

2014-2015 Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources White-tailed Deer Report



Photo courtesy of Joe Lacefield, KDFWR Private Lands Biologist



Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
#1 Sportsman's Lane Frankfort, KY 40601

Table of Contents

Introduction.....1

Population Status.....2

2014-15 Harvest Results.....2-6

 Weapon Type Harvest Summary.....3-4

 Monthly Harvest Results.....4

 Harvest Results by Permit Type.....4

 Boone and Crockett Entries.....5-6

Public Land Harvest.....6

Quota Hunt Results.....6-10

 Purchase Region.....7-10

 Ballard WMA.....7-8

 Lake Barkley State Park.....8

 Pennyrile State Forest/Tradewater WMA.....8-9

 West Kentucky WMA.....9-10

Disease Surveillance.....10-12

 Hemorrhagic Disease (HD).....10-11

 Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).....11

 Carcass Importation.....12

General Information about the 2014-15 Season.....12-13

 Licenses and Permit Fees.....12

 Season Dates and Bag Limits.....12

 Deer Hunting Zones.....13

License Sales.....13-15

Current Research... ..15-16

 Population Dynamics of Adult Female White-tailed Deer in Southeast Kentucky.....15-16

 Survival, Cause-Specific Mortality and Recruitment of White-tailed Deer Neonates in Southeastern Kentucky.....16

Changes for the 2015-16 Deer Season.....17

Contacts.....17

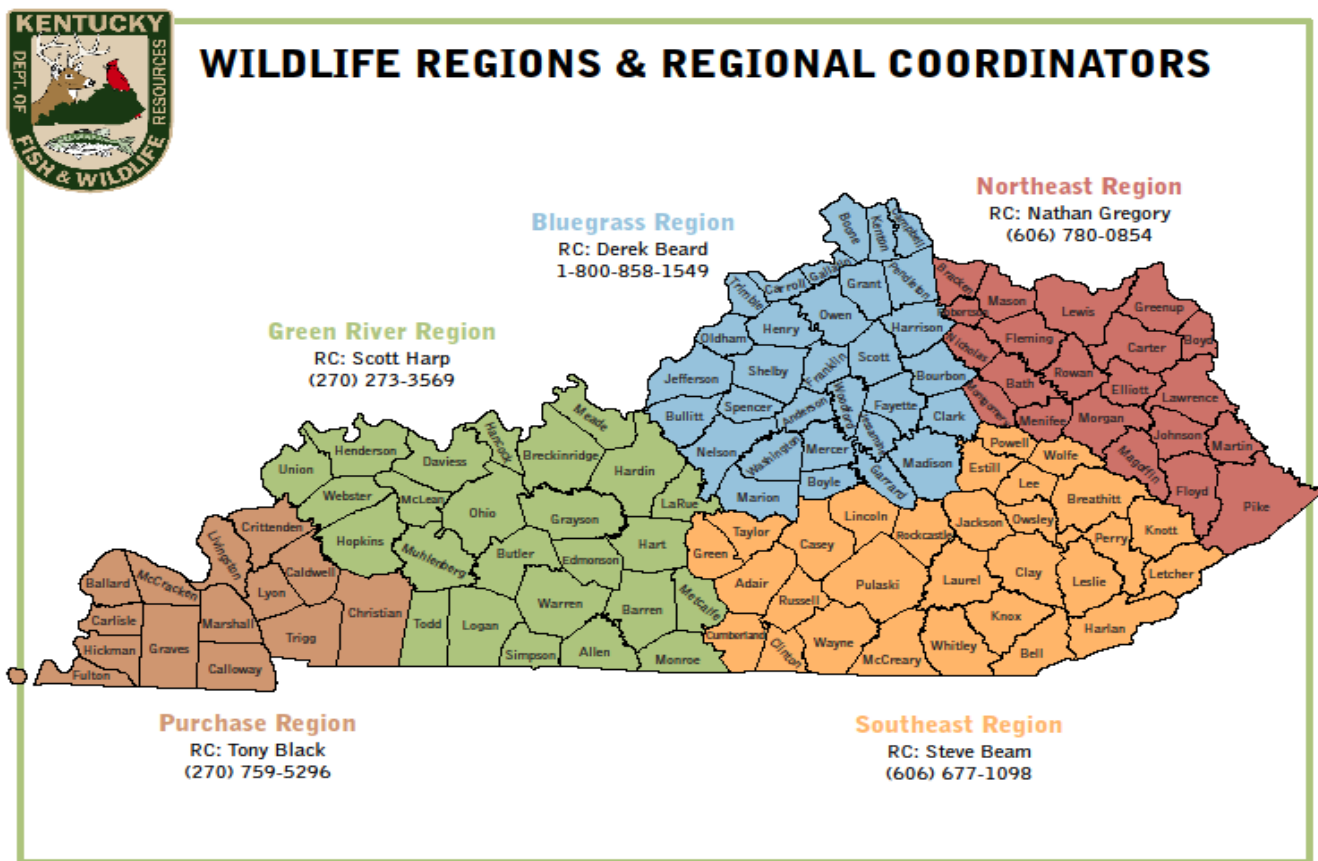
Introduction

The Deer Program is administered under the Wildlife Division of Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR). The KDFWR is an agency of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet. It is overseen by a nine-member commission who are nominated by Kentucky’s sportsmen and sportswomen. Commission members are appointed by the Governor. The department employs about 450 full-time staff, which includes conservation officers, wildlife and fisheries biologists, conservation educators, and information and technology, public relations, and customer service and administrative professionals.

KDFWR receives no money from the state’s General Fund. Funding is provided by the sale of hunting and fishing licensees, boating registration fees and federal funds, including grants based on the number of licenses sold in the state.

The Deer Program is tasked with managing the white-tail deer herd in the state to provide ample hunting opportunity while balancing the needs of consumptive and non-consumptive user groups. The Deer Program is made up of 1 program coordinator, Gabe Jenkins, and two biologists, David Yancy and Kyle Sams. The Deer Program staff is based out of the headquarters office in Frankfort.

The Wildlife Division is broken up into 5 wildlife regions across the state. For reporting purposes all information in this report will be discussed using the 5 regions or at the specific county level.



