

White-tailed Deer Program Report

Jace R. Elliott, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 1436 255th St., Boone, IA 50036

2025-2026 HUNTING SEASON RESULTS

In the 2025-2026 season, Iowa deer hunters reported 101,919 deer harvest (Table 1.1), marking a 1% increase from the previous season (Table 1.2). Accounting for reporting noncompliance and wounding loss estimates a total hunting mortality of 153,239 deer (Figure 1.1). Deer license sales reflected a -2% change from the prior season.

During the 2025-2026 season, antlerless deer (adult does and fawns) constituted 56% of the total harvest, which is consistent with the previous season (Table 1.1). Antlered deer, which includes shed-antlered bucks, made up 44% of the total harvest, with 1,463 shed-antlered bucks reported. Figure 1.2 illustrates the long-term trends of deer hunters, license sales, and reported harvest. Iowa continues to maintain relatively stable deer hunter numbers despite severe declines experienced throughout many Midwestern states. Figure 1.3 presents a historical breakdown of reported harvest by the sex-age category of deer.

In the 2025-2026 hunting season, 63 counties offered additional antlerless licenses, totaling 74,125 available antlerless licenses statewide (Figure 1.4). Resident hunters had the opportunity to purchase an unlimited number of antlerless licenses before reaching the county quota, but were limited to one antlerless license before September 15th. These licenses were specific to a county and season.

Total harvest for the first and second **regular gun seasons** was 4% and 6% lower, respectively, in 2025-2026 compared to 2024-2025. Overall, the total reported harvest for the entire shotgun season was approximately 5% lower than the previous season, with license sales down by 8% (Table 1.2). Antlered bucks represented 39% of the total harvest during the shotgun seasons, while does made up 50% of the reported harvest. The distribution of reported antlered deer kill per square mile (Table 1.4) was highest in northeastern and southern Iowa due to greater deer densities and habitat.

Archery season hunters harvested 20,262 deer, including those killed on senior crossbow licenses, reflecting a 4% increase from 2024-2025. Antlered deer constituted 60% of the total reported archery harvest (Table 1.1).

During the **early muzzleloader** season, there was a 15% decrease in the reported harvest compared to 2024-2025, with license sales decreasing by 11% (Table 1.1 and Table 1.2). This season saw a harvest of 49% antlered bucks, 46% does, and 5% button bucks. In the **late muzzleloader** season of 2025-2026, hunters reported harvesting 6,189 deer, marking a 6% decrease compared to the previous season. Of these, 33% were antlered bucks.

Landowner-tenant hunters harvested 12,207 deer, which marks a 3% increase from the previous season. 50,686 special landowner-tenant licenses, which are valid-until-filled through all regular seasons, were purchased in the 2025-2026 season (-1% from last year). Of the deer harvested, 41% were antlered bucks.

Nonresident hunters were issued 6,055 any-deer licenses for the 2025-2026 deer hunting seasons (Table 1.1). All nonresident hunters also received antlerless-only licenses, with additional optional antlerless-only licenses available to them. The reported success rate for the nonresident any-deer and antlerless-only licenses was 45% and 21%, respectively (Table 1.1). In total, nonresidents reported harvesting 2,727 antlered bucks and 1,451 does in 2025-2026.

Youth season experienced a 10% increase in the total number of licenses issued (16,091) compared to 2024-2025 (Table 1.1 and Table 1.2). Youth season hunters who did not harvest a deer during the youth deer hunting season could use the unfilled tag during subsequent deer hunting seasons. The success rate for youth licenses was 34% with 5,409 deer reported. Fifty-seven percent of the deer reported were antlered bucks. Reported harvest by youth hunters increased 1% compared to 2024-2025.

Disabled season hunters were issued 406 licenses, a 12% decrease from the previous season. Reported harvest by hunters using a disabled license decreased 21% compared to 2024-2025. The success rate for disabled licenses was 28% with 112 deer reported. Fifty-one percent of the deer reported were antlered bucks (Table 1.1).

Special management hunts were conducted at 63 locations in 2025-2026 during which the total reported harvest was 2,381 deer (Table 1.5). These hunts aim to address the specific management needs of areas such as state and county parks and urban areas that cannot be opened to general regulations. The majority of deer taken in these hunts were antlerless, and the deer tagged did not count against a hunter's regular licenses. Many of these hunts achieved their population goals in localized areas.

An additional 5,790 licenses and permits were issued to hunters/landowners in **depredation** situations which resulted in a reported harvest of 3,316 deer. This marked a 7% decrease in the depredation harvest from 2024-2025 (Table 1.1 and Table 1.2). Notably, 2025 marked the lowest number of recorded deer depredation complaints received in program history, likely due to lower statewide deer numbers combined with ample precipitation throughout the growing season.

POPULATION TREND SURVEYS

Three techniques are currently used to monitor trends in Iowa deer populations: (1) **spotlight surveys** conducted by Iowa DNR staff in March and April, (2) the number of **animal-related accidents** reported to the Department of Transportation, (3) the annual **Bow Hunter Observation Survey** coordinated by the Iowa DNR and conducted by volunteers during October-November (Table 1.6). These surveys correlate well with the fourth population index, **reported antlered harvest**, but are subject to variability due to survey conditions, deer behavior, habitat conditions, and weather.

New spotlight routes were introduced in 2006 and replaced the old ones in 2012, consisting of 199 transects distributed across all counties for a total survey mileage of about 4,750 miles. These routes aim to be more representative of available rural habitats within counties. In 2026, the average number of deer observed per 25 miles decreased by 14% compared to 2025 (Table 1.6).

In 2025, approximately 7,300 animal-related vehicle collisions were reported in Iowa (-6% change from 2024).

The Bowhunter Observation Survey, representing about 80,000 hours of observation throughout the state, has replaced the aerial deer survey as a trend index. This survey is conducted voluntarily by a randomly selected group of Iowa bow hunters. In 2025, total deer observations per 1,000 hours hunted decreased by 3%.

The estimated harvest from 2006-2025 also informed the statewide deer population model, which suggests a relatively stable to declining deer population statewide (Figure 1.5). The model aligns well with the harvest and bowhunter observation data. The data indicate that the statewide deer herd declined from 2006-2013, stabilized from 2013-2017, slightly increased until 2023, then stabilized or decreased over the last couple years.

DISEASE REPORT

The Iowa DNR actively monitors **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)**, a neurological disease primarily affecting deer species. CWD is characterized by abnormal protein (prion) buildup in the brain, leading to weight loss and abnormal behavior. Iowa has tested over 110,000 wild deer and 5,000 captive deer and elk since 2002 as part of CWD surveillance. Samples are collected from all 99 counties, primarily in areas near detected cases. In 2025-2026, 192 new CWD-positive cases were detected, adding Buchanan, Butler, Crawford, Delaware, Linn, Marion, Mills, Plymouth, Scott, and Warren counties to the list of affected areas, bringing the total to 39 (Figure 1.6).

