



Chris Danou's Capitol Report

New Registration Offers Daily Deer Harvest Numbers

One only needs to watch a cold game at Lambeau Field and see all the blaze orange to know how much deer hunting is part of our culture here in Wisconsin. Deer hunting is a tradition in which men, women and children from across the state and from all walks of life have taken part in for generations. It truly is a tradition that brings great pride to those who participate.

Even though the number of registrations can vary from year-to-year, it's always great to see more people participate from the previous year. According to numbers provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on Tuesday, November 24th, license registration numbers are up from last year. Deer licenses (including gun, archery and crossbow) increased to 843,259 this year, which is up from 835,583 in 2014. It really is always encouraging to see that more people are registering and taking part in this great tradition.

This year also brought some changes to the tradition that might have caused some initial confusion, but after a year or two, it will become just as much of a tradition that is continuing into the 21st century. With new online registration and deer harvest reporting, we now have access to harvest numbers on a daily basis. Those numbers are broken down by region, county, antlered and antlerless, along with whether the deer was harvested with a firearm, bow or crossbow.

In an effort to show these more up-to-date numbers, I want to share numbers that were posted on the DNR website and were current on Wednesday, November 25th. According to the DNR, after the first three days of the nine-day firearm season, there has been a total of 136,441 deer harvested in Wisconsin. Of that total, 70,142 antlered deer have been harvested and 66,299 were antlerless. The overall range for every county is anywhere from 1 – 5,511 with most counties in western and central Wisconsin seeing the highest numbers.

As the State Representative for the 92nd Assembly District, I'm proud to represent the great hunting areas of Buffalo, Jackson and Trempealeau Counties. Although our harvest numbers aren't the highest in Wisconsin, our three counties are looking strong in comparison to most other counties across the state. In the first three days, there were a total of 3,385 deer harvested in Buffalo County, 3,315 in Trempealeau County and 2,039 in Jackson County. I've enjoyed seeing photos of some of these harvests in the local papers, and it's great to see so many kids get their first harvest.

This really is an exciting time of year for people of all ages across Wisconsin and I want to congratulate those who have had a successful harvest so far! To see all the harvest numbers, please feel free to visit the DNR's website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Hunt/deerharvest.html> for more information. I'll be sure to provide information final numbers upon completion of the season in my next column. Please be safe and have fun this hunting season!

