

## KDFWR Deer Program

Summary Data: 2025 November Harvest

1<sup>st</sup> December 2025



### Season Summary

Deer hunters in Kentucky had a very productive November with over 105,000 deer harvested across the Commonwealth. The majority of these were taken during Kentucky's 16-day Modern Gun season, where most of the season's harvest occurs. The total harvest from the season opener in early September through the end of November stands at 129,577 deer, nearly 1,500 animals more than the 10-year average (128,125; Figure 1).

Fifty-four percent (69,898) of the total harvest so far this season has been comprised of antlered males, while 41% (53,172) was female and 5% (6,505) antlerless male fawns (Figure 2). This proportion has not changed significantly in the last decade despite additional opportunities for antlerless harvest in most of the state (Figure 3).

Of the 76,403 total males taken thus far this season, 70.5% (53,892) have been 2.5 years old or older, while 20.9% (16,002) have been 1.5 years old and 8.5% (6,505) have been fawns or "button bucks" (Figure 4). Based on thousands of data points across the Commonwealth, KDFWR began confidently estimating the age structure of buck harvests through telecheck in 2016. The age structure of the harvest has not varied much in this time, with adults comprising 69-72% of the buck harvest seasonally (Figure 5). Although these breakdowns have not changed drastically in recent years, comparisons to the 1980s indicate that the one-buck limit in Kentucky has shifted the buck harvest from >60% yearlings to what we see today. This has undoubtedly allowed Kentucky to be continually ranked as a top deer hunting state in the country.

Deer hunters use modern firearms to harvest most of the deer taken seasonally each year in Kentucky, and this season is no different. Firearm harvests, most of which is conducted during the 16-day modern gun season, has accounted for 80% of the deer harvested thus far (103,726), while 10% has been taken with archery equipment (13,525), 8% with crossbows (10,266), and 2% with muzzleloaders (2,059; Figure 6). This proportion is similar to the last decade thus far, apart from a low muzzleloader harvest likely due to poor weather during October's Early Muzzleloader Weekend (Figure 7).

Nearly all Kentucky public hunting areas are open to archery and crossbow hunting across the state all season, with several providing muzzleloader and modern gun hunting access in some capacity. Gun quota hunts are also hosted on multiple public areas in each region during the month of November. So far this season, public

land hunters have harvested 6,060 deer (5% of the harvest) throughout the Commonwealth. The state-maintained Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) with the highest harvest so far this season include Peabody (528), Barren River Lake (177), Sloughs (153), Green River Lake (151), and Lake Cumberland (144) WMAs (Table 1).

Regionally, the Bluegrass region has seen the most action thus far with 36,257 deer harvested (28%), followed closely by the Green River (35,068; 27%), Southeast (24,059; 19%), Purchase (17,892; 14%), and Northeast (16,301; 13%) regions. Hardin County currently holds the highest harvest of any county in the state with 3,098 deer, followed by Breckinridge (2,750), Christian (2,659), Pendleton (2,445), and Graves (2,445) counties (Table 2, Figure 8).

