

# **MUZZLELOADER DEER**

There were 2,098 “antlerless whitetail” licenses (1,981 resident, 117 nonresident) and 1,013 “any deer” licenses issued for the 2024 Muzzleloader Deer season, which represented a total of 3,111 tags. All license holders that provided a valid email address were surveyed and 1,785 responded for a response rate of 59%.

The 2024 Muzzleloader season was open from December 1, 2024, through January 1, 2025. There were 4,154 resident applications for the 1,000 “any deer” licenses. Respondents averaged 5.81 days of hunting for a projected total of 17,525 recreation days for the season.

The estimated harvest for the Muzzleloader season was 794 deer (201 whitetail bucks, 446 whitetail does, 135 mule deer bucks, and 12 mule deer does). The overall success rate for the muzzleloader season was 26% and average satisfaction was 4.14 (1 = very dissatisfied, 7 = very satisfied).

The five deer management units with the highest reported harvest were the Black Hills (BH1), Minnehaha (01A), Brookings (06A), Lake (43A), and E Custer/S Pennington (21A) accounting for approximately 25% of the total season harvest.

## Summary comparison of the 2015-2024 Muzzleloader Deer seasons

| YEAR | Licenses Sold |        | Harvest |      |      |      |       |         | Avg Days Hunted | Average Satisfctn |
|------|---------------|--------|---------|------|------|------|-------|---------|-----------------|-------------------|
|      |               |        | Bucks   |      | Does |      | Total | Success |                 |                   |
|      | Res           | Nonres | WT      | Mule | WT   | Mule |       |         |                 |                   |
| 2015 | 3,303         | 143    | 313     | 77   | 539  | 16   | 935   | 27%     | 4.03            | 4.76              |
| 2016 | 2,914         | 134    | 334     | 89   | 699  | 6    | 1,127 | 37%     | 4.06            | 5.03              |
| 2017 | 3,304         | 128    | 263     | 117  | 865  | 4    | 1,251 | 36%     | 4.39            | 5.10              |
| 2018 | 3,263         | 120    | 275     | 110  | 808  | 14   | 1,208 | 36%     | 4.44            | 5.01              |
| 2019 | 3,200         | 140    | 295     | 112  | 795  | 17   | 1,219 | 36%     | 4.95            | 5.10              |
| 2020 | 3,550         | 157    | 272     | 170  | 882  | 17   | 1,341 | 36%     | 4.36            | 5.14              |
| 2021 | 3,358         | 133    | 235     | 110  | 711  | 8    | 1,065 | 31%     | 4.87            | 5.01              |
| 2022 | 3,083         | 104    | 275     | 83   | 760  | 8    | 1,125 | 35%     | 5.03            | 4.73              |
| 2023 | 3,529         | 130    | 213     | 119  | 600  | 12   | 945   | 26%     | 5.75            | 4.22              |
| 2024 | 2,994         | 117    | 201     | 135  | 446  | 12   | 794   | 26%     | 5.81            | 4.14              |

## 2024 Muzzleloader Deer Harvest Projections

|           |                 |                    |               |     |           |               |             |     |    | Harvest Projections |      |       |      |           |      |       |      |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|-----|-----------|---------------|-------------|-----|----|---------------------|------|-------|------|-----------|------|-------|------|
|           |                 |                    |               |     |           |               |             |     |    | Whitetail           |      |       |      | Mule Deer |      |       |      |
|           |                 |                    |               |     |           |               |             |     |    | Bucks               |      | Does  |      | Bucks     |      | Does  |      |
|           |                 |                    |               |     |           |               |             |     |    | Adult               | Fawn | Adult | Fawn | Adult     | Fawn | Adult | Fawn |
| Unit-Type | License Holders | Licenses Available | Licenses Sold |     | Tags Sold | Response Rate | Tag Success |     |    |                     |      |       |      |           |      |       |      |
| ST1-01    | 1,013           | 1,000              | 1,013         | NA  | 1,013     | 67%           | 33.7%       | 138 | 3  | 51                  | 3    | 133   | 1    | 12        | 0    | 341   | -    |
| LM1-13    | 2,098           | Unlimited          | 1,981         | 117 | 2,098     | 56%           | 21.6%       | 0   | 61 | 351                 | 41   | 0     | 0    | 0         | 0    | 452   | -    |
| Totals    | 3,018           |                    | 2,994         | 117 | 3,111     | 59.4%         | 25.5%       | 138 | 64 | 402                 | 44   | 133   | 1    | 12        | 0    | 794   | 5.81 |

