

2013 Deer Trustee Implementation Survey

Thank you for participating in this survey. Wisconsin's deer program managers have relied on the data and feedback provided by hunters, farmers, landowners and others around the state to help guide the decisions that are made regarding deer management. These decisions directly affect your enjoyment of white-tailed deer and white-tailed deer hunting, and we take that responsibility seriously. Your feedback will provide valuable input on the future of deer management in Wisconsin to the Deer Trustee Report Action Teams as well as the Wisconsin DNR. In addition to the hunting public, the DNR and Natural Resources Board also want to hear from those who don't hunt and encourage non-hunters to complete the survey.

Section I: Introductory Questions

1. In which Wisconsin county is your primary residence?

County	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Adams	60	0.6
Ashland	52	0.6
Barron	114	1.2
Bayfield	89	1.0
Brown	256	2.7
Buffalo	135	1.4
Burnett	97	1.0
Calumet	86	0.9
Chippewa	135	1.4
Clark	75	0.8
Columbia	149	1.6
Crawford	31	0.3
Dane	535	5.7
Dodge	171	1.8
Door	52	0.6
Douglas	121	1.3
Dunn	102	1.1
Eau Claire	168	1.8
Florence	29	0.3
Fond du Lac	161	1.7
Forest	37	0.4
Grant	67	0.7
Green	53	0.6
Green Lake	61	0.7
Iowa	68	0.7
Iron	31	0.3
Jackson	73	0.8
Jefferson	149	1.6
Juneau	76	0.8
Kenosha	111	1.2
Kewaunee	51	0.5
La Crosse	142	1.5

-Continued on next page-

County	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Lafayette	22	0.2
Langlade	38	0.4
Lincoln	95	1.0
Manitowoc	130	1.4
Marathon	230	2.5
Marinette	131	1.4
Marquette	56	0.6
Menominee	2	0.0
Milwaukee	310	3.3
Monroe	65	0.7
Oconto	106	1.1
Oneida	129	1.4
Outagamie	329	3.5
Ozaukee	110	1.2
Pepin	38	0.4
Pierce	99	1.1
Polk	140	1.5
Portage	133	1.4
Price	93	1.0
Racine	157	1.7
Richland	36	0.4
Rock	153	1.6
Rusk	56	0.6
St. Croix	194	2.1
Sauk	145	1.6
Sawyer	92	1.0
Shawano	103	1.1
Sheboygan	143	1.5
Taylor	54	0.6
Trempealeau	113	1.2
Vernon	62	0.7
Vilas	93	1.0
Walworth	113	1.2
Washburn	93	1.0
Washington	243	2.6
Waukesha	460	4.9
Waupaca	120	1.3
Waushara	85	0.9
Winnebago	220	2.4
Wood	165	1.8
Unknown	2	0.0
Non-Resident	640	6.9

2. Do you own any land that is managed for timber harvesting and/or land that is farmed, including land rented to others? **(Check one for each)**

Timber	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	2,483	27.4
No	6,571	72.6

No Answer = 291

Farmed	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	2,066	23.6
No	6,673	76.4

No Answer = 606

3. Which of the following describes your interest in Wisconsin's white-tailed deer? **(Check Yes or No for each item)**

Interest	Yes	No
I am a deer hunter	9,024 97.1%	267 2.9%
I enjoy the aesthetic, non-hunting value of deer	6,492 80.7%	1,553 19.3%
I own/work at a game farm	66 0.9%	7,623 99.1%
I am a taxidermist	115 1.5%	7,580 98.5%
I am a meat processor	249 3.2%	7,446 96.8%
I regard deer as a nuisance	478 6.3%	7,167 93.8%

4. How do you describe yourself as a deer hunter? **(Check one)**

Describe	# of Responses	Percent (%)
I am NOT a deer hunter	306	3.3
I am strictly a trophy buck hunter	1,038	11.1
I am strictly a buck hunter, but will take any antlered buck	613	6.6
I prefer to shoot an antlered buck, but will shoot an antlerless deer	5,282	56.5
I am satisfied to shoot any deer	1,856	19.9
I prefer to shoot an antlerless deer, but will shoot an antlered buck	231	2.5
I am strictly an antlerless deer hunter	16	0.2

No Answer = 3

5. Below is a list of possible motivations for deer hunting. Please indicate how important each item is for why you go deer hunting. **(Circle one number for each item)**

