

Polk County Controlled Bow-Hunt 2016-2017 Deer Report



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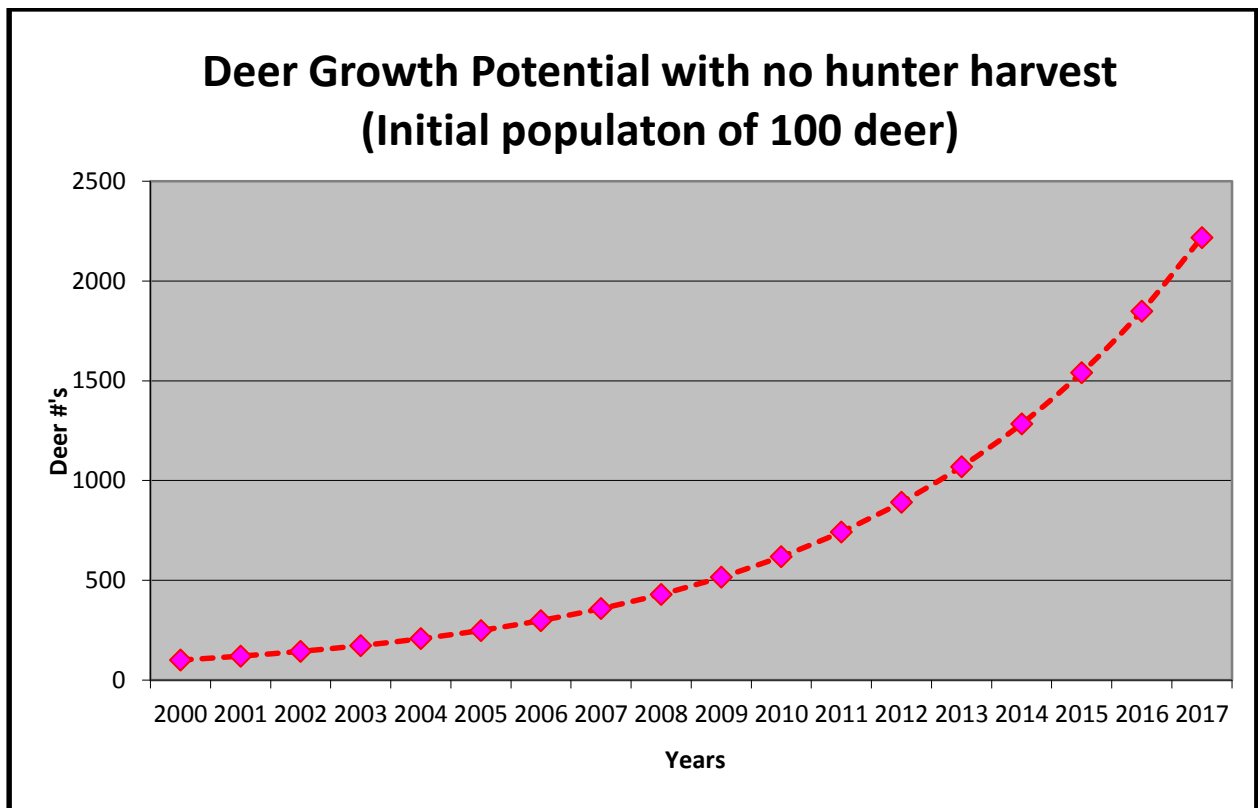
Compiled by the
Polk County Deer Task Force

The Polk County Deer Task Force believes that the White-tailed deer is a valuable part of our natural heritage. We support the perpetuation of the deer population in Polk County at ecologically acceptable levels.

-1997 Position Statement of the Polk County Deer Task Force

Executive Summary

Based on harvest records and agency observations, it is recommended that the Polk County Controlled Bow-Hunt should be continued for the 2017-2018 season throughout the Polk County Deer Management Zone. Agencies are encouraged to continue or expand hunting opportunities in their areas of control. Deer population numbers may have been reduced to target goals in some areas but still remain higher in neighborhood habitats where hunting may not be a control option. Agencies may need to remember that an uncontrolled deer population can double every three to four years. Continued hunting pressure within the Deer Management Zone has produced remarkable results in managing deer populations across the area.