## 2024 Muzzleloader Deer Harvest Distribution by Management Unit

Last Revised:  
24-Mar-25

| Last Revised:<br>24-Mar-25 | Projected Harvest |       |      |       |           |       |      |       |       |          |   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------|------|-------|-----------|-------|------|-------|-------|----------|---|
|                            | Whitetail         |       |      |       | Mule Deer |       |      |       | Total |          |   |
|                            | Bucks             |       | Does |       | Bucks     |       | Does |       |       |          |   |
|                            | Unit              | Adult | Fawn | Adult | Fawn      | Adult | Fawn | Adult | Fawn  | Estimate | % |
| 01A (Minnehaha)            | 3                 | 11    | 26   | 2     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 41    | 5.2%     |   |
| 02A (NE Penn/SE Meade)     | 0                 | 0     | 10   | 0     | 6         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 16    | 2.1%     |   |
| 02C (SE Pennington)        | 0                 | 2     | 2    | 0     | 9         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 12    | 1.6%     |   |
| 03A (Brown)                | 3                 | 0     | 10   | 2     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 15    | 1.9%     |   |
| 04A (Beadle)               | 0                 | 0     | 16   | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 16    | 2.0%     |   |
| 05A (Codington)            | 6                 | 4     | 7    | 2     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 18    | 2.3%     |   |
| 06A (Brookings)            | 6                 | 4     | 26   | 2     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 37    | 4.7%     |   |
| 07A (Yankton)              | 0                 | 2     | 9    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 10    | 1.3%     |   |
| 08A (Davison)              | 0                 | 0     | 2    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 2     | 0.2%     |   |
| 10A (Aurora)               | 1                 | 4     | 3    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 9     | 1.1%     |   |
| 11A (N Bennett)            | 0                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0.0%     |   |
| 11B (S Bennett)            | 1                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 1     | 0.2%     |   |
| 12A (Bon Homme)            | 1                 | 2     | 0    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 3     | 0.4%     |   |
| 13A (Brule)                | 0                 | 0     | 2    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 2     | 0.2%     |   |
| 13L (Brule GPA's/Corps)    | 0                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0.0%     |   |
| 14A (Buffalo)              | 0                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0.0%     |   |
| 15A (Butte)                | 1                 | 4     | 9    | 4     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 17    | 2.2%     |   |
| 15B (SW Butte/Lawrence)    | 3                 | 0     | 5    | 2     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 10    | 1.3%     |   |
| 16A (Campbell)             | 0                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0.0%     |   |
| 17A (Charles Mix)          | 3                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 1         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 4     | 0.6%     |   |
| 18A (Clark)                | 0                 | 2     | 2    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 4     | 0.4%     |   |
| 19A (Clay)                 | 0                 | 0     | 2    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 2     | 0.2%     |   |
| 20A (Corson)               | 0                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 7         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 7     | 0.9%     |   |
| 21A (E Custer/S Penn)      | 4                 | 2     | 19   | 0     | 7         | 1     | 1    | 0     | 36    | 4.5%     |   |
| 21B (C Custer/C Penn)      | 1                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 1         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 3     | 0.4%     |   |
| 22A (Day)                  | 1                 | 0     | 10   | 7     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 19    | 2.4%     |   |
| 23A (Deuel)                | 0                 | 0     | 12   | 2     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 14    | 1.8%     |   |
| 24A (Dewey)                | 1                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 1         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 3     | 0.4%     |   |
| 24B (Little Moreau)        | 1                 | 4     | 2    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 7     | 0.9%     |   |
| 25A (Douglas)              | 0                 | 2     | 0    | 2     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 4     | 0.4%     |   |
| 26A (Edmunds)              | 4                 | 0     | 12   | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 17    | 2.1%     |   |
| 27A (NW FRiver/SW Cust)    | 3                 | 2     | 5    | 2     | 4         | 0     | 1    | 0     | 18    | 2.2%     |   |
| 27B (Fall River)           | 1                 | 0     | 12   | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 14    | 1.7%     |   |
| 27L (Hill Ranch Area)      | 3                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 1         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 4     | 0.6%     |   |
| 28A (Faulk)                | 0                 | 0     | 3    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 3     | 0.4%     |   |
| 29A (Grant)                | 3                 | 2     | 16   | 2     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 22    | 2.8%     |   |
| 30A,B (Gregory)            | 3                 | 0     | 5    | 0     | 1         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 10    | 1.2%     |   |
| 31A (Haakon)               | 0                 | 0     | 2    | 0     | 6         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 8     | 1.0%     |   |
| 32A (Hamlin)               | 0                 | 2     | 10   | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 12    | 1.5%     |   |
| 33A (Hand)                 | 4                 | 0     | 2    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 6     | 0.8%     |   |