Motivation	Unsure	Very important	Fairly important	Not too important	Not at all important
To be with family and friends	11 0.1%	5,787 66.3%	2,090 23.9%	637 7.3%	207 2.4%
To relax from daily pressures	12 0.1%	5,078 58.2%	2,621 30.0%	778 8.9%	242 2.8%
To be away from home	32 0.4%	1,671 19.2%	1,867 21.4%	3,190 36.6%	1,966 22.5%
To spend time in nature	4 0.1%	6,520 74.7%	2,014 23.1%	153 1.8%	39 0.5%
To see deer	2 0.0%	5,473 62.7%	2,794 32.0%	398 4.6%	66 0.8%
To see wildlife other than deer	4 0.1%	4,609 52.8%	3,509 40.2%	549 6.3%	58 0.7%
To get a shot at a deer	15 0.2%	2,358 27.0%	4,157 47.6%	1,929 22.1%	275 3.2%
To harvest a deer	7 0.1%	2,270 26.0%	4,191 48.0%	1,992 22.8%	269 3.1%
To harvest a trophy	27 0.3%	1,554 17.8%	2,556 29.3%	3,329 38.1%	1,265 14.5%
To provide food for my house	24 0.3%	2,603 29.8%	3,050 34.9%	2,161 24.8%	894 10.2%
To provide food for food pantries	439 5.0%	316 3.6%	1,165 13.4%	3,247 37.2%	3,558 40.8%
To help control deer damage	207 2.4%	912 10.5%	2,319 26.6%	2,956 33.9%	2,334 26.7%
To help reduce deer numbers	333 3.8%	641 7.4%	1,838 21.1%	2,785 31.9%	3,130 35.9%

6. In which deer management unit (DMU) do you deer hunt most frequently?

Region	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Central Forest	648	6.9
Eastern Farmland	1,539	16.5
Northern Forest	2,965	31.7
Southern Farmland	1,996	21.4
Unknown Unit	802	8.6
Western Farmland	1,395	14.9

7. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check one)

Type	Both gun and bow (or crossbow)	Gun only	Bow (or crossbow) only
Central Forest	430	192	26
	66.4%	29.6%	4.0%
Eastern Farmland	1,123	348	68
	73.0%	22.6%	4.4%
Northern Forest	1,849	993	123
	62.3%	33.5%	4.2%
Southern Farmland	1,374	491	130
	68.9%	24.6%	6.5%
Unknown Unit	96	79	19
	49.5%	40.7%	9.8%
Western Farmland	965	349	81
	69.2%	25.0%	5.8%
Statewide	5,837	2,452	447
	66.8%	28.1%	5.1%

8. How many years have you hunted deer in this DMU?

Years	Mean
Central Forest	24.8
Eastern Farmland	24.8
Northern Forest	24.6
Southern Farmland	23.5
Unknown Unit	13.1
Western Farmland	22.1
Statewide	23.5

9. What statement best describes where you deer hunt in the DMU? (Check one)

Where	Exclusively on private land	Mostly on private land	About equally on private and public land	Exclusively on public land	Mostly on public land
Central Forest	187	140	77	91	153
	28.9%	21.6%	11.9%	14.0%	23.6%
Eastern Farmland	877	390	134	73	65
	57.0%	25.3%	8.7%	4.7%	4.2%
Northern Forest	706	580	539	490	650
	23.8%	19.6%	18.2%	16.5%	21.9%
Southern Farmland	1,149	459	171	100	117
	57.6%	23.0%	8.6%	5.0%	5.9%
Unknown Unit	96	31	16	28	22
	49.7%	16.1%	8.3%	14.5%	11.4%
Western Farmland	855	352	94	53	40
	61.3%	25.3%	6.7%	3.8%	2.9%
Statewide	3,870	1,952	1,031	835	1,047
	44.3%	22.3%	11.8%	9.6%	12.0%

10. Have you personally, or a member of your hunting party, hunted deer using bait?
 (Check one for each column)

Bait (Myself)	No	Yes, during both archery and gun	Yes, only during archery	Yes, only during gun
Central Forest	509	75	44	15
	79.2%	11.7%	6.8%	2.3%
Eastern Farmland	959	318	171	81
	62.7%	20.8%	11.2%	5.3%
Northern Forest	1,350	895	276	412
	46.1%	30.5%	9.4%	14.1%
Southern Farmland	1,751	117	89	28
	88.2%	5.9%	4.5%	1.4%
Unknown Unit	145	20	10	14
	76.7%	10.6%	5.3%	7.4%
Western Farmland	980	203	152	50
	70.8%	14.7%	11.0%	3.6%
Statewide	5,694	1,628	742	600
	65.7%	19.0%	8.6%	6.9%

Bait (Hunting Party)	No	Yes, during both archery and gun	Yes, only during archery	Yes, only during gun
Central Forest	477	97	33	20
	76.1%	15.5%	5.3%	3.2%
Eastern Farmland	862	370	106	98
	60.0%	25.8%	7.4%	6.8%
Northern Forest	1,142	1,003	176	455
	41.2%	36.1%	6.3%	16.4%
Southern Farmland	1,676	138	59	34
	87.9%	7.2%	3.1%	1.8%
Unknown Unit	135	32	7	8
	74.2%	17.6%	3.9%	4.4%
Western Farmland	923	226	112	57
	70.0%	17.2%	8.5%	4.3%
Statewide	5,215	1,866	493	672
	63.2%	22.6%	6.0%	8.1%

