

# Deer Hunting Questionnaire 2019

By Brian Dhuey

## **Abstract**

After the conclusion of the 2019 deer season, hunters in Wisconsin were surveyed about their activities, efforts, expectations, weapon usage, and opinions on their hunt. Unlike previous years where survey efforts were concentrated on a single deer season, a more wholistic approach was attempted this fall with the goal of tracking all deer hunters during all seasons. Results from the survey showed that Wisconsin deer hunters spent approximately 7 million days afield in the pursuit of deer. Archery and crossbow seasons saw the most activity with approximately 4 million hunter days afield with archery tackle, followed by the 9-day firearm season where hunters spent about 2.5 million days in pursuit of deer. While opinions varied by group, overall more hunters said they had “Fun” rather than “No Fun”. Opinions on the “current state of deer hunting” were almost equal between those who are satisfied and dissatisfied.

## **Methods**

A survey was mailed to approximately 10,000 licensed deer hunters after the completion of the 2019 deer seasons (Figure 1). The sample was drawn from the 2019 deer license sales database in proportion to license types purchased. The questionnaire included specific questions about the days and units in which deer hunters hunted as well as the type of weapons used (archery, crossbow, or firearm), and opinions on and satisfaction with deer hunting in Wisconsin. A second mailing was sent to all non-respondents. Data from all returned questionnaires were entered into the DNR production server and summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

Survey participants were categorized into 4 basic response groupings based on their answers to survey questions or their age. The 4 response grouping categories were; age of respondent, their preferred weapon type (vertical bow/crossbow/firearm), the land type they hunted on (public/private/both), and how avid of a hunter they felt they were (avid/average/casual). These response groupings were then compared for differences within each group for various questions pertaining to perceptions about their deer hunt, experiences during the season, and their overall satisfaction.

## **Results**

Responses were received from 4,855 of 10,000 hunters surveyed. After duplicates were removed, the resulting response rate was 48%. Survey responses were then weighted by license type to reflect the proportions of license types that were in the survey pool. Age groupings were categorized from license sales data and survey responses were weighted to reflect those groupings for any calculations using age group categories.

In 2019, 95.1% of hunters who purchased a license that allowed the pursuit of deer hunted during one of Wisconsin’s deer seasons. Most hunters hunted the 9-day firearm season, with 83.3% of respondents saying they hunted some amount during that season. This was followed by the Archery, Crossbow, Muzzleloader, December antlerless, Holiday, and Youth deer seasons in decreasing order of participation and days afield (Table 1).

Hunters were asked what weapon “was their most preferred way to hunt deer”. Weapon types were then categorized into 3 basic weapon groups, vertical bow; which included longbows, recurves and compound bows, crossbows; and firearms; which included muzzleloaders, shotguns, handguns, and rifles. These weapon groups were then used to compare various opinions on likely outcomes of the 2019 deer season, hunting techniques, and satisfaction with the deer season and management.

Hunters were asked to categorize the number of preseason visits they made to their hunting location. The categories were each assigned a value (1=None, 2=1 visit, 3=2-3 visits, 4=4-5 visits, 5=6 or more, 6=I live there) and a mean response was calculated for each of the preferred weapon groups. Those who preferred crossbows made more preseason visits to their hunting location than those who preferred vertical bows who made more visits than firearm users (Table 2).

Those who preferred vertical bows felt that the likelihood of them “seeing an antlered buck” was higher than that of those who preferred crossbows, which was higher than those who preferred firearms. The same was true for “seeing antlerless deer or fawns”, with those who preferred vertical bows thinking their likelihood was higher than that of crossbow and firearm users. “Harvesting an antlered buck” and “Harvesting antlerless deer or fawns” were similar for those who preferred vertical and compound bows, which were both significantly higher than those who preferred firearms (Table 3).

Hunters were asked if they “passed up a shot at an ANTLERED deer that they had in range” during any hunt throughout the 2019 deer season. Forty-two percent of all 2019 deer hunters said that they passed on an antlered deer they had in range. Of the hunters who answered “Yes” to passing on an antlered deer, they were asked the number of shots passed by weapon type (vertical bow, crossbow, and firearm). Those who hunted with a vertical bow passed on more shots at antlered deer than those who hunted with a crossbow or firearm (Table 4). The most commonly stated reason for passing on an antlered deer was “I was waiting for a buck with larger antlers” closely followed by “I wanted to let the buck go so it might have larger antlers next season”. The least common reason for passing on an antlered deer was “I was concerned it might have CWD” (Table 5).

