

2022 Nebraska Deer Hunter Survey

Luke Meduna, Big Game Program Manager
Dr. Jeff Lusk, Data & Biometry Program Manager
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
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Executive Summary

In May 2022, we sent an email invitation to 71,337 Nebraska deer hunters who participated in the **2021 deer season**. At the end of a two-week survey period, we had received 9,577 responses to an online survey regarding deer and deer hunting in Nebraska. We summarized responses to most questions by residency and weapons (grouped by archery, firearm and muzzleloader based on a question that asked their preferred weapon for hunting deer). Some questions were summarized by other relevant criteria (e.g., residency). Not all questions were analyzed in this report for expediency.

Key Findings:

- 55% of survey respondents reported harvesting at least one deer in 2021, however, checkstation and permit data shows that only 42% of hunters overall harvested a deer. It's possible that there is some bias towards successful deer hunters in this survey and that they may be more likely to participate.
- Hunter satisfaction with their deer hunting experience in Nebraska is moderately high at 3.2 on a scale of 1-5 (1 = Very dissatisfied, 5 = Very satisfied). This was lower than the result of 3.8 for the 2020 season.
- Most hunters (88%) only hunted one deer management unit (DMU), 10% hunted two DMU, and only 2% hunted three or more DMUs. This is similar to past results.
- When asked about their single weapon preference, 30% of hunters prefer archery methods, 60% prefer firearm and 10% prefer muzzleloader as their method to hunt deer in Nebraska.
- 77% of hunters reported hunting during the 9 day November Firearm season. This accounts for nearly 297,000 hunter days spent hunting deer in those 9 days.
- 68% of hunters reported hunting only one of the possible 15 10-day periods during the entire deer season. Just over 20% reported hunting 3 or more periods.
- Almost 22% of hunter days are spent on public land.
- 29% reported hunting on public land.
- Hunter perceptions of whitetail and mule deer populations are lower than 2020.
- When presented with varying sizes and ages of mule deer bucks, hunters of all categories (residency, weapon preference and deer management unit) showed preference for harvesting older or larger bucks. Nonresidents showed greater willingness to pass deer than residents.
- The Special Landowner season did not appear to have reduced archery hunter access during that season, but landowners also indicated that they did not allow more hunters to utilize their land either.

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Methods

On May, 3, 2022, an invitation to participate in a survey related to hunting participation and experiences was sent to 72,386 deer permit holders who had provided an email address in their customer profile. This was 72.8% of all deer permit holders for the 2021 deer season. For deer hunters who did not provide an email address, a link to the survey was included on the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission website. Promoted social media posts were used to make sure deer hunters were aware of the webpage option. A reminder email was sent to non-respondents on May 10, 2022, and the survey was closed to participants on May 20, 2022.

Reponses and Representativeness

At the closing of the survey, a total of 10,143 deer hunters had completed the survey. Of the 72,386 invitations sent out, 4,066 were unusable, resulting in an effective sample size of 68,320. Total response rate then is 14.8% Table 1 compares simple demographics among all permit buyers, the email sample, and all invited respondents (necessarily this excludes hunters who participated through the website link because they were anonymous). The demographic characters we examined were residency status (resident/non-resident), sex (male/female), and age (median/mean).

Demographic	Level	Permittees	Sample	Respondents
Residency Status	Resident	81.0%	78.7%	66.6%
	Non-resident	19.0%	21.3%	33.4%
Sex	Male	88.8%	89.2%	93.6%
	Female	11.2%	10.8%	6.4%
Age	Median	39	39	48
	Mean	40	40	47
	Max	96	96	93
	Min	10	10	10

As these data indicate, the email sample was well representative of the population of all permit buyers as a whole. However, there were some potential biases among the respondents. Non-residents are overrepresented among respondents compared to all permittees and the email sample. Likewise, more males completed the survey than expected. Neither of these differences appear too overwhelming. There still appears to be about a 90/10 percent split between men and women. However, the respondents were 6-7 years older than either the permit buyers or the email sample. The nonresident response rate of 21.7% was much greater than residents at 11.7%.

