

Kentucky Deer Hunter Survey – Executive Assessment

Spring 2026

Executive Summary

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) contracted this survey to better understand hunter perspectives on deer management, season structures, harvest practices, and potential regulatory changes. The survey collected 1,007 completed responses from Kentucky deer hunters during Spring 2026, substantially exceeding the original sampling target. Results indicate that Kentucky hunters generally support the existing framework of deer management while expressing a clear preference for maintaining hunting opportunity, simplifying regulations, and making targeted—not broad—management adjustments. Across virtually every topic, respondents favored changes that improve clarity or increase flexibility while opposing proposals perceived as reducing access, shortening opportunity, or adding complexity.

Methodology and Research Objectives

KDFWR distributed a secure online survey to 15,000 randomly selected resident Kentucky deer hunters across the state between April 21 and May 5, 2026. Hunters from all four deer hunting zones and landowners were included in the dataset. Invitations and reminder emails were used to maximize participation. Survey responses were analyzed by hunting zone, license type, public versus private land use, and other demographic characteristics to identify meaningful differences among hunter groups. The survey sought to document hunting participation, understand perceptions of deer populations, evaluate support for current seasons and potential future regulations, examine harvest behaviors, and identify opportunities to improve hunter satisfaction.

Key Findings

Hunter Participation

The survey demonstrates an exceptionally engaged hunting community. Most respondents hunt more than ten days annually, with Sportsman's license holders and hunters using both public and private lands reporting the highest participation. These hunters represent the core constituency most likely to experience multiple seasons, regulations, and management changes.

Perceived Deer Populations

Most hunters believe deer numbers in the counties they hunt have remained stable over the past five years. Although statewide perceptions are generally positive, regional variation exists. Zone 4 hunters more frequently perceive declining populations, while respondents from the CWD management area are more likely to report increasing populations. These differences reinforce that hunter experience is influenced by local conditions rather than statewide averages.

Desired Population Management

Maintaining current deer numbers is the preferred management objective for nearly two-thirds of respondents. Public-land hunters and Zone 4 respondents are notable exceptions, with many indicating they would like to see deer numbers increase. This suggests opportunities for localized management approaches rather than broad statewide adjustments.

Managing Areas with Too Many Deer

Hunters favored management tools that expand firearm opportunities rather than creating new season structures. Late-season antlerless firearm opportunities and extending the modern firearm season received the strongest evaluations. Earlier firearm opportunities and extending archery seasons were viewed less favorably, suggesting hunters believe the most successful harvest incentives occur during already popular firearm periods.

Managing Areas with Too Few Deer

Reducing antlerless harvest received considerably stronger support than reducing overall season length. Respondents appear willing to accept targeted biological restrictions when necessary but are reluctant to reduce overall hunting opportunity.

Season Timing and Structure

Most respondents indicated current season dates and lengths are appropriate. Archery season generated the greatest interest in change, with many respondents believing the season should begin earlier or last longer. Modern firearm season continues to represent the benchmark season, with very high participation and generally positive support.

Future Regulatory Changes

The strongest support centered on proposals that simplify regulations. Aligning archery and crossbow seasons and using a fixed September 1 archery opener were viewed positively because they reduce confusion and create consistent expectations. Conversely, respondents strongly opposed delaying modern firearm season, eliminating the October muzzleloader season, and prohibiting crossbows during archery season because those proposals reduce opportunity or conflict with established hunting opportunities.

Youth, Muzzleloader, and Second Buck

Youth hunting opportunities were generally viewed positively. Muzzleloader opinions were mixed depending upon the proposal. The potential allowance of a second buck emerged as one of the survey's most polarizing issues, with strong support and strong opposition occurring at nearly equal levels.

Season Participation

Modern firearm season dominates hunter participation and remains the foundation of Kentucky deer hunting. Crossbow participation ranks second, followed by muzzleloader seasons, while archery participation is lower. Any policy affecting the modern firearm season is therefore likely to influence the largest number of hunters.

Land Access, Harvest, and Processing

Private land continues to account for most hunting activity. Public-land hunters consistently expressed lower satisfaction and greater interest in management improvements. Respondents commonly indicated they need one to three deer annually for household consumption, yet harvest totals often fell short of those

needs, suggesting barriers beyond hunter intent. Slightly more respondents process deer themselves than those who utilize commercial processors. Hunters generally support expanded venison donation opportunities.

Cross-Cutting Insights

Several strategic themes emerged consistently. First, hunters value opportunity over restriction. Second, simplicity is preferred over regulatory complexity. Third, localized management appears more acceptable than statewide changes because hunter experiences differ substantially among regions. Finally, public-land hunting remains the area with the greatest opportunity for improvement through enhanced access, hunter experience, and site-specific management.

Management Considerations

- Maintain current opportunity wherever biologically appropriate.
- Prioritize regulatory simplification when proposing future changes.
- Consider zone-specific management where deer populations differ.
- Continue evaluating public-land satisfaction and access improvements.
- Use survey findings alongside biological monitoring and harvest data when developing future regulations.

Conclusion

The survey provides a strong stakeholder perspective to complement biological and harvest data. Kentucky hunters generally support the current direction of deer management while encouraging targeted improvements that preserve opportunity, simplify regulations, and address regional needs. Future policy discussions are likely to receive the greatest support when they emphasize clarity, maintain access, and respond to localized conditions.



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Spring 2026

Report Date: May 27, 2026



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BACKGROUND

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) is funded via fee-based support and employs over 400 full-time staff with an additional 100+ seasonal, interim staff, and contract laborers. KDFWR has a board of commissioners nominated for consideration and then appointed by the governor. These board members serve voluntarily and oversee the agency and represent the interests of sportspersons and conservationists across the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

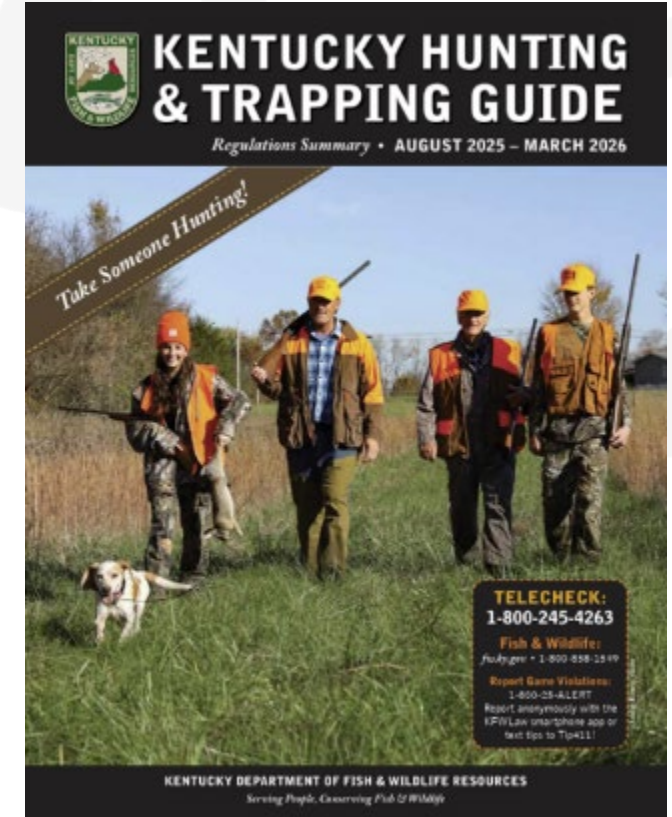
In the Spring of 2026 KDFWR issued an RFP seeking a contractor to conduct a survey of Kentucky deer hunters and their opinions on a variety of deer related issues. The survey was to include questions aimed at hunters' preferences on a variety of potential changes to bag limits, season length and timing, additional seasons, etc.

To achieve a 95% confidence level with a $\pm 5\%$ margin of error we set our target goal for completes at a minimum of approximately $N=400$ and no fewer than $n=30$ for each target segment for subgroup analysis.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

At the onset of our research project, the following over-arching objectives for the public survey were established with the client:

- Conduct a survey targeting KY residents who have hunted deer in a KY county in the last three seasons
- Identify core hunting habits among KY deer hunters such as days hunted, hunting plans, licenses acquired, location/land type hunted, and processing practices
- Gather hunter opinions on deer population changes, population management tactics, season start/end dates, season lengths, private/public hunting experience, and other possible changes up for consideration in the future for deer hunting in Kentucky
- Evaluate responses by hunting zones (1, 2, 3, 4 and CWD), private/public hunters, landowners, license type and more to uncover and illustrate any distinctive perspectives and trends



METHODOLOGY & PROCESS

NuVoodoo Media Services recommended a single-mode, secure online survey and data collection tool as the best method to meet research objectives. Online surveys, programmed to accommodate various devices (PC, Mobile, Tablet), are the best way to reach key target audiences and gather quantifiable information in the most timely and organized manner. Survey invitations were distributed by KDFWR using digital contact information via state-wide, randomly-selected lists of KY deer hunters generated and supplied by the department.

Our goal was to create a structured, statistically grounded survey designed to efficiently gather reliable, decision-ready feedback from Kentucky deer hunters. We collaborated with KDFWR to develop a clear, concise and analytically robust questionnaire that captures hunter opinions, preferences, and behavioral context related to deer hunting across the state. Survey design incorporated best practices in questionnaire structure, response scaling, and neutral wording to minimize bias and maximize interpretability.

Invitation and reminder scheduling was used as response rate strategies and survey participation was monitored throughout the field period to track overall response progress and general distribution across key geographic and hunter segments.



METHODOLOGY & PROCESS

After finalizing the survey, it was programmed, tested (PC and Mobile) and launched. We monitored the survey for target audience participation and provided regular updates.



SURVEY LAUNCH

April 21, 2026

Email invites sent by KDFWR
-periodic reminders sent as participation slowed



MONITORING & SURVEY CLOSE

Monitored for target audience fulfillment, abandonment, completion pace

Closed:
May 5, 2026

N = 1,007



ANALYSIS & REPORTING

Engaged analytical tool and report creation to answer research objectives.

Report and Data File to client: May 27, 2026

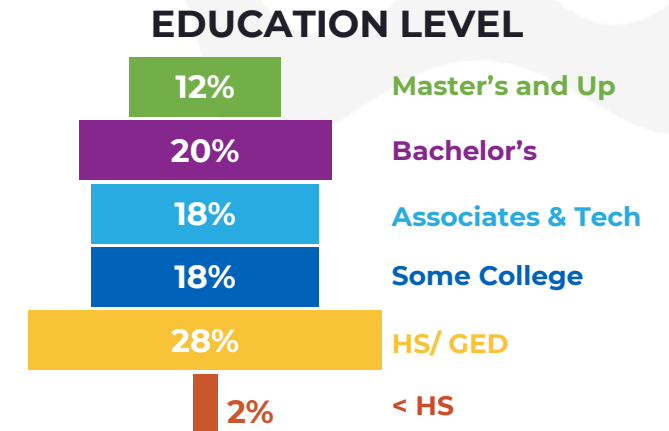
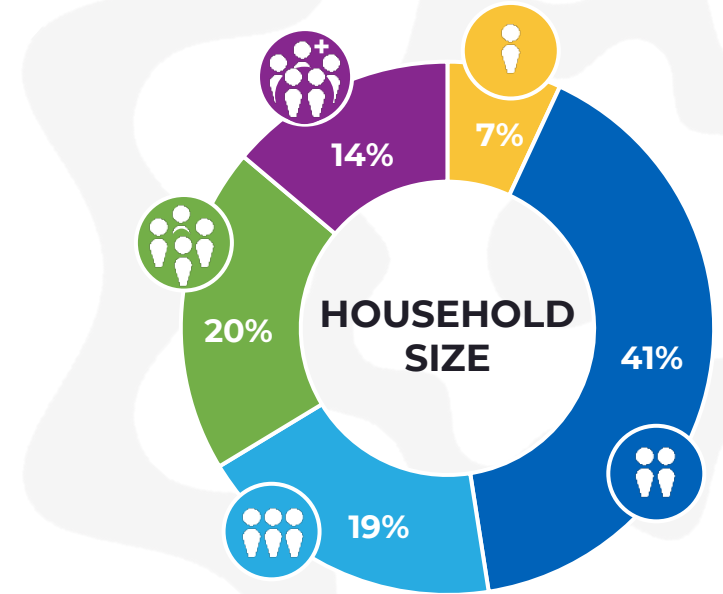
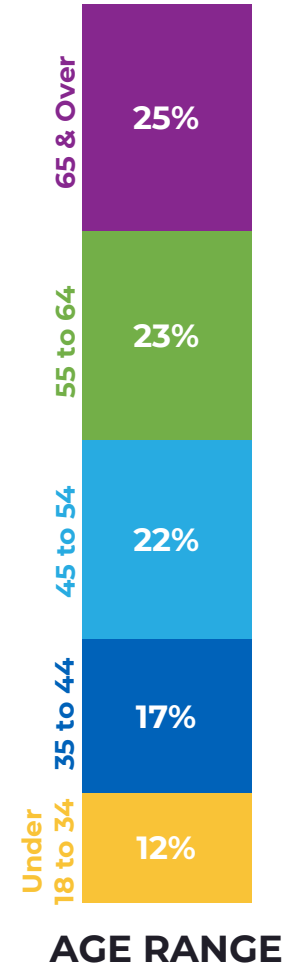
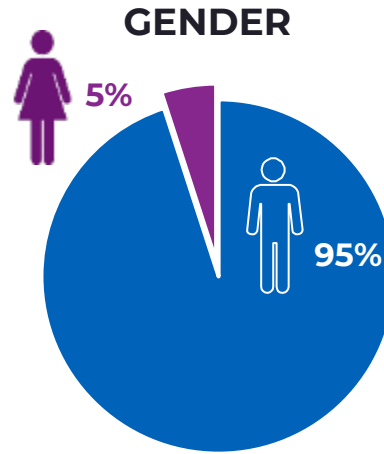
SURVEY DETAILS

Respondent Demographics

N=1,007

99%
KENTUCKY RESIDENTS

96%
KY COUNTY HUNTED
IN PAST 3YRS



HOUSEHOLD INCOME



Demographic information
is respondent self-reported.

'Prefer not to answer' = 3% EDUCATION LEVEL; 18% HOUSEHOLD INCOME

REPORT & ANALYSIS DETAILS

The KDFWR randomized invitation lists were compiled using the most up-to-date residency and deer hunting permit/license information available for prospective survey participants. However, as anticipated, some invitees have since moved out of state. Others may not recall hunting in a Kentucky county within the past three years or may report differently than existing records indicate, resulting in slight differences between total respondent counts and analytic base sizes.

SURVEY BASE SIZES

	Base Size	Reported As:
Total Survey Responses	1,007	
KY Residents	1,000	
KY Residents + Deer Hunted in KY County in the Past 3 Years	969	ALL KY DEER HUNTERS
KY Residents + Deer Hunted in KY County in 2025-2026*	940	CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

Our target goal of N=400 survey completes would have resulted in the industry standard of 95% confidence level with a $\pm 5\%$ margin of error.

However, in exceeding our completes goal we achieved an even *higher confidence* and *smaller margin of error*.

TARGET AUDIENCES BASE SIZES

ZONES	Base Size	'25-'26 LICENSE	Base Size	'25-'26 LAND TYPE HUNTED	Base Size
Zone 1	421	Sportsman's	495	Public	43
Zone 2	211	Landowner exemption	144	Private	719
Zone 3	121	Deer permit + hunting license only	124	Both	178
Zone 4	216	Senior/Disabled	175		
CWD Zone	252				

Our survey:

- **99% Confidence Level**
- **$\pm 4\%$ Margin of error**

REPORT & ANALYSIS DETAILS

SIGNIFICANCE TESTING

Throughout the document you will see figures in blue or red that indicate significance testing. In this instance only the Column % or Average statistics are tested (cell comparison method).

FIGURE	Meaning
34.1% ↑	= significantly higher than other cell values in the column
16.3% ↓	= significantly lower than other cell values in the column



EXAMPLE:

You would read the chart to the right as:

“**Significantly more** Sportsman’s license holders hunt ‘21 or more days’ than other license/permit holder types. And they are hunting fewer days **significantly less** than other license/permit holder types.”

OR

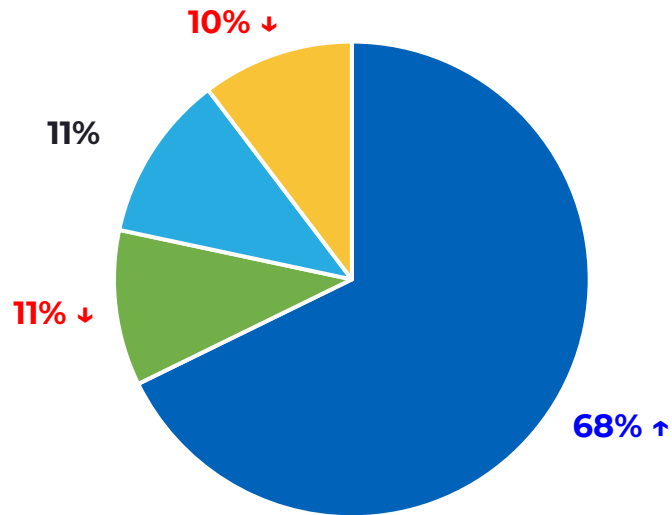
“Senior/Disabled license holders **over-index** for hunting fewer days and **under-index** for hunting the maximum days as compared to other license/permit holder types.”