11. Thinking about your last few deer hunting seasons, overall how satisfied are you with your Wisconsin deer hunting experiences? **(Check one)**

Satisfied	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Not too satisfied	Not at all satisfied
Central Forest	40 6.2%	181 27.9%	88 13.6%	203 31.3%	136 21.0%
Eastern Farmland	217 14.1%	585 38.0%	211 13.7%	362 23.5%	164 10.7%
Northern Forest	274 9.2%	808 27.3%	403 13.6%	932 31.4%	548 18.5%
Southern Farmland	308 15.5%	725 36.4%	282 14.2%	473 23.7%	205 10.3%
Unknown Unit	38 19.4%	65 33.2%	34 17.4%	36 18.4%	23 11.7%
Western Farmland	324 23.2%	546 39.1%	185 13.3%	259 18.6%	81 5.8%
Statewide	1,201 13.7%	2,910 33.3%	1,203 13.8%	2,265 25.9%	1,157 13.2%

Section II: Deer Management Assistance Program

These questions are intended to measure support for, and landowner interest in, a Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP). Many states have DMAPs and although they differ from state to state, they generally have a goal of providing professional assistance to landowners for managing the deer which frequent their land. In Wisconsin, we feel that we can create a program that provides improved communication between landowners, hunters and the DNR by working with landowners to improve management on their land for all wildlife including deer.

1. Do you own 10 or more acres of land in Wisconsin?

Own	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	4,321	47.9
No	4,704	52.1

No Answer = 319

2. Is the property enrolled in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program or other conservation programs?
(Check one)

MFL	# of Responses	Percent (%)
No	2,614	63.6
Yes, the MFL program only	1,116	27.1
Yes, both the MFL and other conservation programs	214	5.2
Yes, other conservation programs but not the MFL	164	4.0

3. Below is a list of possible components of a DMAP for Wisconsin. Please tell us which components, if any, would make DMAP valuable to you. **(Check Yes or No for each item)**

DMAP	Yes	No
A property-specific management plan	2,225 54.4%	1,869 45.7%
On-site recommendations for habitat improvements	2,686 65.6%	1,411 34.4%
On-site recommendations for timber harvesting from your land to improve deer habitat	2,308 56.4%	1,786 43.6%
Instruction on how to age harvested deer	1,852 45.2%	2,243 54.8%
Instruction on conducting deer health assessments	2,169 53.0%	1,924 47.0%
Information on how to enroll in the Managed Forest program	1,041 25.5%	3,050 74.6%
On-site recommendations for deer harvest goals for your land	1,839 44.9%	2,256 55.1%
Landowner distribution of antlerless permits valid within established deer seasons	1,938 47.4%	2,155 52.7%
A personal walk-through of your property with a wildlife biologist	2,402 58.6%	1,694 41.4%
A personal walk-through of your property with a forester	2,222 54.2%	1,872 45.7%
Instruction on installing food plots	2,312 56.5%	1,783 43.5%
Instruction on monitoring local deer population trends	2,468 60.3%	1,626 39.7%
Information on how to decrease or increase deer on your land	2,745 67.1%	1,350 33.0%
Access to online discussion groups or audio-video resources	1,733 42.4%	2,359 57.7%
Habitat recommendations for wildlife other than deer	2,819 68.8%	1,278 31.2%
Forming management co-operatives with neighboring landowners	2,151 52.6%	1,941 47.4%

4. How appealing to you would a DMAP be if it included the components listed in the previous question? **(Check one)**

Appeal	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Very appealing	1,079	26.3
Fairly appealing	1,687	41.1
Not too appealing	584	14.2
Not at all appealing	434	10.6
Unsure	319	7.8

No Answer: 218

5. Some DMAPs in other states require landowners to follow certain management practices. These practices vary but could include a recommended antlerless harvest with landowner input, data collection and submittal, timber harvest and other habitat enhancements. How likely would you be to enroll in DMAP if it required you to follow the management practices below?