Those who used a firearm took more shots at “ANY deer” than did vertical bow and crossbow users who took a similar number of shots. Crossbow users “hit” more deer than did Vertical bow users while firearm users were comparable to both groups. Crossbow and firearm users “recovered” similar numbers of these “hit” deer which was higher than the number recovered by vertical bow users (Table 6,  $P < .05$ ).

Survey participants who actively hunted were asked “for each weapon type used to hunt deer” to “tell us the maximum range that you would expect to kill a deer (antlered or antlerless) with one shot”. They were provided a range of distances and were asked to select the appropriate range for each weapon type they hunted with. A value was assigned for each distance category, a mean was calculated for each weapon type and a comparison between weapon types was performed. Those who used a recurve/longbow had the lowest mean distance value with the most frequent response being 11-30 yards. Rifle users had the highest mean distance value and their most frequent response being 76-100 yards. All weapon types differed ( $P < .05$ ) by mean distance value except Compound and Crossbow users whose most frequent response was 11-30 yards for both weapon types (Table 7).

On a scale of 1-5 (1=very high, 5=very low) those who preferred vertical bows (3.47) and

crossbows (3.54) rated the quality of their 2019 deer season similarly and higher than those who preferred firearms (3.68). Likewise for the “amount of fun” (1=no fun, 7=a lot of fun) the 2019 deer season provided, with vertical bow (5.26) and crossbows (5.16) users “fun” rating being similar and significantly higher than that of firearm users (4.94). All three user groups had similar (above average) feelings on the “current state of deer hunting in Wisconsin”.

Age groupings were developed based on deer hunting license sales. Survey responses were categorized by these license sale age groups and then weighted to mirror that of license sales profiles. Like the weapon type summaries above, age groups were compared for the various questions referencing likelihood to harvest, passing on deer, and opinions on satisfaction and fun. All differences had  $P=0.05$  or less. Using these summaries, a profile of these age groups and their feelings on deer hunting in Wisconsin can be formed.

Summaries showed that older hunters do more preseason scouting and perceive their chance to see and kill a deer (antlered or antlerless) lower than middle aged groups. They saw fewer deer than they expected to see and are less satisfied with the number they saw. Older hunters are less likely to kill a deer than younger aged hunters and less likely to pass on a buck that presents an opportunity. Older age groups are more likely to have a lower quality hunt and have less fun than young hunters. Middle age and older hunters are less likely to be satisfied with the current state of deer hunting than younger age groups.

Similarly to the age groupings, the land type (Public/Private/Both) that the survey respondent hunted on saw differences in how a hunter viewed the deer season. All differences were at the  $P=.05$  level or lower. Public land hunters scouted less in the preseason. Public land hunters perceived their chance to see and kill deer (antlered or antlerless) lower than private land hunters. Public land hunters are more likely to see fewer deer than they expected and be less satisfied with the number they saw. Public land hunters are less likely to kill a deer, kill fewer deer than they expected to at the beginning of the season, and are less likely to pass a shot at an antlered deer. Public land hunters have a lower quality hunt, have less fun, and are less satisfied with the current state of deer management than their private land counterparts.

Lastly hunters were asked to identify how important deer hunting was to them in comparison to other outdoor leisure activities. Their responses were categorized into 3 groups (Avid/Average/Casual) and comparisons of their deer season perceptions and opinions were performed.

Avid hunters visit their hunt location more in the preseason than do casual hunters. Avid hunters perceive their chance to see and kill a deer (antlered or antlerless) higher than average and casual hunters. Hunter avidness did not affect a hunter’s perceptions of the deer they saw compared to their expectations or their satisfaction with the number they saw during the season. Avid hunters are more likely to kill a deer during the season and are more likely to pass on a shot at an antlered deer. Avid hunters had a higher quality hunt and more “fun” than average or casual hunters. Lastly avid hunters are less likely to be satisfied “with the current state of deer hunting” than the other 2 groups. All differences were at the  $P=.05$  level or lower.

