



Selective Deer Harvest

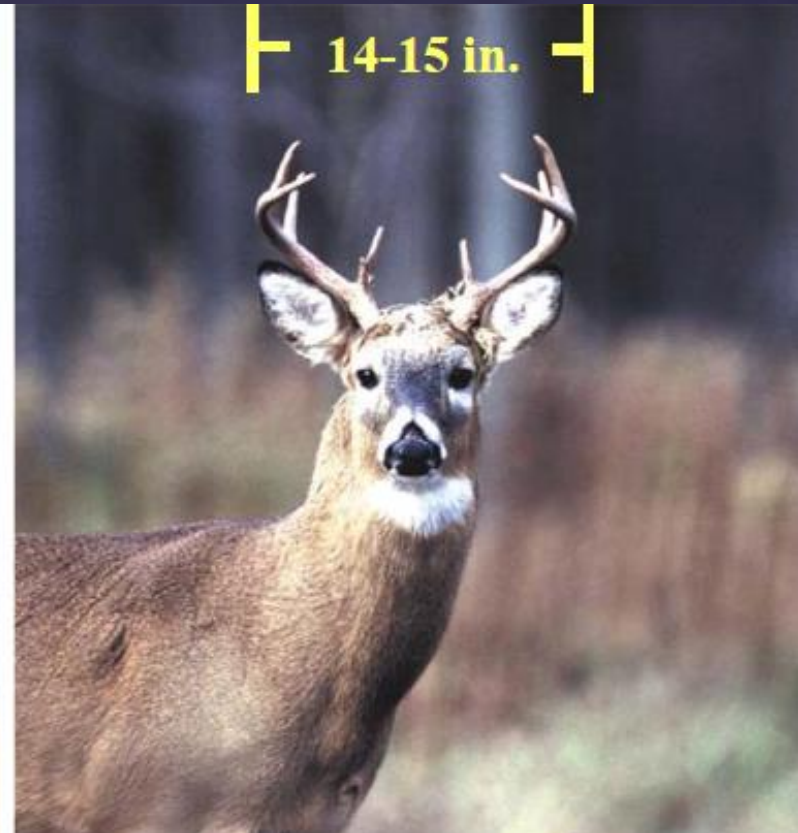
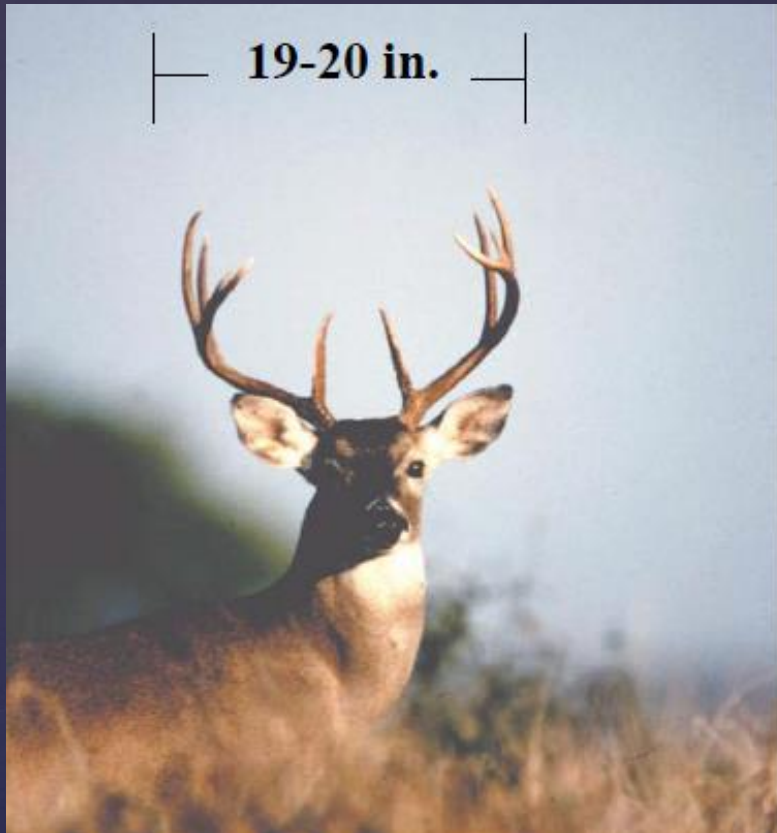
David Yancy, KDFWR Deer Biologist

