

2024 SOUTH CAROLINA DEER HARVEST REPORT



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DEER RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT PROJECT



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INTRODUCTION

The white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) is the most popular, sought after, economically important, and controversial game animal in South Carolina. The 2024 Online Deer Hunter Survey represents the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' (SCDNR), Wildlife Section's ongoing commitment to conduct pertinent research related to the state's white-tailed deer resource. The primary objectives of this survey research were to obtain valid estimates of: (1) noncompliance with electronic harvest reporting, (2) hunting effort related to deer, and (3) weapons use, weapons preference, and harvest rates by weapon type. Information on hunter opinion related to certain aspects of the deer resource as well as estimates of the wild hog and coyote harvest in the state is also presented.

Due to the importance of deer as a state resource, SCDNR believes that accurately assessing the harvest of deer, as well as hunter participation in deer hunting, is key to the management of this species. Proposed changes in deer-related laws and regulations should have foundations in biology, therefore, the population dynamics associated with annual hunting mortality cannot be ignored. Similarly, when issues arise that do not involve biological parameters, it is important to have information related to deer hunter activities afield because they too form an important basis for managing deer.

Since the inception of the Statewide Deer Research and Management Project (Deer Project) in 1972 the methods used to document the state's deer harvest have changed. Historically, deer harvest figures were developed using a system of mandatory deer check stations in the 18 county Upstate (Game Zones 1 and 2) in conjunction with reported harvests from properties enrolled in the Deer Quota Program (DQP) in the 28 county Coastal Plain (Game Zones 3 and 4). This system yielded an actual count of harvested deer and was, therefore, an absolute minimum harvest figure. In the late 1990's SCDNR began to transition to a postseason mail survey of randomly selected hunters to estimate the county level and statewide harvest of deer. In 2024 mandatory electronic harvest reporting for deer began using SC Game Check as it had for wild turkeys in 2021. Now, data from SC Game Check is combined with data from the online deer hunter survey to produce the annual deer harvest report.

Survey Methodology

The 2024 Online Deer Hunter Survey was directed at all deer tag holders with email addresses other than youth under 16 years old. Youth under 16 were not included because laws prevent contacting youths without parental or guardian consent. The questionnaire for the 2024 Online Deer Hunter Survey was developed by Big Game Program staff. The survey process began with an initial email notification of the impending survey, an initial survey, and two reminders directed at individuals who had yet to complete the survey.

Statistical analysis was conducted using Statistix 10 (Analytical Software, Tallahassee, FL).

Acknowledgments

Thanks to South Carolina deer hunters. Funding for this report, as well as all activities related to the Statewide Deer Research and Management Project, is made possible through hunters' participation in deer tag programs. As a result, no state funds are associated with this program. SCDNR also thanks hunters and deer processors for their diligence in supporting the SC Game Check program which provides modern data that assists in properly managing the deer resource in South Carolina.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Excluding failed messages (9) and messages that bounced (6,651) a total of 205,085 email addresses were reached. A total of 34,894 surveys were started with 32,143 surveys being completed for a response rate of 15.7 percent.

Harvest Reporting Noncompliance

One of the primary goals of the 2024 Online Deer Hunter Survey was to estimate noncompliance with mandatory harvest reporting through SC Game Check. This was accomplished in two ways. First, participants who indicated that they harvested deer were asked how many of the deer they harvested were reported. Second, by cross-referencing the reporting data with the responses an estimate was obtained of the percentage of individuals who said they reported but did not. Combining these estimates yielded a noncompliance rate of approximately 10 percent. This noncompliance rate should be considered extraordinarily low and is clearly a result of hunters being required to report by midnight of the day of harvest or prior to leaving the deer at a meat processor. Hunters are required to provide the processor with the harvest report confirmation number and the processor is required to record and maintain the confirmation number until the processed meat is received by the hunter or their representative. SCDNR thanks hunters and deer processors for their diligence in supporting the SC Game Check program which provides modern data that assists in properly managing the deer resource in South Carolina.

Deer Harvest

During the 2024 deer season the noncompliance corrected reported deer harvest included 90,670 antlered bucks, 8,230 button bucks (male fawns), 80,598 does and 11,209 deer of unknown sex for a total statewide harvest of 190,707 deer (**Table 1**). This represents a 4 percent decrease in harvest from 2023 (198,171) and is 40 percent below the record harvest established in 2002 (319,902). After many years of rapidly increasing from the 1970's to the mid-1990's, the deer population in South Carolina exhibited relative stability between 1995 and 2002. Between 2003 and 2015, however, the population trended down with the overall reduction in harvest likely attributable to several factors, including habitat change, two decades of aggressive

antlerless deer harvest, and the complete colonization of the state by coyotes and their impact on fawn survival. Harvest figures since 2015 have generally been stable to slightly increasing and have tended to be between 175,000 and 200,000 deer annually.

Harvest Per Unit Area County Rankings

Comparisons can be made between deer harvests from the various counties in South Carolina if a harvest per unit area is established. Harvest per unit area standardizes the harvest among counties regardless of the size of individual counties. One measure of harvest rate is the number of deer taken per square mile (640ac. = 1 mile²). When considering the estimated deer habitat that is available in South Carolina, the deer harvest rate in 2024 averaged 8.7 deer per square mile over the entire state (**Table 2**). Although the deer harvest in the state is lower now than many years ago, South Carolina remains at the top among southeastern states, many of which have also noted a declining trend. The top 5 counties for harvest per unit area were Anderson (22.7 deer/mile²), Spartanburg (16.9 deer/mile²), Orangeburg (13.9 deer/mile²), Bamberg (12.9 deer/mile²), and Laurens (11.9 deer/mile²). Three of these counties were in the top 5 in 2023.

Deer Harvest Rankings by County

Total deer harvest by county is not comparable among counties because counties vary in size and are, therefore, not directly comparable. However, it has become customary to rank the counties based on number of deer harvested (**Table 3**). The top 5 counties during 2024 were Orangeburg, Anderson, Williamsburg, Spartanburg, and Colleton counties. Four of these counties were in the top 5 in 2023.

Deer Harvest on Wildlife Management Areas

Deer hunting on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) remains popular in South Carolina with approximately 60,000 WMA Permits issued annually. WMAs represent lands owned by SCDNR, other state-owned lands enrolled in the WMA Program, US Forest Service lands enrolled in the WMA Program, and private or corporate lands that are leased by SCDNR as part of the WMA Program. During the 2024 season the noncompliance corrected reported

harvest was 2,826 bucks, 1,976 does, and 282 button bucks (male fawns) for a total of 5,084 deer on WMAs (**Table 4**).

Hunter Opinion Regarding the Deer Population

The 2024 Online Deer Hunter Survey asked participants their opinion regarding the following question. Compared to past years, how would you rate the number of deer in the area that you hunt most often? Survey participants were given 3 choices: increasing, about the same, or decreasing. Most hunters (61%) indicated that the number of deer in the area they hunted most often was about the same as in past years. More hunters (23%) believed that the deer population was decreasing than increasing (16%). On a scale of 1 to 3 with 1 being increasing, 2 being neutral, and 3 being decreasing, the overall mean rating of 2.1 suggests that hunters viewed the deer population about the same compared to past years.

Number of Deer Hunters

Even though all individuals receiving a survey were deer tag holders, only 75 percent actually hunted deer. For residents, 73 percent of sampled licensees hunted deer and for nonresidents 93 percent hunted deer. Extrapolating to the respective licensee populations yields 173,520 residents and 16,811 nonresidents for a total of 190,330 deer hunters statewide during 2024 (**Table 5**). Counties with the highest estimates for individual hunters include Orangeburg, Laurens, Anderson, Spartanburg, and Colleton counties (**Table 5**). Four of these were in the top 5 in 2023.

Hunter Effort

For the purposes of this survey hunter effort was measured in days with one day being defined as any portion of the day spent afield. Hunters averaged 14.6 days afield for a total of 2,510,326 days deer hunting representing a 15 percent increase from 2023. Hunters who were successful at harvesting at least one deer averaged more days (17 days) afield than unsuccessful hunters (10 days) (**Table 5**).