Hemorrhagic Disease (HD), which includes Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and Bluetongue, is another disease affecting deer, spread by biting midges. EHD causes high fever and weakens the heart and lungs. Unlike CWD which is 100% fatal, deer can survive HD, though survival in Iowa is seemingly low. Dry, drought years can worsen HD outbreaks as deer concentrate around persisting water sources that correspond with midge habitat. Extended warm weather into fall months can also increase mortality, as the insect vectors persist longer on the landscape. In 2025, less than 50 suspected cases of HD were reported across the state. Overall, 2025 was considered an exceptionally mild HD outbreak in Iowa, which followed two of the most severe outbreaks in state history (2023 and 2024).

FIGURES

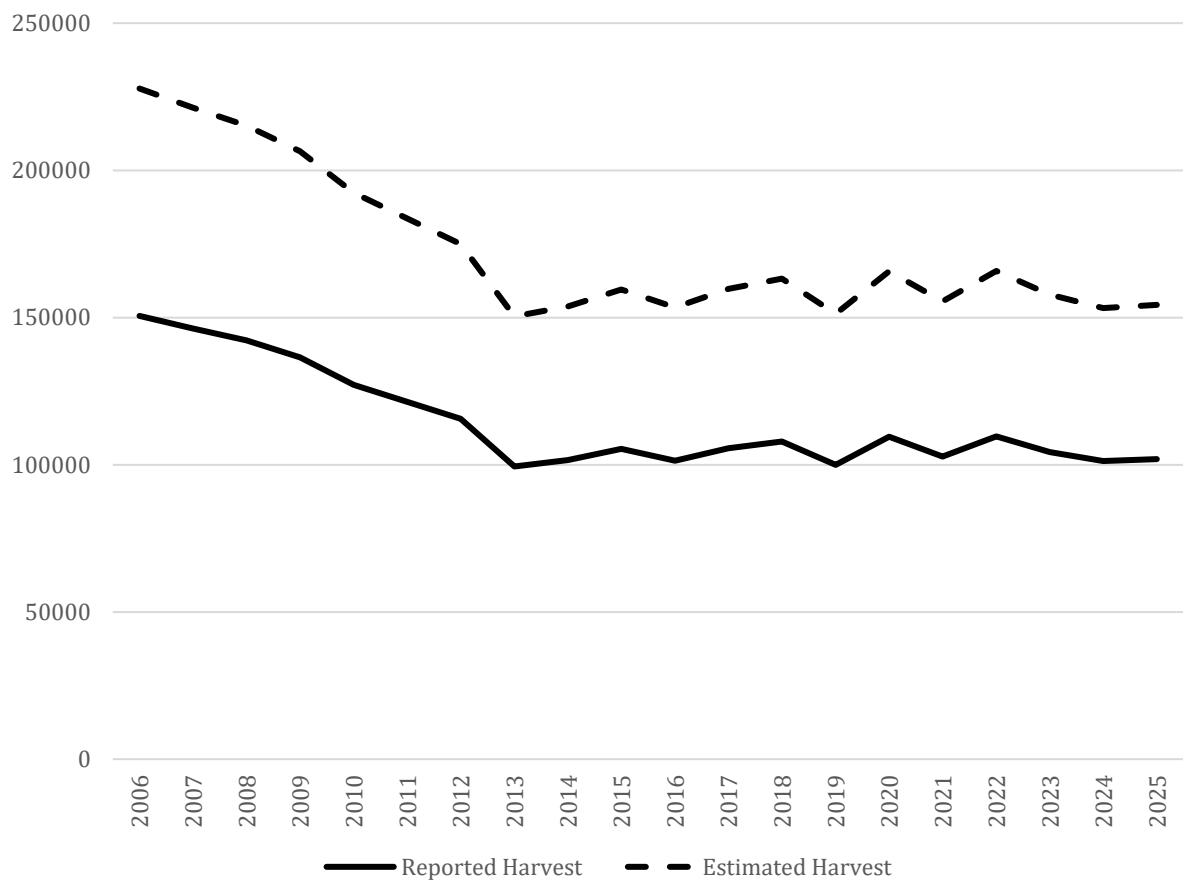


Figure 1.1. Number of reported and estimated deer harvest from 2006-2007 to 2025-2026.

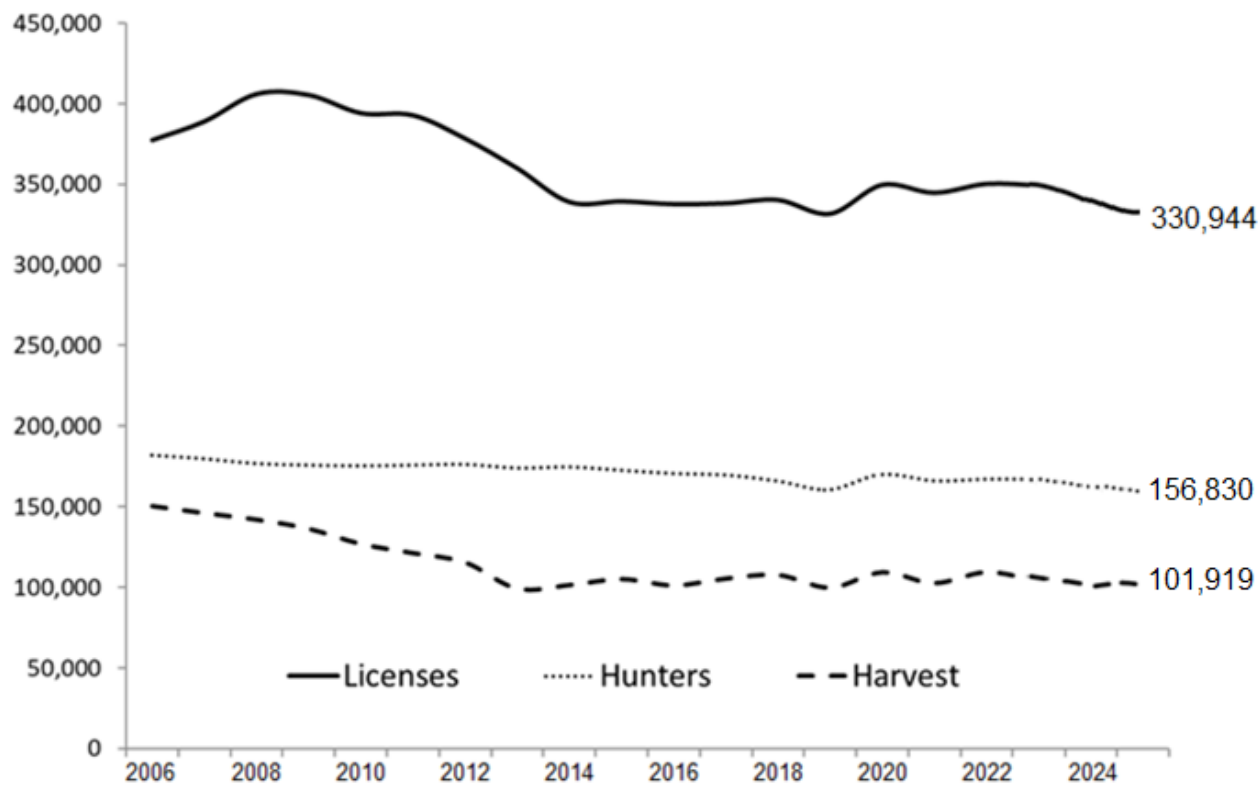


Figure 1.2. Post-season reported harvest, hunters, and license sales from 2006-2007 to 2025-2026 seasons.

