

# **DUCKS (all species)**

The 2024 duck season was open 21 September 2024 - 16 January 2025 statewide, although some units/zones may have opened later and/or closed sooner. A special Youth Waterfowl season was open 7-8 September for youth that had not reached age 18 by the first day of the season. For the Traditional bag option, the daily limit was 6 ducks (including mergansers), which could include no more than 5 mallards (up to 2 hens), 1 scaup, 2 redheads, 3 wood ducks, 2 canvasbacks, or 1 pintail. Hunters could also harvest 2 bonus blue-winged teal daily during the first 16 days of the season. The daily limit on coots was 15. For the 3-Duck bag option, the daily limit was 3 ducks of any species or sex, including mergansers. The possession limit was three times the daily bag for each species. To hunt ducks, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult or senior combination, or youth small game 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.

In 2024, there were an estimated 15,908 hunters who hunted at least one day for ducks (11,227 residents, 4,681 nonresidents). From the survey responses, there were a projected total of 231,125 ducks harvested (176,323 by residents, 54,802 by nonresidents). Nonresidents reported harvesting 7% of their ducks within 20 miles of the Missouri River. Average bag for residents was 15.70, and for nonresidents ranged from 6.19 in unit 00X to 20.50 in unit 11A.

The five counties with the highest reported resident hunter numbers were Clark, Day, Brown, Brookings, and Kingsbury. The five counties with the highest reported unit 00B nonresident hunter numbers were Day, Brown, Clark, Marshall, and Roberts.

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being most dissatisfied, 7 being most satisfied), duck hunters reported an average satisfaction rating of 4.85 for residents and 5.18 for nonresidents.

The average days hunted by all hunters (7.45 residents, 4.30 nonresidents) projected to a total of 103,779 recreation days for the season.

## Comparison of the 2019 - 2024 duck season statistics

Year	Resident Hunters					Nonresident Hunters				
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction
2019	11,295	176,885	7.30	15.66	5.17	4,423	52,225	4.47	11.81	5.38
2020	12,285	190,515	7.75	15.51	5.15	4,274	51,169	4.36	11.97	5.38
2021	10,634	151,207	7.37	14.22	5.10	4,442	47,802	4.28	10.76	5.18
2022	10,417	158,173	7.40	15.18	5.10	4,267	52,082	4.34	12.21	5.40
2023	11,726	189,983	7.40	16.20	5.07	4,594	59,912	4.40	13.04	5.51
2024	11,227	176,323	7.45	15.70	4.85	4,681	54,802	4.30	11.71	5.18

## **DUCK HUNTING SUMMARY 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 Duck Days	78	1,422	2	133	64	158	74		1,931	1,466
Total Reported Duck Hunted Days	463	6,928	9	355	161	434	176		8,526	10,920
<b>Average Days Hunted Ducks</b>	<b>5.94</b>	<b>4.87</b>	<b>4.50</b>	<b>2.67</b>	<b>2.52</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>2.38</b>		<b>4.30</b>	<b>7.45</b>
Total Reported Ducks Bagged	894	18,857	41	1,073	396	1,380	503		23,144	23,023
<b>Average Duck Bag for Season</b>	<b>11.46</b>	<b>13.26</b>	<b>20.50</b>	<b>8.07</b>	<b>6.19</b>	<b>8.73</b>	<b>6.80</b>		<b>11.71</b>	<b>15.70</b>
<b>Projected Days Duck Hunting</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>15,742</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1,140</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>1,064</b>	<b>533</b>		<b>20,148</b>	<b>83,631</b>
<b>Projected No. Duck Hunters</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>3,231</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>224</b>		<b>4,681</b>	<b>11,227</b>
<b>Projected Duck Bag</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>42,847</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>3,445</b>	<b>1,377</b>	<b>3,382</b>	<b>1,524</b>		<b>54,802</b>	<b>176,323</b>
Duck Harvest Reported Within 20 Miles of Missouri River	839	638	0	31	118	9	38		1,673	N/A
<b>Projected Ducks Bagged w/in 20 miles of Missouri River</b>	<b>1,952</b>	<b>1,450</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>115</b>		<b>4,049</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>TOTAL DUCK HARVEST = 231,125</b>										
<b>Duck Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*</b>	4.68	5.23	6.00	5.05	4.58	5.29	5.25		5.18	4.85

