

# Bowhunter® Deer Forecast

Bowhunter numbers are on the rise and record harvests are being reported across North America.

# 2011

By C.J. Winand

**C**URRENTLY, THERE ARE 32,956,645 white-tails, blacktails, and mule deer roaming North America. As you might expect, Texas ranks number one with more than 3.8 million whitetails, followed by Alabama, Mississippi and Michigan with 1.75 million, and Wisconsin with 1.5 million whitetails.

A record total of 1,111,252 deer were reported harvested in North America during the 2010 archery season. That equates to over 222 million meals of lean, protein-rich venison!

Although some states and provinces reported a decline in their 2010 archery harvests, mostly due to the previous year's harsh winter, the total number of deer killed by bowhunters throughout North America has steadily increased through the years. Compared to 10 years ago, archery harvest rates for deer have increased 74 percent. Michigan bowhunters led this category with 117,633 deer, followed by Ohio (85,012), Wisconsin (83,833), Pennsylvania (77,020), and Illinois (63,584).

The archery success rate across North America also increased to 25.1 percent. Alabama bowhunters were the most successful with a remarkable 55-percent success rate. Following close behind were Mississippi (54 percent), Georgia (51 percent), Texas (49 percent), and Kansas (48 percent). Seven other states (CT, DE, MD, NJ, NE, SD, IL) and Manitoba enjoy a 33-percent success rate or better. Ten years ago, the overall archery success rate was 13 percent. This is a 94.6-percent increase from 2001!

The percentage of the archery deer harvest compared to the total deer harvest (all weapons) throughout North America tied last year's record of 16.1 percent. New Jersey had the highest percentage of deer killed by bowhunters with 48.4 percent. This was followed by Connecticut (38.3 percent), Ohio (35.5 percent), Illinois (34.9 percent), and Massachusetts (33.6 percent).

This year we gained 136,217 new bowhunters, bringing the total to 3,341,327. Michigan and Ohio report 300,000 bowhunters each, with Pennsylvania (289,414), Wisconsin

(252,808) and New York (243,100) rounding out the top five. Collectively, these states make up 41.5 percent of all bowhunters in North America. The number of bowhunters has increased 19 percent from 2,807,982 in 2001.

Current data suggests the average hunter spends \$2,000 per year in hunting expenses such as equipment, licenses, food, gas, lodging, etc. This means bowhunters pump more than \$6.68 billion into our economy on a yearly basis.

Nebraska and New Brunswick (except the early archery season October 3-22 for deer) are the latest state/province to allow crossbows throughout the archery season. Only 10 years ago, three states (Arkansas, Ohio, and Wyoming) and two provinces (British Columbia and Quebec) allowed crossbows in the archery season. As of the 2011 hunting season, there are 18 states and six provinces allowing crossbows throughout the archery season. Another 11 states and one province allow crossbows in a portion of the archery season either through a minimum age limit, late-season hunts, or only on private/public lands during the archery season.

Although many complain about the cost of hunting licenses, the average North American resident pays \$42.96. If you ask me, this is small price to pay to keep wildlife management in the hands of trained biologists instead of politicians.

I would like to conclude with a personal tip of the **Bowhunter** hat and a sincere thanks to all the state/provincial biologists who helped me compile data for this year's "Deer Forecast." Without them, this would not be possible.

*NOTE: Make sure you read and fully understand all the regulations in your state/province before going afield. And most importantly, as the National Bowhunter Education Foundation (NBEF) says within their Project STAND (Stop Tree Stand Accidents 'n Deaths) awareness program, "Hunt Smart and Hunt Safe!" and wear a full-body harness! <<<*