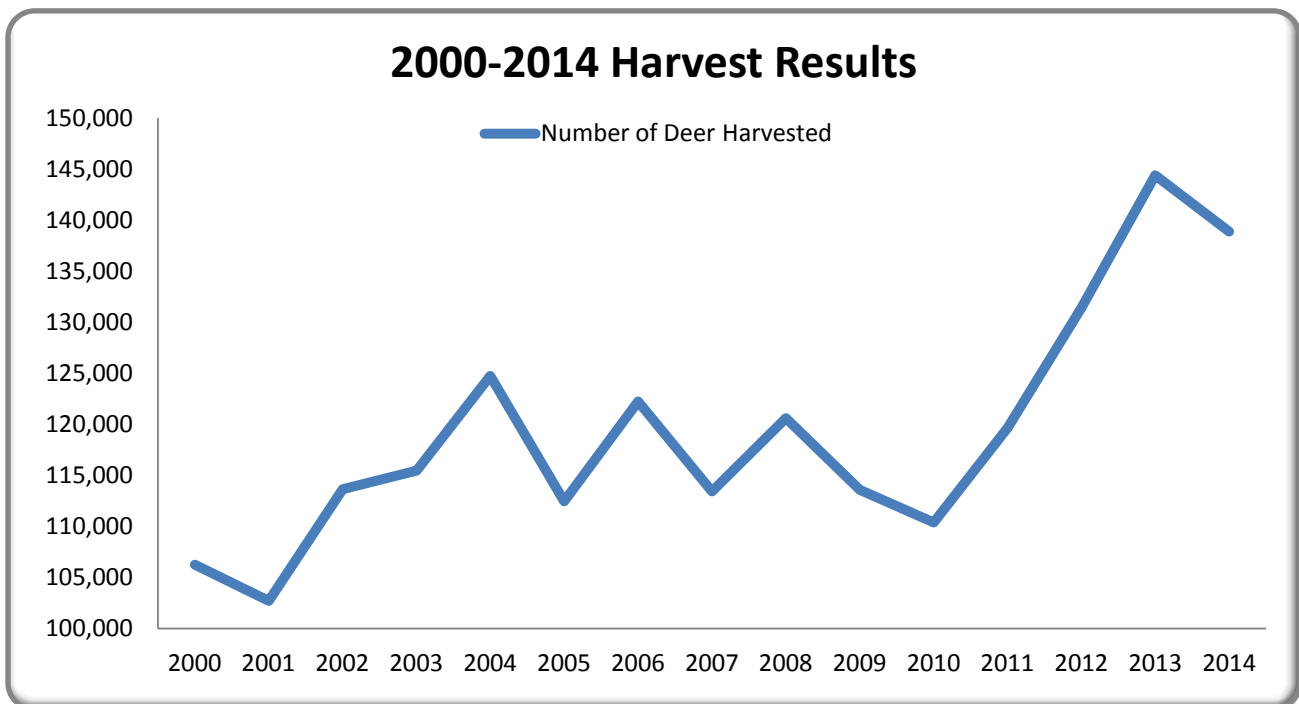
Population Status

Over the last decade deer management techniques have varied greatly across the state. Parts of the state such as the Bluegrass and Purchase regions have seen liberalization to the bag limit in an attempt to lower the deer population. Areas in the Southeast and Green River regions have seen a reduction in bag limits to accommodate for declining deer densities. In 2007, the state experienced the most wide spread Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) outbreak on record. All regions of the state were impacted, with some seemingly affected worse than others. Post the 2007 outbreak, deer hunting zones were restricted in some counties to reduce harvest in order to allow the herd to rebound. Current county population estimates in the counties that had their zone changed have rebounded and are at population levels equal to or higher than levels prior to the outbreak. With the implementation of zone restrictions KDFWR has been able to once again liberalize the bag limit in the counties that were impacted by EHD.

The overall herd estimate shows a stable to slightly decreasing trend. The current statewide estimate is 777,912 deer statewide, post 2014 hunting season, which is a 5% decrease from 2013. The estimate is generated from harvest and age structure data. Age structure data is collected by KDFWR staff and telecheck records are used for harvest data in the model.

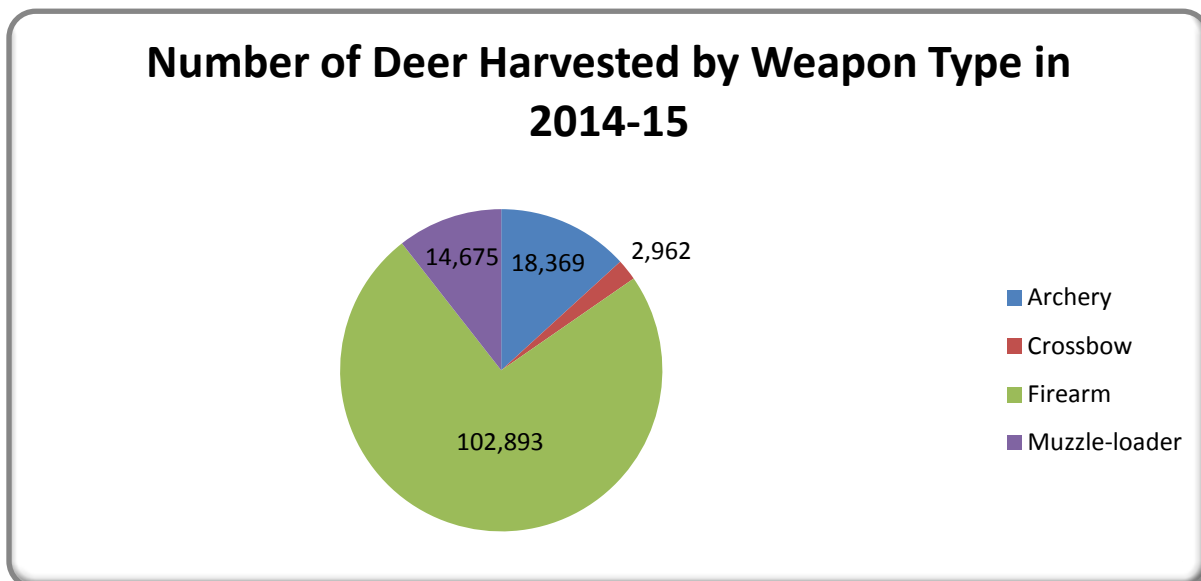
2014-2015 Harvest Results

The 2014-15 deer harvest was one for the record with a harvest of 138,899. Although it was a 4% decrease from the 2013-14 harvest. It was the second highest harvest on record, beating the 2012 harvest record (131,395) by 7,500 deer. It was a 6% increase from 2012-13 season and was a 16% increase from the 2010-11 season (119,653). Factors that contributed to the harvest were an outstanding acorn crop, and optimal hunting weather during the major hunting timeframes.



Weapon Type Harvest Summary

There were no major changes in the percentage of the harvest by weapon type compared to last season. Seventy-four percent of the overall harvest was taken during the modern firearm season. The harvest decreased slightly in all weapon types equally across the season.

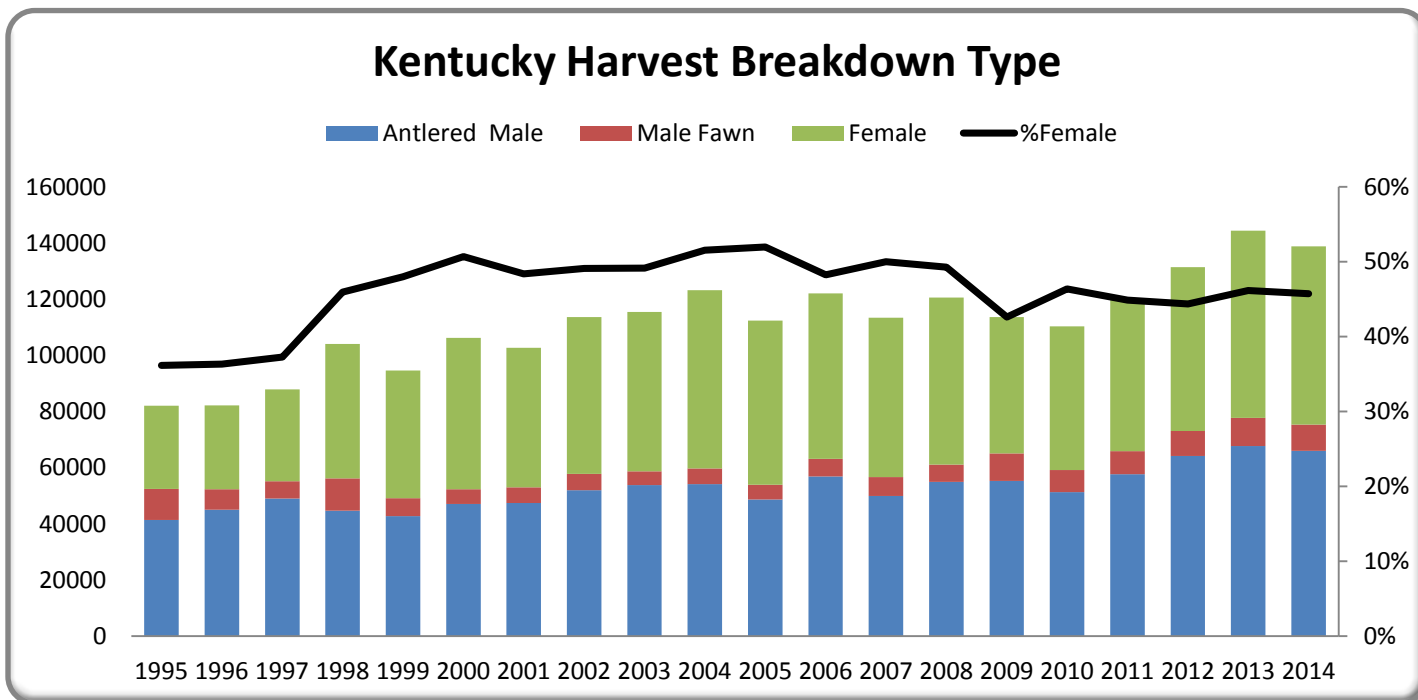


By weapon type, archery hunters saw the biggest percentage change, with a 12% decrease in the archery harvest. The crossbow harvest also saw a decrease of 11% in the 2014-15 season (2,962) compared to the 2013-14 season (3,311).