Days Spent Hunting Per Year				
COLUMN %	Sportsman's license	Landowner exemption	Deer permit and hunting license only	Senior/Disabled license
4 days or less	5% ↓	8%	11%	12% ↑
5 to 10 days	23% ↓	34%	31%	34% ↑
11 to 20 days	34%	28%	27%	33%
21 or more days	39% ↑	29%	31%	22% ↓

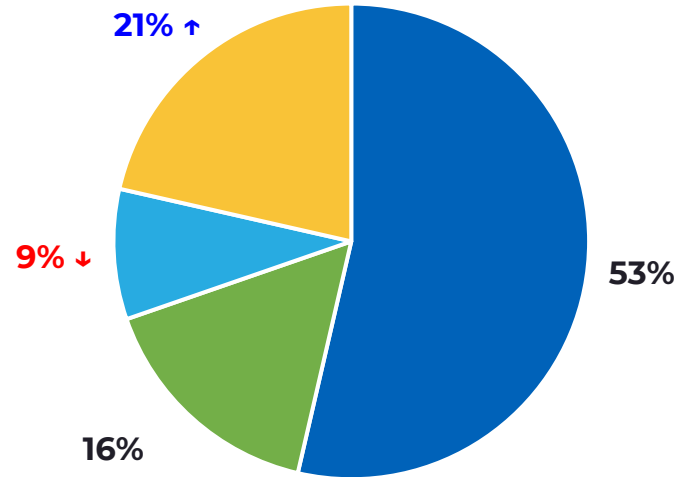
INSIGHTS SNAPSHOT

LICENSE TYPE BY SEASON HUNTED

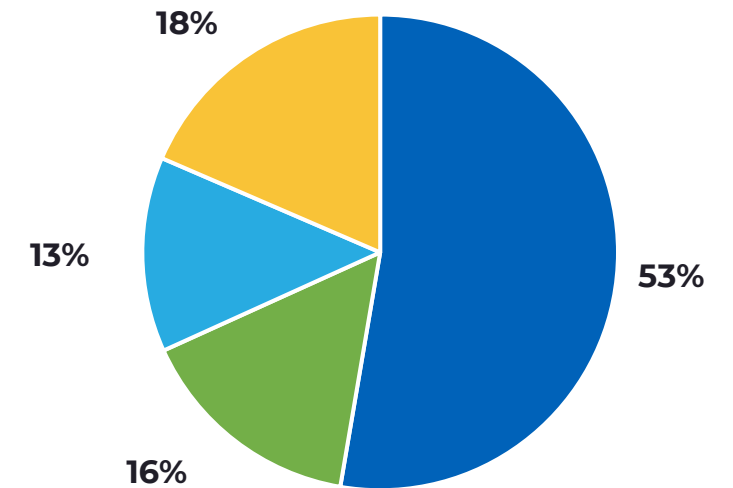
ARCHERY



CROSSBOW



MODERN FIREARM



Sportsman's



Landowner



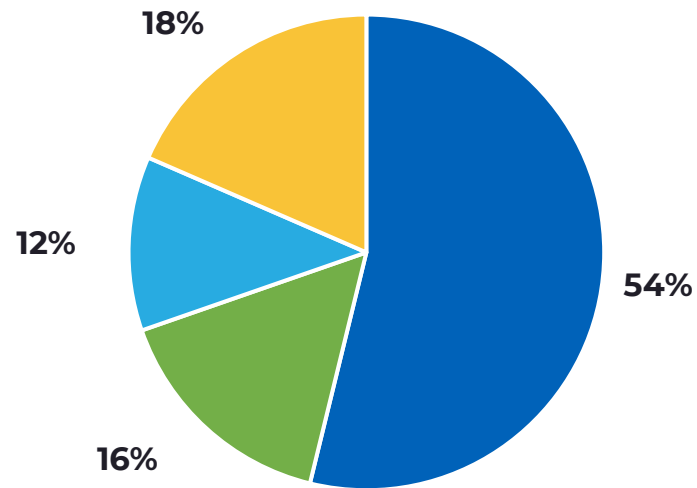
Deer Permit



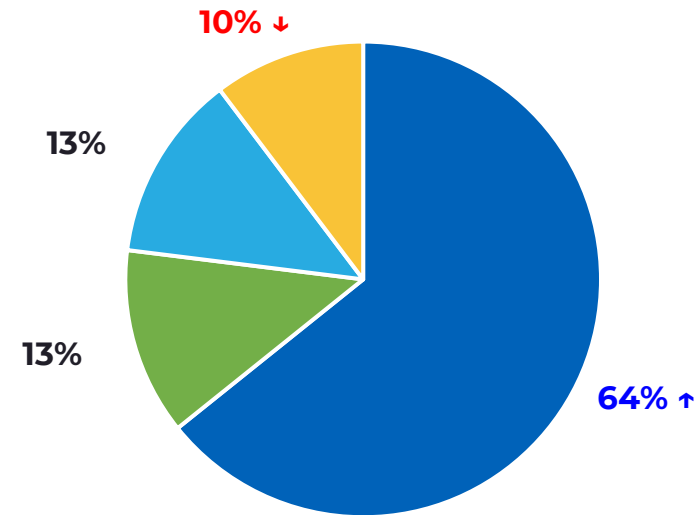
Senior/Disabled

LICENSE TYPE BY SEASON HUNTED

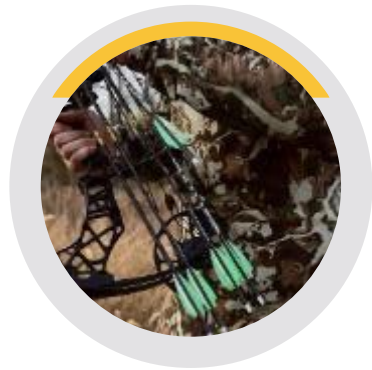
MUZZLELOADER (ALL)



YOUTH (ALL) - GUIDED



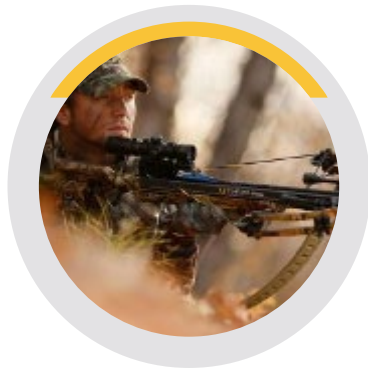
SEASON STARTS & LENGTHS



ARCHERY

START:
69% 'About right'

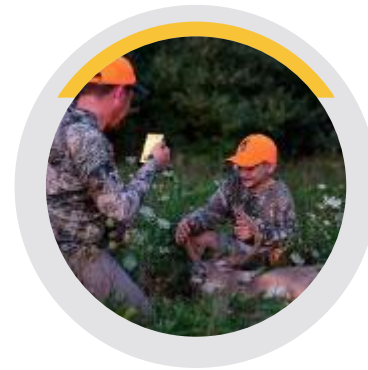
LENGTH:
77% 'About right'



CROSSBOW

START:
39% 'Too late'
36% 'About right'

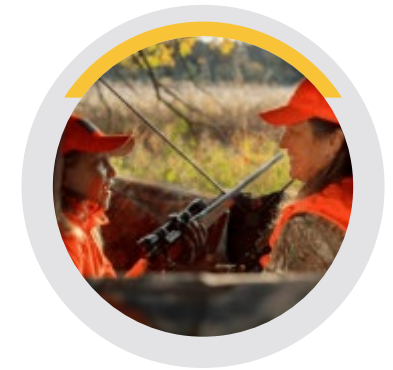
LENGTH:
41% 'About right'
34% 'Too short'



YOUTH

START:
75% 'About right'

LENGTH:
60% 'About right'

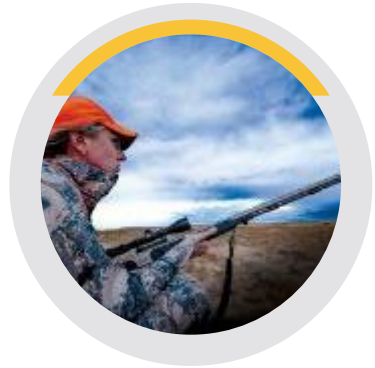


FREE YOUTH

START:
58% 'About right'
31% 'Too late'

LENGTH:
56% 'About right'
32% 'Too short'

SEASON STARTS & LENGTHS



EARLY MUZZLELOADER

START:

72% 'About right'

LENGTH:

45% 'Too Short'
42% 'About right'



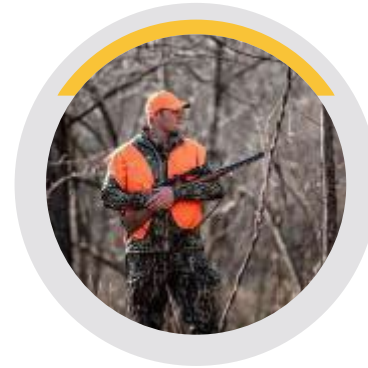
LATE MUZZLELOADER

START:

73% 'About right'

LENGTH:

63% 'About right'
22% 'Too short'



MODERN GUN

START:

68% 'About right'

LENGTH:

53% 'About right'
36% 'Too short'

93%
of respondents
hunted 'Modern
Firearm' season
in 2025-2026



POSSIBLE FUTURE CHANGES

MOST POPULAR

Make archery and crossbow seasons that start and end on the same dates

STRONG SUPPORT

65% T2B Support
(12% Strongly Oppose)

Start archery season ON September 1st instead of 'the first Saturday in September'

STRONG SUPPORT

61% T2B Support
(8% Strongly Oppose)

The allowance of single projectile shotguns (i.e., slugs) during muzzleloader seasons

WEAK SUPPORT

37% T2B Support
(30% Strongly Oppose)

POSSIBLE FUTURE CHANGES

LEAST POPULAR

**Prohibit crossbows
during archery season**

STRONG OPPOSITION

73% B2B Oppose
(10% Strongly Support)

**Shift the starting date of
modern firearms season
from the 2nd Saturday in
November to the 4th
Saturday in November**

STRONG OPPOSITION

69% B2B Oppose
(13% Strongly Support)

**Remove/eliminate the
early muzzleloader
(October) season
statewide**

STRONG OPPOSITION

61% B2B Oppose
(10% Strongly Support)

ADDITIONAL TAKEAWAYS

- Overall, KY hunters prefer new/changing regulations **NOT decrease hunting time** and **NOT lessen harvest numbers**
- **Modern Firearm** season is the **most popular** hunting season *it's 2X as popular as the next most popular, Crossbow (#3 Early Muzzleloader, #4 Archery/ Late Muzzleloader – tied)*
- The allowance of a **2nd Buck for KY residents is a polarizing issue**
slightly more Strongly Oppose it (35%) than Strongly Support it (31%)
- With nearly **½ of KY hunters aged 55+** regulations and rules changes should be senior and landowner-friendly
- **Simplifying** rules and regulations is often a welcome change
- There are opportunities for **improving the Public land** hunting experience

NEED + INTENT ≠ HARVEST

There's a *mismatch* between **harvest need** and **hunting season plans** with reported **harvest numbers**.

Statewide, **61%** claim they **need to harvest between 1-3 deer** to feed their families AND only **12%** of hunting plans are **'only shoot a large antlered buck'**.

So why aren't they harvesting more deer?

FURTHER EXPLORATION NEEDED



DETAILED FINDINGS

Deer Hunting Frequency, Population, and Management

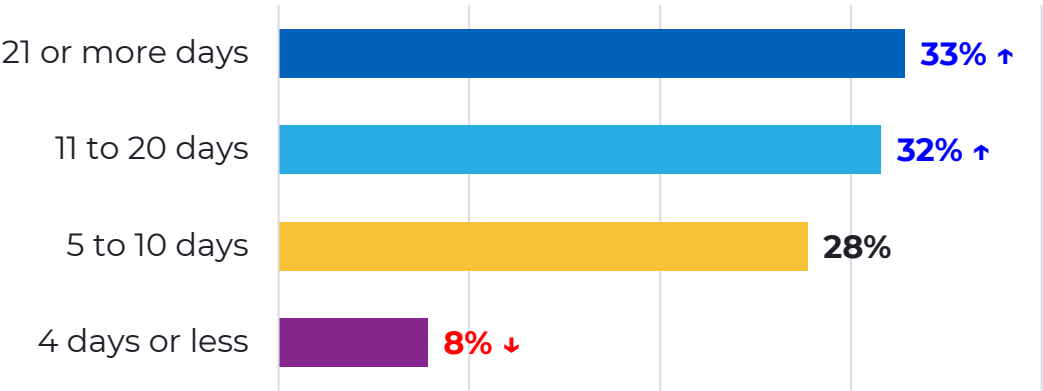


ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

KY Residents make the most of their opportunity to hunt across the Commonwealth, with two-thirds of them hunting 11 or more days per year.

Not surprisingly, those hunting on the Sportsman’s License hunt more days every year as do those that hunt on both private and public land.

Days Spent Hunting Per Year



Days Spent Hunting Per Year

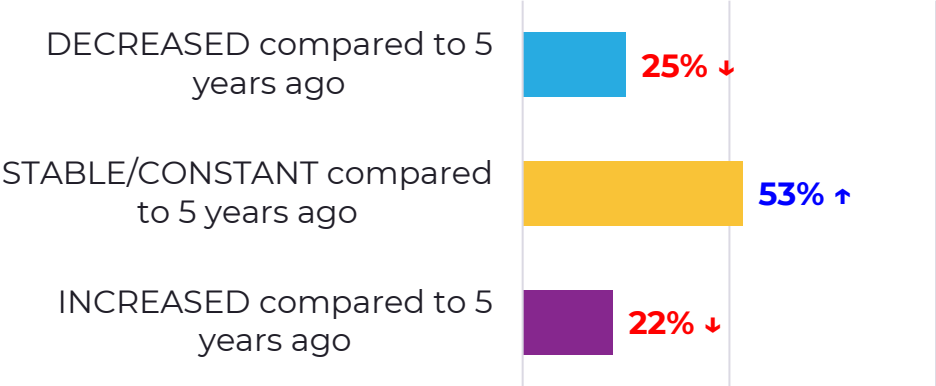
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exemption	Deer permit and hunting license only	Senior/Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
4 days or less	11%	12%	6%	8%	6% ↓	5% ↓	8%	11%	12% ↑	14%	9% ↑	1% ↓
5 to 10 days	25%	33%	31%	25%	29%	23% ↓	34%	31%	34% ↑	21%	31% ↑	15% ↓
11 to 20 days	32%	26%	30%	33%	28%	34%	28%	27%	33%	33%	32%	33%
21 or more days	32%	29%	33%	34%	37%	39% ↑	29%	31%	22% ↓	33%	29% ↓	51% ↑

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Most (53%) believe the deer population in the county they hunt is stable/constant compared to five years ago.

Zone 1, Zone 2, Landowners, and Private Land Hunters most believe the deer populations are stable/constant. Despite the challenges faced by hunters in the CWD Zone, a third of them believe the deer population has increased compared to five years ago.

Deer Population Changes in KY County Hunted



Deer Population Changes in KY County Hunted

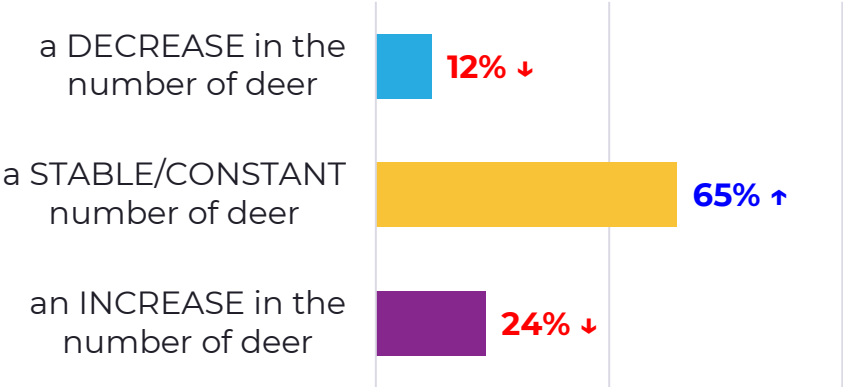
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exemption	Deer permit and hunting license only	Senior/Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Decreased	17% ↓	22%	17%	34% ↑	17% ↓	21%	24%	20%	21%	16%	21%	24%
Stable/Constant	58% ↑	59%	52%	38% ↓	52%	53%	59%	53%	51%	44%	55% ↑	48%
Increased	25%	19% ↓	31%	27%	32% ↑	26%	17% ↓	27%	27%	40% ↑	23% ↓	28%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Overall, most (65%) of resident deer hunters believe the deer population should be managed to maintain a stable/constant number of deer in the county they hunt/hunted most. Zone 1 residents and Private Land hunters drive this figure.

However, over half of Public Land hunters and 38% of Zone 4 residents are less happy with deer populations and believe management should increase the number of deer in the areas they hunt.

Deer Population Management in KY County Hunted



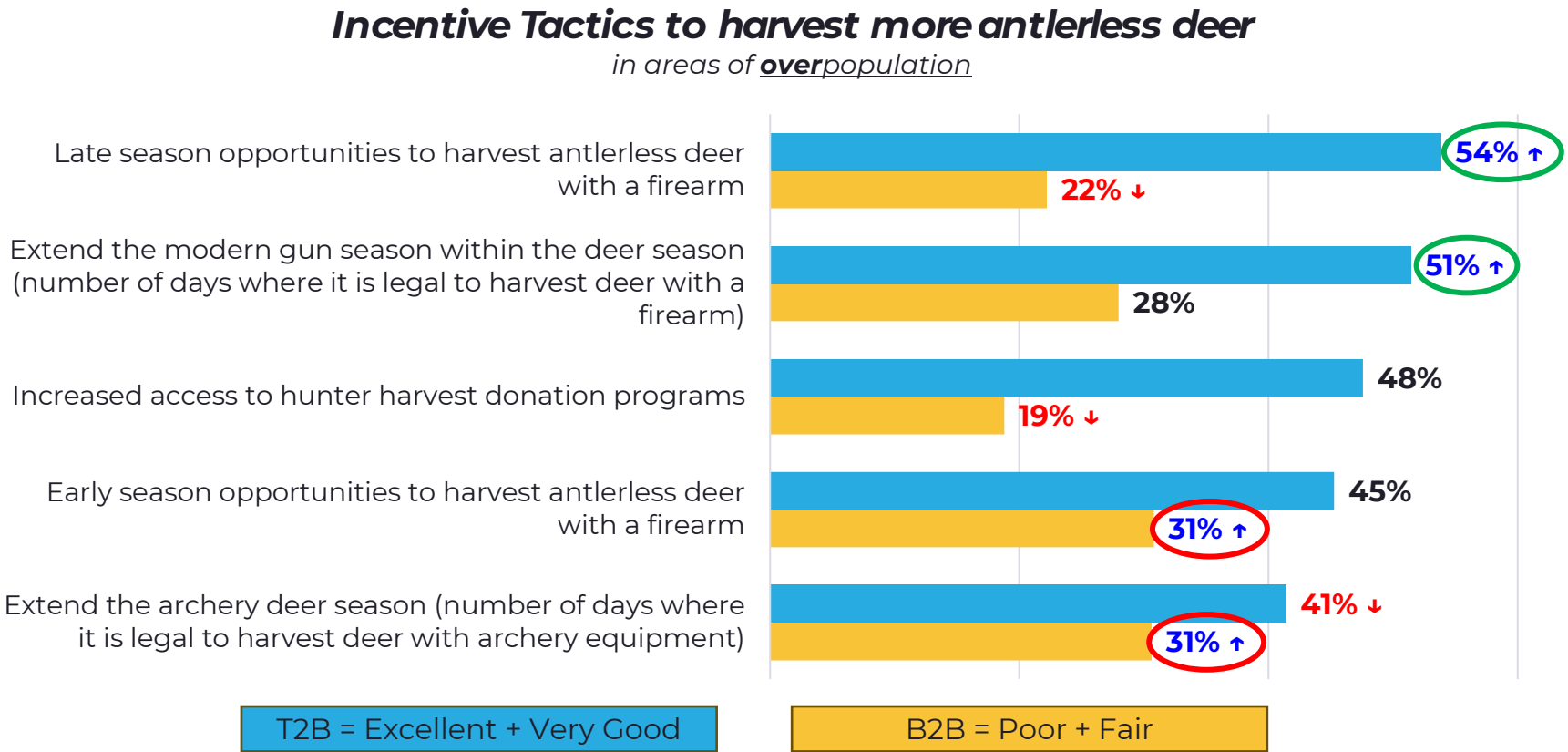
Deer Population Management in KY County Hunted

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exemption	Deer permit and hunting license only	Senior/Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Decrease	13%	13%	6% ↓	12%	11%	12%	15%	12%	10%	7%	12%	12%
Stable/Constant	71% ↑	67%	64%	50% ↓	66%	62%	69%	62%	70%	42% ↓	68% ↑	56% ↓
Increase	16% ↓	21%	30%	38% ↑	23%	26% ↑	15% ↓	26%	21%	51% ↑	20% ↓	31% ↑

Zone 4 residents experience the most hunting restrictions and likely believe increasing the deer population will change the hunting rules for their area.

Hunters believe ‘late season firearm opportunities’ and ‘extensions of modern gun season’ are the best incentives to increase antlerless deer hunting likely due to the timing and popularity of those seasons. Alternatively, the two poorest rated tactics were ‘early season opportunities with a firearm’ and ‘extending archery season’.

For Consideration
While they may feel these bottom two tactics simply won't impact overpopulation numbers effectively, we can speculate some believe these tactics may create an unwelcome overlap with existing seasons resulting in overall confusion and safety considerations.