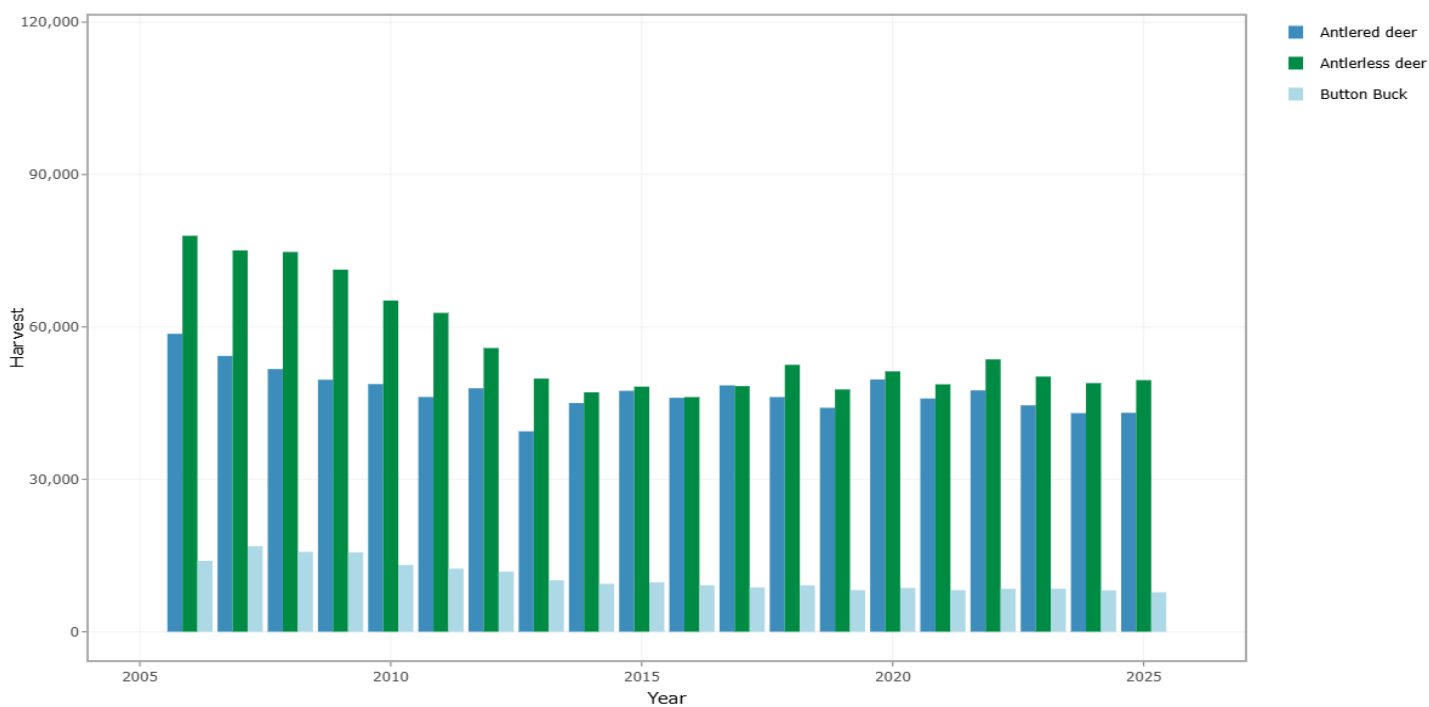


Figure 1.3. Number of does, button bucks, and antlered bucks harvested from 2006-2007 to 2025-2026. Since 2006, harvest was reported and is not directly comparable to previous estimates from mail card surveys.