Weapon	Female	Male	Total
Archery	11,293	7,076	18,369
Crossbow	1,881	1,081	2,962
Firearm	41,355	61,538	102,893
Muzzle-loader	8,992	5,683	14,675
Total	63,521	75,378	138,899

Hunters appear to have a limit on the number of deer they are willing or able to harvest. The majority of successful deer hunters (78%) only harvest one deer. Of the total successful hunters in the 2014-15 season (102,319 hunters) the average hunter harvested 1.4 deer. The 1.4 deer harvested per successful hunter was a slight increase from last season, however this rate usually does not fluctuate between deer zone and the season year.

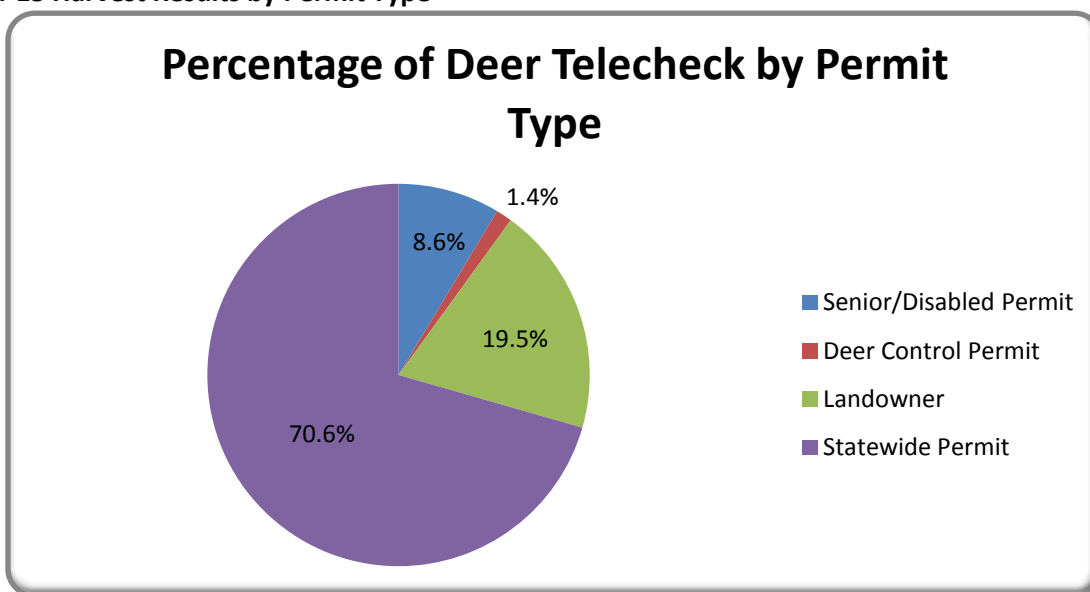
Even though the average hunter only harvests 1.4 deer, the successful hunters do an excellent job balancing the buck to doe numbers in the harvest. Doe harvest numbers can fluctuate greatly in a county or region due to harvest restrictions by zones. Overall, when compared to the buck harvest, doe harvest has increase over the years. Doe harvest in 1995 was around 36%, and at times is greater than the buck harvest. Currently, and within the past few years, the doe harvest is comparable to the buck harvests.



Monthly Harvest Rates

September saw a harvest of 5,298 and is the 3rd highest harvest on record for the month of September. October's harvest was the 2nd highest October harvest on record with 15,777. November's harvest was down slightly from 105,666 in 2013 to 104,677 in 2014 and is the 2nd highest November harvest on record. Cooler conditions in September and optimal weather conditions for the modern gun season in November drove the harvest. January's conditions were cold and harsh, but the month still had the 6th highest January harvest on record at 2,044.

2014-15 Harvest Results by Permit Type



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Boone and Crockett Entries

A total of 33 record book entries (21 typical and 12 non-typical) were submitted to KDFWR in 2014. The 33 entries came from 24 of Kentucky's 120 counties. All regions of the state were represented with the highest number (6) coming from Pulaski County. Of the 33 submissions, most were taken during the modern firearms season (21), followed by archery (10), muzzleloader (1), and 1 entry was found.

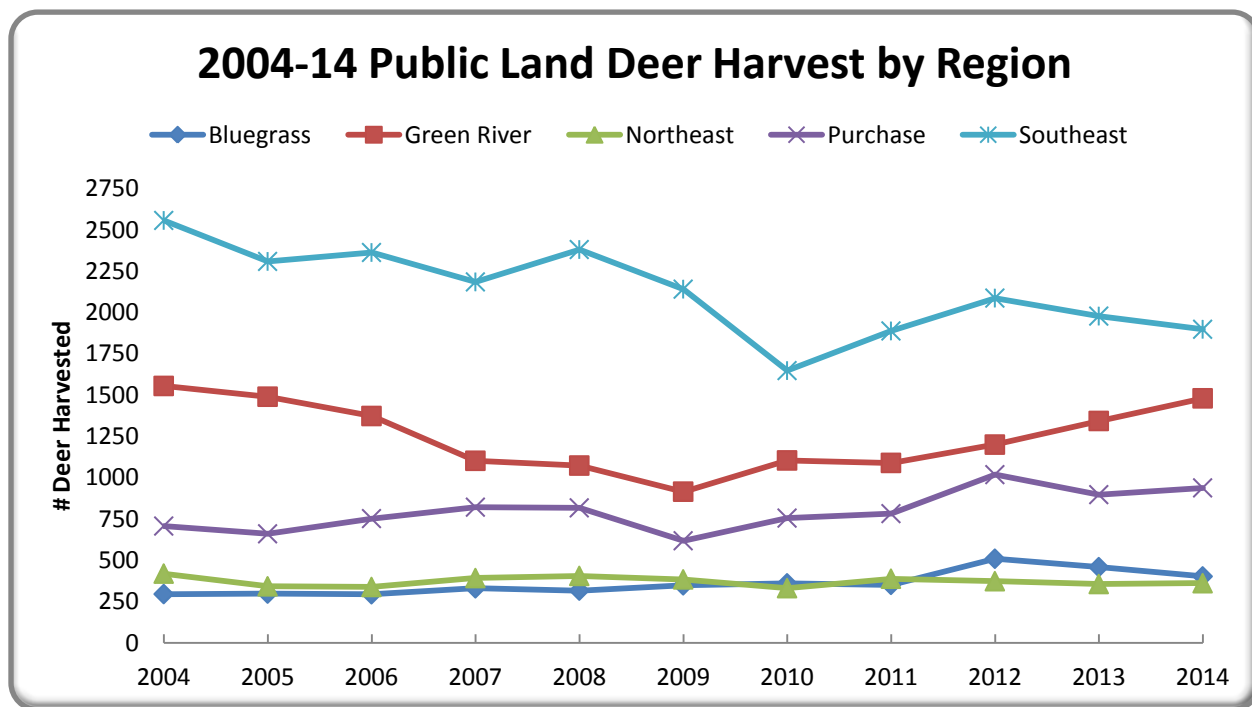
Typical Score	Hunter	County	Method
182	Cody L. McLean	Wayne	Modern gun
180 3/4	Harold Dowell	Breckinridge	Archery
173 3/4	Billy L. Medlin	Whitley	Modern gun
173 1/8	Anthony Himes	Garrard	Modern gun
172 5/8	John Mark Jones	Pulaski	Modern gun
171 3/4	Gerald Bush	Clay	Modern gun
170 1/2	James R. Irvine	Pulaski	Archery
168 5/8	James M. Dempsey, Jr.	Franklin	Modern gun
167	Kenneth Merida	Knox	Modern gun
166	Anthony Scott	Pike	Modern gun
165 1/2	Kent Robinson	Lewis	Muzzleloader
163 1/2	Mark Shanklin	Todd	Archery
163 3/8	Jeremy VanMeter	Grayson	Archery
163	Clint L. Blevins	Pulaski	Modern gun
163	Daniel Hayden	Ohio	Archery
162 1/4	Chad Spiering	Owen	Modern gun
161	Megan K. Dohn	Larue	Modern gun
160 7/8	Alvin Powell	Lincoln	Found
160 3/4	Brett Powell	McLean	Archery
160 5/8	Debbie Edwards	Owen	Modern gun
160 1/2	Tracy R. Groce	Pulaski	Modern gun
Non-Typical Score	Hunter	County	Method
250 1/4	David Howard	Todd	Archery
221 1/8	Justin P. Mooney	Webster	Archery
206 3/4	Jeremy Hendrick	Warren	Modern gun
198 5/8	Cody L. Likins	Nicholas	Archery
196 1/4	Steven Lynn	Lincoln	Modern gun
192 1/4	Brandon Rhea	Union	Modern gun
190 3/8	Robert A. Johnson	Butler	Modern gun
189 5/8	Patrick S. Smiddy	Marshall	Modern gun
189 5/8	Lucas Casada	Pulaski	Modern gun
187 3/4	Garry D. Neal	Wayne	Modern gun
186	Charles E. Jett	Bracken	Archery
185 1/8	Michael Weinert	Pulaski	Modern gun

