

2025 Nebraska Deer Hunter Survey

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Executive Summary

In January 2025, we sent an email invitation to 74,897 Nebraska deer hunters who participated in the **2024 deer season**. By the end of a two-week survey period, we received 11,688 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:

- 50% of survey respondents reported harvesting at least one deer in 2025, however, checkstation and permit data shows that only 39% 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 2.8 on a scale of 1-5 (1 = Very dissatisfied, 5 = Very satisfied). This was much lower than the result of 3.2 AND 3.8 for the 2021 and 2020 seasons, which reflects the lower deer harvest.
- 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, 27% of hunters prefer archery methods, 67% prefer firearm and 6% prefer muzzleloader as their method to hunt deer in Nebraska. This is slightly different than past years, possibly pointing to shifting in hunters with lower populations or shifting demographics of respondents.
- 80% of hunters reported hunting during the 9 day November Firearm season.
- 57% of hunters reported hunting only one of the possible 13 10-day periods during the entire deer season. 26% reported hunting 3 or more periods.
- 15% of hunter days are spent on public land.
- Hunter perceptions of whitetail and mule deer populations are lower than previous years.
- 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.
- The opportunity to purchase a second buck permit is important to 30% respondents.

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Methods

On January 21, 2025, an invitation to participate in a survey related to hunting participation and experiences was sent to 74,897 deer permit holders who had provided an email address in their customer profile. This was 91.7% of all deer permit holders for the 2024 deer season. A reminder email was sent to non-respondents on January 27, 2025, and the survey was closed to participants on February 3, 2025. A total of 11,688 deer hunters completed the survey for a response rate of 15.6%.

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	2056	19.7%	Archery	26.9% (2806)
Crossbow	656	6.3%		
Longbow or Recurve bow	91	0.9%		
Spear	3	0.0%		
Centerfire/High power long rifle	6766	64.8%	Firearm	66.9% (6979)
Straight wall cartridge rifle	156	1.5%		
Shotgun (slug)	30	0.3%		
Pistol	27	0.3%		
Inline muzzleloader	535	5.1%	Muzzleloader	6.3% (654)
Percussion cap muzzleloader	99	0.9%		
Flintlock muzzleloader	20	0.2%		

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 2024 season?

	Resident	Nonresident	Total
No	3.9% (367)	6.2% (147)	4.4% (514)
Yes	96.1% (8,938)	93.8% (2,216)	95.6% (11,154)

Q2. How many days did you hunt deer in Nebraska during the 2024 season?

Reported harvesting a deer	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
No	9.3	6.1	14.7	6.3	10.0	8.7
Yes	10.2	5.1	17.5	5.8	10.5	9.1
Total Average	9.7	5.6	16.1	6.0	10.2	8.9

Q3. Did you harvest a deer during the 2024 Season?

Response	Residency		Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	
Hunter Survey (% Success)	48.8%	56.4%	50.3%
Harvest Data (% Success)	38.6%	45.2%	39.6%

Satisfaction

Q4. What is your overall level of satisfaction with your deer hunting experience in Nebraska for the 2024 Season?

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Very Unsatisfied (1)	18.3%	15.3%	18.1%	17.4%	20.4%	17.7%
Unsatisfied (2)	25.9%	23.2%	27.1%	24.7%	24.8%	25.3%
Neutral (3)	27.7%	22.7%	27.7%	26.2%	27.8%	26.7%
Satisfied (4)	17.5%	19.0%	17.4%	18.0%	16.6%	17.8%
Very Satisfied (5)	10.7%	19.9%	9.7%	13.8%	10.4%	12.5%
Total Responses (n)	8375	2112	2803	6966	652	10487
Overall Category Score	3.05	2.76	2.73	2.86	3.72	2.82

Answers from Q6 were used to analyze satisfaction scores by unit:

Response	Very Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Overall
Blue Northwest	13.6%	26.0%	28.6%	19.9%	11.9%	2.91
Blue Southeast	12.9%	24.0%	29.4%	19.4%	14.3%	2.98
Buffalo	19.1%	25.1%	25.1%	20.8%	10.0%	2.78
Calamus East	19.1%	27.0%	27.0%	20.6%	6.4%	2.68
Calamus West	15.5%	22.4%	26.3%	22.4%	13.4%	2.96
Elkhorn	25.5%	26.2%	27.0%	13.3%	8.0%	2.52
Frenchman	18.1%	26.8%	26.0%	17.8%	11.4%	2.78
Keya Paha	15.0%	24.0%	22.9%	19.6%	18.5%	3.03
Loup East	20.0%	25.7%	27.8%	16.9%	9.5%	2.70
Loup West	14.8%	24.7%	32.3%	17.5%	10.8%	2.85
Missouri	19.1%	23.7%	26.8%	15.8%	14.6%	2.83
Pine Ridge	13.3%	25.3%	23.6%	18.6%	19.2%	3.05
Plains	13.7%	19.5%	26.3%	24.2%	16.3%	3.10
Platte	17.2%	26.9%	25.5%	18.2%	12.3%	2.81
Republican	19.8%	25.8%	26.7%	17.0%	10.6%	2.73
Sandhills	15.5%	21.8%	20.4%	19.5%	22.7%	3.12
Upper Platte	19.1%	26.3%	28.4%	15.7%	10.6%	2.72
Wahoo	16.1%	28.0%	24.8%	18.1%	13.0%	2.84

Deer Management Units

Q5. How many deer management units did you hunt in during the 2024 season? (n=10,680)

How many units did you hunt?

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
1	85.9%	94.5%	78.4%	91.5%	83.8%	87.6% (9,359)
2	11.7%	5.0%	17.2%	7.5%	12.6%	10.3% (1,103)
3	1.9%	0.3%	3.2%	0.9%	2.3%	1.6% (168)
4	0.4%	0.2%	0.8%	0.1%	0.9%	0.33% (35)
5	0.1%	0	0.2%	<0.1%	0.2%	0.08% (9)
6+	<0.1%	0	<0.1%	0	<0.2%	0.06% (5)
Average	1.14	1.03	1.29	1.09	1.24	1.10

Q6. Which deer management unit did you hunt most often during the 2024 season?

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Blue Northwest	9.0%	2.0%	8.7%	7.1%	7.6%	7.6%
Blue Southeast	11.2%	9.6%	14.7%	9.7%	7.8%	10.9%
Buffalo	6.9%	3.7%	6.9%	5.8%	6.8%	6.2%
Calamus East	1.7%	1.3%	1.2%	1.8%	1.6%	1.6%
Calamus West	2.4%	3.9%	1.3%	3.2%	3.7%	2.7%
Elkhorn	8.4%	2.6%	7.8%	7.3%	4.5%	7.3%
Frenchman	5.7%	12.5%	6.2%	7.5%	5.3%	7.0%
Keya Paha	3.1%	7.8%	3.3%	4.2%	4.5%	4.0%
Loup East	6.2%	3.3%	4.9%	6.0%	4.7%	5.6%
Loup West	2.8%	1.8%	2.0%	2.8%	2.7%	2.6%
Missouri	6.6%	6.2%	5.7%	7.1%	3.9%	6.5%
Pine Ridge	2.9%	9.6%	2.2%	5.0%	4.9%	4.2%
Plains	1.8%	4.0%	1.1%	2.6%	3.3%	2.2%
Platte	4.4%	7.1%	5.3%	4.9%	5.1%	5.0%
Republican	7.6%	8.1%	7.9%	7.6%	8.8%	7.7%
Sandhills	2.6%	10.3%	1.9%	4.6%	8.2%	4.1%
Upper Platte	2.4%	4.1%	1.9%	2.9%	4.9%	2.7%
Wahoo	14.4%	2.0%	16.9%	9.8%	11.9%	11.9%

Estimated number of hunters by unit, calculated from total number of hunters statewide and the response to Q6.