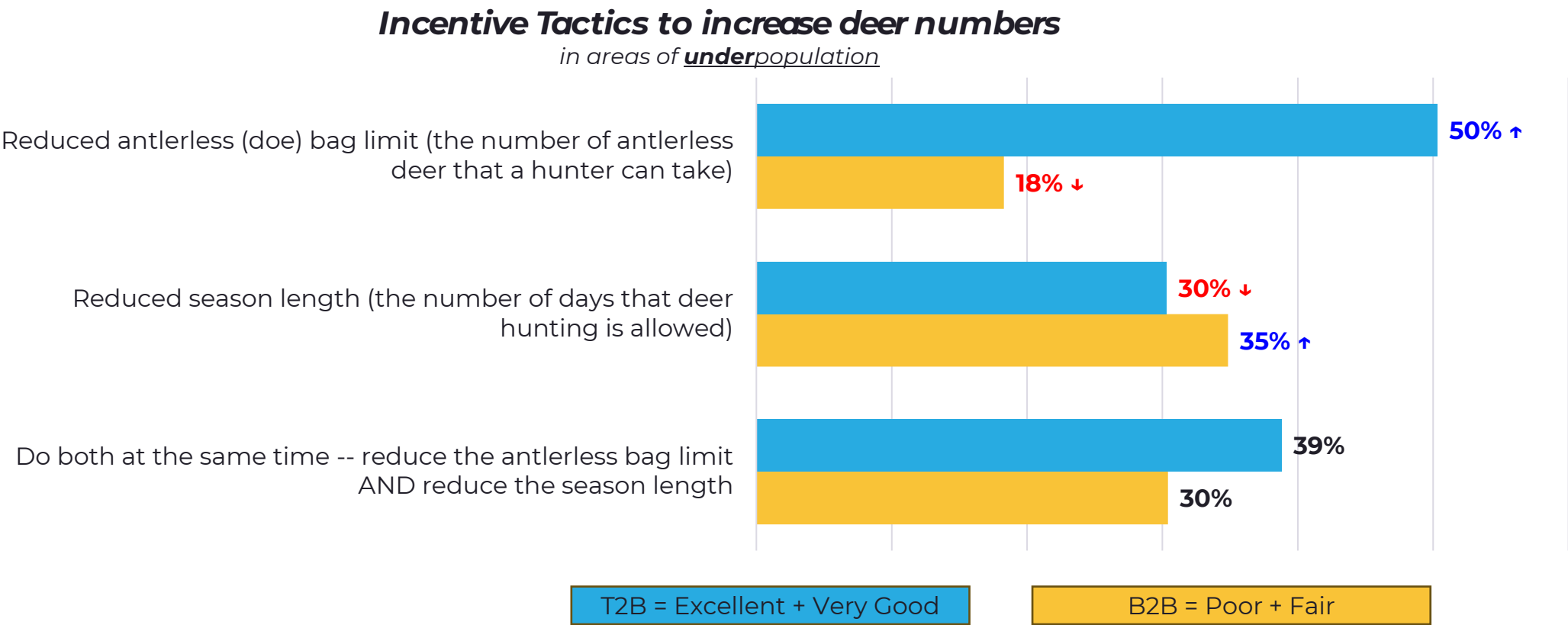
ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Most see ‘late season opportunities to harvest antlerless with a firearm’ and ‘extend the modern gun season’ as positive tactics overall, however those hunting with a Sportsman’s License cite less enthusiasm for the tactic. Three groups, Public Land, Zone 3, and Deer permit & hunting license only hunters, support ‘extending the archery deer season’ more than others.

Incentive Tactics to harvest more antlerless deer
in areas of overpopulation

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Late season opportunities to harvest antlerless deer with a firearm												
T2B	54%	59%	49%	51%	48% ↓	52%	53%	60%	53%	56%	54%	52%
B2B	22%	15% ↓	24%	29% ↑	26%	24%	20%	16%	26%	26%	22%	23%
Extend the modern gun season within the deer season (number of days where it is legal to harvest deer with a firearm)												
T2B	50%	54%	53%	50%	48%	46% ↓	54%	63% ↑	53%	53%	53% ↑	41% ↓
B2B	31%	22% ↓	25%	30%	30%	34% ↑	28%	18% ↓	23%	28%	26% ↓	40% ↑
Increased access to hunter harvest donation programs												
T2B	51%	49%	50%	39% ↓	47%	47%	46%	51%	46%	51%	47%	46%
B2B	18%	17%	15%	24% ↑	19%	21%	17%	15%	19%	21%	18%	21%
Early season opportunities to harvest antlerless deer with a firearm												
T2B	43%	47%	45%	48%	40% ↓	43%	44%	53% ↑	42%	49%	45%	40%
B2B	36% ↑	22% ↓	33%	29%	41% ↑	35% ↑	31%	22% ↓	30%	33%	29% ↓	43% ↑
Extend the archery deer season (number of days where it is legal to harvest deer with archery equipment)												
T2B	39%	43%	50% ↑	40%	39%	39%	38%	52% ↑	39%	63% ↑	39% ↓	43%
B2B	32%	29%	25%	31%	31%	36% ↑	35%	19% ↓	23% ↓	14% ↓	32%	30%

Reducing the number of antlerless deer allowed for harvest is much more popular as a tactic to increase deer numbers than reducing the season length.



While most hunters understand harvest limits and/or season limits are necessary in areas of underpopulation, it's not surprising that those already facing the most restrictions (Zone 4) and those who may deer hunt exclusively (Deer permit & hunting license only) least support any reduction tactics.

Incentive Tactics to increase deer numbers
in areas of underpopulation

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Reduced antlerless (doe) bag limit (the number of antlerless deer that a hunter can take)												
T2B	55% ↑	51%	47%	42% ↓	48%	51%	56%	44%	47%	47%	51%	47%
B2B	14% ↓	18%	19%	26% ↑	22%	18%	10% ↓	31% ↑	17%	19%	18%	21%
Reduced season length (the number of days that deer hunting is allowed)												
T2B	33%	30%	34%	22% ↓	32%	32%	32%	23%	28%	21%	30%	33%
B2B	28% ↓	36%	34%	47% ↑	35%	36%	28% ↓	45% ↑	32%	35%	34%	40%
Do both at the same time -- reduce the antlerless bag limit AND reduce the season length												
T2B	44% ↑	38%	39%	29% ↓	37%	41%	40%	28% ↓	37%	40%	39%	37%
B2B	24% ↓	33%	32%	40% ↑	30%	29%	28%	42% ↑	30%	35%	30%	32%

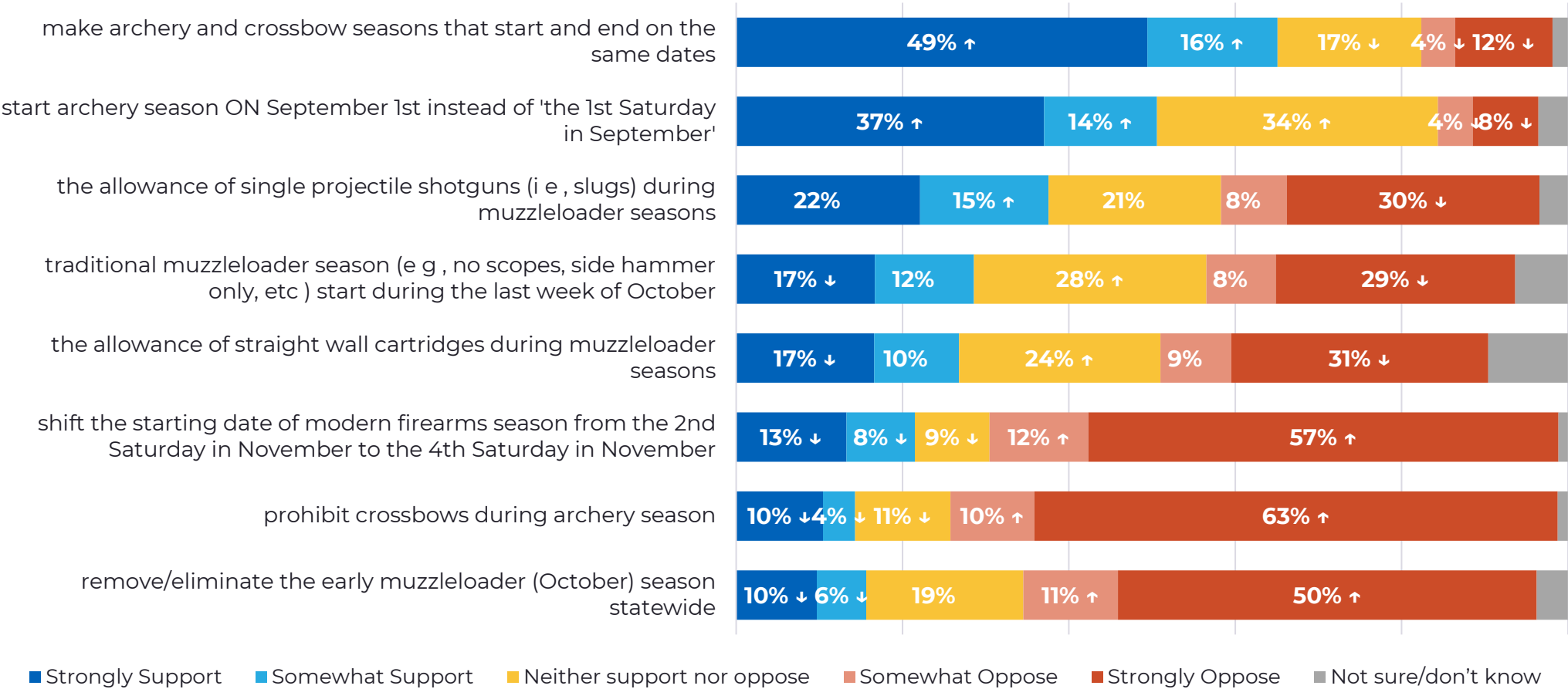
Opinions on Possible Future Deer Hunting Changes



KY hunters opposed more than they supported.

They overwhelmingly oppose prohibition of crossbows during archery season and shifting the starting date of their modern firearms season. They also don't support the removal/elimination of the early muzzleloader season. But they like the idea of making archery and crossbow seasons start and end together.

Support/Opposition to Possible Future Deer Hunting Changes



For Consideration
It should be noted that the two most popular proposed changes achieve simplification overall, not create new nuance or hyper-specific seasons or regulations.

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Crossbow season participation is high among Senior/Disabled licenses (53%), therefore it makes sense that they would support any changes deemed positive for crossbow hunters.

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Make archery and crossbow seasons that start and end on the same dates												
Strongly Support	48%	51%	47%	52%	51%	48%	50%	56%	47%	40%	49%	52%
Somewhat Support	15%	17%	19%	13%	16%	15%	14%	12%	21% ↑	16%	17%	12%
Neither Support nor Oppose	20%	15%	15%	16%	15%	16%	19%	18%	18%	23%	18% ↑	10% ↓
Somewhat Oppose	4%	5%	3%	5%	5%	4%	3%	3%	5%	0%	4%	3%
Strongly Oppose	12%	9%	13%	13%	12%	15% ↑	12%	9%	6% ↓	14%	9% ↓	21% ↑
Not sure/don't know	1%	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	7% ↑	2%	1%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Simplification of rules and regulations will likely always win with hunters, especially those that juggle to keep track of hunting season start dates, lengths, and rules across multiple species.

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Start archery season ON September 1st instead of 'the 1st Saturday' in September												
Strongly Support	38%	30% ↓	42%	39%	39%	42% ↑	34%	31%	27% ↓	47%	33% ↓	47% ↑
Somewhat Support	13%	12%	13%	16%	11%	13%	9%	15%	18%	7%	14%	13%
Neither Support nor Oppose	36%	38%	26%	29%	32%	29% ↓	40%	40%	37%	35%	37% ↑	21% ↓
Somewhat Oppose	4%	4%	7%	4%	5%	4%	6%	3%	5%	2%	4%	4%
Strongly Oppose	6%	11% ↑	7%	8%	8%	9%	9%	6%	7%	9%	8%	10%
Not sure/don't know	3%	4%	4%	4%	5%	3%	3%	5%	6%	0%	3%	5%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Deer permit & hunting license hunters most strongly support ‘the allowance of single projectile shotguns (i.e. slugs) during muzzleloader seasons’.

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
The allowance of single projectile shotguns (i.e. slugs) during muzzleloader seasons												
Strongly Support	23%	24%	17%	21%	23%	21%	23%	31% ↑	19%	28%	22%	20%
Somewhat Support	14%	17%	17%	17%	17%	16%	12%	18%	16%	7%	16%	14%
Neither Support nor Oppose	22%	19%	25%	16%	23%	22%	19%	18%	19%	12%	22% ↑	16%
Somewhat Oppose	8%	9%	10%	6%	8%	7%	9%	5%	11%	9%	8%	7%
Strongly Oppose	31%	27%	26%	35%	26%	32%	33%	27%	27%	42%	27% ↓	40% ↑
Not sure/don't know	2%	3%	6%	5%	4%	2%	4%	2%	6% ↑	2%	4%	3%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Over 1/3 of Zone 4 residents strongly oppose ‘traditional muzzleloader season start during the last week of October’. As with Early and Late Muzzleloader seasons, they may anticipate that they’ll face hunting restrictions in this muzzleloader season as well.

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Traditional muzzleloader season (e.g., no scopes, side hammer only, etc.) start during the last week of October												
Strongly Support	18%	18%	14%	15%	12% ↓	18%	15%	19%	12%	28% ↑	16%	17%
Somewhat Support	12%	12%	12%	12%	10%	10% ↓	13%	20% ↑	11%	14%	12%	11%
Neither Support nor Oppose	27%	29%	34%	26%	31%	28%	26%	23%	31%	21%	28%	28%
Somewhat Oppose	9%	9%	7%	7%	8%	8%	9%	10%	8%	5%	9%	8%
Strongly Oppose	30%	23% ↓	26%	34% ↑	32%	31%	28%	22%	29%	28%	28%	33%
Not sure/don't know	5%	8%	7%	7%	8%	5% ↓	8%	6%	9%	5%	7% ↑	3%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

While about one-third of all target audiences Strongly Opposed *‘the allowance of straight wall cartridges during muzzleloader seasons’*, 31% of Deer permit & hunting license hunters Strongly Supported the change.

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
The allowance of straight wall cartridges during muzzleloader seasons												
Strongly Support	23%	24%	17%	21%	23%	21%	23%	31% ↑	19%	28%	22%	20%
Somewhat Support	14%	17%	17%	17%	17%	16%	12%	18%	16%	7%	16%	14%
Neither Support nor Oppose	22%	19%	25%	16%	23%	22%	19%	18%	19%	12%	22% ↑	16%
Somewhat Oppose	8%	9%	10%	6%	8%	7%	9%	5%	11%	9%	8%	7%
Strongly Oppose	31%	27%	26%	35%	26%	32%	33%	27%	27%	42%	27% ↓	40% ↑
Not sure/don't know	2%	3%	6%	5%	4%	2%	4%	2%	6% ↑	2%	4%	3%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

With the restrictions they already face in Zone 4, pushing the start of modern firearms season to even later in the year is highly unpopular. For hunters in Zone 4, pushing the start date means hunting in rougher terrain, with less daylight, and colder weather than other hunting zones face.

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Shift the starting date of modern firearms season from the 2nd Saturday in November to the 4th Saturday in November												
Strongly Support	14%	15%	10%	11%	12%	15%	13%	16%	9% ↓	28% ↑	12% ↓	17%
Somewhat Support	7%	9%	12%	7%	9%	9%	6%	10%	7%	9%	8%	10%
Neither Support nor Oppose	8%	9%	11%	9%	10%	9%	6%	7%	11%	7%	9%	11%
Somewhat Oppose	13%	17% ↑	10%	6% ↓	13%	11%	11%	10%	15%	5%	13% ↑	7% ↓
Strongly Oppose	57%	48% ↓	56%	65% ↑	55%	56%	62%	53%	57%	51%	57%	54%
Not sure/don't know	1%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Across all target audiences, ‘prohibiting crossbows during archery season’ is very unpopular.

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Prohibit crossbows during archery season												
Strongly Support	10%	9%	11%	13%	10%	12%	11%	7%	7%	19%	9% ↓	16% ↑
Somewhat Support	4%	4%	6%	3%	5%	4%	2%	4%	5%	0%	4%	6%
Neither Support nor Oppose	12%	13%	12%	9%	9%	10%	9%	15%	16% ↑	19%	12%	9%
Somewhat Oppose	11%	11%	9%	9%	10%	10%	12%	12%	9%	16%	10%	10%
Strongly Oppose	64%	62%	60%	65%	64%	63%	64%	61%	62%	47% ↓	65% ↑	57%
Not sure/don't know	1%	1%	3% ↑	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%	3% ↑

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

While among the most unpopular of possible future changes overall, *‘removing/eliminating the early muzzleloader season statewide’* appears quite undesirable for Landowners.

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Remove/eliminate the early muzzleloader (October) season statewide												
Strongly Support	9%	10%	9%	11%	10%	11%	8%	10%	7%	12%	9% ↓	14% ↑
Somewhat Support	5%	7%	6%	7%	7%	6%	6%	8%	5%	5%	6%	6%
Neither Support nor Oppose	20%	19%	20%	15%	22%	19%	13%	19%	23%	16%	21% ↑	13% ↓
Somewhat Oppose	13%	10%	12%	8%	10%	10%	9%	13%	15%	14%	11%	11%
Strongly Oppose	49%	50%	48%	55%	46%	50%	60% ↑	44%	47%	49%	50%	52%
Not sure/don't know	3%	4%	5%	4%	5%	4%	3%	6%	3%	5%	4%	3%

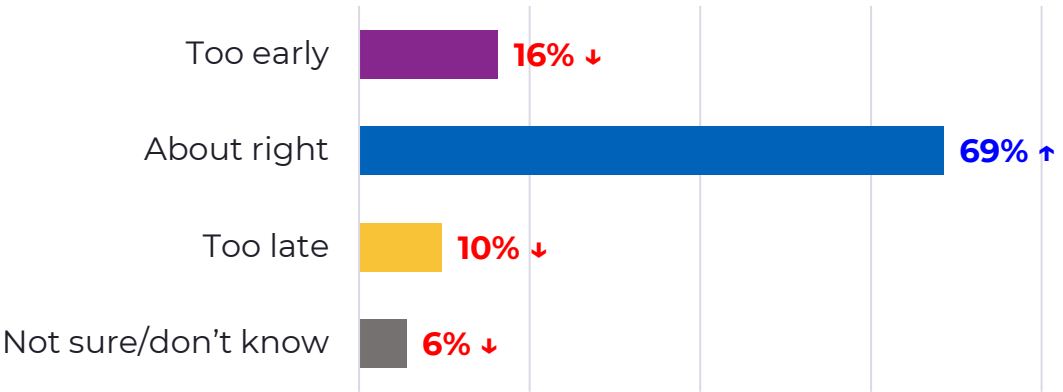
Opinions on Season Starts and Lengths



ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Overall, most are happy with the starting day of Archery season (69%). However, 21% of those hunting Public lands exclusively think it starts ‘too late’ and 21% of Zone 2 hunters believe it starts ‘too early’.

Starting Day of Archery Season



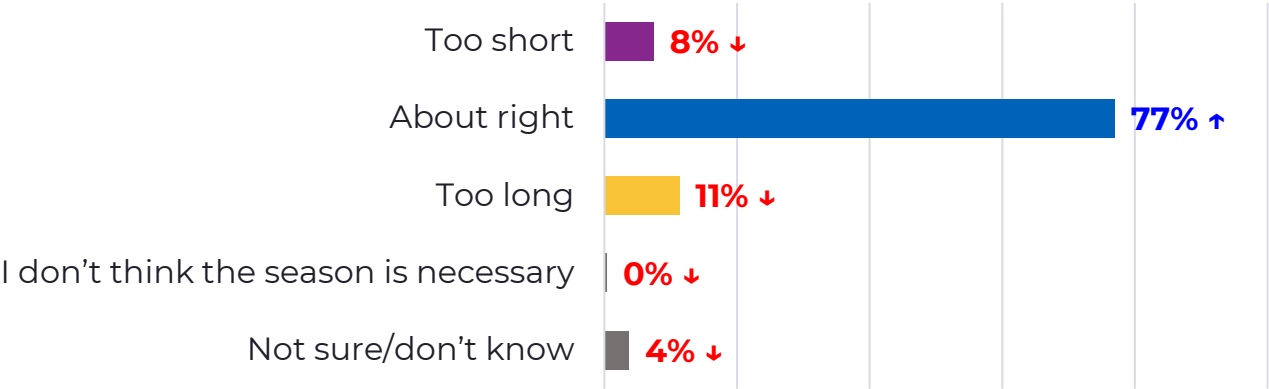
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exemption	Deer permit and hunting license only	Senior/Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Too early	15%	21% ↑	17%	15%	18%	16%	16%	11%	21%	14%	17%	13%
About right	71%	64%	69%	69%	68%	69%	68%	73%	65%	58%	69%	71%
Too late	9%	10%	8%	12%	8%	11%	10%	9%	6%	21% ↑	8% ↓	13%
Not sure/ DK	6%	5%	7%	5%	7%	4% ↓	6%	7%	9% ↑	7%	6%	3%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Seventy-seven percent of hunters believe the length of Archery season is ‘about right’.