The number of days devoted to deer hunting in South Carolina is very significant and points not only to the availability and popularity of deer as a game species, but to the obvious

economic benefits related to this important natural resource. Previous surveys conducted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service indicate that approximately 200 million dollars in direct retail sales are related to deer hunting in South Carolina annually.

The top 5 South Carolina counties for overall days of deer hunting during 2024 were Orangeburg, Aiken, Anderson, Spartanburg, and Colleton (**Table 5**). These were the same top 5 counties as in 2023.

Hunting Success

For determination of hunting success only those individuals who actually hunted deer were included in the analysis and similarly, success was defined as harvesting at least one deer. Overall hunting success in 2024 was 60 percent, which should be considered very good.

Deer Harvest by Weapon Type and Weapons Utilization and Preference

All areas of South Carolina have long and liberal firearms seasons and the majority (85%) of deer were harvested with centerfire rifles (**Table 6**). Shotguns (5.9%) and bows (5.4%) also contribute significantly to the overall deer harvest in the state, whereas muzzleloaders, crossbows, and handguns combine to contribute less than 5 percent to the total harvest (Table 6).

Although rifles are used by about 92 percent of hunters, nearly 80 percent of hunters use multiple weapons during the deer season (**Table 7, Table 8**). Resident hunters appear to be more flexible than nonresidents in their use of multiple weapons and significantly more residents use archery equipment (29%) and shotguns (14%) than nonresidents (18% archery and 5% shotguns) (**Table 9**). This finding has been consistent for many years and two points can likely be made. First, since most aspects of deer hunting (travel, accommodations, etc.) are typically more convenient for residents, they may have more time to devote to becoming comfortable or proficient with additional weapons, in this case archery equipment. Second, shotguns are the customary weapon related to hunting deer with dogs and the argument can be made that dog hunting is being practiced more by residents than nonresidents. The weapons utilization data supports this contention.

Unlike weapons utilization, weapons preference is the single weapon that a hunter prefers. Obviously, a majority (80%) of deer hunters prefer rifles (**Table 9**). Bows (11%) are the second preferred weapon which is interesting because compared to other states, there are

limited exclusive opportunities for bow hunters in South Carolina. Nonetheless, the number of hunters indicating that bows are their preferred weapon has increased over time. Finally, there are several interesting points that can be made about preferences for other weapons based on residency. Shotguns are preferred significantly more by residents (5%) than nonresidents (2%) and muzzleloaders are preferred more by nonresidents (1.7%) than by residents (0.9%) (**Table 9**). The explanation of this for shotguns is similar to that for weapons utilization in that residents do most of the dog hunting in the state and tend to use shotguns. With respect to muzzleloaders, nonresidents may use muzzleloaders to take advantage of a special season that is available in South Carolina earlier than in their home state.

Deer Harvest by Month of Season and Time of Day

Deer harvest by month of season and time of day was determined through the SC Game Check harvest reporting system. Although South Carolina is noted to have the longest firearms deer season in the country, the relationship between season length and deer harvest is often misunderstood. Deer naturally increase their movements during the breeding season or rut making them more susceptible to being seen and harvested by hunters. In contrast, outside of the breeding season deer movements are reduced, therefore the chances of hunters seeing and harvesting deer are reduced.

Deer harvest by month of season demonstrates this phenomenon (**Figure 1**). Although firearms seasons are not open in all parts of the state in late August and early September, relatively few deer are harvested during that time where the season is open. On the other hand, a disproportionately high number of deer are taken during October and November. October and November encompass the majority of the breeding season in South Carolina with over 80 percent of females conceiving during that period (**Figure 2**). Ultimately, timing of the season is a more important factor in determining deer harvest and quality hunting than the length of the season. Although South Carolina offers early opening seasons, there may be negative consequences as it relates to deer harvest. Hunters should understand that hunting pressure that builds prior to the breeding season can suppress daytime movements of deer during the breeding season when deer movements and hunter harvests should be greatest. With respect to harvest and time of day, 64 and 36 percent of deer were taken in the afternoon and morning, respectively.

Harvest Reporting Methods

SC Game Check Provides 3 methods to report: the Go Outdoors SC smartphone app, on the SCDNR website, by phone or text using the toll-free SC Game Check number. SC Game Check on the Go Outdoors SC smartphone app, was by far the most popular reporting method (93%), followed by phone/text (4%), and online (3%).

Wild Hog Harvest

The 2024 Online Deer Hunter Survey also asked hunters to provide information on their wild hog and coyote harvesting activities. Documenting hog harvest became customary many years ago because wild hogs are commonly taken incidentally to deer hunting. Wild or feral hogs are often thought of as “game” and there is a certain amount of sport associated with harvesting hogs. Wild hogs provide quality meat for the hunter and mature hogs can make a highly sought-after “trophy”. Wild hogs are not native to South Carolina or any part of the North American continent. They are descendants of European domestic hogs that escaped or were released dating back as far as the early Spanish explorers. Also, closed-range or fencing requirements for livestock did not arise until the 1900's and letting hogs “free-range” was common prior to fencing laws. Wild hogs were historically associated with the major river flood plain systems in Coastal South Carolina. Unfortunately, recent relocations of wild hogs by hunters appear to be responsible for the species populating areas where they were not found in the past. Wild hogs directly compete with native species like deer and wild turkey for habitat and food, and hogs can do significant damage to the habitat and agricultural production through their rooting activities. Legislation passed during the 2005 session of the South Carolina General Assembly prohibits the release of hogs in the state and legislation passed in 2010 prohibits the removal of a live hog from the woods without a permit (SC Code Section 50-16-25). Hogs are not protected animals in South Carolina and hunters can harvest them throughout the year during daylight hours and at night by registering their property.

During 2024 an estimated 36,820 wild hogs were incidentally harvested by deer hunters in South Carolina (**Table 10**), a modest 7 percent increase from 2023 (34,367 hogs). Evidence of the presence of hogs in 45 of 46 counties was made by hunter harvest activities. Statewide, approximately 1.7 hogs/mile² were harvested, however, this figure is deceiving because hogs only inhabit a relatively small portion of the state’s land area. The top 5 counties for wild hog

harvest per unit area were Abbeville (6.3 hogs/mile²), Allendale (5.0 hogs/mile²), Anderson (4.6 hogs/mile²), and Richland (3.2 hogs/mile²) Calhoun (2.8 hogs/mile²). Four of these counties were in the top 5 in 2023.

Coyote Harvest

Unlike wild hogs which are treated like game to some degree, coyotes are typically thought of as varmints that pose a threat to native game species. Like wild hogs, coyotes are a non-native species in South Carolina. Although a popular notion among hunters is that SCDNR released coyotes, the agency has never released coyotes in South Carolina. The occurrence of coyotes in the state is more recent than hogs and they appear to have gotten to the state by two methods, (1) natural movements from western states and (2) illegal importation. Coyotes were first documented in Oconee and Pickens Counties in 1978 and were thought to be linked to animals that were illegally imported for hunting purposes. Evidence for this includes an illegal importation case that was made and the fact that coyotes had not been documented in adjacent counties in Georgia and North Carolina. Within a few years coyotes began to appear in the western piedmont counties of Anderson, Abbeville, McCormick, etc. indicating a southeastern expansion from the original site. In the early 1980's coyotes were documented in Allendale County and were thought to be natural immigrants from Georgia since they had previously been documented in the adjacent Georgia counties. Coyotes from this source apparently populated to the Northeast until they encountered the Santee Cooper Lakes. In the late 1980's, coyotes were documented in the Pee Dee Region, again associated with illegal imports. In any event, by the mid-1990's coyotes had been documented in all South Carolina counties.

