

2012-2013 Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources White-tailed Deer Report



Lauren Capps 191 1/8 Non-Typical from Hopkins County



Prepared By: Gabe Jenkins and Dr. Tina Brunjes

Table of Contents

- Introduction.....3**
- Population Status.....4**
- 2012-13 Harvest Results.....4-8**
 - Weapon Type Harvest Summary.....5
 - Monthly Harvest Rates.....6
 - Age Structure in the Harvest.....6
 - Boone and Crockett Entries.....7-8
- Quota Hunt Results.....8-17**
 - Bluegrass Region.....7-16
 - Taylorsville Lake WMA and State Park.....9-10
 - Veterans Memorial WMA.....10-11
 - Marion County WMA and State Forest.....11
 - Kleber & Rich WMA.....12-14
 - Bluegrass Army Depot.....14-15
 - Green River Region.....16-17
 - Big Rivers WMA and State Forest.....16
 - Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area17
- Disease Surveillance.....17-19**
 - Hemorrhagic Disease (HD).....17-18
 - Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).....18-19
 - Carcass Importation.....19
- General Information about the 2012-13 Season.....20**
 - Season Dates and Bag Limits.....20
 - Deer Hunting Zones.....20
- License Sales.....21-22**
- Changes for the 2012-13 Deer Season.....22**
- Contacts.....22**

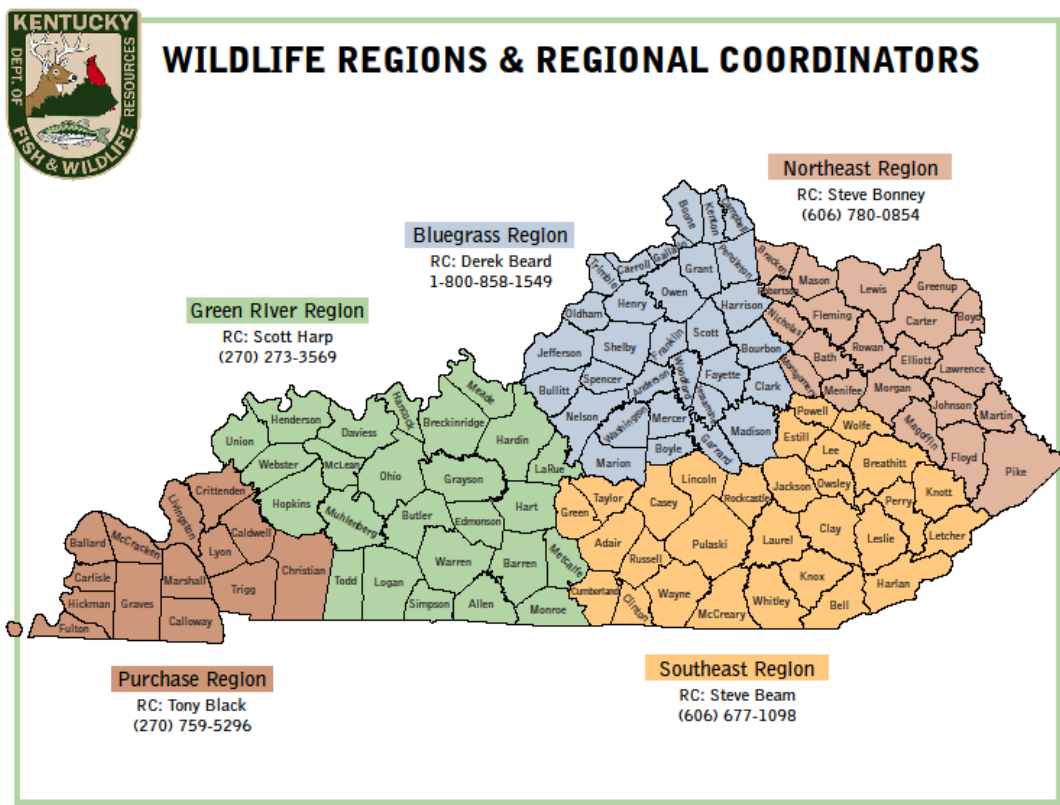
Introduction

The Deer Program is administered under the Wildlife Division of Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR). The KDFWR is an agency of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet. It is overseen by a nine-member commission who are nominated by Kentucky’s sportsmen and sportswomen. Commission members are appointed by the Governor. The department employs about 450 full-time staff, which includes conservation officers, wildlife and fisheries biologists, conservation educators, and information and technology, public relations, and customer service and administrative professionals.

KDFWR receives no money from the state’s General Fund. Funding is provided by the sale of hunting and fishing licensees, boating registration fees and federal funds, including grants based on the number of licenses sold in the state.

The Deer Program is tasked with managing the white-tail deer herd in the state to provide ample hunting opportunity, yet strike a balance between consumptive and non-consumptive user groups. The Deer Program is made up of 1 program coordinator, Dr. Tina Brunjes, and two biologists, Gabe Jenkins and David Yancy. The Deer Program staff is based out of the headquarters office in Frankfort.

The Wildlife Division is broken up into 5 wildlife regions across the state. For reporting purposes all information in this report will be discussed using the 5 regions or at the specific county levels.



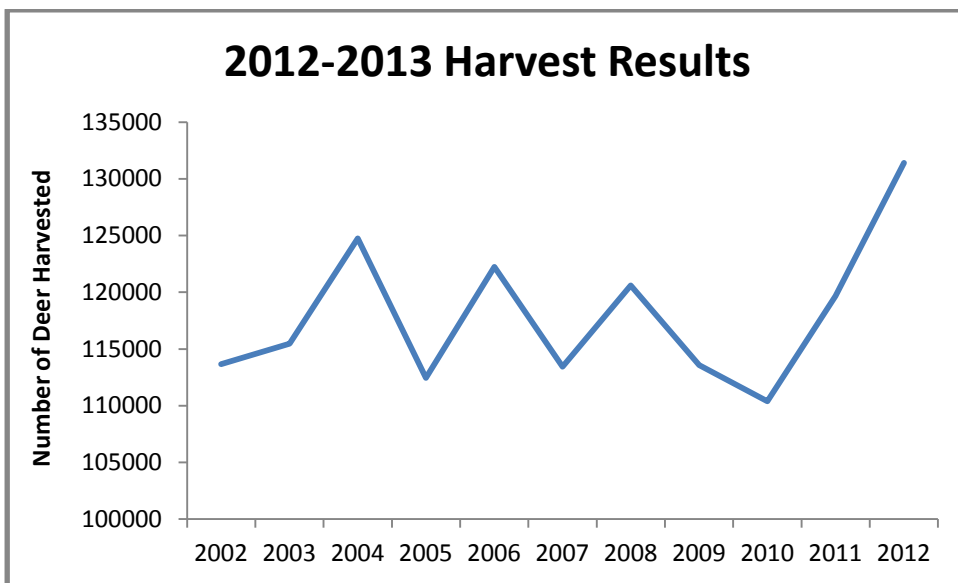
Population Status

Over the last decade deer management techniques have varied greatly across the state. Parts of the state such as the Bluegrass and Purchase regions have seen liberalization to the bag limit in an attempt to lower the deer population. Areas in the Southeast and Green River regions have seen a reduction in bag limits to accommodate for declining deer densities. In 2007, the state experienced the most wide spread Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) outbreak in recorded times. All regions of the state were impacted, with some seemingly affected worse than others. Post the 2007 outbreak, deer hunting zones were restricted in some counties to reduce harvest in order to allow the herd to rebound.

The overall herd estimate shows a stable to slightly decreasing trend. The current statewide estimate is 752,089 deer statewide, post 2012 hunting season, which is a 1% increase from 2011. The estimate is generated from harvest and age structure data. Age structure data is collected by KDFWR staff and telecheck records are used for harvest data in the model.

