

2005 SURVEY OF MINNESOTA DEER HUNTERS



**A cooperative study conducted by the University of Minnesota
for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

Your help on this study is greatly appreciated!

*Please return your completed questionnaire in the enclosed
envelope. The envelope is self-addressed and no postage is
required. Thanks!*

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► **SECTION A.** The first set of questions will tell us where you hunted deer. Please read the questions carefully and answer them as accurately as you can.

When you purchased your firearms license for the 2005 firearms deer season, you also purchased at least one early antlerless permit. For this reason, you were randomly selected from all hunters who purchased early antlerless permits.

1. Did you actually hunt during any of the 2005 firearms deer seasons?

- YES
- NO ← Skip to Question 19

2. How many days did you spend scouting for deer in each of the following seasons? If you hunted but did not scout write in "0". Write "DNH" if you Did Not Hunt during that season.

Early Antlerless _____ DAYS
Archery _____ DAYS
Firearm _____ DAYS
Muzzleloader _____ DAYS

3. During 2005, which one deer permit area did you hunt most often during the firearm season?

DEER PERMIT AREA _____ (*write in the number*)

4. How many days did you hunt deer during the firearms deer season?

_____ DAYS

5. For the permit area that you hunted most often during the 2005 deer hunting season, how many years have you hunted this permit area?

_____ YEARS

6. For each of the following 2005 hunting seasons, what types of property did you hunt most often? Please place a check mark in the box below the type of property you hunted most often during each season. Please check only one box per season.

SEASON	Wildlife Management Area	State Forest	Other Public	Private Posted Land	Private Land Not Posted	Did not hunt this season
Early Antlerless	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Firearm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Muzzleloader	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION B. We are now interested in learning about your experiences and opinions regarding your 2005 firearms deer season.

7. What was the primary reason you hunted the permit area listed in question 3 in 2005? (check only one)

- I NORMALLY HUNT THIS PERMIT AREA
- I HUNT AS A PARTY WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS
- I BELIEVE THERE ARE A LOT OF DEER IN THIS AREA WHICH INCREASES MY CHANCE OF GETTING A DEER
- I BELIEVE THERE ARE TOO MANY DEER IN THIS AREA
- OTHER (Describe)

8. Which techniques did you use to hunt during the 2005 firearms deer season? Circle one number for each item.

Method	None	Some	Most	All	Don't Know
Stand hunting from ground stand/blind	1	2	3	4	9
Stalking or moving slowly	1	2	3	4	9
Hunting from elevated tree stand	1	2	3	4	9
Participated in deer drives as member of a party	1	2	3	4	9

9. What was the first deer or group of deer that you saw that was within your shooting range? (*check only one*)

- ANTLERED BUCK
- ANTLERLESS DEER
- MIXED GROUP OF BUCK AND ANTLERLESS DEER
- DID NOT SEE A DEER WHILE HUNTING → **SKIP TO QUESTION 19**

10. From the first deer or group of deer you saw within shooting range during the regular firearms deer season, were you able to kill the deer?

- YES
- NO

11. If no, why were you not able to kill the first deer you saw during the regular firearms deer season? (*Check all that apply*)

- THE DEER DID NOT PRESENT A GOOD SHOT OR I SHOT AND MISSED THE DEER
- IT WAS A BUCK BUT TOO SMALL TO HARVEST SO SOON
- I WAS UNSURE IF THE DEER WAS LEGAL TO SHOOT
- IT WAS AN ANTLERLESS DEER AND I DO NOT SHOOT ANTLERLESS DEER
- IT WAS AN ANTLERLESS DEER AND I DID NOT WANT TO HARVEST AN ANTLERLESS DEER EARLY IN THE SEASON
- OTHER (DESCRIBE WHY) _____


12. Did you kill an antlerless deer during the 2005 regular firearms deer season?

- YES → SKIP TO QUESTION 16
- NO

13. If no, what was the reason for not killing an antlerless deer during the 2005 regular firearms deer season? (*Check only one*)