Twenty percent of Public Land hunters believe the season is ‘too short’.

Length of the Archery Season



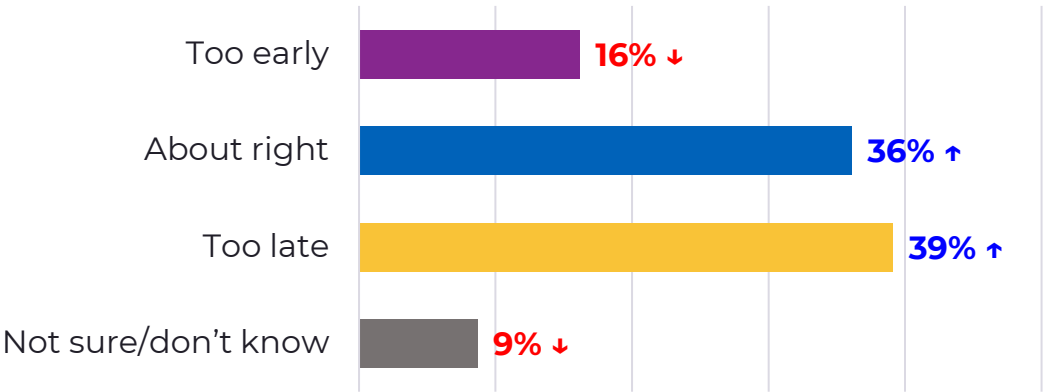
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exemption	Deer permit and hunting license only	Senior/Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Too short	9%	9%	7%	4% ↓	7%	7%	7%	8%	6%	19% ↑	7%	8%
About right	78%	73%	71%	81%	74%	79%	75%	79%	71% ↓	63% ↓	77%	79%
Too long	9%	12%	15%	12%	13%	10%	15%	8%	14%	12%	12%	10%
Not necessary	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Not sure/ DK	4%	4%	6%	2%	5%	2% ↓	3%	5%	7% ↑	7%	4%	3%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

For many, Crossbow season starts ‘too late’ (39%), while thirty-six percent say the season start date is ‘about right’.

Senior/ Disabled license holders are allowed to hunt both crossbow season and regular archery season with a crossbow, so they don’t need the season extended.

Starting Day of Crossbow Season

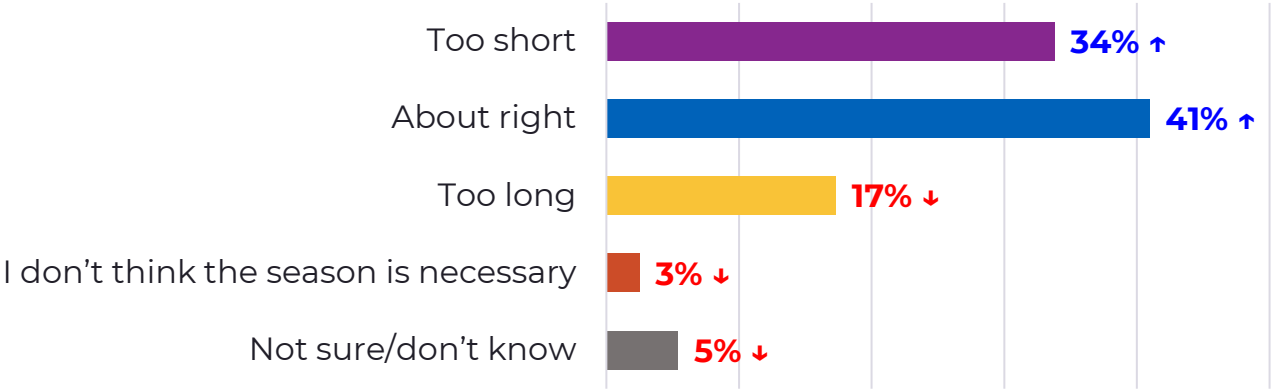


COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exemption	Deer permit and hunting license only	Senior/Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Too early	15%	18%	19%	15%	17%	18%	17%	15%	12%	23%	15%	20%
About right	35%	39%	36%	35%	32%	33% ↓	40%	37%	43% ↑	42%	37%	31%
Too late	40%	38%	35%	42%	38%	41%	34%	41%	35%	26%	39%	40%
Not sure/ DK	10%	5% ↓	11%	8%	13% ↑	9%	9%	6%	10%	9%	9%	8%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

While many believe the Crossbow season length is ‘about right’ (41%), over one-third think the season is ‘too short’.

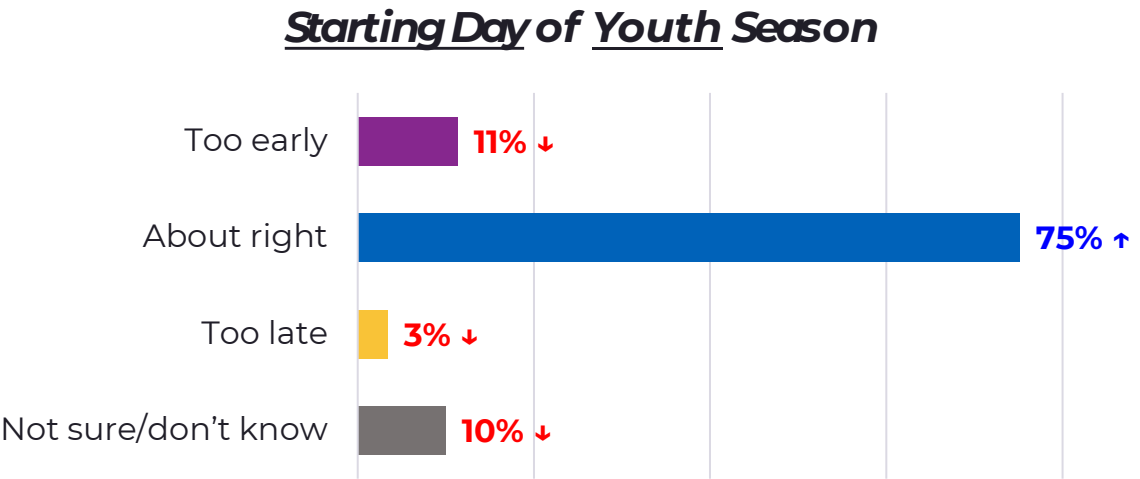
Length of the Crossbow Season



COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exemption	Deer permit and hunting license only	Senior/Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Too short	35%	32%	30%	36%	34%	37%	32%	35%	27% ↓	26%	34%	34%
About right	40%	46%	39%	38%	38%	37% ↓	42%	43%	49% ↑	40%	42%	35%
Too long	15%	16%	21%	21%	20%	19%	15%	17%	15%	28%	16% ↓	20%
Not necessary	3%	2%	0%	3%	1%	3%	6% ↑	1%	1%	2%	2%	4%
Not sure/ DK	7%	3%	10% ↑	2% ↓	8% ↑	4%	6%	5%	9% ↑	5%	5%	6%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

The starting day of Youth season is ‘about right’ for 75% of hunters.



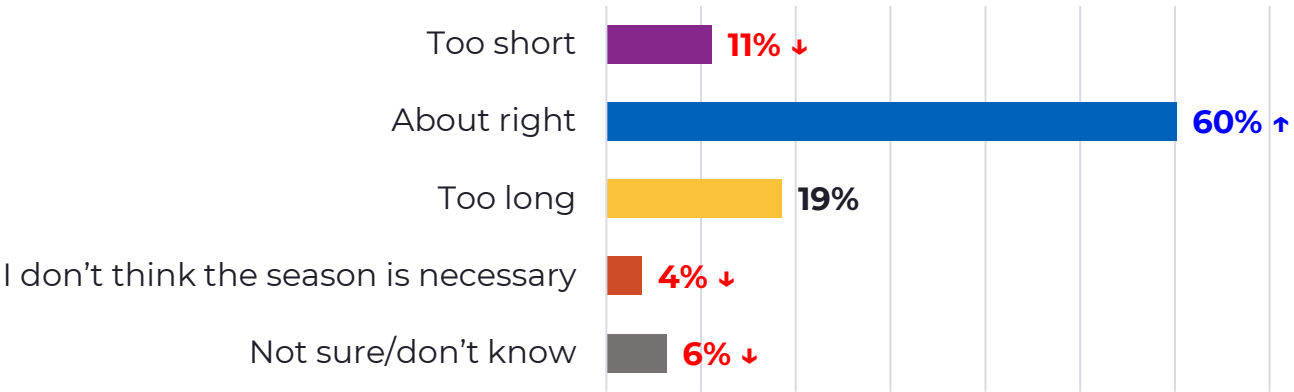
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exemption	Deer permit and hunting license only	Senior/Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Too early	11%	12%	12%	10%	14%	13%	8%	16%	6% ↓	14%	11%	10%
About right	75%	74%	75%	77%	74%	76%	81%	70%	75%	72%	75%	78%
Too late	3%	2%	3%	5%	4%	3%	1%	3%	5%	2%	3%	6%
Not sure/ DK	11%	11%	9%	8%	8%	8% ↓	9%	10%	15% ↑	12%	11%	7%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Fewer think the length of Youth season is ‘about right’ (60%) than approve of the start date.

About a quarter of hunters from both Zone 4 and CWD Zone believe Youth season is ‘too long’.

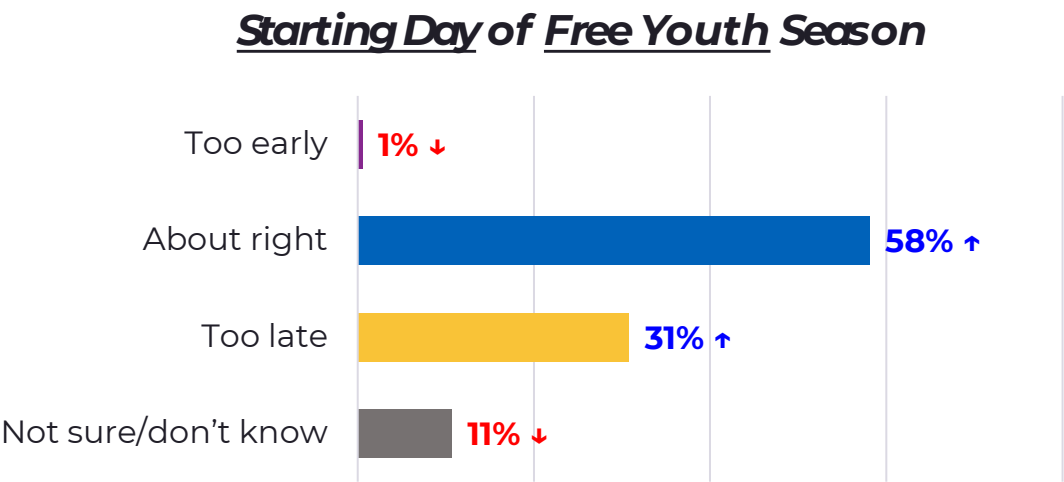
Length of the Youth Season



COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exemption	Deer permit and hunting license only	Senior/Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Too short	10%	14%	11%	10%	10%	11%	11%	15%	10%	19%	12%	8%
About right	62%	60%	59%	57%	58%	60%	62%	53%	62%	47%	61%	60%
Too long	15% ↓	15%	21%	27% ↑	23% ↑	20%	17%	17%	19%	26%	18%	21%
Not necessary	5% ↑	3%	0% ↓	4%	3%	3%	4%	6%	3%	5%	3%	5%
Not sure/ DK	7%	8%	9%	2% ↓	6%	6%	6%	8%	6%	5%	7%	6%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

While the majority feel the starting day of Free Youth season is ‘about right’, nearly 1/3 feel it starts ‘too late’.



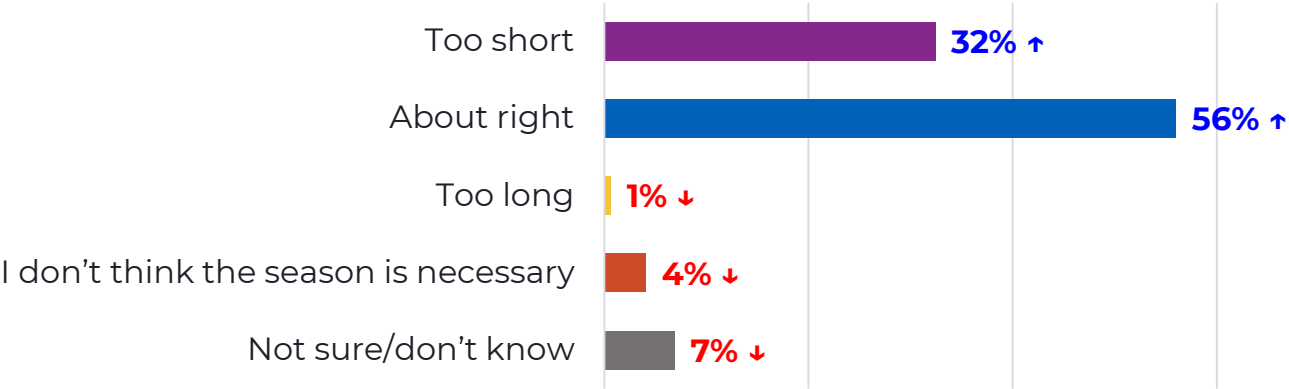
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exemption	Deer permit and hunting license only	Senior/Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Too early	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%
About right	58%	56%	60%	60%	61%	59%	58%	49% ↓	62%	63%	57%	63%
Too late	31%	30%	26%	32%	29%	31%	31%	35%	26%	26%	31%	30%
Not sure/ DK	11%	13%	13%	7%	9%	9%	10%	15%	11%	9%	12%	7%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

About the same number that think it starts ‘too late’ also think Free Youth season is ‘too short’ (32%). Over 40% of Deer permit and hunting license only hunters feel the season is ‘too short’.

The ability to hunt with youth, free of charge/exempt from purchasing licenses and permits, offers the opportunity for a hunting experience focused on learning, making it less stressful and harvest-intense.

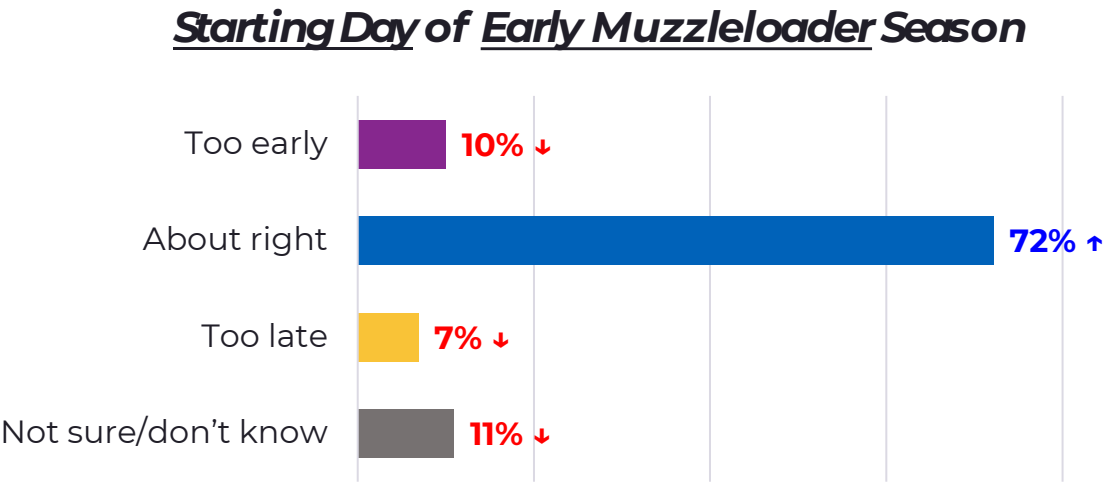
Length of the Free Youth Season



COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exemption	Deer permit and hunting license only	Senior/Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Too short	35%	31%	30%	31%	31%	34%	31%	42% ↑	22% ↓	40%	32%	29%
About right	53%	57%	60%	58%	58%	56%	59%	44% ↓	64% ↑	53%	56%	56%
Too long	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Not necessary	4%	4%	1%	6%	4%	4%	3%	4%	6%	2%	3%	7% ↑
Not sure/ DK	7%	7%	9%	4%	6%	6%	6%	10%	7%	5%	7%	6%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Most hunters (72%) believe the starting day of Early Muzzleloader season is ‘about right’.



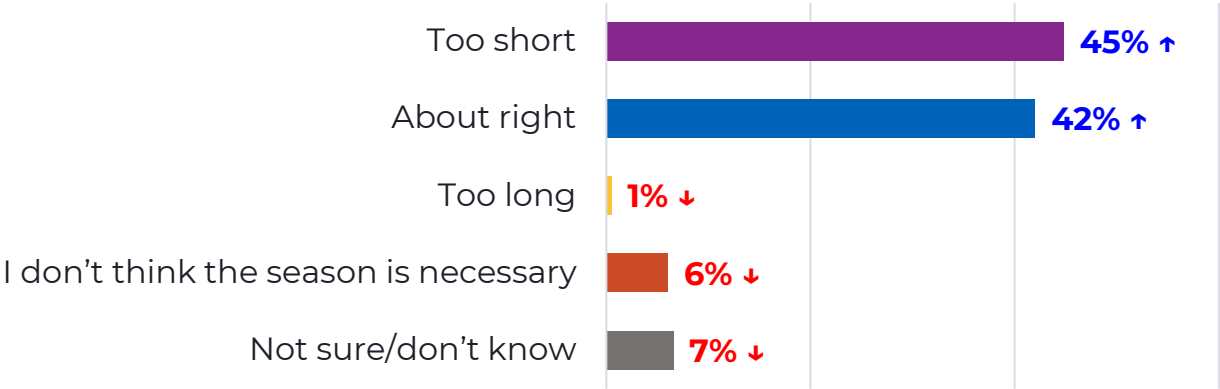
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exemption	Deer permit and hunting license only	Senior/Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Too early	11%	10%	7%	9%	11%	12%	10%	10%	5% ↓	16%	9%	12%
About right	70%	72%	72%	77%	69%	72%	76%	70%	73%	74%	73%	70%
Too late	7%	8%	4%	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%	9%	0%	6%	10%
Not sure/ DK	11%	10%	17% ↑	8%	13%	10%	8%	13%	14%	9%	12%	8%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

While the start date may be ‘about right’, a large share of hunters believe Early Muzzleloader season is ‘too short’ (45%).

Those from Zone 4 and Deer permit and hunting license only hunters especially find the season length ‘too short’.