The submission of 33 Boone & Crockett entries for 2014 did not make the top 10 list for entries per year in Kentucky. 2011 was the best year ever with 78 entries. In 2011, Kentucky had more record book entries than any other state. Below are the top 10 years for Boone and Crockett entries for the state.

Rank	Entries	Year	Rank	Entries	Year
1	78	2011	6	49	2006
2	57	2010	7	47	2009
3	56	2004	8	47	2007
4	56	2003	9	43	2000
5	54	2013	10	42	2012

Public Land Harvest

KDFWR owns, leases, or manages more than 80 Wildlife Management Area’s (WMA) across the state for public use. On some areas, users must purchase a user permit. The rest are open to hunting through quota hunts or statewide regulations. The WMA’s are separated by five wildlife regions and are managed by regional staff. The number of WMA’s per region differs from region to region. The number of WMA’s per region are; Purchase Region (16), Green River Region (14), Bluegrass Region (15), Northeast Region (12), Southeast Region (38).



Quota Hunt Results

There are 30 KDFWR quota hunts in the state along with 3 quota hunts on military installations (Ft. Knox, Bluegrass Army Depot, and Ft. Campbell). Any resident or nonresident hunter may apply for a deer quota hunt in the state. Only the persons successfully drawn for quota hunts may hunt. The application period for KDFWR deer quota hunts is the month of September. Applicants can apply online at fw.ky.gov or call 1-877-598-2401. Applicants will be given the option to pick a first and second hunt choice, but may be drawn to participate in only one quota hunt. The

non-refundable fee is \$3 per hunter to apply. Each hunter who applies correctly, but isn't selected, will receive a preference point that increases the odds of being drawn the next year. Unselected hunters who do not apply the following year will lose all previously credited preference points. Applicants are selected based on individual preference points. Up to five people can apply together with one call. If any one of the group's Social Security numbers is drawn, the others in the group are automatically drawn, too.

For the 30 KDFWR quota hunts held in the 2014-15 season, there were 4,192 spots available in which 7,819 people applied for quota hunts across the state. There are quota hunts for any resident or nonresident hunters, mobility impaired hunters, archery/crossbow hunters, and youth hunters. Some quota hunts are for antlerless deer, some areas have a 15 in minimum spread restriction on bucks and some quota hunts only allow 1 deer to be taken per hunt. Each of the five wildlife regions across the state have deer quotas. For the 2014-15 Report, quota hunts in the Purchase Regions will be highlighted.

Purchase Region

The Purchase Region has 4 KDFWR areas that have quota hunts (Ballard WMA, Lake Barkley State Resort Park, Pennyriple State Forest/Tradewater WMA, and West Kentucky WMA). Below is a summary of the quota hunts in the Purchase Region.

Ballard WMA – by Robert Colvis – Purchase Region Public Lands Biologist

Ballard WMA consists of 8,000 acres owned by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and is located in Ballard County. It is made up of bottomland hardwoods, cypress sloughs, and is also used for agriculture practices.

Ballard WMA is open to statewide archery season from the first Saturday in September through October 14. Gates close on October 15 through March 15 annually for waterfowl hunting.

Ballard WMA provides a gun quota hunt that is held during the first weekend in November. There is a 15" minimum outside antler spread requirement for bucks taken from the WMA.

During the 2014-15 gun quota hunt, 100 hunters were drawn with 80 showing up. Hunters expended 997 hours with an average of 1.3 deer seen per hour. A total of 38 deer were taken (21 antlered deer and 17 antlerless deer) during the Ballard WMA gun quota hunt.



Lake Barkley State Resort Park – by Pat Hahs - Purchase Region Public Lands Biologist

Lake Barkley State Resort Park allows a deer quota hunt of two days during the early part of January. No other hunting is permitted within the state park the remainder of the year.

KDFWR assists the park in administration of the two day quota hunt and is on hand both days for check-in and check-out. The purpose of the hunt is to reduce the numbers of deer in the park and provide hunting opportunity to the public.

Lake Barkley SRP is approximately 4,370 acres in size. 2,300 acres is open for use by quota deer hunters. The property is 90% forest, with minimal undergrowth. A majority of the open land is maintained road right-of-ways plus a golf course. Hunting on the golf course is permitted.

The 2014-15 Lake Barkley SRP quota hunt was held on January 6 & 7, with 48 of 78 hunters (~62%) showing up to hunt. 426 hours were expended by hunters with a total harvest of 43 deer. This was the highest hunter success ratio we have observed since the hunt was initiated. One deer was observed for approximately every 1.5 hour hunted. This is average to below average relative to previous years. Average weight of antlered bucks of 1.5 years of age or greater was 105 pounds. The average weight of does of 1.5 years or greater was 93 pounds.

Pennyrile State Forest / Tradewater WMA– by Pat Hahs – Purchase Region Public Lands Biologist

Pennyrile State Forest and Tradewater WMA make up approximately 15,000 acres in Christian and Hopkins Co. While the properties are owned by two independent government entities (KDFWR & KDF), hunting regulations are similar. The property is 95% forested with the terrain rolling to rugged hills. KDF has been actively harvesting timber within the last 10-15 years resulting in a patchwork of mature timber intermixed with harvested areas in various stages of early succession forest.

Deer hunting is open under statewide regulations for archery other than a two day quota gun hunt during the first weekend in November. Hunters are allowed to harvest no more than 1 buck with an outside antler spread of 15 inches or greater. Multiple does can be harvested when hunters possess the required deer hunting permits.

The 2014 Pennyrile / Tradewater quota hunt was held on November 1 & 2, with 214 of 302 hunters (~71%) showing up to hunt. 2,609 hours were expended by hunters in pursuit of deer with a total harvest of 33 animals. One deer was observed for every 2.7 hours hunted which is above average based on the past 10 years of observation data. Of the 33 deer harvested, 16 were antlered bucks. Average weight of the antlered deer was 143 pounds. Average weight of does of 1.5 years or greater in age was 86 pounds.



