

CANADA GEESE (all seasons)

Information provided in this section pertains to the entire Canada goose harvest in South Dakota and combines information from all seasons. The next two sections report specifically on the Early Fall (September) and Special Bennett County seasons.

The 2024 Canada goose season was open from 1 September 2024 - 16 February 2025 statewide, although some units may have opened later and/or closed sooner. The daily bag was 8 geese in Unit 1, but only 4 in Units 2 and 3 (refer to Hunting Handbook). Possession was three times the daily bag. Resident hunters were separately licensed for one Special Canada goose unit in Bennett County. To hunt geese, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, youth small game, adult or senior combination licenses, plus a migratory bird certification. Nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident waterfowl license plus a migratory bird certification. All hunters aged 16 and over were also required to obtain a federal waterfowl stamp. Special Canada goose season hunters were required to apply for and receive Special Canada goose season licenses.

In 2024, there were an estimated 10,067 hunters who hunted at least one day for Canada geese (7,865 residents, 2,201 nonresidents). From the survey responses, there were an estimated total of 70,803 Canada geese harvested (65,542 by residents, 5,261 by nonresidents). Average Canada goose bag for residents was 8.33, and for nonresidents 2.41. An estimated 10,716 Canada geese were harvested within 20 miles of the Missouri River.

The five counties with the highest reported harvest by residents were Codington, Day, Deuel, Clark, and Hughes, and by nonresidents in unit 00B were Day, Marshall, Roberts, Brown, and Edmunds.

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), Canada goose hunters reported an average rating of 4.71 for residents and 5.10 for nonresidents. The average days hunted by all hunters (7.05 residents, 4.12 nonresidents) projected to a total of 64,307 recreation days for the season.

Comparison of the 2020 - 2024 Canada goose harvest statistics

Year	Resident Hunters					Nonresident Hunters				
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Days Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Days Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction
2020	10,356	93,682	6.96	9.05	5.07	2,199	6,924	3.96	3.15	5.38
2021	9,997	104,693	7.20	10.47	5.14	2,357	6,736	4.14	2.89	5.27
2022	8,973	90,680	6.96	10.11	5.07	2,327	8,209	4.11	3.55	5.51
2023	9,361	78,633	6.70	8.40	4.97	2,295	5,925	4.02	2.59	5.48
2024	7,865	65,542	7.05	8.33	4.71	2,201	5,261	4.12	2.41	5.10

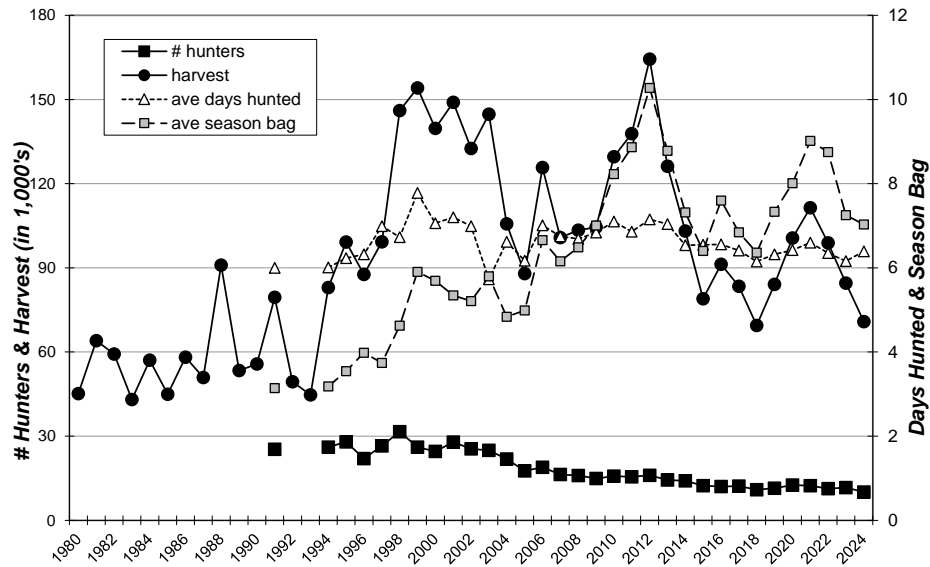
CANADA GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2024

Revised: 27 May 2025

	NONRESIDENT TOTALS BY UNIT								NR Totals	Resident Total
	00A	00B	11A	00V	00X	00Y	00Z	YW1		
No. Hunters Reporting Canada Goose Days	48	663	4	68	35	60	27		905	1,027
Total Reported Canada Goose Hunted Days	321	2,929	11	172	82	155	61		3,731	7,242
Average Days Hunted Canada Geese	6.69	4.42	2.75	2.53	2.34	2.58	2.26		4.12	7.05
Total Reported Canada Geese Bagged	221	1,572	4	104	109	106	62		2,178	8,558
Average Canada Goose Bag for Season	4.60	2.37	1.00	1.53	3.11	1.77	2.30		2.41	8.33
Projected Days Canada Goose Hunting	747	6,655	39	552	285	380	185		8,844	55,463
Projected No. Canada Goose Hunters	112	1,506	14	218	122	147	82		2,201	7,865
Projected Canada Goose Bag	514	3,572	14	334	379	260	188		5,261	65,542
Canada Geese Reported w/in 20 miles of Missouri River	221	85		5	67		11		389	1,270
Projected Canada Geese Bagged w/in 20 miles Missouri River	514	193		16	233		33		990	9,726
TOTAL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST ALL SEASONS = 70,803										
Canada Goose Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*	4.53	5.13	5.25	4.93	4.80	5.45	5.33		5.10	4.71

