Selective Deer Harvest

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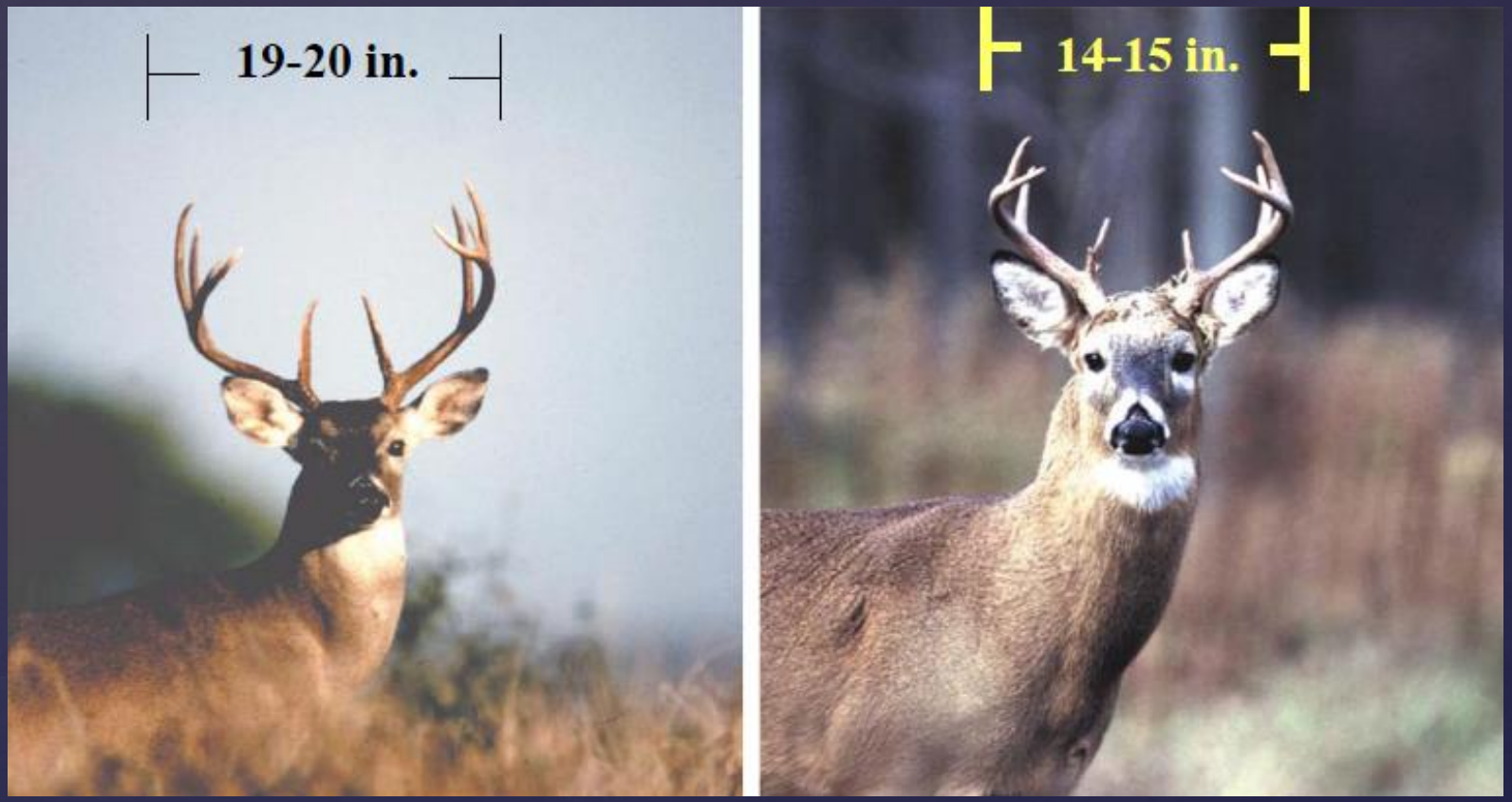
Antlered Deer Management