**Table 1.** *Estimated hunter days afield by 2019 season and deer zone.*

Season	Forested Zone Days	Farmland Zone Days	Total Days
9-Day	845,355	1,715,350	2,560,705
Archery	530,826	1,756,823	2,287,649
Crossbow	570,105	1,180,498	1,750,603
Muzzleloader	56,849	148,551	205,400
December Antlerless	24,152	84,088	108,240
Holiday Hunt		67,779	67,779
Youth <sup>1</sup>	10,907	26,101	37,008
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,038,194</b>	<b>4,979,190</b>	<b>7,017,384</b>

<sup>1</sup>Youth were not surveyed. This is an estimate of chaperone days, actual days afield for the youth season is probably higher.

**Table 2.** *Hunter preseason visits to their hunting location by preferred weapon type. The rating scale comprised of 6 points where 1=None, 2=1 visit, 3=2-3 visits, 4=4-5 visits, 5=6 or more, 6=I live there. Items are presented in order of descending mean visits; homogeneous subsets are indicated by the superscript letters.)*

Preseason visits by preferred weapon	Weapon type	N	Mean Visits values	Sig.
	Crossbow <sup>a</sup>	835	4.09	<.0001
	Vertical bow <sup>b</sup>	1101	3.93	
	Firearm <sup>c</sup>	3063	3.53	

**Table 3.** *Hunters preseason estimate of the likelihood of seeing and killing a deer (Antlered and Antlerless) by preferred weapon type. The rating scale comprised of 0%=No chance to 100%=Certain. Items are presented in order of descending likelihood; homogeneous subsets are indicated by the superscript letters.)*

Perceived likelihood by preferred weapon	Weapon type	N	Mean %	Sig.
Percent likelihood of <b>seeing a buck</b>	Vertical Bow <sup>a</sup>	1106	64.02%	<.0001
	Crossbow <sup>b</sup>	836	58.32%	
	Firearm <sup>c</sup>	3052	52.67%	
Percent likelihood of <b>seeing a doe</b>	Vertical Bow <sup>a</sup>	1105	81.03%	<.0001
	Crossbow <sup>b</sup>	837	77.79%	
	Firearm <sup>b</sup>	3053	76.09%	
Percent likelihood of <b>killing a buck</b>	Crossbow <sup>a</sup>	833	45.90%	<.0001
	Vertical Bow <sup>a</sup>	1105	44.58%	
	Firearm <sup>b</sup>	3042	39.53%	
Percent likelihood of <b>killing a doe</b>	Vertical Bow <sup>a</sup>	1022	64.37%	<.0001
	Crossbow <sup>a</sup>	773	63.00%	
	Firearm <sup>b</sup>	2748	59.09%	

**Table 4.** Mean number hunters estimates of shots passed on antlered deer by weapon type. (Items are presented in order of descending mean shots passed, homogeneous subsets are indicated by the superscript letters.)

Antlered shots passed by weapon type	Weapon type	N	Mean	Sig.
	Vertical Bow <sup>a</sup>	712	5.43	<.0001
	Crossbow <sup>b</sup>	644	3.67	
	Firearm <sup>b</sup>	1340	3.37	

**Table 5.** Most commonly stated reasons for passing on an antlered deer by weapon used.

Reason	Vertical Bow %	Crossbow %	Firearm %
I was waiting for a buck with larger antlers	26.21	27.70	27.97
I was waiting for an older buck	21.75	18.57	19.46
It was early in the season and knew I would get more chances to harvest a buck	9.14	11.98	9.86
I wanted to let the buck go so it might have larger antlers next season	24.53	22.04	24.74
I didn't want to use my buck tag early in the season	4.00	4.68	3.54
I prefer to shoot antlerless deer for venison	3.53	3.25	3.72
I was concerned it might have CWD	0.18	0.26	0.32
I did not want to deal with a harvested deer at the time it gave me an opportunity	1.27	2.24	1.88
I was targeting a specific buck I had scouted during the year	8.26	7.76	6.99
I had already used my buck tag	1.13	1.55	1.53

**Table 6.** Mean number of shots taken at "any deer", deer hit, and deer recovered by weapon type. (Items are presented in order of descending mean response, homogeneous subsets are indicated by the superscript letters.)

