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 3,049 single-tag antlerless licenses issued for the 2025 Youth Deer hunting season (2,758 resident, 291 nonresident). All license holders that provided a valid email address were surveyed and 805 responses (27%) were received.

The Youth season ran from September 13, 2025, through January 1, 2026. Respondents reported hunting an average of 5.20 days each, which projects to 12,522 recreation days for the season.

Projections for the season indicated that 168 whitetail bucks, 1,214 whitetail does, 7 mule deer bucks, and 96 mule deer does were harvested. The estimated total harvest for the Youth Deer season was 1,484, and the overall success rate was 49%. The six deer management units with the highest reported harvest were the Black Hills, Minnehaha, Brookings, Codington, N Perkins, and Roberts, which accounted for 31% of the harvest.

The average satisfaction rating for those responding (1 being very dissatisfied and 7 very satisfied) was 5.20.

Comparison of the 2016 - 2025 Youth Deer hunting seasons

		Harvest						Avg	
	Licenses	Bucks		Does				Days	Average
YEAR	Sold	WT	Mule	WT	Mule	Total	Success	Hunted	Satisfctn
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
2025	3,049	168	7	1,214	96	1,484	49%	4.11	5.20

* 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.

2025 Youth Deer Harvest Projections

Last Revised:							Harvest Projections							Average	Avg
11-Mar-26	License	Licenses	Licenses Sold		Response	Tag	Whitetail			Mule Deer			Total	Satisf	Days
Unit	Holders	Available	Resident	Nonresident	Rate	Success	Bucks	Does	Doe Fawns	Bucks	Does	Doe Fawns	Harvest	Score **	Hunted
YOD-03	360	Unlimited	289	71	28%	50%	7	61	11	7	89	7	182	--	--
YOD-13	2,689	Unlimited	2,469	220	27%	48%	160	1058	84	0	0	0	1,302	--	--
Totals	3,049		2,758	291	26.8%	49%	168	1,119	95	7	89	7	1,484	5.20	4.11

** Refers to a satisfaction scale of 1=very dissatisfied to 7=very satisfied.

2025 Youth Deer Harvest Distribution by Management Unit

Last Revised:
11-Mar-26

	Projected Harvest							
	Whitetail			Mule Deer				
	Bucks	Does		Bucks	Does		Total	
Unit	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Estimate	%
01A (Minnehaha)	8	72	0	0	0	0	80	5.4%
02A (NE Penn/SE Meade)	0	11	0	0	7	4	22	1.5%
02C (SE Pennington)	0	15	4	0	0	0	19	1.3%
03A (Brown)	4	34	0	0	0	0	38	2.6%
04A (Beadle)	0	19	0	0	0	0	19	1.3%
05A (Codington)	0	38	4	0	0	0	42	2.8%
06A (Brookings)	4	38	0	0	0	0	42	2.8%
07A (Yankton)	4	4	0	0	0	0	8	0.5%
08A (Davison)	0	19	0	0	0	0	19	1.3%
10A (Aurora)	4	19	0	0	0	0	23	1.5%
11A (N Bennett)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
11B (S Bennett)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
12A (Bon Homme)	8	11	0	0	0	0	19	1.3%
13A (Brule)	0	11	0	0	0	0	11	0.8%
13L (Brule GPA's/Corps)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
14A (Buffalo)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
15A (Butte)	0	8	0	0	11	0	18	1.2%
15B (SW Butte/Lawrence)	8	8	0	0	0	0	15	1.0%
16A (Campbell)	0	8	0	0	0	0	8	0.5%
17A (Charles Mix)	15	15	0	0	0	0	30	2.1%
18A (Clark)	0	34	0	0	0	0	34	2.3%
19A (Clay)	0	11	4	0	0	0	15	1.0%
20A (Corson)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.3%
21A (E Custer/S Penn)	4	4	0	0	0	0	8	0.5%
21B (C Custer/C Penn)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
22A (Day)	4	27	4	0	0	0	34	2.3%
23A (Deuel)	0	34	0	0	0	0	34	2.3%
24A (Dewey)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.3%
24B (Little Moreau)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
25A (Douglas)	8	4	0	0	0	0	11	0.8%
26A (Edmunds)	0	15	8	0	0	0	23	1.5%
27A (NW FRiver/SW Cust)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
27B (Fall River)	0	8	0	0	0	0	8	0.5%
27L (Hill Ranch Area)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.3%
28A (Faulk)	0	23	0	0	0	0	23	1.5%
29A (Grant)	0	30	0	0	0	0	30	2.1%
30A,B (Gregory)	0	19	0	0	0	0	19	1.3%
31A (Haakon)	0	8	0	0	0	0	8	0.5%
32A (Hamlin)	0	27	8	0	0	0	34	2.3%
33A (Hand)	0	19	0	0	0	0	19	1.3%
34A (Hanson)	0	4	4	0	0	0	8	0.5%
35A (W Harding)	0	0	0	0	7	0	7	0.5%
35C (E Harding)	0	0	0	0	7	0	7	0.5%
35L (Custer Nat Forest)	0	0	4	0	11	0	14	1.0%
36A (Hughes)	4	8	0	0	0	0	11	0.8%
37A (Hutchinson)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
38A (Hyde)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
39A (N Jackson)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.3%
39B (S Jackson)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
40A (Jerauld)	4	4	4	0	0	0	11	0.8%
41A (Jones)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.3%
42A (Kingsbury)	11	23	0	0	0	0	34	2.3%
43A (Lake)	4	30	0	0	0	0	34	2.3%
44A (Lincoln)	4	11	4	0	0	0	19	1.3%
45A (W Lyman)	4	8	0	0	0	0	11	0.8%
45B (E Lyman)	0	15	0	0	0	0	15	1.0%
45C (NE Lyman/SE Stanley)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
45D (Ft Pr Nat Grslnd)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.3%
46A (McCook)	0	15	0	0	0	0	15	1.0%
47A (McPherson)	0	19	8	0	0	0	27	1.8%
48A (Marshall)	4	19	4	0	0	0	27	1.8%
49A (W Meade)	0	4	4	0	4	0	11	0.8%
49B (NE Meade)	0	4	0	4	7	0	14	1.0%
50A,B (Mellette)	0	8	0	0	0	0	8	0.5%
51A (Miner)	4	27	0	0	0	0	30	2.1%
52A (Moody)	4	11	0	0	0	0	15	1.0%
53A (N Perkins)	0	8	0	4	32	4	47	3.2%
53C (S Perkins)	0	11	4	0	0	0	15	1.0%
54A (Potter)	4	8	0	0	0	0	11	0.8%
55A (Roberts)	8	27	11	0	0	0	46	3.1%
56A (Sanborn)	4	11	0	0	0	0	15	1.0%
57A (Spink)	4	11	0	0	0	0	15	1.0%
58A (Stanley)	0	4	4	0	0	0	8	0.5%
59A (W Sully)	0	8	0	0	0	0	8	0.5%
59B (E Sully)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.3%
60A (Tripp)	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.3%
61A (Turner)	4	8	0	0	0	0	11	0.8%
62A (Union)	0	19	0	0	0	0	19	1.3%
63A (Walworth)	4	11	0	0	0	0	15	1.0%
64A (Ziebach)	0	4	0	0	4	0	7	0.5%
65A (Oglala Lakota)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
67A (Todd)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
BH (Black Hills)	30	156	15	0	0	0	202	13.6%
TOTALS	**168**	**1,119**	**95**	**7**	**89**	**7**	**1,484**	

Use these figures for approximations only!

Youth Deer 1990-2025