The graph above depicts potential population growth of a deer herd where no hunting is allowed. The growth takes into account average population structure based on probable gender and age distribution. Considerations are also given to related fecundity rates. Distribution of these animals over time and as densities increase can vary. A relatively confined population will probably contribute to an increase in deer numbers over an increasingly larger geographical area over time.

Post Season Reports

Hunting Season

-This year the IDNR allowed participating entities to use September 17, 2016 through January 29, 2017, for the Polk County Deer Management Zone bow-hunting season. Agencies could choose to use these dates for their season, or tailor their hunt to suit individual needs (as long as the dates were within the allowable season above). Pending approval from the Natural Resource Commission, the proposed hunt dates for the 2017 - 2018 season will be September 16, 2017 through January 28, 2018.

Deer Harvest

-Agencies reported that 307 antlerless deer had been harvested during the 2016-2017 bow-hunt, which is a decrease from 324 in the 2015-2016 season.
-There was a total of 338 antlerless deer harvested in the Polk County Deer Management Zone (including antlerless deer harvested in Camp Dodge with shotgun/muzzle).
21 incentive bucks were harvested during the 2016-2017 bow-hunt
A total of *383 deer were harvested during the 2016-2017 season.
* Count includes Camp Dodge (shotgun and muzzle any sex-tags)

Proficiency Testing

- Archery Field and Sports administered proficiency testing to hunt participants. 139 proficiency tests were taken by 137 hunters.

Safety Record

No injuries were reported from hunters, neighbors or park visitors

Licenses Sold

-The Polk County Deer Management Zone is divided into two zones.
1000 licenses were available for zone 48 which includes all of the cities, Polk County Conservation areas and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers areas.
75 licenses were available in zone 61 which is comprised of mostly rural areas not included in zone 48. Hunters purchased 618 antlerless licenses in zone 48 and 27 antlerless licenses in zone 61 for use in the Polk County Deer Management Zone.