**For additional 2011 Deer Forecast Notes & Regulation changes, go to [www.bowhunter.com](http://www.bowhunter.com).**

State	Estimated Deer Population	Resident Hunting License	Nonresident Hunting License	Archery Season Dates	Archery Bag Limit	2010 No. of BH	2010 Archery Harvest	Archery Success Rate	Crossbows	Min. Age to BH Deer	BH Ed. Req.	Baiting	Best Area For Quality Bucks
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Connecticut	124,326 (w)	\$41.00	\$135.00	Private: 9/15-1/31, varies Public: 9/15-12/31, varies	4+	13,276	4,670	35%	Yes, DMZ 11 & 12; late season	12	Yes	Yes & No	DMZs 1, 5, & 11
Maine	218,000 (w)	\$25.00	\$74.00	9/29 - 10/28 & Expanded Areas: 9/10 - 12/10	1+	14,011	1,497	7%; Expand. Areas 25%	H, Expanded Bow Area	10	Yes	No	Statewide
Massachusetts	90,000 (w)	\$32.60	\$104.60	10/17 - 11/26	2+	25,000	3,492	15%	H	12	No	No	Statewide
New Hampshire	78,000 (w)	\$22.00	\$73.00	9/15 - 12/8 (WMU A) or 12/15 (Statewide)	1+	18,649	1,984	11%	H	None	Yes	Yes	Statewide
New York	920,000 (w)	\$50.00	\$140.00	North: 9/27 - 10/21 South: 10/15 - 12/20, varies	1+	243,100	34,530	14%	No	14	Yes	No	Central & Western NY
Rhode Island	15,000 (w)	\$30.50	\$70.50	9/15 - 1/31	2+	4,400	508	13%	H	12	Yes	No	Statewide
Vermont	125,000 (w)	\$42.00	\$135.00	10/1 - 10/23 & 12/3 - 12/11	3	22,265	2,914	13%	H	None	Yes	No	Green Mtns. & NE Kingdom of VT
<b>MID-ATLANTIC</b>													
Delaware	45,000 (w)	\$35.00	\$155.00	9/1 - 1/31	4+	5,500	2,350	43%	Yes	None	No	Yes (P)	Sussex County
Maryland	235,000 (w)	\$30.50	\$155.00	9/15 - 1/31	2+	60,500	27,286	38%	Yes	None	No	Yes (P)	Upper Eastern Shore & Southern MD
New Jersey	112,000 (w)	\$59.50	\$163.50	9/10 - 2/18, varies by DMZ	2+, varies	40,133	26,829	34%	Yes	10	Yes	Yes	Monmouth, Hunterdon, Salem
Pennsylvania	NA (w)	\$36.00	\$127.00	10/1 - 11/12 & 12/26 - 1/14, WMUs: 2B, 5C & 5D = 9/17 - varies	1+	289,414	77,020	18%	Yes	12	No	No	WMUs 1A-B, 2A-B-D, 5B-C-D
Virginia	950,000 (w)	\$54.00	\$183.00	Urban Area: 9/3 - 9/30 & 1/9 - 3/31; Early: 10/1 - 11/18; Late: 12/5 - 1/7	5+	71,800	24,185	30%	Yes	None	No	No	SE & E Foothills of Blue Ridge
West Virginia	556,000 (w)	\$35.00	\$164.00	Early: 9/12 - 9/17; Statewide: 10/1 - 12/31	4	80,500	21,962	27%	H	None	No	Yes	Logan, McDowell, Wyoming, Mingo
<b>SOUTH</b>													
Alabama	1,750,000 (w)	\$24.00	\$275.00	10/15 - 1/31	2/day	66,500	36,400	55%	Yes	None	No	No	Nor. & Cen. Regions
Arkansas	800,000 (w)	\$25.00	\$300.00	10/1 - 2/29	6	NA	26,359	NA	Yes	None	No	Yes (P)	Eastern Arkansas
Florida	NA (w)	\$27.00	\$161.50	Zone A: 7/30 - 9/2; Zone B: 10/15 - 11/18; Zone C: 9/17 - 10/21; Zone D: 10/22 - 12/2	2/day	32,165	33,154	NA	Yes (P)	None	No	Yes (P)	Jackson, Gadsden, Leon, Jefferson
Georgia	904,924 (w)	\$19.00	\$295.00	North: 9/10 - 1/1; South: 9/10 - 1/15; Urban: 9/10 - 1/31	12	107,792	54,974	51%	Yes	None	No	Yes (S Zone)	Southwest & Metro Atlanta
Louisiana	600,000 (w)	\$39.50	\$326.00	Areas 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 (10/1-1/31); Areas 3 & 8 (9/17-1/15); Area 6 (10/1-10/15 bucks only, 10/16-2/15)	6	36,500	15,600	20%	Yes	None	Yes, Federal Refuge	Yes	MS & Red River Bottomlands
Mississippi	1,750,000 (w)	\$33.85	\$382.70	Zone 1 & 3: 10/1 - 1/31; Zone 2: 10/15 - 2/15	5+	35,162	33,636	54%	Yes (WMAs)	None	No	No	Statewide
North Carolina	1,350,000 (w)	\$25.00	\$120.00	E: 9/10 - 9/30; C: 9/10 - 10/28; NW: 9/10 - 11/4; W: 9/12 - 10/1 & 10/17 - 11/19	6+	NA	16,605	NA	Yes	None	No	Yes	Northern Piedmont & Foothills
South Carolina	750,000 (w)	\$18.00	\$225.00	9/15 - 9/30, varies by region	3+	36,833	17,146	29%	Yes	None	No	Yes & No	Anderson, Aiken, Orangeburg
Tennessee	700,000 (w)	\$56.00	\$175.50 (7-day)	9/24 - 1/8, varies	2+	90,000	20,806	22%	Yes	None	No	No	Middle & West TN
<b>MIDWEST</b>													
Illinois	775,000 (w)	\$39.00	\$466.25	10/1-1/15, closed during 7-day firearms deer season	2+	163,000	63,584	40%	H & over 62 yrs. old	None	No	No	Statewide
Indiana	NA (w)	\$24.00	\$150.00	10/1 - 1/1	2+	106,000	28,114	27%	H & late season	None	No	No	Statewide
Iowa	390,000 (w)	\$60.50	\$551.00	10/1 - 12/2 & 12/19 - 1/10	1+	57,350	22,779	25%	H & 70+	None	No	No	So 1/3, NE 1/4, West
Kansas	650,000 (w) 40,000 (m)	\$53.00	\$395.00	9/19 - 12/31	7	45,637	22,000	48%	H	None	No	Yes	Statewide
Kentucky	900,000 (w)	\$50.00	\$190.00	9/3 - 1/16	4+	106,000	18,171	16%	Yes & H	None	No	Yes (P)	Breckinridge, Butler, Grayson, Hart
Michigan	1,750,000 (w)	\$15.00	\$138.00	10/1 - 11/14 & 12/1 - 1/1	2+	300,000	117,633	32%	Yes	10	No	Yes & No	Statewide
Minnesota	1,000,000 (w)	\$26.00	\$140.00	9/17 - 12/31	1+	100,000	22,057	18%	H	10	No	No	SE & Central MN
Missouri	1,400,000 (w)	\$19.00	\$225.00	9/15 - 11/11 & 11/23 - 1/15, exclusive of Nov. firearms season	2+	150,000	42,372	20%	H	None	No	No	North of Missouri River
Nebraska	300,000 (w) 90,000 (m)	\$50.00	\$229.00	9/15 - 12/31	1+	15,000	6,315	45%	Yes	10	Yes	No	E. River Corridors Sandhills, Pine Ridge