West Kentucky WMA Quota Hunt – by Tim Kreher, KDFWR Purchase Region Public Lands Biologist

West Kentucky WMA (WKWMA) consists of 6,500 acres owned by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, U.S. Department of Energy, and Tennessee Valley Authority in western McCracken County. The area is a mixture of upland hardwood woodlots and open fields dominated by native warm-season grass and early succession vegetation, with larger tracts of bottomland hardwood timber in the Ohio River floodplain on the north end of the area. There are approximately 500 acres of tenant-farmed agricultural fields scattered throughout the area, with another 100 to 150 acres of various green forage and small grain food plots provided by area staff annually. Most of the plots of timber on the WKWMA contain a significant red oak and hickory component, and when this is combined with the crop fields and food plots present, food resources are quite plentiful in the fall.

Approximately 2,250 acres of WKWMA are closed (due to security and safety concerns) during the quota deer hunt. In addition, the proximity of neighboring residential and industrial areas limits firearm deer hunters to using muzzleloaders and shotguns with slugs only. The area is broken into numbered tracts for management and regulation purposes, with Tracts 1-6 open for archery and gun deer hunts, and Tracts 7, 1A, 2A, 4A, and 7A open only for archery hunting. Hunters select one of the 6 open tracts at check-in, and can only hunt that tract until noon each day, but may hunt in any of the 6 open tracts each afternoon. There is a 15" minimum outside antler spread requirement for bucks taken during all deer hunting on the WKWMA. Scouting is allowed at any time prior to the quota hunt at WKWMA.

The quota hunt at WKWMA is held during the five days immediately preceding Thanksgiving (Saturday – Wednesday) each year. In response to demand for lower hunter densities, in 2014 the number of hunters drawn was reduced from 240 to 160 total hunters.

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YEAR	# Hunters Drawn	# Hunters Checked In	Deer seen / Hunter	Legal Bucks / Total Deer taken
2010	242	152	6.7	19/45
2011	256	138	4.9	3/20
2012	240	127	5.6	2/22
2013	241	140	3.4	19/17
2014	160	83	3.8	2/7
5 Yr Average		56% show up rate	4.88	7/22

Hunters considering the WKWMA quota deer hunt should be aware that the area is becoming an increasingly popular destination for both resident and nonresident archery hunters both early and late in the season. Deer are exposed to significant levels of hunter pressure well before the quota hunt begins, and deer movement patterns may be dictated more by hunter pressure than by food availability. Hunters doing a thorough job of scouting will find small plots of mature white oaks at several locations on the WKWMA, and these do serve as an attractive food source throughout the fall and winter. Deer hunters unfamiliar with the WKWMA should be aware that pre-hunt scouting is crucial to success on the area.



Disease Surveillance

Hemorrhagic Disease (HD)

Hemorrhagic disease (HD), a vector-borne disease of white-tailed deer is caused by two related orbiviruses, epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus (EHDV) and bluetongue virus (BTV). Hemorrhagic disease viruses are considered the most important viral agents affecting deer populations in the United States. The virus is transmitted from animal to animal through the bite of an infected midge. These insects are active in the late summer and early fall. HD outbreaks are often associated with drought. Once there has been a hard freeze the midges die off for the winter, eliminating new cases of HD.

HD is reported in deer from at least a few counties nearly every year in Kentucky, although outbreaks can be considerably large and widespread. The 2007 outbreak of HD in wild deer was the most widespread outbreak

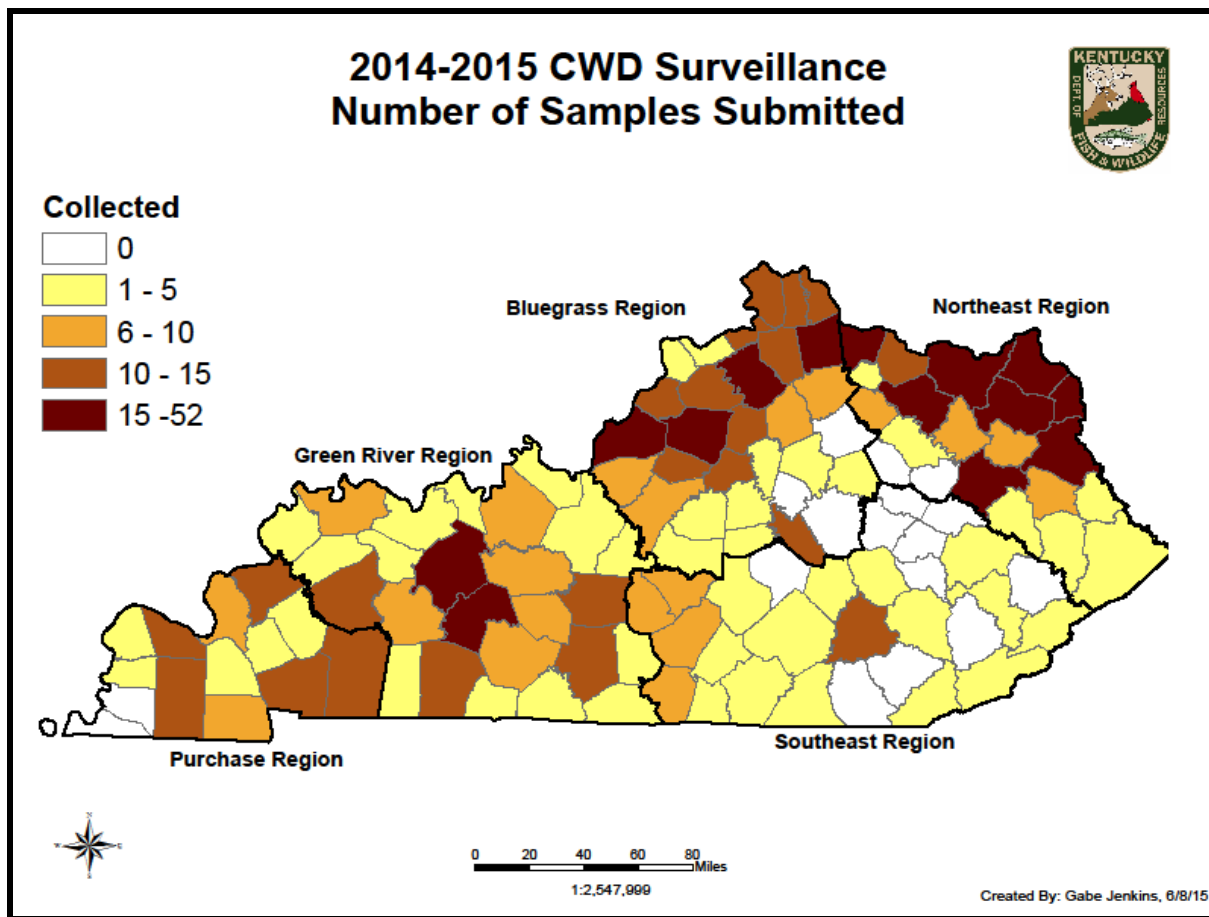
reported in the past 30 years. Over 4,000 suspected cases were reported in Kentucky. When possible, KDFWR will test animals that have died of apparent EHD.

Four deer were clinically diagnosed as EHDV positive in 2014-15. Of those 4, 2 were from Jefferson County, 1 from Hardin County and 1 from Hart County.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

CWD is a fatal, neurological disease in white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk and moose. It causes a characteristic spongy degeneration of the brains of infected animals resulting in emaciation, abnormal behavior, loss of bodily functions, and death. CWD is categorized as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE), a group that includes “mad cow” disease in cattle, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans, and scrapie in sheep and goats. CWD has been detected in 23 states and 2 Canadian provinces. Five states that border Kentucky have CWD present (West Virginia, Virginia, Missouri, Ohio, and Illinois). CWD has not been detected in Kentucky.

