

2020 Moose Harvest Summary

Hunters harvested a total of 40 moose during Vermont's two moose hunting seasons in 2020, providing about 45,000 servings of local, nutritious moose venison. The Department issued a total of 55 either sex moose hunting permits for wildlife management units E1 and E2. The overall success rate of 73% was similar to success rates in 2017 and 2018 in these WMUs.

The percentage of bulls in the harvest (35 of 40; 88%) was the highest ever for either-sex permits. Historically, the harvest from either-sex permits in these WMUs has ranged from 46% to 79% bulls, but is typically closer to the average of 63% bulls. Hunters were clearly being selective, with 25 of 34 (74%) hunters that returned a survey reporting that they passed up at least one moose that they could have shot, including 5 of 10 (50%) unsuccessful hunters.

The heaviest moose weighed 881 pounds and was harvested in Maidstone during the archery season. The widest spread was 61.5 inches on a bull taken in East Haven. The oldest moose was a 10-year-old bull taken in Maidstone.

Archery Season (October 1-7, 2020)

Ten either sex permits were issued by lottery for the archery season, and one of the three auction permit winners elected to hunt during the archery season. All six moose harvested during this season were bulls. The 55% success rate was the second highest ever during this season in these WMUs.

Regular Season (October 17-22, 2020)

A total of 44 permits were issued for the regular season, including 39 permits issued by lottery, 3 Special Opportunity Permits issued through a sponsoring organization to youths with a life-threatening illness, and the remaining 2 auction permit winners. These hunters harvested 29 bulls and 5 cows for an overall success rate of 77%. Several inches of snow on the first day of the season and generally favorable hunting conditions likely contributed to the higher-than-average success rate.

Looking Forward

The management objective for wildlife management units E1 and E2 continues to be the reduction of the moose population to reduce the impacts of winter ticks and improve the health of moose. The harvest of five cow moose in 2020 was not sufficient to reduce the population.

No moose hunting permits will be issued in other regions of Vermont until populations reach hunting thresholds established in the *2020-2030 Big Game Management Plan*. The Department will present its 2021 Moose Harvest Recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Board in February.

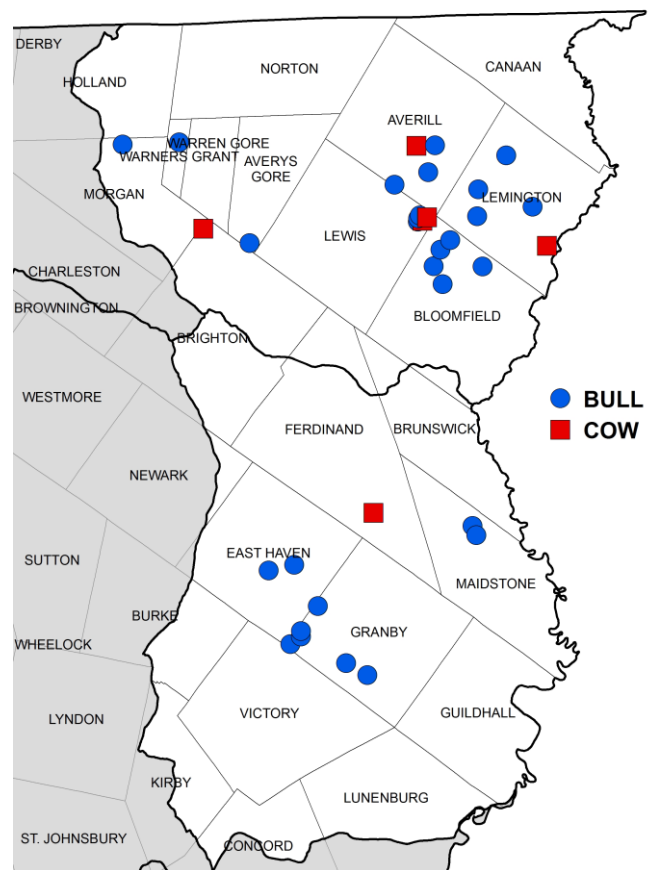


Figure 1. Locations of moose harvested during the 2020 regular moose season.

Table 1. Moose harvested during the 2020 archery season.

HUNTER	WMU	TOWN	WEIGHT (lbs)	SPREAD (in)	POINTS	AGE
RAINVILLE	E2	VICTORY	808	51	14	6
LEMAY	E2	BRUNSWICK	568	31	7	2
DAVIS	E1	BLOOMFIELD	792	53	14	4
BETOURNEY	E1	BLOOMFIELD	735	37	7	3
MALONEY	E2	MAIDSTONE	881	47.5	19	8
MOORE	E1	MORGAN	-	47	11	5

Table 2. Moose harvested during the 2020 regular season.

HUNTER	WMU	TOWN	WEIGHT (lbs)	SPREAD (in)	POINTS	AGE
BAKER	E1	LEWIS	383	25	2	1
BRADY	E1	AVERILL	610	30	6	2
CHEVALIER	E1	LEWIS	523	31.5	8	2
COLLETTE	E1	LEMINGTON	736	43.5	18	4
COLSON	E1	BLOOMFIELD	535	20.5	6	1
CRAFTS	E1	AVERILL	463	COW		1
DAWSON	E1	LEWIS	544	COW		6
DENT	E1	AVERILL	477	22	6	1
ELWELL	E1	LEMINGTON	869	43	12	6
EMMERSON	E1	MORGAN	710	40	10	6
GREENE	E1	BLOOMFIELD	622	31	10	3
HEMINGWAY	E1	LEMINGTON	580	35	11	4
HEWITT	E2	EAST HAVEN	720	49	12	3
ISABELLE	E2	GRANBY	386	14	2	1
JEWETT	E2	GRANBY	641	40.5	12	2
KENNEDY	E2	MAIDSTONE	775	43	9	10
KINNEY	E1	BLOOMFIELD	751	30	13	3
LITHERLAND	E2	GRANBY	-	37	10	2
LONGWAY	E1	AVERILL	668	41	10	4
MARTIN	E2	GRANBY	708	51	20	6
PARENT	E1	BLOOMFIELD	792	54	22	8
PARSONS	E1	AVERILL	734	58	16	3
PHIPPS	E1	LEMINGTON	660	32	12	3
PORTER	E1	AVERYS GORE	714	46	14	4
POTVIN	E1	BRIGHTON	427	COW		1
RALPH	E1	LEWIS	414	15	4	1
RAYTA	E1	LEMINGTON	557	COW		2
ROBERTS	E1	BLOOMFIELD	462	-	4	1
ROBINSON	E2	FERDINAND	490	COW		3
SANTAW	E2	GRANBY	570	30.5	11	2
STEVENSON	E2	EAST HAVEN	746	61.5	15	5
TREADWAY	E2	GRANBY	-	40	16	-
VIETJE	E2	MAIDSTONE	717	43	15	6
WISDOM	E1	WARNERS GRANT	703	47	9	7