Question 3 asked if hunters were successful harvesting a deer during the 2021 season and overall 55.0% of hunters reported they had killed at least 1 deer. Harvest data indicate that 41.7% of hunters were successful at taking at least one deer, so there is potential for responses to be biased towards successful hunters.

Many hunters “identify” with a particular weapon group and as managers we are interested in what those particular groups think about certain issues. To address this issue, we asked what weapons hunters preferred to use (Q13). We categorized hunters into the 3 main categories of “Archery”, “Rifle” and “Muzzleloader” based on their answer of their preferred weapon.

Weapon type	n	percent	Category	Cumulative Percent
Compound bow	1957	20.5%	Archery	26.9% (2566)
Crossbow	486	5.1%		
Longbow or Recurve bow	119	1.2%		
Spear	4	0.0%		
Centerfire/Highpower long rifle	6144	64.4%	Firearm	6365% (6344)
Straightwall cartridge rifle	139	1.5%		
Shotgun (slug)	34	0.4%		
Pistol	27	0.3%		
Inline muzzleloader	520	5.4%	Muzzleloader	6.7% (637)
Percussion cap muzzleloader	103	1.1%		
Flintlock muzzleloader	14	0.1%		

Appendices

The answers to questions that were listed under the “other” option are included in appendices to this document and can be acquired from the authors by request.

Results

Hunt and Harvest Results

Q1. Did you hunt deer during the 2021 season?

	Nonresident	Resident	Total
No	5.2% (173)	3.9% (257)	4.3% (430)
Yes	94.8% (3176)	96.1% (6405)	95.7% (9581)

Q2. How many days did you hunt deer in Nebraska during the 2021 season?

Reported harvesting a deer	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
No	8.6	5.7	12.0	5.6	7.7	7.7
Yes	9.6	5.1	15.9	5.5	9.6	8.3
Total Average	9.2	5.4	13.9	5.6	7.0	8.0

Q3. Which species of deer did you pursue? (Select all that apply.)

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Whitetail Only	74.4%	57.0%	71.7%	68.4%	59.2%	68.7%
Mule Deer Only	6.5%	16.3%	7.5%	10.3%	14.0%	9.8%
Both Species	19.0%	26.7%	20.8%	21.4%	26.8%	21.6%

Q4. Did you harvest at least one deer during the 2021 season?

Response	Residency		Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	
Hunter Survey (% Success)	56.0%	53.1%	55.0%
Harvest Data (% Success)	41.3%	43.2%	41.7%

Satisfaction

Q5. What is your overall level of satisfaction with your deer hunting experience in Nebraska?

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Very Unsatisfied (1)	11.2%	11.7%	11.0%	11.2%	14.3%	11.4%
Unsatisfied (2)	23.5%	21.6%	23.1%	22.7%	22.6%	22.8%
Neutral (3)	26.6%	21.6%	27.8%	23.7%	26.7%	25.0%
Satisfied (4)	21.3%	17.9%	22.4%	19.3%	19.7%	20.2%
Very Satisfied (5)	17.4%	27.3%	15.7%	23.1%	16.7%	20.7%
Total Responses (n)	6394	3173	2566	6358	636	9567
Overall Category Score	3.10	3.27	3.09	3.20	3.02	3.16

Answers from Q7 were used to analyze satisfaction scores by unit:

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Blue Northwest	3.12	3.19	3.06	3.14	3.39	3.12
Blue Southeast	3.10	3.34	3.02	3.24	3.14	3.16
Buffalo	3.13	3.47	3.21	3.24	2.79	3.19
Calamus East	3.36	2.96	2.61	3.46	3.33	3.27
Calamus West	3.04	3.37	3.06	3.22	2.89	3.16
Elkhorn	3.01	3.53	3.21	3.05	2.92	3.09
Frenchman	3.12	3.20	3.08	3.22	2.79	3.16
Keya Paha	3.32	3.58	3.39	3.47	3.37	3.44
Loup East	3.24	3.53	3.20	3.36	2.50	3.30
Loup West	3.14	3.43	3.06	3.32	2.71	3.23
Missouri	3.13	3.29	3.14	3.18	3.12	3.17
Pine Ridge	3.07	3.14	2.94	3.15	3.26	3.11
Plains	3.15	3.06	3.29	3.16	2.47	3.12
Platte	3.13	3.43	3.15	3.32	3.10	3.26
Republican	3.17	3.34	2.94	3.33	3.31	3.21
Sandhills	3.10	3.11	2.85	3.19	3.13	3.11
Upper Platte	3.17	3.13	2.89	3.24	3.05	3.15
Wahoo	3.10	3.51	3.05	3.20	2.96	3.13

Deer Management Units

Q6. How many deer management units did you hunt in during the 2021 season? (n=8,984)

How many units did you hunt?

