

# **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 567 resident single-tag antlerless licenses issued for the 2024 Apprentice Deer hunting season. All license holders that provided a valid email address were surveyed and 182 responses (33%) were received.

The Apprentice season ran from September 14, 2024, through January 1, 2025. Respondents reported hunting an average of 4.38 days each, which projected to 2,486 recreation days for the season.

Projections for the season indicated that 25 whitetail buck fawns, 260 adult whitetail does, 16 whitetail doe fawns, 6 mule deer buck fawns, and 12 adult mule deer does were harvested. The estimated total harvest for the Apprentice Deer season was 318, and the overall success rate was 56%. The five deer management units with the highest reported harvest were the Black Hills, Minnehaha, Brookings, SE Pennington, and E Custer/S Pennington, which accounted for 51% of the total season harvest.

The average satisfaction rating for those responding (1 being very dissatisfied and 7 very satisfied) was 5.65.

## Comparison of the 2018 - 2024 Apprentice Deer hunting seasons

YEAR	Licenses Sold	Harvest						Avg Days Hunted	Average Satisfctn
		Bucks		Does		Total	Success		
		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
2024	567	25	6	276	12	318	56%	4.38	5.65

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

## 2024 Apprentice Deer Harvest Projections

Last Revised:		Harvest Projections												Average	
26-Mar-25	License	Licenses	Licenses Sold		Response	Tag	Whitetail			Mule Deer			Total	Satisfaction	Avg
Unit-Type	Holders	Available	Resident	Nonresident	Rate	Success	Bucks	Does	Doe Fawns	Bucks	Does	Doe Fawns	Harvest	Score **	Hunted
APD-03	92	Unlimited	92	0	34%	45%	0	24	0	6	9	3	42	--	--
APD-13	475	Unlimited	475	0	32%	58%	25	236	16	0	0	0	277	--	--
<b>Totals</b>	<b>567</b>		<b>567</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32.6%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>5.65</b>	<b>4.38</b>

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

# 2024 Apprentice Deer Harvest Distribution

Last Revised:  
26-Mar-25

Unit	Projected Harvest							
	Whitetail			Mule Deer			Total	
	Bucks	Does	Fawn	Bucks	Does	Fawn		
	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Estimate	%
01A (Minnehaha)	3	16	3	0	0	0	22	6.9%
02A (NE Penn/SE Meade)	0	3	0	0	3	0	6	1.9%
02C (SE Pennington)	0	13	0	0	0	0	13	3.9%
03A (Brown)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
04A (Beadle)	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	2.0%
05A (Codington)	3	6	0	0	0	0	9	3.0%
06A (Brookings)	3	9	0	0	0	0	13	3.9%
07A (Yankton)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
08A (Davison)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
10A (Aurora)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0%
11A (N Bennett)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
11B (S Bennett)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
12A (Bon Homme)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
13A (Brule)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0%
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	9	0	0	0	0	9	2.9%
15B (SW Butte/Lawrence)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0%
16A (Campbell)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
17A (Charles Mix)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
18A (Clark)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
19A (Clay)	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	2.0%
20A (Corson)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
21A (E Custer/S Penn)	0	13	0	0	0	0	13	3.9%
21B (C Custer/C Penn)	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	2.0%
22A (Day)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
23A (Deuel)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
24A (Dewey)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0%
24B (Little Moreau)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
25A (Douglas)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
26A (Edmunds)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0%
27A (NW FRiver/SW Cust)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0%
27B (Fall River)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0%
27L (Hill Ranch Area)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
28A (Faulk)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0%
29A (Grant)	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.0%
30A,B (Gregory)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0%
31A (Haakon)	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0.9%
32A (Hamlin)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0%
33A (Hand)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
34A (Hanson)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0%
35A (W Harding)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
35C (E Harding)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
35L (Custer Nat Forest)	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0.9%
36A (Hughes)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0%
37A (Hutchinson)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
38A (Hyde)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0%
39A (N Jackson)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0%
39B (S Jackson)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
40A (Jerauld)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
41A (Jones)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
42A (Kingsbury)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
43A (Lake)	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	1.0%
44A (Lincoln)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
45A (W Lyman)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
45B (E Lyman)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
45C (NE Lyman/SE Stanley)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
45D (Ft Pr Nat Grslnd)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
46A (McCook)	3	6	0	0	0	0	9	3.0%
47A (McPherson)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
48A (Marshall)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0%
49A (W Meade)	0	6	0	0	3	3	12	3.8%
49B (NE Meade)	0	3	0	3	0	0	6	1.9%
50A,B (Mellette)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
51A (Miner)	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	1.0%
52A (Moody)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0%
53A (N Perkins)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
53C (S Perkins)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
54A (Potter)	3	3	0	0	0	0	6	2.0%
55A (Roberts)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
56A (Sanborn)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
57A (Spink)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
58A (Stanley)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
59A (W Sully)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0%
59B (E Sully)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
60A (Tripp)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
61A (Turner)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0%
62A (Union)	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	2.0%
63A (Walworth)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
64A (Ziebach)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
65A (Oglala Lakota)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
67A (Todd)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
BH (Black Hills)	6	91	6	0	0	0	103	32.4%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>318</b>	

Use these figures for approximations only!