West Virginia Deer Forecast for 2016 October 11, 2016

Game & Fish

... West Virginia's deer herd is relatively stable ... Chronic Wasting Disease — found in deer in Hampshire and Hardy counties — is a threat to the state's deer herd ...

<u>State's early antlerless-deer hunting season is tough to predict</u> October 16, 2016 West Virginia, Charleston Gazette-Mail

... DNR biologists ... allow hunters to remove substantial numbers of females from the statewide deer herd in advance of the whitetail mating season. With fewer females for bucks to chase, the rationale goes, the breeding season would be shortened and the following year's fawn drop would take place over a shorter period; which, through the sheer number of fawns, would make the newborns vulnerable to coyotes and other predators...

WV's deer hunting is quite different today than it was in 1980 October 29, 2016 West Virginia, wvgazettemail.com

... In 1980, hunters' focused almost exclusively on bucks. The DNR so limited the number of antlerless-deer permits that hunters were required to enter a lottery to obtain one... There are still hunters who won't kill a doe, but I think the typical hunter now recognizes that he or she has an obligation to help manage the resource by removing antlerless deer from the population." ...

<u>WV's antlerless-deer kill should increase in 2016, DNR says</u> November 20, 2016 West Virginia, wvgazettemail.com

... this year's antlerless-deer bag limits are more liberal than last year's in several counties. Second, more counties are open to antlerless-deer hunting this year... Mast conditions are closer to average than they have been in quite some time...

<u>Antlerless deer season will begin this week</u> December 25, 2016 West Virginia, Beckley Register-Herald

... The scarce mast this year will cause less food to be available in the winter woods and some deer may even starve to death... The bag limit for antierless deer varies from county to county and it's up to the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources to decide, based on population densities...

West Virginia hunters harvest 112,384 deer in 2016 January 11, 2017 West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

Preliminary counts indicate West Virginia hunters harvested 112,384 white-tailed deer during the recently completed bucks firearms, antlerless, muzzleloader, archery, crossbow, and youth/Class Q/Class XS deer seasons, according to Paul Johansen,

chief of the Division of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Resources Section. This year's total harvest was 19 percent below the 2015 deer harvest of 138,493 and 15 percent below the five-year average of

A breakdown of the combined 2016 deer seasons reveals 46,071 bucks harvested during the traditional buck firearm season, 32,508 antlerless deer taken during all antlerless firearm hunting opportunities, 28,808 deer harvested by bows and crossbows, and 4,997 deer taken by muzzleloader hunters...

<u>Weather and food kept antlerless harvest low, DNR says</u> January 21, 2017 West Virginia, Charleston Gazette-Mail

... Sportsmen bagged 34,792 antlerless deer in 23 days of hunting spread between mid-October and the end of December. It was the lowest antlerless harvest since 2010... n 2015 mast was scarce all over. In 2016 it was spotty ...