

Parks Department Outlines Importance Of Harvest Records

By Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Managing any animal species is not easy, but when you are trying to manage a wild animal it is immensely harder.

When managing for White-tail deer you often hear about 'Harvest Records'.

There is no substitute for the valuable information that can be ascertained from a deer after harvest.

Three main types of information collected are age, weight, and antler measurements.

Age of a deer is the most critical and all other data is meaningless if it can't be related back to the deer's age.

Age is normally collected by the tooth wear and eruption method, and is crucial to determining the quality and status of your herd.

On bucks, you can compare the age to the antler development and determine if you are harvesting the proper deer.

The bucks start really producing their best antlers at age five.

So by aging the deer you will

know if your harvest was a quality management decision.

By aging doe you can determine if you are over harvesting.

If a large portion of your random doe harvest is 2.5 or under, you need to reassess your harvest.

Body weights are also commonly collected and can give an indication of herd health when compared to prior years.

If body weights drop drastically it could be an indication of parasites, range degradation, or something else that you need to address.

When collecting body weights always collect them with the animal field dressed, this ensures consistency among the data.

The live weights of a deer can vary greatly; small things like if the deer has eaten recently will change your data.

Antler measurements are also essential; they can be as simple as a few standardized measurements or as complex as a Boone and Crockett score.

Collecting antler measurements from each buck harvested



will allow you to build a data base that illustrates the potential of the property, and if the deer you harvested fits into that criteria.

This information is crucial to set harvest recommendations in future years.

You need to know this information so you know where a deer should be on average for its age to determine if it is a "management" buck or a good up and coming deer that is young.

Another important piece of information that can be collected is doe lactation rate.

Determining lactation rates simply means checking each

harvested doe for the presence of milk in her udder.

The percentage of harvested does that were lactating provides additional information about the productivity of the deer herd and gives some indication of reproductive success and survival of fawns.

This can be used to back up the survey data you collected for your fawn crop.

And lastly a good thing to monitor on each deer is the overall body condition.

Fat over the back straps and around the base of the tail, as well as in the body cavity, are a good indication of the health of that deer.

Each deer harvested can be checked and placed into one of three categories good, fair, and Poor.

As mentioned above, managing a wild animal is extremely difficult.

You need to utilize every opportunity to collect as much data as possible.

By collecting data and tracking the information you can establish

a trend of what is happening on your property.

This information will provide

an insight to the success of your management that otherwise would be unattainable.

Archery Season Changes; Muzzleloader Added

For the 2009-2010 there has been a few changes concerning the Archery-Only Season and a new Muzzleloader Season has been established.

With these changes, there are some recurring questions that Texas Parks and Wildlife staff has encountered.

Changes

One change for the 2009-2010 season is that crossbows are legal for any person during Archery-Only Season.

At the time of the printing of the Outdoor Annual, the TPWD Commission had not yet approved the crossbow proposal; however, it was approved during the August session.

In past years, crossbows could only be used during Archery-Only Season by hunters with upper-limb disabilities and a physician's statement.

The only county that does not allow crossbows during the Archery-Only Season is Grayson

County.

Another change is a Muzzleloader Season has been approved for the upcoming season.

Throughout South Central Texas, most counties will have this season, which runs from Jan. 4-17.

When choosing a muzzleloader, the firearm must be loaded only through the muzzle.

A cap and ball firearm in which the powder and ball are loaded into a cylinder is not a muzzleloader.

In all cases, the muzzleloader bag limit falls within the county bag limit.

So, if you are in a county with antler restrictions, these restrictions still apply.

If you are in a two-buck county, and you have harvested two-bucks prior to muzzleloader season, you cannot harvest any more bucks for that county.

Additionally, if a permit is required to harvest antlerless

deer during the general season, then a permit is required during muzzleloader season.

If you have used your permits prior to muzzleloader season, you cannot harvest any more antlerless deer.

The muzzleloader season increases hunting opportunity by allowing a 'longer' season with a different type of weapon, it does not increase overall bag limits.

Please check your Outdoor Annual to see if the county you hunt has a muzzleloader season.

This season was not implemented in every Texas county.

Also, remember that during muzzleloader season, the only legal method is muzzleloaders, archery equipment is not legal.

Not Changed

The Archery-Only Season runs from Oct. 3 through Nov. 6.

It seems there has been some confusion if antlerless deer are legal during the Archery-Only Season and are permits required?

The answer is that statewide you can harvest antlerless deer during Archery-Only Season without permits.

This is the same as it has been for a long time.

In the Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual (2009-2010) it is stated on page 70, "No Permit Is Required To Take Antlerless Deer During An Archery-Only Season, Except On MLD Properties."

So, trying to not confuse the matter anymore, if the property that you hunt has been issued Managed Lands Deer permits for antlerless deer, then you need to use them.

If the property has not been issued MLD permits, you can still harvest antlerless deer by simply using license tags.