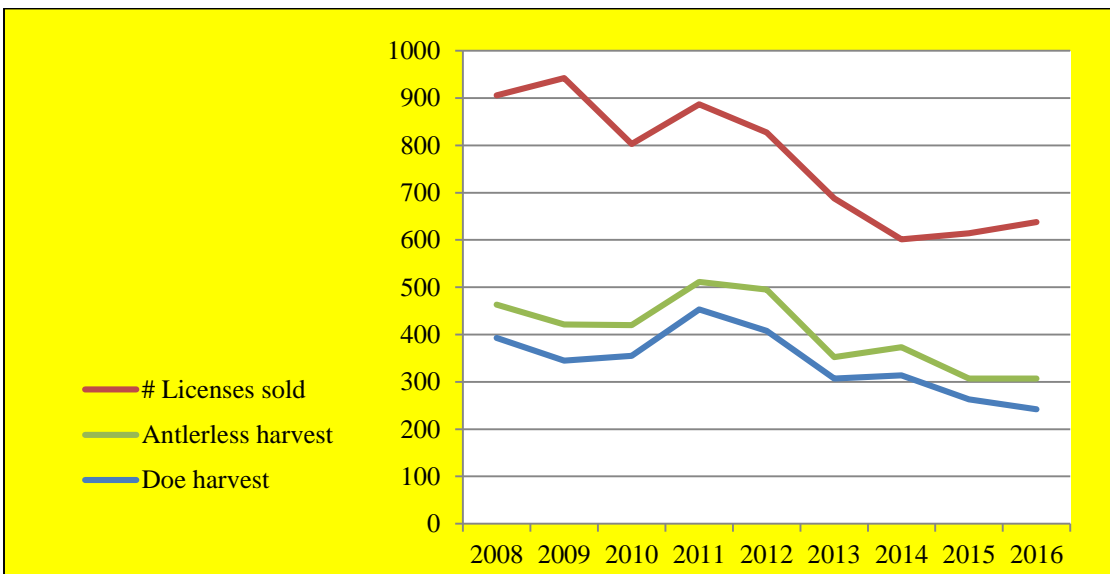


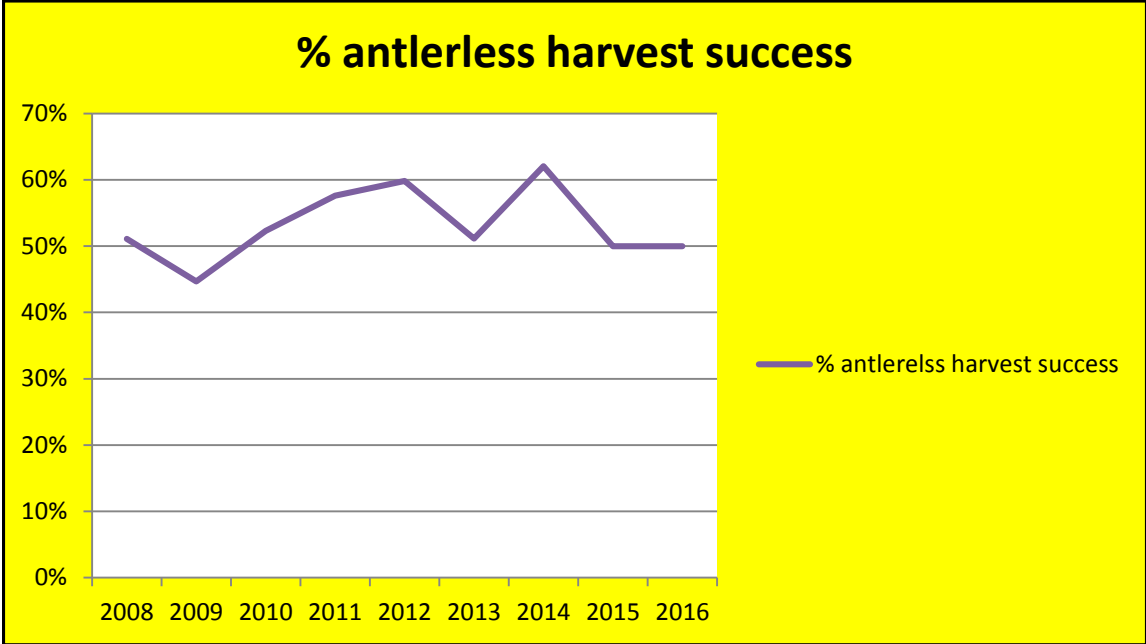
Polk County Aerial Deer Surveys: 2016

By Bill Bunger Iowa DNR

Helicopter surveys were not conducted this year as weather conditions were not optimal. The following graph gives a simple depiction of license sales and resulting doe harvest in the Polk/Dallas deer management zone. Over the last four years, license sales and antlerless harvest have started to decline. It seems likely this reflects a reduction in harvest opportunity due to lower overall deer numbers since the inception of this hunt. The second graph, depicting % success on antlerless licenses, has been fairly constant over this time period. The relatively high success rate is carried in part by the button buck harvest over time.

Due to unreliable weather conditions and shifting job duties, the aerial survey has not been conducted the last few years. It may be time to consider alternative trend data to help analyze the success of this program on an annual basis. Complaints fielded by city staff and vehicle/deer collisions reported on city streets, may be alternative means of following deer population trends in the metro area. This topic will be discussed at meeting this spring.