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
1	85.0%	91.9%	77.2%	92.2%	81.6%	87.5% (8320)
2	12.6%	6.9%	17.7%	7.1%	14.1%	10.4% (991)
3	1.9%	0.9%	3.8%	0.6%	3.0%	1.6% (151)
4	0.4%	0.1%	1.0%	0.1%	0.8%	0.38% (36)
5	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	<0.1%	0.2%	0.08% (8)
6	0	0	<0.1%		<0.1%	0.00% (0)
7	0	<0.1%				0.02% (2)
8	0	<0.1%				0.01% (1)
9	0	<0.1%				0.01% (1)
18	<0.1%	0		0.02% (2)		
Average	1.14	1.03	1.29	1.09	1.24	1.10

Q7. Which deer management unit did you hunt most often during the 2021 season? (Compare categories to the overall to see influences)

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Blue Northwest	9.4%	1.9%	9.0%	6.5%	4.0%	7.0%
Blue Southeast	9.9%	6.7%	11.1%	8.3%	5.8%	8.9%
Buffalo	6.8%	3.5%	5.4%	5.7%	7.4%	5.7%
Calamus East	2.1%	1.3%	1.5%	2.0%	1.3%	1.8%
Calamus West	2.6%	3.3%	1.9%	3.1%	4.3%	2.9%
Elkhorn	9.3%	3.0%	7.3%	7.4%	5.8%	7.3%
Frenchman	8.4%	14.3%	8.9%	10.8%	10.3%	10.3%
Keya Paha	3.1%	6.3%	4.0%	4.2%	4.3%	4.1%
Loup East	6.0%	2.7%	3.4%	5.8%	2.5%	5.0%
Loup West	2.3%	1.6%	1.7%	2.3%	1.3%	2.1%
Missouri	5.6%	4.8%	5.1%	5.6%	3.6%	5.3%
Pine Ridge	2.6%	13.6%	5.2%	6.2%	9.4%	6.1%
Plains	1.6%	4.3%	1.5%	2.7%	3.1%	2.4%
Platte	4.8%	8.3%	6.1%	5.9%	4.7%	5.9%
Republican	6.9%	6.8%	7.5%	6.7%	5.8%	6.9%
Sandhills	2.4%	11.3%	3.9%	5.3%	10.8%	5.2%
Upper Platte	2.5%	4.3%	2.4%	3.2%	4.9%	3.1%
Wahoo	13.7%	2.0%	14.2%	8.3%	10.3%	10.0%

Weapon Preference

Q8. What is your preferred weapon to use to hunt deer?

Weapon type	n	Overall	Resident	Nonresident
Compound bow	1957	20.4%	18.3%	24.8%
Crossbow	486	5.1%	5.4%	4.5%
Longbow or Recurve bow	119	1.2%	1.1%	1.4%
Spear	4	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Centerfire/Highpower long rifle	6144	64.2%	66.9%	58.7%
Straightwall cartridge rifle	139	1.5%	1.9%	0.6%
Shotgun (slug)	34	0.4%	0.5%	0.2%
Pistol	27	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%
Inline muzzleloader	520	5.4%	4.0%	8.4%
Percussion cap muzzleloader	103	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%
Flintlock muzzleloader	14	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Other	25	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%

Time

Q9. During which time period(s) did you hunt? Respondents could select more than one. N = 9535