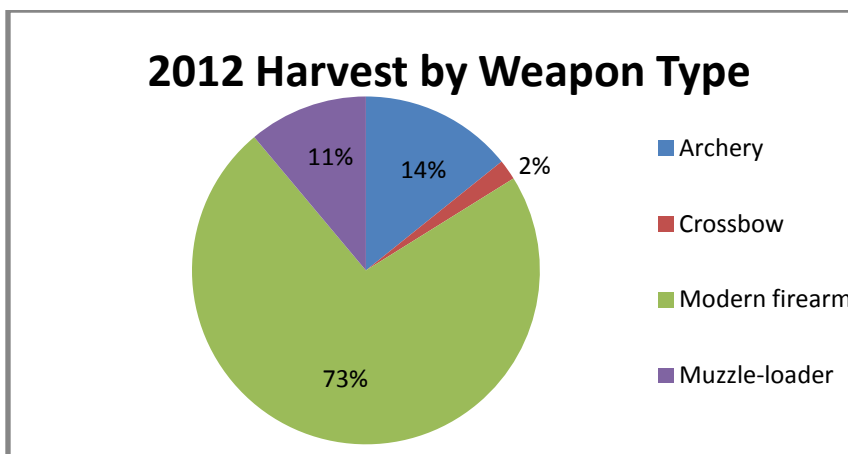
2012-2013 Harvest Results

The 2012-13 deer harvest was the highest on record. Deer hunters reported 131,395 deer for the season. It was 9.8% increase from 2011-12 season and was a 5.2% increase from the 2009-10 season.



Weapon Type Harvest Summary

The biggest change in weapon type harvest in 2012 was the increase in the number of deer killed with a modern firearm. 73% of the overall harvest was taken during the modern firearm, compared to 70% in 2011.

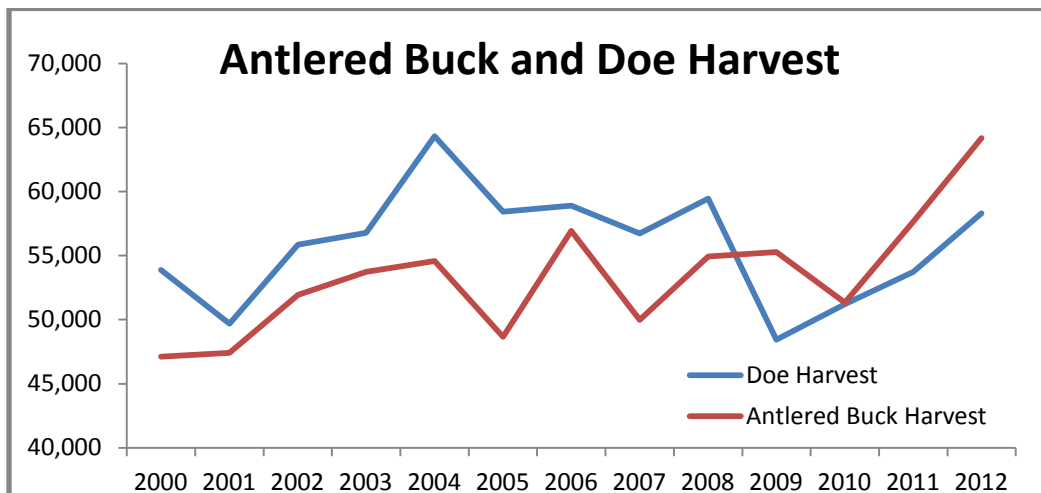


By weapon type, crossbow hunters saw the biggest percentage change, with a 26.4% increase in the crossbow harvest.

Weapon Type	Female	Male	Total	% Change
Archery	11,234	7,472	18,706	3.0%
Crossbow	1531	957	2,488	26.4%
Modern firearm	37,223	58,389	95,612	14.7%
Muzzle-loader	8,307	6,276	14,583	-9.8%
Total	58,295	73,094	131,389	9.8

Hunters appear to have a limit on the number of deer they are willing or able to harvest. The majority of successful deer hunters (77%) only harvest one deer. Of the total successful hunters in the 2012-13 season (98,431 hunters) the average harvested per hunter was 1.3 deer. The 1.3 deer harvested per successful hunter has not fluctuated over the past several years regardless of deer zone and season year.

Even though the average hunter only harvests 1.3 deer, the successful hunters do an excellent job balancing the buck to doe numbers in the harvest. Doe harvest numbers may fluctuate greatly in a county or region due to changes in deer zones. Many zones were changed to reduce doe harvest after the severe Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) outbreak of 2007; doe harvest numbers have returned to the 2007 level.

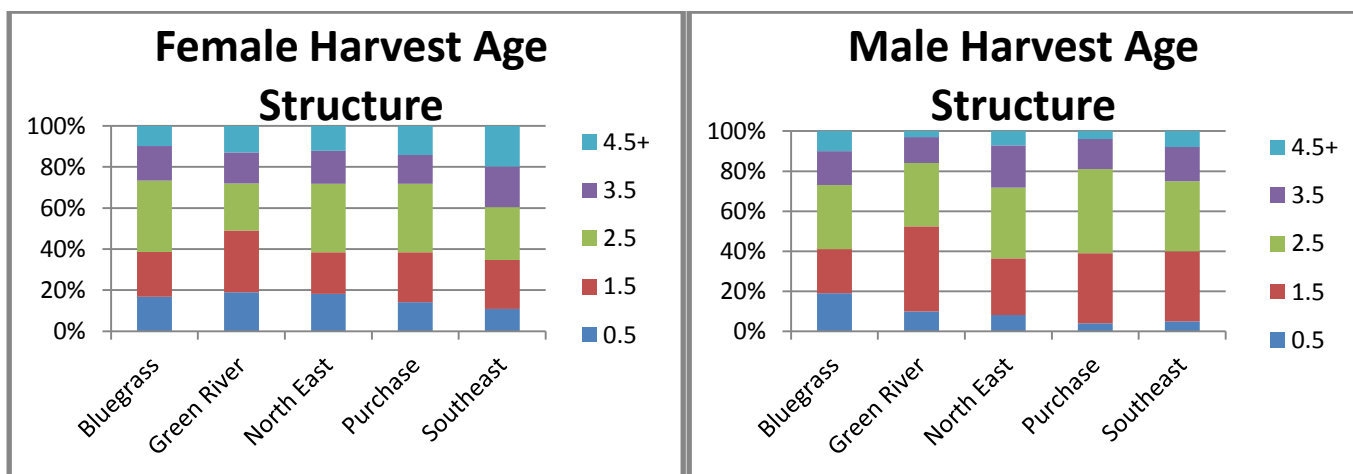


Monthly Harvest Rates

September and November saw record harvests of 5,577 and 97,225 respectively. This is the second year in a row that the September harvest was a record. Cooler conditions in September and optimal weather conditions for the modern gun season in November drove the record harvest. October’s harvest was down slightly from 19,912 in 2011 to 15,465 in 2012. January’s conditions were still good and the month had the 4th highest harvest on record at 2,127.

Age Structure in the Harvest

Overall age structure of the harvest indicates that the majority of hunters are recognizing and passing male fawns. The majority of antlered bucks taken in the 2012-13 season were 2.5+ years old. The majority of the female harvest is >1.5 years or old, indicating that the majority of the hunters are also selecting adult does over fawns or yearlings to harvest.



Boone and Crockett Entries

A total of 42 record book entries (31 typical and 11 non-typical) were submitted in 2012. The 42 entries came from 35 of Kentucky's 120 counties. All regions of the state were represented with the highest number (3) coming from Garrard County.