- I DID NOT SEE AN ANTLERLESS DEER
- I ALREADY SHOT A DEER EARLIER IN THE YEAR SO I HAD ENOUGH VENISON
- I COULD NOT TELL IF THE DEER WAS LEGAL TO SHOOT
- I SAW ANTLERLESS DEER BUT THE DEER DID NOT PRESENT A GOOD SHOT
- I DO NOT SHOOT ANTLERLESS DEER
- OTHER (DESCRIBE WHY) _____

14. Did you kill an antlered buck during the 2005 regular firearms deer season?

- YES
- NO 

15. If no, what was the reason for not killing an antlered buck during the 2005 regular firearms deer season? (*Check only one*)

- I DID NOT SEE A LEGAL BUCK
 - I ALREADY SHOT A DEER EARLIER IN THE YEAR SO I HAD ENOUGH VENISON
 - THE BUCK DID NOT PRESENT A GOOD SHOT
 - I SHOT AND MISSED THE BUCK
 - I WAS UNSURE IF THE BUCK WAS LEGAL TO SHOOT
 - IT WAS A LEGAL BUCK BUT NOT BIG ENOUGH FOR ME TO SHOOT
 - OTHER (DESCRIBE WHY)
-

16. In total, how many deer did you observe while hunting during the 2005 firearms deer season? (*Write the number of deer you saw in each blank below*).

I saw a total of _____ Antlered Bucks

I saw a total of _____ Antlerless Deer

I saw a total of _____ Deer that I could not tell if they were Antlered or Antlerless Deer

17. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding your 2005 firearms deer hunt. (Circle one number for each item)

	Strongly Agree	Slightly Agree	Neither	Slightly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
I was satisfied with the number of legal bucks I saw	1	2	3	4	5	9
I was satisfied with the quality of bucks I saw	1	2	3	4	5	9
I heard about or saw legal bucks while hunting	1	2	3	4	5	9
I was satisfied with the total number of antlerless deer I saw	1	2	3	4	5	9
I was satisfied with the total number of deer I saw while hunting	1	2	3	4	5	9

18. How many antlered and antlerless deer did you personally kill in Minnesota in 2003 and 2004? Include all deer you killed by archery, rifle, and muzzleloader, regardless of whether you tagged the deer or another hunter tagged the deer. If you did not hunt deer during a year, check the appropriate box

	Number of Antlered Deer you killed ▼	Number of Antlerless Deer you killed ▼	I did not hunt in MINNESOTA that year
In 2003 I killed...	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
In 2004 I killed...	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

► **SECTION C. We are now interested in learning about your experiences and opinions regarding deer hunting in Minnesota.**

19. Which ONE of the following best describes how you hunted deer during the 2005 REGULAR FIREARMS deer hunting season in Minnesota? Would you say you:
(Check only one)

- HUNTED FOR LARGE ANTLERED BUCKS DURING THE ENTIRE SEASON
- HUNTED FOR LARGE ANTLERED BUCKS EARLY IN THE REGULAR SEASON AND SHOOT ANY LEGAL DEER LATER
- SHOOT ANY ANTLERED BUCK
- SHOOT THE FIRST LEGAL DEER (EITHER ANTLERED OR ANTLERLESS) THAT OFFERED A GOOD SHOT
- SHOOT ONLY ANTLERLESS DEER
- DON'T KNOW

20. How many antlered and antlerless deer did you kill in each of Minnesota's deer seasons during 2005? Include all deer you killed by archery, rifle, and muzzleloader, regardless of whether you tagged the deer or another hunter tagged the deer. Write in the number of deer you killed in each blank below. If you did not hunt deer in a season, check the appropriate box.

	Number of Antlered Deer you killed in 2005 ▼	Number of Antlerless Deer you killed in 2005 ▼	I did not hunt in that season in 2005
October Antlerless	<u>No Season</u>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archery	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Firearms	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
-Muzzleloader	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

21. Overall, how satisfied were you with your 2005 firearms deer hunt?

- VERY SATISFIED
- SLIGHTLY SATISFIED
- NEITHER SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED
- SLIGHTLY DISSATISFIED
- VERY DISSATISFIED
- DON'T KNOW

22. Overall, people have different reasons for supporting or opposing new hunting regulations. Please tell us how important each of the following reasons for supporting or opposing new hunting regulations are to you.