Antler Point Restrictions

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

Antler Spread Restrictions

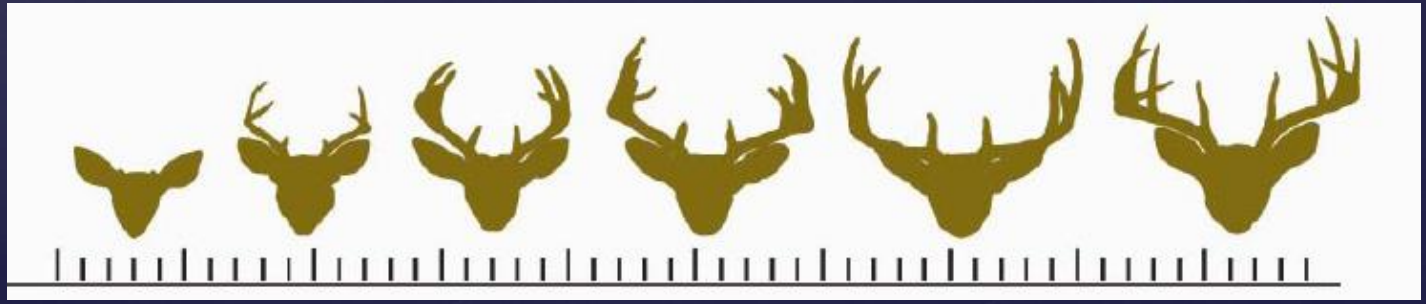


Establish a minimum antler spread a buck must have to be eligible for harvest

Age Restrictions

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


1½
2½
3½
4½



Average Antler Measurements by Age Class

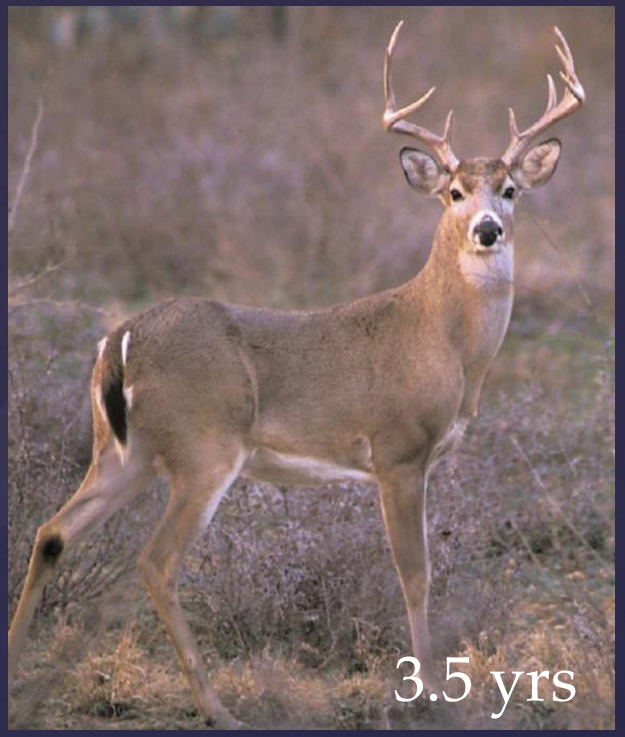
Age	Points	Inside Spread (inches)	Beam Length (inches)	Gross B&C Score	Percent of Max. Antler Mass
1.5	4.0	6.9	8.3	37	11%
2.5	8.3	12.7	15.8	89	44%
3.5	9.0	15.8	18.4	110	71%
4.5	10.0	16.5	20.5	130	80%
5.5	9.7	17.0	21.7	142	100%
6.5	9.7	17.5	21.6	132	98%
7.5	10.1	16.3	21.3	132	100%

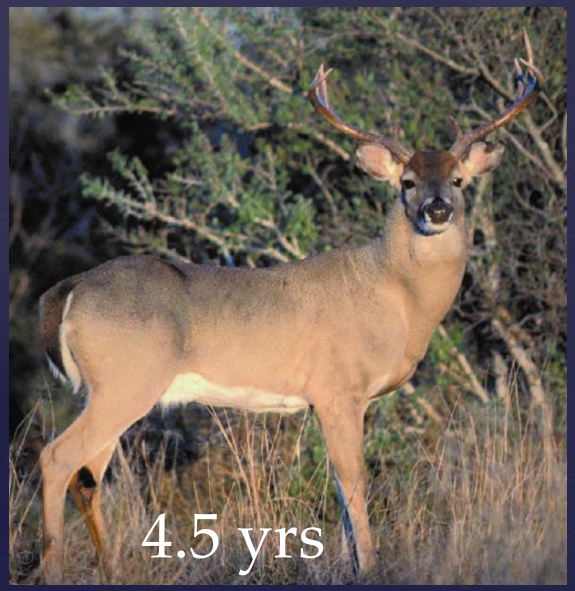
Data based on 23 captive bucks at Mississippi State University and may not reflect antler development in your area.