To detect CWD should it arrive in Kentucky, KDFWR adopted a CWD monitoring plan in 2002. That plan is a 4 part monitoring program to test 1) a random sampling of hunter-harvested deer, 2) target or suspect animals (animals that appear ill), 3) a random sample of roadkill deer, and 4) all captive deer mortalities. In 2006, KDFWR adopted a contingency plan to deal with CWD if it was ever found in Kentucky. Since 2002, approximately 24,500 hunter-harvested and roadkill deer samples have been tested. In 2014-15, 885 hunter-harvested, targeted, and roadkill samples were submitted for CWD testing. All samples have tested negative for CWD.



Carcass Importation Law

Intact deer carcasses from all CWD-positive states, including Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, West Virginia, and Virginia may not be brought into Kentucky. Allowed parts from CWD-positive states and provinces include quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached, boned-out meat, antlers, antlers attached to a clean skull plate, a clean skull, clean teeth, hides, and finished taxidermy products.

General Information about the 2014-15 Season

License and Permit Fees

License	Resident	Nonresident
Annual Hunting License	\$20	\$140
Senior/Disabled License	\$5	N/A
Sportsman's License	\$95	N/A
Youth Sportsman's License	\$30	\$25
Statewide Deer Permit	\$35	\$120
Bonus Antlerless Permit	\$15	\$15
Youth Deer Permit	\$10	\$15

Season Dates and Bag Limits

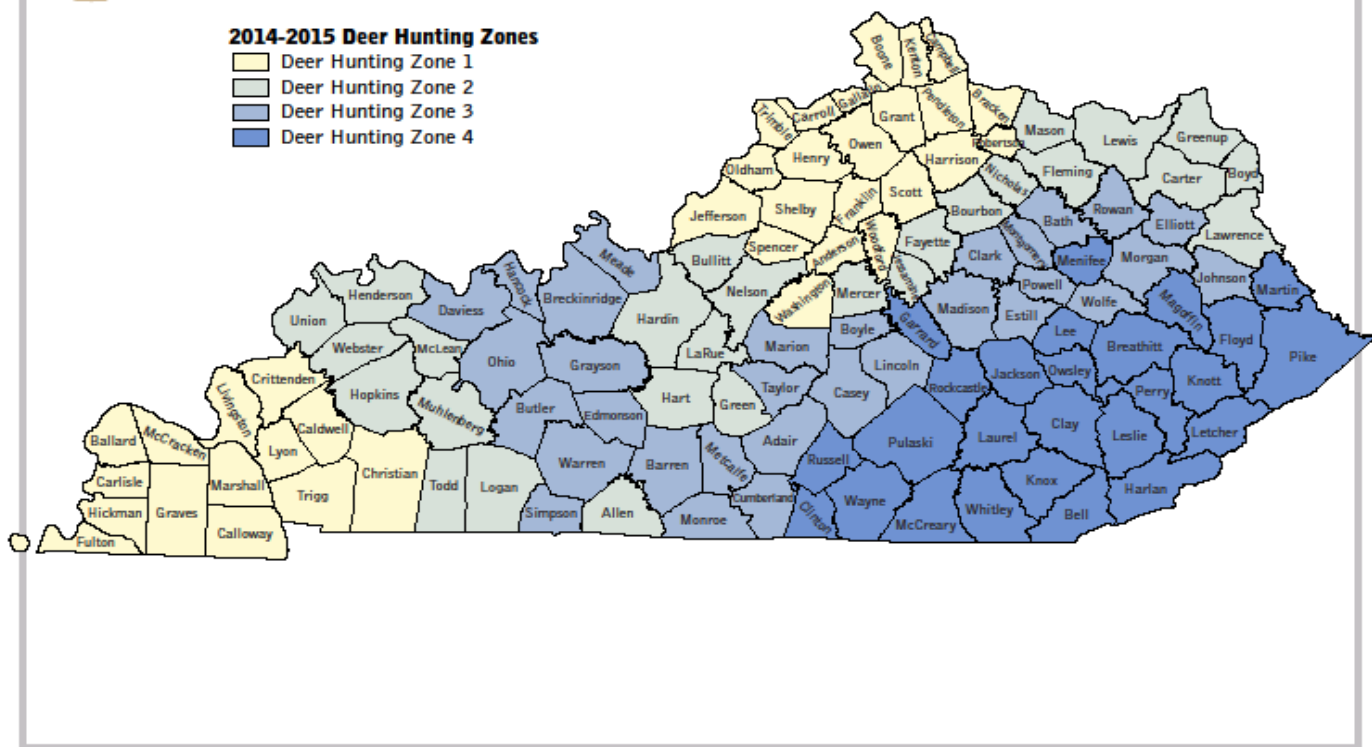
	Statewide	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4
Modern Firearm		Nov 08-23	Nov 09-24	Nov 08-17	Nov 08-17
Archery		Sept 6- Jan 19	Sept 6- Jan 19	Sept 6- Jan 19	Sept 6- Jan 19
Early Crossbow		Oct 1-19	Oct 1-19	Oct 1-19	Oct 1-19
Late Crossbow		Nov 08-Dec 31	Nov 08-Dec 31	Nov 08-Dec 31	Nov 08-Dec 31
Early Muzzleloader		Oct 18-19	Oct 18-19	Oct 18-19	Oct 18-19
Late Muzzleloader		Dec 13-21	Dec 13-21	Dec 13-21	Dec 13-21
Youth-Only Firearms	Oct 11-12				
Free Youth Weekend	Dec 27-28				
Antlered Bag Limit	1				
Antlerless Bag Limit	Based upon zone	Unlimited	Up to 4	Up to 4, only 2 deer with a firearm	Up to 4. Only 2 deer with a firearm, antlerless deer can only be killed with a firearm during the last 3 days of the late muzzleloader



