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

Establish a minimum age that a buck must have attained to be eligible for harvest
### Average Antler Measurements by Age Class

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

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