| 34A (Hanson)               | 0                 | 0     | 2    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 2     | 0.2%     |   |
| 35A (W Harding)            | 0                 | 4     | 0    | 0     | 3         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 7     | 0.8%     |   |
| 35C (E Harding)            | 0                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 3         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 3     | 0.4%     |   |
| 35L (Custer Nat Forest)    | 1                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 12        | 0     | 0    | 0     | 13    | 1.7%     |   |
| 36A (Hughes)               | 3                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 3         | 0     | 1    | 0     | 7     | 0.9%     |   |
| 37A (Hutchinson)           | 1                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 1     | 0.2%     |   |
| 38A (Hyde)                 | 1                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 1     | 0.2%     |   |
| 39A (N Jackson)            | 1                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 1         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 3     | 0.4%     |   |
| 39B (S Jackson)            | 0                 | 2     | 5    | 0     | 3         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 10    | 1.3%     |   |
| 40A (Jerauld)              | 0                 | 0     | 3    | 2     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 5     | 0.7%     |   |
| 41A (Jones)                | 0                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 1         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 1     | 0.2%     |   |
| 42A (Kingsbury)            | 4                 | 4     | 17   | 2     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 27    | 3.4%     |   |
| 43A (Lake)                 | 1                 | 2     | 26   | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 29    | 3.7%     |   |
| 44A (Lincoln)              | 0                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0.0%     |   |
| 45A (W Lyman)              | 1                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 1     | 0.2%     |   |
| 45B (E Lyman)              | 0                 | 0     | 2    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 2     | 0.2%     |   |
| 45C (NE Lyman/SE Stanley)  | 0                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0.0%     |   |
| 45D (Ft Pr Nat Grslnd)     | 0                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 6         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 6     | 0.8%     |   |
| 46A (McCook)               | 0                 | 0     | 10   | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 10    | 1.3%     |   |
| 47A (McPherson)            | 3                 | 0     | 7    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 10    | 1.3%     |   |
| 48A (Marshall)             | 1                 | 2     | 12   | 2     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 17    | 2.2%     |   |
| 49A (W Meade)              | 3                 | 2     | 14   | 0     | 1         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 20    | 2.5%     |   |
| 49B (NE Meade)             | 0                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 4         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 4     | 0.6%     |   |
| 50A,B (Mellette)           | 0                 | 0     | 2    | 0     | 6         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 8     | 1.0%     |   |
| 51A (Miner)                | 1                 | 0     | 12   | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 14    | 1.7%     |   |
| 52A (Moody)                | 1                 | 0     | 9    | 5     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 15    | 1.9%     |   |
| 53A (N Perkins)            | 1                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 3         | 0     | 1    | 0     | 6     | 0.8%     |   |
| 53C (S Perkins)            | 0                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0.0%     |   |
| 54A (Potter)               | 3                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 1         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 4     | 0.6%     |   |
| 55A (Roberts)              | 3                 | 0     | 9    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 12    | 1.5%     |   |
| 56A (Sanborn)              | 3                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 3     | 0.4%     |   |
| 57A (Spink)                | 3                 | 2     | 7    | 2     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 13    | 1.7%     |   |
| 58A (Stanley)              | 1                 | 0     | 2    | 2     | 15        | 0     | 3    | 0     | 23    | 2.9%     |   |
| 59A (W Sully)              | 3                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 4         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 7     | 0.9%     |   |
| 59B (E Sully)              | 0                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0.0%     |   |
| 60A (Tripp)                | 1                 | 0     | 5    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 7     | 0.8%     |   |
| 61A (Turner)               | 0                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0.0%     |   |
| 62A (Union)                | 1                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 1     | 0.2%     |   |
| 63A (Walworth)             | 0                 | 4     | 2    | 2     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 7     | 0.9%     |   |
| 64A (Ziebach)              | 1                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 1         | 0     | 1    | 0     | 4     | 0.6%     |   |
| 65A (Oglala Lakota)        | 0                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0.0%     |   |
| 67A (Todd)                 | 0                 | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0         | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0.0%     |   |
| BH1 (Black Hills)          | 25                | 0     | 14   | 2     | 15        | 0     | 1    | 0     | 58    | 7.3%     |   |
| TOTALS                     | 138               | 64    | 402  | 44    | 133       | 1     | 12   | 0     | 794   |          |   |

Use these figures for approximations only!

## Muzzleloader Deer 1991-2024