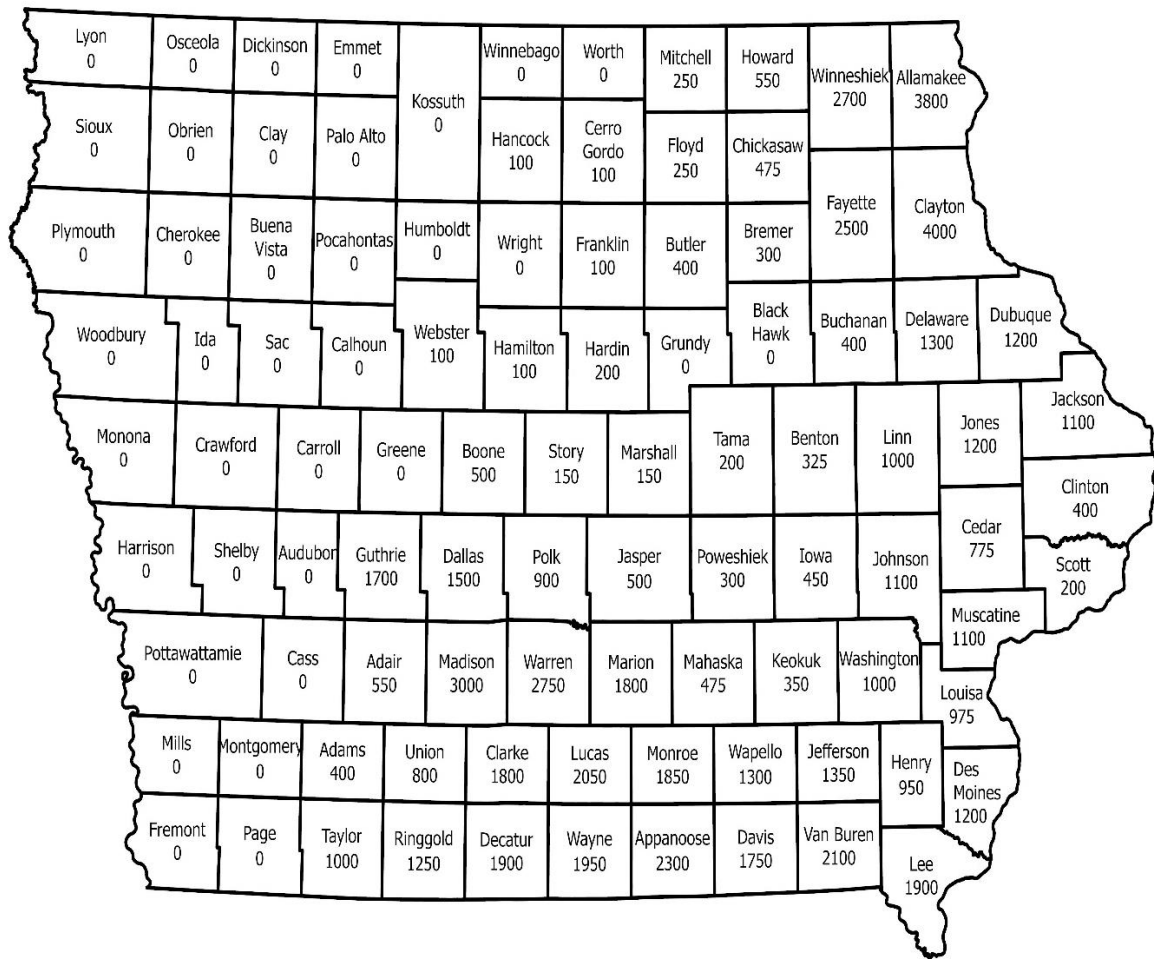
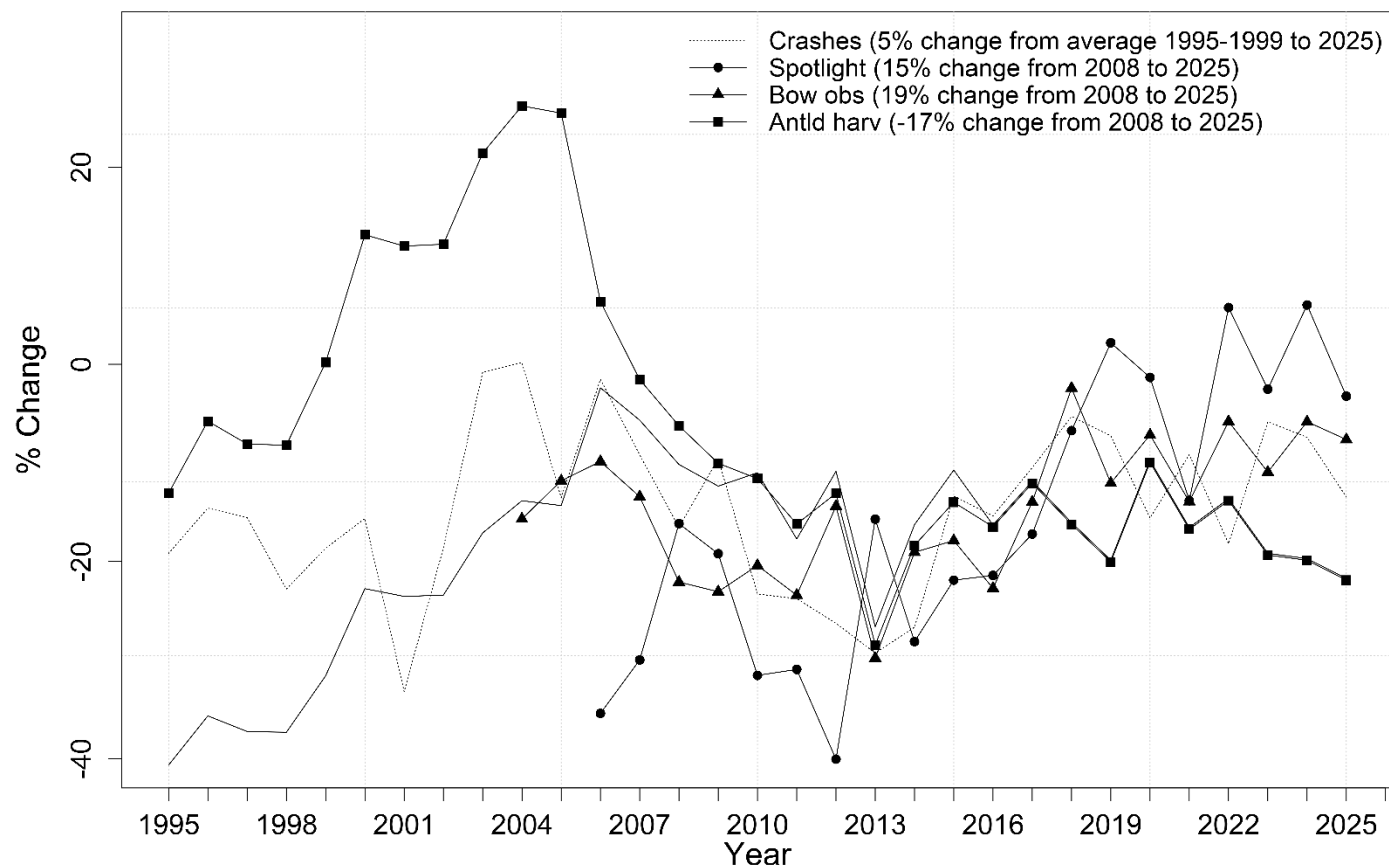


Figure 1.4. Resident antlerless-only deer quotas in each county offered for the 2025-2026 hunting year.



* Crashes = animal-related crashes reported to IADOT.

* Spotlight = DNR effort involving 50 miles of rural roads in each county surveyed nocturnally under consistent conditions April-May.

* Bow obs = bow hunter observation survey from start of archery season through Friday before 1st weekend in December.

* Antld harv = reported antlered deer harvest.

Figure 1.5. Deer population indices, 1995-2025.