Unit	Residency		Total Hunters	Percent Nonresident	Hunters per Square Mile
	Residents	Nonresidents			
Blue Northwest	6,228	247	6,475	4%	2.28
Blue Southeast	7,738	1,194	8,931	13%	2.72
Buffalo	4,748	466	5,214	9%	1.04
Calamus East	1,202	160	1,362	12%	0.59
Calamus West	1,689	488	2,176	22%	0.52
Elkhorn	5,831	320	6,151	5%	1.07
Frenchman	3,914	1,558	5,471	28%	0.91
Keya Paha	2,126	975	3,101	31%	1.14
Loup East	4,271	415	4,686	9%	1.40
Loup West	1,947	226	2,172	10%	0.83
Missouri	4,579	772	5,351	14%	1.69
Pine Ridge	1,977	1,194	3,170	38%	0.95
Plains	1,252	502	1,754	29%	0.27
Platte	3,059	888	3,947	22%	0.78
Republican	5,245	1,004	6,249	16%	1.26
Sandhills	1,788	1,288	3,076	42%	0.39
Upper Platte	1,659	517	2,176	24%	0.49
Wahoo	9,963	247	10,210	2%	2.46
Total	69,212	12,461	81,673	15%	1.06

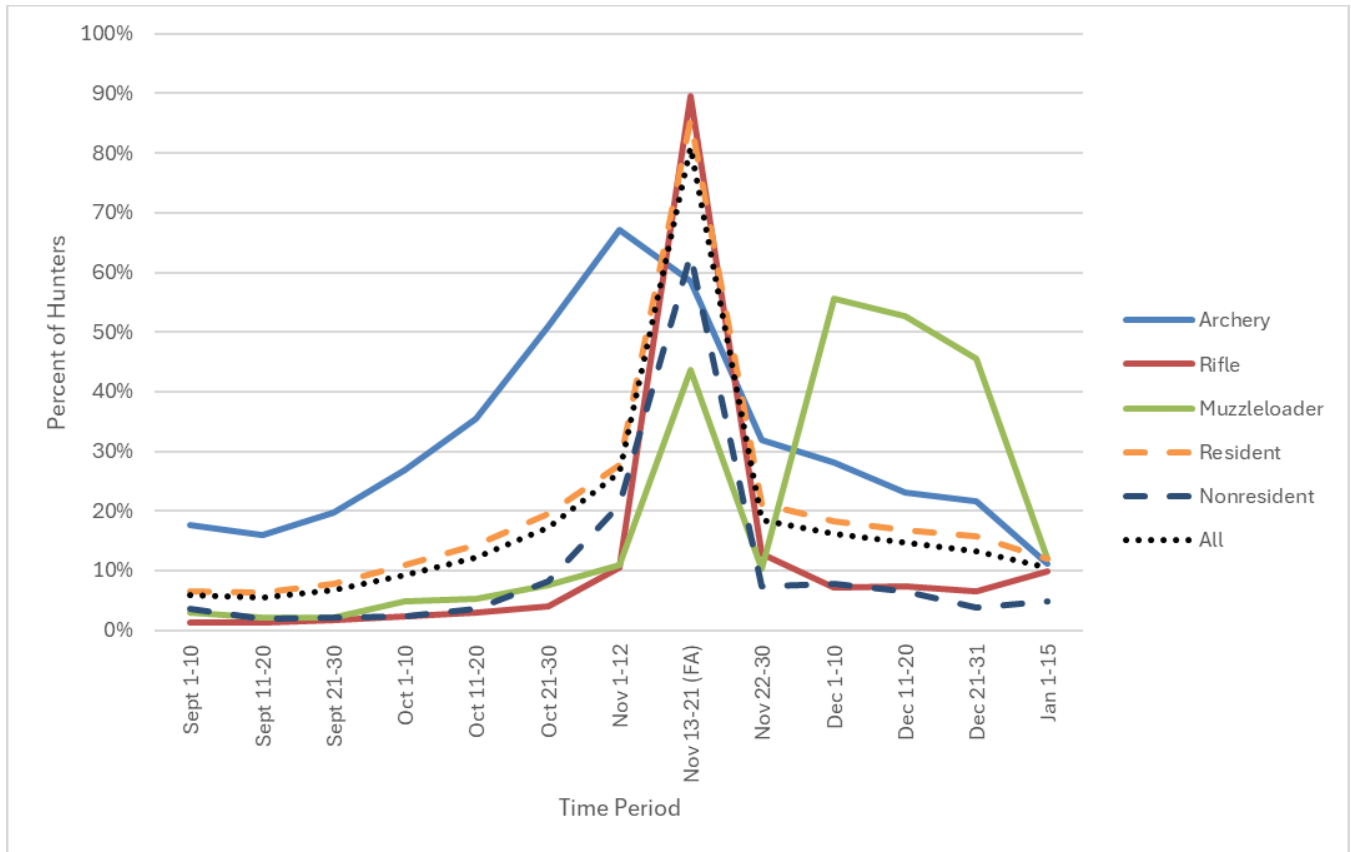
Weapon Preference

Q7. What is your preferred weapon to use to hunt deer?

Weapon type	n	Overall	Resident	Nonresident
Compound bow	2055	19.7%	18.8%	23.1%
Crossbow	656	6.3%	6.1%	7.1%
Longbow or Recurve bow	91	0.9%	0.7%	1.6%
Spear	3	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Centerfire/Highpower long rifle	6766	64.8%	66.3%	58.8%
Straightwall cartridge rifle	156	1.5%	1.7%	0.8%
Shotgun (slug)	30	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%
Pistol	27	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%
Flintlock muzzleloader	20	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Inline muzzleloader	535	5.1%	4.5%	7.4%
Percussion cap muzzleloader	99	0.9%	1.0%	0.9%

Time

Q8. During which time period(s) did you hunt? Respondents could select more than one. N = 10,438



