



Zone 3A Deer Hunter Survey

1. A. Did you hunt during the 2008 firearm deer season in Zone 3A? Yes No
- B. Did you hunt another season in 2008? (*Check if Yes*) Archery Muzzleloader
- C. Which **ONE** 3A deer permit area did you hunt most often during the firearm deer season (*check one*):
 338 | 339 | 341 | 342 | 343 | 344 | 345 | 346 | 347 | 348 | 349
- D. During 2008, how many days did you hunt during the firearm season in Zone 3A? _____ Days
- E. Including 2008, how many years have you been hunting deer? _____ Years
- F. Including 2008, how many years have you hunted deer in Zone 3A? _____ 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 2008 Zone 3A 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 2008 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 3A season, to the best of your knowledge who hunted that land during the 3B 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 during 3B
 - Don't Know

4. If you hunted on private land that **you own** during the 3A season, who hunted on your property during the 3B season? (*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 during the 3B season
 - 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
 - Don't know

6. Which statement best describes the number of mature bucks over the past 5 years in the Zone 3A 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

7. Beginning in 2003, the DNR has made several changes to the 3A and 3B deer seasons. Please indicate your level of support for the changes that have already occurred. (*Circle one number for each item*)

	Strongly Oppose	Slightly Oppose	Neither	Slightly Support	Strongly Support	Don't Know
Allowing youth to hunt both the 3A and 3B seasons	1	2	3	4	5	9
Shortening the 3A season by 2 days (total of 7 days)	1	2	3	4	5	9
Lengthening the 3B season by 2 days (total of 9 days)	1	2	3	4	5	9
Allowing antlerless harvest during the 3A season	1	2	3	4	5	9
The current season structure that is currently in place, which is the 7-day 3A and 9-day 3B season	1	2	3	4	5	9

Recently, there have been discussions between DNR and various hunting organizations regarding how deer should be managed in southeastern Minnesota. Currently, opinions range from reverting back to the system that was in place prior to 2003 (9-day 3A season/7-day 3B season) 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.

8. 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
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 (both seasons). 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 suggests buck harvest 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 3A deer season one week. The 3A 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. There would be no change to the 3B season; it would start immediately after 3A ends.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delay the 3A deer season until late November. As a result, the Zone 3B season would also be delayed. There will also be impacts to the muzzleloader season start date.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consolidate the 3A and 3B deer seasons. The 3A and 3B deer seasons would be consolidated into a single, 16-day season where both 3A and 3B hunters could participate. This would reflect a similar seasonal framework as Zone 1, which is a continuous 16-day season.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Institute an antler point restriction (both seasons). 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"/>
DNR should restore the 3A season to 9 days.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DNR should restore the 3B season to 7 days.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement, “If the 3A and 3B deer seasons were consolidated into one 16-day season, I (and/or my hunting party) would lose access to the property we currently hunt”. (*Check one*)

- Strongly Disagree
- Slightly Disagree
- Slightly Agree
- Strongly Agree
- Don’t Know

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

The Zone 3A season should open in **early** | **middle** | **late** November. The 3A season should be **5** | **7** | **9** days. The 3B season should be **7** | **9** days and should start **immediately** | **one week** after the 3A season ends. During both seasons, 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** hold a 4-day youth hunt over the MEA weekend (Thursday – Sunday).

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