



# 2009 VERMONT WHITE-TAILED DEER HARVEST REPORT



**FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT**  
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*The MISSION of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont.*

## Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

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# 2009 White-tailed Deer Report

## Overview

A decline in the deer harvest was expected in 2009 given that the previous two consecutive winters were severe (Figure 1) as previously discussed in the 2009 Antlerless Permitting and Youth Season Recommendation and 2008 Harvest Report. Winter severity is tracked regionally (Figure 2).

Hunting conditions during the 2009 rifle season were less than ideal due to warm and wet weather and are believed to have further reduced the rifle buck kill (6,016 antlered bucks). Still, a total of 8,039 antlered bucks, 15,237 deer, and almost one million pounds of clean venison were taken in all four 2009 deer seasons (Figure 3).

Weather was seasonable during archery and youth deer seasons. Success, as expected, was less than in 2008. Archers took 3,032 deer compared to 3,714 (down 18%) in 2008. Youth took 1,708 deer compared to 1,863 (down 8 %) in 2008.

Blowing rain and 60-degree temperatures during early rifle season suppressed activities of both deer and deer hunters. Snow was minimal or not existent during rifle season. As a result, the rifle buck harvest was down more than expected. The rifle buck harvest dropped from 7,295 in 2008 to 6,016 (down 18%) in 2009.

Weather conditions improved in time for the 2009 December muzzleloader season and so did the harvest rate. Muzzleloader hunters took 4,480 deer compared to 4,166 (up 8%) in 2008. This made 2009 the second most successful muzzleloader season on record. The number of antlered bucks taken during the 2009 muzzleloader season increased 15% from 617 in 2008 to 712 in 2009 while the number of muzzleloader license holders was similar to 2008. These numbers support that the 2009 rifle buck harvest was reduced because of weather. This may bode well for the 2010 season if more bucks than usual survived the 2009 hunting seasons.

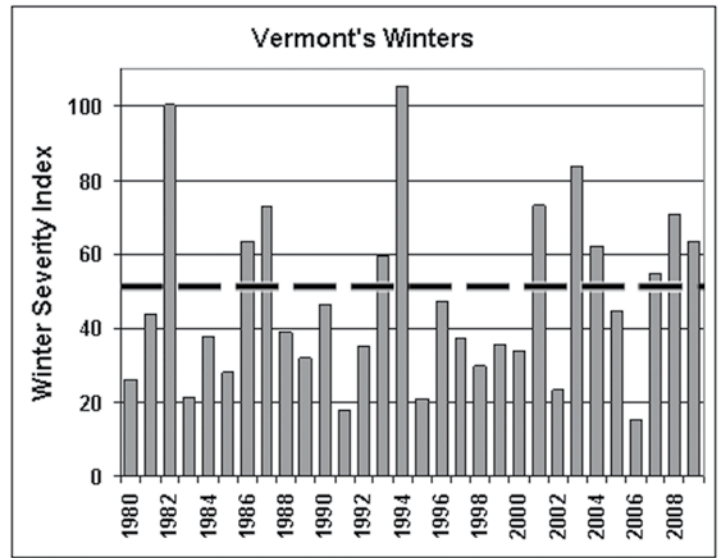


Figure 1. Statewide winter severity indices (WSI) in Vermont from 1980–2009. The horizontal dashed line equals a long-term average of about WSI=50. From 1 December through 15 April, one point per day is given when snow depth is at least 18 inches, and a point is given when temperatures drop below 0°F. The Department maintains about 38 volunteer weather stations statewide.

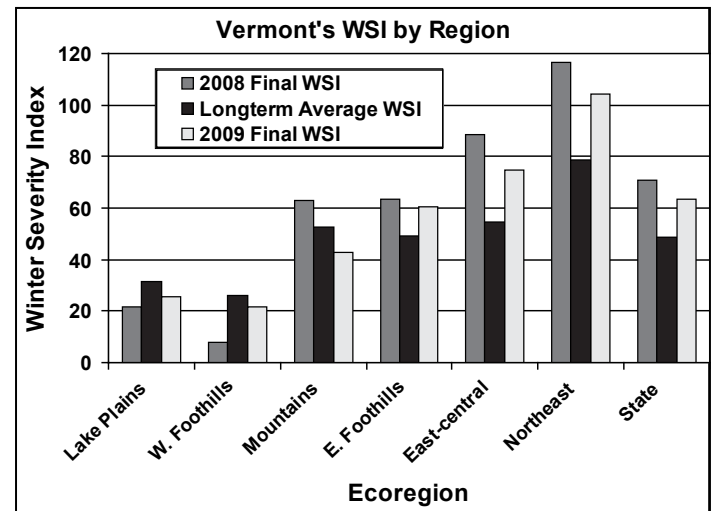


Figure 2. Regional long-term average winter severity versus that during the winter prior to the 2008 and 2009 hunting seasons. Winters were mild in western Vermont and severe in eastern Vermont. Antlerless deer muzzleloader permits were focused in western Vermont to prevent deer population growth (see Figure 7).

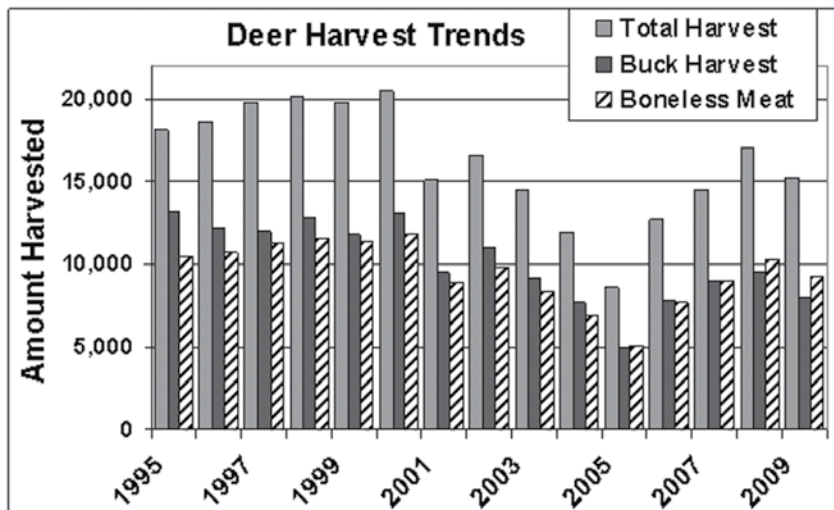
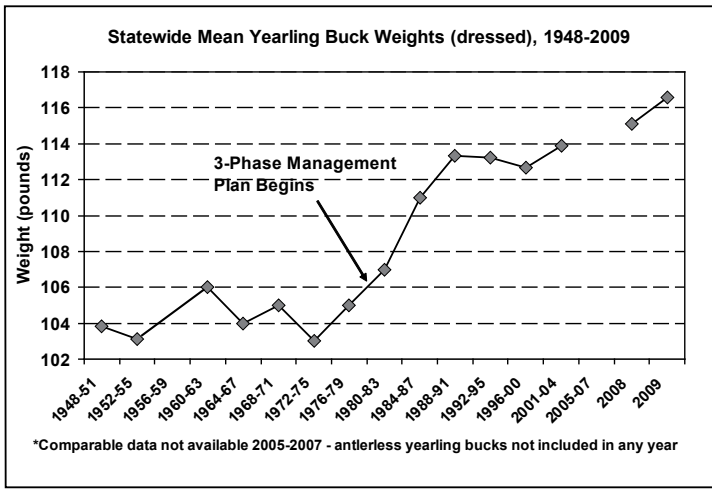
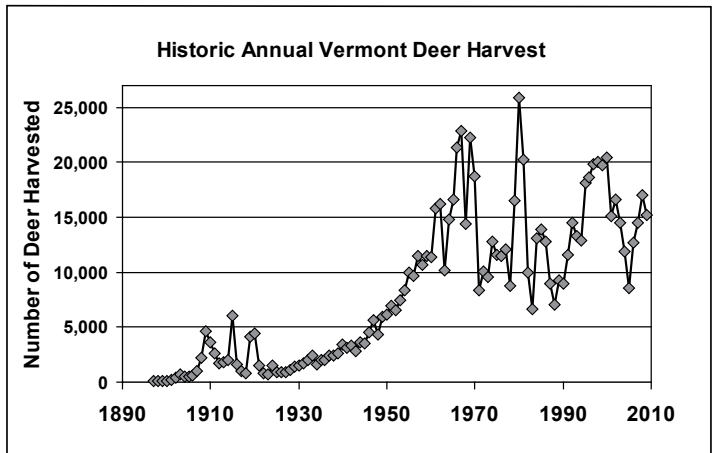


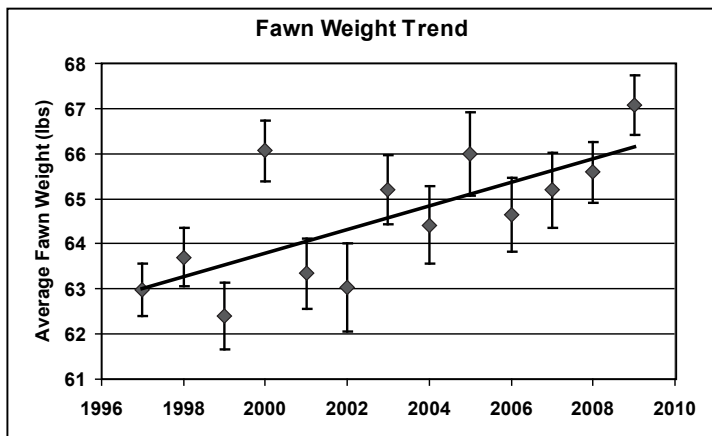
Figure 3. Annual total deer and antlered buck harvests in Vermont from 1995–2009. Boneless meat is represented as 100s of pounds, so the ten-thousand-line equals one-million pounds of meat. Harvest levels in the late 1990s are believed to be unsustainable, from an overabundant deer herd due to crash during a severe winter as happened in 2001.



**Figure 4. Yearling buck weights measured by Department biologists from 1948–2009. Comparable data were gathered in 2008 and 2009 at biological check stations during Youth Weekend because “spike-horn” yearlings are legal during that weekend only. The 3-phase management plan was a bold effort to improve herd health by drastically reducing the chronically overabundant deer herd in the early 1980s, maintain low deer densities for several years to allow habitats to recover, and allow deer densities to slowly increase in the late-80s and early-90s. This plan worked. (Note the change in the time scale, designed to show the entire history of data collection and two most recent years of data at the same time).**



**Figure 5. Historic harvest of deer in Vermont since deer hunting was again made legal in 1897. Annual harvests of 20,000 deer have never been sustainable in Vermont. The department’s Big Game Team believes that annual harvests of 14,000–18,000 should be sustainable despite variable winter weather severity. Historically, annual harvests of 20,000 deer indicate an overabundance of deer in Vermont and a deer herd that will inevitably crash when a severe winter comes along.**



Apples were again abundant statewide in 2009. Wet spring and summer weather contributed to an abundance of mushrooms and other forage. It seemed that these conditions tended to spread deer widely with warm temperatures causing deer to move less during daylight hours. There were also reports of good acorn crops where oak trees thrive in Vermont. The abundance of food in summer and autumn of 2009 seems to be evidenced by record-heavy deer weights (Figures 4 & 6). The number of bucks reported weighing more than 200 pounds nearly doubled in 2009 compared to 2008 (Table 6).

The real good news is that the deer herd did not “crash” following the severe winters of 2008 and 2009. It is hoped that this signals a new trend in Vermont differing from the “boom and bust” trend of the past when the deer herd was weakened by years of overabundance. Vermont’s deer population was healthier in 2009, as indicated by fawn and yearling weights, than it has ever been in modern times (Figures 4 & 6). Deer were fatter and stronger going into winter, resulting in fewer deer succumbing to the stresses of winter. If this heralds the beginning of a new trend, we hope to see a moderation in the boom and bust cycles that have historically characterized Vermont’s deer population and harvest (Figure 5). It would provide steady opportunities for deer hunting and at the same time help maintain the health of the forest and deer habitat. Vermont’s deer hunters should be proud of this achievement. By allowing adequate harvest of adult female deer by hunting each year, the health of Vermont’s deer has been improved.

The Fish & Wildlife Department will continue to improve its methods and science-based hunting recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife Board. Vermont’s hunters can take credit for making deer management possible.

The newly released 10-Year Big Game Management Plan describes the many negative biological and social impacts that result from overabundance of deer. That Plan discusses why about 15–20 deer per square mile is the proper prescription for most of Vermont at this time. This deer density is believed to be half of what used to exist in parts of Vermont in the 1960s, ‘70s, and even in the late ‘90s.

The department recognizes that deer numbers are fewer now than they once were in Bennington, Orange, Rutland, and Windsor counties. This is the way it needs to be given existing habitat conditions. In contrast, there is room for growth of the deer herd in some parts of the state such as the northeast

**Figure 6. Annual average fawn weights (with 95% confidence limits) as reported by hunters to check stations from 1997–2009. All years exclude fawns reported over 99 pounds. The trend-line minimizes the distance between the annual points and the line itself. With bio-check stations now during Youth Weekend, the Department will investigate the use of fawn weights as a more sensitive indicator of herd health, similar to the use of yearling buck weights. On average, fawns in 2009 weighed three pounds more than in 1997; this could be the difference between life and death during some winters.**

highlands and parts of the Green Mountains. Antlerless deer hunting has been minimized for several years in these areas to let deer numbers increase. Deer populations do not always rebound quickly. The reasons for this can be complicated with various factors working together to prevent a herd from increasing. These factors include winter severity, available winter habitats, aging forests with little forage, competition for forage with moose, and predation by black bears, bobcats, coyotes, and domestic dogs. These factors vary in importance within different regions of the state. For example, domestic dogs can be a big problem where they are consistently allowed to harass overwintering deer.

## Season Results and Comparisons

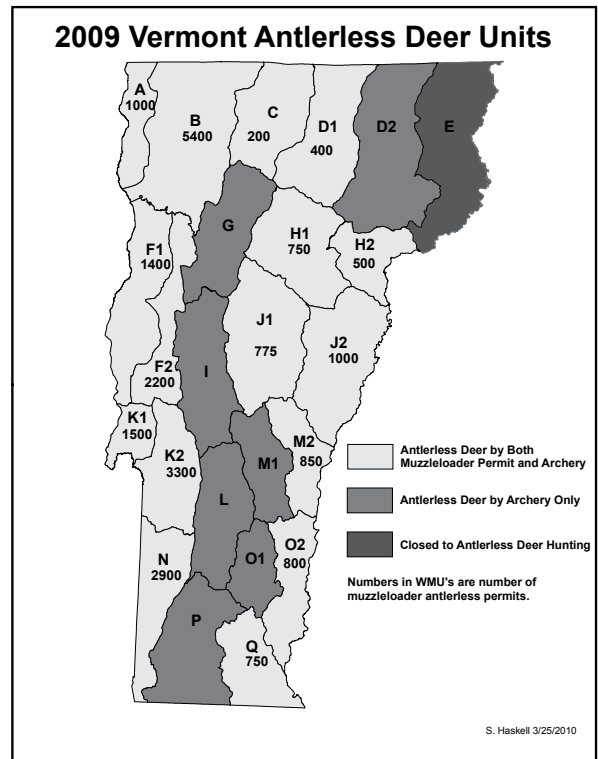
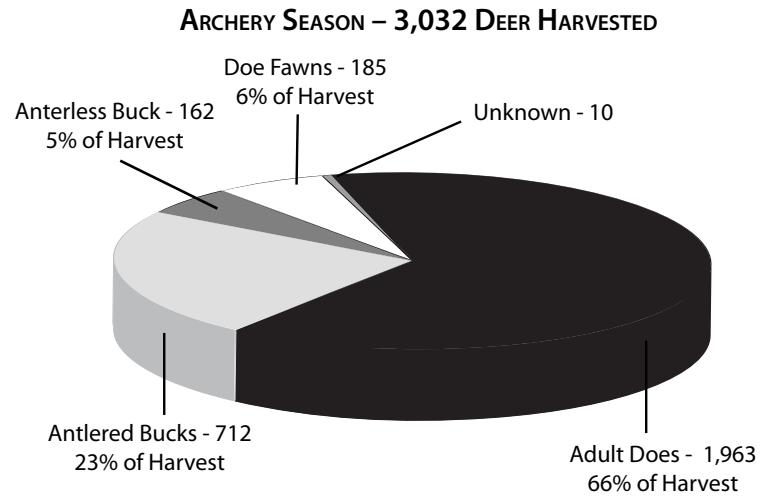
Hunters harvested 15,237 deer in the four Vermont deer seasons. The total deer harvest in 2009, compared to 2008, was generally reduced except in WMUs A, D2, K1, and N (Table 2). Increased harvest in these WMUs is mostly attributed to increased antlerless deer permits. Harvest results by town are listed in Table 8. The heaviest buck reported in 2009 was 236 pounds from Shoreham (Table 6), and the heaviest doe was 184 pounds from Craftsbury (Table 7). The number of bucks reported over 200 pounds nearly doubled in 2009 compared to 2008.

### Archery Season

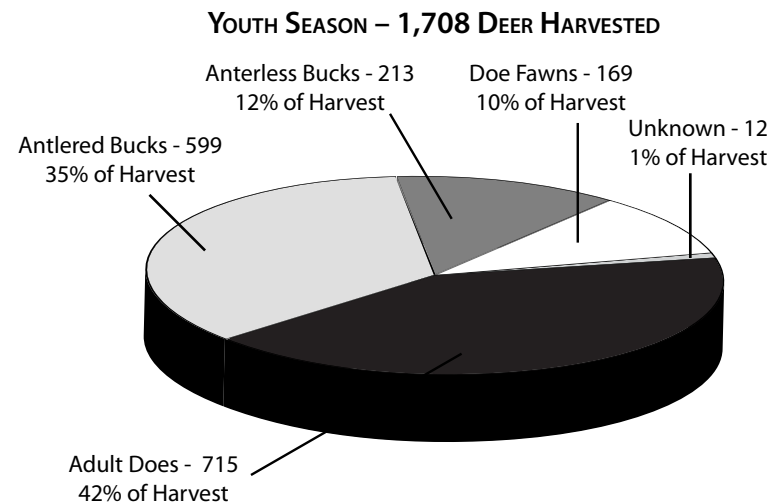
Archery hunters reported a total of 3,032 deer during the 32-day split season (October 3–25 and December 5–13). This was an 18% decrease, down 682 deer, from the 2008 season. The archery harvest was comprised of 23% antlered bucks, 66% adult does, and 11% fawns (Table 1). The prevalence of does in the archery harvest demonstrates that bowhunting is an important mechanism for deer population management. Harvesting does prevent overabundant and unhealthy deer. One hundred fifty-three deer (5% of total archery harvest) were harvested during the December portion of the split season. With a bag limit of two deer during archery, both of which may be antlerless but only one can be antlered, hunting opportunity for archers has been good. All but one WMU in Vermont was open to the taking of antlerless deer during the archery season in 2009 (Figure 7, Table 2). While rifle season is about buck hunting, archery season is about deer hunting.

### Youth Season

Youth hunters maintained a strong presence in 2009. The 2009 youth deer hunting weekend harvest of 1,708 deer was similar to the past three years, but down about 150 deer (about 8%). Youth hunters who qualified could harvest any one deer during the weekend prior to opening of rifle season (November 7th and 8th). The youth harvest was comprised of 35% antlered bucks, 42% adult does, and 22% fawns (Table 1). Youths harvested at least 241 spike-antlered bucks which were 40% of all antlered bucks taken during youth weekend. With an estimated 7,000 spike-antlered yearling bucks statewide, 241 represents about 3% of the spike buck population. This clearly indicates that youth weekend has



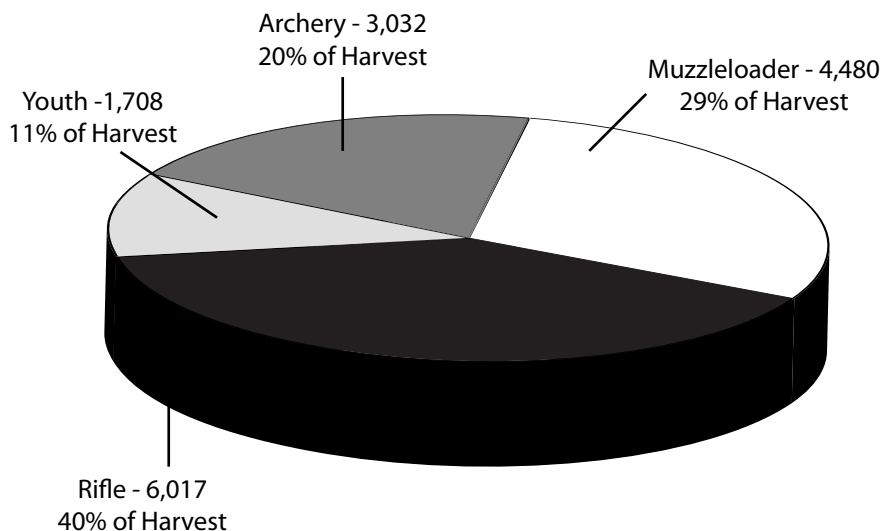
**Figure 7. Vermont 2009 antlerless-deer Archery and Muzzleloader seasons. Numbers in WMUs are the recommended and approved number of permits during muzzleloader season.**



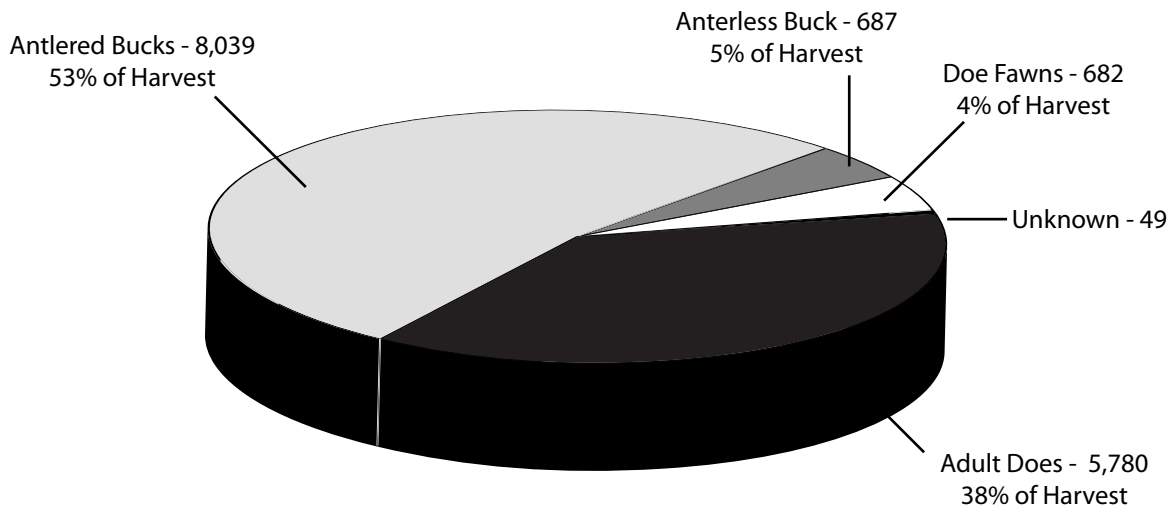
**TABLE 1. 2009 LEGAL DEER HARVEST COUNTS AND PERCENTAGES BY SEASON AND AGE-SEX**

Season		Adult Doe	Antlered Buck	Antlerless Buck	Fawn Doe	Unknown	Total
Archery	Count	1,963	712	162	185	10	3,032
	% within Season	66%	23%	5%	6%	0%	-
	% within Deer Type	34%	9%	24%	27%	20%	-
	% of Total	13%	5%	1%	1%	0%	20%
Muzzleloader	Count	3,101	712	312	328	27	4,480
	% within Season	69%	16%	7%	7%	1%	-
	% within Deer Type	54%	9%	45%	48%	55%	-
	% of Total	20%	5%	2%	2%	0%	29%
Rifle	Count	1	6,016	0	0	0	6,017
	% within Season	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	-
	% within Deer Type	0%	75%	0%	0%	0%	-
	% of Total	0%	40%	0%	0%	0%	40%
Youth	Count	715	599	213	169	12	1,708
	% within Season	42%	35%	12%	10%	1%	-
	% within Deer Type	12%	7%	31%	25%	24%	-
	% of Total	5%	4%	1%	1%	0%	11%
Total	Count	5,780	8,039	687	682	49	15,237
	% of Total	38%	53%	5%	4%	0%	100%

**HARVEST TOTALS BY SEASON – 15,237 DEER HARVESTED**



**AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF HARVEST – 15,237 DEER HARVESTED**



**TABLE 2. 2009 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT AND SEASON**

WMU	Archery Antlerless	Archery Buck	Youth Antlerless	Youth Buck	Rifle Buck	Muzzleloader Antlerless	Muzzleloader Buck	Unknown	Total Bucks	Buck/Sq-Mi	Total Antlerless	Total Deer	Deer/Sq-Mi	Sq. Miles*	2008 Total Bucks	2008 Total Deer
A	57	31	31	19	107	145	17	5	174	3.8	233	412	9.1	45	152	367
B	373	118	164	111	747	843	79	7	1,055	2.1	1,380	2,442	4.8	514	1,126	2,620
C	87	26	52	21	228	57	27	5	302	0.9	196	503	1.4	354	439	643
D1	181	50	110	54	333	108	29	4	466	1.2	399	869	2.3	376	539	877
D2	123	35	100	49	398	0	36	0	518	0.9	223	741	1.3	560	568	683
E	0	3	10	5	150	0	24	0	182	0.3	10	192	0.3	603	193	207
F1	52	19	26	19	128	156	13	1	179	0.8	234	414	1.9	221	212	532
F2	86	22	39	17	199	294	29	1	267	1.2	419	687	3.1	221	335	734
G	79	23	27	21	188	0	18	1	250	0.7	106	357	1.0	363	339	463
H1	143	47	47	34	295	163	46	1	422	1.1	353	776	2.0	395	530	1,037
H2	82	23	45	15	180	139	29	1	247	1.4	266	514	2.8	181	349	736
I	50	12	19	17	150	0	15	1	194	0.5	69	264	0.7	397	250	334
J1	174	38	74	24	338	166	55	1	455	0.9	414	870	1.8	491	603	1,060
J2	189	42	74	23	464	230	57	0	586	1.2	493	1,079	2.3	476	682	1,347
K1	39	15	27	20	154	181	4	3	193	2.0	247	443	4.5	98	254	429
K2	186	64	76	46	473	522	65	2	648	2.3	784	1,434	5.0	288	650	1,178
L	50	10	18	9	124	0	19	0	162	0.5	68	230	0.7	352	224	303
M1	26	4	8	7	112	0	18	0	141	0.6	34	175	0.7	239	233	291
M2	65	19	31	14	185	161	24	0	242	1.1	257	499	2.4	212	320	579
N	123	56	67	43	462	366	46	3	607	2.0	556	1,166	3.9	299	616	1,161
O1	8	3	2	4	71	0	5	0	83	0.4	10	93	0.5	191	126	139
O2	61	18	30	11	223	129	24	2	276	1.0	220	498	1.9	263	306	532
P	34	17	10	9	161	0	14	0	201	0.4	44	245	0.5	463	227	305
Q	42	17	10	7	146	81	19	12	189	0.7	133	334	1.2	273	258	436
Unk.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		8	53	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,310</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>1,097</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>6,016</b>	<b>3,741</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>8,039</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>7,148</b>	<b>15,237</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>7,874</b>	<b>9,539</b>	<b>17,046</b>

no real impact on the yearling buck population. However, it is very important that these spike bucks are harvested. They provide the sample necessary for deer research and management purposes.

The youth season has become more important for deer management in Vermont since implementation of the antler restriction. The data gathered during youth season provides particularly valuable information because the youth harvest yields a representative cross-section of the deer population. Youth hunters on youth weekend are the only hunters able to legally harvest spike-antlered bucks. Not only does the youth hunting season help with the science of deer management, but it also helps with recruitment of youth hunters who will ensure the future of Vermont's hunting heritage and continued ability to manage the deer herd.

One of the measurements biologists use to monitor the health of a deer population is yearling antler beam diameter. In 2008, biologists began operating their biological check stations during youth weekend (previously during opening weekend of rifle season) to gather representative data from all yearling bucks (Figure 4). Data from youth weekend will be important to monitor any change in the proportion of spike-antlered bucks in the population. Biologists measured 559 deer at 25 check stations statewide in 2009 (33% of youth harvest; Table 3). Data from harvested does and fawns will also be useful for deer management purposes.

**TABLE 3. 2009 AGE-SPECIFIC WEIGHTS OF DEER CHECKED BY BIOLOGISTS DURING YOUTH WEEKEND**

Sex	Age	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum	N
<b>Female</b>	0.5	59.8	8.3	40	79	48
	1.5	101.2	11.3	70	127	44
	2.5	112.9	9.9	90	137	49
	3.5	119.2	13.6	92	152	58
	4.5	120.6	13.8	93	148	35
	5.5+	116.9	12.8	97	139	37
<b>Male</b>	0.5	63.5	7.7	48	82	87
	1.5	116.6	12.0	88	155	104
	2.5	139.1	18.0	110	188	62
	3.5	159.1	18.8	127	203	28
	4.5	170.3	22.9	144	185	3
	5.5+	199.5	27.6	180	219	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>All deer</b>	<b>108.2</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>559</b>

\*Ages determined by tooth wear and replacement. "N" equals number of deer examined, and 2 Standard Deviations from the Mean average include 95% of observations.

The department will again advertise the locations of biological check stations with a press release and its website in autumn 2010. The data from these check stations are vital to deer research and management in Vermont. If you are a hunter or mentor during youth weekend, please be aware of the special biological check station locations where biologists hope to measure and age your deer. Even if you have already registered your deer at another check station, biologists are eager to collect the biological data from your deer, so please swing by one of the biological check stations if you can. It is never too soon to become involved in the research and management of your wildlife.

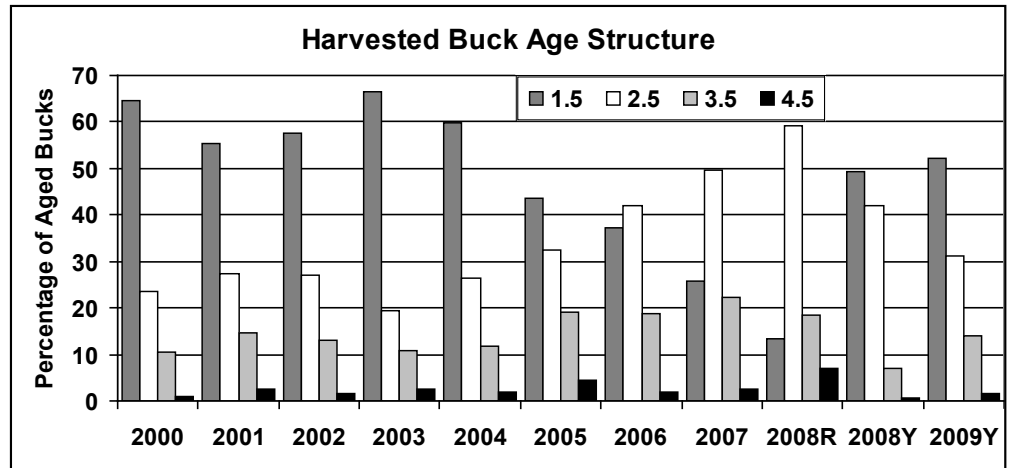
In 2009, Vermont's youth weekend was opened by legislative action to non-resident hunters from states open to Vermont youth hunters. It is hoped that this action continues to build opportunity and recruitment for both resident and non-resident youth hunters alike.

### Rifle Season

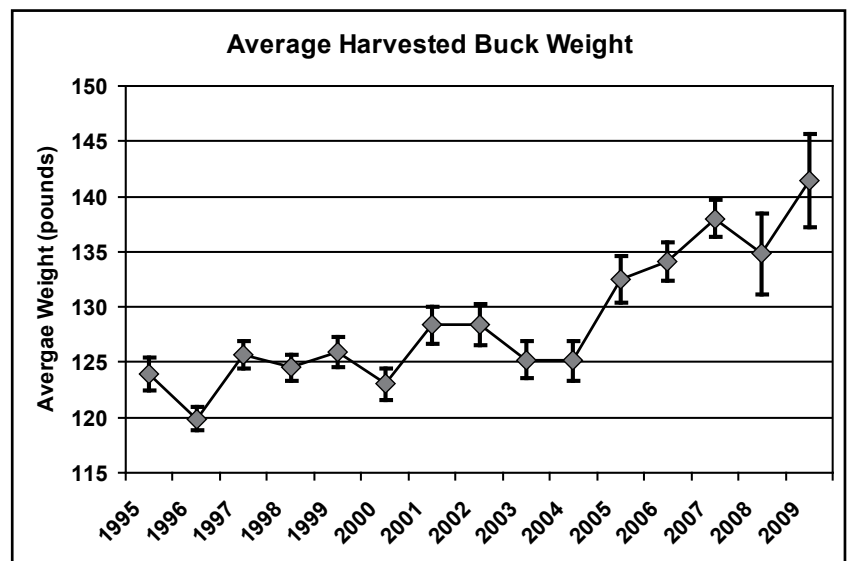
Rifle hunters reported a total of 6,016 antlered bucks during the traditional 16-day rifle season (November 14–29). This harvest was an 18% decrease (1,279 bucks) from the 2008 rifle season harvest total of 7,295. Rifle harvest in 2009 declined somewhat in all counties except Bennington and Grand Isle (Table 8; also see 2008 Harvest Report).

Both the age structure and the buck:doe ratio have improved since implementation of the current antler restriction in 2005. The buck age-structure is now believed to have stabilized (Figure 8). It seems that under the current antler restriction the average harvested buck weight should stabilize near 140 pounds field-dressed weight (Figure 9). By increasing yearling buck survival to obtain older aged bucks, the percentage of yearlings in the population has decreased to about 52%, compared to 62% before the antler regulation (confirmatory data shown in Figure 8, as predicted in the new 10-Year Big Game Plan and 2008 Harvest Report). Similarly, the pre-hunt buck:doe ratio is now estimated to be near 1:2.75 compared to 1:3.25 in 2005 and years prior.

Hunter-effort surveys were randomly mailed to 5,000 licensed Vermont hunters again in 2009. There were 1,015 respondents that hunted, and 212 reporting that they did not hunt (25% return rate). Hunters reported an average of 42 hours afield during the 2009 rifle season. Sighting data from these surveys are used to monitor deer and moose population trends (Table 4). Timing of hunter effort within the deer rifle season is also useful for modeling population size and harvest rates. As usual, Saturday and Sunday of opening weekend saw the greatest hunting effort and yielded the greatest harvests among all 16 days of the season (Figure 10).

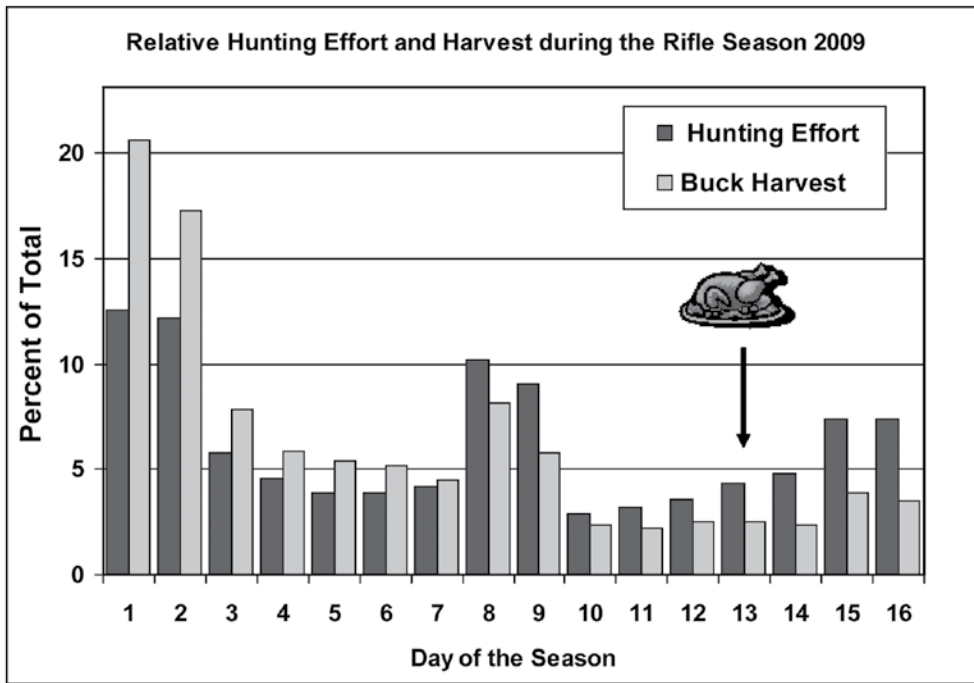


**Figure 8. Age structure of Vermont bucks sampled by Department from 2000–2009 as determined by tooth wear and replacement. Data from 2005–2008R represent the age structure of bucks taken during Rifle Season under the antler rule. It is noteworthy that 2008 may have been the first season in Vermont's history when more 3-year-old bucks were taken compared to yearlings. Data for 2008Y and 2009Y represent age structure of bucks taken during Youth Weekend, with no antler rule in place, so are more representative of the actual population. It can be seen by comparing data from 2000–2004 versus 2008Y and 2009Y that the antler restriction has caused Vermont's buck population to increase in age structure from about 62% yearlings before the antler rule to just about 52% now. This was predicted by population-age models.**



**Figure 9. Statewide mean average weights (with 95% confidence limits) of Vermont bucks weighed by Department biologists during opening weekend of Rifle Season from 1995–2007 and during Youth Weekend in 2008 and 2009. For comparison with Rifle Season data from 2005–2007, the 2008 and 2009 samples only consider bucks with at least 3 antler points. Reduced sample sizes in 2008 and 2009 cause less certainty around the averages (the larger confidence intervals). Average harvested buck weight has gone from about 125 pounds before the antler restriction to about 140 pounds now. This results in more meat taken now given similar buck kills before and after the antler rule.**





**Figure 10. Standardized hunting effort and buck harvest during Vermont’s historic 16-day Rifle Season with day #13 on Thanksgiving. The daily buck harvest return given an amount of hunting effort is high during opening weekend. As the legal buck population gets reduced during the first week of rifle season, buck harvest returns get to be less than relative hunting effort. At this point, a hunter could increase his or her odds for success by moving to remote areas away from roads where fewer hunters have already been. The antler restriction guarantees that the buck population does not become too depleted.**

Hunters reported seeing an average of 2.24 deer per 10 hours of hunting with a sighting rate of 0.24 antlered bucks per 10 hours, or about 1 buck per 42 hours (Table 4). This appeared to be a decline from 2008, suggesting that the past two winters may have impacted the deer herd somewhat. However, winter severity does not account for reduced sighting rates in western Vermont in many areas where the deer herd continues to grow (Figure 2). Clearly, there were weather impacts on deer sighting and harvest rates during the 2009 rifle season. While the sighting rate of deer in a particular WMU in a given year is not an exact indicator of relative deer abundance, trends through time and among WMUs are evident (Table 4). From 2000–2009, the average number of hunter-hours reported per year was 39,579. This volunteer effort is much more than the department could ever achieve with its own personnel.

**TABLE 4. NUMBER OF DEER SEEN PER 10 HOURS HUNTING BY WMU AS REPORTED BY RIFLE HUNTERS**

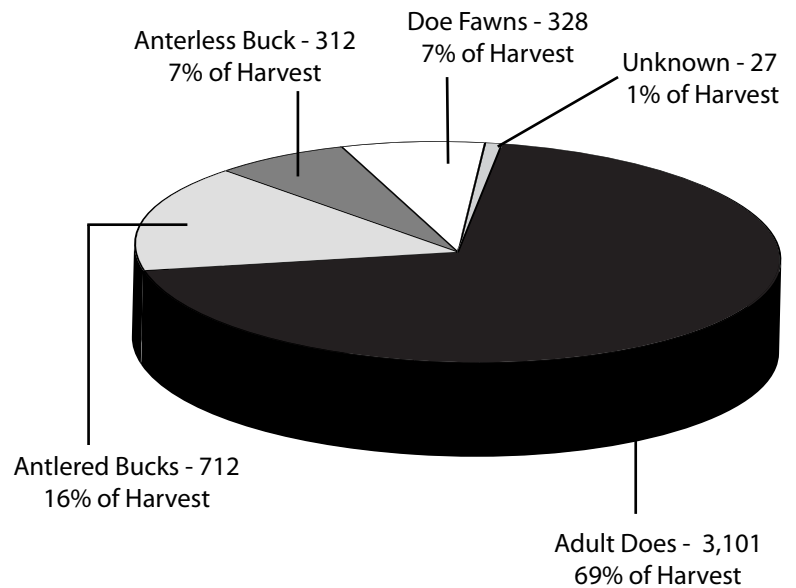
WMU	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Mean
A	1.53	1.35	2.00	6.03	2.72	3.51	4.57	4.47	3.04	1.48	3.25
B	3.20	2.14	3.35	3.18	2.10	3.62	3.56	4.07	3.35	2.98	3.18
C	1.78	1.14	2.07	2.67	1.23	2.41	1.87	3.20	2.73	2.90	2.12
D1	2.19	1.78	1.48	2.07	1.12	3.26	3.76	2.86	3.30	2.63	2.42
D2	1.26	1.59	1.74	1.69	1.01	2.70	2.03	3.43	2.79	2.39	2.03
E	1.05	0.48	0.26	0.53	0.52	0.75	1.16	1.89	1.08	0.97	0.86
F1	3.18	2.57	3.92	3.79	2.44	3.60	3.17	5.16	2.58	3.00	3.38
F2	2.68	1.92	3.50	2.66	2.09	3.11	3.01	3.85	3.63	1.69	2.94
G	1.98	1.10	1.42	2.79	1.69	1.57	1.86	2.93	2.04	2.18	1.93
H1	2.80	1.86	1.49	3.84	1.48	2.22	2.55	4.68	1.85	1.66	2.53
H2	3.37	1.60	2.60	2.88	1.95	2.71	2.86	3.15	2.74	2.46	2.65
I	1.80	1.19	2.18	1.63	1.05	1.63	1.32	3.07	1.04	1.57	1.66
J1	3.05	2.26	2.23	2.83	1.82	3.62	3.94	4.17	3.29	2.03	3.02
J2	2.48	1.94	2.92	4.08	2.60	3.40	3.33	4.25	2.29	1.88	3.03
K1	3.13	3.02	3.53	4.03	2.28	4.04	5.59	5.23	4.27	3.59	3.90
K2	2.67	2.73	2.71	1.98	2.33	3.49	2.57	3.07	4.02	3.03	2.84
L	1.75	1.84	2.28	1.24	1.23	1.62	1.52	1.79	1.73	1.80	1.67
M1	1.38	1.04	3.50	1.40	1.08	1.91	2.41	2.16	2.32	2.06	1.91
M2	3.39	3.75	2.28	3.63	2.31	3.94	4.37	4.58	3.32	2.23	3.51
N	4.28	2.10	3.75	2.81	3.53	3.13	3.25	2.79	3.24	3.65	3.21
O1	1.70	0.80	1.97	1.77	1.86	2.23	1.45	2.36	1.38	1.00	1.72
O2	1.69	1.54	2.82	2.00	1.03	2.39	2.49	3.99	2.03	1.86	2.22
P	0.70	0.73	1.62	0.87	1.80	2.10	1.22	1.24	1.17	1.00	1.27
Q	1.75	1.14	2.08	1.90	2.27	2.01	1.37	3.48	1.56	1.33	1.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.36</b>	<b>1.82</b>	<b>2.43</b>	<b>2.56</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>2.74</b>	<b>3.51</b>	<b>2.64</b>	<b>2.24</b>	<b>2.48</b>

## Muzzleloader Season

Muzzleloader hunters harvested a total of 4,480 deer during the December 5–13 muzzleloader season. This was an 8% increase in harvest over the 2008 total of 4,166 deer. The 2009 muzzleloader harvest was very near the record level in year 2000. The muzzleloader harvest was comprised of 16% antlered bucks, 69% adult does, and 14% fawns (Table 1). Muzzleloader hunters took 54% of the 2009 adult doe harvest. Muzzleloader hunters provide a major management tool, helping control total deer numbers in Vermont.

The department allocated 21,783 antlerless-deer permits for the muzzleloader season by the initial lottery system, although 23,725 were available for allocation (Table 5). Subsequently, hunters took advantage of a new system allowing purchase of an unallocated antlerless-deer tag after having filled the one in their possession. After the start of the 2009 muzzleloader season, hunters purchased 492 additional antlerless-tags either via the department's website or by visiting the Waterbury office. These permits were purchased primarily for WMUs K and N. The result was that 1,450 permits remained unallocated in WMUs K and N. A total of 3,741 antlerless deer were taken for a success rate of about 17% in 2009 which was about the same percentage as in 2008. Many landowners (at least 25 acres of non-posted land) used their advantage in the antlerless lottery to secure a permit (Table 5).

## MUZZLELOADER SEASON – 4,480 DEER HARVESTED



**TABLE 5. 2009 MUZZLELOADER ANTLERLESS PERMIT ALLOTMENTS AND HARVEST BY WMU**

WMU	Permits Available	Permits Distributed	Resident Status		Landowner Status		No. Permits Filled	% Success
			NonResident	Resident	Yes	No		
A	1,000	999	20	979	25	974	145	14.5
B	5,400	5,400	51	5,349	355	5,045	843	15.6
C	200	200	9	191	114	86	57	28.5
D1	400	400	17	383	130	270	108	27.0
F1	1,400	1,402	19	1,383	38	1,364	156	11.1
F2	2,200	2,201	31	2,170	76	2,125	294	13.4
H1	750	750	40	710	140	610	163	21.7
H2	500	500	50	450	82	418	139	27.8
J1	775	776	73	703	139	637	166	21.4
J2	1,000	1,000	106	894	240	760	230	23.0
K1	1,500	1,212	46	1,166	35	1,177	181	14.9
K2	3,300	2,875	126	2,749	74	2,801	522	18.2
M2	850	850	82	768	42	808	161	18.9
N	2,900	2,159	176	1,983	30	2,129	366	17.0
O2	800	800	77	723	65	735	129	16.1
Q	750	751	72	679	37	714	81	10.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,725</b>	<b>22,275</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>21,280</b>	<b>1,622</b>	<b>20,653</b>	<b>3,741</b>	<b>16.8</b>

## Looking to the Future

The department spent the past couple of years going through a public input process to help guide construction of a new 10-Year Big Game Plan for Vermont's four big game species (deer, moose, bear, and turkey). As of December 2009, the Plan is finalized and available in whole or in parts from the department's website ([www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)). The Plan contains information about past, present, and future deer management in Vermont. There were many good ideas voiced at public hearings, by phone conversation, by U.S. mail, and by electronic mailings. The Plan itself is not a rigid, written-in-stone, course of action. It is a guide for the next ten years that is subject to alternative actions based on future unknowns. It was a way for the department to establish meaningful goals and strategies for itself to achieve in the foreseeable future.

There were three topics addressed in the deer section of the Plan that seemed to generate particular interest: 1) antler point restrictions, 2) a split muzzleloader season with an opening before rifle season, and 3) deer-urine scent lures as associated to risk of chronic wasting disease (CWD). These topics are discussed below in this order.

The antler restriction has worked. It has worked because hunters have been counting antler points before they shoot. It was designed to increase age structure of the buck population, not increase overall deer numbers. With Vermont's high harvest rate of legal bucks, we have now seen all of the gain that can be expected from this restriction. We now have as many legal bucks in the state as we did before the antler restriction, but there are an additional 7,000–8,000 yearling and 2-year-old "spike-horns" out there that are pretty much guaranteed to survive the hunt. They also are now healthy and strong and have a good chance of surviving winter to show up as legal bucks the next year. We now no longer depend so much on recruitment of fawns to yearlings each year to support the annual buck harvest. The influence of poor fawn recruitment in any given year on subsequent buck harvests now occurs following a one-year lag period when these bucks are 2 ½ instead of 1 ½ years old. We now have more deer in older age classes that are better able to survive Vermont winters.

The antler rule was originally slated as a 5-year experiment that ended in 2009. The Vermont General Assembly has extended the Fish and Wildlife Board's authority to manage deer until 2014. This means that the Board can choose to change deer management rules based on the scientific research and advice of the department during this period. For biological purposes, there will be a continued need to change deer management rules as conditions and the deer population change in Vermont.

There is a lot of controversy and confusion fueled by biologists and hunters around the country concerning

potential genetic impacts of the selective pressure caused by antler restrictions on the future antler characteristics or other characteristics of white-tailed deer. There are complicating factors such as the does' contribution to antler characteristics and nutrition, as mentioned in the 10-Year Plan (see literature cited). Simply put, antler characteristics are heritable. Thus, selective pressures are likely to have impacts if great enough in magnitude and applied for a sufficient duration of time. The questions are: what is significant magnitude; and what is a sufficient duration of time. These questions currently remain unanswered. The current antler restriction in Vermont protects the smaller half of yearling bucks – the "spike-horns." This means that the smaller bucks among each year class make up most of the bucks surviving to older age classes. Thus, these bucks that are initially smaller end up dominating future breeding. If the magnitude of selection and duration of time is great enough, the selection for smaller bucks will likely produce an increasing proportion of smaller bucks in the buck population. This is not a desirable outcome.

Antler beam diameter and antler point data have been collected for years and provide a measure of yearling antler development and a long-term record which can be used to identify any changes in trends in antler characteristics that may result from an antler restriction harvest regulation.

If biologists determine that the current antler restriction is having a negative impact on antler characteristics, a change in the antler restriction may be called for to correct the problem or even reverse the trend to improve antler characteristics. Should this be necessary, at least three options exist and include: 1) returning to the 3-inch antler requirement; 2) increasing the antler restriction from 2 to 3 points on one side; or 3) implementing a slot limit approach that increases the size of the antler rule while making "spike horns" legal again. This last alternative would protect the larger yearlings, target the smaller yearlings, and create a selective pressure favoring larger antler characteristics.

Anticipating interest in these two main topics, the Big Game Team created a survey about a split muzzleloader season and antler rules to be distributed at the Big Game Plan public hearings in Montpelier and Rutland and on the department's website where any Vermonter could participate. Response was good, and we received 560 individual responses. Respondents were largely in favor of both antler restrictions and a split muzzleloader season: 75% favored results of the current antler restriction (20% opposed), and 65% wished to have a split muzzleloader season (31% opposed). The department may be conducting a more randomized and widespread survey on these matters in the future, much like the hunter effort survey mailing.

In 2008, the department was left with unallocated antlerless-deer permits for the muzzleloader season in WMU N. This happened again in 2009 in WMUs K1, K2, and N (Table 5).

If mild winters and too few does continue to be taken, the deer herd in southwestern Vermont will continue to grow and become unhealthy and susceptible to drastic winter losses. Antlerless-deer permit numbers are not allocated uniformly across the state (Figure 7). Because the deer population is not distributed the same way across the state as the hunter population, it is very likely that more permits are available in southwestern units than there are hunters. Currently, muzzleloader hunters can fill multiple antlerless-deer tags. Creation of an early muzzleloader season could be one way to allow more hunters to bag multiple does. This could overcome our current under-harvest problem.

Of hunters surveyed and answering that they favored an early muzzleloader season, most of them said that they favored the season “to harvest enough does for responsible deer management.” The next two most popular justifications given were to take more does earlier in the season and to increase hunting opportunity for muzzleloader hunters.

The Big Game Plan has discussed how the use of deer-urine scent lures has unknown but undeniable risk of introducing chronic wasting disease (CWD). Transmission of CWD to deer from scent lures could be indirect via ingestion of contaminated soils or direct if a deer ingests contaminated scent lures. Some of these products do in fact come from deer held in cages where their feces and urine are collected. It is known that the infective agent of CWD, a mutant protein, can be passed in feces and urine. It is also known that the captive deer trade continues to spread this and other diseases from state to state, from one facility to another, because disease-prevention rules have a history of violations. Additionally, it is known that 9 of 11 of deer-urine facilities recently audited in Michigan had not followed mandatory disease-testing regulations. A question: How important are deer scent lures to the Vermont deer hunting experience? Are they important enough to risk introduction of CWD into Vermont? At this time, the department recommends that hunters discard deer-urine scent lures, and only purchase synthetic deer lure products.

The department will be updating its Strategic CWD Management Plan in conjunction with the state Agency of Agriculture this coming summer. You can check the department’s website for press releases and other information on CWD. Based on the experiences of other states and provinces and ongoing research findings, there is much more known today about CWD than there was just five years ago. Prevention is “key” to management of CWD. When the disease becomes established in a deer population at more than a 1% infection rate, there exists no hope of eradicating the disease. A 10–15% infection rate has typically been found in white-tailed deer populations that have a history of CWD infection. Only about 8% of Vermont’s doe population is harvested annually by hunting to maintain population stability. If CWD caused an annual 10% loss in Vermont’s



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doe population, ending doe-hunting would still not stem the decline in Vermont’s deer population resulting from the infection. There would be fewer bucks to hunt as well. There is nothing that could be done to prevent a decline in Vermont’s deer population.

There would be a single chance to eradicate this disease if it is introduced to Vermont. Standard protocols for a state like Vermont call for reduction of free-ranging deer to 0–5 deer per square-mile within a 10-mile radius of the location of the initial location of an infected deer for a period of at least 5 years – that’s about 300 square-miles. Getting the population down to as close to zero as possible is important because if no deer exist to spread and perpetuate the disease, the disease cannot spread, and it is believed to die in soils within about five years. With 10% annual loss of does, only through this action could Vermont’s deer herd be spared from a terrible fate following CWD introduction.

### **Other Thoughts for the Hunter**

For the second year in a row, more does than bucks were taken in northwestern Vermont (Lake Plains region) than were bucks (Table 2; WMUs A, B, F1, and F2). Does typically make up about 80% of antlerless deer harvest. The doe:buck ratio of the harvest in these units was about 1.1:1 in 2009. At the same time, the buck harvest per square-mile in WMU B remained among the highest in the state.

If the buck:doe ratio and buck harvest can be sustained at the current level, this area of the state may well emerge as the deer harvest capital of Vermont. It has been historically difficult in areas like this having productive habitats, abundant deer, and mild winter weather to control or limit herd growth. Achieving a 1:1 doe:buck ratio in the harvest is a notable achievement in Vermont. There is hope that adequate doe harvests in southwestern Vermont (Western Foothills region) can also be achieved. The doe:buck ratio of the harvest in the Western Foothills Region (WMUs K1, K2, and N) was 0.9:1 in

2009. The hunters of WMUs K1 and K2 did take advantage of increased antlerless-deer permits in 2009 (Tables 2 & 5). In order to continue to improve deer management in some of these units, it may be necessary to find additional ways to control deer numbers.

With lots of public lands spread across the state and Vermont's tradition of open-hunting on private lands, Vermont has excellent and improving hunting opportunity. Hunters need to remember to be courteous of land owners. Take time to ask permission and get to know landowners whether or not they post their land.

The winter of 2009-2010 has been one of the mildest on record for deer as of this writing in early March. Winter severity in March and April is critical to over-winter deer survival. So, we do need to wait and find out how the winter ends. If conditions remain the same, we can expect an increase in the 2010 deer harvest. Given good fawn survival this winter and with the antler restriction on yearlings in place, we may also anticipate a small increase in buck harvest again in 2011 as long as next winter is not real severe. The most important point is that we are hoping we will no longer experience the wild swings in harvest that have plagued Vermont because our deer herd is healthier than ever due to the changes in management that have been made in recent years.

There was a wind-storm event across Vermont in late February 2010. This storm put many tree-tops, branches, hemlock leaves, and lichen masses on the ground where deer could reach them for food. Litter-fall from tree-tops can be an important source of food for wintering deer. March is a good time of year to cut your firewood trees to put edible tops down where deer can reach them if you are concerned about over-wintering deer.

Be on the lookout for updated Landowner Habitat Management Guidelines on the department's website in the next couple of months. Unfortunately, the department has no funds to print these guidelines for folks to read, but it costs nothing to put documents on the website ([www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)) where you can find a wealth of information. If you have no means of web access, contact the department and we will provide you with a paper copy.

If you've ever wondered how the department makes its recommendations for annual antlerless deer harvests, you can find the answers to your questions by reading the 2009 Antlerless Permitting and Youth Season Recommendation available in the library section of the department's the website ([www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)).

If you wonder why there shouldn't be more deer in Vermont, you can find the answer by reading the newly drafted 10-Year Big Game Management Plan. If you still have questions, give us a call.

**TABLE 6. BUCKS WEIGHING AT LEAST 200 POUNDS IN THE 2009 VERMONT LEGAL DEER HARVEST**

Weight	Points	Season	Town Of Kill	WMU
236	8	Rifle	Shoreham	F2
235	6	Youth	Brownington	D2
224	8	Rifle	Holland	D2
223	8	Rifle	Bloomfield	E
223	8	Rifle	Shoreham	F1
223	8	Youth		C
222	5	Rifle	Albany	D1
220	8	Rifle	Johnson	C
220	8	Rifle	Albany	D1
220	6	Rifle	Charleston	D2
220	6	Rifle	Wheelock	D2
219	8	Rifle	Hardwick	D1
218	6	Rifle	Johnson	C
216	6	Rifle	Johnson	C
216	8	Rifle	Marshfield	H1
216	6	Youth	Franklin	B
214	8	Rifle	Holland	D2
214	8	Rifle	Guildhall	E
213	6	Bow	Essex	B
213	10	Bow	Holland	D2
213	11	Rifle	Brownington	D2
213	7	Rifle	Concord	E
213	3	Rifle	New Haven	F2
212	8	Rifle	Holland	D2
212	6	Rifle	Sheffield	D2
212	8	Rifle	Marshfield	H1
212	8	Rifle	Norwich	J2
211	7	Rifle	Berkshire	B
211	8	Rifle	Montgomery	C
210	6	Rifle	Barton	D2
210	7	Rifle	Thetford	J2
209	9	Rifle	Westmore	D2
209	10	Rifle	Waterford	H2
209	8	Rifle	Thetford	J2
208	8	Rifle	Berkshire	B
208	8	Rifle	Ferdinand	E
208	7	Rifle	New Haven	F2
208	8	Rifle	Calais	H1
208	9	Rifle	Thetford	J2
207	8	Bow	Richford	C
207	6	Bow	Lincoln	I
207	6	Rifle	Lemington	E
207	5	Rifle	New Haven	F2
206	8	Rifle	Eden	D1
206	9	Rifle	Ryegate	H2
206	4	Youth	Shoreham	F2
205	8	Rifle	Highgate	B
205	8	Rifle	East Haven	D2
205	8	Rifle	Morgan	D2
205	8	Rifle	Walden	D2
205	10	Rifle	Huntington	G
205	10	Rifle	Ryegate	H2
204	8	Bow	Swanton	B
204	8	Bow	Hyde Park	D1
204	10	Rifle	Sutton	D2

**TABLE 6. BUCKS WEIGHING AT LEAST 200 POUNDS IN THE 2009 VERMONT LEGAL DEER HARVEST (CONTINUED)**

Weight	Points	Season	Town Of Kill	WMU
203	8	Rifle	Westford	B
203	7	Rifle	East Haven	D2
203	8	Rifle	Holland	D2
203	9	Rifle	Newark	D2
203	8	Rifle	Wheelock	D2
203	9	Youth	Fairfield	B
202	8	Rifle	Highgate	B
202	8	Rifle	New Haven	F2
202	4	Rifle	Huntington	G
201	8	Bow	Georgia	B
201	8	Rifle	Reading	M1
200	7	Rifle	North Hero	A

Weight	Points	Season	Town Of Kill	WMU
200	8	Rifle	Fairfield	B
200	6	Rifle	Cambridge	C
200	8	Rifle	Montgomery	C
200	10	Rifle	Newark	D2
200	8	Rifle	Bloomfield	E
200	8	Rifle	Corinth	J2
200	7	Rifle	Benson	K1
200	8	Rifle	Killington	L
200	8	Rifle	Sandgate	N
200	8	Rifle	Springfield	O2
200	8	Rifle	Stamford	P
200	8	Youth	Irasburg	D1

\*Field-dressed weights are presumed.

**TABLE 7. DOES WEIGHING AT LEAST 150 POUNDS IN THE 2009 VERMONT LEGAL DEER HARVEST**

Weight	Season	Town Of Kill	WMU
184	Bow	Craftsbury	D1
183	Bow	Alburg	A
180	Muzzleloader	Lowell	D1
177	Muzzleloader	Newport Ctr	D1
173	Bow	Newfane	Q
172	Youth	Lyndon	D2
170	Bow	Ensborg	C
170	Bow	East Hardwick	D1
169	Bow	North Troy	D1
169	Muzzleloader	Hinesburg	F2
165	Muzzleloader	Lowell	D1
165	Muzzleloader	Hinesburg	F2
165	Muzzleloader	New Haven	F2
165	Youth	Troy	D1
164	Bow	Marshfield	H1
163	Muzzleloader	Highgate	B
162	Muzzleloader	Williston	F2
160	Bow	North Troy	D1
160	Muzzleloader	Moretown	J1
159	Bow	Swanton	B
159	Bow	Albany	D2
159	Muzzleloader	Ferrisburg	F1
158	Youth	Franklin	B
158	Youth	Barnet	H2
156	Bow	Danville	D2
156	Bow	Derby	D2
156	Youth	Westford	B
155	Bow	Grand Isle	A
155	Muzzleloader	Charlotte	F1
155	Youth	Middlebury	F2
154	Muzzleloader	Berkshire	B
154	Muzzleloader	Barnard	M2
153	Bow	Grand Isle	A
153	Bow	Highgate	B
153	Bow	Pittsford	K2
153	Muzzleloader	Weybridge	F1
153	Muzzleloader	Morristown	H1
153	Muzzleloader	Waitsfield	J1
153	Youth	Washington	J2
152	Bow	Greensboro	D1

Weight	Season	Town Of Kill	WMU
152	Bow	Stowe	G
152	Bow	Berlin	H1
152	Muzzleloader	Milton	B
152	Muzzleloader	Orange	H1
152	Youth	Highgate	B
151	Bow	Fairfax	B
151	Bow	Barton	D2
151	Muzzleloader	Ferrisburg	F1
151	Muzzleloader	Panton	F1
151	Muzzleloader	Braintree	J1
151	Youth	Charlotte	F1
150	Bow	Glover	D1
150	Bow	Lowell	D1
150	Bow	Burke	D2
150	Bow	Marshfield	H1
150	Bow	Waterbury Center	H1
150	Muzzleloader	Isle La Motte	A
150	Muzzleloader	Cambridge	B
150	Muzzleloader	Fairfield	B
150	Muzzleloader	Highgate	B
150	Muzzleloader	Milton	B
150	Muzzleloader	Irasburg	D1
150	Muzzleloader	Irasburg	D1
150	Muzzleloader	Lowell	D1
150	Muzzleloader	Ferrisburg	F1
150	Muzzleloader	Plainfield	H1
150	Muzzleloader	Tunbridge	J1
150	Muzzleloader	Tunbridge	J1
150	Muzzleloader	Strafford	J2
150	Muzzleloader	Tunbridge	J2
150	Muzzleloader	West Haven	K1
150	Muzzleloader	Castleton	K2
150	Muzzleloader	Ira	K2
150	Muzzleloader	West Rutland	K2
150	Muzzleloader	Sandgate	N
150	Muzzleloader	Weathersfield	O2
150	Youth	Brownington	D2
150	Youth	Derby	D2
150	Youth	Starksboro	G
150	Youth	Ryegate	H2
150	Youth	Strafford	J2

\*Field-dressed weights are presumed.

**TABLE 8. 2009 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY COUNTY, TOWN AND SEASON**

COUNTY	Town of Kill	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Muzzleloader	Total Deer Harvest
ADDISON	ADDISON	9	5	13	16	43
	BRIDPORT	5	4	13	12	34
	BRISTOL	5	3	16	15	39
	CORNWALL	11	6	13	29	59
	FERRISBURG	10	7	18	30	65
	GOSHEN	-	1	8	-	9
	GRANVILLE	1	-	7	4	12
	HANCOCK	-	1	3	-	4
	LEICESTER	5	4	12	14	35
	LINCOLN	7	5	22	4	38
	MIDDLEBURY	20	8	32	37	97
	MONKTON	3	3	11	37	54
	NEW HAVEN	22	18	38	49	127
	ORWELL	15	10	40	41	106
	PANTON	3	-	8	4	15
	RIPTON	4	1	20	2	27
	SALISBURY	7	4	20	23	54
	SHOREHAM	13	10	15	19	57
	STARKSBORO	8	5	23	11	47
	VERGENNES	-	1	-	1	2
WALTHAM	-	1	1	5	7	
WEYBRIDGE	2	3	11	13	29	
WHITING	-	5	7	7	19	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>979</b>
BENNINGTON	ARLINGTON	10	16	59	33	118
	BENNINGTON	43	19	59	58	179
	DORSET	5	4	33	37	79
	GLASTENBURY	1	-	4	-	5
	LANDGROVE	-	1	4	1	6
	MANCHESTER	4	2	21	15	42
	PERU	-	-	2	-	2
	POWNA	23	10	77	40	150
	READSBORO	6	3	8	2	19
	RUPERT	27	13	81	49	170
	SANDGATE	11	6	43	21	81
	SEARSBURG	-	1	4	-	5
	SHAFTSBURY	50	27	83	84	244
	STAMFORD	5	3	14	2	24
	SUNDERLAND	6	-	12	9	27
	WINHALL	-	-	5	1	6
	WOODFORD	4	-	21	1	26
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>1,183</b>
CALEDONIA	BARNET	28	15	35	46	124
	BURKE	7	3	16	5	31
	DANVILLE	12	9	36	15	72
	GROTON	4	2	21	14	41
	HARDWICK	29	9	31	20	89
	KIRBY	3	3	12	1	19

**TABLE 8. 2009 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY COUNTY, TOWN AND SEASON**

COUNTY	Town of Kill	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Muzzleloader	Total Deer Harvest
CALEDONIA (CONT.)	LYNDON	7	15	26	1	49
	NEWARK	1	-	18	1	20
	PEACHAM	4	2	13	15	34
	RYEGATE	30	15	36	37	118
	SHEFFIELD	3	3	13	-	19
	ST JOHNSBURY	25	7	37	6	75
	STANNARD	1	1	11	1	14
	SUTTON	4	5	20	1	30
	WALDEN	2	4	17	2	25
	WATERFORD	25	25	44	39	133
	WHEELOCK	1	4	17	1	23
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>186</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>916</b>
CHITTENDEN	BOLTON	4	-	25	3	32
	BUELS GORE	1	-	1	-	2
	CHARLOTTE	6	6	11	34	57
	COLCHESTER	21	8	25	27	81
	ESSEX	26	3	20	23	72
	HINESBURG	15	4	16	42	77
	HUNTINGTON	8	4	27	15	54
	JERICO	22	8	30	12	72
	MILTON	14	14	35	51	114
	RICHMOND	15	3	19	28	65
	SHELBURNE	14	1	12	8	35
	ST GEORGE	1	2	3	3	9
	UNDERHILL	13	8	38	31	90
	WESTFORD	11	6	22	38	77
	WILLISTON	3	-	10	20	33
WINOOSKI	1	-	-	-	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>175</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>871</b>
ESSEX	AVERILL	-	1	12	-	13
	AVERY'S GORE	-	-	2	-	2
	BLOOMFIELD	-	-	10	5	15
	BRIGHTON	3	-	15	1	19
	BRUNSWICK	-	1	2	-	3
	CANAAN	-	3	14	3	20
	CONCORD	1	5	29	6	41
	EAST HAVEN	-	-	5	1	6
	FERDINAND	-	-	9	-	9
	GRANBY	-	1	1	-	2
	GUILDHALL	-	-	9	-	9
	LEMINGTON	-	-	6	-	6
	LEWIS	-	-	3	1	4
	LUNENBURG	1	1	22	6	30
	MAIDSTONE	-	-	4	-	4
	NORTON	1	3	11	-	15
	VICTORY	-	-	4	1	5
	WARREN GORE	-	-	2	1	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>206</b>



**TABLE 8. 2009 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY COUNTY, TOWN AND SEASON**

COUNTY	Town of Kill	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Muzzleloader	Total Deer Harvest
FRANKLIN	BAKERSFIELD	18	14	43	29	104
	BERKSHIRE	28	23	33	80	164
	ENOSBURG	43	20	41	29	133
	FAIRFAX	43	18	60	67	188
	FAIRFIELD	50	37	75	108	270
	FLETCHER	13	9	46	60	128
	FRANKLIN	44	30	68	80	222
	GEORGIA	26	16	40	47	129
	HIGHGATE	86	41	110	87	324
	MONTGOMERY	12	9	32	16	69
	RICHFORD	16	20	34	20	90
	SHELDON	27	22	44	53	146
	ST ALBANS	19	8	17	17	61
	SWANTON	28	9	44	63	144
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>453</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>2,172</b>
GRAND ISLE	ALBURG	28	17	41	67	153
	GRAND ISLE	20	13	13	31	77
	ISLE LA MOTTE	9	2	11	14	36
	NORTH HERO	11	8	21	19	59
	SOUTH HERO	19	12	22	34	87
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>87</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>412</b>
LAMOILLE	BELVIDERE	4	1	7	7	19
	CAMBRIDGE	27	15	43	36	121
	EDEN	11	3	30	9	53
	ELMORE	7	5	14	12	38
	HYDE PARK	23	3	17	9	52
	JOHNSON	16	6	32	13	67
	MORRISTOWN	17	15	26	6	64
	STOWE	48	12	46	14	120
	WATERVILLE	6	8	10	6	30
	WOLCOTT	16	12	33	15	76
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>175</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>640</b>
ORANGE	BRADFORD	26	5	29	23	83
	BRAINTREE	6	3	17	11	37
	BROOKFIELD	20	7	25	19	71
	CHELSEA	16	11	46	28	101
	CORINTH	18	7	36	19	80
	FAIRLEE	13	8	18	6	45
	NEWBURY	52	21	62	49	184
	ORANGE	8	1	14	10	33
	RANDOLPH	36	14	40	42	132
	STRAFFORD	7	3	38	20	68
	THETFORD	30	16	54	40	140
	TOPSHAM	8	9	30	19	66
	TUNBRIDGE	16	10	53	23	102
VERSHIRE	1	5	21	12	39	

**TABLE 8. 2009 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY COUNTY, TOWN AND SEASON**

COUNTY	Town of Kill	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Muzzleloader	Total Deer Harvest
<b>ORANGE (CONT.)</b>	WASHINGTON	4	5	7	11	27
	WEST FAIRLEE	9	1	15	14	39
	WILLIAMSTOWN	40	23	25	17	105
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>1,352</b>
<b>ORLEANS</b>	ALBANY	10	14	31	9	64
	BARTON	19	16	36	6	77
	BROWNINGTON	14	18	29	-	61
	CHARLESTON	19	19	32	5	75
	COVENTRY	6	9	24	5	44
	CRAFTSBURY	19	14	26	14	73
	DERBY	50	37	58	13	158
	GLOVER	10	12	18	5	45
	GREENSBORO	18	8	14	12	52
	HOLLAND	11	15	35	1	62
	IRASBURG	26	22	32	16	96
	JAY	10	3	14	1	28
	LOWELL	3	4	26	5	38
	MORGAN	13	13	33	2	61
	NEWPORT	35	18	34	18	105
	TROY	14	18	22	11	65
	WESTFIELD	3	5	7	3	18
	WESTMORE	7	6	9	4	26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>1,148</b>	
<b>RUTLAND</b>	BENSON	17	17	49	72	155
	BOMOSEEN	-	-	-	1	1
	BRANDON	13	14	30	18	75
	CASTLETON	17	15	59	53	144
	CHITTENDEN	17	6	34	2	59
	CLARENDON	31	21	36	46	134
	DANBY	14	16	49	50	129
	FAIR HAVEN	13	8	19	17	57
	HUBBARDTON	13	9	29	33	84
	IRA	4	5	15	25	49
	KILLINGTON	2	-	7	-	9
	MENDON	6	-	16	3	25
	MIDDLETOWN SPRI	17	7	20	35	79
	MOUNT HOLLY	10	1	15	2	28
	MOUNT TABOR	-	1	10	3	14
	PAWLET	42	25	86	96	249
	PITTSFIELD	-	2	6	-	8
	PITTSFORD	35	10	44	47	136
	POULTNEY	39	18	57	69	183
	PROCTOR	10	1	9	31	51
	RUTLAND	23	8	18	24	73
	SHREWSBURY	14	10	36	7	67
	SUDBURY	7	1	21	26	55
	TINMOUTH	11	8	48	44	111
	WALLINGFORD	17	8	33	21	79

**TABLE 8. 2009 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY COUNTY, TOWN AND SEASON**

COUNTY	Town of Kill	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Muzzleloader	Total Deer Harvest
RUTLAND (CONT.)	WELLS	31	9	46	39	125
	WEST HAVEN	16	12	38	37	103
	WEST RUTLAND	13	6	22	41	82
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>2,364</b>
WASHINGTON	BARRE	35	16	31	26	108
	BERLIN	19	8	32	13	72
	CABOT	12	3	22	20	57
	CALAIS	12	6	25	16	59
	DUXBURY	3	1	7	3	14
	EAST MONTPELIER	22	11	41	19	93
	FAYSTON	4	-	15	2	21
	MARSHFIELD	13	4	33	22	72
	MIDDLESEX	7	5	29	12	53
	MONTPELIER	13	2	4	2	21
	MORETOWN	9	8	24	13	54
	NORTHFIELD	14	3	25	10	52
	PLAINFIELD	22	15	15	28	80
	ROXBURY	5	2	5	1	13
	WAITSFIELD	6	5	12	13	36
	WARREN	6	1	17	7	31
	WATERBURY	26	6	30	18	80
	WOODBURY	3	-	21	7	31
	WORCESTER	2	1	15	6	24
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>971</b>
WINDHAM	ATHENS	1	-	-	-	1
	BRATTLEBORO	20	3	13	11	47
	BROOKLINE	4	-	9	4	17
	DOVER	4	-	8	8	20
	DUMMERSTON	8	3	27	20	58
	GRAFTON	1	-	15	2	18
	GUILFORD	14	8	35	17	74
	HALIFAX	2	1	15	8	26
	JAMAICA	-	-	8	2	10
	LONDONDERRY	-	-	12	1	13
	MARLBORO	3	-	15	9	27
	NEWFANE	9	3	23	20	55
	PUTNEY	8	4	16	17	45
	ROCKINGHAM	10	6	32	21	69
	SOMERSET	1	-	1	1	3
	STRATTON	-	-	7	1	8
	TOWNSHEND	-	-	23	5	28
	VERNON	5	1	7	7	20
	WARDSBORO	-	-	8	4	12
	WESTMINSTER	6	1	20	9	36
	WHITINGHAM	3	2	12	2	19
	WILMINGTON	11	3	21	8	43
	WINDHAM	-	-	5	-	5
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>654</b>

**TABLE 8. 2009 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY COUNTY, TOWN AND SEASON**

COUNTY	Town of Kill	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Muzzleloader	Total Deer Harvest
WINDSOR	ANDOVER	-	1	9	2	12
	BALTIMORE	1	-	3	3	7
	BARNARD	2	5	18	13	38
	BETHEL	12	6	27	14	59
	BRIDGEWATER	4	3	22	6	35
	CAVENDISH	4	3	23	3	33
	CHESTER	6	4	35	19	64
	HARTFORD	15	13	39	17	84
	HARTLAND	20	10	43	46	119
	LUDLOW	7	6	19	2	34
	NORWICH	38	5	56	20	119
	PLYMOUTH	2	-	9	5	16
	POMFRET	11	5	31	32	79
	QUECHEE	3	-	8	18	29
	READING	2	1	20	7	30
	ROCHESTER	3	2	13	7	25
	ROYALTON	6	3	18	9	36
	SHARON	7	1	32	21	61
	SPRINGFIELD	28	18	56	47	149
	STOCKBRIDGE	3	1	18	9	31
	WEATHERSFIELD	9	5	43	26	83
WEST WINDSOR	8	4	27	19	58	
WESTON	-	-	7	1	8	
WINDSOR	13	3	6	12	34	
WOODSTOCK	23	13	38	19	93	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>1,336</b>
UNKNOWN		6	4	9	14	33
	<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	<b>3,032</b>	<b>1,708</b>	<b>6,017</b>	<b>4,480</b>	<b>15,237</b>