## **Modern Firearm Season**

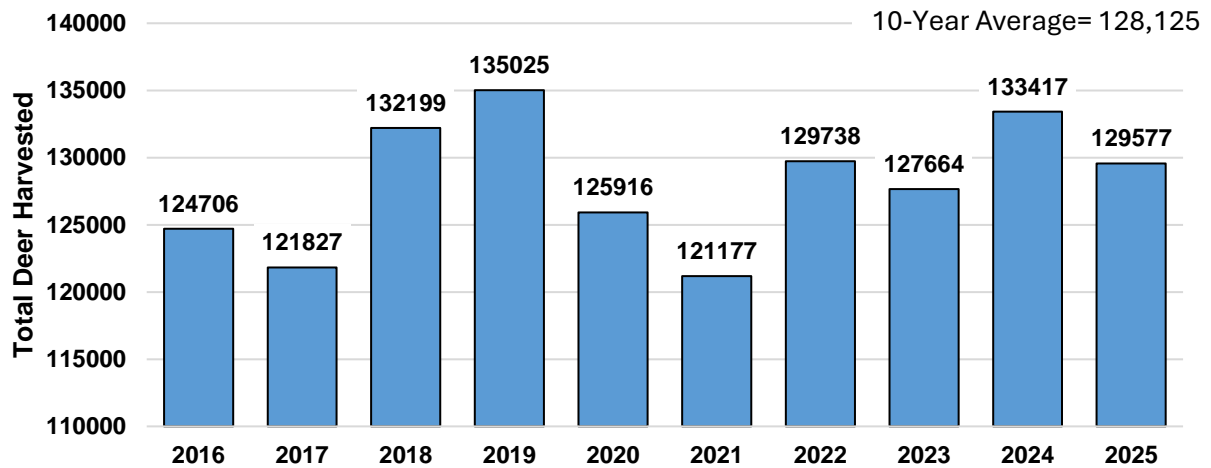
A total of 99,672 deer were taken during the 16-day Modern Firearms Season that occurred from November 8 to November 23 this year. This total is slightly lower than the 2024 total of 104,505 deer but was within 1% of the 5-year average of 100,257 deer. Fifty-seven percent of the harvest was comprised of antlered males (56,428), while 38% were female (38,037). Of the males harvested, 70% were 2.5 years old or older.

## **Antlerless Harvest Goals**

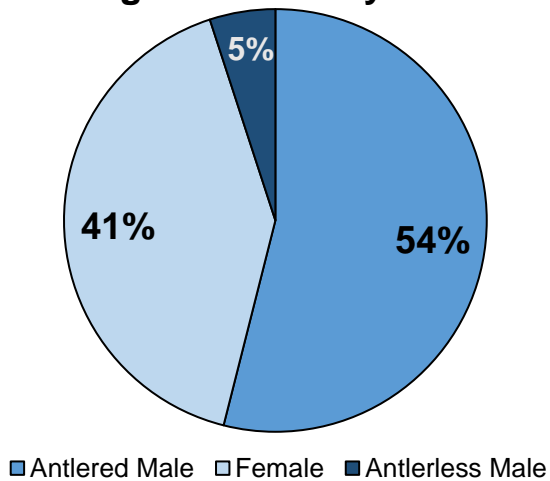
Deer managers are often quick to call for harvesting additional antlerless deer, particularly in areas that have reached, or are on the cusp of reaching, biologic and social carrying capacity. However, deer managers seldom tell hunters how many antlerless deer to harvest or why it is important to do so. Beginning in the 2025-26 season, the KDFWR has established harvest goals for antlerless deer across all of Kentucky's Zone 1 and Zone 2 counties where deer populations have reached or are approaching overabundance. The primary goal of this is to reduce populations where applicable (e.g., Zone 1 counties) and maintain others where deer are at more appropriate levels (e.g., Zone 2).

Seven counties have so far reached at least 70% of their harvest goal this season: Simpson (84%), Breckinridge (75%), Monroe (74%), Green (74%), Adair (72%), Barren (71%), and Taylor (71%; Figure 9, Table 3). With Modern Firearms Season where typically 70-80% of the harvest occurs behind us, many counties have an uphill climb to reach desired antlerless harvest goals. However, archery and crossbow seasons remain open for well over a month and Kentucky's Late Muzzleloader season begins for nine consecutive days on December 13. Many hunters wait until after the rut to fill their freezer and conduct doe management, so there is still ample opportunity to continue harvesting antlerless deer statewide.

