

DNREC Announces Record Harvests Set for Delaware During 2024-'25

White-tailed Deer and Wild Turkey Seasons May 21, 2025 Delaware NREC News

The state's white-tailed deer hunting season also rewarded Delaware hunters who went afield in pursuit of the state's only big game animal – with 18,823 deer harvested during the season that ended Feb. 2. That total eclipsed the previous record of 17,265 set during the 2020-'21 season, and marked a 29.4% increase over the 2023-'24 season when 14,451 deer were taken, and the lowest Delaware harvest in recent years.

“The historic deer harvest also highlights continued success in wildlife conservation and management efforts across the state,” Wildlife Section Administrator Rogerson said.

“Indicative of both the resilience of Delaware's deer population and the dedication of our hunters at pursuing our state's big game animal, it also highlights the success of ongoing management strategies aimed at maintaining a healthy and balanced deer herd in Delaware.”

Also instrumental in managing the state's herd is DNREC's deer damage assistance program in partnership with the Delaware Department of Agriculture that helps reduce crop losses for the state's agribusiness. Meanwhile, the DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife has implemented hunting strategies and programs that further enhance hunter opportunities for putting Delaware venison on the table and a trophy white-tailed buck on the wall.

While Sussex County led the state in total deer harvest, with 9,628 deer harvested, Zone 7 in southwestern Kent County recorded the highest harvest of all 18 DNREC wildlife management zones, with 1,609 deer taken by hunters – evidence indicative of strong deer activity all over Delaware and widespread hunter success in the state for the 2024-'25 season. The harvest in Kent and New Castle and Kent Counties was 6,140 and 3,055 deer, respectively.

Among notable highlights from the past deer season was the harvest of a doe estimated to be approximately 14.5 years old, likely among the oldest deer ever taken in Delaware. Though the doe may not have been the oldest ever, such an occurrence

among the state's white-tailed deer herd offers valuable insight into deer longevity and herd demographics.