MUZZLELOADER DEER

There were 1,778 “antlerless whitetail” licenses (1,678 resident, 100 nonresident) and 1,000 “any deer” licenses issued for the 2025 Muzzleloader Deer season, which represented a total of 2,778 tags. All license holders that provided a valid email address were surveyed and 1,584 responded for a response rate of 59%.

The 2025 Muzzleloader season was open from December 1, 2025, through January 1, 2026. There were 3,942 resident applications for the 1,000 “any deer” licenses. Respondents averaged 5.63 days of hunting for a projected total of 15,167 recreation days for the season.

The estimated harvest for the Muzzleloader season was 801 deer (217 whitetail bucks, 458 whitetail does, 112 mule deer bucks, and 12 mule deer does). The overall success rate for the Muzzleloader season was 29% and average satisfaction was 4.37 (1 = very dissatisfied, 7 = very satisfied).

The five deer management units with the highest reported harvest were the Black Hills (BH1), Codington (05A), Brookings (06A), Brown (03A), and Grant (29A) accounting for approximately 29% of the total season harvest.

Summary comparison of the 2016-2025 Muzzleloader Deer seasons

			Harvest						Avg	
	Licenses Sold		Bucks		Does				Days	Average
YEAR	Res	Nonres	WT	Mule	WT	Mule	Total	Success	Hunted	Satisfctn
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
2025	2,678	100	217	112	458	12	801	29%	5.63	4.37

2025 Muzzleloader Deer Harvest Projections

									Harvest Projections											
Last Revised:									Whitetail				Mule Deer				Total	Avg	
18-Mar-26	License	Appl. 1st	Licenses	Licenses Sold			Response	Tag	Bucks		Does		Bucks		Does		Deer	Days	Avg
Unit-Type	Holders	Choice	Available	Resident	Nonresident	Tags Sold	Rate	Success	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Harvest	Hunted	Satisf
ST1-01	1,000	3,942	1,000	1,000	NA	1,000	64%	33.6%	159	11	37	3	112	0	12	0	336	-	-
LM1-13	1,778	NA	Unlimited	1,678	100	1,778	53%	26.2%	0	47	375	43	0	0	0	0	465	-	-
Totals	2,694	3,942		2,678	100	2,778	59.0%	28.8%	159	58	412	46	112	0	12	0	801	5.63	4.37

2025 Muzzleloader Deer Harvest Distribution by Management Unit

Last Revised:
11-Mar-26

	Projected Harvest									
	Whitetail				Mule Deer					
	Bucks		Does		Bucks		Does		Total	
Unit	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Estimate	%
01A (Minnehaha)	6	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	14	1.7%
02A (NE Penn/SE Meade)	3	0	2	0	6	0	0	0	11	1.4%
02C (SE Pennington)	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	8	1.0%
03A (Brown)	3	5	24	4	0	0	0	0	36	4.5%
04A (Beadle)	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.6%
05A (Codington)	2	2	30	6	0	0	0	0	39	4.8%
06A (Brookings)	3	2	46	6	0	0	0	0	57	7.1%
07A (Yankton)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
08A (Davison)	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
10A (Aurora)	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	7	0.9%
11A (N Bennett)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
11B (S Bennett)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
12A (Bon Homme)	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.4%
13A (Brule)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
13L (Brule GPA's/Corps)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
14A (Buffalo)	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0.2%
15A (Butte)	2	2	7	4	2	0	0	0	16	2.0%
15B (SW Butte/Lawrence)	2	0	7	0	2	0	0	0	11	1.3%
16A (Campbell)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
17A (Charles Mix)	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0.2%
18A (Clark)	2	2	13	0	0	0	0	0	16	2.0%
19A (Clay)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
20A (Corson)	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.4%
21A (E Custer/S Penn)	5	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	16	1.9%
21B (C Custer/C Penn)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
22A (Day)	3	2	15	2	0	0	0	0	22	2.7%
23A (Deuel)	5	5	9	4	0	0	0	0	23	2.9%
24A (Dewey)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
24B (Little Moreau)	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.9%
25A (Douglas)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
26A (Edmunds)	3	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	18	2.2%
27A (NW FRiver/SW Cust)	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0.4%
27B (Fall River)	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0.4%
27L (Hill Ranch Area)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
28A (Faulk)	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.9%
29A (Grant)	5	4	31	2	0	0	0	0	42	5.2%
30A,B (Gregory)	6	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	19	2.4%
31A (Haakon)	0	2	4	0	5	0	2	0	12	1.5%
32A (Hamlin)	2	4	7	4	0	0	0	0	16	2.0%
33A (Hand)	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.8%
34A (Hanson)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
35A (W Harding)	2	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	13	1.7%
35C (E Harding)	0	2	2	0	6	0	0	0	10	1.2%
35L (Custer Nat Forest)	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	0.8%
36A (Hughes)	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0.4%
37A (Hutchinson)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
38A (Hyde)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
39A (N Jackson)	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	5	0.7%
39B (S Jackson)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
40A (Jerauld)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
41A (Jones)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
42A (Kingsbury)	2	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	27	3.4%
43A (Lake)	3	0	20	4	0	0	0	0	27	3.4%
44A (Lincoln)	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
45A (W Lyman)	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0.4%
45B (E Lyman)	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	5	0.6%
45C (NE Lyman/SE Stanley)	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.5%
45D (Ft Pr Nat Grslnd)	3	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	11	1.4%
46A (McCook)	5	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	8	1.0%
47A (McPherson)	5	2	15	0	0	0	0	0	21	2.7%
48A (Marshall)	5	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	12	1.5%
49A (W Meade)	3	2	4	2	2	0	0	0	12	1.5%
49B (NE Meade)	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	6	0.8%
50A,B (Mellette)	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	0.6%
51A (Miner)	2	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	11	1.3%
52A (Moody)	2	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	13	1.6%
53A (N Perkins)	2	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	8	1.0%
53C (S Perkins)	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.5%
54A (Potter)	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.6%
55A (Roberts)	2	2	17	4	0	0	0	0	24	3.0%
56A (Sanborn)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
57A (Spink)	2	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	13	1.6%
58A (Stanley)	0	2	7	0	9	0	0	0	19	2.3%
59A (W Sully)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0.2%
59B (E Sully)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
60A (Tripp)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
61A (Turner)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
62A (Union)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
63A (Walworth)	0	0	6	2	3	0	0	0	11	1.3%
64A (Ziebach)	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	3	0.4%
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)	30	2	7	2	14	0	6	0	61	7.6%
TOTALS	**159**	**58**	**412**	**46**	**112**	**0**	**12**	**0**	**801**	

Use these figures for approximations only!

Muzzleloader Deer 1991-2025