(Circle one number for each item)

Practice	Unsure	Very likely	Fairly likely	Not too likely	Not at all likely
Recommended antlerless harvest	229	659	1,259	824	1,125
	5.6%	16.1%	30.7%	20.1%	27.5%
Data collection and submittal	210	845	1,577	637	811
	5.1%	20.7%	38.7%	15.6%	19.9%
Timber harvest	220	618	1,301	895	1,035
	5.4%	15.2%	32.0%	22.0%	25.4%
Other habitat enhancements	254	857	1,592	595	765
	6.3%	21.1%	39.2%	14.6%	18.8%

6. It is unclear at this time how funds to support a DMAP would be generated. Other states charge a DMAP enrollment fee in exchange for the services listed in question 3. How willing would you be to pay for professional assistance by enrolling in Wisconsin's DMAP? **(Check one)**

Pay	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Very willing	196	4.8
Fairly willing	1,116	27.2
Not too willing	1,201	29.3
Not at all willing	1,226	29.9
Unsure	362	8.8

No Answer = 220

- 6A. If willing, what would you consider a reasonable cost for your property per year for professional assistance through a DMAP?

\$19.61 per acre **(Mean)** OR a flat fee of \$320.04 **(Mean)**

7. Even **if you do not own 10 acres or more of land** in Wisconsin we're still interested in your opinion about DMAP. Do you believe that DMAP is a program the DNR should initiate? **(Check one)**

Initiate	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	1,360	29.0
No	879	18.8
Unsure	2,444	52.2

7A. If No or Unsure, what are some of the reasons that you oppose or are unsure of DMAP?
(Check all that apply)

Oppose	# of Responses	Percent (%)
I need more details about the program	2,471	45.7
I do not believe DMAP will benefit the deer herd	480	8.9
DMAP will not benefit non-landowners	420	7.8
DMAP will not benefit non-hunters	123	2.3
DMAP will further "privatize" the deer herd	794	14.7
There are issues more important than DMAP which require the DNR's attention	644	11.9
There are issues more important than DMAP which require increased DNR funding	480	8.9

Section III: Deer Research and Science

These questions will identify the important factors and metrics Wisconsin should track to monitor Wisconsin's deer herd. They will provide the DNR with diverse information on the impact deer have on other resources, public satisfaction with deer numbers and deer-human interactions.

1. How much importance should be assigned to each of the following approaches for monitoring the state's deer herd and its impact on other resources including deer-human interactions? Use the scale below where:

Importance	No Opinion/ Unsure	A lot of importance	Moderate importance	Little importance	No importance at all
Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer	156 1.9%	1,361 16.3%	4,357 52.2%	1,952 23.4%	517 6.2%
Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species and/or understory	138 1.7%	2,117 25.4%	3,986 47.8%	1,666 20.0%	432 5.2%
Population, impacts and distribution of predators	113 1.4%	3,805 45.6%	3,176 38.1%	1,020 12.2%	224 2.7%
Amount of deer mortality during an average winter	92 1.1%	2,821 33.8%	3,993 47.9%	1,235 14.8%	198 2.4%
Population models based on the previous year's harvest and aging data	162 1.9%	1,928 23.1%	3,985 47.8%	1,821 21.8%	444 5.3%
Deer over-browsing of food and cover needed by deer	129 1.6%	2,335 28.0%	4,096 49.2%	1,507 18.1%	267 3.2%
Deer over-browsing of food and cover needed by other wildlife	134 1.6%	2,139 25.7%	3,892 46.7%	1,858 22.3%	311 3.7%
The number of deer-vehicle accidents	123 1.5%	1,380 16.6%	2,955 35.5%	2,706 32.5%	1,170 14.0%
Potential disease risks to the deer herd	102 1.2%	3,108 37.3%	3,394 40.7%	1,353 16.2%	378 4.5%
Relationship between disease risk and deer herd management	133 1.6%	2,842 34.1%	3,490 41.9%	1,459 17.5%	409 4.9%
Trends in deer antler and body size	111 1.3%	1,743 20.9%	3,187 38.3%	2,476 29.7%	815 9.8%
Hunter satisfaction with deer hunts	76 0.9%	3,621 43.5%	3,200 38.4%	1,157 13.9%	278 3.3%
Landowner attitudes towards deer management in their area	92 1.1%	3,219 38.6%	3,557 42.7%	1,167 14.0%	302 3.6%
General public attitudes towards deer management in their area	102 1.2%	2,468 29.6%	3,419 41.0%	1,765 21.2%	579 7.0%
Annual harvest information from fall deer hunting seasons	75 0.9%	2,772 33.3%	3,985 47.8%	1,284 15.4%	218 2.6%
Information from <i>Operation Deer Watch</i> (citizen submittal of doe:fawn observations)	198 2.4%	1,359 16.3%	3,459 41.5%	2,563 30.8%	755 9.1%
Information from <i>Hunter Observation Surveys</i> (hunters submit deer seen while hunting)	133 1.6%	2,395 28.7%	3,606 43.3%	1,744 20.9%	457 5.5%
Impact of deer and deer hunting to Wisconsin's economy	85 1.0%	3,374 40.5%	3,089 37.1%	1,392 16.7%	395 4.7%

Section IV: Regulations and Seasons

These questions address issues identified in the Deer Trustee's final report on actions Wisconsin should take to establish regulations and season structures that meet the biological requirements for a sustainable deer population and also best meet the desires of the diverse publics which are interested in deer and their management.