1.5 YRS.
5.5 YRS.
2.5 YRS.
6.5 YRS.
3.5 YRS.
4.5 YRS.
7.5 YRS.
8.5 YRS.
11.5 YRS.
12.5 YRS.
13.5 YR
ANTLER GROWTH
RUBS
When does a buck become a trophy buck?
DONATED BY
Dick & Mabel Hudson
13 YEAR WHITETAIL DEER
ANTLER SHEDS

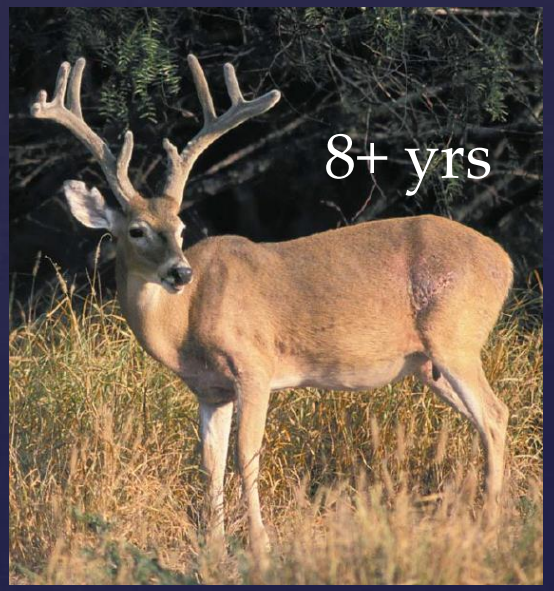

1.5 yrs


2.5 yrs


3.5 yrs


4.5 yrs


5.5 to 7.5 yrs


8+ yrs

The most important half inch in deer management

Antlerless Deer Management

Why is doe harvest important?