Weapon type by "# of shots taken"	Weapon type	N	Mean Shots	Sig.
	Firearm <sup>a</sup>	3061	1.93	<.0001
	Crossbow <sup>b</sup>	1030	1.52	
	Vertical bow <sup>b</sup>	815	1.40	
Weapon type by "# of deer hit"			Mean Hits	
	Crossbow <sup>a</sup>	984	1.22	0.0199
	Firearm <sup>b</sup>	2944	1.14	
	Vertical bow <sup>c</sup>	787	1.04	
Weapon type X "# of deer recovered"			Mean Recovered	
	Firearm <sup>a</sup>	2932	1.12	<.0001
	Crossbow <sup>a</sup>	966	1.12	
	Vertical bow <sup>b</sup>	765	0.87	

**Table 7.** Mean response value and frequency of responses for hunters who hunted with each weapon type and the maximum range that they would “expect to kill a deer with one shot”. (Items are presented in order of descending mean response; homogeneous subsets are indicated by the superscript letters.)

Weapon	Mean Response Value	< 10 yards (2)	11-30 yards (3)	31-50 yards (4)	51-75 yards (5)	76-100 yards (6)	101-150 yards (7)	151-200 yards (8)	201-250 yards (9)	251+ yards (10)
Recurve <sup>a</sup>	3.08	11.5%	72.3%	15.3%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Compound <sup>b</sup>	3.34	1.8%	64.1%	32.4%	1.6%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Crossbow <sup>b</sup>	3.56	1.4%	49.5%	42.1%	5.7%	1.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Handgun <sup>c</sup>	4.00	7.4%	34.7%	32.5%	10.9%	8.5%	3.5%	1.1%	1.0%	0.4%
Shotgun <sup>d</sup>	5.25	0.5%	6.6%	21.9%	24.6%	34.1%	9.6%	2.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Muzzleloader <sup>e</sup>	5.99	0.0%	2.3%	8.8%	19.4%	37.8%	22.3%	7.8%	0.7%	0.8%
Rifle <sup>f</sup>	7.00	0.2%	1.7%	5.9%	11.1%	22.2%	21.2%	17.9%	8.3%	11.6%

Dear Wisconsin Deer Hunter:

I hope you had a great deer season! Each year, the Wisconsin DNR asks a random sample of deer hunters about their hunting experiences which helps in the on-going effort to improve deer management and hunting in our state. Your response is valued and important and will be used to inform us of your Wisconsin deer hunting experience.

For your convenience, we have printed a map on the back of this questionnaire and encourage you to refer to it when indicating where you hunted during the deer season.

In order to ensure that our analyses accurately reflect hunter activities, please share only your own hunting experience in Wisconsin, and not those of other members of your party, family, or friends.

Please return the questionnaire in the enclosed postage paid envelope.

We sincerely appreciate your help with this important effort. Thank you!