Responses	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Sept 1-10	7%	6%	21%	1%	2%	7%
Sept 11-20	7%	3%	19%	1%	2%	6%
Sept 21-30	9%	2%	22%	1%	3%	7%
Oct 1-10	13%	2%	26%	3%	4%	9%
Oct 11-20	16%	4%	35%	3%	4%	12%
Oct 21-30	20%	6%	48%	4%	6%	16%
Nov 1-12	25%	15%	61%	7%	7%	21%
Nov 13-21 (FA)	86%	57%	45%	93%	34%	77%
Nov 22-30	11%	2%	24%	2%	6%	8%
Dec 1-10	18%	8%	25%	6%	60%	15%
Dec 11-20	14%	6%	19%	5%	49%	12%
Dec 21-31	13%	3%	16%	4%	36%	10%
Jan 1-10	10%	5%	9%	8%	8%	8%
Jan 11-20	6%	2%	5%	4%	5%	5%
Jan 21-31	3%	0%	3%	2%	2%	2%

Estimated number of days spent hunting during each period, normalized by reporting rates. This is not the time they spent hunting with those weapons, but when those hunters that are a part of that group reported hunting.

Responses	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Sept 1-10	18,280	5,285	22,132	2,426	363	24,921
Sept 11-20	18,223	2,861	17,594	2,699	330	20,623
Sept 21-30	23,982	1,786	20,211	3,013	580	23,804
Oct 1-10	31,534	1,664	23,479	5,573	712	29,764
Oct 11-20	41,759	3,098	33,225	6,925	824	40,974
Oct 21-30	54,372	5,469	46,744	7,813	1,332	55,889
Nov 1-12	67,648	13,848	65,792	14,391	1,533	81,717
Nov 13-21 (FA)	260,128	44,546	43,909	244,060	8,727	296,696
Nov 22-30	30,159	1,702	22,425	4,800	1,324	28,549
Dec 1-10	50,627	6,699	23,188	14,783	16,972	54,943
Dec 11-20	37,071	4,165	16,362	11,002	11,991	39,356
Dec 21-31	33,886	2,257	14,646	9,963	8,573	33,182
Jan 1-10	24,032	2,831	7,026	17,044	1,619	25,689
Jan 11-20	13,141	1,102	3,960	8,206	1,003	13,169
Jan 21-31	6,751	114	2,326	3,485	336	6,147

The number of time periods reported hunted for each group

Time periods hunted	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
1	59.1%	85.9%	36.1%	81.9%	57.3%	68.0%
2	11.5%	10.1%	15.7%	8.9%	13.7%	11.1%
3	7.3%	2.1%	9.9%	3.5%	9.1%	5.6%
4	5.8%	0.9%	7.4%	2.2%	10.4%	4.2%
5	3.9%	0.3%	6.2%	1.2%	3.0%	2.7%
6	2.9%	0.3%	5.5%	0.6%	2.2%	2.1%
7	2.8%	0.1%	5.4%	0.5%	1.6%	1.9%
8	2.0%	0.0%	3.5%	0.5%	0.8%	1.3%
9	1.3%	0.0%	2.9%	0.1%	0.2%	0.9%
10	1.2%	0.1%	2.5%	0.1%	0.8%	0.8%
11	0.7%	0.0%	1.4%	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%
12	0.8%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.6%
13	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
14	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
15	0.3%	0.1%	0.6%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%

Access to Hunting Land and Use of Land Types

Q10. Percentage of time spent on.... (will equal 100%)

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Public Land: Open Field & Waters	4.2%	8.9%	6.7%	5.1%	7.8%	5.7%
Public Land: State-owned Wildlife Management Area	7.0%	18.1%	15.6%	8.3%	16.4%	10.8%
Public Land: Federally owned area	3.0%	9.6%	6.4%	4.3%	9.5%	5.2%
Private Land: Free access	70.6%	34.9%	51.6%	63.1%	45.0%	58.8%
Private Land: Paid/traded access	15.2%	28.5%	19.8%	19.3%	20.4%	19.5%

Proportion that hunted on.... (will be greater than 100%)

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Public Land: Open Field & Waters	9.7%	16.5%	15.3%	10.1%	17.2%	12.0%
Public Land: State-owned Wildlife Management Area	13.3%	27.6%	26.3%	13.9%	26.1%	18.1%
Public Land: Federally owned area	5.4%	14.5%	11.5%	6.6%	15.0%	8.4%
Private Land: Free access	76.2%	39.1%	58.9%	67.1%	52.1%	63.9%
Private Land: Paid/traded access	17.7%	30.1%	23.4%	21.1%	23.1%	21.8%