Antlered Deer Management

Antler Point Restrictions

Establish a minimum number of points a buck must have to be eligible for harvest

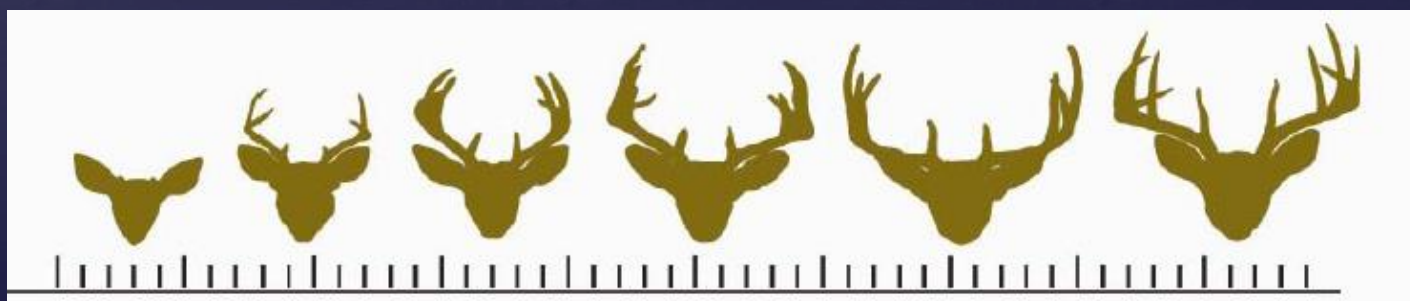
Antler Spread Restrictions



Establish a minimum antler spread a buck must have to be eligible for harvest

Age Restrictions

Establish a minimum age that a buck must have attained to be eligible for harvest



Average Antler Measurements by Age Class

| Age | Points | Inside Spread (inches) | Beam Length (inches) | Gross B&C Score | Percent of Max. Antler Mass |
|-----|--------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1.5 | 4.0 | 6.9 | 8.3 | 37 | 11% |
| 2.5 | 8.3 | 12.7 | 15.8 | 89 | 44% |
| 3.5 | 9.0 | 15.8 | 18.4 | 110 | 71% |
| 4.5 | 10.0 | 16.5 | 20.5 | 130 | 80% |
| 5.5 | 9.7 | 17.0 | 21.7 | 142 | 100% |
| 6.5 | 9.7 | 17.5 | 21.6 | 132 | 98% |
| 7.5 | 10.1 | 16.3 | 21.3 | 132 | 100% |

Data based on 23 captive bucks at Mississippi State University and may not reflect antler development in your area.



ANTLER GROWTH



Antlers begin to grow in mid-summer and continue to grow through the fall. The growth is rapid and is controlled by the pineal gland and the pituitary gland. The pineal gland is located in the brain and the pituitary gland is located in the neck. The pineal gland is the master gland and the pituitary gland is the slave gland. The pineal gland is the master gland because it controls the growth of the pituitary gland. The pituitary gland is the slave gland because it only grows when the pineal gland tells it to. The pineal gland is the master gland because it controls the growth of the pituitary gland. The pituitary gland is the slave gland because it only grows when the pineal gland tells it to.

When does a buck become a trophy buck?