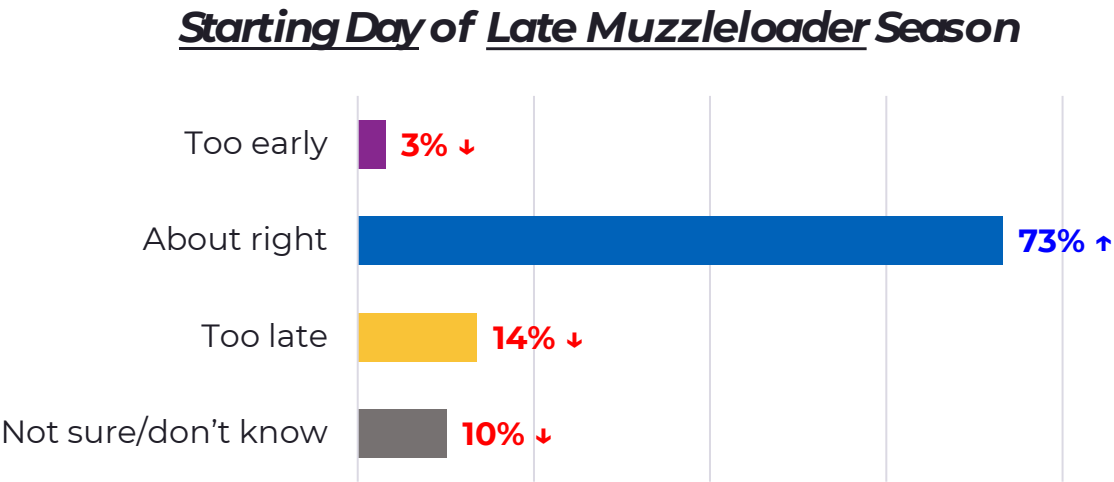
Length of the Early Muzzleloader Season



COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exemption	Deer permit and hunting license only	Senior/Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Too short	44%	42%	41%	51% ↑	42%	41% ↓	47%	52%	48%	40%	45%	44%
About right	42%	45%	43%	39%	42%	47% ↑	42%	28% ↓	39%	49%	42%	43%
Too long	0%	0%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Not necessary	6%	9% ↑	2%	6%	5%	6%	7%	10% ↑	4%	5%	6%	9%
Not sure/ DK	8%	5%	12% ↑	3% ↓	10% ↑	6%	4%	9%	8%	7%	8% ↑	2% ↓

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

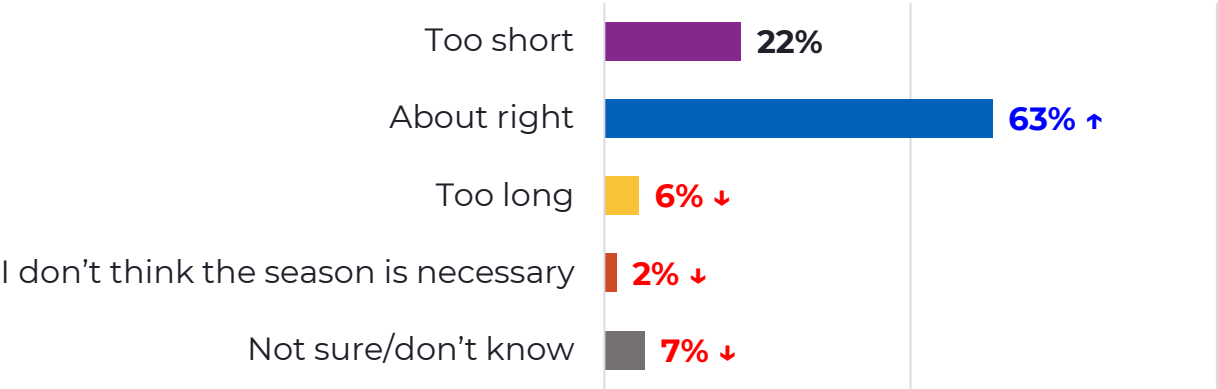
Most hunters (73%) believe the starting day of Late Muzzleloader season is ‘about right’.



COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exemption	Deer permit and hunting license only	Senior/Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Too early	4%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	5%	4%	2%	5%	3%	5%
About right	71%	77%	74%	73%	74%	75%	73%	69%	74%	67%	74%	76%
Too late	13%	12%	12%	18% ↑	10%	12%	10%	18%	15%	16%	13%	13%
Not sure/ DK	12% ↑	9%	11%	7%	13%	10%	12%	10%	8%	12%	11%	6%

About two-thirds find the length of Late Muzzleloader season is ‘about right’.

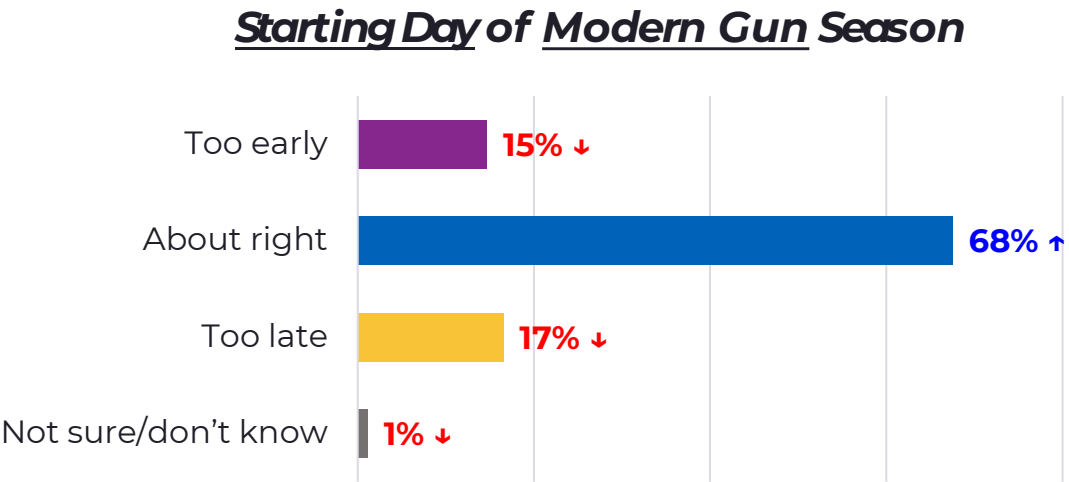
Length of the Late Muzzleloader Season



COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exemption	Deer permit and hunting license only	Senior/Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Too short	26% ↑	21%	21%	18%	19%	21%	25%	28%	17%	16%	22%	22%
About right	59% ↓	64%	66%	69%	64%	64%	60%	56% ↓	72% ↑	65%	63%	67%
Too long	6%	5%	3%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	4%	5%	6%	6%
Not necessary	2%	3%	0%	2%	1%	2%	5% ↑	2%	0% ↓	5%	2%	2%
Not sure/ DK	7%	6%	10%	4%	9%	6%	4%	9%	7%	9%	7%	3%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

While 68% of hunters feel the starting day of Modern Gun season is ‘about right’, Sportsman’s license and Deer permit and hunting license only hunters less so.



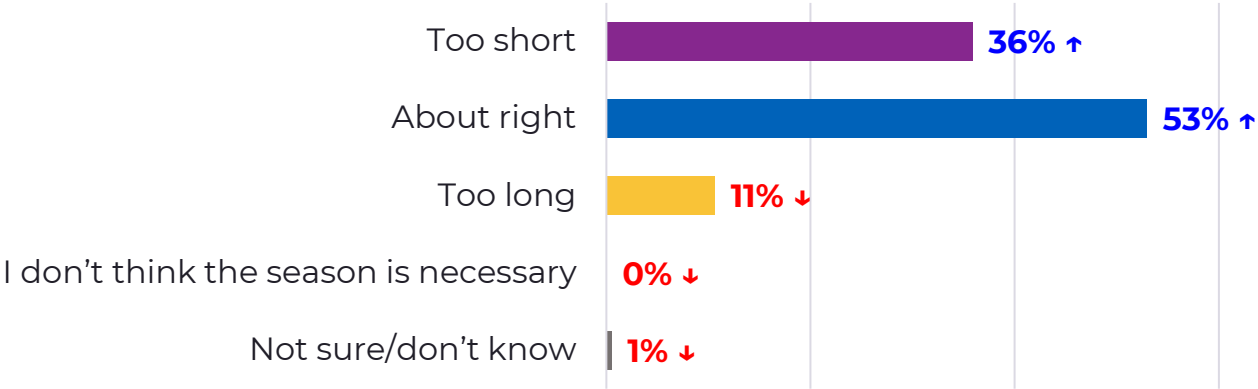
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exemption	Deer permit and hunting license only	Senior/Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Too early	16%	17%	12%	11%	12%	17% ↑	12%	17%	10% ↓	28% ↑	13% ↓	20% ↑
About right	66%	67%	68%	70%	71%	65% ↓	76% ↑	59% ↓	76% ↑	58%	70% ↑	63%
Too late	16%	14%	20%	19%	16%	17%	12%	23% ↑	14%	9%	17%	16%
Not sure/ DK	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	5% ↑	1%	0%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Fifty-three percent of KY hunters feel the length of Modern Gun season is ‘about right’. However, 36% feel Modern Gun season is ‘too short’ –not a surprising sentiment for the most popular season type overall.

The belief that Modern Gun season is ‘too short’ is driven by Deer permit and hunting license only hunters. A fair amount of Sportsman’s license holders feel the season is ‘too long’.

Length of the Modern Gun Season



COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exemption	Deer permit and hunting license only	Senior/Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Too short	39%	36%	36%	30% ↓	35%	33%	42%	52% ↑	26% ↓	37%	37%	31%
About right	50%	54%	52%	57%	53%	51%	51%	40% ↓	70% ↑	53%	54%	50%
Too long	10%	9%	12%	13%	11%	15% ↑	7%	6%	4% ↓	9%	9% ↓	19% ↑
Not necessary	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Not sure/ DK	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%	0%

Youth Season Overlap, Traditional Muzzleloader, and 2nd Buck

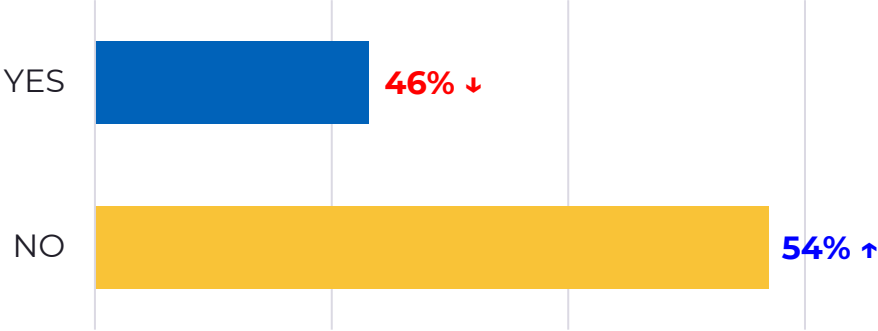


ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Fifty-four percent of hunters did NOT know about the 2-day overlap between Youth Firearm and Early Muzzleloader seasons.

Private land hunters and Senior/Disabled license hunters were among the least aware of the overlap. Zone 4 and Sportsman’s license hunters were among the most aware.

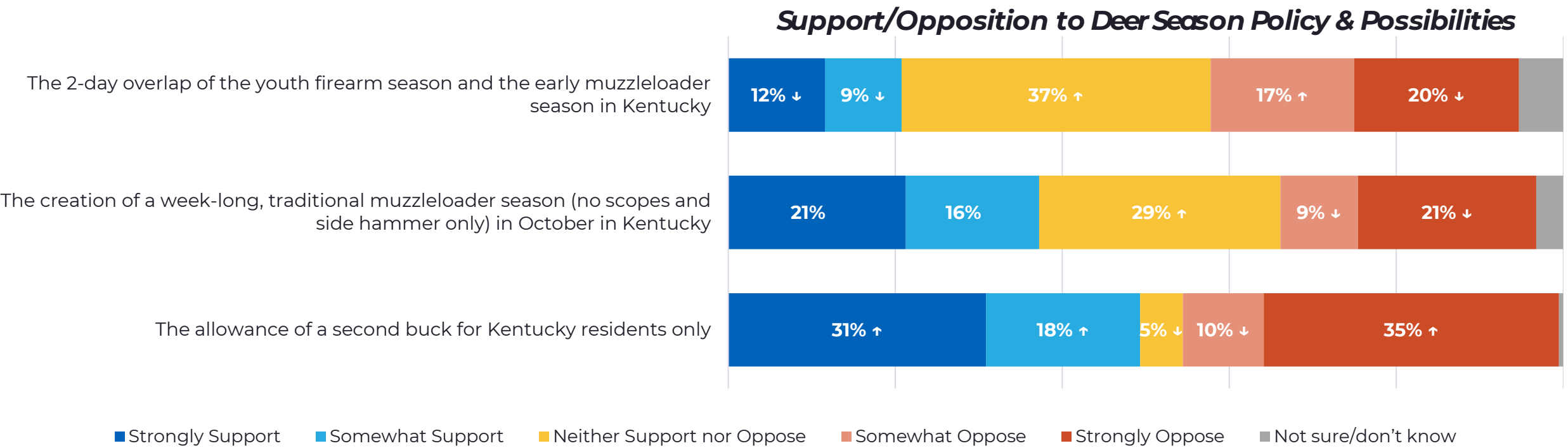
Awareness of 2-Day Overlap:
Youth Firearm and Early Muzzleloader Seasons



COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exemption	Deer permit and hunting license only	Senior/Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Yes	43%	41%	49%	54% ↑	47%	52% ↑	42%	40%	37% ↓	42%	43% ↓	58% ↑
No	57%	59%	51%	46% ↓	53%	48% ↓	58%	60%	63% ↑	58%	57% ↑	42% ↓

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

More KY hunters ‘strongly oppose’ (35%) the allowance of a second buck for KY residents than ‘strongly support’ it (31%). Thirty-seven percent of hunters have no position on the 2-day overlap of youth firearm and the early muzzleloader seasons. More people take no position (29%) on the creation of a week-long traditional muzzleloader season than either ‘strongly support’ or ‘strongly oppose’ its creation, 21% for both.



ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Zone 4 hunters show the most opposition (29%) to the 2-day overlap of the youth firearm and early muzzleloader seasons.

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
2-day overlap of the youth firearm season and the early muzzleloader season in Kentucky												
Strongly Support	10%	15%	12%	10%	10%	12%	12%	10%	11%	12%	11%	12%
Somewhat Support	11%	8%	8%	8%	10%	8%	8%	12%	9%	9%	8%	12%
Neither Support nor Oppose	40%	40%	40%	26% ↓	39%	38%	42%	35%	35%	28%	40% ↑	30% ↓
Somewhat Oppose	16%	17%	17%	21%	21%	16%	15%	15%	24% ↑	16%	18%	16%
Strongly Oppose	18%	15% ↓	18%	29% ↑	17%	22% ↑	16%	19%	15%	28%	17% ↓	28% ↑
Not sure/don't know	5%	6%	6%	6%	3%	3% ↓	8%	8%	6%	7%	6%	3%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Thirty percent of Zone 4 hunters ‘strongly oppose’ the creation of a week-long, traditional muzzleloader season. Again, their opposition may reflect a perception that this muzzleloader season would also carry hunting restrictions for antlerless deer for them.

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Creation of a week-long, traditional muzzleloader season (no scopes and side hammer only) in October in Kentucky												
Strongly Support	22%	23%	18%	20%	15% ↓	22%	15%	19%	26%	33%	20% ↓	25%
Somewhat Support	14%	18%	18%	17%	15%	15%	17%	15%	18%	21%	15%	19%
Neither Support nor Oppose	30%	29%	31%	25%	31%	28%	31%	32%	27%	19%	32% ↑	20% ↓
Somewhat Oppose	11%	10%	12%	4% ↓	11%	9%	11%	11%	8%	7%	10%	6%
Strongly Oppose	21%	15% ↓	18%	30% ↑	24%	23%	22%	18%	18%	21%	20%	27% ↑
Not sure/don't know	2%	5%	2%	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%	3%	0%	3%	3%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Zone 1 and those hunting with a Sportsman’s license are the most opposed to an ‘allowance of a second buck for Kentucky residents’ whereas Zone 4 hunters are the most supportive.

It’s inevitable that the zone with the least restrictions on harvest (Zone 1) would not support the allowance on a second deer, while hunters with the most harvest restrictions would like the opportunity for more (Zone 4).

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman’s license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Allowance of a second buck for Kentucky residents only												
Strongly Support	28%	31%	29%	37% ↑	31%	31%	28%	35%	29%	37%	30%	33%
Somewhat Support	15% ↓	23%	24%	17%	17%	16% ↓	17%	25%	24% ↑	14%	20%	16%
Neither Support nor Oppose	7%	6%	2%	3%	5%	4%	6%	3%	7%	2%	5%	6%
Somewhat Oppose	10%	9%	12%	9%	12%	8%	13%	7%	14% ↑	5%	10%	11%
Strongly Oppose	40% ↑	30%	32%	34%	35%	41% ↑	35%	28%	26% ↓	42%	35%	35%
Not sure/don’t know	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%

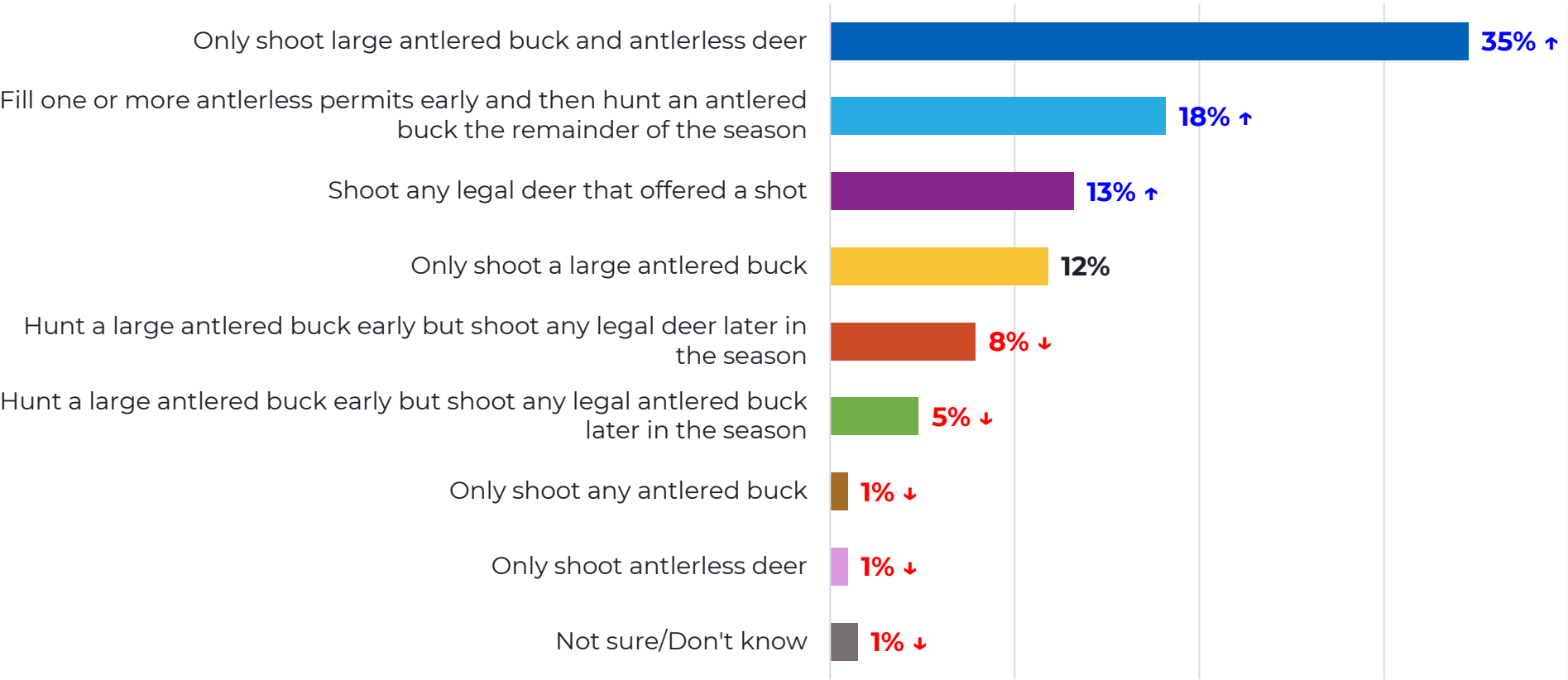
Hunting Plan & Season Types Hunted



CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

Over 1/3 of KY hunters said their plan for the 2025-2026 deer hunting season was ‘*only shoot large antlered buck and antlerless deer*’. Only 12% of hunters appear to only be trophy-hunting and only 1% say they’ll shoot anything with horns.