DEER HUNTING ZONES FOR 2014-15

2014-2015 Deer Hunting Zones

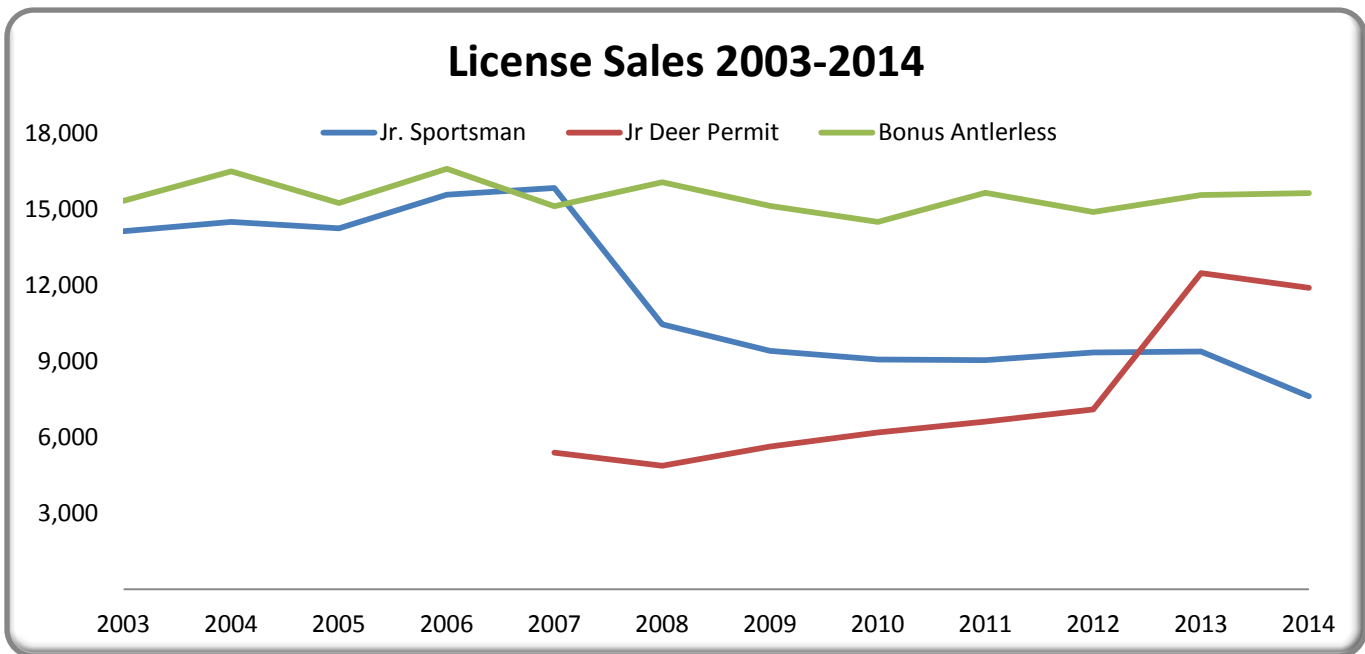
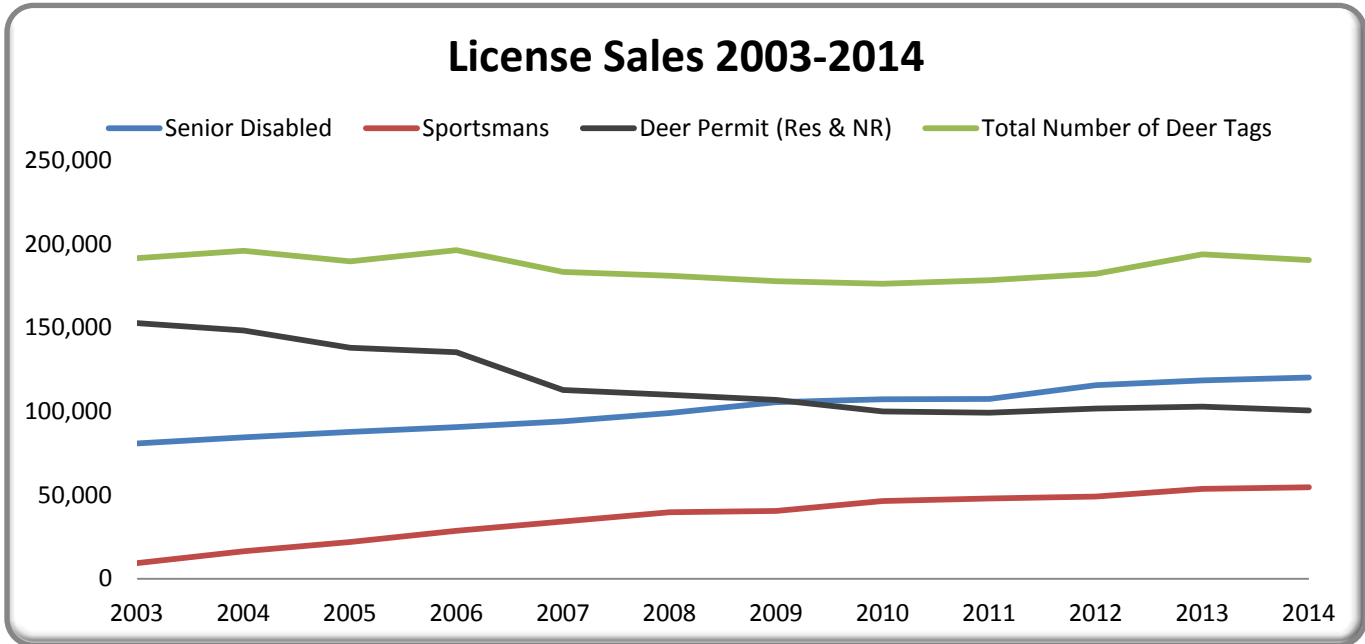
- Deer Hunting Zone 1
- Deer Hunting Zone 2
- Deer Hunting Zone 3
- Deer Hunting Zone 4



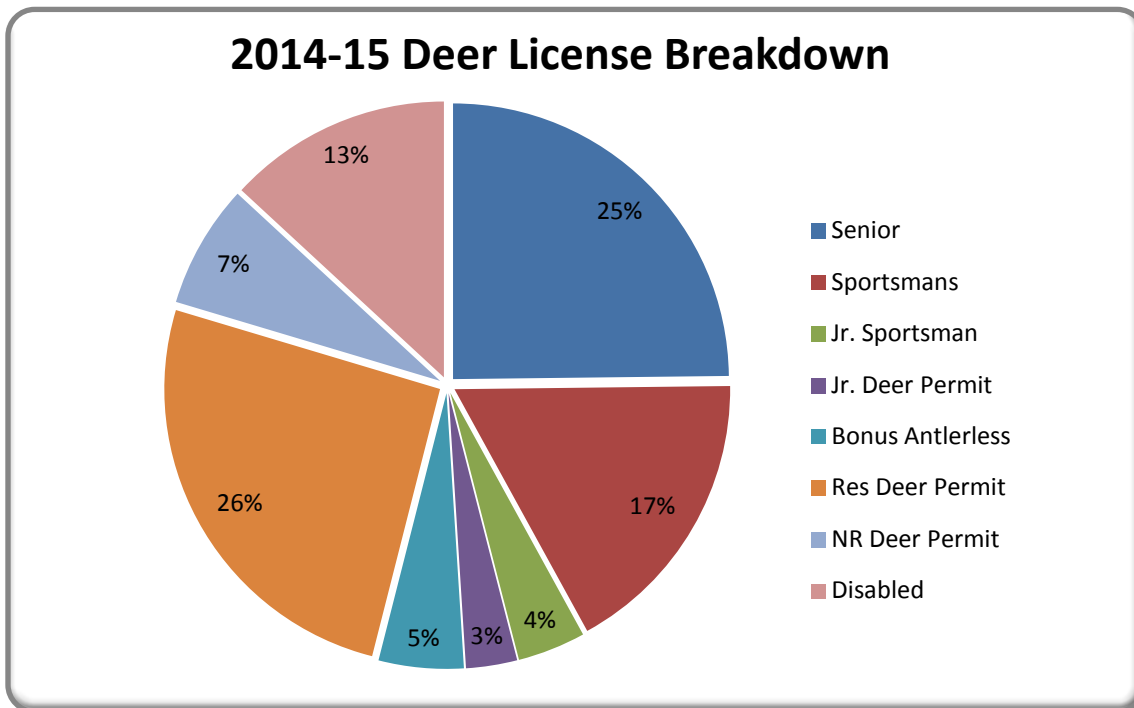
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License Sales

In recent years the number of deer permits sold has declined slightly. When including the license bundles (Sportsman’s, Jr. Sportsman’s, Jr. Deer Permit, Resident and Non-Resident Deer Permit, and Bonus Antlerless Permit) in the total deer permit numbers there was a slight decrease in license sales compared to the 2013-14 season (194,111). Deer license sales decreased by 2% from the 2013-14 season to the 2014-15 season (190,695). The decrease in license sales could be a result of the increase in Non-resident license fees that occurred prior to the 2014-15 season.



Upon further examining license sales, the majority of deer permits are purchased by Senior (26%), followed closely by Resident Deer Hunters (25%) and Sportsman License (18%) buyers. Over the last few years there was a steady increase in the number of senior licenses sold and a slow decrease in resident deer permit sales. The overall number of deer hunters is stable to slightly increasing. However, the number of Senior licenses is increasing by nearly 3,000 yearly, indicating that a majority of Kentucky deer hunters are reaching the age of 65 (i.e., the age at which you can purchase as Senior License).