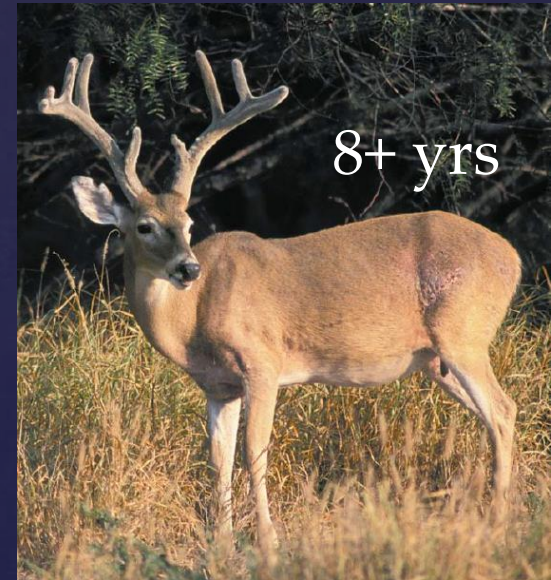
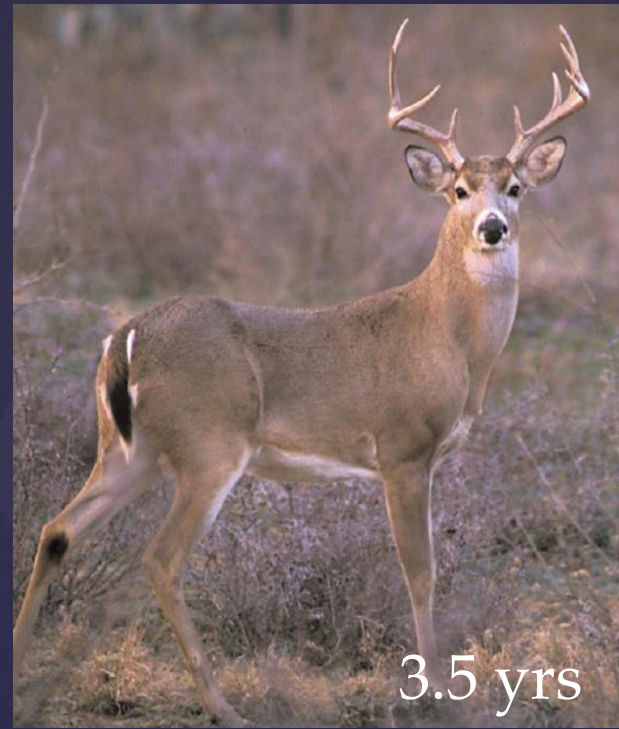
The answer is... it depends on the buck. A buck is considered a trophy buck when he has a set of antlers that is large enough to be displayed in a trophy room. The size of the antlers is determined by the buck's age, health, and genetics. A buck is considered a trophy buck when he has a set of antlers that is large enough to be displayed in a trophy room. The size of the antlers is determined by the buck's age, health, and genetics.

RUBS



Rubs are the sound made by a buck when he rubs his antlers against a tree trunk. The sound is caused by the friction between the antlers and the bark of the tree. Rubs are an important part of a buck's communication and are used to mark territory and attract females.

**DONATED BY
Dick & Mabel Hudson
13 YEAR WILDING BEER
ANTLER SHEEDS**





The most important half inch
in deer management

Antlerless Deer Management

Why is doe harvest
important?