Sincerely,

*Kevin Wallenfang*

Kevin Wallenfang  
Big Game Specialist

<p>1. Did you hunt deer during <b>ANY</b> Wisconsin deer season in 2019? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (<i>Go to #3</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> No (<i>Go to #2</i>)</p>																													
<p>2. Please tell us the reason(s) you did NOT deer hunt in 2019. (<i>Check ALL that apply</i>)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> No time</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Laws are too complicated, didn't want to make a mistake</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Not enough deer in my hunting area</td> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> I had planned to hunt but had an unexpected conflict</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> No location / lost access to my location</td> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Frustrated with activities of other hunters</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Weather conditions</td> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Worried about possibly consuming a CWD positive deer</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Companions didn't hunt, didn't want to hunt alone</td> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> I have other interests that are more important</td> </tr> </table>				<input type="checkbox"/> No time	<input type="checkbox"/> Laws are too complicated, didn't want to make a mistake	<input type="checkbox"/> Not enough deer in my hunting area	<input type="checkbox"/> I had planned to hunt but had an unexpected conflict	<input type="checkbox"/> No location / lost access to my location	<input type="checkbox"/> Frustrated with activities of other hunters	<input type="checkbox"/> Weather conditions	<input type="checkbox"/> Worried about possibly consuming a CWD positive deer	<input type="checkbox"/> Companions didn't hunt, didn't want to hunt alone	<input type="checkbox"/> I have other interests that are more important																
<input type="checkbox"/> No time	<input type="checkbox"/> Laws are too complicated, didn't want to make a mistake																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Not enough deer in my hunting area	<input type="checkbox"/> I had planned to hunt but had an unexpected conflict																												
<input type="checkbox"/> No location / lost access to my location	<input type="checkbox"/> Frustrated with activities of other hunters																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Weather conditions	<input type="checkbox"/> Worried about possibly consuming a CWD positive deer																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Companions didn't hunt, didn't want to hunt alone	<input type="checkbox"/> I have other interests that are more important																												
<p><b>**Please return your survey in the included postage paid envelope. Thank you!**</b></p>																													
<p>3. List the deer management zone(s) and unit(s) you hunted in during the 2019 deer season. For each area you hunted, estimate the percent of your total deer hunting season spent in that area (<i>See map on back for zone and unit information</i>).</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%;">Deer Zone</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Unit (County)</th> <th style="width: 33%;">% of time</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Should total 100%</p> </div>				Deer Zone	Unit (County)	% of time																							
Deer Zone	Unit (County)	% of time																											
<p>4. Please fill in your <b>best estimate</b> of the number of days hunted on private and public land for each weapon and season you hunted. Consider any partial days as a full day of hunting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Enter number of days you hunted with each weapon, season, and land type combination)</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">Weapon</th> <th style="width: 35%;">Season</th> <th style="width: 15%;"># of days on private land</th> <th style="width: 35%;"># of days on public land</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bow</td> <td>Archery</td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crossbow</td> <td>Crossbow</td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="5">Firearm</td> <td>Youth (as a hunter or mentor)</td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>9 – Day</td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muzzleloader</td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>December Antlerless</td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Holiday Hunt (select units)</td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Weapon	Season	# of days on private land	# of days on public land	Bow	Archery			Crossbow	Crossbow			Firearm	Youth (as a hunter or mentor)			9 – Day			Muzzleloader			December Antlerless			Holiday Hunt (select units)			<p>5. Now think about the amount of yearly deer hunting you did for the PAST 3-5 deer seasons in Wisconsin. Please tell us how your activity during the 2019 deer season compares to your PAST deer hunting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>I hunted...</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> A lot less  <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat less  <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly less  <input type="checkbox"/> About the same  <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly more  <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat more  <input type="checkbox"/> A lot more         </p>
Weapon	Season	# of days on private land	# of days on public land																										
Bow	Archery																												
Crossbow	Crossbow																												
Firearm	Youth (as a hunter or mentor)																												
	9 – Day																												
	Muzzleloader																												
	December Antlerless																												
	Holiday Hunt (select units)																												

