



2009 Central Minnesota Deer Hunter Survey

1. A. Did you hunt during the 2009 firearm deer season? Yes No
- B. Did you hunt another season in 2009? (*Check if Yes*) Archery Muzzleloader
- C. Which **ONE** deer permit area did you hunt most often during the firearm deer season (*check one*):
 240 | 241 | 243 | 244 | OTHER (List) _____
- D. During 2009, how many days did you hunt during the firearm season? _____ Days
- E. Including 2009, how many years have you been hunting deer with a firearm? _____ Years
- F. Including 2009, how many years have you hunted deer in the area listed in 1C? _____ Years
- G. Are you a member of an organized deer hunting group? Yes No
 *If yes, which group(s) do you belong to? MDHA BWA QDMA Other _____

Please answer the following questions about the area you hunted the most during the 2009 firearm deer season (area checked in 1C above). This is the area that you took the most trips or where you spent the majority of your time firearm hunting.

2. How much of your deer hunting did you do on each of the following types of land during the 2009 firearm deer hunting season? (*Circle one number for each item*).

	None	Some	Most	All	Don't Know
Private land that I own	1	2	3	4	9
Private land that I lease for hunting	1	2	3	4	9
Private land that I do not own or lease	1	2	3	4	9
Public land*	1	2	3	4	9

* Skip to question 6 if you hunted exclusively on public land.

3. If you hunted on private land that you **did not own** during the firearm season, to the best of your knowledge who also hunted that land the firearm season: (*check all that apply*)
 - The landowner and/or their immediate family
 - Hunter who **is not** a relative of the landowner
 - Hunter who **is** a relative of the landowner
 - Nobody else hunts on this property
 - Don't Know
4. If you hunted on private land that **you own** during the firearm season, who hunted on your property? (*check all that apply*)
 - Another party that also owns the property
 - Friends that do not own the property
 - Family that does not own the property
 - Any hunter who asks permission
 - Nobody else hunts my property
 - Don't Know
5. Please indicate if any voluntary harvest restrictions apply to the property you hunted. (*Check one*)
 - Antlerless harvest restricted but can take any buck
 - Buck harvest restricted to only large antlered bucks but can take any antlerless deer
 - Buck harvest restricted to only large antlered bucks and antlerless harvest restricted
 - No restrictions on the type of deer that can be harvested in the permit area you hunted
 - Don't know
6. Which statement best describes your perception of deer population size over the past five years in the deer area you hunted?
 - Fewer deer now than 5 years ago
 - About the same number of deer now as 5 years ago
 - More deer now than 5 years ago
 - Don't know
7. Which statement best describes the number of mature bucks over the past 5 years in the deer area you hunted? (*Check one*)
 - Fewer mature bucks now than 5 years ago
 - About the same number of mature bucks now as 5 years ago
 - More mature bucks now than 5 years ago
 - Don't know
8. Do you believe the deer population in the area you hunt is,
 - Too low
 - About right
 - Too high
 - Don't know

Recently, there have been discussions between DNR and various hunting organizations regarding how deer should be managed in central Minnesota. Currently, opinions range from encouraging the harvest of antlerless deer to designing new regulations that protect yearling bucks. As of yet, DNR has not made any decisions regarding potential deer management changes; however, this survey will be used as part of that decision-making process. Please think about the area you hunt most often and tell us how you would feel about the following changes.

9. Please indicate your support or opposition to the following statements about potential deer management changes. Responses of 'neither' mean you neither support nor oppose the proposed regulation and would continue to hunt your traditional location if regulations were changed. Please check one box on each line.

	Oppose	Support	Neither
In general, would you oppose or support a regulation that would increase the proportion of antlered bucks in the area you hunt most often.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DNR should enact regulations that protect the majority of yearling bucks and increase the proportion of mature bucks in the deer population.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eliminate buck cross-tagging. People would still be allowed to hunt as a party but hunters would be required to shoot and tag their own buck. Hunters would still be allowed to shoot and tag antlerless deer for each other. Current data suggest buck harvests would decline 7 – 10% if cross-tagging was eliminated, which would allow a higher percentage of bucks to live longer and develop larger antlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delay the firearm deer season one week. The firearm deer season would open the Saturday closest to November 15 th . Delaying the firearm season may have the effect of lowering buck harvest rates. The perception from some hunters is that bucks are less vulnerable to harvest after the rut and if the season were later a higher proportion of bucks may survive the firearm season. Currently, the season opens the Saturday closest to November 6 th , which is about one week prior to peak rut.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delay the firearm deer season until late November. The season would open the Saturday closes to November 27 th . There will also be impacts to the muzzleloader season start date.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Institute an antler point restriction. An antler point restriction would be the most effective technique to protect yearling bucks while still allowing 2.5 year and older bucks to be harvested. Current data suggests the initial buck harvest would be reduced by about 35% as a significant portion of yearling bucks would be protected. This regulation would allow bucks to live longer and develop larger antlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct a 4-day youth-only season in mid-October. This season would be either-sex and held over the 4 day MEA weekend (Third Thursday in October to Sunday) for youth aged 12-17. Currently, Iowa and Wisconsin have a youth-only hunt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limit the number of buck licenses. Under this regulation, the regular firearm license would be valid for antlerless deer only. Hunters would have to apply for a buck permit through a lottery system. Unsuccessful applicants would be restricted to hunting antlerless deer during the current year, but would gain preference points in the lottery, which would improve their chance of getting drawn for a buck license in future years. A hunter would likely win a buck license every other year depending on hunting pressure.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Overall, how satisfied were you with your 2009 firearms deer hunt? (*Check one*)

- Very Dissatisfied
- Slightly Dissatisfied
- Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied
- Slightly Satisfied
- Very Satisfied

11. We now want you to tell us what your ideal deer season structure in central Minnesota would look like. As you read the statement, please circle one bolded word in each sentence.

The firearm season should open in **early** | **middle** | **late** November. During the season, DNR **should** | **should not** implement an antler point restriction to protect yearling bucks. DNR **should** | **should not** ban cross-tagging of bucks and enact a regulation that still allows people to hunt as a party, but requires people to shoot and tag their own buck. DNR **should** | **should not** limit the number of buck licenses using a lottery system. DNR **should** | **should not** hold a 4-day youth hunt over the MEA weekend (Thursday – Sunday).

Thank You! Please return in the provided self-addressed, stamped envelope