- For control of population growth and density

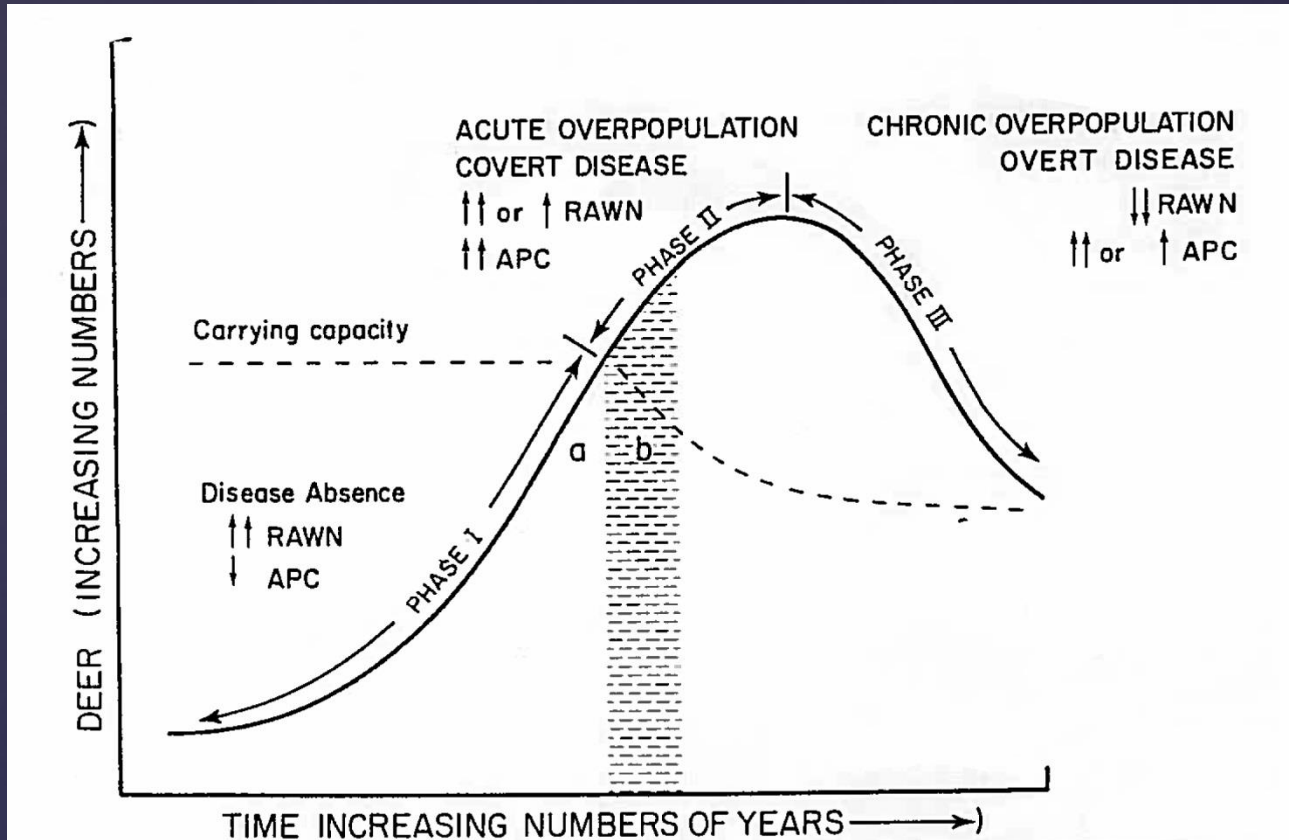


Figure 27.1 Changing disease levels associated with deer herds at different positions on a population growth curve, with symbolic presentation of relative values of parameters that are believed to reflect disease levels in most southeastern white-tailed deer herds. (R = reproductive rate, A = yearling antler development, W = yearling body weights, N = nutritional level of herd, APC = abomasal parasite counts, a = point of earliest change in reproductive rate of herd, b = period during which overpopulation is not accompanied by declining nutritional levels).

- To balance the sex ratio
- To shorten the breeding season and shift it earlier
- To increase reproductive success and fawn survival to autumn
- To reduce dispersal of young bucks (fawns and yearlings)
- To make room for and improve the quality of young bucks
- To reduce harvest pressure on young bucks and provide additional venison



- To reduce negative impacts such as environmental / habitat damage...



agricultural
damage...



and deer / vehicle collisions...



How many does do we need to take?

Ballpark QDM harvest rates:

Adult bucks: 1 per 100-400 acres

Adult does: 1 per 30-100 acres

Doe fawns: Depends on objectives

Buck fawns: As few as possible, but 10% or less of total antlerless harvest

Which antlerless deer to harvest (fawns, yearlings or adults)?

As much as possible, take ADULT does because:

1. They are the most reproductive segment of the herd
2. It reduces the chances of harvesting button bucks

How to tell the difference
between fawns and adult
does in the fall and winter:

Adult

Fawn



Doe fawn



Buck fawn



Q: So, which antlerless deer should you shoot?

A: “The right antlerless deer to shoot is the adult that stands still long enough.” – *Al Brothers*

Q: When is the best time to harvest does?

A: As early in the deer hunting season as possible; make sure it gets done!