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

STATEWIDE CANADA GOOSE (all seasons) HARVEST, 1980-2024



Resident Canada Goose Harvest Distribution by County 2024

COUNTY	HUNTER DISTRIBUTION				HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Birds/Hunter **
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	
Minnehaha	36	276	3.6	281	124	950	1.5	957	3.4
Pennington	10	77	1.0	78	27	207	0.3	208	2.7
Brown	57	437	5.6	444	447	3,423	5.3	3,450	7.8
Beadle	17	130	1.7	133	87	666	1.0	671	5.1
Codington	44	337	4.4	343	474	3,630	5.6	3,658	10.8
Brookings	39	299	3.9	304	214	1,639	2.5	1,651	5.5
Yankton	15	115	1.5	117	120	919	1.4	926	8.0
Davison	6	46	0.6	47	50	383	0.6	386	8.3
Lawrence	12	92	1.2	94	30	230	0.4	232	2.5
Aurora	13	100	1.3	101	39	299	0.5	301	3.0
Bennett	22	168	2.2	171	78	597	0.9	602	3.5
Bon Homme	18	138	1.8	140	30	232	0.4	232	1.7
Brule	11	84	1.1	86	13	320	0.2	324	3.8
Buffalo	2	15	0.2	16	13	100	0.2	100	6.5
Butte	14	107	1.4	109	155	1,187	1.8	1,196	11.1
Campbell	6	46	0.6	47	65	498	0.8	502	10.8
Charles Mix	25	191	2.5	195	161	1,233	1.9	1,242	6.4
Clark	49	375	4.9	382	541	4,143	6.4	4,175	11.0
Clay	11	84	1.1	86	82	628	1.0	633	7.5
Corson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Custer	1	8	0.1	8	2	15	0.0	15	2.0
Day	74	567	7.3	577	910	6,969	10.7	7,023	12.3
Deuel	25	191	2.5	195	493	3,776	5.8	3,805	19.7
Dewey	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Douglas	4	31	0.4	31	3	23	0.0	23	0.8
Edmunds	26	199	2.6	203	289	2,213	3.4	2,230	11.1
Fall River	21	161	2.1	164	136	1,042	1.6	1,050	6.5
Faulk	8	61	0.8	62	69	697	1.1	704	11.4
Grant	27	207	2.7	210	147	1,126	1.7	1,134	5.4
Gregory	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Haakon	2	15	0.2	16	4	31	0.0	31	2.0
Hamlin	20	153	2.0	156	68	521	0.8	525	3.4
Hand	13	100	1.3	101	89	682	1.0	687	6.8
Hanson	7	54	0.7	55	35	268	0.4	270	5.0
Harding	1	8	0.1	8	10	77	0.1	77	10.0
Hughes	60	460	5.9	468	770	5,897	9.1	5,942	12.0
Hutchinson	7	54	0.7	55	25	191	0.3	193	3.6
Hyde	4	31	0.4	31	6	46	0.1	46	1.5
Jackson	2	15	0.2	16	1	8	0.0	8	0.5
Jerauld	4	31	0.4	31	8	61	0.1	62	2.0
Jones	6	46	0.6	47	13	100	0.2	100	2.2
Kingsbury	52	398	5.2	405	323	2,474	3.8	2,493	6.2
Lake	34	260	3.4	265	219	1,677	2.6	1,690	6.4
Lincoln	6	46	0.6	47	50	383	0.6	386	8.3
Lyman	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
McCook	15	115	1.5	117	73	559	0.9	563	4.9
McPherson	26	199	2.6	203	453	3,469	5.3	3,496	17.4
Marshall	29	222	2.9	226	250	1,915	2.9	1,929	8.6
Meade	6	46	0.6	47	74	567	0.9	571	12.3
Mellette	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Miner	11	84	1.1	86	40	306	0.5	309	3.6
Moody	4	31	0.4	31	24	184	0.3	185	6.0
Perkins	5	38	0.5	39	27	207	0.3	208	5.4
Potter	3	23	0.3	23	13	100	0.2	100	4.3
Roberts	36	276	3.6	281	276	2,114	3.2	2,130	7.7
Sanborn	7	54	0.7	55	22	168	0.3	170	3.1
Spink	17	130	1.7	133	326	2,497	3.8	2,516	19.2
Stanley	8	61	1.1	66	69	1,218	1.9	1,227	14.5
Sully	16	115	1.6	117	88	674	1.0	679	11.0
Tripp	1	8	0.1	8	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Turner	7	54	0.7	55	20	153	0.2	154	2.9
Union	7	54	0.7	55	48	368	0.6	370	6.9
Walworth	5	38	0.5	39	129	988	1.5	996	25.8
Ziebach	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Shannon	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Todd	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Unk/Unreported	18	138	-	-	65	498	-	-	3.6
TOTALS:	1,027	7,865	100%	7,865	8,558	65,542	100%	65,542	8.33

* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding