



2016 VERMONT WHITE-TAILED DEER HARVEST REPORT



FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
(802) 828-1000 / www.vtfishandwildlife.com



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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

Agency of Natural Resources

1 National Life Drive, Davis 2

Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3702

(802) 828-1000 / www.vtfishandwildlife.com

2016 White-tailed Deer Report

Overview

Hunters harvested a total of 16,220 deer during the four Vermont deer seasons in 2016, providing more than 3.2 million meals of local, nutritious venison. The overall harvest was 27% more than 2015 (12,747), and the total buck harvest of 9,995 was 20% more than the 2015 buck harvest (8,330; Figure 1) and 19% higher than the previous 3-year average (8,372 bucks).

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department estimated a 15-20% increase in the deer population due to the exceptionally mild winter of 2016. Each winter, a Winter Severity Index (WSI) is calculated from 38 weather stations throughout Vermont. Points are accumulated for each day when temperatures are 0 degrees Fahrenheit or below or the snow depth is 18 inches or more. The statewide average WSI for 2016 was 9.6, the lowest since the department began tracking this index in 1970 (Figure 2). In response, the number of muzzleloader season antlerless permits was increased by 96% to provide additional harvest opportunity and to limit population growth in some parts of the state.

The primary goal of Vermont's deer management strategy is to keep the deer herd stable, healthy and in balance with available habitat. The substantial increase in the population and harvest in 2016 clearly demonstrates how productive our deer herd can be given favorable winter conditions. This indicates that we are meeting the management objectives established in Vermont's

10-year Big Game Plan. Fawn weights and reproductive data from road-killed deer continue to indicate a population in balance with its habitat. Deer going into winter with heavier body weights are better able to survive harsh winter conditions, and high reproductive rates mean the population can rebound quickly. This helps to minimize the boom and bust cycles that have historically characterized Vermont's deer population and harvest (Figure 1).

Hunting conditions were variable during the 2016 hunting seasons. Warm weather persisted for most of the October archery season, causing deer to move less during the day and reducing hunter success. However, cool weather and snow during the rifle and muzzleloader seasons likely improved hunter success, as deer were more active and hunters were better able to locate them.

Statewide surveys conducted in 2016 indicated that apple, beechnut, and oak mast production were all less than normal. Apple and acorn production were fair but variable, while beechnut production was poor or none. In years with limited mast production, deer tend to concentrate near available food sources, which can make it easier for hunters to locate them. Although the larger population was the primary factor, favorable weather and poor mast production both likely contributed to the increased harvest.

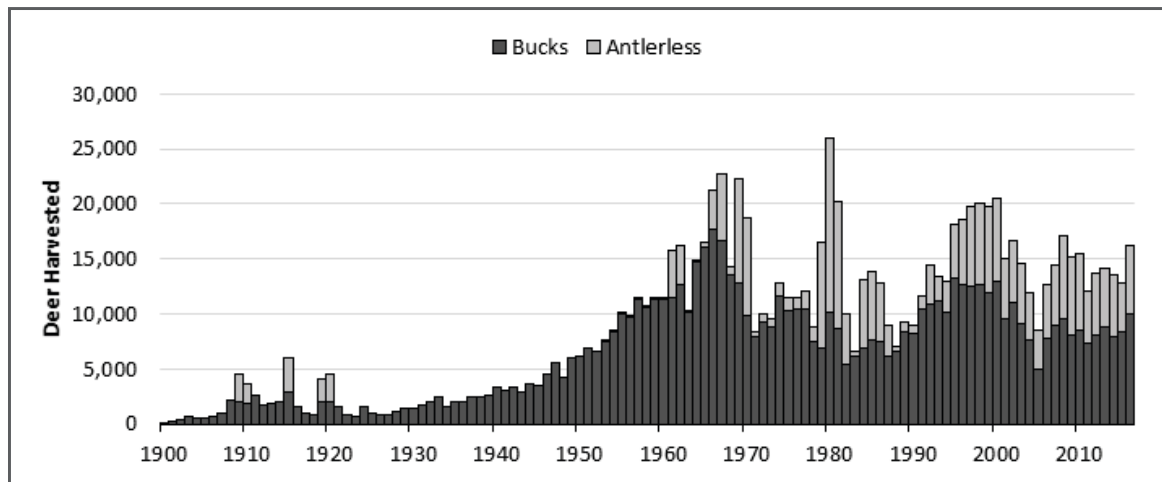


Figure 1. Annual antlered buck and total deer harvest in Vermont, 1900-2016.

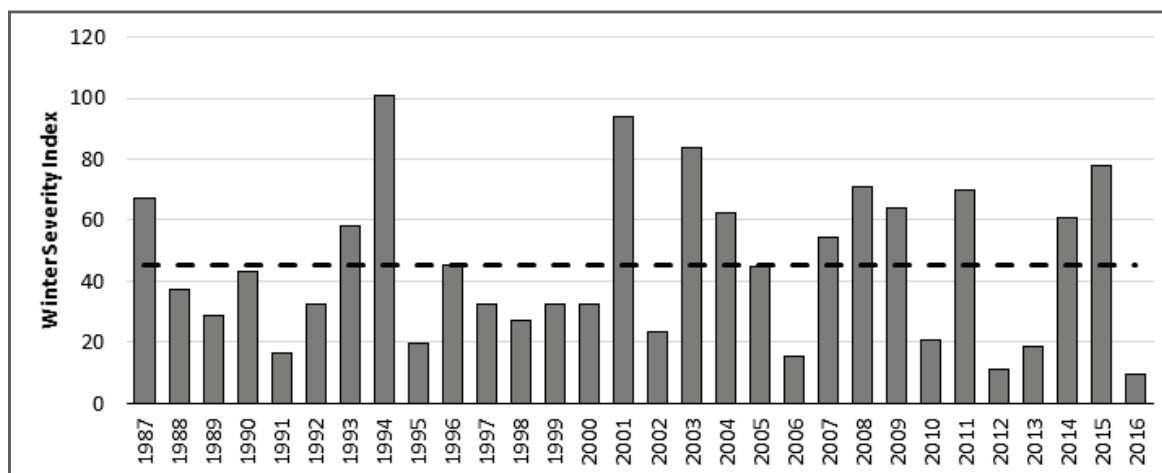


Figure 2. Statewide winter severity index (WSI) in Vermont, 1986-2016. The horizontal dashed line shows the 30-year average WSI of 45.

Season Results

Antlered bucks comprised 62% of the total harvest, while 31% were adult does, 3% were male fawns, and 4% were female fawns (Figure 3). Rifle season accounted for 48% of the total deer harvest, while 21% were harvested during archery season, 22% during muzzleloader season, and 9% during youth season (Figure 4, Table 1).

Figure 3. Age and sex distribution of the harvest.

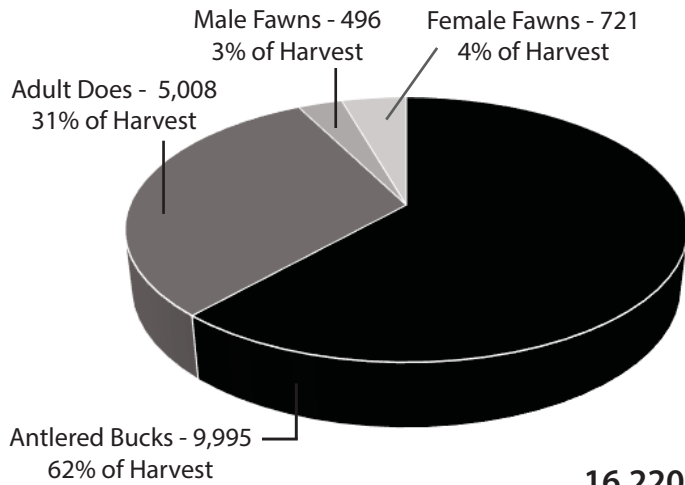
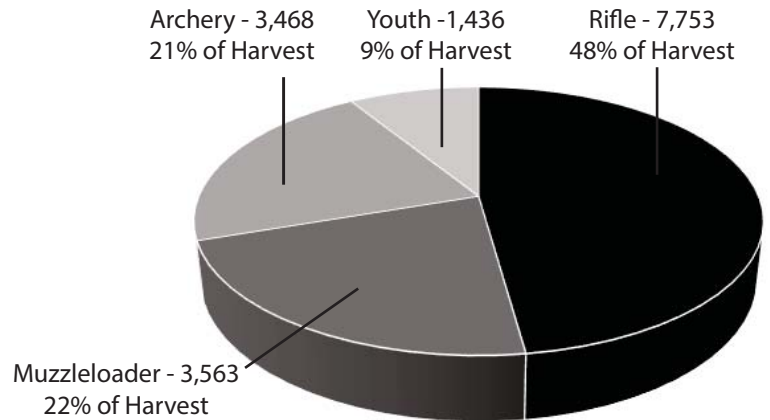
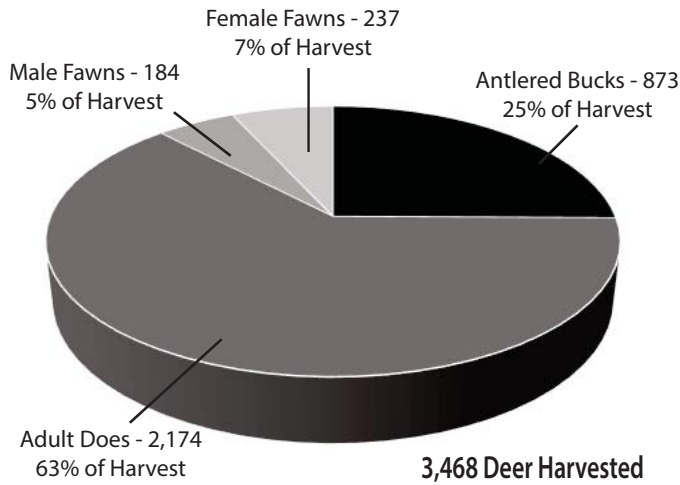


Figure 4. Distribution of the harvest by season.



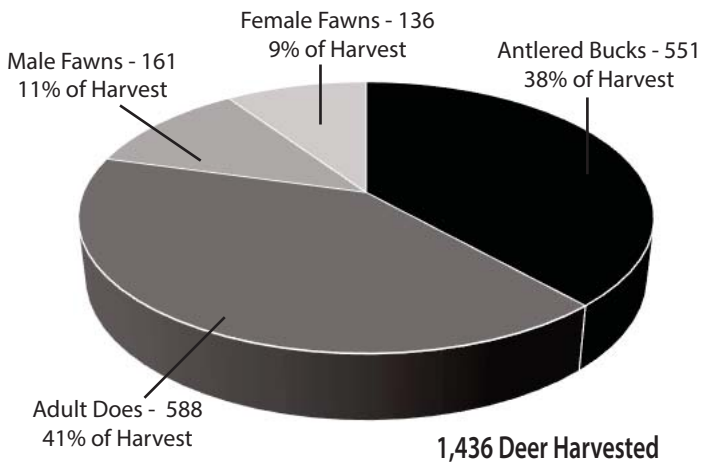
16,220 Deer Harvested

Figure 5. Age and sex distribution of the archery harvest.



3,468 Deer Harvested

Figure 6. Age and sex distribution of the youth harvest.



1,436 Deer Harvested

Archery Season (October 1–28, December 3–11, 2016)

Archers harvested 3,468 deer during the split 37-day archery season (28 days in October and 9 days in December). This was essentially unchanged (up 1%) from the 2015 harvest (3,397), but was 7% higher than the previous 3-year average (3,251). The archery harvest was composed of 25% antlered bucks, 63% adult does, and 12% fawns (Figure 5, Table 1). The late archery season accounted for 8% (288 deer) of the overall archery harvest and 3% (24 deer) of the archery buck harvest. Hunters using crossbows accounted for 32% of the harvest, up from 14% in 2015. Crossbows became legal for all hunters age 50 or older for the first time in 2016.

The prevalence of does in the archery harvest demonstrates that bow hunting is an important mechanism for deer population management. Harvesting does helps prevent overabundant and unhealthy deer. All wildlife management units were open to the taking of antlerless deer during the archery season in 2016.

Youth Season (November 5–6, 2016)

Youth hunters harvested a total of 1,436 deer during the 2-day youth season. This was a 12% increase from 2015 (1,278), but was 7% lower than the previous 3-year average (1,549). The youth harvest was composed of 38% antlered bucks, 41% adult does, and 20% fawns (Figure 6, Table 1).

The youth season is particularly important for deer research and management in Vermont. Youth hunters during the youth season can harvest any deer, regardless of sex or antler characteristics. As a result, the youth harvest provides a representative cross-section of the entire deer population, including spike-antlered bucks. Data from harvested does and fawns are also useful for deer management purposes.

Table 1. 2016 Legal Deer Harvest Numbers and Percentages by Season and Age–Sex

Seasons		Antlered Buck	Adult Doe	Male Fawn	Female Fawn	Total
Archery	Number Harvested	873	2,174	184	237	3,468
	% of Archery Season	25%	63%	5%	7%	
	% of Deer Type	9%	43%	37%	33%	
	% of Total	5%	13%	1%	1%	21%
Youth	Number Harvested	551	588	161	136	1,436
	% of Youth Season	38%	41%	11%	9%	
	% of Deer Type	6%	12%	32%	19%	
	% of Total	3%	4%	1%	1%	9%
Rifle	Number Harvested	7,753	0	0	0	7,753
	% of Rifle Season	100%				
	% of Deer Type	78%				
	% of Total	48%				48%
Muzzleloader	Number Harvested	818	2,246	151	348	3,563
	% of Muzzleloader Season	23%	63%	4%	10%	
	% of Deer Type	8%	45%	30%	48%	
	% of Total	5%	14%	1%	2%	22%
Total	Number Harvested	9,995	5,008	496	721	16,220
	% of Total Deer Harvest	62%	31%	3%	4%	

Rifle Season (November 12–27, 2016)

Hunters reported a total of 7,753 antlered bucks during the traditional 16-day rifle season. This was a 17% increase from 2015 (6,628) and 19% more than the previous 3-year average (6,498).

Hunter effort surveys were mailed to 10,000 randomly selected licensed Vermont hunters in 2016. This survey provides information on the number of hunters actively participating in deer hunting, the amount of time they spend afield, and the number of deer, moose, and other species they see while hunting. These data are used to monitor deer, moose, bear, and furbearer distribution and population trends.

Hunters returned 1,321 valid surveys (13% return rate), with 12% reporting that they did not hunt during the rifle season in 2016. Hunters reported an average of 39 hours afield during the rifle season which is similar to the previous 3-year average (40 hours). Timing of hunter effort within the 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 7). Respondents reported a total of 41,898 hunter-hours, equivalent to 20 people working 40 hours per week year-round. Clearly, this volunteer effort is more than the department could ever achieve with its own staff.

Hunters reported seeing an average of 2.6 deer per 10 hours of hunting. This was 44% higher than 2015 (1.8 deer/10 hours hunting), and the same as the 2014 sighting rate (Table 2). The buck sighting rate of 0.30 per 10 hours of hunting (about 1 buck per 33 hours) was 30% higher than the rate reported in 2015 (0.23/10 hours) and the highest buck sighting rate since 2008.



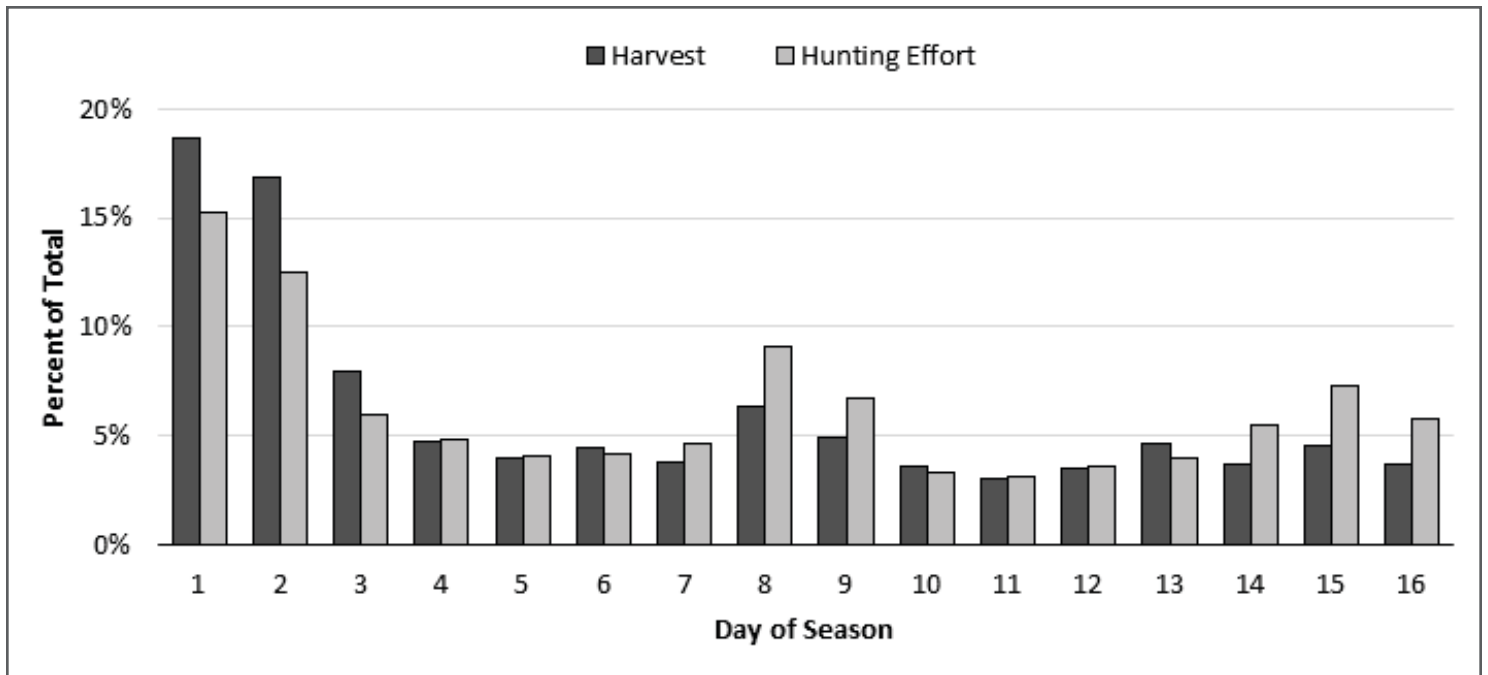


Figure 7. Daily hunting effort and buck harvest during the rifle season.

Table 2. Number of Deer Seen per 10 Hours Hunting by WMU as Reported by Rifle Hunters

WMU	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
A	1.4	2.0	6.0	2.7	3.5	4.6	4.5	3.0	1.5	4.1	2.6	4.9	6.3	5.4	4.7	3.9
B	2.1	3.3	3.2	2.1	3.6	3.6	4.1	3.3	3.0	3.0	2.0	3.3	3.9	3.6	2.1	4.1
C	1.1	2.1	2.7	1.2	2.4	1.9	3.2	2.7	2.9	2.4	1.2	2.1	2.5	2.3	1.3	1.8
D1 ¹	1.8	1.5	2.1	1.1	3.3	3.8	2.9	3.3	2.6	2.4	2.1	2.8	2.5	3.2	1.9	2.6
D2 ¹	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.0	2.7	2.0	3.4	2.8	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.9	2.1	1.2	1.8
E1 ¹	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.2	1.9	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.7	1.3	1.1	1.3	0.4	0.9
F1	2.6	3.9	3.8	2.4	3.6	3.2	5.2	2.6	3.0	2.4	2.3	4.1	3.3	4.3	2.6	3.7
F2	1.9	3.5	2.7	2.1	3.1	3.0	3.8	3.6	1.7	3.5	1.8	4.6	1.8	2.5	1.7	2.9
G	1.1	1.4	2.8	1.7	1.6	1.9	2.9	2.0	2.2	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.9	1.8	1.5	1.8
H ¹	1.9	1.5	3.8	1.5	2.2	2.6	4.7	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.6	2.3	2.7	3.0	1.8	2.2
I	1.2	2.2	1.6	1.0	1.6	1.3	3.1	1.0	1.6	1.4	1.0	1.3	1.9	2.0	1.0	1.6
J1	2.3	2.2	2.8	1.8	3.6	3.9	4.2	3.3	2.0	2.9	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.8	1.8	3.9
J2 ¹	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.3	3.1	3.2	3.9	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.4	2.0	2.4	2.9	2.6
K	2.8	2.9	2.4	2.3	3.7	3.5	3.6	4.1	3.1	2.6	2.8	3.7	2.4	2.4	2.0	2.5
L	1.8	2.3	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.6	3.0
M ²	1.0	2.4	1.5	1.3	2.0	2.0	2.3	1.9	1.7	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.5	2.7
N	2.1	3.8	2.8	3.5	3.1	3.3	2.8	3.2	3.7	2.3	1.9	2.5	2.0	2.8	2.5	3.1
O ^{1,2}	2.6	2.7	2.7	1.7	2.9	3.4	4.3	2.6	2.0	1.7	1.5	2.9	3.1	2.8	1.6	2.4
P	0.7	1.6	0.9	1.8	2.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.2	0.9	1.7	1.1	1.3
Q ¹	1.1	2.1	1.9	2.3	2.0	1.4	3.5	1.6	1.3	0.5	1.2	1.4	2.0	2.4	1.2	1.3
Total	1.8	2.4	2.6	1.8	2.8	2.7	3.5	2.6	2.2	2.2	1.8	2.5	2.5	2.6	1.8	2.6

¹ WMU boundaries were changed in 2014.

² Prior to 2014, data shown for WMU M are from old WMUs M1 and O1. Data for WMU O are from old WMUs M2 and O2.

Muzzleloader Season (December 3–11, 2016)

Muzzleloader hunters harvested a total of 3,563 deer during the 9-day season. This was 147% more than 2015 (1,444) and 63% more than the previous 3-year average (2,184). The muzzleloader harvest was comprised of 23% antlered bucks, 63% adult does, and 14% fawns (Figure 8, Table 1).

Muzzleloader hunters play an important role in deer management, helping control total deer numbers in Vermont through shooting of antlerless deer. In 2016, a total of 18,950 antlerless deer permits were authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Board for 16 of the state’s 21 wildlife management units (WMUs). This represented a 96% increase from the number of permits issued in 2015, in response to the expected increase in the deer population as a result of the exceptionally mild winter of 2016. Antlerless permits were not recommended for 5 WMUs, located in the mountain and northeast regions, where deer populations were estimated to be below established long-term goals. Permit holder success was 15% statewide (2,745 antlerless deer harvested), varying from a high of 29% in WMU C to a low of 10% in WMU A (Table 3).

Figure 8. Age and sex distribution of the muzzleloader harvest.

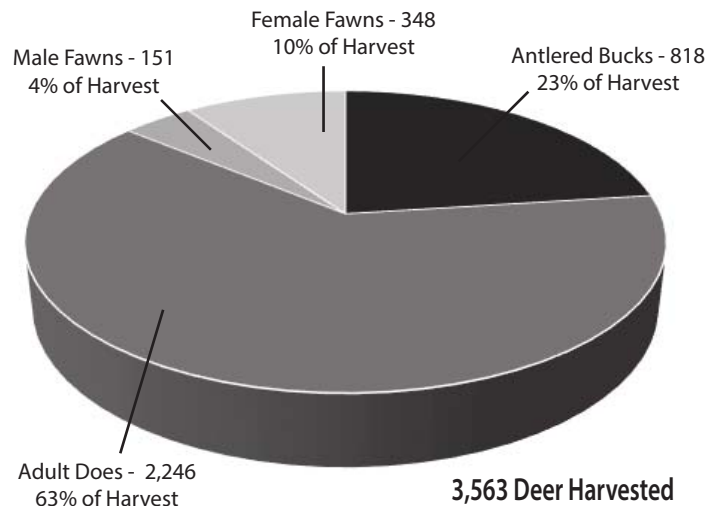


Table 3. 2016 Muzzleloader Antlerless Permit Allotments and Harvest by WMU

WMU	Permits Available	Permits Distributed	Landowner?		Antlerless Harvest	% Success
			Yes	No		
A	1,100	1,100	19	1,081	107	10%
B	5,500	5,500	311	5,189	815	15%
C	350	350	146	204	100	29%
D1	300	300	230	70	76	25%
D2	100	100	77	23	18	18%
F1	200	200	25	175	29	15%
F2	700	700	50	650	96	14%
G	300	300	60	240	59	20%
H	750	750	152	598	123	16%
J1	300	300	130	170	68	23%
J2	1,500	1,500	279	1,221	302	20%
K	4,100	3,569	62	3,507	464	13%
M	200	200	21	179	35	18%
N	2,100	1,835	23	1,812	247	13%
O	1,200	1,200	110	1,090	179	15%
Q	250	250	23	227	27	11%
Total	18,950	18,154	1,718	16,436	2,745	15%

Geographic Distribution

Deer are not evenly distributed across Vermont, and nor was the 2016 deer harvest. Deer harvest densities ranged from 5.4 deer/square mile in WMU A to 0.4 deer/square mile in WMU E (Figure 9). The Lake Plains (WMUs A, B, F1, F2) and Western Foothills (WMUs K and N) regions west of the Green Mountains accounted for 42% of the total deer harvest in 2016 (Table 4) despite having only 24% of the state's deer habitat. These regions include a lot of farmland and generally experience less severe winter conditions than the rest of the state, allowing them to sustain higher deer densities.

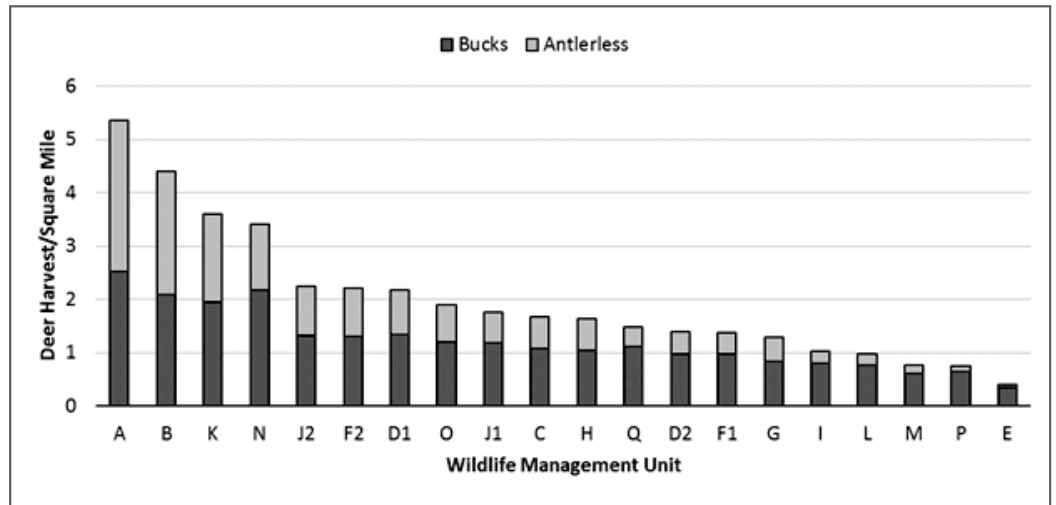


Figure 9. Antlered buck and total deer harvest density by wildlife management unit.

Table 6 provides a breakdown of the harvest by county, town, and season. A map of the 2016 deer harvest distribution by town and WMU is available at the end of this report.

Table 4. 2016 Deer Harvest by Wildlife Management Unit and Season

WMU	Archery		Youth		Rifle Buck	Muzzleloader		Total		Total Harvest
	Buck	Antlerless	Buck	Antlerless		Buck	Antlerless	Buck	Antlerless	
A	42	75	8	19	121	8	107	179	201	380
B	168	458	84	147	944	94	815	1,290	1,420	2,710
C	14	82	24	45	342	36	100	416	227	643
D1	93	258	81	147	544	47	76	764	481	1,246
D2	19	86	26	58	301	29	18	376	162	537
E1	3	12	5	7	123	11	0	142	19	161
E2	2	6	2	7	69	15	0	89	13	101
F1	38	79	19	19	236	15	29	310	127	435
F2	32	108	19	36	269	32	96	351	240	592
G	20	95	8	23	254	42	59	324	177	501
H	62	152	28	33	409	42	123	540	308	849
I	24	84	14	14	255	45	0	338	98	436
J1	49	189	28	51	492	54	68	623	308	931
J2	56	261	54	96	728	92	302	930	659	1,589
K	80	210	48	50	645	79	464	851	724	1,576
L	19	65	8	11	234	18	0	279	76	355
M	4	30	5	8	227	39	35	275	73	348
N	68	101	28	49	552	55	247	703	397	1,100
O	50	163	44	36	530	38	179	662	378	1,040
P	17	41	12	11	248	15	0	292	52	344
Q	13	40	6	18	230	12	27	261	85	346
Total	873	2,595	551	885	7,753	818	2,745	9,995	6,225	16,220

Biological Data Collection

Each fall department biologists visit big game reporting stations throughout the state to collect biological information from harvested deer. These data are important for monitoring the health of Vermont's deer herd and evaluating the effects of deer management strategies. In 2016 the department operated 25 biological reporting stations during the youth season and 23 during opening weekend of the rifle season, and examined a total of 1,842 deer.

Youth season is an important data collection period because youth hunters may harvest any deer regardless of sex, age or antler characteristics. Biologists examined 571 deer (39% of the youth harvest) during youth weekend, including 239 antlered bucks, 223 adult does, and 109 fawns.

Yearlings accounted for 71% of antlered bucks examined during youth weekend, 24% were 2 years old, and 5% were 3 years old or older (Table 5).

Data collected during the rifle season provide additional information on age and antler development in legal-antlered bucks and, when compared to youth season data, allow the department to assess the effect of the antler restriction on the harvest. Since 2015, a concerted effort has been made to collect additional data on buck age structure and antler development. The department again operated an increased number of biological reporting stations during the 2016 rifle season, which allowed biologists to examine 1,271 antlered bucks (16% of the rifle harvest).

Additionally, the department asked all successful rifle season hunters to provide a tooth from their deer. This effort resulted in an additional 2,865 teeth (37% of the rifle harvest). In total, accurate age information will be available for more than 50% of the rifle buck harvest and more than 40% of the total buck harvest. These data will help evaluate the antler restriction and allow for comparison of age distribution and antler development among different regions of the state.

Looking to the Future

The winter of 2016–2017 is on pace to be one of the mildest on record. With minimal snow cover through January, deer were able to utilize habitats outside of traditional wintering areas and access the best available foods. Early February brought increased snowfall, but much of it melted by the end of the month. Winter severity in March and April have the greatest effect on overwinter deer survival, so it's too early to make predictions. However, barring substantial late-winter snowfall, the state can probably expect another increase in the deer population in 2017. Most of Vermont can support an increased deer population, but in some areas an increase is undesirable.

In 2016, the department was left with unallocated muzzleloader antlerless deer permits in WMUs K and N (Table 3). It is very

Table 5. Average Dressed Weights and Antler Beam Diameters (ABD) of Deer Examined at Biological Reporting Stations During Youth Season

	Age Class	Weight (lbs)	ABD (mm)	Sample Size	% of Adults
Males	0	66.1		66	
	1	119.4	17.3	169	71%
	2	146.7	22.3	56	24%
	3	166.2	27.6	9	4%
	4+	177.7	32.8	3	1%
	Age Class	Weight		Sample Size	% of Adults
Females	0	59.5		41	
	1	99.7		40	18%
	2	110.0		43	19%
	3	117.2		37	17%
	4+	119.7		103	46%

likely that there were more permits available in these units than there are hunters. In order to responsibly manage deer in these units, it may be necessary to find alternative ways to control deer numbers. Under-harvest is more dangerous than over-harvest because habitats damaged by overabundant deer take longer to recover than reduced deer numbers. Currently, the antlerless harvest in WMU N could be doubled with little or no impact on the population, and would need to be increased even further to achieve the population objectives established in the 2010–2020 Big Game Management Plan. If the state continue to have mild winters, and too few does continue to be taken, the deer herd in southwestern Vermont will become unhealthy and susceptible to drastic winter losses and disease.

Hunters play a critical role in the management of deer in Vermont. They provide the mechanism for controlling deer numbers and they provide useful biological information from the animals they harvest. Some rifle season hunters also provide valuable information on hunting effort and sighting rates of deer, moose, and other species. Hunters have a responsibility to contribute to the sound management of these species, yet only 13% of rifle season hunter effort surveys were returned in 2016. Low return rates for this survey, as well as other surveys such as bear hunter effort surveys and trapper surveys, make the information less useful and limit the department's ability to estimate deer, moose, bear, and furbearer population sizes.

Comprehensive Deer Management Evaluation

The Fish & Wildlife Department is now halfway through phase II of its comprehensive deer management evaluation. Phase I resulted in the Fish and Wildlife Board approving several changes to deer hunting regulations which took effect in 2016. These included a ban on natural urine lures, allowing hunters age 50 or older to use crossbows, adding 5 days to the end of the October archery season, and reducing the bag limits during archery and muzzleloader seasons from 3 to 2.

During phase II, the department is making a concerted effort to collect additional information on the buck population to

further evaluate the effects of the antler restriction. This began in 2015 with the increased number of biological reporting stations and the rifle season tooth collection effort, and is expected to continue through the 2017 deer seasons. This will provide 3 years of increased age and antler data collection and allow for 2 years of monitoring the effects of the regulation changes on the archery harvest. Additionally, the department will continue to review all aspects of deer management in search of options that improve both hunter satisfaction and the department's ability to manage the deer herd.

Age results from 2016 are not yet available as of this writing, but data from 2015 have proven useful in assessing the antler restriction. In short, the department remains concerned that the antler restriction may be resulting in reduced antler size in both yearling and older bucks. It is not appropriate to make decisions based on only one year of increased data collection; however, and results from 2016 and 2017 will be critical to the department's evaluation.

2020–2030 Big Game Management Plan

In 2017, the department will begin the process of developing a new 10-Year Big Game Management Plan for Vermont's four big game species. The plan identifies the major issues facing each species, establishes management goals, and guides management actions for the next decade. There will be lots of public involvement during the development of the plan, so if the public has any ideas about how these species should be managed or important issues the department should address, there will be ample opportunity for input.

Heaviest Deer

A total of 161 deer were reported with scaled weights of 200 pounds or more. The heaviest deer weighed 239 pounds and was taken in the town of Lunenburg. At least one 200-pound deer was reported from every WMU except Q. For more information on large deer harvested in Vermont, visit the Vermont Big Game Trophy Club website at vermontbiggametrophyclub.com.



photo courtesy of VT Big Game Trophy Club

Table 6. Bucks Weighing at Least 200 Pounds in the 2016 Deer Harvest

(Weights have been corrected to account for remaining organs. Weights in parentheses are the reported weights of deer that were not completely field dressed.)

Season	WMU	Town	Weight	Antler Points
Rifle	E2	LUNENBURG	239	10
Rifle	C	EDEN	237 (240)*	8
Rifle	B	COLCHESTER	237	8
Rifle	D2	WHEELLOCK	234 (248)	7
Rifle	F1	BRIDPORT	232 (235)	8
Rifle	D2	WESTMORE	230	8
Rifle	O	GUILFORD	229	9
Rifle	O	SPRINGFIELD	228	9
Rifle	E1	BLOOMFIELD	228	10
Rifle	A	ALBURGH	227	8
Rifle	E1	FERDINAND	225	8
Rifle	J1	BETHEL	225	8
Bow	D2	LYNDON	225	8
Rifle	E2	LUNENBURG	225	8
Rifle	H	HARDWICK	224	8
Rifle	D2	CHARLESTON	223	9
Rifle	C	MONTGOMERY	223	8
Bow	F1	ORWELL	222	4
Rifle	E2	LUNENBURG	222	8
Rifle	D2	GLOVER	221	8
Rifle	C	JOHNSON	221 (223)*	8
Bow	O	HARTLAND	221	10
Rifle	O	ROYALTON	220	7
Youth	D1	COVENTRY	220	8
Bow	A	NORTH HERO	220	4
Bow	D2	SUTTON	220	8
Rifle	E2	LUNENBURG	219	7
Bow	F1	FERRISBURG	219	4
Rifle	C	JOHNSON	218 (224)*	8
Rifle	E1	LEMINGTON	218	10
Rifle	K	CASTLETON	218	8
Rifle	E2	LUNENBURG	217	9
Bow	K	ORWELL	216	10
Rifle	M	BRIDGEWATER	216	7
Rifle	D1	NEWPORT	216	9
Rifle	F1	FERRISBURG	215	8
Rifle	E2	MAIDSTONE	214	8
Rifle	E1	LEWIS	214	8
Rifle	E2	LUNENBURG	213	10
Rifle	E1	NORTON	213	8
Bow	D1	ALBANY	213	8
Rifle	M	ANDOVER	213	8
Rifle	I	CHITTENDEN	213	9

Table 6. Bucks Weighing at Least 200 Pounds in the 2016 Deer Harvest

Season	WMU	Town	Weight	Antler Points
Rifle	F1	HINESBURG	212	8
Rifle	I	GOSHEN	212	8
Rifle	E1	HOLLAND	212	8
Rifle	B	HIGHGATE	212	6
Rifle	D2	LYNDON	212	3
Rifle	C	EDEN	212	8
Rifle	K	ORWELL	211	6
Rifle	N	PAWLET	211	8
Rifle	E2	VICTORY	211	8
Rifle	G	MORRISTOWN	211	10
Rifle	D1	BROWNINGTON	210	5
Rifle	D1	TROY	210	9
Rifle	C	BELVIDERE	210	8
Rifle	B	BERKSHIRE	210	9
Rifle	A	ALBURGH	210	8
Rifle	K	ORWELL	210	4
Rifle	G	STARKSBORO	210	7
Rifle	L	LONDONDERRY	210	9
Rifle	J1	STOCKBRIDGE	209	7
Rifle	B	HIGHGATE	209	6
Rifle	D1	CRAFTSBURY	209	8
Rifle	G	MORRISTOWN	208	8
Rifle	F1	ADDISON	208	6
Rifle	E1	LEWIS	208	10
Rifle	H	WATERBURY	208	5
Rifle	B	FAIRFIELD	208	8
Rifle	B	HIGHGATE	208	8
Rifle	L	WALLINGFORD	208	10
Rifle	J2	TOPSHAM	207	7
Rifle	B	FRANKLIN	207	8
Rifle	B	SHELDON	207	8
Rifle	C	EDEN	207	4
Rifle	L	MOUNT HOLLY	207	8
Rifle	H	PLAINFIELD	206	9
Rifle	E2	GUILDHALL	206	8
Rifle	E2	GUILDHALL	206	7
Rifle	H	WATERBURY	206	8
Rifle	D1	TROY	206	6
Rifle	J1	BETHEL	206	8
Rifle	D1	HOLLAND	206	7
Youth	B	BERKSHIRE	206	10
Rifle	B	FAIRFIELD	206	8
Rifle	J2	STRAFFORD	206	9
Rifle	N	PAWLET	205	9
Rifle	E2	MAIDSTONE	205	10
Rifle	E1	CANAAN	205	7
Rifle	F1	ADDISON	205	9

Season	WMU	Town	Weight	Antler Points
Rifle	D1	GLOVER	205	6
Rifle	J1	CHELSEA	205	8
Rifle	E1	CANAAN	205	8
Rifle	D2	KIRBY	205	7
Rifle	I	PITTSFIELD	205	8
Rifle	A	ALBURGH	205	8
Rifle	F2	SHOREHAM	205	8
Rifle	M	ANDOVER	205	7
Rifle	G	BOLTON	204	8
Rifle	N	SANDGATE	204	8
Rifle	E1	AVERILL	204	9
Rifle	E1	AVERYS GORE	204	9
Rifle	B	SHELDON	204	8
Rifle	B	HIGHGATE	204	8
Rifle	J2	LUNENBURG	203	5
Rifle	E2	GUILDHALL	203	7
Rifle	F1	SHELBURNE	203	7
Rifle	B	BAKERSFIELD	203	5
Rifle	C	WESTFIELD	203	8
Rifle	I	ROCHESTER	203	8
Rifle	C	LOWELL	203	8
Rifle	J2	NORWICH	203	8
Rifle	C	JAY	202	6
Rifle	D1	MORGAN	202	8
Rifle	N	SANDGATE	202	8
Rifle	B	COLCHESTER	202	10
Rifle	D2	SHEFFIELD	202	9
Muzzleloader	I	GOSHEN	202	8
Rifle	E1	BLOOMFIELD	201	7
Rifle	K	PITTSFORD	201	8
Rifle	B	FAIRFIELD	201	5
Rifle	E1	NORTON	201	8
Rifle	E1	CANAAN	201	9
Rifle	E2	LUNENBURG	201	8
Rifle	E1	NORTON	201	8
Bow	B	HIGHGATE	201	9
Rifle	M	WOODSTOCK	201	8
Rifle	D2	CONCORD	201	8
Rifle	D2	SUTTON	201	10
Youth	C	EDEN	201	8
Rifle	J2	CONCORD	200	6
Rifle	B	MILTON	200	8
Rifle	E2	GUILDHALL	200	6
Rifle	D2	KIRBY	200	9
Rifle	D1	CRAFTSBURY	200	8
Rifle	D1	COVENTRY	200	10
Bow	B	GEORGIA	200	8

Table 6. Bucks Weighing at Least 200 Pounds in the 2016 Deer Harvest

Season	WMU	Town	Weight	Antler Points
Bow	J2	CONCORD	200	7
Rifle	C	RICHFORD	200	9
Rifle	M	READING	200	10
Rifle	K	BENSON	200	8
Rifle	F2	ORWELL	200	7
Rifle	E2	CONCORD	200	11
Rifle	P	READSBORO	200	8
Muzzleloader	D2	BROWNINGTON	200	9
Muzzleloader	E2	VICTORY	200	8
Rifle	C	ENOSBURG	200	7
Rifle	G	BOLTON	199 (205)	8
Rifle	E2	CONCORD	199 (207)	6

Season	WMU	Town	Weight	Antler Points
Rifle	D1	HYDE PARK	199 (201)	5
Rifle	H	MORRISTOWN	198 (210)	8
Rifle	D1	BROWNINGTON	196 (208)	8
Rifle	K	CLARENDON	194 (205)	9
Rifle	D2	WALDEN	194 (206)	3
Rifle	G	HUNTINGTON	193 (204)	8
Rifle	I	LINCOLN	193 (201)	8
Rifle	G	BOLTON	193 (204)	7
Rifle	B	MILTON	192 (203)	6
Rifle	L	LANDGROVE	191 (202)	10
Rifle	B	CAMBRIDGE	191 (200)	9
Rifle	O	WEATHERFIELD	189 (200)	10

*Deer was weighed on a scale that was later found to be inaccurate.

Table 7. 2015 Legal Deer Harvest by County, Town and Season

County	Town	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Muzzleloader	Total	Harvest/Mi. ²
ADDISON	ADDISON	10	2	26	5	43	1.02
	BRIDPORT	11	1	24	3	39	0.89
	BRISTOL	11	4	40	11	66	1.65
	CORNWALL	10	4	22	9	45	1.55
	FERRISBURG	21	10	51	7	89	1.85
	GOSHEN	2	0	16	2	20	0.95
	GRANVILLE	1	0	8	10	19	0.37
	HANCOCK	0	0	7	2	9	0.23
	LEICESTER	10	3	22	7	42	2.00
	LINCOLN	32	7	51	3	93	2.02
	MIDDLEBURY	20	13	36	15	84	2.15
	MONKTON	17	1	32	14	64	1.78
	NEW HAVEN	21	7	44	14	86	2.10
	ORWELL	20	13	47	28	108	2.30
	PANTON	3	1	5	2	11	0.69
	RIPTON	6	0	35	6	47	0.96
	SALISBURY	7	5	21	6	39	1.34
	SHOREHAM	19	12	40	4	75	1.74
	STARSBORO	13	5	39	18	75	1.67
	VERGENNES	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
	WALTHAM	1	1	5	2	9	1.00
WEYBRIDGE	4	1	8	4	17	1.00	
WHITING	6	3	9	4	22	1.57	
	TOTAL	245	93	588	176	1,102	1.43

Table 7. 2015 Legal Deer Harvest by County,Town and Season

County	Town	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Muzzleloader	Total	Harvest/Mi. ²
BENNINGTON	ARLINGTON	16	14	72	11	113	2.69
	BENNINGTON	47	14	96	44	201	4.79
	DORSET	8	1	42	35	86	1.83
	GLASTENBURY	1	0	4	0	5	0.11
	LANDGROVE	0	1	6	1	8	0.89
	MANCHESTER	8	2	33	11	54	1.29
	PERU	0	0	7	1	8	0.22
	POWNAI	36	20	103	49	208	4.43
	READSBORO	6	1	20	3	30	0.83
	RUPERT	11	6	78	35	130	2.89
	SANDGATE	3	6	53	23	85	2.02
	SEARSBURG	2	0	5	2	9	0.43
	SHAFTSBURY	47	15	85	46	193	4.49
	STAMFORD	5	4	29	1	39	1.00
	SUNDERLAND	7	3	18	7	35	0.78
	WINHALL	0	2	9	1	12	0.27
	WOODFORD	1	0	16	1	18	0.38
	TOTAL		198	89	676	271	1,234
CALEDONIA	BARNET	22	24	50	47	143	3.40
	BURKE	25	11	25	3	64	1.88
	DANVILLE	22	14	47	9	92	1.51
	GROTON	7	4	22	12	45	0.83
	HARDWICK	21	11	44	8	84	2.21
	KIRBY	1	2	20	4	27	1.08
	LYNDON	11	18	35	2	66	1.69
	NEWARK	2	2	20	2	26	0.70
	PEACHAM	5	2	34	1	42	0.89
	RYEGATE	28	13	36	17	94	2.61
	SHEFFIELD	1	1	13	4	19	0.58
	ST JOHNSBURY	34	10	40	13	97	2.69
	STANNARD	1	0	5	0	6	0.46
	SUTTON	5	13	19	3	40	1.05
	WALDEN	4	2	20	2	28	0.72
	WATERFORD	21	15	49	46	131	3.45
	WHEELOCK	2	3	17	4	26	0.65
	TOTAL		212	145	496	177	1,030
CHITTENDEN	BOLTON	2	0	22	7	31	0.74
	BUELS GORE	0	0	2	0	2	0.40
	BURLINGTON	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
	CHARLOTTE	15	5	31	4	55	1.34
	COLCHESTER	29	5	25	19	78	2.17

Table 7. 2015 Legal Deer Harvest by County,Town and Season

County	Town	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Muzzleloader	Total	Harvest/Mi. ²
CHITTENDEN (cont.)	ESSEX	34	4	22	15	75	1.92
	HINESBURG	18	4	20	21	63	1.62
	HUNTINGTON	14	2	32	20	68	1.79
	JERICO	26	3	34	16	79	2.26
	MILTON	34	4	48	47	133	2.61
	RICHMOND	22	3	32	19	76	2.38
	SHELBURNE	16	0	4	2	22	0.92
	SOUTH BURLINGTON	0	0	1	1	2	0.13
	ST GEORGE	2	0	1	1	4	1.00
	UNDERHILL	20	6	39	34	99	1.94
	WESTFORD	19	5	37	46	107	2.74
	WILLISTON	13	5	15	6	39	1.30
	WINOOSKI	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
	TOTAL		264	46	365	258	933
ESSEX	AVERILL	0	0	8	0	8	0.22
	AVERYS GORE	0	0	1	0	1	0.06
	BLOOMFIELD	4	1	19	5	29	0.73
	BRIGHTON	5	0	14	1	20	0.38
	BRUNSWICK	0	1	2	2	5	0.20
	CANAAN	3	5	22	4	34	1.03
	CONCORD	6	5	19	10	40	0.78
	EAST HAVEN	1	0	8	1	10	0.27
	FERDINAND	0	0	7	0	7	0.13
	GRANBY	0	0	4	0	4	0.10
	GUILDHALL	1	0	7	1	9	0.27
	LEMINGTON	0	0	8	0	8	0.23
	LEWIS	0	0	5	1	6	0.15
	LUNENBURG	5	4	30	6	45	1.00
	MAIDSTONE	0	1	7	1	9	0.29
	NORTON	3	0	19	2	24	0.63
	VICTORY	0	1	4	3	8	0.19
	WARNERS GRANT	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
	WARREN GORE	0	0	4	0	4	0.44
	TOTAL		28	18	188	37	271
FRANKLIN	BAKERSFIELD	29	14	76	40	159	3.79
	BERKSHIRE	34	13	73	64	184	4.38
	ENOSBURG	29	30	84	54	197	4.10
	FAIRFAX	48	22	64	62	196	4.90
	FAIRFIELD	81	34	126	145	386	5.76
	FLETCHER	20	10	48	65	143	3.76
	FRANKLIN	57	20	73	71	221	5.82

Table 7. 2015 Legal Deer Harvest by County,Town and Season

County	Town	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Muzzleloader	Total	Harvest/Mi. ²
FRANKLIN <i>(cont.)</i>	GEORGIA	30	11	38	33	112	2.87
	HIGHGATE	84	32	87	91	294	5.76
	MONTGOMERY	8	5	48	14	75	1.34
	RICHFORD	18	14	38	21	91	2.12
	SHELDON	35	21	79	70	205	5.26
	ST ALBANS	10	5	24	20	59	1.59
	SWANTON	30	12	48	34	124	2.58
	TOTAL	513	243	906	784	2,446	3.89
GRAND ISLE	ALBURGH	32	9	57	40	138	4.76
	GRAND ISLE	33	10	17	26	86	5.38
	ISLE LA MOTTE	3	1	13	7	24	3.00
	NORTH HERO	16	4	16	17	53	4.42
	SOUTH HERO	33	3	18	25	79	5.27
	TOTAL	117	27	121	115	380	4.75
LAMOILLE	BELVIDERE	1	0	12	3	16	0.44
	CAMBRIDGE	34	10	73	42	159	2.52
	EDEN	5	4	26	6	41	0.65
	ELMORE	6	1	20	14	41	1.05
	HYDE PARK	15	10	25	3	53	1.39
	JOHNSON	22	5	41	21	89	1.98
	MORRISTOWN	19	10	46	17	92	1.80
	STOWE	33	8	43	19	103	1.43
	WATERVILLE	8	8	27	8	51	3.19
	WOLCOTT	13	12	29	6	60	1.54
	TOTAL	156	68	342	139	705	1.53
ORANGE	BRADFORD	23	7	37	13	80	2.67
	BRAINTREE	9	10	29	11	59	1.55
	BROOKFIELD	25	8	33	10	76	1.85
	CHELSEA	25	15	42	31	113	2.83
	CORINTH	16	2	41	19	78	1.63
	FAIRLEE	8	7	16	2	33	1.65
	NEWBURY	24	5	49	24	102	1.59
	ORANGE	13	5	25	8	51	1.31
	RANDOLPH	28	11	62	18	119	2.48
	STRAFFORD	13	10	42	22	87	1.98
	THETFORD	32	15	57	30	134	3.12
	TOPSHAM	7	3	33	18	61	1.24
	TUNBRIDGE	16	14	60	23	113	2.51
	VERSHIRE	4	3	29	12	48	1.33
WASHINGTON	10	5	34	11	60	1.54	

Table 7. 2015 Legal Deer Harvest by County,Town and Season

County	Town	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Muzzleloader	Total	Harvest/Mi. ²
ORANGE (cont.)	WEST FAIRLEE	2	2	15	6	25	1.09
	WILLIAMSTOWN	46	12	44	11	113	2.83
	TOTAL	301	134	648	269	1,352	1.97
ORLEANS	ALBANY	13	11	29	9	62	1.63
	BARTON	25	12	32	13	82	1.91
	BROWNINGTON	11	9	30	4	54	1.93
	CHARLESTON	21	14	41	2	78	2.11
	COVENTRY	14	11	29	5	59	2.19
	CRAFTSBURY	13	11	29	4	57	1.46
	DERBY	79	41	59	26	205	4.18
	GLOVER	12	9	30	4	55	1.45
	GREENSBORO	5	4	28	6	43	1.13
	HOLLAND	31	21	53	7	112	2.95
	IRASBURG	23	15	34	9	81	2.03
	JAY	3	1	16	9	29	0.85
	LOWELL	3	3	29	6	41	0.73
	MORGAN	17	12	35	7	71	2.29
	NEWPORT	34	30	41	11	116	2.83
	TROY	21	17	38	13	89	2.47
	WESTFIELD	1	7	15	7	30	0.75
	WESTMORE	3	3	23	3	32	0.94
	TOTAL	329	231	591	145	1,296	1.89
	RUTLAND	BENSON	13	8	61	59	141
BRANDON		18	8	46	16	88	2.20
CASTLETON		24	6	68	31	129	3.31
CHITTENDEN		13	7	44	6	70	0.96
CLARENDON		38	5	50	38	131	4.23
DANBY		19	3	44	37	103	2.45
FAIR HAVEN		6	1	18	12	37	2.18
HUBBARDTON		13	4	37	30	84	3.11
IRA		6	3	22	13	44	2.00
KILLINGTON		1	0	8	3	12	0.26
MENDON		5	0	22	2	29	0.76
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS		20	7	36	28	91	3.96
MOUNT HOLLY		27	4	38	3	72	1.50
MOUNT TABOR		0	0	17	2	19	0.43
PAWLET		19	14	85	56	174	4.05
PITTSFIELD		2	1	9	2	14	0.70
PITTSFORD		33	11	61	40	145	3.37
POULTNEY		20	7	51	33	111	2.64
PROCTOR		8	1	6	15	30	4.29

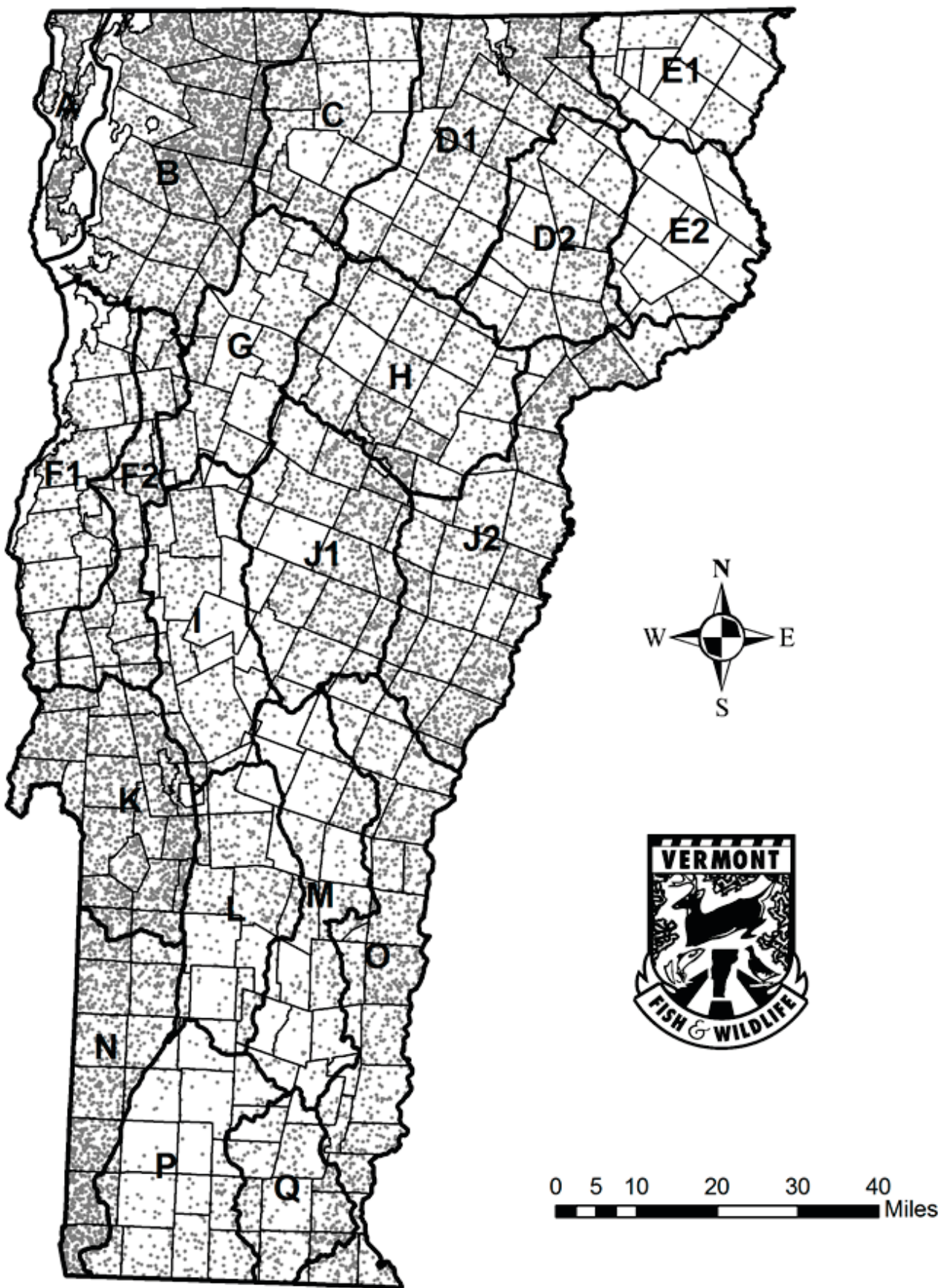
Table 7. 2015 Legal Deer Harvest by County,Town and Season

County	Town	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Muzzleloader	Total	Harvest/Mi. ²
RUTLAND <i>(cont.)</i>	RUTLAND	27	4	22	18	71	3.74
	SHREWSBURY	8	5	41	5	59	1.20
	SUDBURY	7	4	23	16	50	2.38
	TINMOUTH	20	11	33	46	110	3.79
	WALLINGFORD	25	6	37	15	83	1.93
	WELLS	33	10	31	31	105	4.77
	WEST HAVEN	18	4	33	31	86	3.19
	WEST RUTLAND	7	1	26	18	52	2.89
	TOTAL		430	135	969	606	2,140
WASHINGTON	BARRE	66	10	62	22	160	5.16
	BERLIN	29	6	56	8	99	2.75
	CABOT	7	2	26	10	45	1.22
	CALAIS	9	3	32	10	54	1.42
	DUXBURY	3	4	17	3	27	0.63
	EAST MONTPELIER	31	12	35	18	96	3.00
	FAYSTON	6	1	17	6	30	0.83
	MARSHFIELD	5	3	28	7	43	1.00
	MIDDLESEX	16	3	37	7	63	1.62
	MONTPELIER	22	0	6	3	31	3.10
	MORETOWN	6	4	31	7	48	1.20
	NORTHFIELD	14	3	34	8	59	1.31
	PLAINFIELD	21	5	23	17	66	3.14
	ROXBURY	0	1	8	0	9	0.21
	WAITSFIELD	7	1	16	5	29	1.12
	WARREN	11	1	20	6	38	0.95
	WATERBURY	15	7	45	21	88	1.83
	WOODBURY	4	0	24	14	42	1.11
	WORCESTER	3	2	14	1	20	0.51
	TOTAL		275	68	531	173	1,047
WINDHAM	ATHENS	0	0	8	0	8	0.57
	BRATTLEBORO	16	6	38	6	66	2.06
	BROOKLINE	3	4	11	6	24	1.85
	DOVER	5	0	21	2	28	0.78
	DUMMERSTON	26	3	49	11	89	2.87
	GRAFTON	1	1	10	4	16	0.42
	GUILFORD	29	13	62	20	124	3.18
	HALIFAX	1	3	37	10	51	1.28
	JAMAICA	4	0	23	2	29	0.59
	LONDONDERRY	2	1	26	3	32	0.91
	MARLBORO	3	2	22	3	30	0.75
	NEWFANE	9	3	32	4	48	1.20

Table 7. 2015 Legal Deer Harvest by County,Town and Season

County	Town	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Muzzleloader	Total	Harvest/Mi. ²
WINDHAM <i>(cont.)</i>	PUTNEY	14	0	25	12	51	1.89
	ROCKINGHAM	7	6	41	9	63	1.54
	SOMERSET	1	0	3	0	4	0.16
	STRATTON	0	0	9	3	12	0.26
	TOWNSHEND	1	2	22	2	27	0.64
	VERNON	10	0	25	6	41	2.16
	WARDSBORO	0	2	17	0	19	0.66
	WESTMINSTER	7	3	26	4	40	0.89
	WHITINGHAM	6	3	33	1	43	1.16
	WILMINGTON	13	7	39	7	66	1.65
	WINDHAM	0	0	6	1	7	0.27
	TOTAL		158	59	585	116	918
WINDSOR	ANDOVER	1	0	10	3	14	0.48
	BALTIMORE	2	0	3	1	6	1.20
	BARNARD	0	2	27	6	35	0.73
	BETHEL	8	2	30	9	49	1.09
	BRIDGEWATER	2	0	16	8	26	0.52
	CAVENDISH	5	3	35	7	50	1.28
	CHESTER	8	2	53	12	75	1.34
	HARTFORD	18	6	46	17	87	1.93
	HARTLAND	27	8	41	32	108	2.40
	LUDLOW	13	2	27	5	47	1.31
	NORWICH	39	6	63	27	135	3.07
	PLYMOUTH	2	2	16	8	28	0.57
	POMFRET	2	3	28	19	52	1.33
	READING	0	2	14	4	20	0.49
	ROCHESTER	3	0	27	6	36	0.63
	ROYALTON	13	4	32	18	67	1.68
	SHARON	10	2	55	19	86	2.15
	SPRINGFIELD	37	18	66	26	147	3.00
	STOCKBRIDGE	2	1	15	2	20	0.43
	WEATHERSFIELD	14	7	49	24	94	2.19
	WEST WINDSOR	8	3	23	10	44	1.76
	WESTON	0	0	11	1	12	0.34
	WINDSOR	11	4	18	5	38	2.00
WOODSTOCK	17	3	42	28	90	2.05	
TOTAL		242	80	747	297	1,366	1.41
STATE	TOTAL	3,468	1,436	7,753	3,563	16,220	1.77

Figure 10. Distribution of Vermont's 2016 deer harvest by town and wildlife management unit.



Each dot represents a single deer harvested in a particular town and wildlife management unit. Dots do not show the actual location of harvest, and some dots may not be visible on the map.