1. Wisconsin has more than 130 deer management units (DMUs) that were developed in-part through public input. DMU boundaries take into consideration habitat type, abundance of public land, identifiable boundaries and other factors within the unit.

1A. How strongly do you support or oppose the idea of combining current DMUs so that there are fewer in number but larger in size? **(Check one)**

Combine	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Strongly support	1,175	14.2
Moderately support	2,712	32.9
Moderately oppose	1,553	18.8
Strongly oppose	1,495	18.1
Unsure	1,313	15.9

No Answer = 1,097

1B. How strongly do you support or oppose creating DMUs that follow county boundaries? **(Check one)**

County Bound	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Strongly support	1,051	12.7
Moderately support	2,865	34.7
Moderately oppose	1,655	20.1
Strongly oppose	1,281	15.5
Unsure	1,395	16.9

No Answer = 1,098

2. Currently hunters are issued one free antlerless tag with their gun and archery license that is valid only in certain units. There is no limit to the number of additional antlerless permits a hunter can purchase in DMUs where leftover permits are available. It has been recommended to limit permit issuance for each individual. How strongly do you support or oppose limiting the number of antlerless permits a hunter can purchase for a specific DMU? **(Check one)**

Antlerless	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Strongly support	3,603	43.7
Moderately support	2,240	27.2
Moderately oppose	1,073	13.0
Strongly oppose	1,044	12.7
Unsure	287	3.5

No Answer = 1,098

3. It has been recommended to limit the number of antlerless permits that can be purchased for a DMU to two to four as a way to address some complaints that some hunters are harvesting too many deer. This limit would be in addition to the free antlerless tag received with their gun and archery license. How strongly do you support or oppose limiting the number of additional antlerless permits a hunter can purchase for a specific DMU to two to four? **(Check one)**

Antlerless	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Strongly support	3,918	47.5
Moderately support	2,150	26.1
Moderately oppose	862	10.5
Strongly oppose	974	11.8
Unsure	343	4.2

No Answer = 1,098

4. Currently, within the CWD Management Zone (MZ) antlerless carcass tags are free of charge. It has been suggested that this system gives the impression that deer have little value and that charging a modest fee would signify a positive value for deer. The funds generated from the fee could be earmarked for CWD monitoring, research and outreach. As a result, it has been recommended that a fee be charged for antlerless permits in the CWD MZ. Do you believe that antlerless permits in the CWD MZ should remain free or should they have a fee similar to antlerless permits in other units? **(Check one)**

Free	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Definitely remain free	1,278	15.5
Probably remain free	1,374	16.7
Probably have a fee	2,330	28.3
Definitely have a fee	2,629	31.9
Unsure	631	7.7

No Answer = 1,103

- 4A. If you believe there should be a fee for additional antlerless permits in the CWD MZ, what would you recommend as a reasonable fee?

\$19.14 per antlerless permit **(Mean)** OR \$100.97 for a set of four antlerless permits **(Mean)**

5. It has been recommended that creating antlerless permits specifically for use on public lands would demonstrate a value of those lands and address concerns about potential overharvest of antlerless deer on those lands, especially on the large public lands in the north. How strongly do you support or oppose creating antlerless permits for public land deer hunting? **(Check one)**

Public	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Strongly support	1,852	23.0
Moderately support	2,255	28.0
Moderately oppose	1,255	15.6
Strongly oppose	1,786	22.1
Unsure	916	11.4

No Answer = 1,281

6. Now consider future deer seasons and the issuance of antlerless permits in general. What type of antlerless permit system do you believe would be most appropriate for your DMU? **(Check one)**

Permit	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Zero antlerless deer permits (means buck-only during gun and archery seasons)	531	6.6
Small number of antlerless deer permits at \$12 each	1,852	23.0
Enough antlerless deer permits so that most hunters who want a permit can get one	2,582	32.0
Enough antlerless deer permits at \$2 each so that all hunters are able to get one or	1,474	18.3
Enough free antlerless deer permits in counties with CWD+ deer so that all hunters receive as many free antlerless deer permits as they want	316	3.9
Some other system	976	12.1
Unsure or no opinion	335	4.2
No Answer = 1,279		

7. It has been recommended that the current mandatory in-person registration system be maintained for the 9-day gun deer season but it should be replaced during all other seasons with an automated system that allows people to register their deer by placing a phone call or registering through the Internet. How strongly do you support or oppose a statewide automated system for registering harvested deer during each of the following seasons? **(Check one for each season)**