Grouped by type of access responses:

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Public Access	22.0%	41.40%	38.5%	23.3%	40.8%	28.5%
- Public Access Only	9.2%	32.4%	21.6%	13.9%	27.5%	16.9%
Private Access	90.8%	67.6%	79.4%	86.1%	72.5%	83.1%
- Private Only	78.0%	58.6%	61.5%	76.7%	59.2%	71.5%
Any Free Access (no fees paid for hunting access)	87.5%	73.5%	83.7%	82.6%	82.0%	82.8%
Any Paid Access (fees paid for hunting access)	17.7%	30.2%	23.4%	21.1%	23.1%	21.8%
Total Responses (n)	6341	3148	2548	6302	632	9489

Q11. Of those reporting free private land access, how was free access acquired? (multiple responses allowed, can total more than 100%).

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
My own land	22%	8%	20%	19%	13%	19%
Family's land	39%	27%	35%	38%	27%	37%
Friend's land	45%	50%	49%	44%	56%	46%
Acquaintance's land	16%	18%	19%	15%	29%	17%
Knocked on landowner's door	7%	11%	13%	5%	11%	7%

Population Status Perspective

Q12. Below, for each species, please indicate your perception of population size where you hunt. If the species does not occur where you hunt, leave it blank.

Mule deer (Statewide, n = 7,643)

Mule Deer	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Overall
1) Much too low	42.8%	31.8%	41.7%	37.9%	34.2%	38.5%
2) Low	24.1%	28.0%	25.2%	25.6%	27.0%	25.6%
3) About right	26.9%	34.2%	29.5%	29.4%	33.5%	29.8%
4) High	5.0%	5.1%	3.3%	5.7%	4.5%	5.1%
5) Much too high	1.1%	1.0%	0.4%	1.4%	0.9%	1.1%
Average Score	1.98	2.16	1.95	2.07	2.11	2.05

Mule Deer (only traditional mule deer units included: Buffalo, Calamus West, Frenchman, Keya Paha, Loup West, Pine Ridge, Plains, Platte, Republican, Sandhills and Upper Platte, n = 3,456)

Mule Deer	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Overall
1) Much too low	34.6%	28.6%	35.0%	30.9%	31.1%	31.8%
2) Low	27.5%	28.8%	28.4%	28.0%	28.4%	28.1%
3) About right	29.0%	35.6%	31.9%	31.7%	35.4%	32.0%
4) High	7.1%	5.8%	4.2%	7.5%	4.3%	6.5%
5) Much too high	1.8%	1.1%	0.6%	1.9%	0.8%	1.5%
Average Score	2.14	2.22	2.07	2.21	2.15	2.18

Mule Deer, by Deer Management Unit:

Mule Deer By Unit	1) Much too low	2) Low	3) About right	4) High	5) Much too high	Average Score
Blue Northwest	45.6%	23.2%	29.6%	1.6%	0.0%	1.87
Blue Southeast	58.0%	16.0%	23.3%	2.7%	0.0%	1.71
Buffalo	42.6%	26.7%	25.6%	4.3%	0.8%	1.94
Calamus East	39.8%	32.0%	23.3%	3.9%	1.0%	1.94
Calamus West	33.7%	38.2%	23.0%	2.8%	2.2%	2.02
Elkhorn	68.3%	12.7%	18.3%	0.7%	0.0%	1.51
Frenchman	23.5%	24.0%	38.3%	10.6%	3.6%	2.47
Keya Paha	50.0%	30.8%	16.8%	1.4%	1.0%	1.73
Loup East	51.6%	27.7%	18.6%	2.1%	0.0%	1.71
Loup West	28.1%	37.5%	28.1%	5.5%	0.8%	2.13
Missouri	59.4%	25.5%	13.5%	1.6%	0.0%	1.57
Pine Ridge	32.8%	33.3%	28.8%	4.2%	1.0%	2.07
Plains	23.3%	28.3%	37.7%	10.1%	0.6%	2.36
Platte	18.2%	27.1%	41.1%	12.5%	1.2%	2.51
Republican	68.0%	18.2%	12.1%	1.2%	0.4%	1.48
Sandhills	27.1%	32.5%	35.6%	4.8%	0.0%	2.18
Upper Platte	19.0%	21.5%	51.0%	6.5%	2.0%	2.51
Wahoo	55.0%	8.8%	35.1%	1.2%	0.0%	1.82

