84,754 resident and 70,316 nonresident licenses issued that allowed holders to hunt upland game. Approximately 10% of residents and nonresidents were surveyed for the upland game seasons. Survey response rates were 61% for residents and 62% for nonresidents.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting cottontails, there were a projected 4,628 resident and 607 nonresident cottontail hunters. Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting squirrels, there were a projected 2,571 resident and 87 nonresident hunters. An estimated 24,272 cottontails and 10,110 squirrels were harvested during the 2017 small game seasons.

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), resident hunters reported an average satisfaction level of 4.81, while nonresidents reported a rating of 5.31.

Comparison of the 2008 - 2017 cottontail and squirrel harvests

Year	Cottontails				Squirrels			
	Hunters		Harvest		Hunters		Harvest	
	Resident	Nonres	Resident	Nonres	Resident	Nonres	Resident	Nonres
2008	8,714	1,955	96,203	8,915	2,833	230	11,785	442
2009	7,485	1,304	65,793	6,090	2,827	181	12,156	309
2010	6,011	885	44,481	1,832	2,901	96	12,677	115
2011	3,019	529	19,835	845	1,547	78	6,806	146
2012	3,133	794	18,758	1,763	1,553	166	7,338	400
2013	4,199	516	21,682	846	2,911	116	10,962	61
2014	5,366	754	28,276	1,591	2,552	150	9,587	241
2015	5,779	1,020	37,407	2,397	2,870	171	13,311	180
2016	5,584	754	35,649	2,224	2,786	181	11,614	262
2017	4,628	607	22,711	1,561	2,571	87	9,850	260

Survey design changed in 2010 and 2014 and may not be directly comparable to previous years.

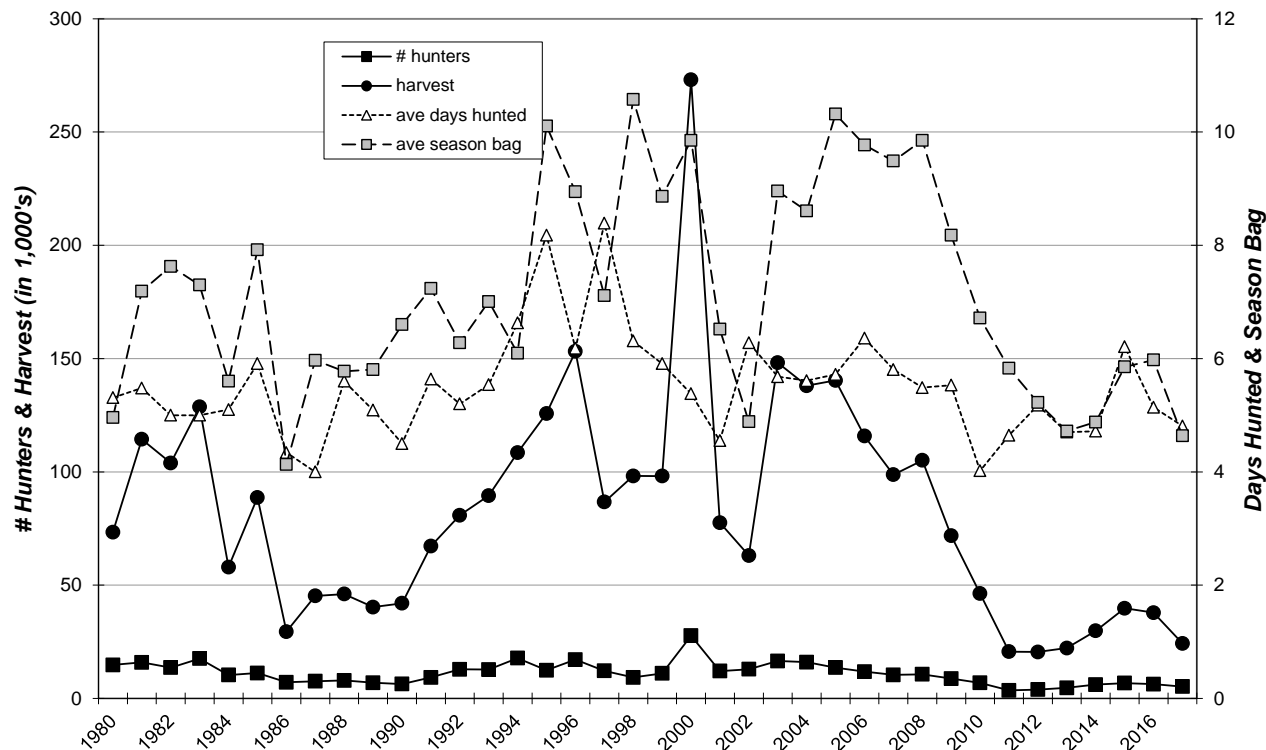
UPLAND GAME HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2017

