

THE THREE- ANTLERED BUCK

Kentucky deer finally makes the record book

Story and photo by
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IT WAS LATE in the afternoon when Powell Rakestraw Jr. and his son, Jason, spotted a monster buck on their Webster County farm. Time was running short, as the 2006 modern gun season would end after the next day.

Powell Rakestraw Jr. took careful aim, and then downed the deer with a 175-yard shot. The buck's massive non-typical antlers included 19 points.

"Naturally, we were excited to take such a great trophy deer on our farm," Jason Rakestraw said. "But at that time, we had been dealing with a number of trespassing issues and were afraid that a lot of publicity about the buck would only increase our problems. We simply had the deer mounted and hung on the wall."

Finally, in 2009, following the encouragement of several friends, the family decided to have the deer officially measured.

The results were impressive: 19 scorable points, 10 of which comprise the rack's basic

typical frame. The main beams tape 26 and 27 inches. Six tines measured between 11 5/8 and 8 3/8 inches.

Additionally, there is a 21 2/8-inch abnormal point at the base of the left burr. After grossing 221 4/8, minor asymmetry deductions drop the final non-typical Boone and Crockett Club score to 208 3/8.

The official trophy entry forms were filled out and mailed, along with antler photos, to Boone and Crockett for record book consideration. However, the organization ruled the abnormal point was a completely separate antler. At that time, the group's policy was to not accept deer with three or more separate antler beams. They declared the Rakestraw buck ineligible.

Recently, Boone and Crockett made a number of policy revisions regarding big game trophies. One of the revisions now al-

lows multi-antlered deer to be eligible for the records program. This change erases one of the few differences between Boone and Crockett and the archery-only Pope and Young Club's scoring systems.

With Pope and Young, the extra antler and any points projecting from the antler are measured as abnormal points and either added in or deducted from the final score, depending on whether the deer is entered in the typical or non-typical category. Now, with Boone and Crockett, the scoring procedure is exactly the same.

Additionally, the policy revision is retroactive, meaning the Rakestraw buck can now be accepted into the records program. Since the 21 2/8 inch third antler was added in to the abnormal point total during the rack's official measuring, the final non-typical score of 208 3/8 will not change. ■