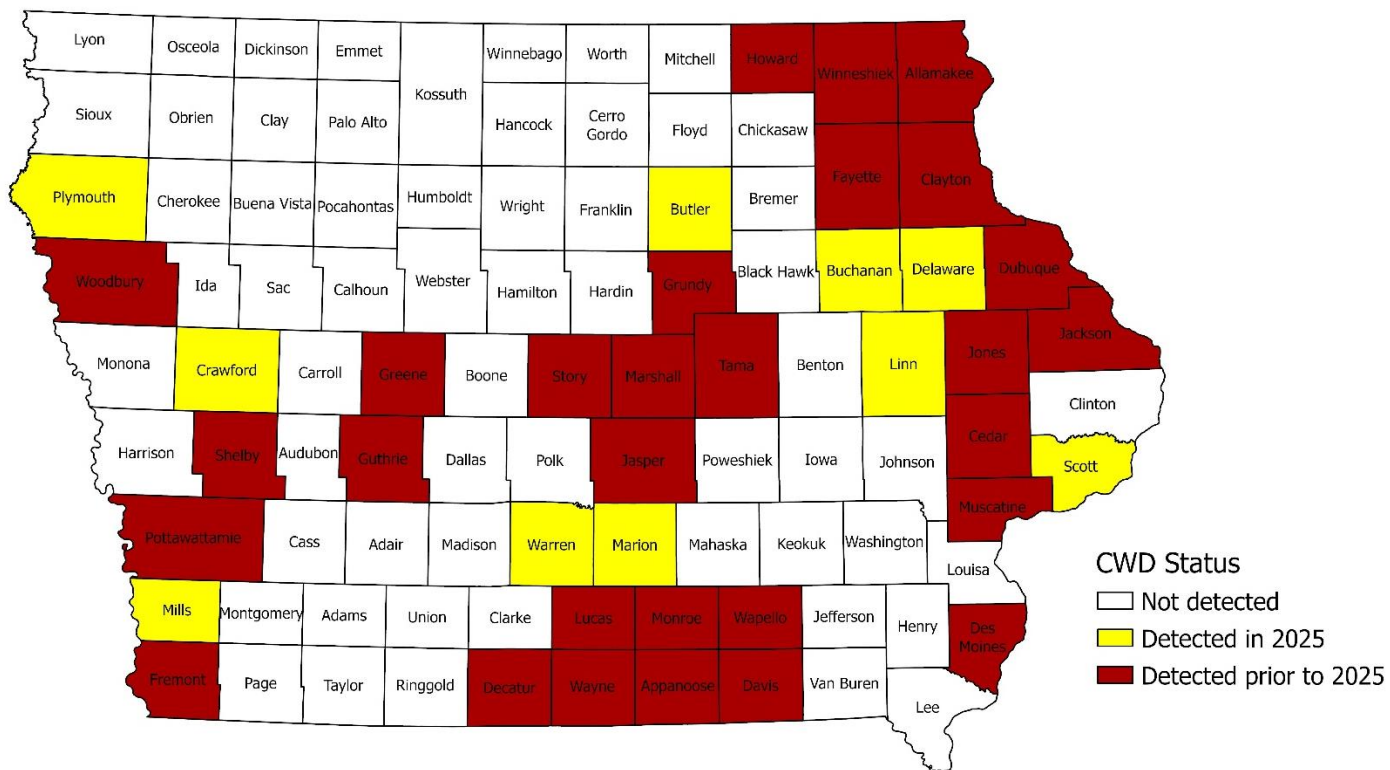


Figure 1.6. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) detected counties in Iowa (wild deer only), 2013-2025.

TABLES

Table 1.1. A summary of the number of licenses issued, hunters, reported harvest and success rates from the 2025-2026 season.

Season	Eligibility	Type	Licenses	Hunters	Reported Harvest					Success Rate ²	Percent Does
					Does	Antlered	Buttons	Sheds	Total		
Youth	General	Either-sex	14,508	14,506	1,480	3,067	278	56	4,881	34%	30%
	County	Antlerless	1,586	1,302	461	8	70	6	545	34%	85%
		Total	16,094	15,808	1,941	3,075	348	62	5,426	34%	36%
Disabled	General	Either-sex	367	345	41	58	1	1	101	28%	41%
	County	Antlerless	41	36	12	0	0	0	12	29%	100%
		Total	408	381	53	58	1	1	113	28%	47%
Early Muzz.	General	Either-sex	5,105	5,105	511	1,026	64	10	1,611	32%	32%
	County	Antlerless	1,195	952	383	5	42	0	430	36%	89%
	LOT	Antlerless	424	400	80	1	11	0	92	22%	87%
		Total	6,724	6,457	974	1,032	117	10	2,133	32%	46%
Gun 1	General	Either-sex	40,322	40,322	3,938	9,614	991	129	14,672	36%	27%
	County	Antlerless	16,810	10,778	6,621	67	1,050	39	7,777	46%	85%
Gun 2	General	General	42,045	42,042	4,662	6,558	1,065	297	12,582	30%	37%
	County	Antlerless	17,588	10,909	5,757	38	872	145	6,812	39%	85%
	LOT	Antlerless	5,605	4,521	1,658	13	271	40	1,982	35%	84%
		Total	122,370	108,572	22,636	16,290	4,249	650	43,825	36%	52%
Late Muzz.	General	Either-sex	16,737	16,737	1,292	1,911	178	115	3,496	21%	37%
	County	Antlerless	8,291	5,767	1,739	13	249	85	2,086	25%	83%
	LOT	Antlerless	1,441	1,323	239	0	16	6	261	18%	92%
		Total	26,469	23,827	3,270	1,924	443	206	5,843	22%	56%
Special LOT	LOT	Either-sex	30,416	30,415	1,505	5,035	317	134	6,991	23%	22%
	LOT	Antlerless	20,270	20,269	4,587	76	590	81	5,334	26%	86%
		Total	50,686	50,684	6,092	5,111	907	215	12,325	24%	49%
Archery	General	Either-sex	52,296	52,286	1,084	12,467	197	142	13,890	27%	8%
	County	Antlerless	21,107	14,925	5,035	40	597	10	5,682	27%	89%
	LOT	Antlerless	1,844	1,627	403	8	43	0	454	25%	89%
		Total	75,247	68,838	6,522	12,515	837	152	20,026	27%	33%
Disabled Veteran (Bonus)	General	Either-sex	1,264	1,264	111	206	28	8	353	28%	31%
Senior Crossbow	General	Antlerless	1101	1100	228	4	30	5	267	24%	85%

Season	Eligibility	Type	Licenses	Hunters	Reported Harvest					Success Rate ²	Percent Does
					Does	Antlered	Buttons	Sheds	Total		
Special Hunts	Zone	Antlerless	3,464	1,500	1,508	150	146	9	1,813	52%	83%
Depredation	Property	Antlerless	5,860	2,219	2,942	8	331	35	3,316	57%	89%
January Antlerless	County	Antlerless	6,973	4,000	1,713	4	188	77	1,982	28%	86%
Nonresidents ³	Zone	Either-sex	6,055	6,054	84	2,617	10	14	2,725	45%	3%
	Zone/County	Antlerless	8,110	8,108	1,503	108	142	19	1,772	22%	85%
Total			330,944	156,830⁴	49,596	43,110	7,783	1,463	101,919	31%	49%

¹LOT = landowner/tenant licenses; Paid = non-landowner/tenant licenses.

²Percent of licenses that reported harvested deer.

³Nonresident licenses for either shotgun 1, shotgun 2, archery, late muzzleloader, disabled hunter, or holiday antlerless-only season.

Quota of 6,000 nonresident general deer/antlerless-only licenses, 35% of which can be archery licenses. An additional 4,500 antlerless-only licenses are available for either one of the shotgun seasons or the disabled hunter season.

⁴Individual hunters may buy licenses for multiple seasons, therefore total number of hunters is less than the sum of all seasons combined.

Table 1.2. A comparison of the number of deer licenses issued and the reported harvest in 2025-26 with 2024-25 by season.