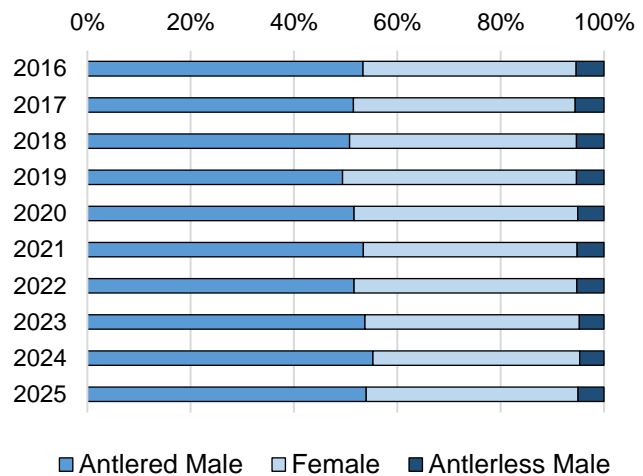
**Fig 1. Total Harvest Through 30 November**



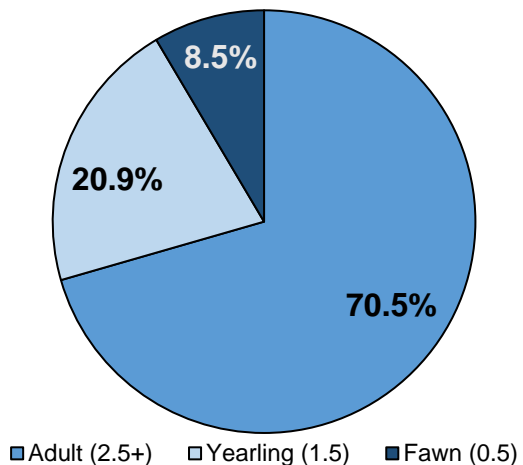
**Fig 2. Harvest by Sex**



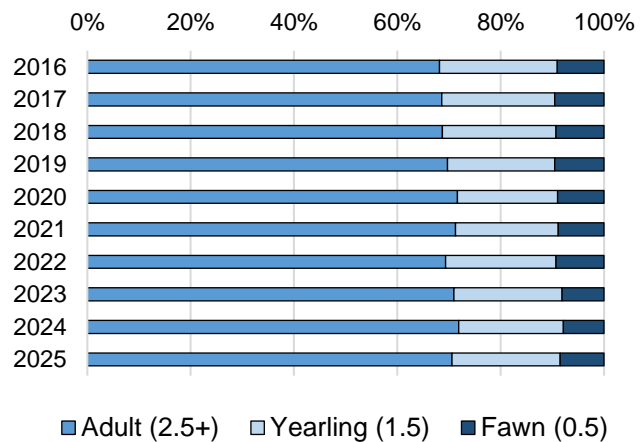
**Fig 3. Historic Harvest by Sex**

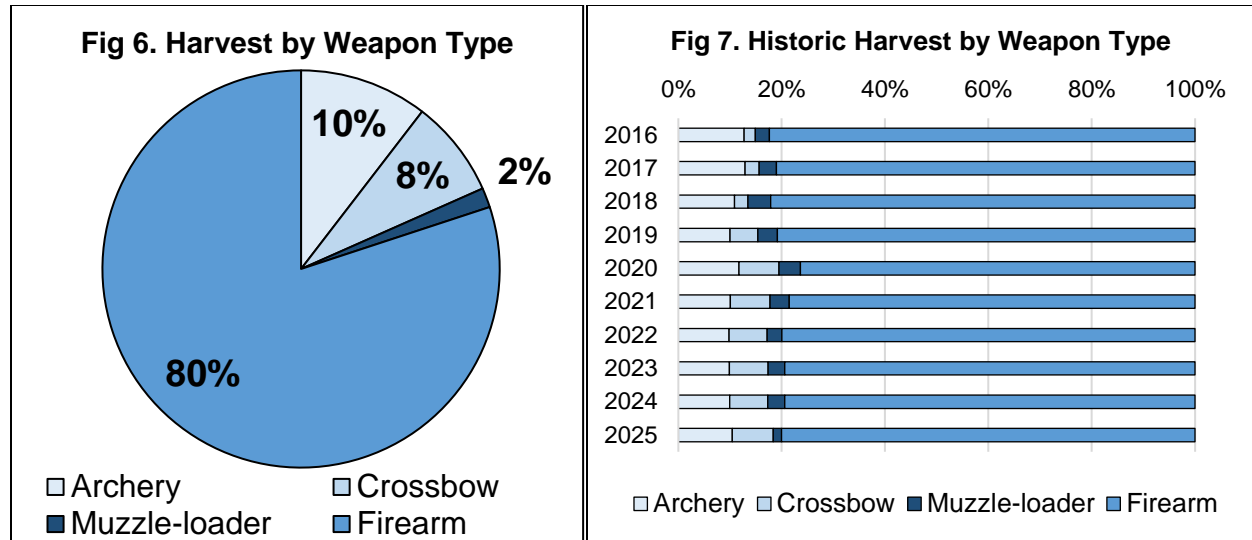


**Fig 4. Buck Harvest by Age Class**



**Fig 5. Historic Buck Harvest by Age Class**





Public Land Harvest Through 30 November 2025							
Daniel Boone National Forest	1158	Kentucky Lake WMA	80	Green River State Forest	35	Simon Kenton WMA	21
Fort Knox Military Reservation	679	Blue Grass Army Depot	74	Pocahontas WMA	35	Tygart's State Forest	21
Peabody WMA	528	Boone Forestlands WMA	68	Kentucky Ridge Forest WMA	34	Cane Creek WMA	20
Land Between The Lakes NRA	446	Lake Barkley WMA	67	West Kentucky WMA	34	RH Group HAA	20
Barren River Lake WMA	177	Yatesville Lake WMA	60	Kentucky River WMA	33	Big South Fork NRR	19
Sloughs WMA	153	Wells HAA	59	Asher Hunting Access Area	32	Harris - Dickerson WMA	19
Green River Lake WMA	151	Pennyrile State Forest	57	Obion Creek WMA	32	Doug Travis WMA	18
Lake Cumberland WMA	144	Elk Horn Coal HAA	54	Redbird WMA	32	Veterans Memorial WMA	18
Clarks River NWR	114	Higginson-Henry WMA	52	Boatwright WMA	29	Carr Creek Lake WMA	17
Big Rivers WMA & State Forest	94	Livingston County WMA and SNA	48	Continental HAA	29	Crank's Creek WMA	16
Taylor'sville Lake WMA	93	Rough River Lake WMA	48	Czar Hunting Access Area	24	Lloyd WMA	16
Nolin River Lake WMA	87	Cumberland Forest WMA	47	Hensley-Pine Mountain WMA	24	Central Kentucky WMA	15
Wendell H. Ford RTC	84	Rolling Fork WMA	46	Jones-Keeney WMA	22	Elk Forest WMA	15
Yellowbank WMA	82	Ballard WMA	39	Kentucky Ridge State Forest	22		
Clay WMA	80	Fleming WMA	36	Grayson Lake WMA	21		