Non-Typical Score	Name	County	Equipment
223 7/8	Larry H. Finley	Pendleton County	Modern gun
208 5/8	George D. Morrison	Carroll County	Modern gun
207	Wayne Jordan	Christian County	Modern gun
203 1/8	Robert T. Strong	Jefferson County	Archery
200 5/8	Ashley M. Bugg	Henderson County	Modern gun
196 3/4	Tim Lauer	Campbell County	Archery
195 5/8	Cody Weathers	Marshall County	Modern gun
191 1/8	Lauren Martin	Hopkins County	Modern gun
189 1/8	Michael D. Gregory	Henry County	Modern gun
188 5/8	Jeremy T. Miller	Grant County	Modern gun
186 3/8	Hayden Jones	Pulaski County	Modern gun
Typical Score	Name	County	Equipment
190 1/4	Patrick M. Williams	Oldham County	Modern gun
180 5/8	Aaron Cochran	Robertson County	Archery
180 1/4	Danny G. Smith	Wayne County	Modern gun
178 3/4	Joshua D. Prewitt	Rockcastle County	Modern gun
177 3/8	Jim Hill	Boone County	Archery
176 1/4	Aaron Flanagan	Russell County	Modern gun
174	Jason Lancaster	Trigg County	Archery
173 1/2	Ben Burd	Marion County	Modern gun
168 1/8	Troy J. Herald	Powell County	Modern gun
166 7/8	David Hayes	Grayson County	Modern gun
166 3/4	Kelly Jolly	Mason County	Muzzleloader
166 5/8	Robert S. Rison	Kenton County	Modern gun
166 3/8	Michael C. Gordon	Garrard County	Modern gun
166 1/8	Stephen L. Gabbard	Owen County	Modern gun
166 0/8	David Lanham	Caldwell County	Modern gun
165 3/8	Michelle R. Oney	Elliott County	Modern gun
165 3/8	Dylan Thomas	Leslie County	Modern gun
165	Greg Schmidt	Boone County	Modern gun
165	Steven P. Otten	Gallatin County	Modern gun
164 1/2	Kenneth Mullins	Pike County	Archery
163 5/8	Chris Redmon	Henry County	Modern gun

163 1/2	Lucio Mucignat	Hart County	Modern gun
161 3/4	Kevin Cox	Bracken County	Modern gun
161 3/8	Samantha Turner	Leslie County	Modern gun
161 1/4	Kevin Williams	Scott County	Modern gun
161 1/8	Joe Lacefield	Woodford County	Archery
161	Tim Pike	Henderson County	Modern gun
160 7/8	John Land	Garrard County	Modern gun
160 3/4	Bobby G. Reed	Garrard County	Crossbow
160 1/2	Connie Willoughby	Grayson County	Modern gun
160 1/4	Michael Koch	McLean County	Modern gun

The submission of 42 entries ranks as the 9th best year on record for the state. 2011 was the best year ever with 78 entries. In 2011, Kentucky had the most record book entries than any other state. Below are the top 10 years for Boone and Crockett entries for the state.

Rank	Entries	Year	Rank	Entries	Year
1	78	2011	6	47	2009
2	57	2010	7	47	2007
3	56	2004	8	43	2000
4	56	2003	9	42	2013
5	49	2006	10	40	1998

Quota Hunt Results

There are 31 KDFWR run quota hunts in the state along with 3 quota hunts on military installations (Ft. Knox, Bluegrass Army Depot, and Ft. Campbell). Any resident or nonresident hunter may apply for a deer quota hunt in the state. Only the persons successfully drawn for quota hunts may hunt. The application period for KDFWR run deer quota hunts is the month of September. Applicants can apply online at fw.ky.gov or call 1-877-598-2401. Applicants will be given the option to pick a first and second hunt choice, but may be drawn to participate in only one quota hunt. The non-refundable fee is \$3 per hunter to apply. Each hunter who applies correctly, but isn't selected, will receive a preference point that increases the odds of being drawn next year. Unselected hunters who do not apply the following year will lose all previously credited preference points. Applicants are selected based on individual preference points. Up to five people can apply together with one call. If any one of the group's Social Security numbers is drawn, the others in the group are automatically drawn, too.

For the 31 KDFWR quota hunts held in 2012, there were 3,611 spots available for quota hunts across the states. There are quota hunts for any resident or nonresident hunters, mobility impaired hunters, archery/crossbow hunters, and youth hunters. Some quota hunts are for antlerless deer, some areas have a 15" minimum spread restriction on bucks and some quota hunts only allow 1 deer to be taken per hunt. Each of the five wildlife regions across the state have deer quota. For the 2012 Report, quota hunts in the Bluegrass and Green River Regions will be highlighted.

Bluegrass Region

The Bluegrass Region has 4 KDFWR areas that have quota hunts (Taylorsville Lake WMA, Veterans Memorial WMA, Marion County WMA, and Kleber/Rich WMA) and 1 military installation hunt (Bluegrass Army Depot). Below is a summary of the quota hunts in the Bluegrass Region.

Taylorsville Lake WMA and State Park Hunts- by Scott Buser, KDFWR Public Lands Biologist.

During the first full weekend in November, December, and January, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources offer the public opportunities for hunting whitetail deer on the 9,418 Taylorsville Lake Wildlife Management Area. Applications for these hunts are submitted during the month of September. Although it is on a year to year basis, when checking in for these quota hunts hunters are offered a chance to hunt within the 1,600 acre boundary of Taylorsville Lake State Park. KDFWR staff meets with state park officials before these hunts to discuss deer population levels and determine if hunting within park boundaries is acceptable for that year. A limited number of applicants are allowed to hunt within the park. When full, a hunter wishing to participate in the park hunt can wait until another hunter checks out. Once hunters check out of the state park they are finished for the weekend and may not hunt the WMA. All three quota hunts offer mobility-impaired hunters access to 242 acres. While all participants may hunt on this area, only mobility-impaired hunters may access the area by motorized vehicle.

All three hunts have 268 regular slots and 7 mobility-impaired slots available. Hunt #1 is an antlerless only hunt and hunts #2-3 are either sex hunts. Taylorsville Lake WMA is currently a zone 1 area, which means an unlimited number of antlerless deer may be taken. Roughly 75 percent of the 275 hunters check in for each quota hunt. Although access to the WMA is limited in some areas, you have unlimited access by water utilizing the four available boat ramps is available. Gated interior roads are open for these hunts to allow additional access.

2012 Application Number

Hunt	#1	#2	#3
1 st choice	344	606	310
2 nd choice	268	541	573

Hunt	Participants	Hours Hunted	Deer Seen	Bucks Seen	Deer Killed
1 State Park	63	616	450	126	24
1 WMA	152	1,777	516	183	39
2 State Park	58	681	332	62	20
2 WMA	134	1,541	381	55	29
3 State Park	58	607	307	18	23
3 WMA	142	1,667	460	53	35



Veteran’s Memorial WMA –by Dave Frederick, KDFWR Public Lands Biologist

This is the 1st year this WMA has been open to the public. It was previously a private hunt club for the past 20 years or so. The area has a history of numerous quality bucks being harvested in the years before KDFWR acquired the property. Population surveys and herd health checks performed 2012 indicated that the herd was over populated. During the 1st year of being open to the public, bowhunters and youth firearm hunters harvested 146 total deer. Does made up 68% (99 does) of the harvest while buck made up 32% (47 bucks). This was a good start to decreasing the herd. The 1st weekend of November 2012 was the first quota firearm hunt. There were 11 adult bucks harvested; 10 were 2.5 years or older.