Season	2024 - 2025		2025 - 2026		% Change	
	Licenses	Harvest	Licenses	Harvest	Licenses	Harvest
Youth	14,655	5,361	16,094	5,426	10%	1%
Disabled	462	142	408	113	-12%	-21%
Archery	76,334	19,193	75,247	20,026	-1%	4%
Early Muzzleloader	7,590	2,522	6,724	2,133	-11%	-15%
Gun 1	58,650	23,276	57,132	22,449	-3%	-4%
Gun 2	67,977	20,656	59,633	19,394	-12%	-6%
LOT Gun 1 & 2	6,058	2,036	5,605	1,982	-7%	-3%
Special LOT	51,015	11,893	50,686	12,325	-1%	4%
Late Muzzleloader	27,404	6,189	26,469	5,843	-3%	-6%
Disabled Veteran	-	-	1,264	353	-	-
Special Hunts	3,074	1,580	3,464	1,813	13%	15%
Depredation	6,723	3,551	5,860	3,316	-13%	-7%
January Antlerless	6,416	1,944	6,973	1,982	9%	2%
Nonresidents	14,370	4,299	14,165	4,497	-1%	5%
Total	336,130	101,266	330,944	101,919	-3%	1%

Table 1.3. Historical data on reported deer harvest by license type (1953 to present).

Year	Regular Gun			Muzzleloader			Archery	Grand Total*
	Paid	Landowner	Total	Early	Late	Total		
1953	2,401	1,606	4,007				1	4,008
1954	1,827	586	2,413				10	2,423
1955	2,438	568	3,006				58	3,064
1956	2,000	561	2,561				117	2,678
1957	2,187	480	2,667				138	2,805
1958	2,141	588	2,729				162	2,891
1959	1,935	541	2,476				255	2,731
1960	3,188	804	3,992				277	4,269
1961	4,033	964	4,997				367	5,364
1962	4,281	1,018	5,299				404	5,703
1963	5,595	1,017	6,612				538	7,151
1964	7,274	1,750	9,024				670	9,694
1965	6,588	1,322	7,910				710	8,620
1966	9,070	1,672	10,742				579	11,321
1967	7,628	2,764	10,392				791	11,183
1968	9,051	3,890	12,941				830	13,771
1969	6,952	3,779	10,731				851	11,582
1970	8,398	4,345	12,743				1,037	13,780
1971	7,779	2,680	10,459				1,232	11,691
1972	7,747	2,738	10,485				1,328	11,813
1973	10,017	2,191	12,208				1,822	14,030
1974	11,720	4,097	15,817				2,173	17,990
1975	15,293	3,655	18,948				2,219	21,167
1976	11,728	2,529	14,257				2,350	16,607
1977	10,737	2,051	12,788				2,400	15,188
1978	12,815	2,353	15,168				2,957	18,125
1979	14,178	1,971	16,149				3,305	19,454
1980	16,511	2,346	18,857				3,803	22,660
1981	19,224	2,354	21,578				4,368	25,946
1982	19,269	2,472	21,741				4,720	26,461
1983	27,078	3,297	30,375				5,244	35,619
1984	29,912	3,537	33,449		307	307	5,599	39,355
1985	32,613	5,344	37,957		457	457	5,805	44,219
1986	41,352	10,378	51,730	349	728	1,077	9,895	62,702
1987	53,230	10,270	63,500	1,509	1,027	2,536	9,722	75,758
1988	66,757	13,298	80,055	1,835	1,294	3,129	9,897	93,756
1989	67,606	12,963	80,569	2,619	3,715	6,334	11,857	99,712
1990	69,101	9,095	78,196	2,819	5,884	8,703	10,146	98,002
1991	56,811	11,575	68,386	3,120	2,766	5,886	8,807	83,635
1992	50,822	10,453	61,275	3,316	3,231	6,564	8,814	77,684
1993	52,624	8,354	60,978	2,219	2,883	5,102	9,291	76,430
1994	59,054	8,735	67,789	2,610	3,196	5,806	12,040	87,231

Year	Regular Gun			Muzzleloader			Archery	Grand Total*
	Paid	Landowner	Total	Early	Late	Total		
1995	65,206	7,917	73,123	2,831	3,408	6,363	13,372	97,256
1996	71,577	10,896	82,473	2,895	4,558	7,453	12,314	107,632
1997	77,169	10,588	87,757	4,062	5,508	9,570	14,313	118,404
1998	73,165	9,989	83,154	4,448	5,343	9,791	12,302	112,608
1999	74,362	12,966	87,328	5,277	5,329	10,606	15,266	121,635
2000	77,743	13,189	90,932	4,585	5,936	10,521	17,727	126,535
2001	82,721	14,801	97,522	4,593	7,320	11,913	18,798	136,655
2002	77,940	18,932	96,872	5,091	7,772	12,863	20,703	140,490
2003	96,757	25,353	122,110	6,155	12,049	18,204	26,486	182,856
2004	97,830	26,333	124,163	6,818	13,550	20,368	30,025	194,512
2005	96,110	27,988	124,098	7,209	13,930	21,139	32,986	211,451
2006	76,218	14,956	91,174	5,431	8,698	14,129	22,008	150,552
2007	67,175	13,862	81,037	4,462	10,530	14,992	22,240	146,214
2008	63,330	12,762	76,092	4,342	10,254	14,596	21,793	142,194
2009	58,801	12,630	71,431	4,495	9,482	13,977	23,172	136,504
2010	56,511	11,455	67,966	4,026	8,838	12,864	21,154	127,094
2011	52,130	11,009	63,139	4,427	8,165	12,592	21,983	121,407
2012	49,110	10,931	60,041	3,896	10,823	14,719	21,981	115,608
2013	42,442	9,271	51,713	4,027	6,828	10,855	20,319	99,414
2014	44,910	10,701	55,611	3,700	8,793	12,493	21,128	101,595
2015	45,214	11,041	56,255	4,042	9,604	13,646	22,489	105,401
2016	43,205	10,358	53,563	3,450	9,560	13,010	22,389	101,397
2017	46,559	11,161	57,720	3,423	9,629	13,052	22,665	105,578
2018	47,401	11,837	59,238	3,594	9,885	13,479	21,271	107,857
2019	43,154	9,967	53,121	3,347	7,564	10,911	22,142	99,999
2020	46,167	11,091	57,258	4,074	9,505	13,579	23,746	109,544
2021	44,100	10,203	54,303	3,473	8,407	11,880	21,257	102,800
2022	45,923	10,863	56,795	3,367	9,423	12,790	21,646	109,600
2023	43,343	10,187	53,530	3,264	7,919	11,183	22,448	104,274
2024	43,932	11,893 ²	55,825	2,522	6,189	8,711	19,193	101,282
2025	41,850	12,207	54,057	2,133	5,811	7,944	19,995	101,919

¹Grand Total includes special management unit hunts, nonresidents and youth. Harvest estimates from 2005 and prior are not comparable to subsequent years.

²2024 marked the first year Landowner-tenant any-deer licenses were able to be used in any season without designation.

Table 1.4. Total reported deer kill by county during the 2025-2026 deer season.