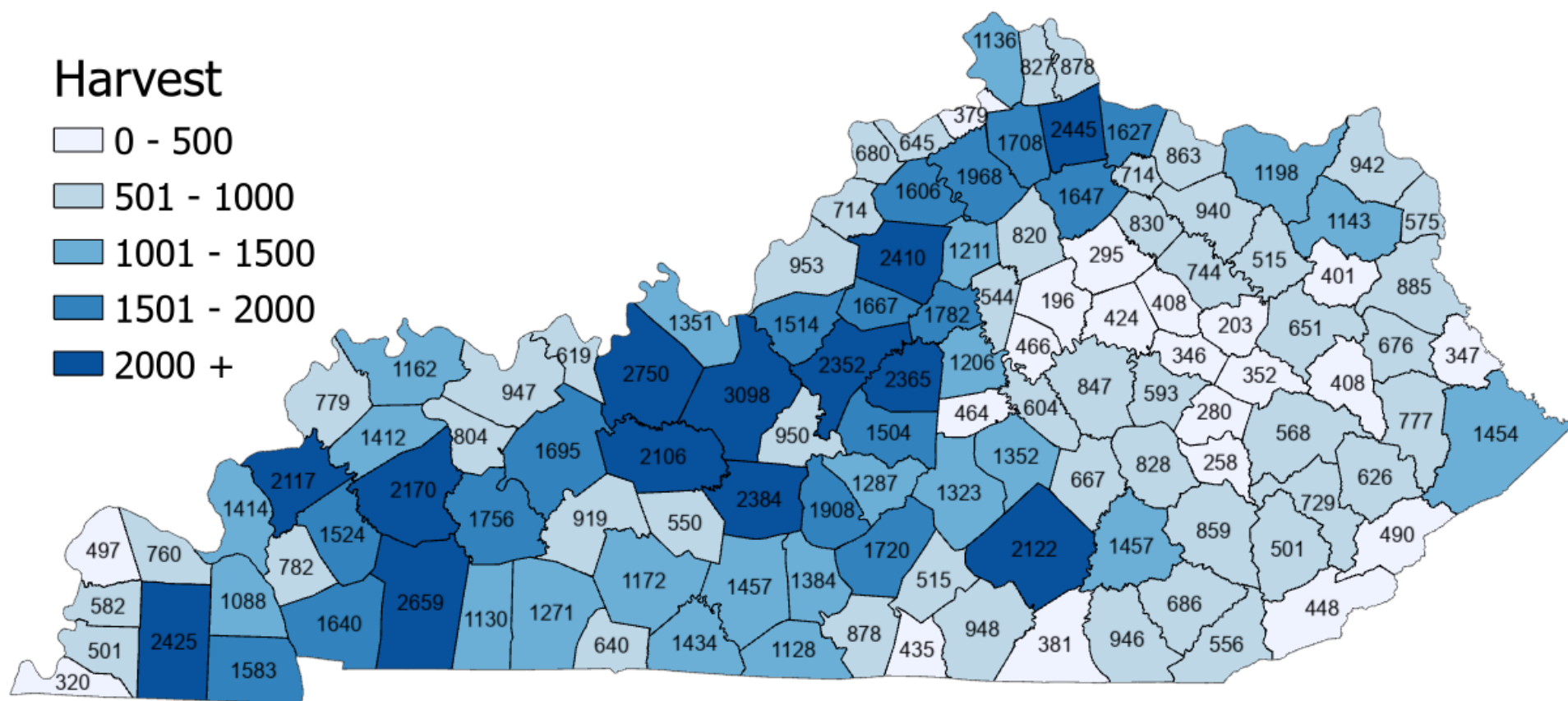
\*Quota hunt harvests included. All other areas <15 deer reported harvested

Table 1. Public land harvest through 30 November 2025.