Q13. Whitetail Deer

Whitetail Deer	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Overall
1) Much too low	13.9%	14.6%	13.4%	14.0%	17.4%	14.1%
2) Low	23.2%	19.8%	24.1%	21.4%	21.3%	22.1%
3) About right	46.0%	51.8%	50.9%	46.9%	45.3%	47.9%
4) High	13.7%	12.0%	10.2%	14.5%	11.9%	13.1%
5) Much too high	3.2%	1.8%	1.4%	3.2%	4.2%	2.8%
Average Score	2.69	2.67	2.62	2.71	2.64	2.68

Whitetail Deer, by DMU

Whitetail Deer By Unit	1) Much too low	2) Low	3) About right	4) High	5) Much too high	Average Score
Blue Northwest	9.2%	25.8%	51.7%	11.0%	2.3%	2.71
Blue Southeast	11.9%	23.6%	51.5%	11.2%	1.8%	2.67
Buffalo	7.1%	21.2%	47.7%	19.2%	4.8%	2.93
Calamus East	10.4%	27.2%	44.8%	13.6%	4.0%	2.74
Calamus West	12.0%	18.3%	50.3%	15.7%	3.7%	2.81
Elkhorn	18.9%	30.7%	42.4%	7.4%	0.6%	2.40
Frenchman	23.1%	23.5%	37.4%	11.8%	4.2%	2.50
Keya Paha	6.3%	14.0%	55.9%	20.3%	3.5%	3.01
Loup East	8.8%	15.5%	49.3%	21.1%	5.3%	2.99
Loup West	5.6%	22.5%	56.3%	14.1%	1.4%	2.83
Missouri	7.9%	18.9%	56.6%	15.6%	1.1%	2.83
Pine Ridge	17.2%	20.3%	46.5%	12.6%	3.4%	2.65
Plains	17.9%	35.8%	33.8%	8.6%	4.0%	2.45
Platte	11.7%	23.2%	46.4%	16.1%	2.6%	2.74
Republican	8.2%	19.4%	56.1%	12.9%	3.4%	2.84
Sandhills	16.6%	20.3%	45.1%	15.7%	2.3%	2.67
Upper Platte	24.0%	30.2%	31.3%	9.9%	4.7%	2.41
Wahoo	12.2%	23.2%	51.8%	10.9%	2.1%	2.67

Q14. Hunter numbers

Hunters	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Overall
1) Much too low	3.2%	3.6%	3.7%	3.1%	4.2%	3.3%
2) Low	8.2%	10.4%	9.0%	8.7%	11.6%	9.0%
3) About right	45.5%	56.0%	47.8%	49.1%	52.4%	49.0%
4) High	26.5%	18.5%	23.2%	24.7%	17.3%	23.8%
5) Much too high	16.6%	11.4%	16.3%	14.4%	14.5%	14.9%
Average Score	3.45	3.24	3.39	3.39	3.26	3.38