The number of time periods reported hunted for each group. Compared to previous results, there are fewer hunters reporting hunting just a single period for all categories of hunters.

Time periods hunted	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
1	51.2%	80.3%	25.6%	71.2%	42.3%	57.1%
2	17.3%	13.5%	15.9%	16.5%	19.0%	16.5%
3	8.7%	3.3%	12.1%	5.3%	13.7%	7.6%
4	6.3%	1.6%	9.9%	2.9%	11.3%	5.3%
5	4.6%	0.5%	8.3%	1.8%	5.7%	3.8%
6	3.2%	0.2%	6.6%	0.9%	2.6%	2.6%
7	2.4%	0.1%	5.9%	0.3%	1.8%	1.9%
8	2.1%	0.2%	5.0%	0.4%	1.7%	1.7%
9	1.4%	0.0%	3.4%	0.3%	0.5%	1.1%
10	1.1%	0.0%	2.7%	0.1%	0.8%	0.9%
11	0.5%	0.1%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
12	0.8%	0.0%	2.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.7%
13	0.5%	0.0%	1.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%

Access to Hunting Land and Use of Land Types

Q9. Percentage of time spent on.... (will equal 100%)

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Public Land: Open Field & Waters	4.0%	5.3%	4.6%	3.9%	6.6%	4.3%
Public Land: State-owned Wildlife Management Area	6.9%	9.4%	11.8%	5.4%	10.9%	7.4%
Public Land: Federally owned area	2.3%	5.6%	3.4%	2.7%	5.4%	3.0%
Private Land: Free access	71.1%	45.2%	59.2%	69.3%	57.5%	65.9%
Private Land: Paid/traded access	15.6%	34.4%	21.0%	18.6%	19.7%	19.3%

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

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Public Land: Open Field & Waters	9.2%	9.6%	11.9%	7.8%	14.2%	9.3%
Public Land: State-owned Wildlife Management Area	12.5%	15.3%	20.7%	9.4%	19.9%	13.0%
Public Land: Federally owned area	4.5%	8.1%	6.4%	4.4%	8.9%	5.2%
Private Land: Free access	76.2%	48.6%	66.4%	72.9%	64.8%	63.9%
Private Land: Paid/traded access	18.1%	35.9%	24.8%	20.3%	22.6%	21.7%

