

Daily Antlered Buck Harvest During the 9-day Firearm Season

On a given day
of the 9-day
firearm
season...

28%

Of participants
saw a buck
while hunting

84%

Of participants
with a buck
sighting had a
harvest
opportunity

33%

Of participants
with a harvest
opportunity
took a shot at a
buck

79%

Of participants
who took a
shot recovered
a buck

» The average survey participant...

- » was 53 years old with 32 years of deer hunting experience
- » Spent 9 hours scouting before the hunting season
- » Hunted 4 days out of the 9-day firearm season

We recruited Wisconsin-resident deer hunters into the study. We mailed participants a survey to complete during the 9-day firearm season during 2022. We received responses from 2,129 participants for a 71% response rate.

This study would not have been possible without the deer hunters who participated in the survey effort. Thank you!

Daily Antlerless Deer Harvest During the 9-day Firearm Season

On a given day
of the 9-day
firearm
season...

57%

Of participants
saw an
antlerless deer
while hunting

78%

Of participants
with an
antlerless deer
sighting had a
harvest
opportunity

21%

Of participants
with a harvest
opportunity
took a shot at
an antlerless
deer

73%

Of participants
who took a
shot recovered
an antlerless
deer

- » Survey participants reported nearly 8,500 daily hunting trips during the 9-day gun season.
- » Most trips (81%) were on private land and most (90%) used stationary hunting modes such as a stand or blind.
- » 50% of survey participants maintained a trail camera and 26% of these hunters were targeting a particular deer they saw on their trail camera.

Across the 9-day firearm season...

- » 24% of survey participants harvested an antlered buck
- » 25% of survey participants (with an antlerless deer tag) harvested an antlerless deer

Daily buck harvest was constrained by both sightings and the hunter's decision to take a shot. While daily antlerless deer harvest was constrained primarily by the decision to take a shot.

Bureau of Environmental Analysis and Sustainability

» The decision of whether to take the shot at an antlered buck on a given day was predicted primarily by factors related to whether the hunter was targeting a particular deer and their perceived likelihood of having a similar or better harvest opportunity on another day (e.g., hunting motivations, scouting effort, perception of deer density, hunting during the bow season, trail camera use).



Full results for antlered buck selectivity online here:
<https://doi.org/10.1002/jwmng.70056>



Full results for antlerless deer selectivity online here:
<https://doi.org/10.1002/jwmng.70267>

» The decision to take a shot at an antlerless deer was driven primarily by factors related to venison desire and prior harvest success (e.g., hunting motivations, intention to donate harvested deer, shared harvest goal among group, years of experience, prior harvests during the bow season).