Sportsmen often voice concern over the presence of coyotes and the potential impact they have on game species such as deer. Though coyotes are one of the most adaptable animals, they are not designed to prey on big game. The coyote's diet is chiefly composed of small mammals (rats and mice), insects, and a variety of vegetable matter including fruits. On the other hand, coyotes will take deer fawns and deer that are sick or injured. SCDNR has completed two major studies with researchers investigating the effects coyotes have on the survival of deer fawns. One study was conducted at the Savannah River Site (2005-2012) collaborating with the US Forest Service-Southern Research Station and the other on private land in McCormick County with researchers at Clemson University (2018-2022). Data from both studies revealed

approximately 70 percent total fawn mortality with coyotes being responsible for approximately 80 percent of these mortalities. If these findings even moderately represent a statewide situation, this “new mortality factor” is clearly involved in the reduction in deer numbers. This is especially true when combined with extremely liberal deer harvests that have been the norm in South Carolina.

As part of the Savannah River Site project 3 years were for the purpose of determining if reducing coyote density through trapping increases fawn survival. It seems logical that if coyotes are preying on fawns, then significantly reducing coyote densities should increase fawn survival. Over the course of the 3-year coyote “control” phase, 474 coyotes were trapped/killed on the study areas. Overall, results showed only modest increases in fawn survival following these efforts with an overall average of about 35 percent increase in survival. Also, trapping seemed to help in some years but have little effect on predation in others. This “year” effect may have something to do with the availability of coyote food sources that may change in abundance annually. Given these results and the difficulty and high cost of coyote control, it seems apparent that making adjustments to how we manage deer, particularly female deer, is more important now than prior to the colonization of the state by coyotes.

Coyotes are not protected in South Carolina and hunters are allowed to harvest them throughout the year during daylight hours and at night by registering their property. During 2024 it is estimated that approximately 24,142 coyotes were harvested incidental to deer hunting in South Carolina (**Table 10**), which represents an 11 percent increase from 2023 (21,761 coyotes). There was evidence of coyotes being harvested in all 46 counties. Although the number of coyotes killed by deer hunters increased exponentially from the late 1990’s to 2014 pointing to the expansion of this species in South Carolina, the harvest has decreased over 30 percent in recent years likely indicating a moderation in coyote populations across the state which is typical of a species following colonization. Statewide approximately 1.1 coyotes/mile² were harvested and the top 5 counties for coyote harvest per unit area included Abbeville (2.5 coyotes/mile²), Chester (2.5 coyotes/mile²), Anderson (2.4 coyotes/mile²), Laurens (2.3 coyotes/mile²), and Spartanburg (2.0 coyotes/mile²). Three of these counties were in the top 5 last year.

Supplementary Information

The following section is not related to the 2024 Online Deer Hunter Survey but is offered

as information relevant to the state's deer population.

Based on preliminary data provided by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) the number of reported deer-vehicle collisions for 2023 was 6,531 (**Table 11**). The reader should bear in mind that many types of deer-vehicle collisions are self-reported by the driver. Additionally, reporting criteria have changed over time.

Average body weights and antler characteristics of deer vary among the constituent counties in South Carolina and are dependent on deer density and habitat conditions (**Tables 12 and 13**). Statewide averages for male deer indicate that 1.5-year-old bucks average about 107 lbs. and 3.6 antler points while bucks 2.5 years old and older average about 138 lbs. and 6.5 antler points. Yearling (1.5 years old) females average approximately 88 lbs. while does 2.5 years old and older average nearly 101 lbs. This information is based on sampling completed between 1987 and 1994.

The history of the deer population and harvest in South Carolina demonstrates a trend typical of a species that initially expands into available habitat, stabilizes, and begins to decline as habitat changes (**Figures 3 and 4**). It is important to recognize that habitat is the primary factor controlling deer density in South Carolina, though regulated harvest is important as well. Keep in mind that between 1750 and 1900 the deer population in South Carolina experienced a tremendous decline as it did in most of North America. Although unrestricted subsistence and commercial harvest of deer was important in the decline, major changes in habitat related to clearing of land for agriculture was the controlling factor.

By 1900 deer numbers in the State were very low, perhaps 20,000. However, in the 1920's, significant drought and the cotton boll weevil had devastating consequences for farming. With the decline in farming, reforestation of the state began and was largely complete by the 1970's. Timber harvest activities that followed into and throughout the 1980's created vast areas of early successional habitat that allowed for a dramatic increase in the State's deer population. South Carolina's deer population peaked in the mid to late 1990's at about 1 million deer.

Over time, deer hunters gained a better understanding of the relationship between deer numbers, habitat, and deer quality leading to more aggressive female harvests in many parts of the state. This increased emphasis on harvesting female deer to control deer densities has played a role in the stabilization and ultimate reduction in the State's deer population. Habitat is also very important. Keep in mind that the same forest management activities that stimulated the

growth in South Carolina's deer population in the 1980s have resulted in considerable acreage currently being in even-aged stands that are greater than 15 years old. This habitat type simply does not support deer densities at the same level as habitat in early stages of ecological succession. As a result, a combination of habitat changes, high deer harvests, and the establishment of coyotes caused the deer population to trend down between 2003 and 2015. The last few years have seen an increase in harvest which is indicative of an increasing population. Currently the statewide population is estimated at about 700,000 deer.

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Table 1. Reported statewide deer harvest in South Carolina in 2024 corrected for reporting noncompliance.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Antlered Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Button Buck Harvest	Unknown Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates	
								Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. ²
Abbeville	223,113	349	1,958	1,528	188	389	4,063	55	11.7
Aiken	500,546	782	2,976	2,186	207	366	5,734	87	7.3
Allendale	216,455	338	1,425	1,779	132	113	3,449	63	10.2
Anderson	219,068	342	3,798	3,081	372	521	7,773	28	22.7
Bamberg	196,573	307	1,629	2,046	162	140	3,977	49	12.9
Barnwell	281,764	440	1,452	1,562	116	136	3,266	86	7.4
Beaufort	147,441	230	752	744	79	65	1,640	90	7.1
Berkeley	567,530	887	2,597	2,394	274	293	5,557	102	6.3
Calhoun	190,584	298	1,216	1,057	91	154	2,518	76	8.5
Charleston	288,732	451	1,431	1,173	149	153	2,905	99	6.4
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,394	1,064	124	279	2,861	55	11.7
Chester	300,589	470	1,992	1,561	186	350	4,089	74	8.7
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,356	1,617	162	344	4,479	83	7.7
Clarendon	298,087	466	1,858	2,125	202	172	4,357	68	9.4
Colleton	502,666	785	2,716	2,905	309	206	6,136	82	7.8
Darlington	286,228	447	1,894	1,697	155	222	3,969	72	8.9
Dillon	214,069	334	906	695	50	138	1,789	120	5.3
Dorchester	302,717	473	1,581	1,636	224	89	3,530	86	7.5
Edgefield	246,543	385	1,469	1,406	140	244	3,258	76	8.5
Fairfield	384,607	601	2,215	1,558	145	278	4,197	92	7.0
Florence	397,888	622	2,737	2,272	202	248	5,458	73	8.8
Georgetown	399,638	624	1,777	1,650	185	233	3,845	104	6.2
Greenville	294,257	460	2,402	1,738	245	326	4,711	62	10.2
Greenwood	204,400	319	1,416	1,153	177	220	2,966	69	9.3
Hampton	324,840	508	2,136	2,544	168	261	5,110	64	10.1
Horry	533,336	833	2,298	1,458	162	320	4,237	126	5.1
Jasper	309,889	484	915	1,079	83	79	2,156	144	4.5
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,635	1,969	205	295	5,103	71	9.1
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,198	1,674	184	351	4,407	60	10.6
Laurens	317,916	497	2,834	2,396	278	383	5,891	54	11.9
Lee	220,106	344	1,353	1,507	128	121	3,109	71	9.0
Lexington	280,742	439	1,788	1,375	152	206	3,520	80	8.0
McCormick	212,021	331	762	692	68	136	1,659	128	5.0
Marion	216,907	339	980	772	72	178	2,002	108	5.9
Marlboro	281,271	439	1,338	1,150	86	157	2,730	103	6.2
Newberry	317,761	497	1,893	1,569	167	267	3,896	82	7.8
Oconee	284,348	444	1,283	803	95	134	2,314	123	5.2
Orangeburg	504,516	788	4,995	5,147	505	329	10,976	46	13.9
Pickens	219,926	344	1,585	1,173	149	241	3,147	70	9.2
Richland	340,121	531	1,462	1,107	117	199	2,884	118	5.4
Saluda	192,173	300	1,405	1,348	160	120	3,032	63	10.1
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,397	2,837	332	474	7,040	38	16.9
Sumter	338,968	530	2,323	2,097	188	200	4,808	70	9.1
Union	258,111	403	1,858	1,526	197	349	3,929	66	9.7
Williamsburg	513,851	803	2,967	3,896	292	286	7,440	69	9.3
York	276,650	432	2,292	1,828	165	441	4,727	59	10.9
Total	14,028,896	21,920	90,670	80,598	8,230	11,209	190,707	74	8.7

* Acreage shown represents the acreage of forested land and acreage of row crops considered to be significant turkey habitat within each county.