Grouped by type of access responses:

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Public Access	20.1%	25.5%	29.4%	17.1%	31.8%	21.2%
- Public Access Only	9.0%	17.2%	13.5%	9.0%	16.4%	10.6%
Private Access	91.0%	82.8%	86.5%	91.0%	83.6%	83.1%
- Private Only	79.9%	74.5%	70.6%	82.9%	68.2%	78.8%
Any Free Access (no fees paid for hunting access)	81.9%	64.1%	75.2%	79.7%	77.4%	78.3%
Any Paid Access (fees paid for hunting access)	12.8%	32.2%	16.9%	16.6%	15.7%	16.7%
Total Responses (n)	8399	2116	2805	6979	654	10515

Q10. Of those reporting free private land access, how was free access acquired? (multiple responses allowed, can total more than 100%). N = 7,365

Response	Residency		Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	
My own land	25%	11%	23%
Family's land	39%	24%	37%
Friend's land	44%	55%	44%
Acquaintance's land	14%	12%	14%
Knocked on landowner's door	6%	8%	7%

Population Status Perspective

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.

Q11. Mule deer (Statewide, n = 5,196)

Mule Deer	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Overall
1) Much too low	49%	33%	50%	45%	39%	45%
2) Low	24%	28%	25%	25%	28%	25%
3) About right	22%	32%	23%	25%	27%	25%
4) High	3%	5%	2%	4%	5%	4%
5) Much too high	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Average Score	1.82	2.13	1.78	1.92	2.02	1.90

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 = 3,156)

Mule Deer	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Overall
1) Much too low	42%	29%	43%	37%	34%	38%
2) Low	28%	30%	30%	28%	30%	29%
3) About right	24%	34%	23%	28%	29%	27%
4) High	4%	6%	3%	5%	5%	5%
5) Much too high	1%	1%	0%	2%	2%	1%
Average Score	1.95	2.20	1.87	2.05	2.10	2.02

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	N
Blue Northwest	58.5%	19.5%	22.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.64	118
Blue Southeast	56.0%	13.5%	29.8%	0.7%	0.0%	1.75	141
Buffalo	46.5%	24.2%	23.6%	4.4%	1.3%	1.90	318
Calamus East	44.3%	26.8%	27.8%	1.0%	0.0%	1.86	97
Calamus West	33.6%	33.6%	29.4%	3.3%	0.0%	2.02	211
Elkhorn	67.4%	13.3%	19.3%	0.0%	0.0%	1.52	135
Frenchman	34.0%	32.0%	25.6%	5.5%	2.9%	2.11	550
Keya Paha	60.5%	21.4%	14.8%	2.9%	0.4%	1.61	243
Loup East	65.2%	18.6%	16.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.51	210
Loup West	48.6%	29.0%	18.6%	2.2%	1.6%	1.79	183
Missouri	70.7%	17.2%	11.2%	0.9%	0.0%	1.42	232
Pine Ridge	30.2%	33.8%	29.9%	4.8%	1.2%	2.13	331
Plains	22.4%	26.2%	41.5%	7.1%	2.7%	2.42	183
Platte	29.3%	36.1%	29.3%	4.8%	0.6%	2.11	335
Republican	72.1%	14.7%	12.4%	0.8%	0.0%	1.42	258
Sandhills	21.3%	30.2%	39.5%	7.8%	1.2%	2.37	334
Upper Platte	30.5%	27.6%	35.7%	4.8%	1.4%	2.19	210
Wahoo	63.2%	13.5%	22.2%	0.5%	0.5%	1.62	185

Q12. Whitetail Deer

Whitetail Deer	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Overall
1) Much too low	29%	21%	28%	27%	28%	28%
2) Low	32%	26%	34%	30%	30%	31%
3) About right	31%	44%	32%	34%	33%	33%
4) High	6%	8%	5%	7%	8%	7%
5) Much too high	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Average Score	2.18	2.43	2.17	2.25	2.24	2.23