Hunters, by DMU

Whitetail Deer By Unit	1) Much too low	2) Low	3) About right	4) High	5) Much too high	Average Score
Blue Northwest	2.4%	11.0%	46.7%	28.9%	11.0%	3.35
Blue Southeast	3.4%	7.6%	50.7%	26.3%	12.1%	3.36
Buffalo	2.2%	10.3%	52.5%	25.1%	9.8%	3.30
Calamus East	5.2%	8.7%	58.3%	20.9%	7.0%	3.16
Calamus West	3.2%	8.1%	44.9%	28.1%	15.7%	3.45
Elkhorn	4.5%	11.1%	43.4%	26.4%	14.6%	3.36
Frenchman	1.6%	7.2%	46.1%	26.9%	18.1%	3.53
Keya Paha	2.8%	8.7%	56.5%	21.7%	10.3%	3.28
Loup East	1.9%	9.4%	51.6%	21.6%	15.5%	3.39
Loup West	3.8%	10.0%	58.5%	21.5%	6.2%	3.16
Missouri	2.7%	7.7%	54.5%	24.7%	10.4%	3.32
Pine Ridge	3.0%	7.2%	46.5%	23.1%	20.1%	3.50
Plains	3.9%	9.9%	51.3%	23.0%	11.8%	3.29
Platte	2.7%	9.2%	53.8%	21.7%	12.5%	3.32
Republican	2.5%	6.0%	42.6%	30.2%	18.7%	3.56
Sandhills	5.0%	12.2%	55.2%	15.1%	12.5%	3.18
Upper Platte	2.0%	6.1%	55.3%	20.3%	16.2%	3.43
Wahoo	3.9%	7.6%	47.6%	25.2%	15.7%	3.41

Residency and hunting questions

Q15. Have you ever been a resident of Nebraska? Only asked of Nonresidents. (n=3858)

Response	Overall
No	85%
Yes	15%

Q16. What factors contributed to your decision to hunt Nebraska? (Select all that apply.) Only asked of Nonresidents. (n=3858)

Response	Overall
Opportunity to hunt deer in another state	46%
Availability of permits (OTC options, permits sold out elsewhere)	34%
Quality of deer	27%
Opportunity to hunt mule deer	25%
Permit costs	23%
Opportunity to hunt deer with friends who reside in Nebraska	21%
Opportunity to hunt deer with family who reside in Nebraska	14%
Other	4%
Military or student	1%

Q17. Did you hunt deer in your state of residence in 2021? Asked only of Nonresidents. (n=3858)

	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Overall
No	24%	36%	17%	29%
Yes	76%	64%	83%	71%

Q18. Do you hunt deer in any states other than Nebraska?

Residency	Answer	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Overall
Resident	No	91%	98%	92%	94%
	Yes	9%	2%	8%	6%
Nonresident	No	28%	41%	21%	34%
	Yes	72%	59%	79%	66%

Residency	States Hunted	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Overall
Resident	1	90.3%	98.7%	87.8%	93.5%
	2	7.3%	1.1%	10.5%	5.0%
	3	1.6%	0.2%	0.2%	1.0%
	4	0.6%	0.0%	0.8%	0.3%
	9	0.2%	0.0%	0.7%	0.2%
Nonresident	1	49.7%	49.6%	35.0%	48.8%
	2	30.0%	40.0%	57.5%	37.0%
	3	15.2%	6.3%	2.5%	9.7%
	4	2.8%	1.3%	5.0%	2.1%
	5	0.3%	1.0%	0.0%	0.7%
	6	0.3%	1.8%	0.0%	1.1%
	8	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%

	9	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
	12	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%

Mule Deer Buck Selection

Q19. Hunters were asked if they would consider shooting the following deer under normal, legal and ethical situations based upon the single photograph. The antler configuration and age information was not included in the question, but is here for reference/discussion.

Would you shoot this deer?



Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Yes	8.5%	5.5%	5.2%	7.7%	6.8%	6.5%
Maybe	15.0%	12.3%	8.7%	15.3%	14.5%	12.1%
No	76.5%	82.2%	86.0%	76.9%	78.7%	81.4%

Would you shoot this deer?



Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Yes	39.7%	34.3%	27.4%	39.2%	30.5%	33.0%
Maybe	27.2%	27.7%	24.3%	29.0%	23.4%	26.4%
No	33.1%	38.0%	48.3%	31.7%	46.0%	40.6%

Would you shoot this deer?



Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Yes	71.7%	69.4%	65.1%	72.8%	55.4%	68.0%
Maybe	17.0%	18.4%	19.4%	16.6%	25.1%	18.6%
No	11.3%	12.1%	15.4%	10.5%	19.5%	13.5%

Would you shoot this deer?