Table 2. County rankings based on reported deer harvest per unit area in South Carolina in 2024 corrected for reporting noncompliance

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Antlered Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Button Buck Harvest	Unknown Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest	Rates
								Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. ²
Anderson	219,068	342	3,798	3,081	372	521	7,773	28	22.7
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,397	2,837	332	474	7,040	38	16.9
Orangeburg	504,516	788	4,995	5,147	505	329	10,976	46	13.9
Bamberg	196,573	307	1,629	2,046	162	140	3,977	49	12.9
Laurens	317,916	497	2,834	2,396	278	383	5,891	54	11.9
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,394	1,064	124	279	2,861	55	11.7
Abbeville	223,113	349	1,958	1,528	188	389	4,063	55	11.7
York	276,650	432	2,292	1,828	165	441	4,727	59	10.9
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,198	1,674	184	351	4,407	60	10.6
Greenville	294,257	460	2,402	1,738	245	326	4,711	62	10.2
Allendale	216,455	338	1,425	1,779	132	113	3,449	63	10.2
Saluda	192,173	300	1,405	1,348	160	120	3,032	63	10.1
Hampton	324,840	508	2,136	2,544	168	261	5,110	64	10.1
Union	258,111	403	1,858	1,526	197	349	3,929	66	9.7
Clarendon	298,087	466	1,858	2,125	202	172	4,357	68	9.4
Greenwood	204,400	319	1,416	1,153	177	220	2,966	69	9.3
Williamsburg	513,851	803	2,967	3,896	292	286	7,440	69	9.3
Pickens	219,926	344	1,585	1,173	149	241	3,147	70	9.2
Sumter	338,968	530	2,323	2,097	188	200	4,808	70	9.1
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,635	1,969	205	295	5,103	71	9.1
Lee	220,106	344	1,353	1,507	128	121	3,109	71	9.0
Darlington	286,228	447	1,894	1,697	155	222	3,969	72	8.9
Florence	397,888	622	2,737	2,272	202	248	5,458	73	8.8
Chester	300,589	470	1,992	1,561	186	350	4,089	74	8.7
Edgefield	246,543	385	1,469	1,406	140	244	3,258	76	8.5
Calhoun	190,584	298	1,216	1,057	91	154	2,518	76	8.5
Lexington	280,742	439	1,788	1,375	152	206	3,520	80	8.0
Newberry	317,761	497	1,893	1,569	167	267	3,896	82	7.8
Colleton	502,666	785	2,716	2,905	309	206	6,136	82	7.8
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,356	1,617	162	344	4,479	83	7.7
Dorchester	302,717	473	1,581	1,636	224	89	3,530	86	7.5
Barnwell	281,764	440	1,452	1,562	116	136	3,266	86	7.4
Aiken	500,546	782	2,976	2,186	207	366	5,734	87	7.3
Beaufort	147,441	230	752	744	79	65	1,640	90	7.1
Fairfield	384,607	601	2,215	1,558	145	278	4,197	92	7.0
Charleston	288,732	451	1,431	1,173	149	153	2,905	99	6.4
Berkeley	567,530	887	2,597	2,394	274	293	5,557	102	6.3
Marlboro	281,271	439	1,338	1,150	86	157	2,730	103	6.2
Georgetown	399,638	624	1,777	1,650	185	233	3,845	104	6.2
Marion	216,907	339	980	772	72	178	2,002	108	5.9
Richland	340,121	531	1,462	1,107	117	199	2,884	118	5.4
Dillon	214,069	334	906	695	50	138	1,789	120	5.3
Oconee	284,348	444	1,283	803	95	134	2,314	123	5.2
Horry	533,336	833	2,298	1,458	162	320	4,237	126	5.1
McCormick	212,021	331	762	692	68	136	1,659	128	5.0
Jasper	309,889	484	915	1,079	83	79	2,156	144	4.5
Total	14,028,896	21,920	90,670	80,598	8,230	11,209	190,707	74	8.7

* Acreage shown represents the acreage of forested land and acreage of row crops considered to be significant turkey habitat within each county.

Table 3. County rankings based on total reported deer harvest in South Carolina in 2024 corrected for reporting noncompliance.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Antlered Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Button Buck Harvest	Unknown Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest	Rates
								Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. ²
Orangeburg	504,516	788	4,995	5,147	505	329	10,976	46	13.9
Anderson	219,068	342	3,798	3,081	372	521	7,773	28	22.7
Williamsburg	513,851	803	2,967	3,896	292	286	7,440	69	9.3
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,397	2,837	332	474	7,040	38	16.9
Colleton	502,666	785	2,716	2,905	309	206	6,136	82	7.8
Laurens	317,916	497	2,834	2,396	278	383	5,891	54	11.9
Aiken	500,546	782	2,976	2,186	207	366	5,734	87	7.3
Berkeley	567,530	887	2,597	2,394	274	293	5,557	102	6.3
Florence	397,888	622	2,737	2,272	202	248	5,458	73	8.8
Hampton	324,840	508	2,136	2,544	168	261	5,110	64	10.1
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,635	1,969	205	295	5,103	71	9.1
Sumter	338,968	530	2,323	2,097	188	200	4,808	70	9.1
York	276,650	432	2,292	1,828	165	441	4,727	59	10.9
Greenville	294,257	460	2,402	1,738	245	326	4,711	62	10.2
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,356	1,617	162	344	4,479	83	7.7
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,198	1,674	184	351	4,407	60	10.6
Clarendon	298,087	466	1,858	2,125	202	172	4,357	68	9.4
Horry	533,336	833	2,298	1,458	162	320	4,237	126	5.1
Fairfield	384,607	601	2,215	1,558	145	278	4,197	92	7.0
Chester	300,589	470	1,992	1,561	186	350	4,089	74	8.7
Abbeville	223,113	349	1,958	1,528	188	389	4,063	55	11.7
Bamberg	196,573	307	1,629	2,046	162	140	3,977	49	12.9
Darlington	286,228	447	1,894	1,697	155	222	3,969	72	8.9
Union	258,111	403	1,858	1,526	197	349	3,929	66	9.7
Newberry	317,761	497	1,893	1,569	167	267	3,896	82	7.8
Georgetown	399,638	624	1,777	1,650	185	233	3,845	104	6.2
Dorchester	302,717	473	1,581	1,636	224	89	3,530	86	7.5
Lexington	280,742	439	1,788	1,375	152	206	3,520	80	8.0
Allendale	216,455	338	1,425	1,779	132	113	3,449	63	10.2
Barnwell	281,764	440	1,452	1,562	116	136	3,266	86	7.4
Edgefield	246,543	385	1,469	1,406	140	244	3,258	76	8.5
Pickens	219,926	344	1,585	1,173	149	241	3,147	70	9.2
Lee	220,106	344	1,353	1,507	128	121	3,109	71	9.0
Saluda	192,173	300	1,405	1,348	160	120	3,032	63	10.1
Greenwood	204,400	319	1,416	1,153	177	220	2,966	69	9.3
Charleston	288,732	451	1,431	1,173	149	153	2,905	99	6.4
Richland	340,121	531	1,462	1,107	117	199	2,884	118	5.4
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,394	1,064	124	279	2,861	55	11.7
Marlboro	281,271	439	1,338	1,150	86	157	2,730	103	6.2
Calhoun	190,584	298	1,216	1,057	91	154	2,518	76	8.5
Oconee	284,348	444	1,283	803	95	134	2,314	123	5.2
Jasper	309,889	484	915	1,079	83	79	2,156	144	4.5
Marion	216,907	339	980	772	72	178	2,002	108	5.9
Dillon	214,069	334	906	695	50	138	1,789	120	5.3
McCormick	212,021	331	762	692	68	136	1,659	128	5.0
Beaufort	147,441	230	752	744	79	65	1,640	90	7.1
Total	14,028,896	21,920	90,670	80,598	8,230	11,209	190,707	74	8.7

* Acreage shown represents the acreage of forested land and acreage of row crops considered to be significant turkey habitat within each county.