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	19.0%	33.2%	39.2%	7.8%	0.8%	2.38
Blue Southeast	16.9%	31.5%	41.5%	8.1%	1.9%	2.47
Buffalo	26.8%	34.0%	31.1%	6.6%	1.5%	2.22
Calamus East	39.0%	31.9%	23.4%	4.3%	1.4%	1.97
Calamus West	24.7%	33.0%	34.8%	6.6%	0.9%	2.26
Elkhorn	46.5%	30.9%	20.0%	2.1%	0.5%	1.79
Frenchman	38.1%	27.8%	26.0%	6.1%	1.9%	2.06
Keya Paha	17.4%	24.8%	46.0%	10.3%	1.5%	2.54
Loup East	26.1%	32.5%	34.4%	6.2%	0.8%	2.23
Loup West	29.4%	30.8%	32.1%	6.8%	0.9%	2.19
Missouri	31.3%	33.5%	30.2%	4.5%	0.5%	2.09
Pine Ridge	21.0%	24.5%	38.3%	13.0%	3.2%	2.53
Plains	28.0%	30.8%	32.4%	6.6%	2.2%	2.24
Platte	28.4%	32.5%	31.1%	6.1%	2.0%	2.21
Republican	26.0%	33.7%	33.4%	5.6%	1.4%	2.23
Sandhills	17.4%	24.2%	43.7%	12.7%	2.1%	2.58
Upper Platte	31.0%	27.0%	32.0%	6.0%	4.0%	2.25
Wahoo	23.5%	33.0%	36.2%	6.3%	0.9%	2.28

Q13. Hunter numbers (n = 7,803)

Hunters	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Overall
1) Much too low	7%	5%	7%	6%	7%	6%
2) Low	11%	13%	10%	12%	16%	12%
3) About right	48%	63%	48%	52%	49%	51%
4) High	21%	13%	20%	19%	19%	19%
5) Much too high	13%	5%	15%	10%	10%	11%
Average Score	3.23	2.99	3.26	3.16	3.10	3.18

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	5.6%	9.4%	45.9%	23.1%	16.0%	3.35
Blue Southeast	4.6%	9.1%	51.4%	21.3%	13.5%	3.30
Buffalo	4.4%	12.7%	53.5%	17.2%	12.1%	3.20
Calamus East	10.4%	8.1%	55.6%	14.8%	11.1%	3.08
Calamus West	4.9%	12.5%	59.4%	13.4%	9.8%	3.11
Elkhorn	11.5%	11.7%	49.1%	17.4%	10.3%	3.03
Frenchman	4.9%	11.2%	52.3%	23.0%	8.5%	3.19
Keya Paha	4.7%	11.8%	60.6%	15.5%	7.5%	3.09
Loup East	6.6%	9.6%	51.5%	22.1%	10.3%	3.20
Loup West	6.6%	12.3%	56.6%	16.5%	8.0%	3.07
Missouri	7.6%	10.5%	48.7%	21.8%	11.5%	3.19
Pine Ridge	5.0%	8.9%	57.0%	19.0%	10.1%	3.20
Plains	5.0%	13.3%	58.3%	15.0%	8.3%	3.08
Platte	8.6%	10.4%	54.3%	17.9%	8.8%	3.08
Republican	4.4%	10.2%	48.5%	22.2%	14.6%	3.32
Sandhills	6.0%	13.6%	63.0%	12.7%	4.8%	2.97
Upper Platte	6.2%	10.9%	54.0%	19.4%	9.5%	3.15
Wahoo	5.7%	10.5%	45.3%	23.4%	15.1%	3.32

Residency and hunting questions

Q14. Have you ever been a resident of Nebraska? Only asked of Nonresidents. (n=2,023)

Response	Overall
No	80%
Yes	20%

Buck Permits and Buck Hunting

Q15. In Nebraska hunters are allowed to purchase 2 permits that allow the harvest of a buck, please select the answer that best describes your buck tag purchasing pattern. (n=10,271)