2025-2026 KY Deer Hunting Season Plan



CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

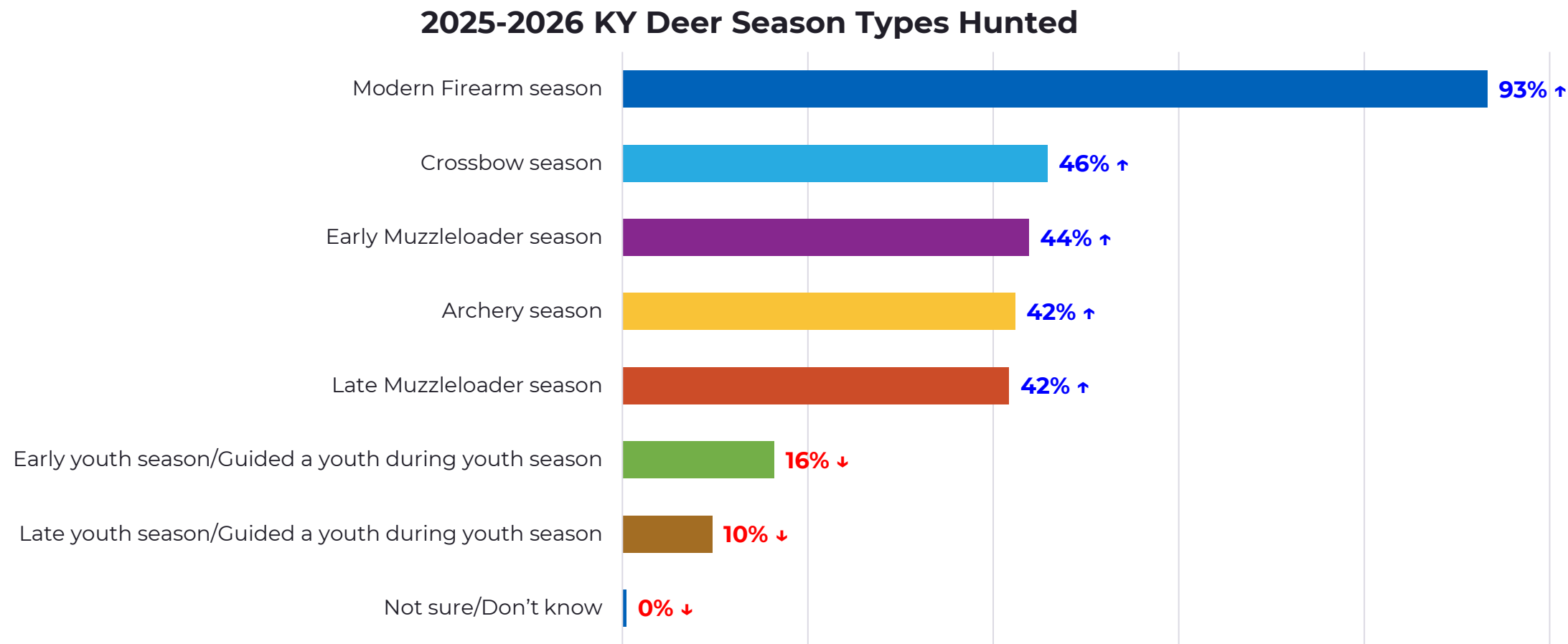
The most popular hunting plans for specific target audiences align logically. It makes sense that Deer permit & hunting license hunters would plan on filling permits early, Public Land hunters –with no where else to hunt– would be the most likely to shoot what they could get, and Senior/Disabled license hunters, along with Zone 4 hunters, would be as selective as possible in what they shoot.

2025-2026 KY Deer Hunting Season Plan

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Only shoot large buck & antlerless	40% ↑	36%	29%	25% ↓	33%	41% ↑	33%	23% ↓	25% ↓	16% ↓	35%	38%
Fill one or more antlerless permits early & hunt antlered buck remainder	18%	18%	16%	20%	20%	16%	17%	27% ↑	19%	14%	18%	21%
Shoot any legal deer that offered	12%	15%	16%	13%	13%	13%	10%	18%	14%	30% ↑	13%	10%
Only shoot large antlered buck	10%	9%	14%	18% ↑	11%	9% ↓	15%	10%	17% ↑	19%	12%	11%
Hunt large antlered buck early, shoot any legal ant. buck later	3%	4%	3%	9% ↑	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	7%	4%	7%
Hunt large antlered buck early, but shoot any deer later	7%	10%	11%	5%	9%	7%	9%	6%	11%	9%	9% ↑	3% ↓
Only shoot any antlered buck	0%	1%	1%	2% ↑	1%	1%	1%	1%	2% ↑	2%	1%	1%
Only shoot antlerless deer	2% ↑	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	3% ↑	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Not sure/ Don't know	1%	1%	3%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%

CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

The most popular season type is Modern Firearm season at 93% of respondents saying they hunted with a modern firearm in 2025-2026. A distant second is Crossbow season (46%), followed by Early Muzzleloader season (44%), Archery season (42%) and Late Muzzleloader season (42%).



CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

Only 77% of Public Land hunters participate in Modern Firearm season. Fifty-three percent of Senior/Disabled license holders participate in Crossbow season and 54% of Sportsman’s license holders participate in Archery season. Sportsman’s license and Zone 4 hunters also guide youth in Early Youth season more than others.

2025-2026 KY Deer Season Types Hunted

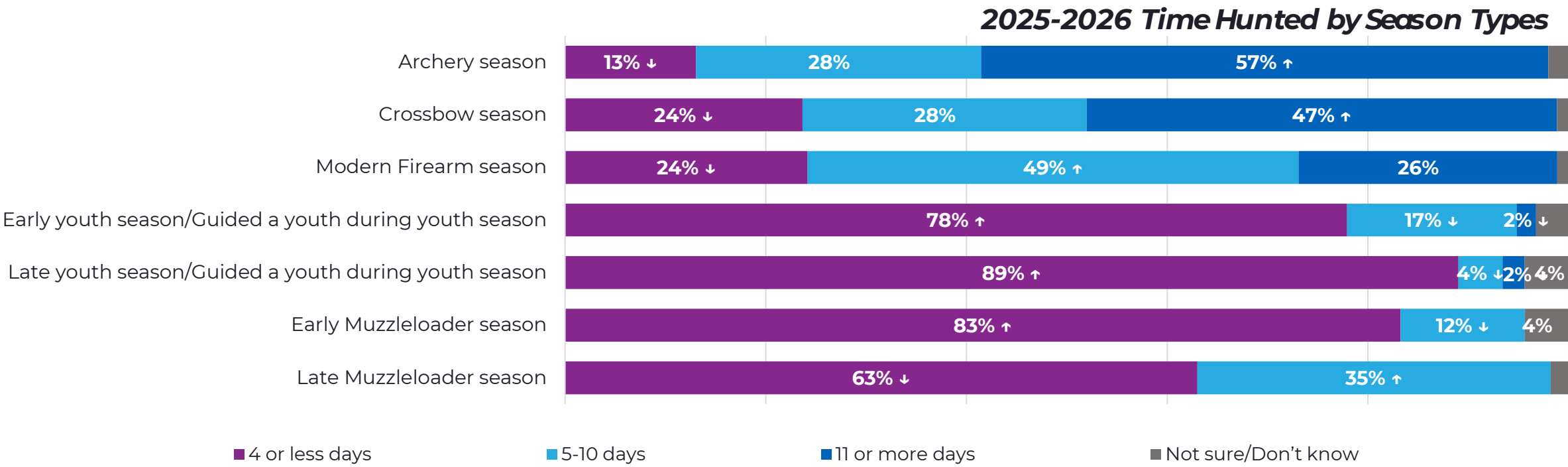
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Modern Firearm season	93%	95%	96%	91%	93%	93%	94%	94%	93%	77% ↓	94%	94%
Crossbow season	46%	45%	44%	47%	48%	46%	48%	31% ↓	53% ↑	21% ↓	47%	47%
Early Muzzleloader season	43%	44%	38%	48%	38% ↓	45%	45%	41%	43%	28% ↓	43%	51% ↑
Archery season	40%	42%	44%	46%	46%	54% ↑	29% ↓	36%	23% ↓	53%	36% ↓	65% ↑
Late Muzzleloader season	42%	42%	39%	41%	42%	43%	42%	35%	41%	30%	39% ↓	56% ↑
Early youth season/ Guided a youth during youth season	15%	16%	10%	22% ↑	18%	20% ↑	14%	16%	9% ↓	2% ↓	15% ↓	26% ↑
Late youth season/ Guided a youth during youth season	8%	12%	6%	12%	10%	12% ↑	8%	10%	6%	5%	9%	14% ↑
Not sure/ Don't know	0%	0%	1%	1%	1% ↑	0%	0%	0%	2% ↑	0%	1%	0%

Time Hunted by Season Types



CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

As expected, the season types hunted the most days are also the longest seasons overall and vice versa. As the most hunted season type overall, Modern Firearm had over ¼ of hunters say they hunted most of the days it was open.



CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

Senior/ Disabled license holders Archery hunt fewer days overall than others. Those that hunt both Public and Private land hunt with a Crossbow for more days, on average, than other target audiences.

2025-2026 Time Hunted by Season Types

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
ARCHERY												
4 or less days	14%	16%	10%	10%	10%	12%	17%	7%	27% ↑	9%	15%	10%
5-10 days	27%	25%	37%	29%	28%	28%	21%	33%	34%	35%	29%	26%
11 or more days	58%	57%	49%	58%	58%	59%	60%	58%	39% ↓	57%	54%	61%
Not sure/Don't know	1%	2%	4%	2%	4% ↑	2%	2%	2%	0%	0%	2%	3%
CROSSBOW												
4 or less days	26%	30%	16%	16%	19%	22%	23%	24%	29%	44%	25%	15% ↓
5-10 days	30%	27%	24%	29%	29%	28%	25%	29%	30%	33%	29%	24%
11 or more days	44%	41%	57%	54%	50%	49%	51%	47%	39%	22%	44% ↓	60% ↑
Not sure/Don't know	0% ↓	2%	4% ↑	1%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%

CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

About half of Modern Firearm hunters hunt 5-10 days of the season, across all target audiences.

2025-2026 Time Hunted by Season Types												
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
MODERN FIREARM												
4 or less days	22%	24%	26%	27%	24%	24%	26%	24%	23%	36%	25%	18% ↓
5-10 days	50%	48%	53%	46%	52%	51%	46%	46%	48%	42%	48%	53%
11 or more days	27%	27%	19%	25%	23%	24%	26%	29%	28%	18%	26%	27%
Not sure/Don't know	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	1%	2%

CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

It would appear Landowners exercise their hunting freedom on their personal property by taking youth out hunting more days than other target audiences.

2025-2026 Time Hunted by Season Types

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
EARLY YOUTH / GUIDED A YOUTH DURING EARLY YOUTH												
4 or less days	82%	71%	67%	80%	71%	82%	60% ↓	80%	75%	100%	76%	81%
5-10 days	16%	24%	17%	13%	22%	15%	30%	10%	19%	0%	17%	17%
11 or more days	2%	3%	0%	2%	2%	1%	0%	5%	6%	0%	3%	0%
Not sure/Don't know	0%	3%	17% ↑	4%	4%	2%	10%	5%	0%	0%	4%	2%
LATE YOUTH / GUIDED A YOUTH DURING LATE YOUTH												
4 or less days	91%	85%	86%	92%	80%	91%	91%	92%	73%	100%	86%	96%
5-10 days	6%	4%	0%	4%	12% ↑	5%	0%	0%	9%	0%	6%	0%
11 or more days	3%	4%	0%	0%	4%	2%	0%	0%	9%	0%	3%	0%
Not sure/Don't know	0%	8%	14%	4%	4%	2%	9%	8%	9%	0%	5%	4%

CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

CWD Zone hunters, Senior/ Disabled license holders and Public Land hunters hunt more days of muzzleloader seasons than others.

2025-2026 Time Hunted by Season Types

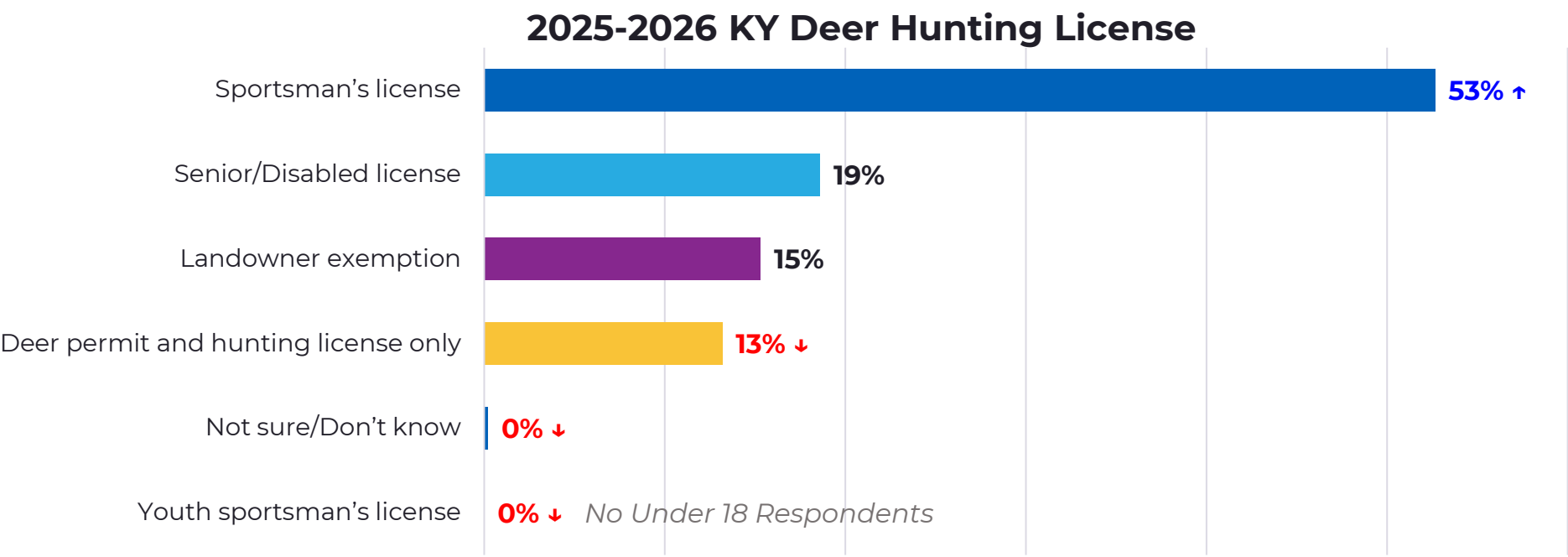
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
EARLY MUZZLELOADER												
4 or less days	86%	81%	84%	81%	84%	86%	88%	82%	73% ↓	83%	84%	79%
5-10 days	11%	14%	11%	14%	13%	10%	11%	14%	20% ↑	17%	12%	13%
Not sure/Don't know	3%	5%	5%	5%	3%	5%	2%	4%	7%	0%	4%	8%
LATE MUZZLELOADER												
4 or less days	62%	63%	56%	69%	52% ↓	66%	70%	66%	46% ↓	38%	63%	66%
5-10 days	37%	35%	40%	30%	45% ↑	32%	26%	34%	53% ↑	62% ↑	35%	32%
Not sure/Don't know	1%	2%	4%	1%	3%	2%	3%	0%	1%	0%	2%	2%

Hunting Licenses



CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

Over ½ of all deer hunting licenses are Sportsman’s licenses.



CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

Zone 1 has a higher share of ‘Landowner exemptions’ than other zones while Zone 3 has the highest share of ‘Sportsman’s license’ holders. Not surprisingly, Sportsman’s licensees –likely familiar with more seasons across species and the state- account for 75% of hunters making use of both Public and Private land for hunting.

2025-2026 KY Deer Hunting License

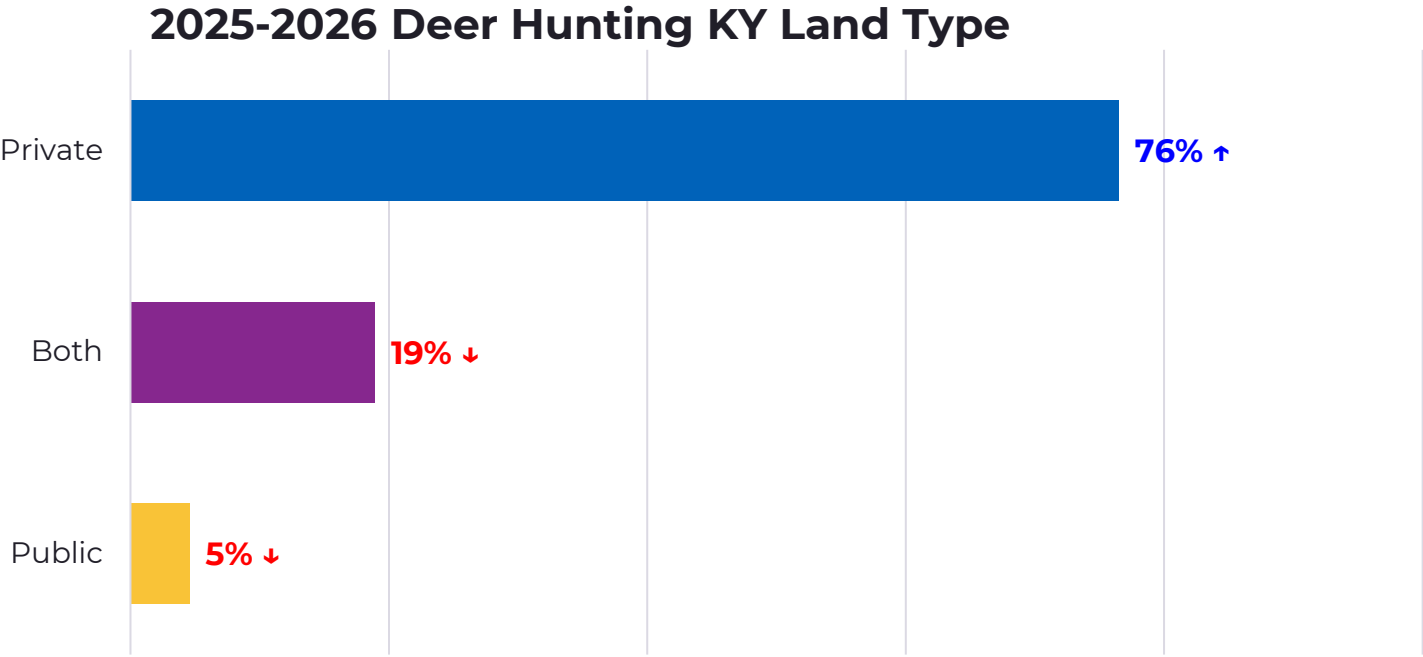
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Public	Private	Both
Sportsman’s license	50%	50%	63% ↑	55%	56%	60%	47% ↓	75% ↑
Senior/Disabled license	17%	20%	17%	22%	19%	16%	20% ↑	12% ↓
Landowner exemption	23% ↑	14%	8% ↓	6% ↓	11% ↓	2% ↓	19% ↑	2% ↓
Deer permit and hunting license only	10% ↓	15%	13%	17%	15%	21%	13%	11%
Not sure/Don’t know	0%	1% ↑	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Youth sportsman’s license	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Hunting Land Type, Satisfaction, and Reasons



CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

Three-quarters of respondents hunt on Private land across the Commonwealth.



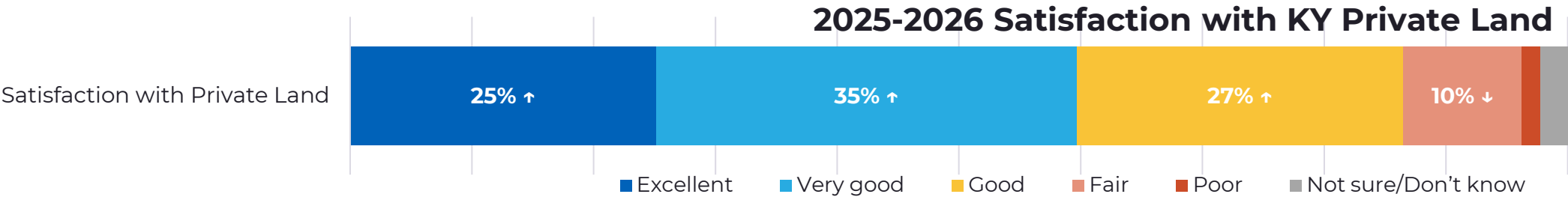
CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

Private land is most popular in Zones 1 and 2, while Zones 3 & 4 hunt public land more than other zones. And hunters from Zones 3, 4, and CWD hunt 'Both' land types more than the other zones. Senior/ Disabled license holders and Landowner exempt respondents hunt Private land most while 27% of Sportsman's license holders say they hunt both.