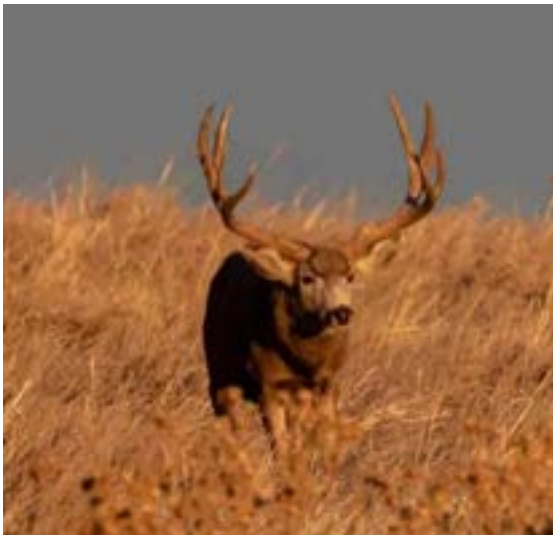
Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Yes	80.1%	80.6%	77.7%	80.6%	68.1%	78.4%
Maybe	13.5%	13.7%	14.9%	13.6%	23.6%	14.9%
No	6.4%	5.7%	7.4%	5.9%	8.3%	6.8%

Would you shoot this deer?



Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Yes	90.6%	93.6%	93.3%	91.5%	88.7%	92.1%
Maybe	6.5%	4.8%	4.9%	5.9%	8.5%	5.6%
No	2.9%	1.6%	1.8%	2.6%	2.8%	2.3%

Would you shoot this deer?



Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Yes	91.7%	96.0%	95.8%	92.1%	92.3%	93.8%
Maybe	4.4%	2.4%	2.1%	4.3%	4.4%	3.3%
No	3.8%	1.6%	2.1%	3.6%	3.3%	2.9%

Permit Use and Access

Q20. Did you hunt deer under the authority of a landowner permit in 2021? (n=9537)

Response	Residency		Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	
No	81.0%	94.0%	85.3%
Yes	19.0%	6.0%	14.7%

If yes, did you allow other hunters (outside your immediate family) to hunt on your property this year? (n=1382)

Response	Residency		Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	
No	57.59%	57.63%	57.60%
Yes	42.41%	42.37%	42.40%

If yes, how did the number of hunters you allowed this year compare to last year? (n=1209)

Response	Residency		Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	
I allowed fewer hunters to hunt my land than during the 2020 season	16.1%	13.5%	15.8%
I allowed the same number of hunters to hunt my land as during the 2020 season	78.6%	79.5%	78.7%
I allowed more hunters to hunt my land than during the 2020 season	5.2%	7.1%	5.5%

Q21. Did you hunt deer under the authority of an archery permit in 2021? (n=9520)

Response	Residency		Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	
No	68.1%	70.2%	68.8%
Yes	31.9%	29.8%	31.2%

If yes, did you hunt private land? (n=2955)

Response	Residency		Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	
No	11.3%	39.2%	20.1%
Yes	88.7%	60.8%	79.9%

If yes, just in reference to the weekend prior to the November Firearm Season (Nov 6-8), how did your private land access relate to the 2020 season? (n=2352) Last row omitted from comparison, top 3 are percentages of those that hunted both years, bottom option is overall for those that answered.

Response	Residency		Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	
My access decreased	14.9%	11.4%	14.3%
My access stayed the same	82.8%	85.4%	83.2%
My access increased	2.3%	3.2%	2.5%
I am unable to compare because I did not hunt that weekend in 2020	10.7%	44.1%	18.7%

Q22. Did you hunt deer during the November Firearm season in 2021? (n=9557)

Response	Residency		Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	
No	14.0%	41.5%	23.1%
Yes	86.0%	58.5%	76.9%

If yes, did you hunt private land? (n=7250)

Response	Residency		Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	
No	8.8%	27.5%	13.6%
Yes	91.2%	72.5%	86.4%

If yes, just in reference to the November Firearm Season, how did your access to private land compare to 2020? (n=6249) Last row omitted from comparison, top 3 are percentages of those that hunted both years, bottom option is overall for those that answered.

Response	Residency		Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	
My access decreased	12.8%	9.0%	12.2%
My access stayed the same	83.4%	87.4%	84.1%
My access increased	3.7%	3.6%	3.7%
I am unable to compare because I did not hunt that weekend in 2020	6.3%	29.3%	11.2%