Table 4. Wildlife Management Area (WMA) reported deer harvest in 2024 corrected for reporting noncompliance.

WMA	County	Acreage	Antlered Buck	Doe	Button Buck	Total	Acres Deer
Aiken Gopher Tortoise HP WMA	Aiken	1,782	10	6	2	18	101
Ashmore / Chandler HP WMA	Greenville	1,126	4	1	0	5	225
Bear Island WMA	Colleton	1,519	1	0	0	1	1,381
Belfast WMA (Lottery)	Laurens, Newberry	4,664	10	9	1	20	236
Bonneau Ferry WMA (Lottery)	Berkeley	10,712	34	23	6	63	171
Botany Bay HP WMA	Charleston	4,687	14	9	1	24	194
Brasstown Creek HP WMA	Oconee	3,170	1	1	0	2	1,441
Broad River Waterfowl Area	Fairfield	640	0	1	0	1	582
Caesars Head / Jones Gap WMA	Greenville	3,335	1	0	0	1	3,032
Cartwheel Bay HP WMA	Horry	568	1	0	0	1	516
Cliff Pitts WMA	Laurens	1,098	6	10	1	17	67
Chestnut Ridge HP WMA	Greenville	2,047	10	1	0	11	186
Coosawhatchie WMA	Jasper	10,570	3	7	0	10	1,068
Crackerneck WMA	Aiken	10,600	30	21	2	53	201
Delta South WMA	Union	2,174	11	10	3	24	90
Donnelley WMA (Lottery)	Colleton	8,066	8	3	0	11	733
Draper WMA	Union	806	9	2	0	11	73
Dungannon HP WMA	Charleston	730	1	1	0	2	332
Edisto River WMA	Dorchester	1,394	7	13	1	21	67
Fants Grove WMA	Anderson, Oconee, Pickens	7,444	36	48	3	87	86
Forty-Acre Rock HP WMA	Lancaster	2,965	33	19	0	52	57
Great Pee Dee River HP WMA	Darlington	2,725	3	6	0	9	310
Hamilton Ridge WMA	Hampton	13,281	33	26	3	62	214
Hatchery WMA	Berkeley	2,400	2	1	0	3	727
Hickory Top WMA	Clarendon	1,105	12	3	0	15	72
James L. Mason WMA	McCormick	1,999	8	2	1	11	182
Jocassee Gorges (JTNRA)	Oconee, Pickens	33,000	34	8	2	44	750
Keowee WMA	Oconee, Pickens	4,930	24	17	0	41	121
Landsford Canal FLA WMA	Chester	1,538	17	10	1	28	56
Lewis Ocean Bay HP WMA	Horry	10,097	12	11	0	23	437
Liberty Hill WMA	Kershaw, Lancaster	7,876	25	7	0	32	247
Little Pee Dee River HP WMA	Horry, Marion	10,444	19	21	1	41	257
London Creek WMA	Cherokee	1,758	24	13	1	38	46
Long Creek Tracts WMA	Oconee	500	7	6	1	14	36
Longleaf Pine HP WMA	Lee	843	3	8	2	13	64
Manchester State Forest WMA	Sumter	23,135	118	108	13	239	97
Marsh WMA	Marion	8,660	11	10	1	22	394
McBee WMA	Chesterfield	1,221	29	18	2	49	25
McCalla WMA	Abbeville	5,667	17	9	1	27	210
Moultrie Hunt Unit WMA	Berkeley	9,773	37	30	7	74	133
Oak Lea WMA	Clarendon	2,000	12	4	3	19	105
Palachucola WMA	Hampton, Jasper	6,757	24	21	1	46	146
Pee Dee Station WMA	Florence	2,701	10	4	1	15	175
Poe Creek State Forest	Oconee, Pickens	2,498	2	0	0	2	1,135
Rock Hill Blackjacks HP WMA	York	291	1	1	0	2	132
Sand Hills State Forest WMA	Chesterfield, Darlington	46,838	100	50	1	151	311
Santee Coastal Reserve WMA	Charleston, Georgetown	4,000	3	1	0	4	909
Santee Cooper Tract WMA	Spartanburg	110	10	8	0	18	6

Table 4. Wildlife Management Area (WMA) reported deer harvest in 2024 corrected for reporting noncompliance.

WMA	County	Acreage	Antlered Buck	Doe	Button Buck	Total	Acres Deer
Santee Cooper WMA (Lottery)	Orangeburg	3,144	7	11	0	18	179
Santee Dam WMA	Clarendon	575	3	7	1	11	52
Steven's Creek HP WMA	Edgefield, McCormick	434	4	1	1	7	66
Tall Pines WMA	Greenville	1,757	21	2	0	23	76
Thurmond Tract WMA	Union	195	1	1	0	2	89
T. Crk/Kirsh/Ross/McConnells Tracts	York	1,192	8	4	0	12	99
USFS Sumter National Forest	Various Piedmont Counties	375,000	790	558	91	1439	261
USFS Francis Marion National Forest	Berkeley, Charleston	259,000	484	315	58	857	302
USFWS ACE Basin NWR	Charleston, Colleton	11,815	3	1	1	5	2,363
USFWS Carolina Sandhills NWR	Chesterfield	47,850	33	3	0	36	1,318
USFWS Santee NWR	Clarendon	6,700	31	28	8	67	100
USFWS Savannah NWR	Jasper	7,556	4	3	2	9	840
USFWS Waccamaw NWR	Georgetown, Horry, Marion	5,515	1	0	0	1	5,014
Victoria Bluff HP WMA	Beaufort	1,667	4	1	0	5	333
Waccamaw River HP*	Horry	6,691	33	22	4	59	113
Webb WMA	Hampton	5,866	28	30	7	65	90
Wateree River HP WMA (Lottery)	Richland	3,674	8	10	0	18	209
Wee Tee State Forest WMA	Georgetown, Williamsburg	12,439	24	20	4	48	257
Woodbury WMA	Marion	25,668	26	36	2	64	401
Worth Mountain WMA	York	1,643	8	6	1	15	110
Other / Unnamed WMAs	Various Statewide Counties	126,000	477	332	35	844	149
TOTAL		1,190,625	2,826	1,976	282	5,084	234

Table 5. Number of hunters and hunting effort (man/days) by county for deer hunters in South Carolina in 2024.