- For control of population growth and density

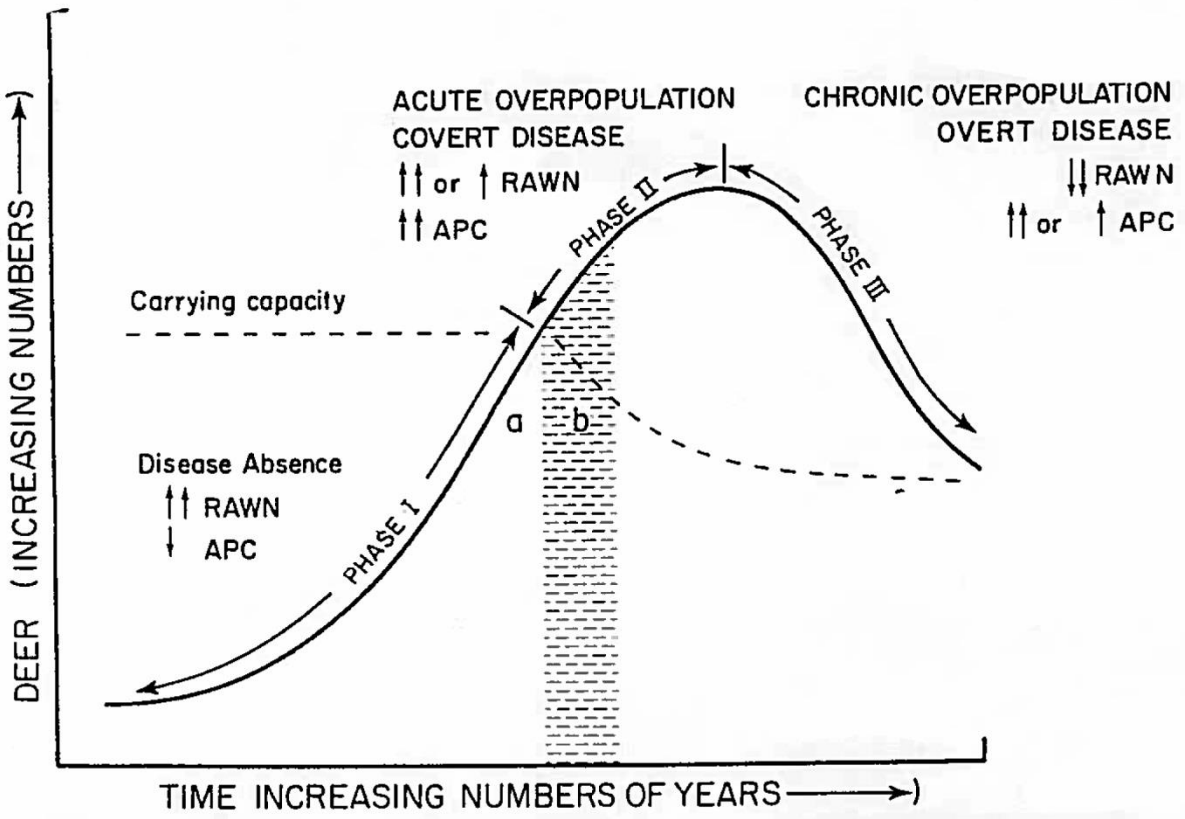


Figure 27.1 Changing disease levels associated with deer herds at different positions on a population growth curve, with symbolic presentation of relative values of parameters that are believed to reflect disease levels in most southeastern white-tailed deer herds. (R = reproductive rate, A = yearling 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

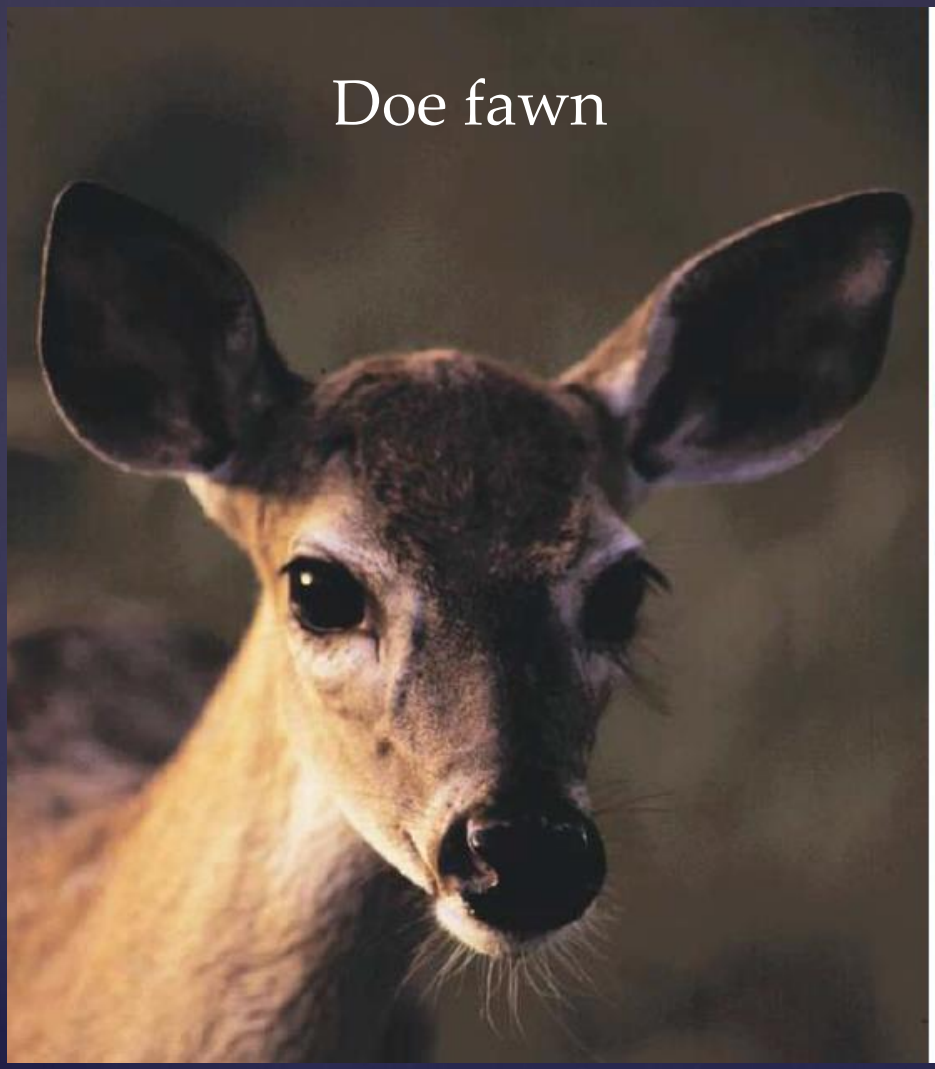
Which antlerless deer to harvest (fawns, yearlings or adults)?