Total Legal Harvest

Adult Bucks:	11	Adult Does:	10
Buck Fawns:	<u>3</u>	Doe Fawns:	<u>2</u>
Total Bucks:	14	Total Does:	12

Total Deer:	26
Buck Harvest:	52%
Fawn Harvest:	19%
Antlerless Harvest:	58%

Known illegal kills or lost cripples during hunt: 1

Total drawn hunters:	64
Total hunters showing up:	49
Hunter Show Up Rate:	77%
Hunter Success:	53%

Total Hunting Hrs:	668.5
Total Deer Seen:	646
Deer Seen/Hour:	0.97

		Year	Data
		2012	
Sex	Age	# of deer	Average Weight (lbs)
F	0.5	2	41
	1.5	2	89
	2.5	4	73
	4.5	4	95
F Total		12	77

M	0.5	4	53
	1.5	1	96
	2.5	3	147
	3.5	4	167
	4.5	3	188
M Total		15	132
Grand Total		27	108



<p>Brian Hombirg</p> <p>167 2/8" B&C unofficial</p>	<p>Joseph Russell</p> <p>Upper 150"s B&C</p>
---	--

Marion County WMA & State Forest- by Derek Beard, KDFWR Bluegrass Region Coordinator

Marion County WMA & State Forest is 2,293 acres. The area is open under statewide regulations for archery/crossbow, 2 Youth firearm and 2 Muzzleloader seasons. The area is open to only drawn quota hunters during the deer modern firearms season. During the month of September only, interested hunters may apply for either 5 day hunt option.

Starting in 2011 KDFWR changed Marion Co. WMA from open statewide regulations for deer to a quota hunt system. This new regulation maintained open statewide archery/crossbow, youth firearms and muzzleloader seasons but limited opportunity for firearm hunters to two quota hunts on November 12-16 and November 17-21. For each 5 day hunt, a limit of 25 hunters are drawn. No check in or check out is required at this unmanned area. We are currently surveying previously selected quota hunters to determine quota hunter show up rates and satisfaction that will aid in planning future hunt schedules and management needs for the area.

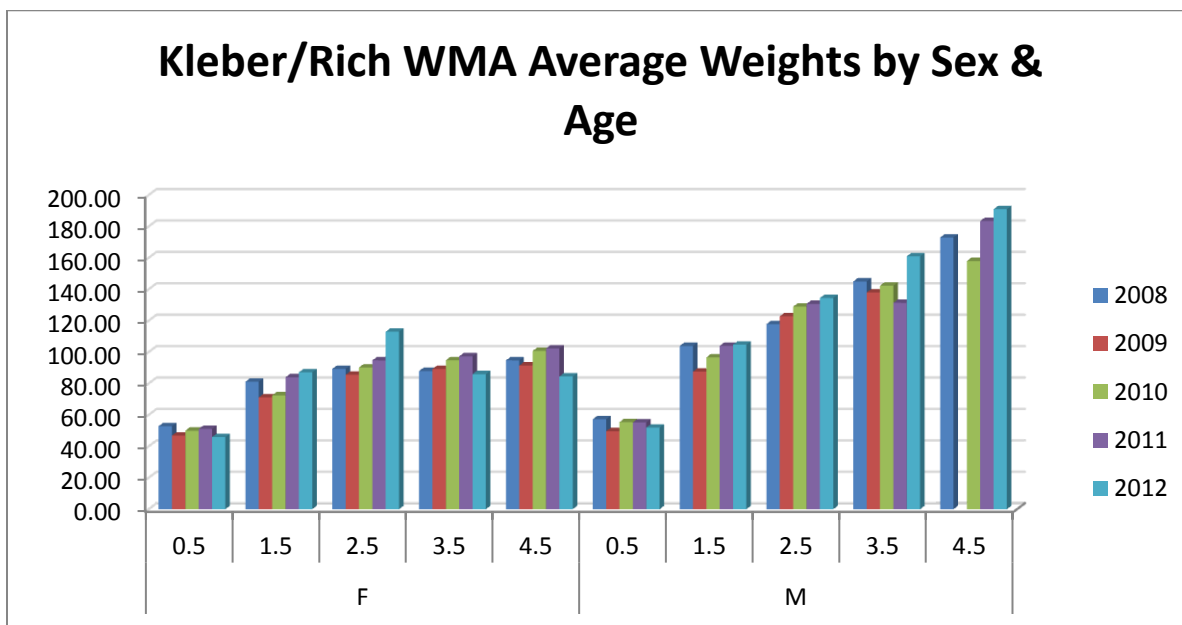
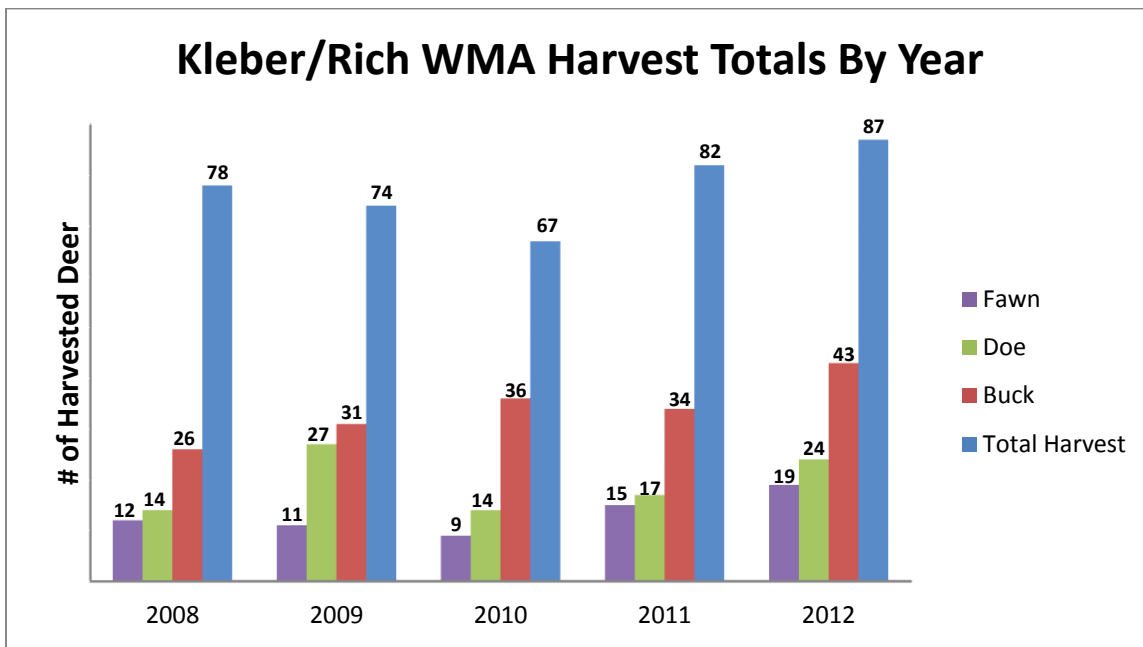
Kleber & Rich WMA – by Dave Frederick, KDFWR Public Lands Biologist