# Deer Forecast

State	Estimated Deer Population	Resident Hunting License	Nonresident Hunting License	Archery Season Dates	Archery Bag Limit	2010 No. of BH	2010 Archery Harvest	Archery Success Rate	Crossbows	Min. Age to BH Deer	BH Ed. Req.	Baiting	Best Area For Quality Bucks
<b>MIDWEST continued</b>													
North Dakota	NA (w, m)	\$34.00	\$215.00	9/2-1/8	1	21,000	5,450	NA	H	None	No	Yes (P)	Statewide
Ohio	750,000 (w)	\$43.00	\$149.00	9/24-2/5	2+	300,000	85,012	NA	Yes	None	No	Yes	Urban, West & North-Central
South Dakota	195,000 (w) 75,000 (m)	\$35.00	\$195.00	9/24-1/15, varies	2+	18,945	9,900	33%	H	12	Yes, <16 & elk	No	Statewide
Wisconsin	1,500,000 (w)	\$24.00	\$160.00	9/17 - 11/17 & 11/28-1/8	1+	252,808	83,833	22%	H/ & 65+	10	No	Yes & No	Statewide
<b>WEST</b>													
Colorado	466,760 (w/m)	\$31.00	\$331.00	W of I-25: 8/27-9/25; E of I-25: 10/1-21, 11/2-30, 12/15-31	1	11,726	2,803	24%	H	12	No	No	NW & SW (m), NE & SE (w)
Idaho	200,000 (w) 265,000 (m)	\$50.75	\$476.50	8/30 - 9/30 & late seasons, varies	1+	15,288	2,833 (w) 1,425 (m)	19%	H	12	No	No	Northern 1/3 ID (w); Upper Snake, SE Magic Valley (m)
Montana	237,000 (w) 328,000 (m)	\$21.00	\$348.00	9/3 - 10/16 & 10/22 - 11/27 (General)	1+	41,176	NA (w) NA (m)	18%(w) 12%(m)	H	12	Yes	No	Eastern MT
Nevada	114,000 (m)	\$78.00	\$398.50	8/8 - 9/5, varies	1	2,514	471	19%	No	12	No	No	Eastern & Western NV Units
Utah	293,700 (m)	\$61.00	\$328.00	8/20 - 9/16	1	14,000	2,289	17%	H	12	No	Yes	Southern Utah
Wyoming	58,000 (w) 450,000 (m)	\$71.50	\$368.50	8/15 - 10/14, varies	1+	3,826 (w) 8,537 (m)	1,209 (w) 1,926 (m)	32%(w) 23%(m)	Yes	12	No	No	Statewide
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>													
Arizona	77,750 (w) 95,000 (m)	\$109.25	\$609.25	8/19 - 9/8, 12/9 - 1/31	1	20,850	1,124	7%	H	10	No	Yes	Unit 12A Kaibab, 13A & B (w); 12A & B, 13A & B (m)
New Mexico	12,500 (w) 90,000 (m)	\$47.00	\$290.00	9/1 - 9/22 (NW, SE, NE); 9/1 - 9/24 (SW); 1/1-1/15 (NW, SW, SE)	1	6,200	1,500	24%	H	None	No	No	NW & SW
Oklahoma	550,000 (w) 1,000 (m)	\$45.00	\$280.00	10/1 - 1/15	6	88,089	19,887	23%	Yes	None	No	Yes	Northwest, North-Central, Southeast OK
Texas	3,826,566 (w) 177,615 (m)	\$32.00	\$322.00	10/1 - 11/4 (w & m)	3+ (w) 1+ (m)	24,943 (w) 18,374 (m)	28,027	49% (w) 35% (m)	Yes, except Grayson Co.	None	No	Yes	South TX, Panhandle (w) SW Panhandle & N Trans-Pecos (m)
<b>PACIFIC</b>													
Alaska	300,000 (b)	\$25.00	\$235.00	8/1-12/31, varies	1-5, varies	NA	NA	NA	No	10	Archery-only areas	No	Kodiak Island, Prince of Wales Is.