**Figure 1. The 2019 Deer Hunting Questionnaire.**

<p><b>6.</b> Prior to your first 2019 deer hunt, how many times did you visit your hunting location since the end of the last deer season? (Check ONE).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None, I did not visit my hunting location prior to hunting (<i>Go to #8</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 visit</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2-3 visits</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4-5 visits</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 6 or more visits</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I live at my hunting location</p>	<p><b>7.</b> Deer hunters may do many activities that pertain to deer or deer hunting when visiting their hunting location. Please check all the activities from the list below that you performed while visiting your hunting area in the past year. (<i>Check all that apply</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Scouting for deer sign      <input type="checkbox"/> Placing bait</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Creating stand locations / placing tree stands      <input type="checkbox"/> Performing deer habitat improvements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Searching for shed antlers      <input type="checkbox"/> Planting / maintaining food plots</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Placing / checking trail cameras</p>
<p><b>8.</b> Prior to the start of your 2019 deer season, what did you think the likelihood was of <b>SEEING</b> each of the deer types below during ALL your deer hunting? Put a X on the line at your expectation of seeing each of the deer types.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0%    10%    20%    30%    40%    50%    60%    70%    80%    90%    100%</p> <p>% chance of SEEING an Antlered buck      No chance      Certain</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0%    10%    20%    30%    40%    50%    60%    70%    80%    90%    100%</p> <p>% chance of SEEING Antlerless deer or fawns      No chance      Certain</p>	
<p><b>9.</b> Prior to the start of your 2019 deer season, what did you think the likelihood was of <b>HARVESTING</b> each of the deer types below during ALL your deer hunting? Put a X on the line at your expectation of harvesting each of the deer types.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0%    10%    20%    30%    40%    50%    60%    70%    80%    90%    100%</p> <p>% chance of HARVESTING an Antlered buck      No chance      Certain</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0%    10%    20%    30%    40%    50%    60%    70%    80%    90%    100%</p> <p>% chance of HARVESTING Antlerless deer or fawns      <input type="checkbox"/> No tag      No chance      Certain</p>	
<p><b>10.</b> How did the number of deer you saw while hunting in 2019 compare to the number you EXPECTED to see? (<i>Check one</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A lot more than I expected</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat more than I expected</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> About the same as I expected</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat fewer than I expected</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A lot fewer than I expected</p>	<p><b>11.</b> Now think about the number of deer you saw while hunting during the ENTIRE 2019 deer season. How <b>satisfied</b> were you with the number of deer you saw? (<i>Check one</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very dissatisfied</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat dissatisfied</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat satisfied</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied</p>
<p><b>12.</b> Did you harvest a deer during ANY 2019 deer season?    <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (<i>Go to #13</i>)    <input type="checkbox"/> No (<i>Go to #15</i>)</p>	
<p><b>13.</b> Below is a series of statements related to the experience of harvesting a deer. We are interested in knowing how many of these statements applied to your deer harvest(s) during the 2019 deer season. You do not need to tell us which statements applied to you, only how many. We use responses to this question to statistically estimate incident rates for all deer hunters without associating actions with any individuals.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thinking about the 2019 deer season, how many of the following statements were TRUE for each deer that you harvested?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I harvested the deer from an elevated deer stand</li> <li>• I harvested the first deer that I saw</li> <li>• I used an ATV to get the deer out</li> <li>• I processed the meat myself</li> <li>• I donated the meat to charity</li> </ul> <p><b>13a.</b> For the FIRST DEER that I harvested, _____ (0-5) statements were TRUE.</p> <p><b>13b.</b> For the SECOND DEER that I harvested, _____ (0-5) statements were TRUE.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>13b.</b> Did not harvest a second deer (<i>Go to #14</i>)</p>	