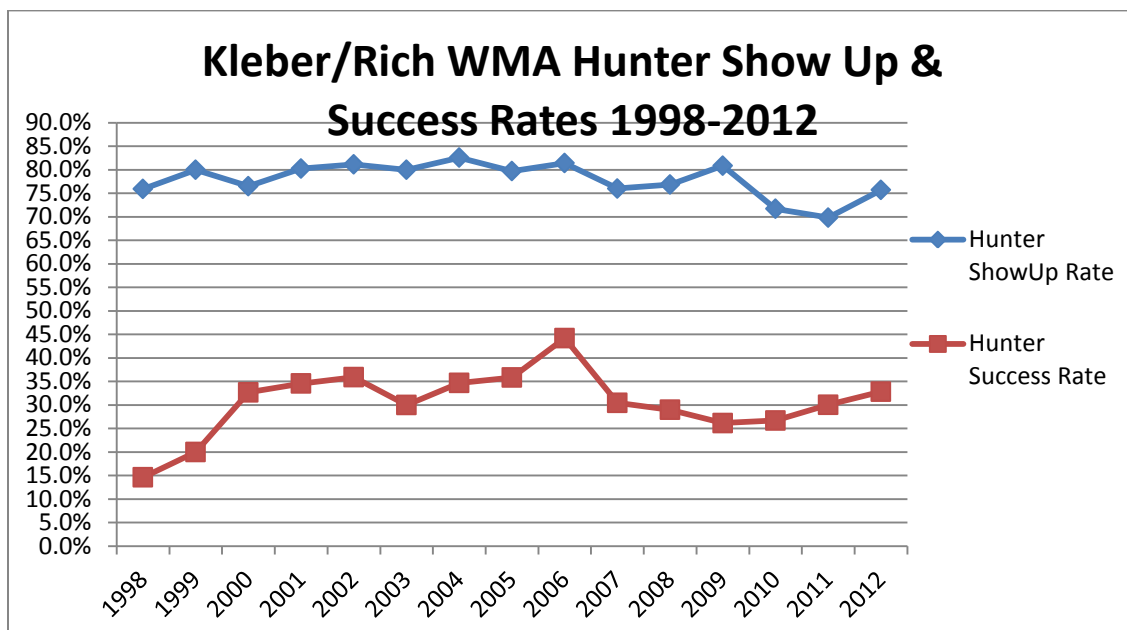
The drawn quota hunts on these 2 areas have been held since the mid 1990's. This is approximately the 18th year. Early quota hunts had as few as 25 hunters selected, the high was 391 in 2011. Most years have 350 slots selected. Over the past 5 years, we have seen an increase in body weights for the bucks in some age classes. We have also encouraged the increased harvest of does. Over the past 5 years, KDFWR staff have seen an increase in quality bucks being harvested. During 2012, bowhunters and youth firearm hunters harvested 22 total deer. Does made up 68% (15 does) of the harvest while bucks made up 32% (7 bucks). The following table has data for both the November and December quota hunts.

Total Legal Harvest			Total Deer: 87		
Adult Bucks:	36	Adult Does:	26	Buck Harvest:	58%
Buck Fawns:	16	Doe Fawns:	9	Fawn Harvest:	29%
Total Bucks:	52	Total Does:	35	Antlerless Harvest:	59%
Known illegal kills or lost cripples during hunt:					
			3		
Total drawn hunters:			350	Total Hunting Hrs:	2974
Total hunters showing hup:			265	Total Deer Seen:	962
Total Hunter Show Up Rate:			76%	Deer Seen/Hour:	0.32
Hunter Success:			33%		

Steven Gabbard
166 1/8" B&C







Blue Grass Army Depot - by Tom Edwards, KDFWR Public Lands Biologist.

Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) provides approximately 10,000 acres for public deer hunting in Madison County. While the depot’s mission of storing chemical and conventional weapons for the Department of Defense requires very stringent restrictions for public access it has provided deer hunting opportunity for an average of 475 hunters per season over the last 5 seasons. Prospective deer hunters must pass background checks once selected for one of the archery or muzzle-loading rifle hunts. Selected hunters are assigned to BGAD hunt officials and placed in specific individual hunt areas. All these factors along with constant BGAD security patrols make this facility one of the most controlled deer hunts in Kentucky.

Though it is a very atypical hunt experience compared to Kentucky’s other public hunting lands, BGAD offers perhaps the best opportunity to implement a Quality Deer Management program (QDM). QDM on BGAD is being accomplished by 1) keeping the deer herd size compatible with the habitat to maintain good health and body size of the deer, 2) maintaining a good balance of bucks and does in the herd and 3) using a 15 inch minimum outside antler spread to maintain an older age structure of the bucks. Success is being realized as deer harvested on the depot have shown increases in body weights, more does than bucks being taken each year and a mature buck age structure yielding consistently large antlers (See *BGAD Deer Hunt Statistics* below).

During the 2012, BGAD instituted several new opportunities for deer hunters. A “scouting day” was offered the day before the scheduled hunt to all hunters. Those able to attend were given the chance to walk their assigned hunt area and place deer stands. Additionally, outside tract 4-day deer hunts were added to the quota hunt opportunities. Hunters selected for one of these slots were assigned a 100-200 acre tract of land in the perimeter area of the depot where they could bow hunt alone for four days. During that period they could take two deer and two turkeys.

General BGAD Deer Hunting Rules

- The minimum legal outside antler spread of 15 inches.
- Hunters are permitted to take 2 deer during the one day hunts. (2 does or 1 buck, 1 doe).
- During the October archery hunt, deer hunters may also take a wild turkey.
- Deer and turkey taking on BGAD are bonus animals and do not count against statewide limits.
- Archery and muzzleloader rifle deer quota hunts are held on Saturdays from daylight to 2pm.

New for the upcoming 2013 deer season

- Outside tract hunters will be allowed to bring a hunting or non-hunting buddy.
- All deer hunters may now apply and be drawn with a hunting buddy.
- The total number of deer hunters drawn will be increased.

BGAD Deer Hunt Statistics

	<u>5 Yr Avg</u>	<u>2012 Season</u>
Percent of Adult Bucks that are 3.5 yrs old or older:	41.1 %	35.6 %
Percent of BGAD Deer Hunters who took at least one deer:	28.2 %	35.7 %
Number of Legal Bucks (antler spread of 15" or greater)	52	53
Percent of Legal Bucks having antler spread of 18" or greater	32.2 %	30.2 %
Percent of deer harvested that are male (including fawns)	43.7 %	48.6 %
Percent of deer that are antlered bucks.	37.5 %	41.0 %
Average adult buck body weights [heaviest buck] in lbs.	149 [194]	159 [193]



Green River Region

The Green River Region has 2 KDFWR areas that have quota hunts (Big Rivers WMA and State Forest and Otter Creek Recreation Area). Both areas are fairly new to the department. Big Rivers was acquired in 2011 and Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area was acquired in 2010.

Big Rivers WMA and State Forest- by Mike Morton, KDFWR Public Lands Biologist

Background: Big Rivers WMA-SF is a 2488 acre property acquired in December of 2011. The first deer work on the property was an informal post season deer spot light survey, conducted in January of 2012. The area had an apparently healthy deer population with 62 deer being observed on a 5.25 mile route and an observation area of approximately 525 acres. Due to the time of the year, the number of deer observed as unknowns, made it impossible to make estimates of male to female or adult to yearling ratios. Another spotlight survey was conducted on the same route in October of 2012 with a somewhat reduced observation area and again relative high numbers of deer were observed. A third spot light survey conducted as another post season in January of 2013 on the property and the same route and survey areas observed only 40 deer and that the population had been reduced by approximately 36%. However, normal recruitment should replace those numbers, easily.

The 2012 Quota Hunt: Expecting a relative strong interest in gun deer hunting of the property, and a strong expected interest in archery hunting the property it was determined that a first quota hunt should be done with relative low number of gun hunters. The number of hunters recommended for the property was 30+/-; a total of 42 hunters were drawn for the quota hunt and 30 hunters checked in on the quota hunt. The hunt was conducted on the opening weekend of the modern gun season, the second weekend in November, 2012. Many hunters reported that they were seeking trophy animals, wanting to hunt new areas, and expecting high numbers of older deer on the property.

Results: A total of 11 deer were taken by the quota hunters; weather conditions were less than desirable with temperature in the 60's and high winds both days. A total of 58 deer were harvested from the Big Rivers WMA-SF property during the 2012-13 season; 48 were telechecked by archery hunters (non-quota hunters) and 11 were telechecked by quota gun hunters. Six additional deer were removed from the property all as adult does in a "deer health check" in August of 2012. This would bring the known number of deer removed from the property at 75 for the 2012-13 season.



Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area- by Charlie Logsdon, KDFWR Public Lands Biologist

Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area (OCORA) is 2261 acres of forested land located in Meade County KY. It was obtained from the City of Louisville’s Metro Parks in December 2010 and was opened to the public on May 11, 2011. The area had been operated as a park with no hunting on it since 1947. Beginning in the fall of 2011, the area was hunted for deer with bowhunting and crossbow hunting following the statewide seasons with two quota firearms hunts being held the 3rd week of November and the 2nd week of December. This was continued in 2012, with 15 hunters being drawn for each hunt. During the 2011 quota hunt 24 and 20 hunters were drawn respectively. Any legal deer hunting firearm could be used during these hunts. Of the 2261 acres approximately 1500 acres were available for firearm hunting due to safety concerns around boundary areas and the no-hunting areas within the area.

Beginning in the February 2011 and occurring each February since then, the area was surveyed at night using an infra-red (thermal imaging) scope. The table below shows the results of those surveys and the number of deer harvested the following season. This data suggests that each year we have reduced the deer population and it seems to be indicated with the infra-red survey.

	Winter 2011	Winter 2012	Winter 2013
# Deer seen	49	43	38
# deer harvested next season	86	47	

2012 quota hunt: During quota hunt 1, 8 of 15 hunters drawn showed up for the hunt. This is a 53% show up rate. During this hunt they killed 1 deer. For the 2nd hunt 13 of 15 hunters drawn showed up for a 87% show up rate. 1 deer was killed.

The low show up rate for quota 1 is probably related to statewide firearm deer season still being open at the same time. Several hunters called early asking about the area trying to determine whether they were going to come to the area or stay and hunt closer to home. The 2nd hunt, which was outside the season, showed the high attendance rate. 2 deer were harvested during these hunts. This represents 4% of the total deer harvest (47 according to Telecheck) for the 2012-13 season. The preceding season, 2011-12, firearm hunters killed 8 deer. This represented 9% of the total harvest (86).

Disease Surveillance

Hemorrhagic Disease (HD)

Hemorrhagic disease (HD), a vector-borne disease of white-tailed deer is caused by two related orbiviruses, epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus (EHDV) and bluetongue virus (BTV). Hemorrhagic disease viruses are considered the most important viral agents affecting deer populations in the United States. The virus is transmitted from animal to animal through the bite of an infected midge. These insects occur in the late summer and early fall. HD outbreaks are often associated with drought. Once there has been a hard freeze the midges die off for the winter, eliminating new cases of HD.

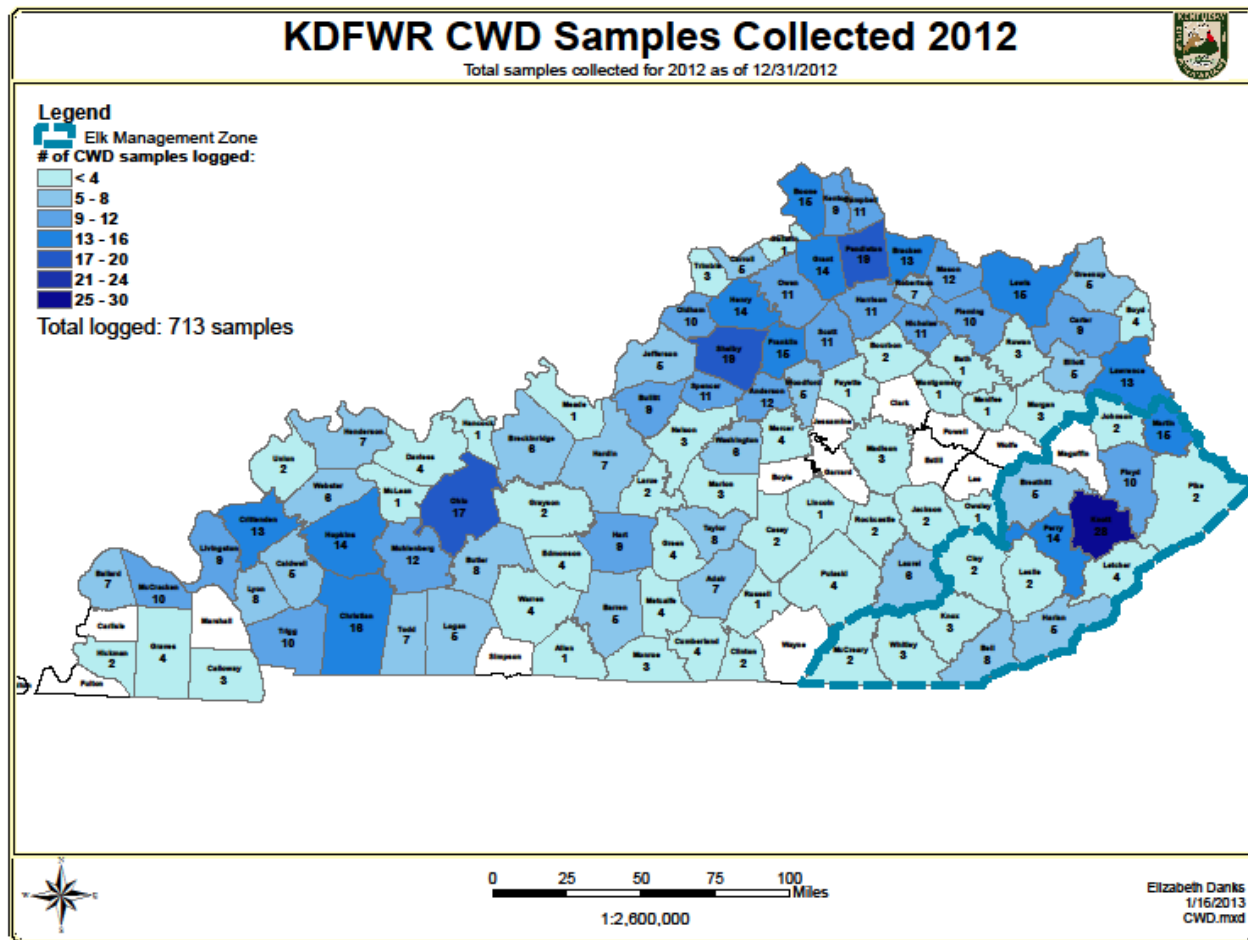
HD is reported in deer from at least a few counties nearly every year in Kentucky, although outbreaks can be considerably large and widespread. The 2007 outbreak of HD in wild deer was the most widespread outbreak reported in the past 30 years. Over 4,000 suspected cases were reported in Kentucky. When possible, KDFWR will test animals that have died of apparent EHD.

Outbreaks of HD suspected deer deaths were reported in high numbers in a few spots across the state in 2012. Most were reported in the Bluegrass and Green River Regions of the state and one local area in the Southeast Region. 8 deer were clinically diagnosed as EHDV positive. Of those 8, 3 were from Hopkins County, 2 from Trimble County and 1 each from McCreary, Franklin and Union Counties.

CWD

CWD is a fatal, neurological disease in white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk and moose. It causes a characteristic spongy degeneration of the brains of infected animals resulting in emaciation, abnormal behavior, loss of bodily functions and death. CWD is categorized as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE), a group that includes “mad cow” disease in cattle, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans and scrapie in sheep and goats. CWD has been detected in 20 states and 2 Canadian provinces. Four states (West Virginia, Virginia, Missouri and Illinois) have CWD and border Kentucky. CWD has not been detected in Kentucky. Due to this fact, KDFWR has adopted test procedures and regulations to detect and prevent the spread of CWD.