County	Total Harvest	Number Hunters	Hunters Rank	Avg. Days Hunted	Total Man/Days	Days Rank
Abbeville	4,063	4,913	16	12.3	60,268	15
Aiken	5,734	6,009	8	15.4	92,457	2
Allendale	3,449	3,159	34	11.4	35,961	37
Anderson	7,773	6,712	3	13.4	90,244	3
Bamberg	3,977	3,474	31	13.0	45,055	31
Barnwell	3,266	2,791	38	13.8	38,472	36
Beaufort	1,640	1,773	44	11.0	19,481	46
Berkeley	5,557	6,016	7	13.3	80,261	7
Calhoun	2,518	3,041	35	13.5	40,995	35
Charleston	2,905	5,044	13	11.4	57,410	18
Cherokee	2,861	2,391	40	14.7	35,241	39
Chester	4,089	5,438	10	13.5	73,275	10
Chesterfield	4,479	3,356	32	15.5	51,903	23
Clarendon	4,357	2,883	37	12.5	35,913	38
Colleton	6,136	6,279	5	13.2	82,591	5
Darlington	3,969	2,686	39	16.1	43,353	33
Dillon	1,789	1,274	46	16.2	20,628	45
Dorchester	3,530	3,527	30	13.2	46,501	30
Edgefield	3,258	4,006	22	12.1	48,623	26
Fairfield	4,197	6,154	6	12.7	77,954	8
Florence	5,458	3,770	24	14.5	54,504	20
Georgetown	3,845	3,566	28	14.9	53,296	21
Greenville	4,711	5,208	11	12.8	66,846	13
Greenwood	2,966	3,573	27	12.4	44,375	32
Hampton	5,110	4,512	18	11.4	51,590	24
Horry	4,237	3,678	26	14.2	52,400	22
Jasper	2,156	2,075	42	10.9	22,610	43
Kershaw	5,103	4,978	15	14.8	73,476	9
Lancaster	4,407	3,829	23	14.3	54,618	19
Laurens	5,891	6,935	2	11.9	82,308	6
Lee	3,109	2,141	41	12.8	27,316	42
Lexington	3,520	4,243	19	11.7	49,630	25
McCormick	1,659	3,008	36	10.8	32,496	40
Marion	2,002	1,747	45	12.2	21,259	44
Marlboro	2,730	1,819	43	16.6	30,288	41
Newberry	3,896	5,832	9	12.6	73,211	11
Oconee	2,314	3,566	28	13.2	46,940	29
Orangeburg	10,976	8,367	1	15.0	125,323	1
Pickens	3,147	4,033	21	11.9	48,009	28
Richland	2,884	4,230	20	13.8	58,403	17
Saluda	3,032	3,304	33	12.6	41,639	34
Spartanburg	7,040	6,541	4	13.2	86,629	4
Sumter	4,808	3,698	25	13.0	48,087	27
Union	3,929	5,005	14	12.0	60,297	14
Williamsburg	7,440	5,070	12	13.6	68,707	12
York	4,727	4,676	17	12.7	59,484	16
Total	190,707	190,330	NA	14.6	2,510,326	NA

Table 6. Estimated deer harvest by weapon type in South Carolina in 2024.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun	Total
Number of Deer Harvested	161,338	10,298	11,252	2,670	4,958	191	190,707
Percent Total Deer Harvest	84.6	5.4	5.9	1.4	2.6	0.1	100.0
Percent Hunter Success With Weapon	60.0	25.3	29.8	17.0	19.0	12.0	NA*

* Total is not applicable because individual hunters take deer with multiple weapons.

Table 7. Number of hunters using each type of weapon in South Carolina in 2024.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun
Residents	158,771	29,672	24,813	13,535	20,475	4,512
Nonresidents	16,055	1,866	790	1,530	1,076	336
Total	174,826	31,538	25,603	15,065	21,551	4,848

Total across weapons not given because hunters use multiple weapons. Total hunters = 190,330.

Table 8. Weapons utilization (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2024.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun
Residents	91.5*	17.1*	14.3*	7.8*	11.8*	2.6
Nonresidents	95.5	11.1	4.7	9.1	6.4	2.0
Total	91.9	16.5	13.4	7.9	11.3	2.6

* Significant difference in weapons use category based on residency.

Table 9. Weapons preference (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2024.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun	Total
Residents	79.9*	10.9*	5.1*	0.9*	2.8*	0.4	100.0
Nonresidents	86.4	8.3	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.3	100.0
Total	80.5	10.6	4.8	1.0	2.7	0.4	100.0

* Significant difference in weapons preference category based on residency.

Table 10. Estimated wild hog and coyote harvest by deer hunters in South Carolina in 2024.
Rank is by per unit area harvested.

County	Hog Harv.	Harv./ Mile ²	% Change from 2023	2024 Rank	2023 Rank	Coyote Harv.	Harv./ Mile ²	% Change from 2023	2024 Rank	2023 Rank
Abbeville	2,226	6.4	19.1	1	3	888	2.5	111.9	1	13
Aiken	1,054	1.3	72.1	26	30	983	1.3	5.1	17	13
Allendale	1,688	5.0	-15.6	2	2	456	1.3	-25.6	12	4
Anderson	1,575	4.6	6.2	3	4	829	2.4	-17.1	3	1
Bamberg	290	0.9	-47.1	36	13	219	0.7	-51.5	36	10
Barnwell	521	1.2	7.8	30	26	302	0.7	-27.9	39	22
Beaufort	261	1.1	34.7	31	29	166	0.7	166.0	35	46
Berkeley	1,830	2.1	-9.9	16	12	764	0.9	58.0	29	37
Calhoun	841	2.8	86.3	5	17	420	1.4	86.3	11	29
Charleston	1,101	2.4	-10.1	8	8	462	1.0	59.2	23	33
Cherokee	107	0.4	107.0	42	45	266	1.1	-24.9	21	11
Chester	853	1.8	32.2	19	19	1,167	2.5	64.5	2	9
Chesterfield	592	1.0	31.2	34	30	497	0.9	10.2	30	28
Clarendon	1,172	2.5	91.4	7	20	432	0.9	11.7	26	26
Colleton	1,137	1.4	-38.1	23	11	645	0.8	-31.0	32	16
Darlington	580	1.3	-60.0	27	6	338	0.8	-38.4	34	12
Dillon	249	0.7	671.4	38	44	166	0.5	2.9	44	39
Dorchester	533	1.1	-13.0	31	21	296	0.6	-42.6	41	19
Edgefield	539	1.4	234.3	24	34	497	1.3	92.9	14	31
Fairfield	823	1.4	6.4	25	22	799	1.3	30.5	13	21
Florence	805	1.3	-24.3	27	15	444	0.7	6.0	36	31
Georgetown	1,504	2.4	37.2	9	14	367	0.6	62.7	42	42
Greenville	225	0.5	39.6	41	37	533	1.2	27.2	20	24
Greenwood	746	2.3	-11.0	10	10	491	1.5	154.1	10	35
Hampton	876	1.7	-75.7	21	1	432	0.9	-50.3	30	6
Horry	1,030	1.2	113.1	29	32	403	0.5	38.8	45	43
Jasper	722	1.5	-53.3	22	7	184	0.4	-48.2	46	30
Kershaw	1,161	2.1	63.6	16	23	675	1.2	90.4	19	34
Lancaster	355	0.9	175.5	37	38	515	1.2	166.3	18	41
Laurens	870	1.8	80.0	20	28	1,155	2.3	32.7	4	5
Lee	65	0.2	1.0	45	41	338	1.0	4.7	25	23
Lexington	225	0.5	240.0	40	42	444	1.0	-40.1	24	7
McCormick	740	2.2	-15.0	13	9	189	0.6	-65.4	43	8
Marion	740	2.2	27.6	15	15	272	0.8	181.6	33	44
Marlboro	965	2.2	99.6	14	26	308	0.7	377.6	38	45
Newberry	545	1.1	181.6	33	36	847	1.7	54.5	6	18
Oconee	1,125	2.5	83.7	6	18	563	1.3	-48.7	16	3
Orangeburg	195	0.2	102.0	43	43	693	0.9	79.1	27	38
Pickens	770	2.2	83.7	12	24	545	1.6	238.0	8	40
Richland	1,711	3.2	-8.5	4	5	568	1.1	76.3	22	35
Saluda	71	0.2	-55.9	44	33	468	1.6	45.1	9	20
Spartanburg	255	0.6	97.5	39	38	847	2.0	-20.4	5	2
Sumter	1,202	2.3	645.7	11	40	349	0.7	-43.0	40	17
Union	385	1.0	138.8	35	35	657	1.6	35.9	7	13
Williamsburg	1,557	1.9	72.5	18	25	705	0.9	9.3	27	27
York	0	0.0	0.0	46	45	557	1.3	43.9	14	25
Total	36,820	1.7	7.1	NA	NA	24,142	1.1	10.9	NA	NA
	(+ -1,254)					(+ -636)				

95% Confidence Interval for harvest

Table 11. Number of deer-vehicle collisions reported by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety 2020-2024.