When I consider proposed hunting regulation changes, it is important to me that these factors are considered: (Please circle one number for each item)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Do not result in an increased total buck harvest.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Do not result in an increased doe harvest.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Increase DNR's ability to control the deer population.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Increase hunting opportunity for bowhunters.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Increase hunting opportunity for muzzleloader hunters.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Increase hunting opportunity for firearm hunters.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Increase my own chances of taking an antlered buck.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Increase my own chances of taking a large antlered buck.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Increase my own chances of taking antlerless deer.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Encourage new people to take up deer hunting.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Lead to a better public image of hunters and hunting.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Protect the interests of farmers and other landowners.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Protect areas so that deer do not cause forest and other habitat damages	1	2	3	4	5	9
Reduce crowding of hunters on public lands.	1	2	3	4	5	9
The regulations do not result in decreased access to private land.	1	2	3	4	5	9

Background: Minnesota hunting regulations allow ‘parties’ of 2 or more licensed hunters to shoot and tag deer for each other if party members are all using the same weapon type and hunting afield together at the time the deer was killed.

23. During any 2005 Minnesota deer season (archery, firearm, and muzzleloader), did you kill a deer for another hunter (a member of your party tagged the deer you killed).

- YES
- NO

24. During any 2005 Minnesota deer seasons (archery, firearm, and muzzleloader), did you use your tag on a deer that another hunter killed?

- YES → → → If yes, during the 2005 Minnesota deer seasons (archery, firearm, and muzzleloader), how many of your tags were used by other hunters?

_____ TAGS

- NO

25. Currently, Minnesota is one of only a few states that allow hunters to shoot deer for each other. Because hunters can kill multiple bucks per year, the cross-tagging provision might contribute to higher buck harvest rates in Minnesota than in other states. The following two questions assess your level of support for allowing hunters to kill deer for each other.

In the area you hunt most often, would you support or oppose a regulation that would allow hunters to continue to hunt together as a party, but would prohibit hunters from shooting deer for each other (both antlered bucks and antlerless deer)? (*Check one*).

- STRONGLY SUPPORT
- MODERATELY SUPPORT
- NEITHER SUPPORT OR OPPOSE
- MODERATELY OPPOSE
- STRONGLY OPPOSE
- DON'T KNOW

26. In the area you hunt most often, would you support or oppose a regulation that would allow hunters to continue to hunt together as a party but would prohibit shooting antlered bucks for each other? You would still be able to shoot antlerless deer for each other (Check one).

- STRONGLY SUPPORT
- MODERATELY SUPPORT
- NEITHER SUPPORT OR OPPOSE
- MODERATELY OPPOSE
- STRONGLY OPPOSE
- DON'T KNOW

27. Including 2005, how many years have you hunted deer in Minnesota?

_____ YEARS

28. What hunting method do you primarily use? (Check only one)

- DEER DRIVE WITH LESS THAN 5 PEOPLE
- DEER DRIVE WITH 5 OR MORE PEOPLE
- TREE STAND
- GROUND BLIND
- STILL HUNTING OR STALKING
- OTHER (PLEASE LIST) _____

29. Which statement best characterizes where you hunt? (Check only one)

- I ALMOST NEVER HUNT THE SAME AREA EVERY YEAR
- I CHANGE MY HUNTING LOCATION EVERY 1 TO 2 YEARS
- I CHANGE MY HUNTING LOCATION EVERY 3 TO 5 YEARS
- I TYPICALLY HUNT THE SAME AREA EVERY YEAR

30. What is the furthest you are willing to travel from your home to hunt antlered deer?

_____ (number of miles)

31. What is the furthest you are willing to travel from your home to hunt antlerless deer?

_____ (number of miles)

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