2025-2026 Deer Hunting KY Land Type									
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license
Private	85% ↑	86% ↑	64% ↓	56% ↓	67% ↓	68% ↓	97% ↑	77%	84% ↑
Both	12% ↓	10% ↓	27% ↑	37% ↑	27% ↑	27% ↑	3% ↓	16%	12% ↓
Public	2% ↓	4%	9% ↑	7% ↑	7%	5%	1% ↓	7%	4%

CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

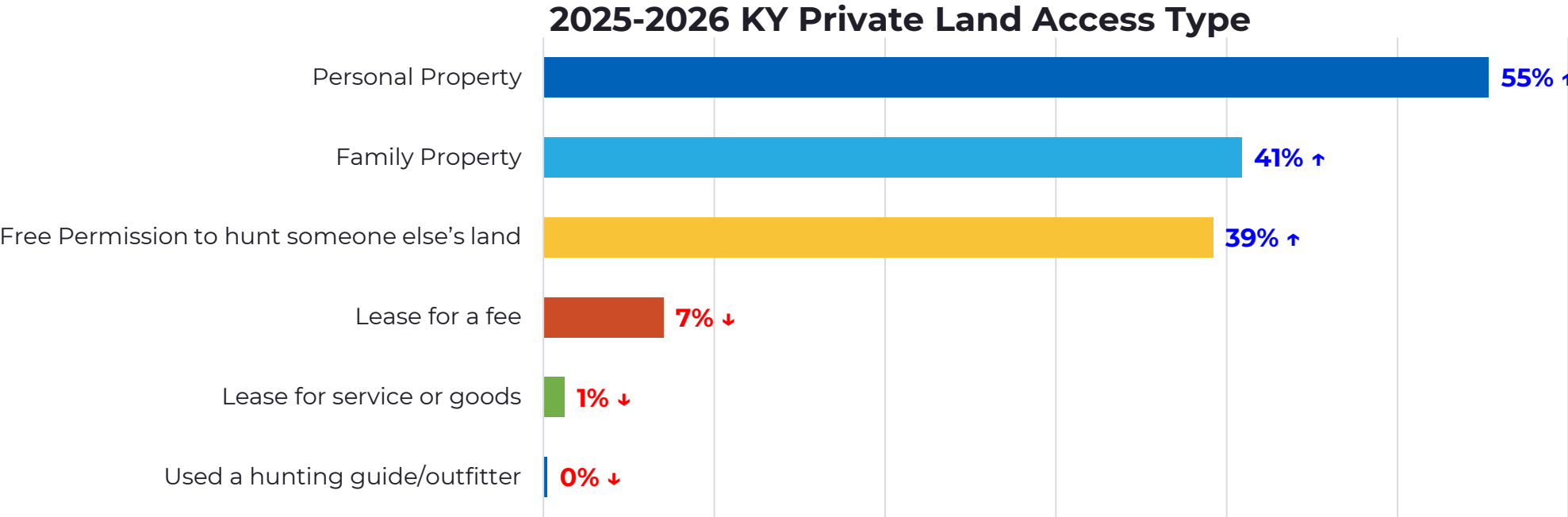
Sixty percent of Private land hunters rate their satisfaction with private land as ‘Very good’ or ‘Excellent’. However, 20% of Zone 4 hunters rate their private land satisfaction as only ‘Fair’.



2025-2026 Satisfaction with KY Private Land												
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Excellent	28%	30%	18%	18% ↓	20%	26%	30%	25%	18% ↓	0%	26%	21%
Very good	36%	35%	38%	31%	35%	34%	36%	30%	39%	100%	35%	30%
Good	25%	28%	30%	28%	30%	27%	22%	31%	27%	0%	25%	33%
Fair	8%	5% ↓	8%	19% ↑	10%	11%	8%	10%	9%	0%	9% ↓	14% ↑
Poor	1%	1%	3%	2%	3%	1%	0%	3%	3%	0%	2%	2%
Not sure/Don't know	2%	1%	4%	3%	2%	1% ↓	4%	2%	4%	0%	3%	1%

CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

Most Private Land hunters enjoy free hunting properties, only 7% lease private hunting land for a fee.



CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

Arguably the most avid of hunters, Sportsman’s license holders hunt the most variety of Private land types overall. CWD Zone hunters lease more land for a fee than those hunting from other zones.

2025-2026 KY Private Land Access Type

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Personal Property	56%	56%	57%	53%	53%	52% ↓	90% ↑	36% ↓	49%	0%	57%	51%
Family Property	33% ↓	40%	45%	55% ↑	42%	49% ↑	17% ↓	52% ↑	32% ↓	0%	39% ↓	50% ↑
Free Permission to hunt someone else's land	36%	36%	40%	49% ↑	42%	47% ↑	5% ↓	46%	41%	0%	35% ↓	57% ↑
Lease for a fee	8%	7%	4%	6%	10% ↑	10% ↑	0% ↓	6%	5%	0%	7%	8%
Lease for service or goods	2%	1%	0%	2%	1%	2% ↑	1%	0%	0%	0%	1% ↓	3% ↑
Used a hunting guide/ outfitter	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%

CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

The average cost to lease land for deer hunting season in KY was \$46/acre, with a median of \$12/acre. Zone 3 leasers report an average of \$254 per acre a figure five and a half times as high as the average for the state. Zone 3 has the fewest counties of any zone and more restrictions than Zones 1 & 2 (but fewer than Zone 4) so competition for prime hunting land may be driving the price per acre fee.

2025-2026 KY Private Land Lease Costs

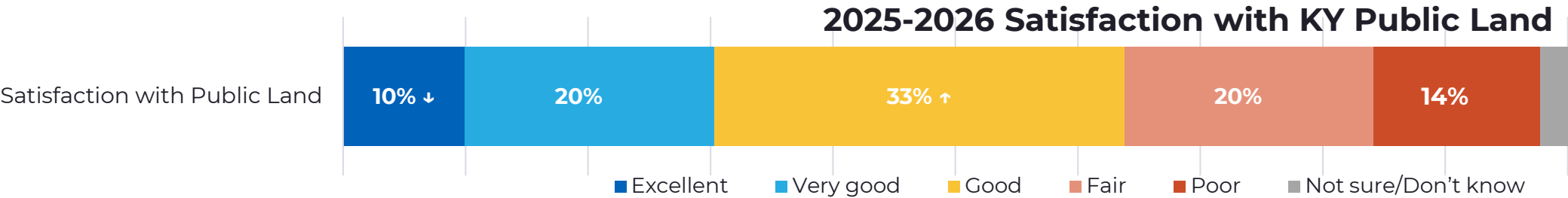
AVG **\$46** MEDIAN **\$12** MODE **\$10**

2025-2026 Satisfaction with KY Private Land

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Average	\$44	\$16	\$254	\$20	\$57	\$53	n/a	\$22	\$30		\$34	\$85
Median	\$19	\$10	\$7	\$10	\$15	\$14	n/a	\$10	\$10		\$14	\$10
Mode	\$20	\$10	\$2	\$0	\$20	\$10	n/a	\$0	\$0		\$20	\$10

CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

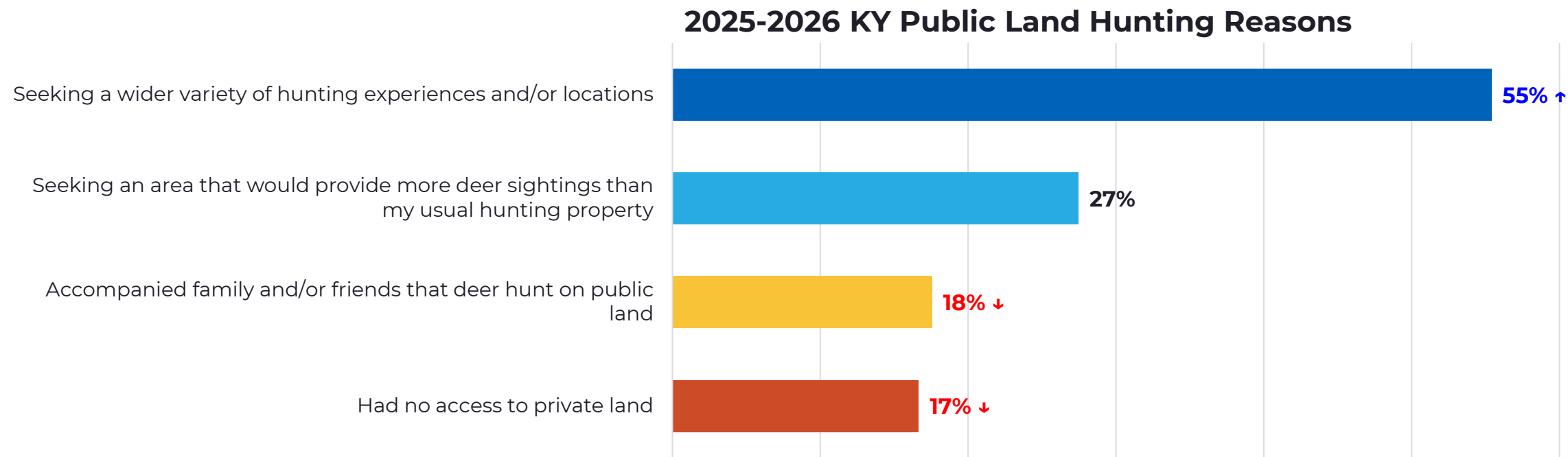
Public land satisfaction does not fair as well as private land. Nearly ¼ of public land hunters rate their satisfaction with public land as only ‘Fair’ or ‘Poor’ and just 30% rate it ‘Very good’ and ‘Excellent’.



2025-2026 Satisfaction with KY Public Land												
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Excellent	7%	10%	10%	12%	12%	9%	20%	10%	11%	19% ↑	n/a	8% ↓
Very good	19%	27%	20%	20%	18%	21%	0%	31%	11%	19%	n/a	21%
Good	41%	20%	37%	32%	32%	34%	40%	21%	43%	30%	n/a	34%
Fair	19%	30%	20%	19%	21%	23%	0%	10%	18%	16%	n/a	21%
Poor	14%	13%	10%	15%	13%	12%	40%	28% ↑	4%	14%	n/a	13%
Not sure/Don't know	2%	0%	5%	2%	4%	1% ↓	0%	0%	14% ↑	2%	n/a	2%

CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

The most popular reason for hunting Public Land is ‘seeking a wider variety of hunting experiences and/or locations’. Only 17% cite they ‘had no access to private land’.



CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

Forty percent of Zone 4 hunters and 46% of Senior/Disabled license holders state they're 'seeking an area that would provide more deer sightings than my usual hunting property'. Seventy-two percent of those hunting only Public land say they 'had no access to private land' as did about a third of Deer permit & hunting license only holders and Zone 2 hunters.

2025-2026 KY Public Land Hunting Reasons

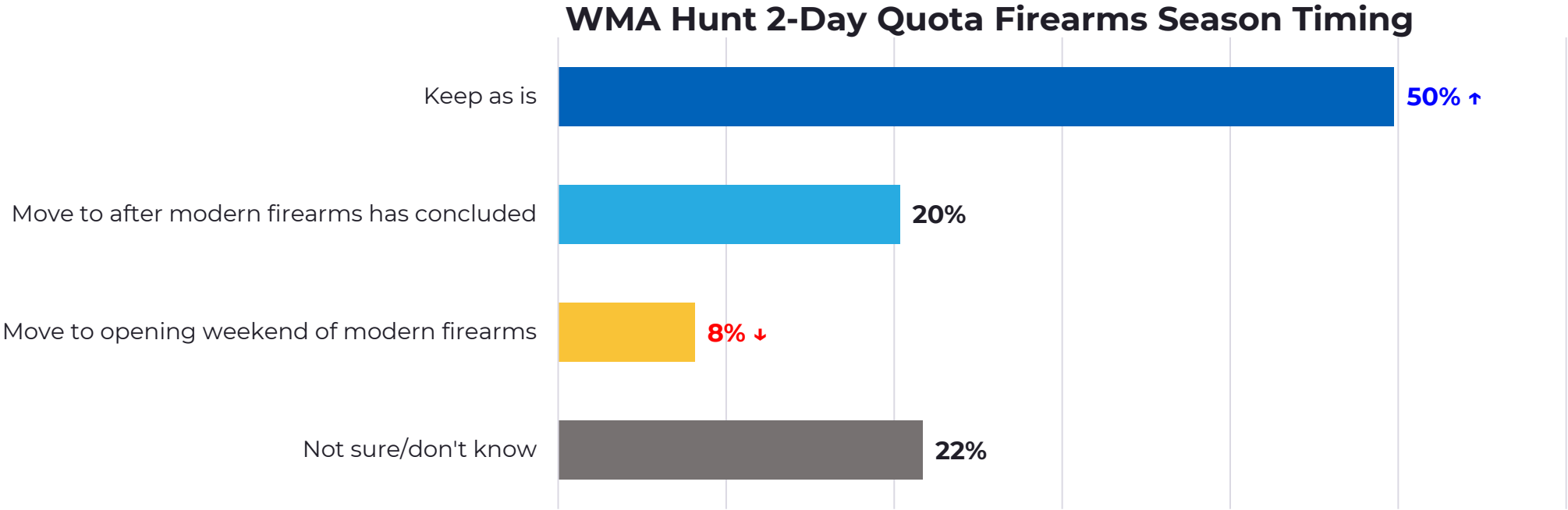
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Seeking a wider variety of hunting experiences and/or locations	65%	53%	56%	49%	55%	61% ↑	80%	45%	32% ↓	12% ↓	0%	66% ↑
Seeking an area that would provide more deer sightings than my usual hunting property	17% ↓	17%	24%	40% ↑	30%	24% ↓	0%	34%	46% ↑	7% ↓	0%	33% ↑
Accompanied family and/or friends that deer hunt on public land	18%	27%	17%	14%	17%	16%	40%	24%	18%	12%	0%	19%
Had no access to private land	17%	30% ↑	15%	13%	16%	13% ↓	0%	34% ↑	21%	72% ↑	0%	3% ↓

WMA Hunt Timing



CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

Half of Public Land hunters want to keep the WMA hunts ‘as is’ and 22% aren’t sure/don’t know.



CURRENT KY DEER HUNTERS

The ‘keep as is’ sentiment for WMA hunts is the same across all target audiences.

WMA Hunt 2-Day Quota Firearms Season Timing

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Keep as is	42%	47%	49%	56%	46%	49%	40%	52%	54%	53%		49%
Move to after modern firearms has concluded	24%	20%	15%	21%	21%	21%	20%	17%	21%	14%		22%
Move to opening weekend of modern firearms	5%	7%	12%	9%	12%	9%	0%	0%	11%	14%		7%
Not sure/Don't know	29%	27%	24%	14% ↓	21%	21%	40%	31%	14%	19%		22%

Deer Harvested & Need



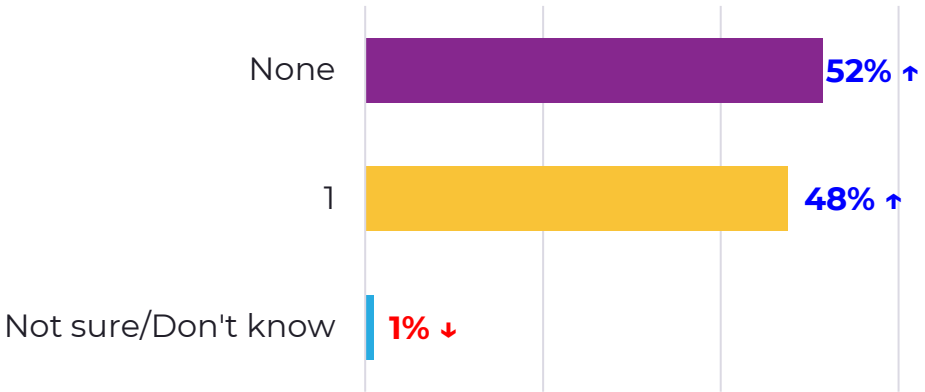
ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

About ½ of all hunters didn’t harvest an antlered deer the last time they hunted.

Public land-only hunters and Sportsman’s license and Deer permit & hunting license-only holders came up empty handed more than anyone.

Conversely, 75% of Landowner exempt hunters harvested a deer the last time they hunted. They may rely on venison to feed their family, but most likely they harvest with confidence because they know what deer are available. On their own property they can scout, monitor trail cams, and more allowing them to know from year to year whether it’s time to cull or get the big buck.

Antlered Deer Harvested



Antlered Deer Harvested

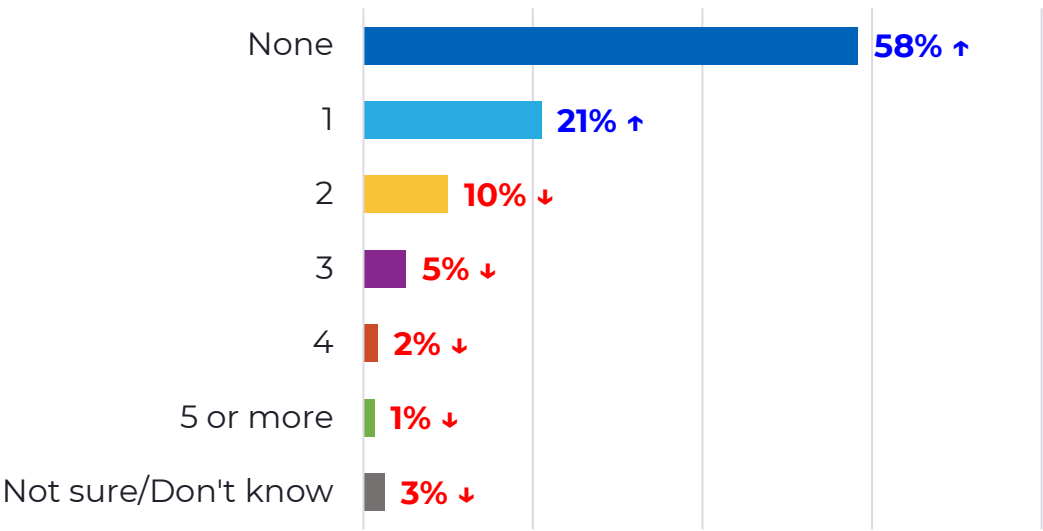
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
None	51%	52%	59%	48%	54%	54% ↑	25% ↓	60% ↑	56%	70% ↑	49%	52%
1	48%	46%	41%	51%	46%	46% ↓	75% ↑	40% ↓	42%	30% ↓	50%	47%
Not sure/Don't know	1%	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2% ↑	0%	0%	1%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Even fewer hunters harvested an antlerless deer the last time they hunted. Specifically, Deer permit & hunting license and Senior/ Disabled license holders, along with Public land-only hunters had the highest rates of no antlerless deer.

But the highest rate of no antlerless deer harvested was for Zone 4 likely due to having the most restrictions on antlerless deer hunting of any hunting zone.