County	Antlered Bucks	Does	Button Bucks	Shed-antlered Bucks	Total	Percent of kill		Antlered Buck Kill /Sq. Mile
						Does	Antlered Bucks	
Adair	307	313	47	12	679	46	45	0.54
Adams	259	227	30	2	518	44	50	0.61
Allamakee	1266	1920	242	67	3495	55	36	1.99
Appanoose	773	1087	181	25	2066	53	37	1.48
Audubon	115	78	10	1	204	38	56	0.26
Benton	443	514	85	17	1059	49	42	0.62
Black Hawk	411	444	67	16	938	47	44	0.72
Boone	501	558	81	22	1162	48	43	0.87
Bremer	532	582	112	28	1254	46	42	1.21
Buchanan	458	455	111	8	1032	44	44	0.81
Buena Vista	106	60	7	1	174	34	61	0.19
Butler	548	547	96	20	1211	45	45	0.94
Calhoun	65	14	3	2	84	17	77	0.11
Carroll	125	58	14	2	199	29	63	0.22
Cass	200	80	16	2	298	27	67	0.36
Cedar	560	540	106	14	1220	44	46	0.96
Cerro Gordo	289	210	35	10	544	39	53	0.5
Cherokee	157	77	5	8	247	31	64	0.27
Chickasaw	424	660	90	23	1197	55	35	0.84
Clarke	639	765	116	10	1530	50	42	1.49
Clay	269	162	18	12	461	35	58	0.47
Clayton	1526	2371	275	75	4247	56	36	1.96
Clinton	637	647	106	24	1414	46	45	0.92
Crawford	168	61	10	6	245	25	69	0.23
Dallas	489	565	105	13	1172	48	42	0.82
Davis	558	886	145	22	1611	55	35	1.1
Decatur	618	776	101	13	1508	51	41	1.17
Delaware	562	970	161	39	1732	56	32	0.98
Des Moines	579	819	147	15	1560	52	37	1.42
Dickinson	172	110	14	7	303	36	57	0.45
Dubuque	867	1280	209	34	2390	54	36	1.42
Emmet	145	74	14	4	237	31	61	0.37
Fayette	790	1136	156	46	2128	53	37	1.09
Floyd	445	518	81	19	1063	49	42	0.88
Franklin	266	213	30	18	527	40	50	0.45
Fremont	283	85	9	2	379	22	75	0.54
Greene	204	125	14	8	351	36	58	0.36
Grundy	93	47	2	1	143	33	65	0.19
Guthrie	641	833	127	12	1613	52	40	1.08
Hamilton	211	160	18	6	395	41	53	0.37
Hancock	155	149	19	11	334	45	46	0.27

County	Antlered Bucks	Does	Button Bucks	Shed-antlered Bucks	Total	Percent of kill		Antlered Buck Kill /Sq. Mile
						Does	Antlered Bucks	
Hardin	397	482	53	25	957	50	41	0.69
Harrison	344	154	32	2	532	29	65	0.49
Henry	526	773	131	10	1440	54	37	1.2
Howard	315	438	58	21	832	53	38	0.67
Humboldt	124	70	10	10	214	33	58	0.29
Ida	46	22	1	1	70	31	66	0.11
Iowa	663	574	97	20	1354	42	49	1.14
Jackson	996	1201	260	29	2486	48	40	1.55
Jasper	492	344	88	9	933	37	53	0.67
Jefferson	507	810	117	10	1444	56	35	1.16
Johnson	751	1016	172	29	1968	52	38	1.21
Jones	717	1088	175	42	2022	54	35	1.23
Keokuk	545	496	100	11	1152	43	47	0.94
Kossuth	215	138	13	16	382	36	56	0.22
Lee	825	1204	219	10	2258	53	37	1.57
Linn	971	1239	202	42	2454	50	40	1.35
Louisa	608	781	159	8	1556	50	39	1.51
Lucas	736	781	125	18	1660	47	44	1.7
Lyon	141	72	11	2	226	32	62	0.24
Madison	913	1341	181	33	2468	54	37	1.62
Mahaska	427	439	83	10	959	46	45	0.75
Marion	667	844	129	12	1652	51	40	1.18
Marshall	331	233	29	15	608	38	54	0.58
Mills	259	95	19	8	381	25	68	0.58
Mitchell	436	429	54	16	935	46	47	0.93
Monona	292	137	17	6	452	30	65	0.42
Monroe	639	798	112	17	1566	51	41	1.47
Montgomery	199	103	11	3	316	33	63	0.47
Muscatine	540	674	150	29	1393	48	39	1.22
Obrien	115	36	11	1	163	22	71	0.2
Osceola	77	35	8	1	121	29	64	0.19
Page	233	113	9	3	358	32	65	0.44
Palo Alto	163	97	14	5	279	35	58	0.29
Plymouth	199	79	12	4	294	27	68	0.23
Pocahontas	98	32	4	2	136	24	72	0.17
Polk	323	555	79	9	966	57	33	0.54
Pottawattamie	332	159	29	6	526	30	63	0.34
Poweshiek	392	288	47	9	736	39	53	0.67
Ringgold	589	665	94	5	1353	49	44	1.09
Sac	180	85	16	4	285	30	63	0.31
Scott	353	406	57	14	830	49	43	0.78
Shelby	101	31	6	4	142	22	71	0.17

County	Antlered Bucks	Does	Button Bucks	Shed-antlered Bucks	Total	Percent of kill		Antlered Buck Kill /Sq. Mile
						Does	Antlered Bucks	
Sioux	114	39	12	0	165	24	69	0.15
Story	299	229	35	10	573	40	52	0.53
Tama	608	542	61	28	1239	44	49	0.84
Taylor	557	673	90	9	1329	51	42	1.05
Union	438	527	78	8	1051	50	42	1.03
Van Buren	767	1174	217	22	2180	54	35	1.57
Wapello	494	694	111	10	1309	53	38	1.13
Warren	973	1182	203	27	2385	50	41	1.7
Washington	555	878	132	19	1584	55	35	0.98
Wayne	504	775	92	21	1392	56	36	0.95
Webster	408	355	59	11	833	43	49	0.57
Winnebago	188	123	13	14	338	36	56	0.47
Winneshiek	853	1413	200	53	2519	56	34	1.24
Woodbury	250	129	24	3	406	32	62	0.29
Worth	241	198	21	8	468	42	51	0.6
Wright	220	113	20	12	365	31	60	0.38
Total Reported	43,110	49,596	7,783	1,463	101,919	48%	45%	0.78

Table 1.5. Results from controlled hunts in special management deer zone 2025-2026.

