LANDOWNER FREE ANTLERLESS DEER

Landowner Free Antlerless Whitetail Deer licenses (available for resident and nonresident landowners) were available in hunting units which offered a deer license with multiple tags for antlerless deer in the regular lottery drawing for the West River Deer and East River Deer seasons.

There were 2,112 free single-tag antlerless white-tailed deer licenses issued to landowners for the 2025 West River Deer, East River Deer, Archery Deer, Muzzleloader Deer, Youth Deer, and Apprentice Deer hunting seasons. All license holders that provided an email address were surveyed and 632 responses (30%) were received.

Free Landowner on Own Land Antlerless Deer licenses were valid for qualifying hunters from September 13, 2025, through January 1, 2026. Respondents reported hunting an average of 3.84 days each, which projected to 7,229 recreation days.

Projections for the season estimated that 18 whitetail buck fawns and 621 whitetail does were harvested for a total of 638, and overall success rate of 30%. The average satisfaction rating for those responding (1 being very dissatisfied and 7 very satisfied) was 4.85.

Summary of the 2016-2025 Free Landowner Antlerless Deer license statistics

		Harvest						Avg	
	Licenses	Bucks		Does				Days	Average
YEAR	Sold	WT	Mule	WT	Mule	Total	Success	Hunted	Satisfctn
2016	628	36	0	264	3	303	48%	3.54	5.15
2017	349	9	0	159	6	173	49%	3.59	5.10
2018	377	14	2	153	5	173	46%	2.99	5.27
2019	313	4	0	126	0	130	41%	2.68	4.79
2020	393	9	0	212	0	221	56%	3.74	4.92
2021	585	3	0	250	0	253	43%	3.16	5.29
2022	2,152	36	0	684	0	720	33%	3.48	5.04
2023	748	9	0	224	0	233	31%	3.84	4.83
2024	809	17	0	220	0	237	29%	3.86	4.78
2025	2,112	18	0	621	0	638	30%	3.84	4.85

2025 Free Antlerless Landowner Own Land Harvest Projections

Last Revised: 11-Mar-26

	Resident Licenses		Nonresident Licenses						Harvest Projections: Whitetail Bucks		Whitetail Does		Total	Mean	Average
					Tags	Response	Hunter	Tag					Deer	Satisfactn	Days
Unit	Avail.	Sold	Avail.	Sold	sold	Rate	Success	Success	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Harvest	Rating	Hunted
Statewide	Unltd	2,040	Unltd	72	2,112	30%	31%	30%	0	18	576	45	638	4.85	3.84

2025 Statewide Antlerless LOL Harvest Distribution

Last Revised:
12-Mar-26

	Projected Harvest				
	Whitetail				
	Bucks	Does		Total	
Unit	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Estimate	%
02A (NE Penn/SE Meade)	0	9	0	9	1.4%
03A (Brown)	0	33	0	33	5.1%
05A (Codington)	3	21	3	27	4.2%
06A (Brookings)	6	33	0	39	6.1%
15A (Butte)	0	45	0	45	7.0%
15B (SW Butte/Lawrence)	0	9	0	9	1.4%
18A (Clark)	0	48	3	51	7.9%
20A (Corson)	0	21	0	21	3.3%
21A (E Custer/S Penn)	0	3	0	3	0.5%
22A (Day)	0	3	3	6	0.9%
23A (Deuel)	0	9	0	9	1.4%
26A (Edmunds)	3	54	6	63	9.8%
27B (Fall River)	0	6	0	6	0.9%
28A (Faulk)	0	27	0	27	4.2%
29A (Grant)	3	6	0	9	1.4%
30A,B (Gregory)	0	39	0	39	6.1%
31A (Haakon)	0	15	0	15	2.3%
32A (Hamlin)	0	12	0	12	1.9%
35A (W Harding)	0	9	0	9	1.4%
39A (N Jackson)	0	3	0	3	0.5%
42A (Kingsbury)	0	21	0	21	3.3%
43A (Lake)	0	9	3	12	1.9%
45C (NE Lyman/SE Stanley)	0	6	0	6	0.9%
47A (McPherson)	0	12	0	12	1.9%
48A (Marshall)	0	0	3	3	0.5%
49A (W Meade)	3	6	6	15	2.3%
51A (Miner)	0	18	6	24	3.7%
52A (Moody)	0	21	0	21	3.3%
53A (N Perkins)	0	3	0	3	0.5%
53C (S Perkins)	0	12	3	15	2.3%
55A (Roberts)	0	18	3	21	3.3%
57A (Spink)	0	33	3	36	5.6%
63A (Walworth)	0	9	3	12	1.9%
64A (Ziebach)	0	6	0	6	0.9%
TOTALS	**18**	**576**	**45**	**638**	

Use these figures for approximations only