Last Revised: 8 June 2018

	RESIDENT TOTALS BY LICENSE TYPE						NONRESIDENT TOTALS		
	Small Game	Combination	Senior Combo	Junior Combo	Youth SmGm	Sum Estimates	Non Res Sm Game	Youth Sm Gm	Sum Estimates
Licenses Sold	16,599	47,020	8,962	7,760	4,413	84,754	68,358	1,958	70,316
Projected ACTIVE UPLAND GAME HUNTERS	765	2,809	300	728	620	5,224	622	0	622
Number Sampled by Survey	1,411	4,292	827	691	396	7,617	7,523	217	7,740
Number Responded to Survey	759	2,611	716	277	242	4,605	4,652	122	4,774
% Responded and Participated in Season	5%	6%	3%	9%	14%	6%	1%	0%	1%
Responded and Participated in Season	35	156	24	26	34	275	43	0	43
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	724	2,455	692	251	208	4,330	4,609	122	4,731
Survey Response Rate	53.8%	60.8%	86.6%	40.1%	61.1%	60.5%	61.8%	56.2%	61.7%
No. Hunters Reporting Cottontail Days	31	135	21	24	32	243	42	0	42
Sum Cottontail Hunted Days	171	630	107	64	147	1,119	185	0	185
Average Days Hunted Cottontails	5.52	4.67	5.10	2.67	4.59	4.60	4.40	0.00	4.40
Sum Cottontails Bagged	121	782	123	100	90	1,216	108	0	108
Average Cottontail Bag for Season	3.90	5.79	5.86	4.17	2.81	5.00	2.57	0.00	2.57
Projected Days Cottontail Hunting	3,740	11,345	1,339	1,793	2,681	20,898	2,674	0	2,674
Projected No. Cottontail Hunters	678	2,431	263	672	584	4,628	607	0	607
Projected Cottontail Bag	2,646	14,083	1,540	2,801	1,641	22,711	1,561	0	1,561
TOTAL COTTONTAIL HARVEST =							24,272		
No. Hunters Reporting Squirrel Days	15	79	13	15	13	135	6	0	6
Sum Squirrel Hunted Days	99	413	76	35	55	678	22	0	22
Average Days Hunted Squirrels	6.60	5.23	5.85	2.33	4.23	5.02	3.67	0.00	3.67
Sum Squirrels Bagged	39	334	116	39	24	552	18	0	18
Average Squirrel Bag for Season	2.60	4.23	8.92	2.60	1.85	4.09	3.00	0.00	3.00
Projected Days Squirrel Hunting	2,165	7,437	951	981	1,003	12,537	318	0	318
Projected No. Squirrel Hunters	328	1,423	163	420	237	2,571	87	0	87
Projected Squirrel Bag	853	6,015	1,452	1,093	438	9,850	260	0	260
TOTAL SQUIRREL HARVEST =							10,110		
Mean Satisfaction Score *	4.49	4.91	4.33	5.08	4.82	4.81	5.31		5.31

* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1="very dissatisfied" and 7="very satisfied"

SOUTH DAKOTA COTTONTAIL HARVEST, 1980-2017



SOUTH DAKOTA SQUIRREL HARVEST, 1980-2017