	Res	NR	AR	FA	MZ	Overall
I hunt antlerless deer and rarely purchase a buck permit.	6%	11%	4%	8%	9%	7%
I only purchase 1 buck permit.	39%	66%	29%	51%	40%	44%
I purchase 1 permit and track permit availability so that I may purchase a second permit before the permits sell out.	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%
I purchase 1 permit and wait until it is filled before buying a second permit.	16%	4%	21%	10%	13%	13%
I purchase 1 permit, but wait to see how deer abundance and buck quality are before I purchase a second permit.	8%	4%	7%	7%	8%	7%
I purchase 2 buck permits before the season started.	10%	7%	11%	9%	6%	10%
I purchase 2 permits so that I can hunt during multiple seasons (e.g., muzzleloader, archery).	21%	6%	25%	14%	23%	18%

Q16. When buck hunting, does your harvest criteria change for your second permit compared to your first? Only asked of those that indicate that they buy 2 permits in Q22. (n = 4,927)

	Res	NR	AR	FA	MZ	Overall
No, I do not change my selection criteria when filling my second permit.	62%	49%	57%	62%	66%	60%
Yes, I frequently hold out for a larger, trophy buck when filling my second permit.	38%	51%	43%	38%	34%	40%

Q17. How do you approach buck harvest through the course of the season? (n=10,173)

	Res	NR	AR	FA	MZ	Overall
Early in the season, I hunt for a trophy buck, but as the season draws to a close, my standards decrease significantly.	18%	13%	15%	18%	11%	17%
I use the same selection criteria throughout the season.	59%	71%	70%	58%	64%	61%
I don't use antler size as a criterion for harvesting a deer.	23%	17%	15%	24%	25%	22%

Q18. Currently, about 20% of residents purchase a second buck permit each year and about 2% of resident buck hunters harvest 2 bucks in any given year. How important is the option of the second buck permit to you? (n=10,288)

	Res	NR	AR	FA	MZ	Overall
Not at all important	37%	47%	33%	42%	40%	39%
Unimportant	13%	11%	13%	13%	12%	13%
Neutral	18%	18%	18%	19%	19%	18%
Important	12%	9%	13%	11%	9%	11%
Very important	19%	15%	25%	16%	21%	19%
Likert Score (1-5)	2.63	2.34	2.84	2.46	2.60	2.57

Permit purchasing patterns (Q22) of those that answered “Important” or “Very Important” for the previous question. (n=3,044)

	Res	NR	AR	FA	MZ	Overall
I hunt antlerless deer and rarely purchase a buck permit.	2%	7%	2%	3%	3%	3%
I only purchase 1 buck permit.	18%	42%	12%	28%	19%	22%
I purchase 1 permit and track permit availability so that I may purchase a second permit before the permits sell out.	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%
I purchase 1 permit and wait until it is filled before buying a second permit.	17%	7%	22%	11%	19%	15%
I purchase 1 permit, but wait to see how deer abundance and buck quality are before I purchase a second permit.	7%	6%	6%	7%	5%	7%
I purchase 2 buck permits before the season started.	19%	24%	19%	21%	14%	20%
I purchase 2 permits so that I can hunt during multiple seasons (e.g., muzzleloader, archery).	35%	12%	37%	27%	38%	31%

Permit Use and Access

Q19. Did you hunt deer under the authority of a landowner permit in 2024? (n=10426)

Response	Residency		Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	
No	78%	91%	81%
Yes	22%	9%	19%

If yes, did you allow other hunters (outside your immediate family) to hunt on your property this year? (n=2000)

Response	Residency		Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	
No	63.0%	60.1%	62.8%
Yes	37.0%	39.9%	37.3%

If yes, how did the number of hunters you allowed this year compare to last year? (n=1783)

Response	Residency		Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	
I allowed fewer hunters to hunt my land than during the 2023 season	18.2%	17.0%	18.1%
I allowed the same number of hunters to hunt my land as during the 2023 season	76.9%	77.4%	76.9%
I allowed more hunters to hunt my land than during the 2023 season	4.9%	5.7%	4.9%