Automated	Strongly support	Moderately support	Moderately oppose	Strongly oppose	Unsure
9-day Gun Deer Season	2,914	1,248	870	2,820	206
	36.2%	15.5%	10.8%	35.0%	2.6%
Archery Season	3,345	1,418	749	2,317	224
	41.5%	17.6%	9.3%	28.8%	2.8%
All other deer seasons	3,111	1,453	808	2,379	303
	38.6%	18.0%	10.0%	29.5%	3.8%

For the next question, “bait” is defined as any material placed or used to attract wild animals, including liquid scent and feed that is used for hunting purposes, but does not include plain drinking water or decoys. “Feed” is defined as any material that may attract or be consumed by wild animals that is placed for any non-hunting purpose including recreational and supplemental feeding, but does not include plain drinking water or decoys. In addition, State Statutes indicate that crops planted and left standing as wildlife feed plots are not considered bait. Any recommendations regarding baiting and feeding as a result of the Deer Trustee’s review, and any subsequent rules, will pertain to deer only.

8. The Deer Trustee reported that the primary concerns heard about baiting deer were the effects on deer behavior (deer becoming nocturnal), potential conflicts between hunters on public lands and other causes for concern, especially transmission of diseases. The Deer Trustee recommended that given the extent of CWD in the Farmland Regions and the discovery of CWD in northwest Wisconsin, it is time to resolve the baiting and feeding issue as soon as possible. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with each statement about deer baiting and deer feeding. **(Circle one number for each item)**

Bait	Unsure	Definitely agree	Probably agree	Probably disagree	Definitely disagree
All deer hunters should be allowed to use bait	192 2.4%	1,636 20.3%	1,329 16.5%	1,145 14.2%	3,755 46.6%
Only elderly and disabled hunters should be allowed to use bait	318 4.0%	828 10.3%	1,170 14.5%	1,538 19.1%	4,198 52.1%
Baiting should be banned for all deer hunters	248 3.1%	2,743 34.1%	897 11.1%	1,224 15.2%	2,939 36.5%
Deer feeding should be allowed year-round near homes	326 4.1%	1,616 20.1%	1,810 22.5%	1,377 17.1%	2,925 36.3%
Deer feeding should be banned year-round	363 4.5%	1,940 24.1%	809 10.0%	1,589 19.7%	3,353 41.6%
Deer feeding should not be allowed during the gun deer season	257 3.2%	3,622 45.0%	1,224 15.2%	953 11.8%	2,002 24.8%

Section V: Deer Herd Health and Chronic Wasting Disease

Your answers to these questions will help guide the DNR in its continued management of CWD. If needed, please refer to DNR staff for information on CWD and the DNR's CWD response plan.

1. CWD is a contagious neurological disease of deer, moose and elk that results in the destruction of brain tissue and results in death of infected animals. The Wisconsin DNR began active surveillance for CWD in 1999 and first detected the disease in Wisconsin in February 2002. The detection prompted an even greater surveillance effort in Wisconsin that continues today. Overall, there has been an increasing trend in CWD prevalence in all sex and age classes of deer in the core areas of southern Wisconsin. Further, a total of six CWD-positive deer outside of the CWD Management Zone were detected in 2012 and 2013. Knowing this information, how concerned, if at all, are you about CWD in Wisconsin's white-tailed deer population? **(Check one)**

Concerned	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Very concerned	2,515	33.0
Fairly concerned	2,286	30.0
Not too concerned	1,853	24.3
Not at all concerned	880	11.5
Unsure	92	1.2

No Answer = 1,719

2. We'd like to know how concerned you would be about eating wild venison from a Wisconsin deer that was harvested from a deer management unit where CWD had been found. Below are three possibilities for eating wild deer meat. How concerned would you be about eating venison from a deer that was harvested from a CWD unit if it was ... **(Circle one number for each item)**

Eat	Unsure	Very concerned	Fairly concerned	Not too concerned	Not at all concerned
Not tested for CWD	136 1.8%	1,429 18.7%	1,867 24.5%	2,648 34.7%	1,545 20.3%
Was tested and no evidence was found that the deer was infected with CWD	93 1.2%	249 3.3%	586 7.7%	2,384 31.3%	4,309 56.5%
Was tested and evidence was found that the deer was infected with CWD	224 2.9%	3,933 51.6%	1,550 20.3%	1,257 16.5%	658 8.6%

3. In response to the initial discovery of CWD in 2002, the DNR took an aggressive approach to disease eradication by attempting to significantly reduce the deer herd in focused, localized areas where the infected deer were harvested. The Deer Trustee Report further recommends focusing on early detection of "breakouts" by responding to new positives **outside of the CWD Management Zone** with a fast response to determine the extent of disease distribution; once the geographic extent is determined, the response action should be focused, localized disease (not deer) eradication. How strongly do you support or oppose the DNR taking an aggressive approach as described above to future CWD management **outside of the current Management Zone**? **(Check one)**