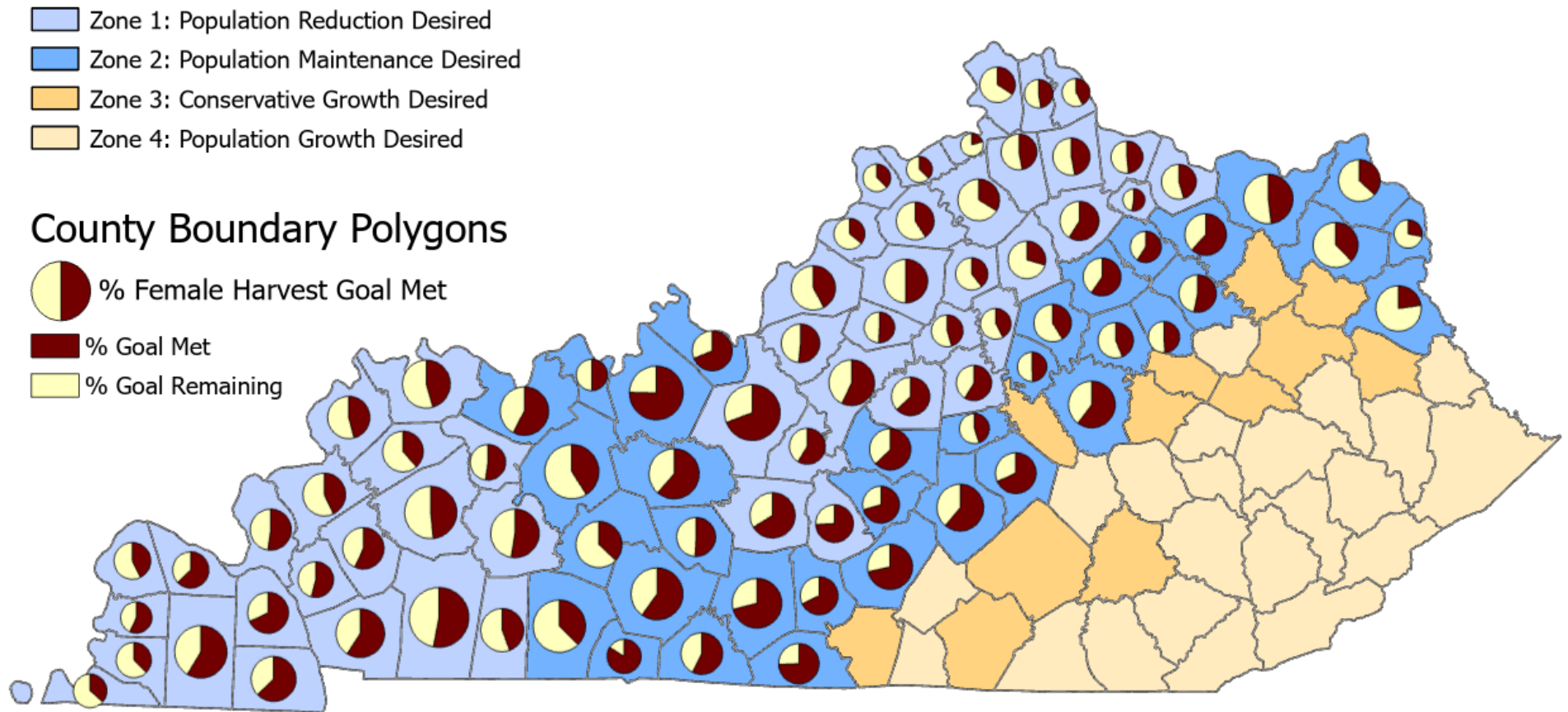
Hardin	3098	Henry	1606	Todd	1130	Floyd	777	Russell	515
Breckinridge	2750	Calloway	1583	Monroe	1128	McCracken	760	Hickman	501
Christian	2659	Caldwell	1524	Marshall	1088	Bath	744	Leslie	501
Pendleton	2445	Bullitt	1514	Jefferson	953	Perry	729	Ballard	497
Graves	2425	Marion	1504	Larue	950	Oldham	714	Letcher	490
Shelby	2410	Barren	1457	Wayne	948	Robertson	714	Jessamine	466
Hart	2384	Laurel	1457	Daviess	947	Knox	686	Boyle	464
Washington	2365	Pike	1454	Whitley	946	Trimble	680	Harlan	448
Nelson	2352	Allen	1434	Greenup	942	Johnson	676	Clinton	435
Hopkins	2170	Livingston	1414	Fleming	940	Rockcastle	667	Clark	424
Pulaski	2122	Webster	1412	Butler	919	Morgan	651	Magoffin	408
Crittenden	2117	Metcalfe	1384	Lawrence	885	Carroll	645	Montgomery	408
Grayson	2106	Lincoln	1352	Campbell	878	Simpson	640	Elliott	401
Owen	1968	Meade	1351	Cumberland	878	Knott	626	McCreary	381
Green	1908	Casey	1323	Mason	863	Hancock	619	Gallatin	379
Anderson	1782	Taylor	1287	Clay	859	Garrard	604	Wolfe	352
Muhlenberg	1756	Logan	1271	Madison	847	Estill	593	Martin	347
Adair	1720	Franklin	1211	Nicholas	830	Carlisle	582	Powell	346
Grant	1708	Mercer	1206	Jackson	828	Boyd	575	Fulton	320
Ohio	1695	Lewis	1198	Kenton	827	Breathitt	568	Bourbon	295
Spencer	1667	Warren	1172	Scott	820	Bell	556	Lee	280
Harrison	1647	Henderson	1162	McLean	804	Edmonson	550	Owsley	258
Trigg	1640	Carter	1143	Lyon	782	Woodford	544	Menifee	203
Bracken	1627	Boone	1136	Union	779	Rowan	515	Fayette	196

Table 2. Harvest by county through 30 November 2025.