Deer Management Zone	Tags Available	Tags Sold	Harvest
ALLAMAKEE COUNTY CWD (PERIMETER)	100	8	0
AMANA COLONIES ZONE	100	100	45
AMES (CITY)	75	56	31
AMES (PERIMETER)	50	38	11
APPANOOSE COUNTY (CWD PERIMETER)	100	12	6
ATLANTIC	50	10	5
BACKBONE STATE PARK	200	144	64
BETTENDORF & RIVERDALE	125	55	37
BOBWHITE STATE PARK	50	8	4
BURLINGTON (CITY)	200	61	32
CEDAR RAPIDS (CITY)	400	248	160
CEDAR RAPIDS (PERIMETER)	500	268	101
CLAYTON COUNTY CWD (PERIMETER)	100	0	0
CLINTON (CITY)	75	50	19
CORALVILLE (CITY)	200	112	51
CORALVILLE (PERIMETER)	600	396	142
COUNCIL BLUFFS (CITY)	300	104	42
DAVENPORT (CITY)	250	149	85
DECATUR EAST COUNTY (CWD PERIMETER)	100	0	0
DUBUQUE (CITY)	250	196	106
DUBUQUE (CWD PERIMETER)	400	292	94
DUBUQUE/JACKSON/JONES (CWD PERIMETER)	250	250	92
ELDORA (CITY)	50	22	10
FORT DODGE	100	41	22
GREEN VALLEY STATE PARK	35	25	9
IOWA ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT (IAAP)	1200	371	167
IOWA CITY (CITY)	200	97	56
IOWA FALLS (CITY)	80	19	11
IOWA FALLS (PERIMETER)	30	8	3
JEFFERSON COUNTY PARK	25	13	10
JONES COUNTY CENTRAL PARK	50	21	15
KENT PARK (ARCHERY)	100	30	12
KEOKUK (CITY)	125	86	56
KNOXVILLE (CITY)	25	0	0
LACEY-KEOSAUQUA STATE PAR	50	50	21
LAKE AHQUABI STATE PARK	30	13	6
LAKE DARLING STATE PARK	100	45	23
LAKE WAPELLO STATE PARK	50	31	2
LEDGES STATE PARK	40	31	12
LUCAS COUNTY (CWD PERIMETER)	100	0	0
MARSHALLTOWN (CITY)	60	38	16
MARSHALLTOWN (PERIMETER)	40	19	0
MASON CITY (CITY)	100	73	35
MONROE COUNTY (CWD PERIMETER)	100	12	8
MOUNT PLEASANT (CITY)	50	6	3

Deer Management Zone	Tags Available	Tags Sold	Harvest
MUSCATINE (CITY)	150	67	36
OSKALOOSA (CITY)	100	36	21
OTTUMWA (CITY)	175	122	71
PANORAMA (PERIMETER)	200	91	46
PIKES PEAK S.P. /MCGREGOR	100	55	27
PINE LAKE STATE PARK	30	25	10
POLK-DALLAS ARCHERY ONLY	1000	582	286
SCOTT COUNTY PARK	50	39	27
SMITH WILDLIFE AREA	3	3	2
SPRINGBROOK STATE PARK	10	7	4
SQUAW CREEK PARK	100	78	43
STONE STATE PARK	40	33	12
WATERLOO & CEDAR FALLS	300	270	159
WAYNE COUNTY CWD (PERIMETER)	50	8	3
WINNESHIEK COUNTY CWD (PERIMETER)	100	17	6
TOTAL	9,639	5,056	2,381

Table 1.6. Results of deer population surveys (1976-present)

Year	Spotlight Survey		Aerial Survey		Traffic Kill	Traffic Kill Per Billion Vehicle Mi.		Bowhunter Obs (Deer per 1000 hrs)	
	Mean Count ^a	Percent Change	Weighted Count ^b	Percent Change		Number	Percent Change	Number	Percent Change
1976			-	-	2,537	225	-1%		
1977			-	-	2,929	252	12%		
1978			-	-	2,872	241	-4%		
1979			-	-	3,005	259	7%		
1980			-	-	3,743	335	29%		
1981			-	-	4,164	365	9%		
1982			-	-	4,805	412	13%		
1983			5,903	-	5,335	448	9%		
1984			6,387	8%	6,177	500	12%		
1985			7,607	19%	5,925	495	-1%		
1986			9,790	29%	7,225	593	20%		
1987			-	-	8,440	678	14%		
1988			10,289	^c	9,248	707	4%		
1989			9,672	-6%	8,914	655	-7%		
1990			7,070	-27%	8,799	607	-7%		
1991			9,191	30%	8,428	590	-3%		
1992			8,235	-10%	9,135	616	4%		
1993			8,680	5%	9,576	624	1%		
1994			10,483	21%	10,438	663	6%		
1995			10,877	4%	11,167	699	5%		
1996			12,051	11%	12,276	748	7%		
1997			13,902	15%	13,148	778	4%		
1998			12,651	-9%	12,427	714	-8%		
1999			14,928	18%	11,366	637	-11%		
2000			15,375	3%	11,114	642	1%		
2001			15,793	3%	14,243	799	24%		
2002			13,107	-17%	12,377	662	-17%		
2003			15,676	20%	13,720	726	10%		
2004			18,028	15%	15,361	803	11%	1,455	
2005			15,324	-15%	14,364	760	-5%	1,533	5%
2006	55		12,565	-18%	14,940	783	3%	1,564	2%
2007	59	8%	13,445	7%	13,730	720	-8%	1,528	-2%
2008	71	20%	13,427	0%	10,961	602	-16%	1,392	-9%
2009	68	-4%	13,528	1%	13,518	726	21%	1,359	-2%
2010	58	-15%	13,591	0%	10,153	547	-25%	1,418	4%
2011	58	1%	13,707	1%	10,626	570	4%	1,368	-4%
2012	51	-13%	discontinued		10,358	554	-3%	1,524	11%
2013	71	40%			9,174	481	-13%	1,241	-18%
2014	61	-14%			9,085	471	-2%	1,417	14%
2015	66	8%			9,418	478	1%	1,447	2%
2016	66	0%			9,041	459	-4%	1,336	-7%

Year	Spotlight Survey		Aerial Survey		Traffic Kill	Traffic Kill Per Billion Vehicle Mi.		Bowhunter Obs (Deer per 1000 hrs)	
	Mean Count ^a	Percent Change	Weighted Count ^b	Percent Change		Number	Percent Change	Number	Percent Change
2017	70	4%			8,609	430	-5%	1,493	12%
2018	79	13%			8,017	312	-28%	1,673	12%
2019	86	9%			7,851	248	-21%	1,543	-8%
2020	83	-3%			7,145	229	-8%	1,627	5%
2021	73	-12%			7,690	discontinued		1,502	-8%
2022	89	24%			6,924			1,814	9%
2023	79	-11%			7,972			1,715	-5%
2024	88	11%			7,838			1,814	6%
2025	80	-10%			7,368			1,778	-3%
2026	70	-14%							

^a Mean count represents average number counted per 25 miles of transect

^b adjusted for missing counts

^c change from 1986 to 1988

^d Total number observed per 1,000 hours hunted

**Data missing at time of report