WHITE-TAILED DEER SUMMARY 2025-2026: MERCER COUNTY

Forest Wildlife Program, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

County Size: 568 square miles

Year Opened to Deer Hunting: 1957

Record Harvest: 1,716 (2025)

Average Harvest (previous 10 years): 1,527

Total 2025-2026 Harvest (all seasons): 1,716

Permits issued/quota 2025-2026 (excludes landowner; archery and youth are statewide):

Firearm: 2575/3000 **Muzzle:** 373/500

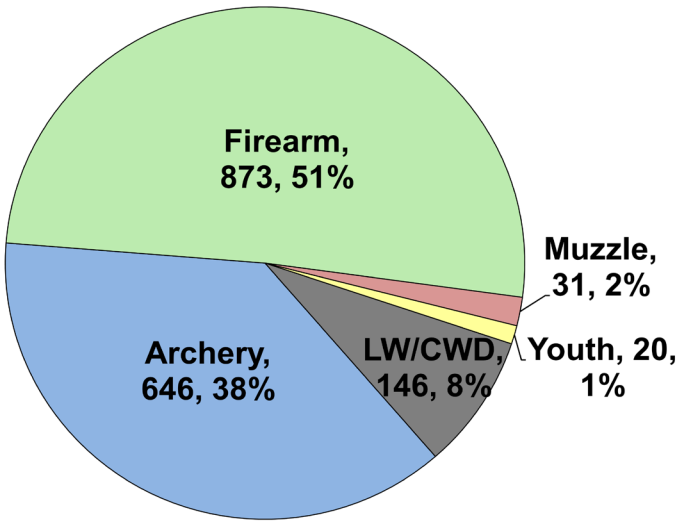
Late Winter: 51

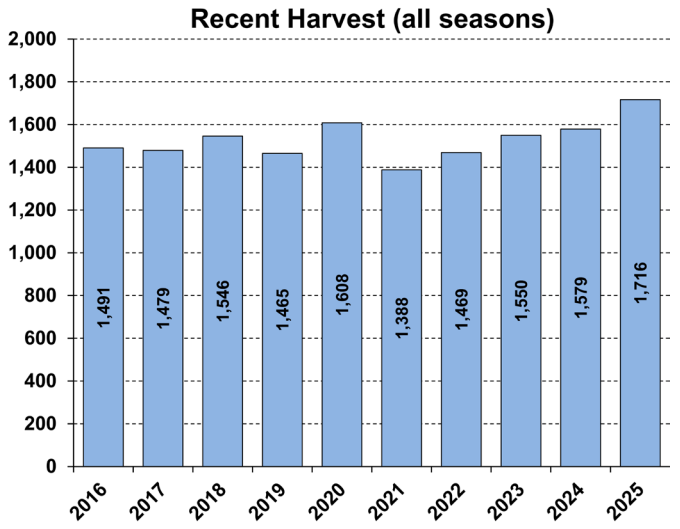
Chronic Wasting Disease Detected: No

Check Station Location: N/A

Late Winter Season in 2026-2027: Yes. Deer Vehicle Accident (DVA) rates (accidents per billion miles driven) are used as an index of deer population size. Counties remain or are added to Late Winter season if DVA rates are above goal, or other factors (excessive crop damage and/or disease issues) are present.

Last year in Late Winter: 2007 - Present





Recent Archery Harvest by Bow Type

Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Compound	234	228	227	241	258
Crossbow	261	301	344	346	384
Traditional	3	3	4	3	4
Total	498	532	575	590	646

Age/Sex Composition of Recent Harvest (%)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
M - Adult	28.9	31.7	31.0	29.1	31.5
M - Yearling	15.5	14.7	16.3	14.4	15.3
M - Fawn	11.0	8.4	9.4	8.9	7.8
F - Adult	38.2	37.2	37.2	39.5	39.5
F - Fawn	6.4	8.1	6.2	8.0	5.9

M - Adult = 2.5 and older; F - Adult = 1.5 and older