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

## Resident Duck 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	64	490	4.4	498	705	5,399	3.1	5,462	11.0
Pennington	15	115	1.0	117	196	1,501	0.9	1,519	13.1
Brown	91	697	6.3	708	1,903	14,574	8.4	14,745	20.9
Beadle	25	191	1.7	195	268	2,052	1.2	2,076	10.7
Codington	68	521	4.7	529	1,152	8,823	5.1	8,926	16.9
Brookings	75	574	5.2	584	1,152	8,823	5.1	8,926	15.4
Yankton	16	123	1.1	124	196	1,501	0.9	1,519	12.3
Davison	10	77	0.7	78	176	1,348	0.8	1,364	17.6
Lawrence	19	146	1.3	148	158	1,210	0.7	1,224	8.3
Aurora	19	146	1.3	148	316	2,420	1.4	2,448	16.6
Bennett	7	54	0.5	54	80	613	0.4	620	11.4
Bon Homme	16	123	1.1	124	284	2,175	1.2	2,200	17.8
Brule	23	176	1.6	179	390	2,987	1.7	3,022	17.0
Buffalo	1	8	0.1	8	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Butte	17	130	1.2	132	227	1,738	1.0	1,759	13.4
Campbell	3	23	0.2	23	22	168	0.1	170	7.3
Charles Mix	33	253	2.3	257	535	4,097	2.4	4,145	16.2
Clark	77	590	5.3	599	1,491	11,419	6.6	11,552	19.4
Clay	14	107	1.0	109	137	1,049	0.6	1,061	9.8
Corson	1	8	0.1	8	1	8	0.0	8	1.0
Custer	2	15	0.1	16	11	84	0.0	85	5.5
Day	110	842	7.6	856	2,281	17,469	10.0	17,673	20.7
Deuel	26	199	1.8	202	365	2,795	1.6	2,828	14.0
Dewey	3	23	0.2	23	19	146	0.1	147	6.3
Douglas	10	77	0.7	78	131	1,003	0.6	1,015	13.1
Edmunds	34	260	2.4	265	487	3,730	2.1	3,773	14.3
Fall River	29	222	2.0	226	245	1,876	1.1	1,898	8.4
Faulk	10	77	0.7	78	165	1,264	0.7	1,278	16.5
Grant	19	146	1.3	148	153	1,172	0.7	1,185	8.1
Gregory	1	8	0.1	8	12	92	0.1	93	12.0
Haakon	3	23	0.2	23	51	391	0.2	395	17.0
Hamlin	48	368	3.3	373	636	4,871	2.8	4,928	13.3
Hand	29	222	2.0	226	875	6,701	3.8	6,780	30.2
Hanson	19	146	1.3	148	239	1,830	1.1	1,852	12.6
Harding	1	8	0.1	8	24	184	0.1	186	24.0
Hughes	24	184	1.7	187	300	2,298	1.3	2,324	12.5
Hutchinson	13	100	0.9	101	130	996	0.6	1,007	10.0
Hyde	7	54	0.5	54	81	620	0.4	628	11.6
Jackson	3	23	0.2	23	7	54	0.0	54	2.3
Jerauld	8	61	0.6	62	61	467	0.3	473	7.6
Jones	2	15	0.1	16	7	54	0.0	54	3.5
Kingsbury	93	712	6.4	724	1,818	13,923	8.0	14,086	19.5
Lake	57	437	4.0	443	756	5,790	3.3	5,858	13.3
Lincoln	13	100	0.9	101	95	728	0.4	736	7.3
Lyman	4	31	0.3	31	40	306	0.2	310	10.0
McCook	48	368	3.3	373	708	5,422	3.1	5,486	14.8
McPherson	30	230	2.1	233	479	3,668	2.1	3,711	16.0
Marshall	36	276	2.5	280	607	4,649	2.7	4,703	16.9
Meade	12	92	0.8	93	52	398	0.2	403	4.3
Mellette	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Miner	22	168	1.5	171	375	2,872	1.6	2,906	17.0
Moody	15	115	1.0	117	176	1,348	0.8	1,364	11.7
Perkins	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Potter	6	46	0.4	47	72	551	0.3	558	12.0
Roberts	34	260	2.4	265	498	3,814	2.2	3,859	14.6
Sanborn	15	115	1.0	117	282	2,160	1.2	2,185	18.8
Spink	23	176	1.6	179	420	3,217	1.8	3,254	18.3
Stanley	1	8	0.1	8	14	107	0.1	108	14.0
Sully	15	115	1.0	117	316	2,420	1.4	2,448	21.1
Tripp	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Turner	13	100	0.9	101	308	2,359	1.4	2,386	23.7
Union	3	23	0.2	23	23	176	0.1	178	7.7
Walworth	8	61	0.6	62	49	375	0.2	380	6.1
Ziebach	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Oglala Lakota	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	23	176	-	-	266	2,037	-	-	11.6
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>1,466</b>	<b>11,227</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11,227</b>	<b>23,023</b>	<b>176,323</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>176,323</b>	<b>15.70</b>