Bow-Hunt Administrators

- City of Des Moines: Mike Gaul (515)-248-6329
-Administers public and private property bow-hunting
- City of Johnston: Jim Sanders (515) 727-7760
-Administers public and private property bow-hunting
- Polk County Conservation: Brian Herrstrom (515) 967-4889, c (515) 249-1753
- US Army Corps of Engineers (Saylorville Lake): Justin Edwards (515) 276-4656 x 6508
- City of Urbandale: Andrew Dobbins (515) 331-6805
-Administers public and private property bow-hunting
- Walnut Woods State Park (IDNR): Tim Gedler (515) 285-4502
- City of West Des Moines: Sally Ortegies (515) 222-3447
-Administers public and private property bow-hunting
- City of Clive: Jeff Theilen (515) 238-0648, Joel Pasco (515) 210-7581
-Administers public property bow-hunting
- City of Pleasant Hill: Heath Ellis (515) 208-5212, Rick Courcier (515) 208-8214
-Administers public and private property bow-hunting

Advisory Organizations

The following organizations serve in an advisory capacity to the Polk County Deer Task Force (in addition to the organizations listed above).

- Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources: Bill Bunger (515) 975-8318
- City of Ankeny, City of Des Moines Animal Control, City of Grimes, City of Polk City, Dallas County Conservation Board, Des Moines Water Works
- Archery Field and Sports, Des Moines Audubon, Des Moines Founders' Garden Club, Des Moines Izaak Walton League, IDNR Law Enforcement, Iowa Bow Hunters Assoc. (IBA), National Field Archery Association, Polk County Conservation Board, Polk County Board of Supervisors, Sierra Club and Westwood Neighborhood Association.

2016 - 2017 Deer Harvest

POLK-DALLAS URBAN ZONE 48

A. **Polk County Conservation (PCC) Public Areas:** Brian Herrstrom 967-4889

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Jester Park				
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	0	0	0	13
Sycamore Trail (includes Area C in Johnston)				
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)	1	0	0	14
Easter Lake				
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)	2	0	5	4
Brown's Woods				
Incentive Buck (4 allotted)	2	0	6	14
Thomas Mitchell Park				
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	0	0	1	0
Mally's Weh-Weh-Neh-Kee Park				
Incentive Buck (included with Thomas Mitchell)	0	0	0	0
Four Mile Greenbelt				
Incentive Buck (included with Thomas Mitchell)	0	0	3	7
Yellow Banks Park				
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)	0	0	0	5
Gay Lea Wilson East Trail				
Incentive Buck 0 allotted)	0	0	0	1
Polk County Conservation (PCC)	Harvest Total	5	0	15
		58		

B. **City of Clive Public Areas:** Jeff Theilen 238-0648 / Joel Pasco 210-7581

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
West of I-80	0	0	0	2
Greenbelt Park: East of NW 114th	1	0	1	2
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)				
Sub-total	1	0	1	4
City of Clive Private Property				
None at present date				0
Sub-total	0	0	0	0
City of Clive	Harvest Total	1	0	1
		4		

C. **City of Des Moines Public Areas: Michael Gaul 248-6329**

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Cases Lake: Hartford Ave	0	1	3	6
Crocker Woods: Prospect Rd. & Hickman Rd.	0	0	0	4
Ewing Park	0	0	0	2
Laurel Hill Woods	0	0	0	1
MacRae Park	0	0	0	1
Pioneer Park	0	0	3	3
Ashworth Park	1	0	1	5
Incentive Buck (7 allotted)				
Sub-total	1	1	7	22

City of Des Moines Private Property

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
SW / Airport Area (South of Waterworks Park, West of Fleur to limits)	3	2	7	19
SE / Easter Lake and Ewing Parks Area (SE 14th east, South of DM River to Limits)	1	2	5	23
South of Grand Area (West of Terrace Hill to 63rd, South of University to Waterworks)	1	0	3	17
MacRae Park Area	0	0	0	0
Prospect / Beaverdale Park Area	1	0	0	2
East Area (East and Northeast area of city)	2	0	2	11
Incentive Buck (14 allotted)				
Sub-total	8	4	17	72
City of Des Moines	Harvest Total	9	5	24