Current Research

Population Dynamics of Adult Female White-tailed Deer in Southeast Kentucky

Caleb Haymes, John Cox Ph.D., University of Kentucky,
Gabe Jenkins, Will Bowling, John Hast - KDFWR

The white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) is a highly regarded game species throughout North America. Early in the 20th century, the deer population in the state of Kentucky was believed to number at 2600 individuals. After almost 90 years, 50 of which contained active restoration efforts, the deer herd now exceeds 750,000 individuals statewide. Although most of the state contains healthy numbers of deer, many counties in southeastern Kentucky are thought to have stable, low density populations.

Research will focus on adult does in Clay County, KY, in efforts to identify survival, cause-specific mortality, fecundity, and natality of this important reproductive demographic group in an area of relatively low deer density. Does will be captured and immobilized using clover traps, drop-nets, and free-range darting, then fitted with a very high frequency (VHF) radio-transmitter collar. Pregnancy and number of fetuses will be determined using an ultrasound, and a vaginal implant transmitter (VIT) will be inserted in pregnant does to facilitate location of birth-site locations and fawns for a different study. Adult does will be monitored twice weekly for mortality for 18-24 months.



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Thus far 52 adult female deer have been captured. These data should inform state wildlife managers about regional deer population dynamics that can be helpful for refinement of population models and overall management of this important game species.

Survival, Cause-Specific Mortality, and Recruitment of White-tailed Deer Neonates in Southeastern Kentucky

Joe McDermott, Dr. John Cox - University of Kentucky
Gabe Jenkins, Will Bowling, John Hast – KDFWR

An extensive trapping and relocation project that ended in 1999 revealed that white-tailed deer populations in southeastern Kentucky were in decline while populations in the rest of the state were stable or increasing. Because the factors influencing this decline in southeastern Kentucky are unknown, the goal of this research project is to determine the recruitment rate, or the rate at which juveniles survive to adulthood and consequently become part of the breeding population, of deer populations through estimates of survival and cause-specific mortality of fawns. Understanding cause-specific mortality and survival of fawns is important when preparing deer population models that inform management decisions.

Data collection will continue into the 2015 fawning season by capturing and collaring fawns during the months of May and June in Clay county. Fawns will be captured using vaginal implant transmitters (VITs) inserted into known females that were captured during a complimentary mortality survey occurring in the same region. Fawns will also be found by utilizing thermal imaging cameras at night to detect the heat signature of these deer. Once captured, fawns will be fitted with an expandable neonate collar that will allow us to monitor the animals until death or until the collar releases at around nine months. Data generated from these fawns will allow us to understand what factors are influencing fawn mortality, as well as how many fawns are surviving into the fall hunting season.



Photo courtesy of Kyle Sams, KDFWR Wildlife Biologist

35 fawn collars were deployed during the 2014 fawning season: 20 from VITs and 15 from a combination of ground and thermal searches. At the end of the 2015 fawning season, 31 fawn collars were deployed: 21 from VITs and 10 from a combination of ground and thermal searches. Upon completion, the results of this project will support future decisions made by biologists regarding deer management in southeastern Kentucky populations.

Changes for the 2015-2016 Deer Season

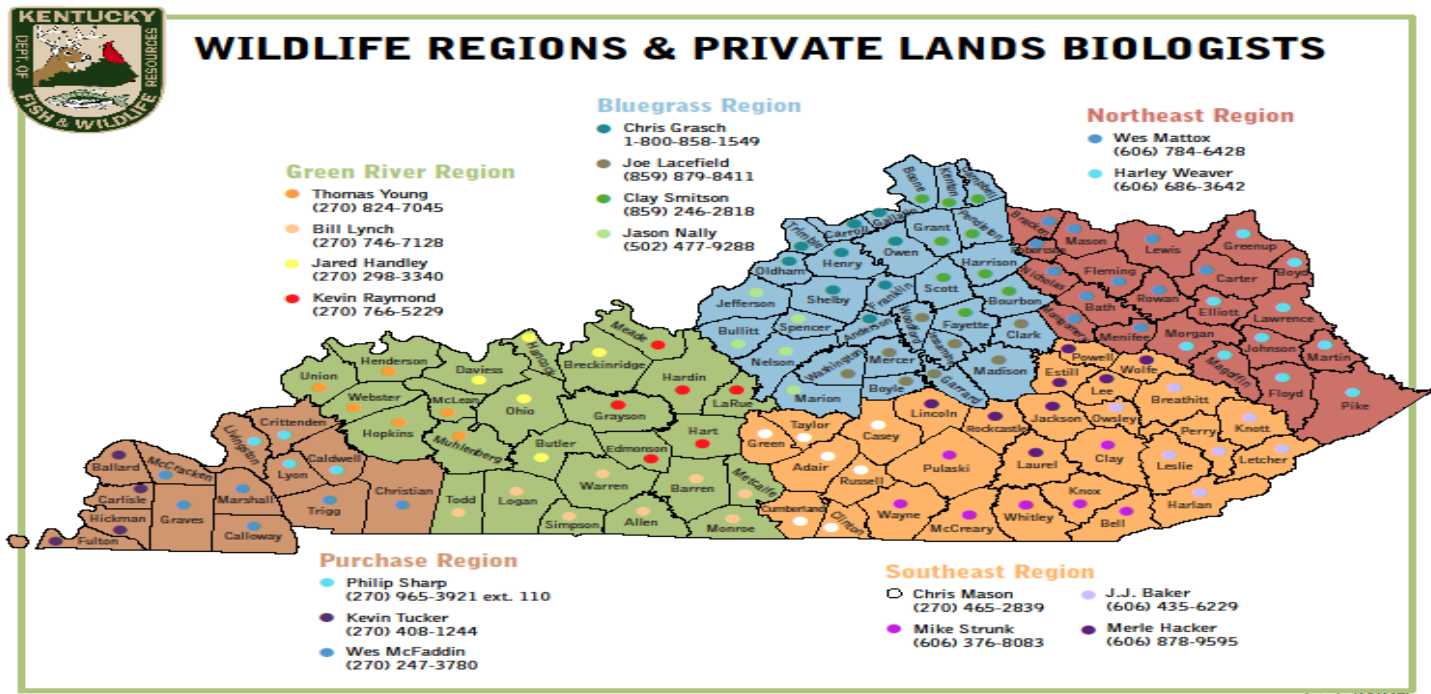
Bullitt, Green, Hopkins, Larue, and Nelson Counties will be changed from a zone 2 to a zone 1. Grayson and Ohio counties will be changed from a zone 3 to a zone 2. Clay WMA is now open to both early and late muzzleloader seasons. Dewey Lake WMA now has two new tracts of land that will offer archery only deer hunting. The quota hunt has been removed from the Marion County WMA and is now open under statewide regulations. Higginson-Henry WMA is now open to youth firearms and crossbow seasons. Kentucky River WMA will have a firearms quota hunt beginning on the first Saturday in November for two consecutive days. Lake Barkley WMA, specifically the Duck Island tract only, will be open to early muzzleloader season. Redbird WMA will be open to modern firearms for two consecutive days beginning the second Saturday in November. For two consecutive days beginning on the first Saturday in December Veterans Memorial WMA will hold an additional quota hunt for antlerless deer only. Yatesville WMA will be open to firearms season for ten consecutive days beginning the second Saturday in November. Otter Creek Outdoor Recreational Area has combined the current two quota hunts into one quota hunt that will be held for two consecutive days beginning the second Saturday in December.

Date changes only reflect the calendar shift from 2014 to 2015.

Contacts

Approximately 95% of Kentucky is privately owned. To successfully manage our wildlife resources, the KDFWR works cooperatively with Kentucky’s private landowners. One of the essential ingredients in conserving Kentucky’s wildlife resources is habitat improvement. Wildlife biologists are available to work with interested individuals or groups on properties that they own or have management rights on.

To contact your local wildlife biologist for assistance with wildlife management on your property see the map below.



Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
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Photo courtesy of Joe Lacefield, KDFWR Private Lands Biologist



The Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is funded through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. It receives no general fund tax dollars.

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