Future	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Strongly support	2,334	30.6
Moderately support	2,485	32.6
Moderately oppose	1,042	13.7
Strongly oppose	1,142	15.0
Unsure	618	8.1

No Answer = 1,724

4. The Deer Trustee Report also recommends that it is time for the DNR to consider a more passive approach to CWD in the Management Zone. A passive approach, however, has not been well-defined. Which of the following management options do you think define a passive approach to CWD management **within the Management Zone?** (Check all that apply)

Passive	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Eliminate additional gun deer hunting opportunities outside of the 9-day gun deer season	2,168	16.0
Eliminate “bonus buck” regulations, limiting hunters to one buck per license	2,730	20.2
Discontinue unlimited availability of antlerless deer permits	3,026	22.4
Discontinue CWD surveillance to monitor its trends in disease prevalence and distribution	632	4.7
Only test deer for CWD at the request of the hunter (do not monitor CWD spread and prevalence)	1,328	9.8
Do not make any changes. A passive approach is already in place due to the elimination of the October antlerless gun hunt, elimination of earn-a-buck, suspension of the Jan-March landowner season, and suspension of sharpshooting since the winter of 2006-07.	3,636	26.9

5. How strongly do you support or oppose the DNR taking a passive approach (as you defined above) to future CWD management **within the current Management Zone?** (Check one)

Support	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Strongly support	1,924	25.3
Moderately support	3,096	40.7
Moderately oppose	838	11.0
Strongly oppose	873	11.5
Unsure	878	11.5

No Answer = 1,736

6. Geographic distribution of CWD shows that the disease is not evenly distributed throughout the CWD MZ. Prevalence is higher near the centers of each area of infection and declines with increasing distance from the center. It has been recommended that new sampling protocol be developed to detect CWD spread. What strategies would you support or oppose being used by the DNR to detect CWD spread?

(Check one for each strategy)

Strategies	Support	Oppose	Unsure
Collect samples from hunter-harvested deer from targeted focus areas	6,648	463	500
	87.4%	6.1%	6.6%
Collect CWD samples from car-killed deer	6,583	500	529
	86.5%	6.6%	7.0%
Collect samples from deer brought to licensed taxidermists	5,046	1,318	1,244
	66.3%	17.3%	16.4%

7. In early 2012 and in early 2013 six new cases of CWD were detected, each in new areas outside of the CWD Management Zone (one in Washburn County and one each in Adams, Juneau, Portage, Grant and Waukesha counties). Prior to reading this survey, were you aware of these recent CWD detections?

(Check one)

Aware	# of Responses	Percent (%)
I was aware of all of them	2,280	29.9
I was aware of some of them	3,561	46.8
I was not aware of any of these new detections	1,775	23.3

No Answer = 1,729

8. In response to the new positive detections outside the CWD Management Zone the DNR has not implemented localized, intensive deer reduction efforts as was done during CWD's first years in Wisconsin. Instead, the DNR response to date has been to implement surveillance and reduce its management response actions. How strongly do you support or oppose each of the following surveillance and management actions to these new CWD detections? **(Check one for each item)**

Actions	Support	Oppose	Unsure
Testing vehicle-killed	6,521	576	508
	85.8%	7.6%	6.7%
Testing deer displaying CWD	7,161	215	235
	94.1%	2.8%	3.1%
Testing deer harvested via agricultural damage	5,673	967	968
	74.6%	12.7%	12.7%
Testing hunter harvested deer during the fall deer season	5,607	1,031	968
	73.7%	13.6%	12.7%
Issuance of landowner permits valid through March to allow the additional harvest and testing of deer	2,615	3,703	1,283
	34.4%	48.7%	16.9%
Enacting a ban on feeding and baiting of deer (State Statute)	3,886	2,820	902
	51.1%	37.1%	11.9%
Enacting a ban on deer rehabilitation (DNR policy)	2,390	1,828	3,387
	31.4%	24.0%	44.5%

9. There are also additional management actions and control measures the DNR can take if a new CWD+ deer is detected. What responses by the DNR would you support or oppose if a new CWD+ deer is detected? **(Check one for each item)**

Response	Support	Oppose	Unsure
Rapid response. Deploy a team to respond quickly to CWD outbreaks, assess the geographic extent, and conduct focused and localized herd reduction.	3,619	2,444	1,542
	47.6%	32.1%	20.3%
Provide additional days of hunting opportunity to reduce deer density	3,152	3,152	1,302
	41.4%	41.4%	17.1%
Issue landowner permits to authorize removal and testing of deer on private land	3,795	2,663	1,148
	49.9%	35.0%	15.1%
Do nothing – CWD is part of the deer herd and we need to accept it	2,017	3,728	1,852
	26.6%	49.1%	24.4%