D. **City of Johnston Public Areas: Jim Sanders 727-7760**

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Area A: Army Corps of Engineers (See USACE totals)				
Area C: Sycamore Trail (See PCC totals)				
Area E: City of Johnston - 156 Acres Incentive Buck (2 allotted)	1	0	0	10
Sub-total	1	0	0	10
City of Johnston Private Property				
Private Property Incentive Buck (2 allotted)	0	0	1	11
Sub-total	0	0	1	11
City of Johnston	Harvest Total	1	0	1

E. City of Pleasant Hill: Heath Ellis 208-5212 / Rick Courcier 208-8214				
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Polk County Property (See PCC Totals)				
City Property	0	0	0	1
Private Property	0	0	1	3
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)				
City of Pleasant Hill	Harvest Total	0	0	1
			1	4

F. City of Urbandale Public Areas: Andrew Dobbins 331-6805				
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
City Parks	1	1	0	4
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)				
Sub-total	1	1	0	4
City of Urbandale Private Property				
Living History Farms (LHF) (West of I-35)	1	0	2	3
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)				
Other Private Property	1	1	1	18
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)				
Sub-total	2	1	3	21
City of Urbandale	Harvest Total	3	2	3
			3	25

G. City of West Des Moines Public Areas: Sally Ortgies 222-3447				
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
South Woods	1	0	0	13
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)				
Sub-total	1	0	0	13
City of West Des Moines Private Property				
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	1	0	0	7
Sub-total	1	0	0	7
City of West Des Moines	Harvest Total	2	0	0
			0	20

H. USACE: (Corps of Engineers): 276-4656 Scott Rolfes ext. 6508; Tyler Hill ext. 6507				
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Saylorville (No Buck Incentive Issued for this area)	0	0	2	22
Polk City Refuge (No Buck Incentive Issued for this area)				
USACE	Harvest Total	0	0	2
			2	22

I. Walnut Woods State Park: Tim Gedler 285-4502				
	Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Walnut Woods State Park (No Buck Incentive Issued for this area)	0	0	1	4
Walnut Woods State Park	Harvest Total	0	0	1
			1	4

Total Doe Harvested Zone 48 252

Total Incentive Bucks Harvested Zone 48 21

Total Shed Antlered Bucks Harvested Zone 48 7

Total Button Bucks Harvested Zone 48 48

Antler-less tags available zone 48: 1000 Sold: 618
 Incentive Buck Tags available Zone 48: 47 Sold: 46

J. IDNR ELECTRONIC LICENSING (ELSI) Zone 48				
	Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
ELSI	Harvest Total	24	6	59
				242
				Total Deer Harvested 331

ELSI harvest totals for zone 48 are displayed to show reporting discrepancies by hunters to both administrating agencies and IDNR.

POLK-DALLAS RURAL ZONE 61

K. **Camp Dodge: Shannan Garretson 252-4648**

	Buck**	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe	
Archery	10	0	0	19	
Shotgun / Muzzle loader	7	0	0	12	
**Buck (Normal seasons and any-sex tags allowed)					
Camp Dodge	Total Harvest	17	0	0	31

L. **IDNR ELECTRONIC LICENSING (ELSI) Zone 61**

	Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe	
	0	0	0	7	
ELSI	Total Harvest	0	0	0	7

Total Antlerless Deer Harvested Zone 61 38

Total Bucks Harvested Zone 61 17

Antler-less tags available zone 61: 75 Sold: 27

Antler-less Deer Harvested (Bow)	Total	326
* Count including Camp Dodge (shotgun/muzzle) and ELSI zone 61		345

Incentive Bucks Total 21

Bucks: Camp Dodge and ELSI zone 61 Total 17**

**Normal seasons (shotgun/bow) and any-sex tags allowed

Total Deer Harvested 383