County	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Abbeville	4	50	59	52	58
Aiken	95	276	219	198	250
Allendale	11	31	27	12	25
Anderson	69	316	345	371	347
Bamberg	21	43	30	37	39
Barnwell	21	43	44	38	38
Beaufort	136	169	183	217	225
Berkeley	109	193	154	155	155
Calhoun	24	64	54	38	50
Charleston	249	280	244	256	290
Cherokee	31	70	101	103	134
Chester	46	114	119	114	111
Chesterfield	49	90	94	131	161
Clarendon	16	73	58	83	87
Colleton	39	132	88	79	94
Darlington	106	129	177	174	208
Dillon	74	63	78	99	85
Dorchester	54	134	120	118	102
Edgefield	2	35	28	56	52
Fairfield	27	81	67	71	72
Florence	136	188	183	194	175
Georgetown	32	59	56	58	87
Greenville	132	334	308	335	319
Greenwood	17	123	116	117	95
Hampton	17	51	27	21	34
Horry	286	366	349	455	462
Jasper	62	115	108	94	105
Kershaw	37	136	122	132	143
Lancaster	45	132	131	165	172
Laurens	19	174	153	149	147
Lee	14	94	71	83	73
Lexington	30	212	185	183	200
McCormick	0	10	9	11	10
Marion	44	71	65	89	88
Marlboro	75	155	136	169	137
Newberry	6	75	74	78	75
Oconee	11	75	78	86	121
Orangeburg	132	257	242	224	204
Pickens	35	131	122	136	172
Richland	58	255	228	201	166
Saluda	2	32	37	37	47
Spartanburg	142	389	458	485	394
Sumter	20	128	125	168	149
Union	27	33	47	56	53
Williamsburg	68	81	101	100	109
York	106	301	304	316	308
Total	2,736	6,363	6,124	6,544	6,628

* Preliminary figures

Table 12. Average live body weights of deer from South Carolina counties, based on historic data.

COUNTY	Males				Females			
	<u>1.5 Years Old</u>		<u>2.5+ Years Old</u>		<u>1.5 Years Old</u>		<u>2.5+ Years Old</u>	
	N	Avg. Wt.	N	Avg. Wt.	N	Avg. Wt.	N	Avg. Wt.
Abbeville	1,390	111.7	484	145.9	466	90.4	747	102.7
Aiken	2,667	121.6	1,485	162.6	808	94.9	1,522	109.6
Allendale	6,175	108.9	3,333	146.0	2,503	87.7	5,606	100.8
Anderson	30	121.9	17	148.1	4	92.5	8	113.0
Bamberg	2,414	111.9	1,113	142.4	884	91.4	1,721	103.9
Barnwell	1,478	119.1	695	156.6	601	94.3	1,071	106.9
Beaufort	952	101.6	1,236	135.2	690	86.7	1,818	99.8
Berkeley	3,162	100.6	4,198	127.3	1,086	83.4	3,991	97.2
Calhoun	1,588	110.2	633	144.1	312	91.4	943	104.6
Charleston	1,256	97.9	2,088	123.3	422	83.3	1,581	95.8
Cherokee	1	80.0	1	139.0	9	77.8	26	89.6
Chester	1,445	105.9	963	140.1	470	87.4	1,091	99.4
Chesterfield	79	119.4	140	152.5	27	93.5	1,128	99.8
Clarendon	13	101.3	29	152.5	42	89.6	87	103.0
Colleton	5,822	105.6	6,908	135.5	3,279	87.9	8,920	100.4
Darlington	334	113.6	273	153.3	216	92.8	573	105.2
Dillon	74	112.8	46	138.5	13	92.8	50	103.9
Dorchester	1,868	107.2	2,205	137.0	653	88.0	2,055	103.0
Edgefield	556	100.9	334	133.4	159	84.6	306	96.9
Fairfield	2,048	102.1	1,444	136.5	761	86.3	2,021	99.2
Florence	696	110.8	459	139.2	198	89.6	621	102.8
Georgetown	1,881	98.7	2,281	126.1	668	85.6	1,961	97.6
Greenville	7	122.1	9	149.9	7	79.3	16	98.4
Greenwood	1,158	111.4	537	145.1	313	90.2	629	103.0
Hampton	6,103	106.7	4,710	140.0	3,034	87.2	7,236	100.5
Horry	302	96.1	311	126.1	129	79.2	301	91.3
Jasper	3,385	101.8	4,691	135.4	2,142	84.6	5,948	96.9
Kershaw	603	108.9	588	144.6	251	89.6	758	102.9
Lancaster	472	113.1	246	153.3	213	91.4	441	105.2
Laurens	240	104.7	181	132.9	107	87.3	238	96.9
Lee	472	119.6	187	151.3	162	96.6	330	108.5
Lexington	20	120.8	9	164.8	6	101.3	15	115.8
McCormick	2,354	101.5	1,056	134.5	877	85.3	1,745	97.3
Marion	690	108.5	501	138.7	256	88.6	630	98.7
Marlboro	106	115.0	62	149.8	30	95.0	70	107.8
Newberry	143	97.1	100	135.6	85	86.0	171	92.7
Oconee	74	113.1	58	152.6	33	85.3	39	99.6
Orangeburg	2,293	112.5	1,375	145.0	686	90.8	1,684	103.4
Pickens	47	109.1	41	145.4	18	79.9	48	100.5
Richland	1,320	106.1	1,274	145.2	651	92.7	1,879	106.3
Saluda	100	115.8	40	148.0	25	93.6	34	105.2
Spartanburg	34	109.3	22	142.2	13	95.0	31	98.8
Sumter	666	111.3	353	142.1	188	94.4	509	105.3
Union	958	101.7	608	135.8	439	87.9	761	97.8
Williamsburg	469	112.5	559	143.3	150	91.4	478	106.0
York	13	96.9	30	143.9	20	78.7	41	93.9
Total	57,958	107.3	47,913	137.9	24,106	88.0	61,879	100.6

Table 13. Antler characteristics of male deer from South Carolina counties, based on historic data.

COUNTY	1.5 Years Old Males			2.5+ Years Old Males			% 1.5 Bucks in Antlered Harvest
	Number Points	Percent Spikes	Outside Spread	Number Points	Percent Spikes	Outside Spread	
Abbeville	4.2	32		7.2	2		74
Aiken	4.4	28	8.7	7.4	1	14.7	64
Allendale	4.0	36	7.7	7.2	3	13.7	65
Anderson	4.7	28		6.8	0		63
Bamberg	4.0	34	7.6	6.7	4	12.5	68
Barnwell	4.6	21	8.7	7.1	2	13.9	68
Beaufort	3.1	58	7.4	6.4	9	13.0	44
Berkeley	3.0	62	6.6	5.8	12	11.5	43
Calhoun	4.0	33	7.4	7.0	3	13.2	72
Charleston	2.8	69	6.2	5.4	15	10.6	38
Cherokee				7.0	0		50
Chester	3.4	47	8.7	6.7	4	13.9	61
Chesterfield	4.5	21	8.6	7.2			61
Clarendon	2.8	58	6.2	7.7	3	12.9	31
Colleton	3.3	50	6.9	6.4	7	11.7	46
Darlington	3.1	57	7.4	6.7	5	13.7	55
Dillon	3.2	54	8.1	5.7	9	11.6	62
Dorchester	3.3	53	6.6	6.0	9	11.1	46
Edgefield	3.3	50		6.6	5		63
Fairfield	3.1	55	7.5	6.4	6	13.8	59
Florence	3.4	47	7.4	6.1	9	12.1	60
Georgetown	2.8	65	6.6	5.6	13	11.0	45
Greenville	4.7	14		7.6	0		44
Greenwood	3.9	34		6.7	3		68
Hampton	3.9	39	7.7	6.9	4	13.0	56
Horry	3.0	58	6.8	6.2	8	12.1	49
Jasper	3.3	52	7.0	6.6	6	12.8	42
Kershaw	3.6	47	7.7	6.9	7	12.3	51
Lancaster	4.3	27	6.7	7.4	0	15.0	66
Laurens	3.2	53	6.7	6.0	10	13.7	57
Lee	4.3	25	8.4	6.7	2	12.9	72
Lexington	4.1	30	9.1	7.3	0	15.7	69
McCormick	3.5	47		6.8	4		69
Marion	3.3	52	7.3	6.2	10	12.4	58
Marlboro	3.1	53	7.0	6.4	10	12.6	63
Newberry	2.8	54		6.3	8	13.3	59
Oconee	3.4	52		7.3	3		56
Orangeburg	3.8	38	7.6	6.8	5	12.6	63
Pickens	4.0	43		7.2	2		53
Richland	3.3	52	7.3	6.8	5	13.5	51
Saluda	4.0	32	9.0	6.9	0	10.8	71
Spartanburg	4.0	33	6.1	7.1	0		61
Sumter	3.7	41	7.7	6.6	5	12.5	65
Union	3.3	51	7.2	6.6	5	13.6	61
Williamsburg	3.6	43	7.6	6.8	5	12.6	46
York	3.1	60	5.3	7.4	0	13.3	30
Total	3.6	44	7.4	6.5	7	12.4	55

Figure 1. Percent of deer harvested by month of season in South Carolina in 2024. Note that December includes January 1 which is the last day of deer season.