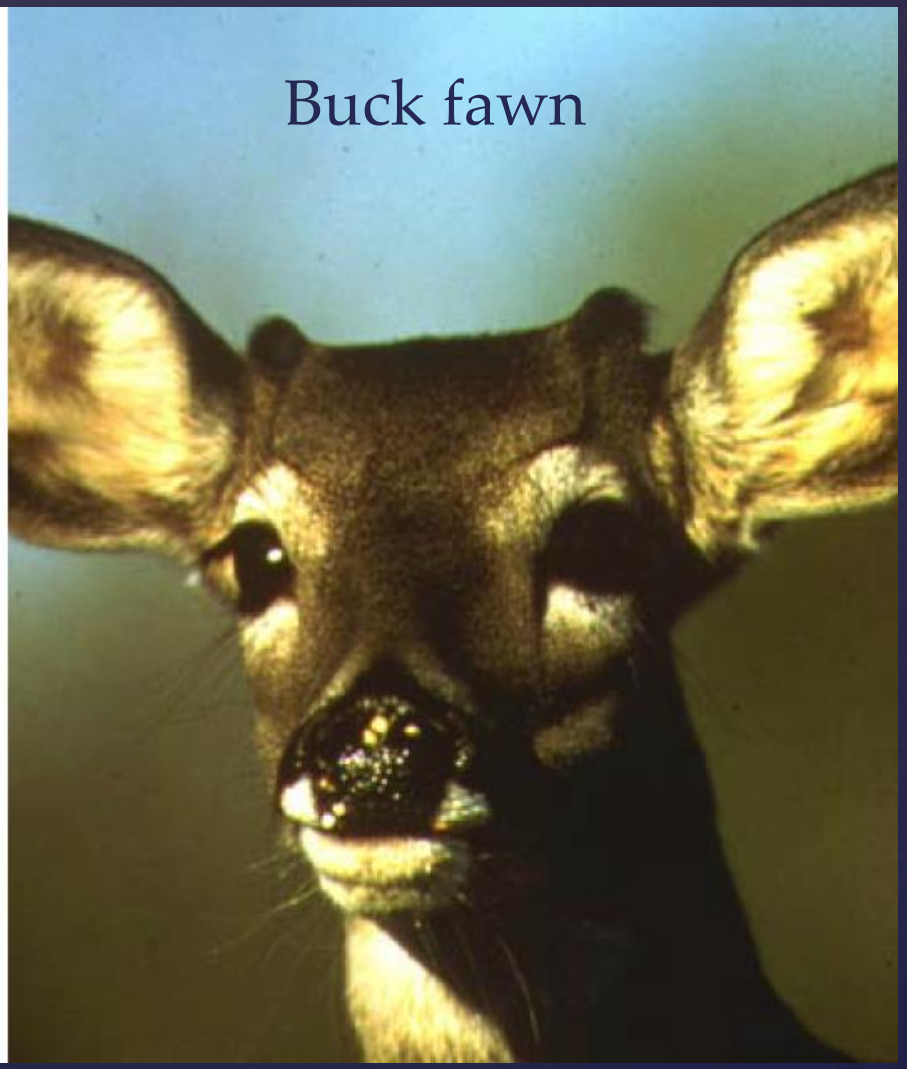
As much as possible, take ADULT does because:

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!