If you have any questions, please contact either your local Texas Parks and Wildlife office or your local Game Warden.

Texas Crop Weather Report

The Texas Field Office released the following report regarding Texas agriculture for the week of September 21 to 27.

Agricultural Summary

The southern part of the state received up to six inches of rainfall while the eastern and northern part of the state observed up to two inches of moisture.

The rest of the state received moderate amounts of moisture.

Winter wheat planting continued and sorghum harvest was active in the Northern High Plains.

In the Northern Low Plains, cotton continued to open and recent rainfall improved wheat growing conditions.

Wheat planting progressed well in the Southern Low Plains due to adequate moisture.

In the Trans-Pecos, pecans continued to mature and recent hail damaged cotton.

Cotton harvest continued in southern areas of the state.

Cool and damp conditions continued to delay corn harvest in the High Plains.

Supplemental feeding of livestock continued in localized areas of the state, however, supplementation declined due to improved pasture conditions.

Range and pastures progressed well due to the recent rainfall across most of the state, however, the southern part of the state continued to be in need of moisture.

Top soil moisture was mostly short to adequate across the state.

Small Grains

Winter wheat planting continued in the Northern High Plains.

Recent rainfall improved wheat growing conditions in the Northern Low Plains and Cross Timbers.

Wheat planting progressed well in the Southern Low Plains due to adequate moisture.

Recent moisture in South Central Texas improved wheat and oat planting conditions.

Cotton

In the Northern High Plains, cotton continued to be in need of heat units and dry weather.

Producers sprayed defoliant on cotton to help open bolls in the Southern High Plains.

Cotton continued to open in

Sunflower harvest was delayed in the Coastal Bend due to the recent rainfall.

In South Central Texas, sweet potato harvest was delayed due to the recent rainfall.

Recently planted cabbage progressed well due to the recent rainfall in South Texas.

Pecans

In the Trans-Pecos, pecans continued to mature and shuck and nut separation was near.

Livestock, Range and Pasture Report

Supplemental feeding of livestock continued in localized areas of the state, however, supplementation declined due to improved pasture conditions.

Stock tank levels in some areas of the state continued to be replenished due to the recent rainfall.

Weaning and selling of livestock continued in localized parts of the state.

In areas of the state where rainfall was received, producers were waiting for hay fields to dry out before the final cutting.

Army worms and feral hogs caused damage to hay meadows in East Texas.

Range and pastures progressed well due to the recent rainfall across most of the state, however, the southern part of the state continued to be in need of moisture.

Range and pasture condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Columbus Livestock Co.
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Sale Every Thursday
10:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
CATTLE ON HAND - 767
HORSES-0 GOATS-0 DONKEY-0
OF SELLERS - 138
PACKER COWS
Higher dressing utility & cutter cows 42-52
Lower dressing utility & cutter cows 32-42
Thin Cows 24-35
PACKER BULLS
Heavyweight bulls 54-62
Utility cutter bulls 45-50
STEERS
#1 #2
150-300 lbs 112-142 94-112
300-400 lbs 110-135 94-109
400-500 lbs 105-120 89-102
500-600 lbs 95-110 88-96
600-700 lbs 89-100 75-85
700-800 lbs 82-92 73-83
HEIFERS
#1 #2
150-300 lbs 104-132 97-109
300-400 lbs 94-127 88-104
400-500 lbs 94-112 86-102
500-600 lbs 93-105 78-95
600-700 lbs 81-94 68-84
700-800 lbs 80-89 68-78
STOCKER COWS
Good Stocker Cow/ Calf Pairs 800-950
Medium Cow/calf Pairs 600-800
Common Cow/calf Pairs 500-650
Good Stocker Cows & Heifers 600-850
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers 400-600

82nd Annual
AUSTIN COUNTY FAIR & RODEO
OCTOBER 7-11, 2009

Grupo Enamorate & Los Desididos

Los 6 de Durango

Randy Rogers & Band

Kyle Park

Jake Owen

Todd Fritsch

Mickey & the Motorcars

Eli Young Band

Grady Skelton Band

OCTOBER 7TH

OCTOBER 8TH

OCTOBER 9TH

OCTOBER 10TH

OCTOBER 11TH
Polka Party

BELLVILLE
American Country Music & Entertainment

opening act
Grady Skelton Band

Fairgrounds in Bellville, TX

OCTOBER WOMEN'S HEALTH SPECIALS

Mammography - \$95
Digital Mammography - \$135
Bone Density Scan - \$75

Regular health screening tests are an important part of preventative health care. They can help ensure that serious diseases and conditions are detected and treated.

South Texas Medical Clinics, P.A.
stxmc.com

Mammography located in Bay City & Rosenberg
Digital Mammography in Wharton
*Saturday appointments are available

Bay City 245.9754 • Wharton 532.1700 • Rosenberg 281.342.6006

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