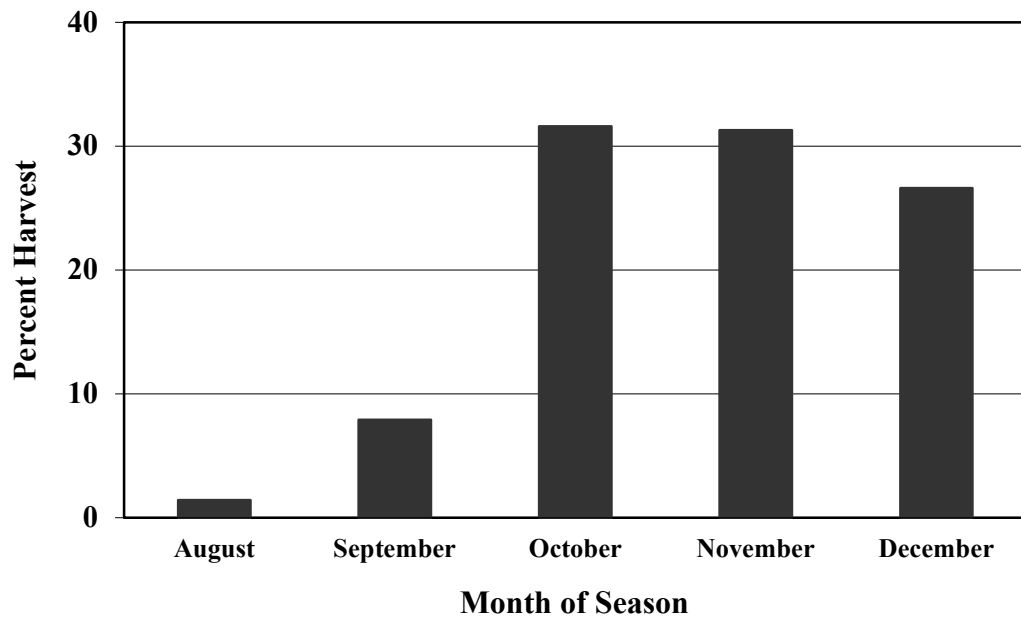


Figure 2. Percent of female deer conceiving by week in South Carolina, based on historic data.

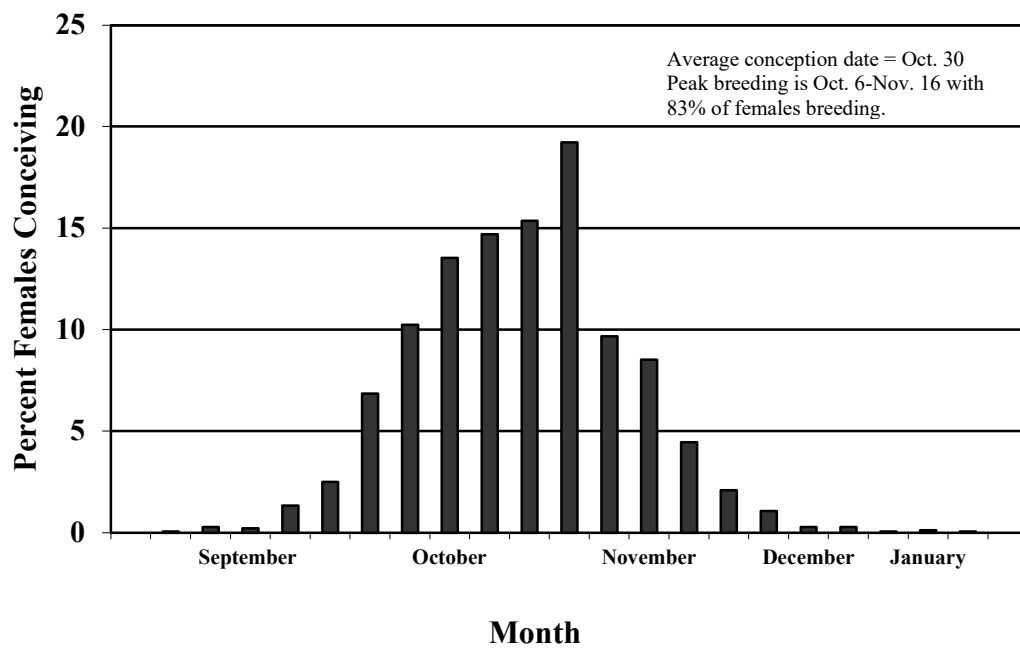


Figure 3. Estimated deer harvest in South Carolina 1972-2024.

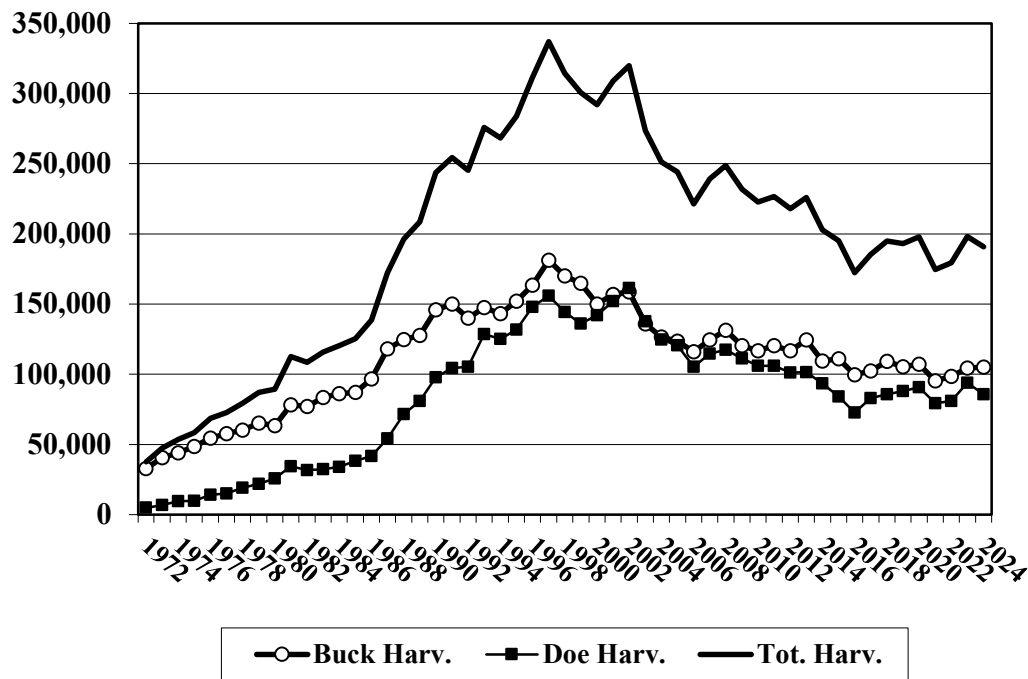


Figure 4. Estimated South Carolina deer population 1972-2024 based on population reconstruction modeling. Note that antlerless deer includes male fawns (button bucks).