To detect CWD should it arrive in Kentucky, KDFWR adopted a CWD monitoring plan in 2002. That plan is a 4 part monitoring program to test: 1) a random sampling of hunter-harvested deer, 2) target or suspect animals (animals that appear ill), 3) a random sample of roadkill deer, and 4) all captive deer mortalities. In 2006, KDFWR adopted a contingency plan on how to deal with CWD if was found in Kentucky. Since 2002, approximately 23,500 hunter-harvested and roadkill deer samples have been tested. In 2012-13, 713 hunter-harvested, targeted and roadkill samples were submitted for CWD testing. All samples have tested negative for CWD.

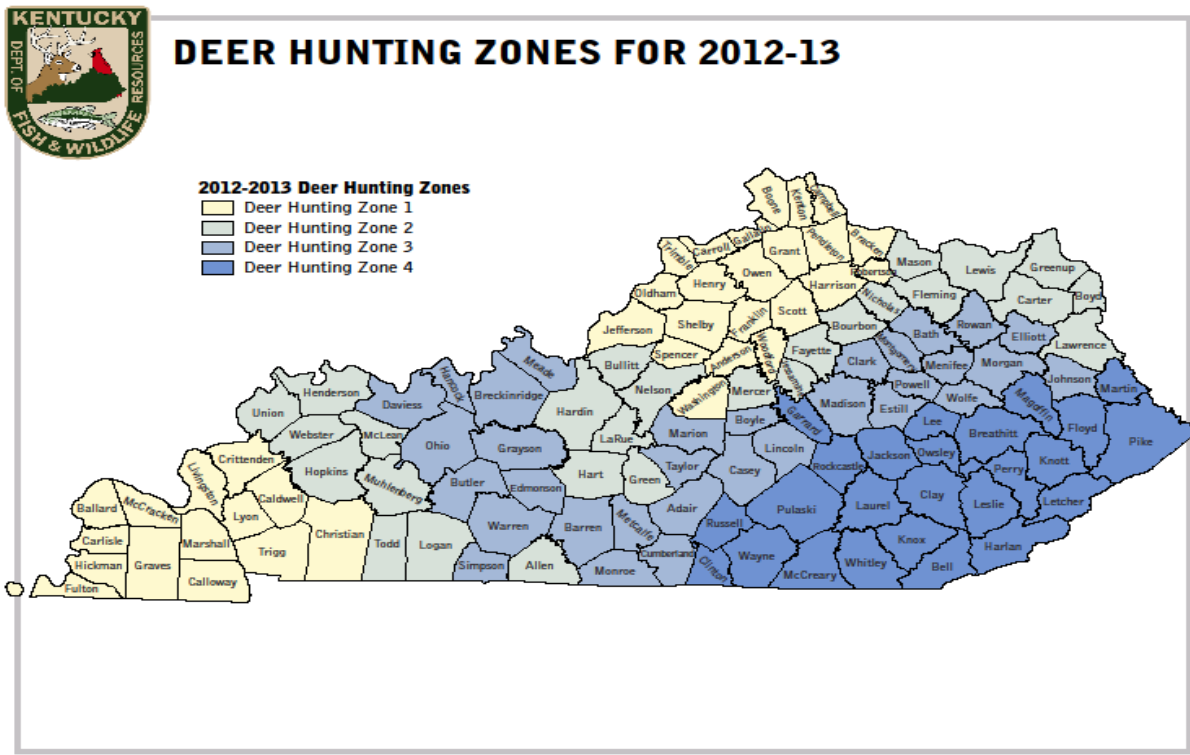


Carcass Importation Law

Intact deer carcasses from all CWD-positive states, including Illinois, Missouri, West Virginia, and Virginia may not be brought into Kentucky. Allowed parts from CWD-positive states and provinces include: Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached, boned-out meat, antlers, antlers attached to a clean skull plate, a clean skull, clean teeth, hides and finished taxidermy products.

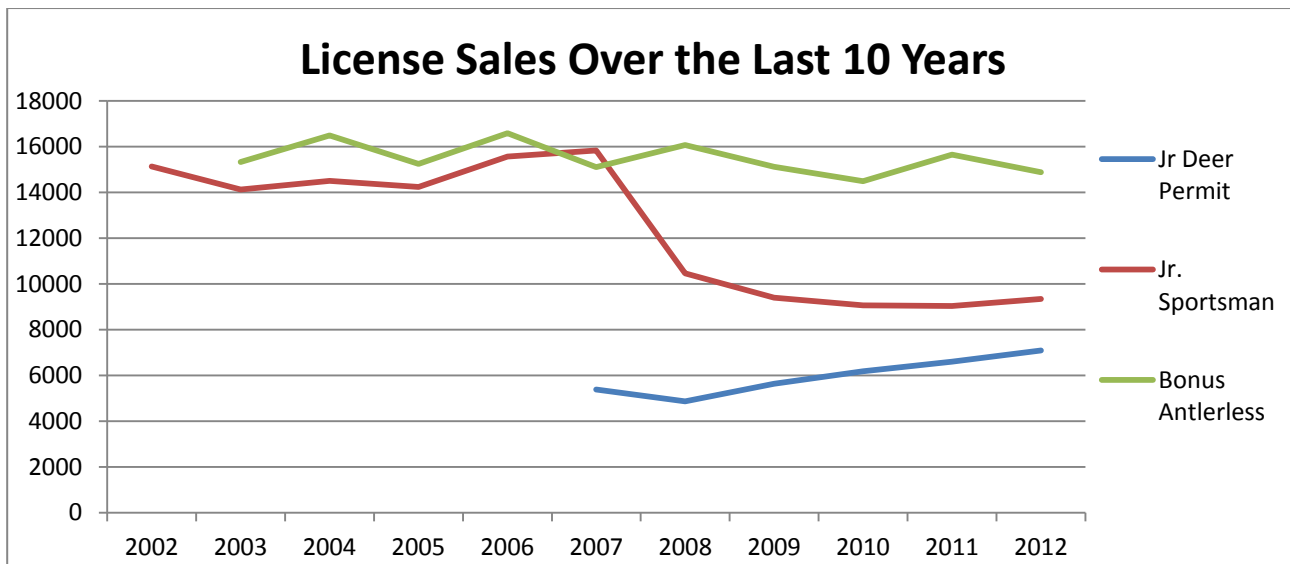
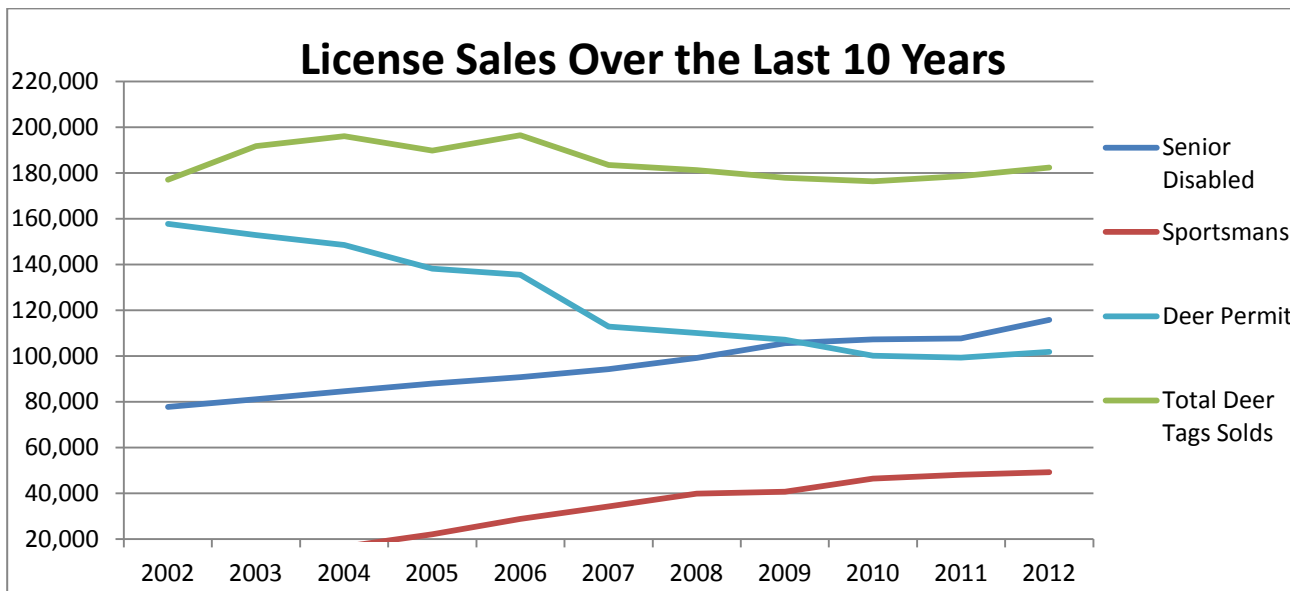
General Information about the 2012-13 Season

