

YOUTH DEER

The Youth season was modified into the Apprentice season in 2018 and then separated from the Apprentice season in 2021. See Apprentice season report for license sales and estimated harvest for that season.

There were 3,253 single-tag antlerless licenses issued for the 2024 Youth Deer hunting season (2,956 resident, 297 nonresident). All license holders that provided a valid email address were surveyed and 906 responses (28%) were received.

The Youth season ran from September 14, 2024, through January 1, 2025. Respondents reported hunting an average of 4.77 days each, which projects to 15,506 recreation days for the season.

Projections for the season indicated that 137 whitetail bucks, 1,222 whitetail does, 7 mule deer bucks, and 104 mule deer does were harvested. The estimated total harvest for the Youth Deer season was 1,471, and the overall success rate was 45%. The five deer management units with the highest reported harvest were the Black Hills, Minnehaha, Brown, Codington, and Roberts, which accounted for 32% of the harvest.

The average satisfaction rating for those responding (1 being very dissatisfied and 7 very satisfied) was 4.96.

Comparison of the 2015 - 2024 Youth Deer hunting seasons

YEAR	Licenses Sold	Harvest						Avg Days Hunted	Average Satisfctn
		Bucks		Does		Total	Success		
		WT	Mule	WT	Mule				
2015	5,331	329	33	2,137	333	2,831	53%	4.54	5.59
2016	4,861	322	29	1,896	324	2,571	53%	4.15	5.65
2017	5,325	292	35	2,072	426	2,825	53%	4.17	5.65
2018-20	Modified into Apprentice Deer season								
2021	3,812	175	8	1,523	156	1,861	49%	3.89	5.57
2022	3,448	151	4	1,282	235	1,672	48%	4.08	5.38
2023	3,286	145	3	1,191	121	1,460	44%	4.82	5.05
2024	3,253	137	7	1,222	104	1,471	45%	4.77	4.96

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2024 Youth Deer Harvest Projections

Last Revised:		Harvest Projections												Average	Avg	
26-Mar-25	License	Licenses	Licenses Sold			Response	Tag	Whitetail			Mule Deer			Total	Satisf	Days
Unit	Holders	Available	Resident	Nonresident	Tags Sold	Rate	Success	Bucks	Does	Doe Fawns	Bucks	Does	Doe Fawns	Harvest	Score **	Hunted
YOD-03	369	Unlimited	293	76	369	31%	58%	10	78	13	7	101	3	212	--	--
YOD-13	2,884	Unlimited	2,663	221	2,884	28%	44%	127	1026	105	0	0	0	1,258	--	--
Totals	3,253		2,956	297	3,253	28.3%	45%	137	1,104	119	7	101	3	1,471	4.96	4.77
** Refers to a satisfaction scale of 1=very dissatisfied to 7=very satisfied.																

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2024 Youth Deer Harvest Distribution by Management Unit

Last Revised:

26-Mar-25

Unit	Projected Harvest									
	Whitetail			Mule Deer						
	Bucks		Does	Bucks		Does			Total	
	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Estimate	%		
01A (Minnehaha)	7	54	4	0	0	0	65	4.4%		
02A (NE Penn/SE Meade)	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0.2%		
02C (SE Pennington)	4	4	0	0	0	0	7	0.5%		
03A (Brown)	11	29	0	0	0	0	40	2.7%		
04A (Beadle)	0	14	4	0	0	0	18	1.2%		
05A (Codington)	0	36	7	0	0	0	43	2.9%		
06A (Brookings)	4	25	0	0	0	0	29	2.0%		
07A (Yankton)	7	7	0	0	0	0	14	1.0%		
08A (Davison)	0	7	4	0	0	0	11	0.7%		
10A (Aurora)	0	22	0	0	0	0	22	1.5%		
11A (N Bennett)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%		
11B (S Bennett)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%		
12A (Bon Homme)	4	11	4	0	0	0	18	1.2%		
13A (Brule)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%		
13L (Brule GPA's/Corps)	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%		
14A (Buffalo)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%		
15A (Butte)	0	7	7	0	23	0	37	2.5%		
15B (SW Butte/Lawrence)	4	14	0	3	0	0	21	1.4%		
16A (Campbell)	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	0.2%		
17A (Charles Mix)	14	4	4	0	0	0	22	1.5%		
18A (Clark)	0	18	4	0	0	0	22	1.5%		
19A (Clay)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%		
20A (Corson)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%		
21A (E Custer/S Penn)	4	7	0	0	0	0	11	0.7%		
21B (C Custer/C Penn)	4	7	0	0	0	0	11	0.7%		
22A (Day)	4	11	0	0	0	0	14	1.0%		
23A (Deuel)	0	36	0	0	0	0	36	2.5%		
24A (Dewey)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%		
24B (Little Moreau)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%		
25A (Douglas)	0	14	0	0	0	0	14	1.0%		
26A (Edmunds)	4	7	0	0	0	0	11	0.7%		
27A (NW FRiver/SW Cust)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%		
27B (Fall River)	0	4	4	0	0	0	7	0.5%		
27L (Hill Ranch Area)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%		
28A (Faulk)	4	14	0	0	0	0	18	1.2%		
29A (Grant)	4	29	0	0	0	0	32	2.2%		
30A,B (Gregory)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%		
31A (Haakon)	0	14	4	3	7	0	28	1.9%		
32A (Hamlin)	4	22	4	0	0	0	29	2.0%		
33A (Hand)	0	18	0	0	0	0	18	1.2%		
34A (Hanson)	0	7	7	0	0	0	14	1.0%		
35A (W Harding)	0	4	0	0	13	0	17	1.1%		
35C (E Harding)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%		
35L (Custer Nat Forest)	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	0.7%		
36A (Hughes)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%		
37A (Hutchinson)	0	7	4	0	0	0	11	0.7%		
38A (Hyde)	0	7	0	0	0	0	7	0.5%		
39A (N Jackson)	0	7	0	0	0	0	7	0.5%		
39B (S Jackson)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%		
40A (Jerauld)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%		
41A (Jones)	0	4	4	0	0	0	7	0.5%		
42A (Kingsbury)	4	25	0	0	0	0	29	2.0%		
43A (Lake)	0	25	4	0	0	0	29	2.0%		
44A (Lincoln)	0	18	0	0	0	0	18	1.2%		
45A (W Lyman)	0	11	0	0	0	0	11	0.7%		
45B (E Lyman)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%		
45C (NE Lyman/SE Stanley)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%		
45D (Ft Pr Nat Grslnd)	0	7	4	0	0	0	11	0.7%		
46A (McCook)	7	29	0	0	0	0	36	2.5%		
47A (McPherson)	4	11	0	0	0	0	14	1.0%		
48A (Marshall)	0	18	0	0	0	0	18	1.2%		
49A (W Meade)	0	11	0	0	7	3	21	1.4%		
49B (NE Meade)	0	14	0	0	7	0	21	1.4%		
50A,B (Mellette)	0	4	4	0	0	0	7	0.5%		
51A (Miner)	0	18	4	0	0	0	22	1.5%		
52A (Moody)	0	22	0	0	0	0	22	1.5%		
53A (N Perkins)	0	11	0	0	23	0	34	2.3%		
53C (S Perkins)	0	11	0	0	7	0	17	1.2%		
54A (Potter)	4	11	0	0	0	0	14	1.0%		
55A (Roberts)	7	32	7	0	0	0	47	3.2%		
56A (Sanborn)	0	14	0	0	0	0	14	1.0%		
57A (Spink)	0	18	4	0	0	0	22	1.5%		
58A (Stanley)	0	11	4	0	0	0	14	1.0%		
59A (W Sully)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%		
59B (E Sully)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%		
60A (Tripp)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%		
61A (Turner)	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	0.2%		
62A (Union)	4	22	0	0	0	0	25	1.7%		
63A (Walworth)	0	7	0	0	0	0	7	0.5%		
64A (Ziebach)	7	0	4	0	3	0	14	1.0%		
65A (Oglala Lakota)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%		
67A (Todd)	0	7	0	0	0	0	7	0.5%		
BH (Black Hills)	18	238	18	0	0	0	274	18.6%		
TOTALS	137	1,104	119	7	101	3	1,471			

Use these figures for approximations only!

Youth Deer 1990-2024