Antlerless Deer Harvested



Antlerless Deer Harvested

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
None	48% ↓	59%	63%	76% ↑	56%	54% ↓	51%	69% ↑	65% ↑	72% ↑	57%	58%
1	24% ↑	14% ↓	28%	18%	25%	21%	25%	19%	19%	23%	21%	20%
2	12%	15% ↑	5% ↓	3% ↓	7%	12%	15%	4% ↓	6% ↓	2%	11%	10%
3	7% ↑	7%	2%	1% ↓	5%	6%	6%	4%	5%	0%	6% ↑	3%
4	3% ↑	1%	1%	0% ↓	3%	2%	1%	2%	1%	0%	2%	3%
5 or more	2%	1%	1%	0%	2%	3% ↑	0%	0%	0%	0%	1% ↓	4% ↑
Not sure/Don't know	3%	3%	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%

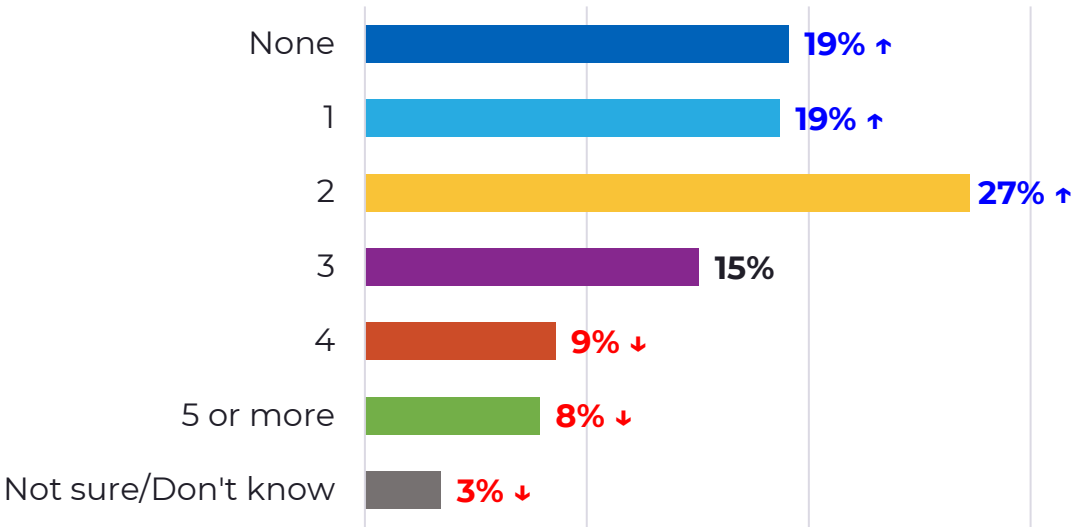
ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Over ¼ of respondents claim they need to harvest two deer annually for food/ to provide for their family, friends, etc. Another 15% claim they need three and 20% claim they need one.

Most (78%) claim they need at least one deer for food, but over half also say they took NO deer the last time they hunted (58% NO antlerless and 52% NO antlered).

Further research to discover the real barriers to harvest should be explored.

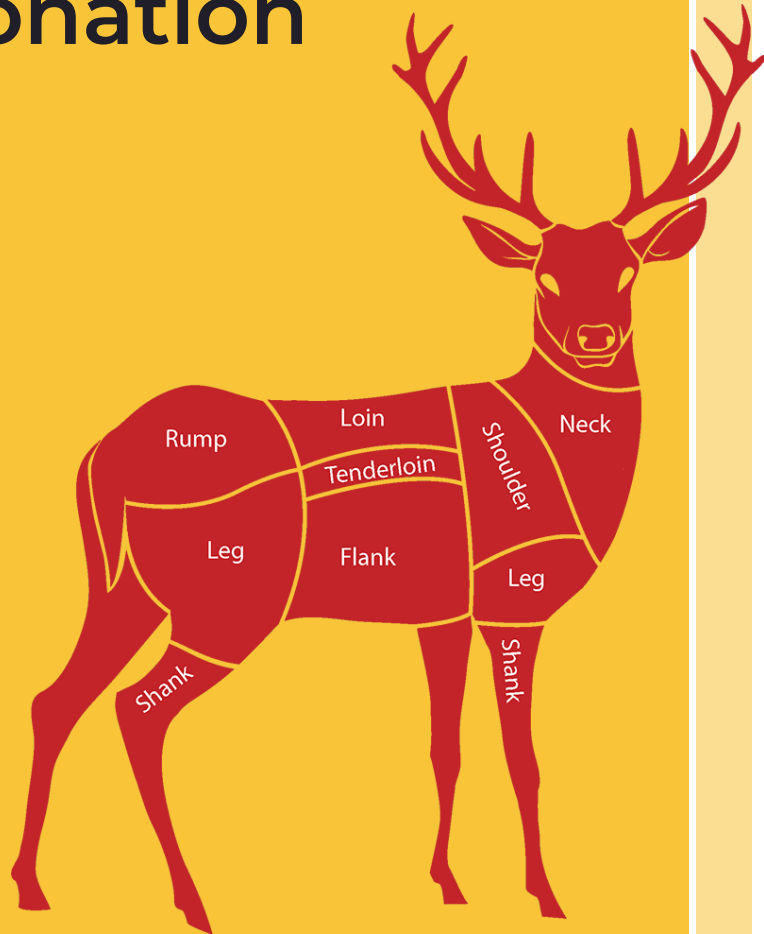
Annual Deer Harvest Need



Annual Deer Harvest Need

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
None	20%	23%	14%	16%	18%	16%	13%	15%	29% ↑	14%	19%	13%
1	15% ↓	19%	21%	25% ↑	19%	18%	24%	16%	19%	23%	19%	16%
2	24% ↓	28%	33%	31%	28%	27%	24%	38% ↑	27%	40%	27%	29%
3	19% ↑	11% ↓	13%	13%	15%	16%	18%	15%	14%	14%	16%	16%
4	9%	10%	7%	8%	9%	10%	11%	5%	5%	5%	8%	11%
5 or more	10% ↑	6%	7%	5% ↓	6%	9%	8%	8%	3% ↓	5%	7%	11%
Not sure/Don't know	3%	4%	4%	4%	5%	3%	3%	3%	2%	0%	3%	4%

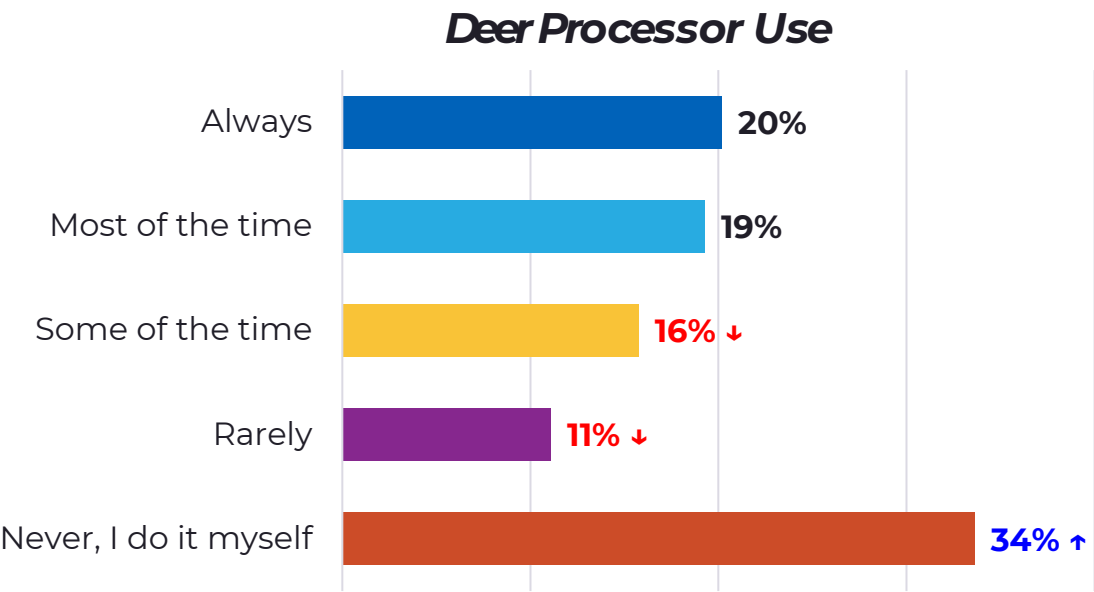
Deer Processing & Donation



ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Over 1/3 process their deer themselves, while nearly 40% use a processor ‘most of the time’ or ‘always’.

Over ¼ of Senior/ Disabled hunters ‘always’ use a processor and 41% of Zone 4 hunters ‘never’ use one.

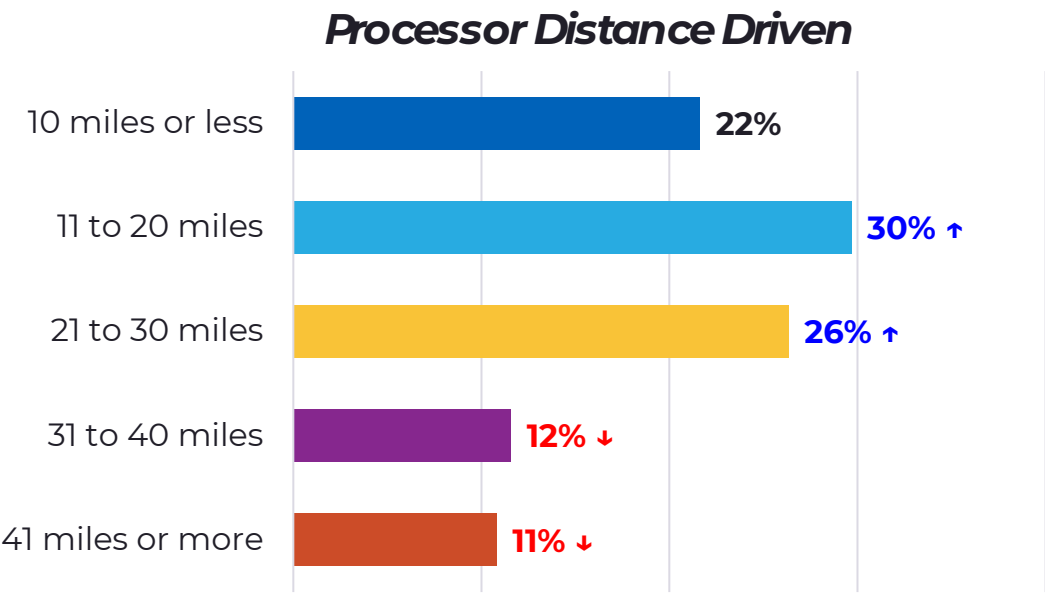


Deer Processor Use												
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
Always	20%	21%	24%	19%	21%	18% ↓	20%	22%	26% ↑	19%	22% ↑	12% ↓
Most of the time	18%	22%	25%	15%	23%	21%	19%	17%	17%	14%	19%	21%
Some of the time	16%	14%	15%	18%	17%	17%	11%	19%	13%	9%	15%	21% ↑
Rarely	12%	15% ↑	8%	8%	10%	9% ↓	15%	10%	13%	21% ↑	10% ↓	13%
Never, I do it myself	35%	28% ↓	27%	41% ↑	29%	35%	35%	33%	31%	37%	34%	33%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Nearly 80% of KY deer hunters drive 30 miles or less to process their deer.

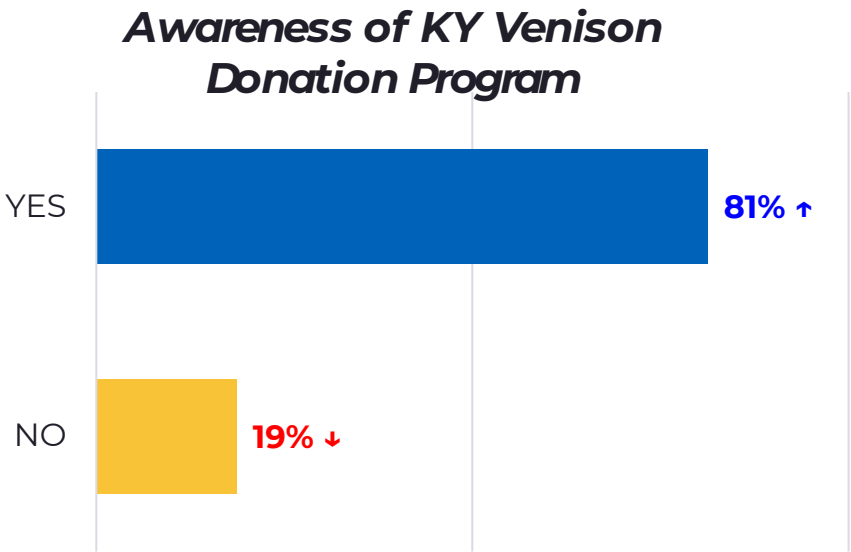
26% of Public land-only hunters drive 31-40 miles to process their deer, likely due to the remoteness of public land hunting spots.



Processor Distance Driven												
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
10 miles or less	24%	25%	16%	16%	22%	19%	26%	18%	27%	33%	22%	18%
11 to 20 miles	32%	25%	37%	26%	35%	28%	35%	28%	35%	15%	33% ↑	26%
21 to 30 miles	24%	32%	28%	23%	24%	29%	18% ↓	35%	20%	22%	26%	27%
31 to 40 miles	9%	12%	9%	18% ↑	9%	13%	14%	11%	5% ↓	26% ↑	10% ↓	15%
41 miles or more	10%	7%	11%	17% ↑	9%	10%	7%	8%	13%	4%	10%	13%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Most KY hunters are aware of the KY venison donation program(s). However, surprisingly, those hunting Public land-only less so (70%).



Awareness of KY Venison Donation Program

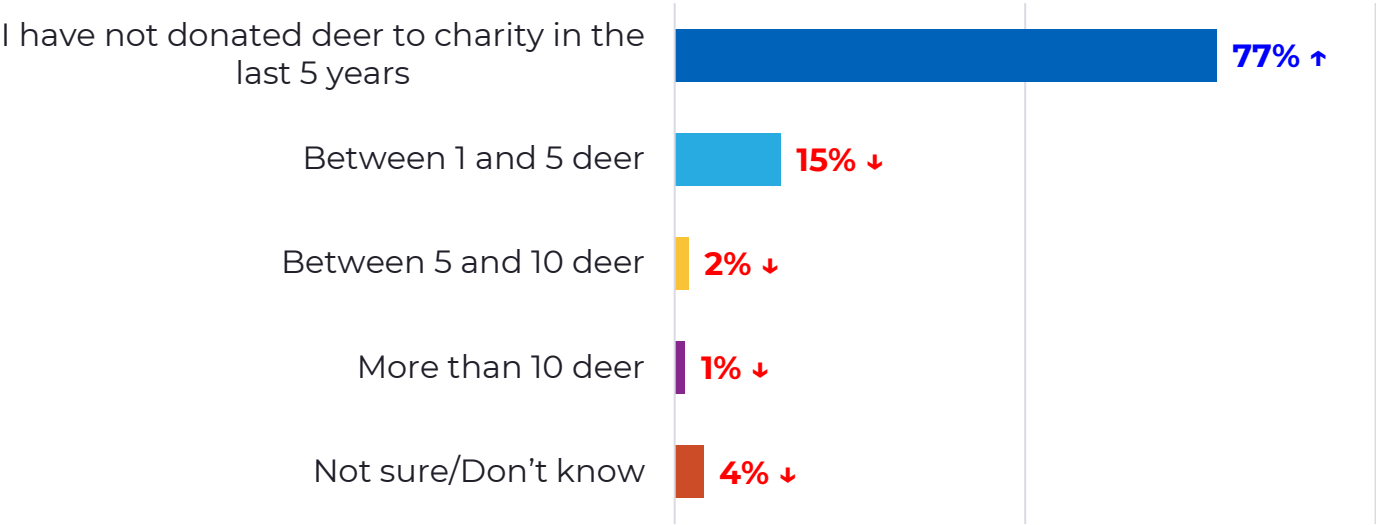
COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
YES	83%	79%	81%	81%	81%	81%	82%	75% ↓	87% ↑	70% ↓	82%	84%
NO	17%	21%	19%	19%	19%	19%	18%	25% ↑	13% ↓	30% ↑	18%	16%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Over ¾ of hunters have not donated deer to charity in the last five years. But with over half not harvesting any deer last season, perhaps this is not surprising.

18% of Zone 1 hunters donated ‘between 1 and 5 deer’ in the last 5 years. Zone 1 enjoys the least restrictions and an unlimited number of antlerless deer can be harvested each year.

Deer Donated to Charity



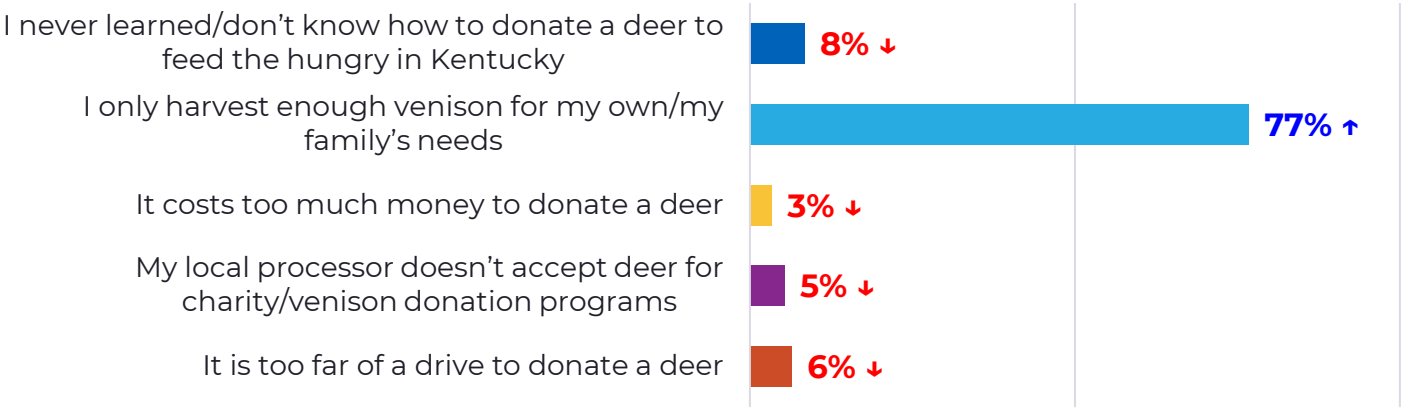
Deer Donated to Charity

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
I have not donated deer to charity in the last 5 years	73% ↓	78%	81%	84% ↑	73%	78%	75%	77%	78%	73%	78%	76%
Between 1 and 5 deer	18% ↑	14%	11%	11%	19%	14%	19%	13%	18%	20%	14%	19%
Between 5 and 10 deer	2%	4% ↑	0%	1%	1%	3%	3%	1%	1%	3%	2%	1%
More than 10 deer	3% ↑	0%	2%	0%	2%	2%	3%	1%	0%	0%	1%	3%
Not sure/Don't know	4%	4%	6%	4%	4%	3%	2%	8% ↑	3%	3%	4%	2%

ALL KY DEER HUNTERS

Most cite the reason they don't donate their deer is because they only harvest enough venison for their own needs. With most harvesting none or only one antlerless/antlered deer each year, this makes sense.

Barriers to Venison Donation



Barriers to Venison Donation

COLUMN %	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	CWD Zone	Sportsman's license	Landowner exempt	Deer permit & hunting license only	Senior/ Disabled license	Public	Private	Both
I never learned/don't know how to donate a deer to feed the hungry in Kentucky	8%	10%	7%	7%	6%	7%	7%	8%	8%	0%	7%	8%
I only harvest enough venison for my own/my family's needs	72% ↓	74%	84%	84% ↑	81%	78%	74%	79%	81%	77%	78%	81%
It costs too much money to donate a deer	4%	4%	4%	1%	3%	3%	2%	8% ↑	3%	0%	4%	3%
My local processor doesn't accept deer for charity/venison donation programs	6%	8%	1%	3%	3%	5%	6%	10%	5%	0%	6%	4%
It is too far of a drive to donate a deer	7%	7%	1% ↓	9%	2% ↓	6%	9%	8%	5%	0%	7%	8%

THANK YOU.

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ADDENDUM

KY HUNTING ZONES

DEER BAG LIMITS

Only one antlered deer may be harvested statewide, regardless of zone or method.

ZONE 1	A hunter may harvest an unlimited number of antlerless deer in Zone 1 using the statewide deer permit and additional deer permits.
ZONE 2	A hunter may harvest no more than four deer in Zone 2.
ZONE 3	A hunter may harvest no more than four deer in Zone 3. A firearm or air gun cannot be used to take more than one antlerless deer.
ZONE 4	A hunter may harvest no more than two deer in Zone 4. Only one can be antlerless. Antlerless deer cannot be harvested during the modern gun season, the early muzzleloader season or the first six days of late muzzleloader season. The statewide bag limit of one antlered deer still applies.



CWD Surveillance Zone