California	487,000 (m/b)	\$72.63	\$407.16	7/29-12/31, varies	2	18,219	1,615	8%	H	12	No	No	Northwest CA
Hawaii	900 (b) 9,000 (a)	\$10.00	\$95.00	Sept-Nov, varies (b); 2/20-2/27, varies (a)	1 (b) 1 (a)	172 (b) NA (a)	NA (b) NA (a)	NA (b) NA (a)	H	10	No	No	Unit A (b) Lanai Island (a)
Oregon	216,000 (m) 300,000 (b) 12,000 (w)	\$54.00	\$516.00	8/27 - 9/25 (m,b,w) & 11/19 - 12/11, varies (b)	1	34,340	5,422	16%	No	12	No	Yes	Southeast High Desert (m) NW (b)
Washington	110,000 (w) 90,000 (m) 100,000 (b)	\$44.90	\$434.30	Early: 9/1 - 9/23; Late: 11/24 - 12/8 or 12/15, varies	1	20,134	5,059	25%	H	None	No	Yes	Chelan Co. (m)
<b>CANADA</b>													
Alberta	270,000 (w) 185,000 (m)	\$78.00	\$294.00	9/1-10/31, varies	1+	16,000	1,950 (w) 1,300 (m)	17% (w) 21% (m)	H	12	No	No	Ag & Forest fringe @ WMUs (w) Southern (m)
British Columbia	100,000 (w) 165,000 (m) 200,000 (b)	\$47.00	\$305.00	Varies, 9/1 - 9/9 (bow only); 9/10-11/30 (general season); 12/1-12/10 & 12/1-12/20 (South)	1+	9,400	NA	NA	Yes	10	No	Yes	Entire Province (w,m)  Vancouver Island (b)
Manitoba	115,000 (w) NA (m)	\$36.00	\$155.00 \$217.00 NC	Zones A,B,D: 8/29-9/18; 10/17-11/13; Zones C,E,F: 8/29-11/13 or 12/4	1+	3,641	1,273	35%	H	12	No	No	Interlake Region, West Escarpment
New Brunswick	75,000 (w)	\$38.42	\$206.79	10/3 - 11/19	1+	2,600	108	4%	Yes	16	Yes	Yes	All WMZs
Nova Scotia	43,604 (w)	\$35.98	\$157.82	9/24 - 10/27 & 12/5 - 12/10	1+	2,641	473	18%	No	16	Yes	Yes	Province-wide
Ontario	400,000 (w)	\$53.59	\$228.69	9/1, varies - 12/31, varies	1+	42,500	8,900	21%	Yes	12	No	Yes	Southern Ontario
Quebec (Anticosti Island)	247,000 (w) 120,000 (w)	\$50.21 \$63.71	\$269.13 \$344.55	9/18-10/17, varies, depends on zone Anticosti Is 8/1-12/24 (all weapons)	1+	NA NA	9,126 12	NA NA	Yes No	12	Yes No	Yes	Anticosti Island, DMU:1,2,3,9
Saskatchewan	341,000 (w) 59,000 (m)	\$43.00 (w) \$48.00 (m)	\$286.00 (w)	9/1 - 10/31	1+ (w) 1 (m)	4,737 (w) 1,780 (m)	680 (w) 713 (m)	14% (w) 40% (m)	Yes (Urban)	12	NA	Yes	Southern Agricultural WMZs
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>32,956,645 (AD)</b>	<b>\$42.96</b>	<b>\$265.56</b>			<b>3,278,558</b>	<b>1,111,252(AD)</b>	<b>25.1 (AD)</b>					

## KEY CODE

Whitetail Deer=(w) Blacktail Deer=(b) Handicapped=H Not Applicable=NA  
 Mule Deer=(m) Axis Deer=(a) Private Lands=(P) Non-Canadian=NC All Deer Included=(AD)

\*Note: As always, before hunting, contact the local wildlife agency for final season dates and hunting regulations.