	Statewide	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4
Modern Firearm		Nov 10-25	Nov 10-25	Nov 10-19	Nov 10-19
Archery		Sept 1- Jan 21	Sept 1- Jan 21	Sept 1- Jan 21	Sept 1- Jan 21
Early Crossbow		Oct 1-21	Oct 1-21	Oct 1-21	Oct 1-21
Late Crossbow		Nov 10-Dec 31	Nov 10-Dec 31	Nov 10-Dec 31	Nov 10-Dec 31
Early Muzzleloader		Oct 20-21	Oct 20-21	Oct 20-21	Oct 20-21
Late Muzzleloader		Dec 8-16	Dec 8-16	Dec 8-16	Dec 8-16
Youth-Only Firearms	Oct 13-14				
Free Youth Weekend	Dec 29-30				
Antlered Bag Limit	1				
Antlerless Bag Limit	Based upon zone	Unlimited	Up to 4	Up to 4, only 2 deer with a firearm	Up to 4. Only 2 deer with a firearm, antlerless deer can only be killed with a firearm during the last 3 days of the late muzzleloader

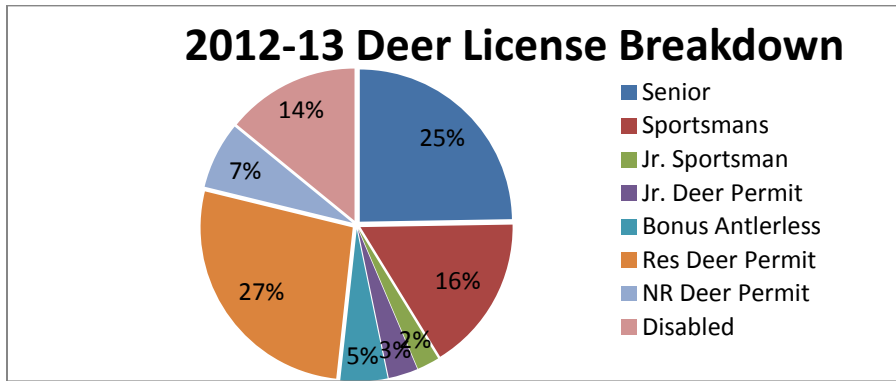


License Sales

In recent years the number of deer permits sold has been slightly declining. When including the license bundles (Sportsman’s, Jr. Sportsman’s, Jr. Deer Permit, Resident and Non-Resident Deer Permit and Bonus Antlerless Permit) in the total deer permit numbers a positive license sales growth is reported. Interestingly, even though deer permit sales are up, overall statewide harvest was remaining constant until the 2012 season. Given that the number of hunters is slightly increasing, and the number of deer taken per hunter is 2 or fewer per season, harvests are expected to continue to be approximately 110,000 to 130,000 each season.



Upon further examining the license sale breakdown, the majority of the deer permits are purchased by resident deer hunters (27%), followed closely by Senior Licenses (25%) and Sportsman Licenses (16%) buyers. Over the last few years there is a steady increase in the number of senior licenses sold and a slow decrease in resident deer permit. The overall number of deer hunters is holding steady, indicating that a majority of Kentucky deer hunters are reaching the age of 65 (age at which you can purchase as Senior License) because of the increase in Senior License sales and decrease of Deer Permits sold.



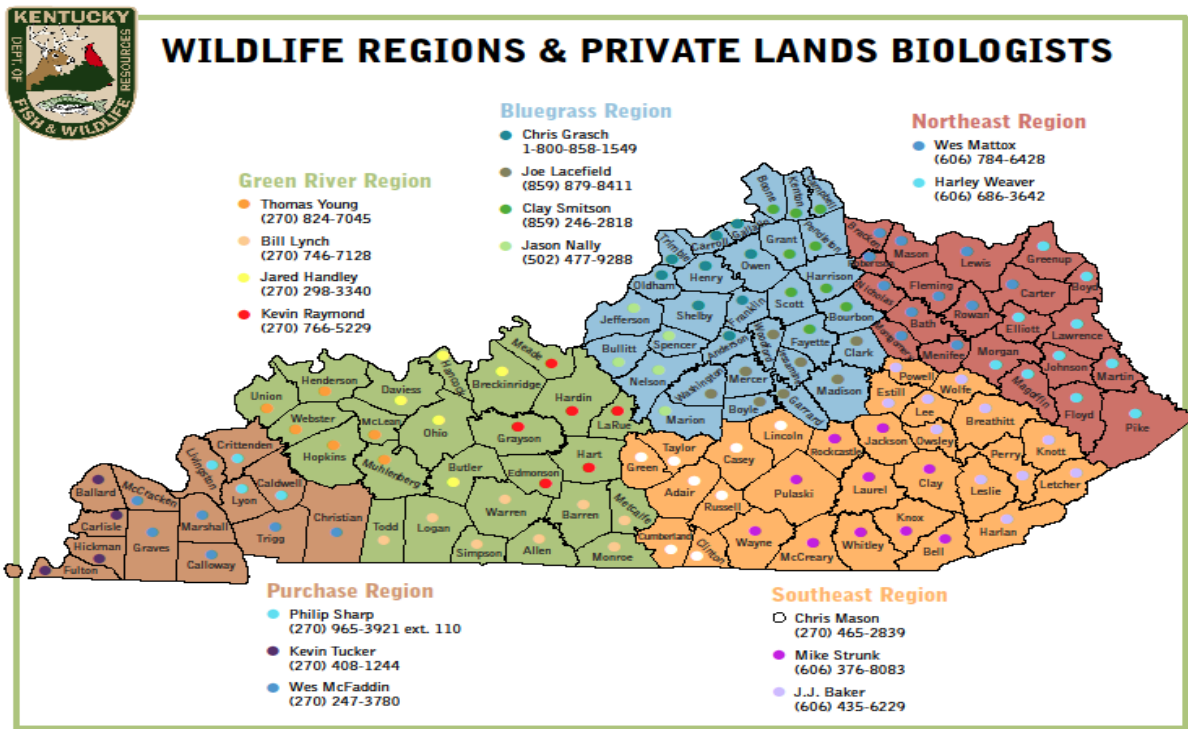
Changes for the 2013-2014 Deer Season

There are no changes for 2013-2014 deer season. Date changes only reflect the calendar shift from 2012 to 2013.

Contacts

Approximately 95% of Kentucky is privately owned. To successfully manage our wildlife resources, the KDFWR works cooperatively with Kentucky’s private landowners. One of the essential ingredients in conserving Kentucky’s wildlife resources is habitat improvement. Wildlife biologists are available to work with interested individuals or groups on properties that they own or have management rights on.

To contact your local wildlife biologist for assistance with wildlife management on your property see the map below.





Kentucky Sportsmen and Women Pay for Conservation

The Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is funded through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. It receives no general fund tax dollars.