10. CWD surveillance has been continually conducted since 2002 in the southern portions of the state and routinely on a rotating basis throughout the rest of the state. Until recently, the CWD Management Zone encompassed all the known locations of CWD test-positive free-ranging deer in southern Wisconsin counties. The Management Zone is where special rules, regulations and management actions have historically been implemented to reduce deer densities to prevent new introductions, to control the distribution and prevalence of CWD and contain the disease to keep it from spreading. Since 2012, six CWD+ deer have been detected outside the Management Zone. These new positives cause us to question if the CWD Management Zone boundary should remain in effect. Which of the following options best reflect your opinion? **(Check one)**

Boundary	# of Responses	Percent (%)
The boundary should remain in effect and the DNR should maintain what it's been doing (continue scientific disease surveillance and maintain current hunting season regulations)	1,608	21.2
The boundary should remain in effect and the DNR should step up its efforts to contain CWD in the Management Zone and re-implement management actions that will aid in reducing deer density (which may include Earn-A-Buck, October gun hunt, extended hunting opportunities, and/or sharpshooting)	905	11.9
The boundary should be eliminated as it has no meaning now that CWD has been found outside of the zone	1,951	25.7
The boundary should be expanded to include new CWD+ detections	1,253	16.5
I'm unsure	1,880	24.7

No Answer = 1,748

For the next question, "bait" is defined as any material placed or used to attract wild animals, including liquid scent and feed that is used for hunting purposes, but does not include plain drinking water or decoys. "Feed" is defined as any material that may attract or be consumed by wild animals that is placed for any non-hunting purpose including recreational and supplemental feeding, but does not include plain drinking water or decoys. In addition, State Statutes indicate that crops planted and left standing as wildlife feed plots are not considered bait. Any recommendations regarding baiting and feeding as a result of the Deer Trustee's review, and any subsequent rules, will pertain to deer only.

11. Baiting and feeding of deer in the CWD Management Zone is prohibited because scientific research has found that baiting and feeding can concentrate deer which can lead to disease transmission risk via urine, feces, and saliva. For this reason, baiting and feeding were not considered separately but were both prohibited. It has been recommended that the baiting and feeding issue be resolved for the remainder of the state outside CWD affected areas. Which of the following statements best represents your opinion? **(Check one)**

Feed	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Baiting and feeding activities should be banned statewide	3,348	44.0
Current baiting and feeding regulations should remain -- the activities are banned where CWD has been found and allowed where CWD has not been found	2,181	28.6
Baiting and feeding activities should be allowed statewide regardless of where CWD is found in the state	1,473	19.3
None of the above	612	8.0

No Answer = 1,731

12. Have you harvested an adult deer from a CWD zone?

Harvest	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	1,649	21.6
No	5,969	78.4

No Answer = 1,727

12A. If you've harvested an adult deer from a CWD zone, do you typically have it tested?
(Check one)

Tested	# of Responses	Percent (%)
I've harvested an adult deer but not had any tested	831	50.5
I've had some adult deer tested but not all	541	32.8
I've had all adult deer tested	275	16.7

No Answer = 2

12B. Hunters in the CWD Management Zone can currently have their deer tested free of charge. Would you still hunt in the CWD zone if you wanted to have your deer tested for CWD but you were charged a fee?
(Check one)

Fee	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Definitely Yes	573	34.8
Probably Yes	466	28.3
Unsure, it depends on the fee	228	13.8
Probably No	222	13.5
Definitely No	158	9.6

No Answer = 2

12C. What would you consider a reasonable fee that you would pay to have your deer tested for CWD?

I would be willing to pay \$12.16 (Mean) to have my deer tested.

13. During the first year of CWD management, the DNR sampled over 40,000 white-tailed deer and test results were provided to hunters in an average of 96 days (just over three months). With advances in science and improved testing efficiencies, the DNR is now sampling approximately 6,000 deer each year and test results are provided to hunters in an average of 21 days (three weeks). Would you say that providing test results to hunters in 21 days is acceptable or not acceptable? (Check one)

Results	# of Responses	Percent (%)
More than acceptable – it's faster than I would expect	1,743	23.0
Acceptable – three weeks seems reasonable	4,456	58.9
Not acceptable – three weeks is too slow	1,364	18.0

14. How much, if anything, would you be willing to pay to have CWD test results returned to you within a few days rather than a few weeks? If you are not willing to pay anything, please write 0.

I would be willing to pay \$7.90 (Mean) to have CWD test results within a few days.

Thank you for your valuable input and for helping us manage the white-tailed resource for everyone's enjoyment.