

Annual Deer Report 2007-2008

The DNR Annual Deer Report will soon be out for the public. As in past years this publication has data collected from last year's harvest and previous years. Brian Eyler (Deer Project Leader), George Timko (Assistant Deer Project Leader) and the Deer Project Staff have compiled scientific data and results from harvest check-ins. Yes, your harvest check-ins are very important.

Maryland Deer Hunters harvested 92,208 deer (less than 1% increase from 06-07), 32,221 Antlered deer and 59,987 antler less. The antler less harvest included 11,388 button bucks. There is a need for hunters to get the QDMA Selective Antler less Harvest Poster. These posters and more can be ordered online at QDMA.com or visit the QDMA display booth at events in your area.

The introduction of the call in and internet check-in system was in 2005-2006. Deer used to be examined when brought to check stations by DNR staffers but now they are examined at the butcher shops. This scientific data collection protocol was modified to increase the accuracy of the sample. A change was made from collecting from the 2 week firearm season only to collecting half of the sample during early muzzle-loader season and half during 2 week firearm season. Splitting the samples gives a more accurate estimate.

Results suggest that the early (bow and muzzle-loader) seasons harvest contains a high percentage of yearling bucks. This data collected provides valuable statistics (in table 9) percentage of yearling bucks in total antlered harvest, yearling buck average points, and yearling buck average antler beam diameter. This chart is by county which make it easy to see what the

Table 9
Maryland Yearling Buck (1 1/2 Year Old) Vital Statistics
by County, 2007-2008

COUNTY	% Yearling Bucks	Average Points	Average Beam Diameter (mm)
Allegany	75	4.0	17.3
Anne Arundel	49	4.9	19.6
Baltimore	53	4.6	18.5
Calvert	59	3.7	18.3
Caroline	74	4.5	19.4
Carroll	68	4.6	19.7
Cecil	52	5.0	20.5
Charles	64	3.5	17.6
Dorchester	63	4.5	20.2
Frederick	66	4.4	18.7
Garrett	80	4.4	19.4
Harford	58	5.3	21.2
Howard	78	4.0	18.1
Kent	62	5.0	20.9
Montgomery	59	4.9	19.6
Prince George's	69	4.2	18.3
Queen Anne's	50	4.9	19.9
St. Mary's	41	3.8	18.0
Somerset	63	3.9	18.1
Talbot	60	4.6	20.9
Washington	74	4.3	19.7
Wicomico	53	4.1	19.6
Worcester	48	4.9	20.7

percentage of yearlings was harvested in your area. For example, look in table 1 under total antlered by county (Carroll 1,774). Then go to table 9 under % yearling bucks (Carroll 68) multiply total by percentage this will give you number of yearlings harvested (Carroll 1206.32).

While these numbers may be shocking this will give you a good estimate on how many yearling are NOT making it to the older age classes.

By looking at this data and the rest of the Annual Deer Report, if you were still setting on the fence about QDM and Voluntary Quality Deer

Management (<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/huntersguide/QDM.asp>) this should help make your decision. As soon as the Annual Deer Report 2007-2008 is published, we will attach it to our website for your convenience.

Become a member of QDMA and stay in touch with other Maryland members for the latest Maryland Whitetail News by checking our website, www.marylandqdma.com.

Sincerely,
E.W. Grimes
Director/President
Maryland State Chapter
QDMA

