

Executive Summary

Felsenthal NWR Deer Harvest Summary for 2018-2019

Total deer harvested and for the 2018/2019 deer lottery hunts was 289, similar to the previous year. Harvest during the muzzleloader hunt was 94 and harvest during the modern gun hunt was 195. The doe first rule and 2-deer bag limits were continued. The muzzleloader and modern gun hunts were both lottery hunts with 500 permits available for each hunt. Of the 500 permits available, 393 were filled for the muzzleloader hunt and 500 for the gun. The muzzleloader hunt was a 5-day hunt from October 20-24 and the gun hunt was a 4-day hunt from November 10-13.

Total deer harvested and checked during the muzzleloader was up comparable to the previous two years. Good weather conditions may have contributed to the increase. During the modern gun hunt 195 total deer were harvested and checked, which was slightly lower (10%) than the previous year. Anecdotal information from hunter observations, appear to indicate hunters are encountering more deer, particularly doe.

Total deer harvested and checked for both lottery hunts for the 2018/2019 season was 289, 86 bucks and 203 doe, with a 2.4:1 doe to buck sex ratio. This year's harvest was similar to last year's and slightly higher than the 5-year average. By harvesting 203 doe during the lottery hunts and if 100 doe were harvested with archery equipment, the total doe harvested (~300) across 50,000 huntable refuges acres would be 1/167 acres. These values fall within the general rule for harvesting 1 doe per 100 to 200 acres.

In general and as expected, harvest totals were higher among younger deer (0.5-2.5). Harvested female fawns were slightly higher than desired at nearly 26%. However, 40% of the buck harvest was greater than 2.5 years of age, which is desirable for increasing antler mass. Average weights were within 10% of the 5-year average for the 1.5 and 2.5 year age classes.

Lactation rates among 2.5-4.5 year old deer were excellent, ranging from 69% to 89%. Interestingly, highest lactation rates were among the 4.5 year age class (89%). These percentages are an indication that deer are in good condition, thus herd densities are below capacity and/or resources are abundant.

Felsenthal NWR White-tailed Deer Harvest Summary for the 2018-2019 Season

Archery (September 22, 2018-January 31, 2019)

	Harvest #	%
Male	<i>No data due to AGFC database being down</i>	
Female		
Total		
Harvest		

Muzzleloader Lottery Hunt (October 20-24, 2018)

	2016		2017		2018	
	Harvest #	%	Harvest #	%	Harvest #	%
Male	5	12%	9	13%	9	10%
Female	37	88%	61	87%	85	90%
Total						
Harvest	42		70		94	

Gun Lottery Hunt (November 10-13, 2018)

	2016		2017		2018	
	Harvest #	%	Harvest #	%	Harvest #	%
Male	60	40%	78	36%	77	39%
Female	91	60%	139	64%	118	61%
Total						
Harvest	151		217		195	

2018/2019 Season Total (Lottery only)

	Harvest #	%	Ratio	5-year Average
Male	86	30%		83
Female	203	70%		187
Total				
Harvest	289		2.4:1	270

Harvest Totals by County

	Ashley	Bradley	Union
Male	10	36	40
Female	37	80	85
Total			
Harvest	47	116	125

Tables below contain data from lottery hunts only

Harvest Totals and Average Weight by Age Class

	Age Class	#	%	Weight (whole)lbs	5-year (lbs)	Average
Male	0.5	9	11%	60	140	
	1.5	11	13%	94		
	2.5	30	36%	143		
	3.5	17	20%	159		
	4.5	9	11%	177		
	5.5	3	4%	172		
	5.5+	5	6%	182		
Female	0.5	48	24%	51	96	
	1.5	35	18%	84		
	2.5	52	26%	94		
	3.5	29	15%	103		
	4.5	19	10%	97		
	5.5	5	3%	80		
	5.5+	9	5%	101		

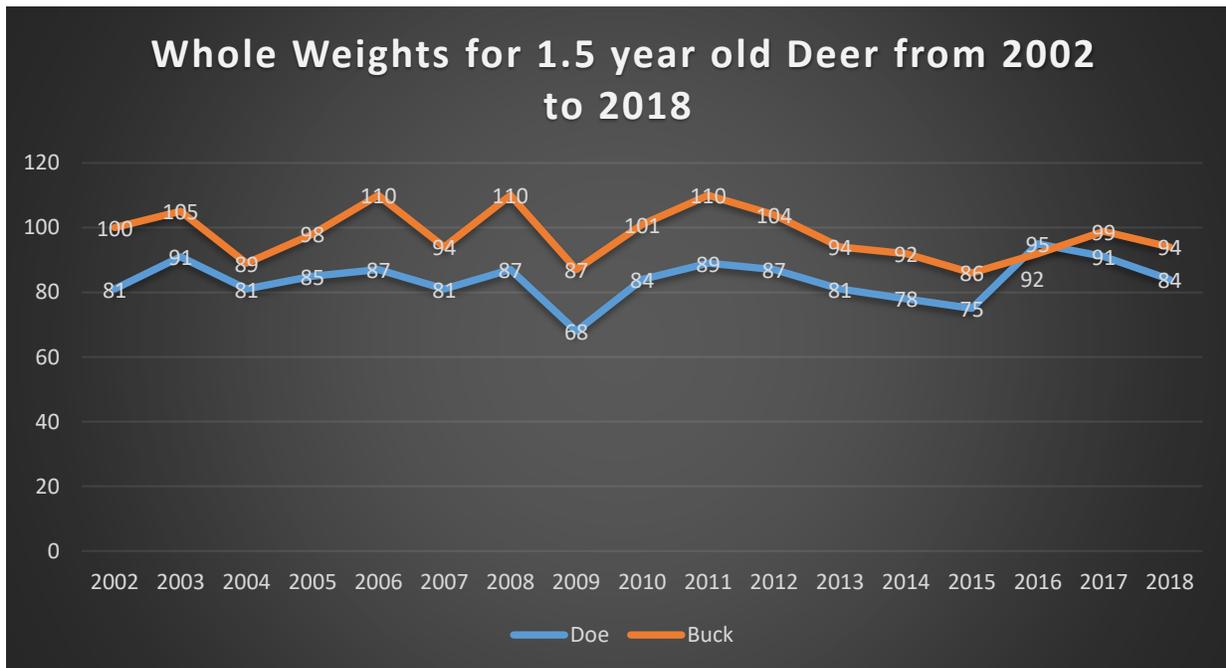
Percent Lactation

		2016	2017	2018
Female	2.5	60%	85%	71%
	3.5	89%	91%	69%
	4.5	70%	89%	89%

Antler Characteristics

	2016	2017	2018
Age Class	# > 130 B&C	# > 130 B&C	# > 130 B&C
3.5		2	1
4.5	3	5	5
5.5	1	2	1
5+		1	3
Total	4	10	10

Historical Data



Harvest Totals from 1978 to 2018 (Quota Hunts Only)