**Figure 8. Total Harvest by County through November**



**Figure 9. Female Harvest Goal Progress through November**



Zone	County	Total Female Harvest Goal	Female Harvest	% Goal Met	Zone	County	Total Female Harvest Goal	Female Harvest	% Goal Met	Zone	County	Total Female Harvest Goal	Female Harvest	% Goal Met
1	Anderson	1647	749	45%	1	Livingston	1321	690	52%	2	Boyle	385	173	45%
1	Ballard	496	213	43%	1	Lyon	642	347	54%	2	Breckinridge	1711	1290	75%
1	Boone	1602	547	34%	1	Marshall	758	516	68%	2	Butler	1060	392	37%
1	Bracken	1574	765	49%	1	Mason	803	365	45%	2	Carter	1257	472	38%
1	Bullitt	1363	703	52%	1	McCracken	574	362	63%	2	Casey	758	463	61%
1	Caldwell	1264	719	57%	1	McLean	788	412	52%	2	Clark	313	137	44%
1	Calloway	1202	756	63%	1	Mercer	882	519	59%	2	Daviess	696	402	58%
1	Campbell	1032	433	42%	1	Muhlenberg	1517	797	53%	2	Edmonson	350	178	51%
1	Carlisle	497	282	57%	1	Nelson	2002	1146	57%	2	Fayette	170	70	41%
1	Carroll	740	274	37%	1	Oldham	961	344	36%	2	Fleming	606	374	62%
1	Christian	2224	1180	53%	1	Owen	2894	975	34%	2	Grayson	1575	968	61%
1	Crittenden	2410	1037	43%	1	Pendleton	2500	1176	47%	2	Greenup	949	351	37%
1	Franklin	1344	532	40%	1	Robertson	647	342	53%	2	Jessamine	321	159	50%
1	Fulton	381	139	36%	1	Scott	1196	352	29%	2	Lawrence	1343	305	23%
1	Gallatin	750	154	21%	1	Shelby	2399	1201	50%	2	Lewis	902	434	48%
1	Grant	1709	805	47%	1	Spencer	1517	769	51%	2	Lincoln	803	548	68%
1	Graves	2019	1184	59%	1	Todd	1148	510	44%	2	Logan	1328	497	37%
1	Green	1210	898	74%	1	Trigg	1325	783	59%	2	Madison	513	309	60%
1	Hancock	531	265	50%	1	Trimble	733	274	37%	2	Marion	1083	680	63%
1	Hardin	2090	1447	69%	1	Union	801	368	46%	2	Meade	842	579	69%
1	Harrison	1353	798	59%	1	Washington	1836	1157	63%	2	Metcalfe	907	617	68%
1	Hart	1617	1072	66%	1	Webster	1725	664	38%	2	Monroe	677	504	74%
1	Henderson	1165	531	46%	1	Woodford	598	252	42%	2	Montgomery	289	142	49%
1	Henry	1734	709	41%	2	Adair	965	690	72%	2	Nicholas	550	326	59%
1	Hickman	568	213	38%	2	Allen	964	553	57%	2	Ohio	1815	744	41%
1	Hopkins	1863	903	48%	2	Barren	860	611	71%	2	Simpson	324	272	84%
1	Jefferson	1015	428	42%	2	Bath	505	269	53%	2	Taylor	796	562	71%
1	Kenton	825	393	48%	2	Bourbon	183	109	60%	2	Warren	853	511	60%
1	Larue	723	425	59%	2	Boyd	806	225	28%	*only Zone 1 and Zone 2 counties included with female harvest goals				

Table 3. Female harvest goal progress through November