Last Revised: 27 May 2025

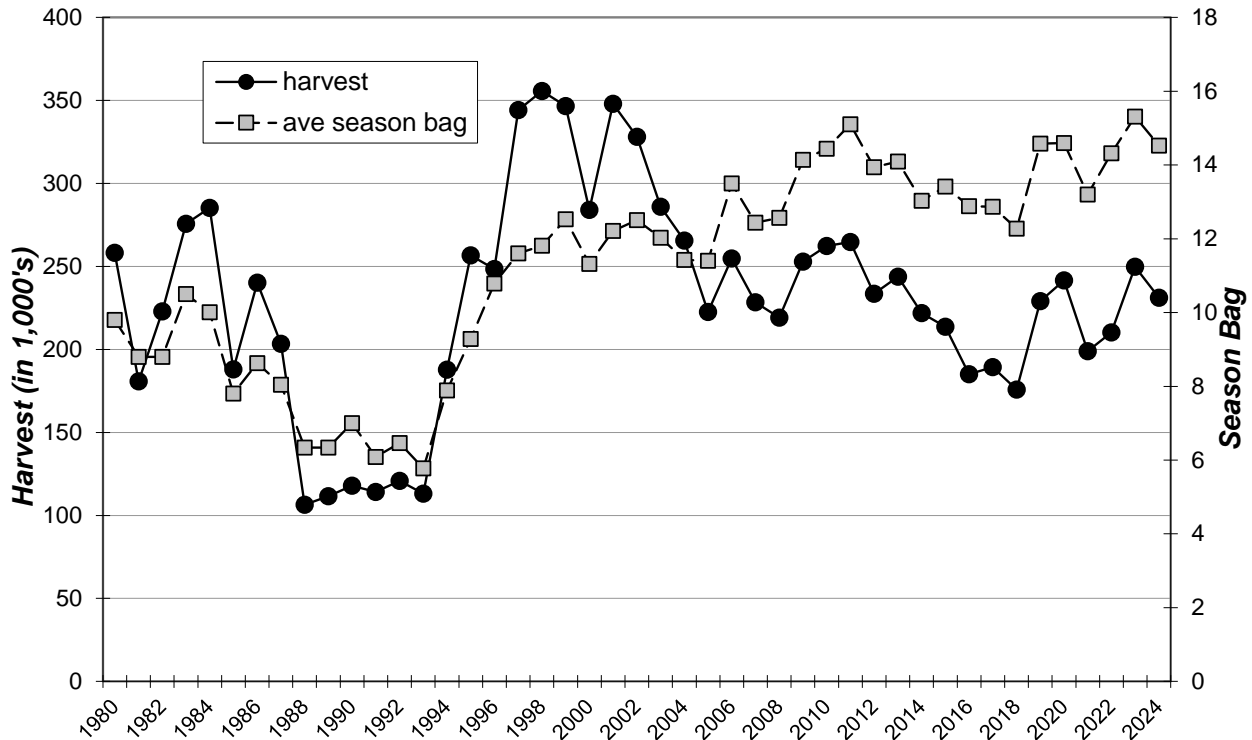
\* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.

\*\* Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.

[illegible]

*Last updated: 27 May 2025*

## STATEWIDE DUCK (all species) HARVEST, 1980-2024



## STATEWIDE DUCK SEASON PARTICIPATION, 1980-2024