**Figure 1.** The 2019 Deer Hunting Questionnaire.



<p><b>14.</b> For each deer you harvested, please tell us how each deer was processed.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;"></td> <td style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"><u># of deer</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>I processed them myself or with friends</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I brought it to a seasonal venison processor</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I brought it to a year-round meat processor</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> </tr> </table>		<u># of deer</u>	I processed them myself or with friends	_____	I brought it to a seasonal venison processor	_____	I brought it to a year-round meat processor	_____	<p><b>15.</b> Thinking about the number of deer you EXPECTED to harvest during your 2019 deer hunting, how did that compare to the number you harvested? (<i>Check one</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I harvested MORE deer than I expected (<b>Go to #17</b>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I harvested EXACTLY what I expected (<b>Go to #17</b>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I harvested LESS deer than I expected</p>																																																																																
	<u># of deer</u>																																																																																								
I processed them myself or with friends	_____																																																																																								
I brought it to a seasonal venison processor	_____																																																																																								
I brought it to a year-round meat processor	_____																																																																																								
<p><b>16.</b> Please tell us some of the reasons why you feel you did not harvest as many deer as you expected. (<i>Check all that apply</i>)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> I thought I would have more chances to harvest deer</td> <td style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Did not want to process another deer</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> The season was too short</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> The cost of processing more deer</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> I did not hunt as much as I had anticipated</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Cost of acquiring more antlerless deer permits</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> I was limited by the number of tags I was given/could purchase</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> I could not find anyone to hunt with</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> The weather was too difficult to hunt deer</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> My freezer was full</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other hunters were hunting in my area</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No place to donate the venison</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> The landowner limited the number of deer I could harvest</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> I reduced my deer harvest to hopefully increase deer numbers next year</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> After harvesting a (some) deer, I lost my drive to harvest more</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		<input type="checkbox"/> I thought I would have more chances to harvest deer	<input type="checkbox"/> Did not want to process another deer	<input type="checkbox"/> The season was too short	<input type="checkbox"/> The cost of processing more deer	<input type="checkbox"/> I did not hunt as much as I had anticipated	<input type="checkbox"/> Cost of acquiring more antlerless deer permits	<input type="checkbox"/> I was limited by the number of tags I was given/could purchase	<input type="checkbox"/> I could not find anyone to hunt with	<input type="checkbox"/> The weather was too difficult to hunt deer	<input type="checkbox"/> My freezer was full	<input type="checkbox"/> Other hunters were hunting in my area	<input type="checkbox"/> No place to donate the venison	<input type="checkbox"/> The landowner limited the number of deer I could harvest	<input type="checkbox"/> I reduced my deer harvest to hopefully increase deer numbers next year	<input type="checkbox"/> After harvesting a (some) deer, I lost my drive to harvest more																																																																									
<input type="checkbox"/> I thought I would have more chances to harvest deer	<input type="checkbox"/> Did not want to process another deer																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> The season was too short	<input type="checkbox"/> The cost of processing more deer																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> I did not hunt as much as I had anticipated	<input type="checkbox"/> Cost of acquiring more antlerless deer permits																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> I was limited by the number of tags I was given/could purchase	<input type="checkbox"/> I could not find anyone to hunt with																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> The weather was too difficult to hunt deer	<input type="checkbox"/> My freezer was full																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Other hunters were hunting in my area	<input type="checkbox"/> No place to donate the venison																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> The landowner limited the number of deer I could harvest	<input type="checkbox"/> I reduced my deer harvest to hopefully increase deer numbers next year																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> After harvesting a (some) deer, I lost my drive to harvest more																																																																																									
<p><b>17.</b> Did you pass up a shot at an ANTLERED deer that you had in range for the weapon you were using during the 2019 deer season?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (<i>Go to #18</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No (<i>Go to #20</i>)</p>	<p><b>18.</b> For each weapon type below please list your best estimate of the number of shots at ANTLERED deer you passed. (<i>Leave the box blank if you did not pass on a shot with that weapon</i>)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Weapon</th> <th style="text-align: left;"># of shots at ANTLERED deer you passed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Vertical Bow</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crossbow</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Firearm</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Weapon	# of shots at ANTLERED deer you passed	Vertical Bow		Crossbow		Firearm																																																																																	
Weapon	# of shots at ANTLERED deer you passed																																																																																								
Vertical Bow																																																																																									
Crossbow																																																																																									
Firearm																																																																																									
<p><b>19.</b> There are many reasons for passing on a shot at a deer. From the list below, please select all the reasons you passed up a shot(s) at an ANTLERED deer this season. (<i>Check all that apply</i>)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> I was waiting for a buck with larger antlers</td> <td style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> I prefer to shoot antlerless deer for venison</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> I was waiting for an older buck</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> I was concerned it might have CWD</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> It was early in the season and knew I would get more chances to harvest a buck</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> I did not want to deal with a harvested deer at the time it gave me an opportunity</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> I wanted to let the buck go so it might have larger antlers next season</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> I was targeting a specific buck I had scouted during the year</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> I didn't want to use my buck tag early in the season</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> I had already used my buck tag(s)</td> </tr> </table>		<input type="checkbox"/> I was waiting for a buck with larger antlers	<input type="checkbox"/> I prefer to shoot antlerless deer for venison	<input type="checkbox"/> I was waiting for an older buck	<input type="checkbox"/> I was concerned it might have CWD	<input type="checkbox"/> It was early in the season and knew I would get more chances to harvest a buck	<input type="checkbox"/> I did not want to deal with a harvested deer at the time it gave me an opportunity	<input type="checkbox"/> I wanted to let the buck go so it might have larger antlers next season	<input type="checkbox"/> I was targeting a specific buck I had scouted during the year	<input type="checkbox"/> I didn't want to use my buck tag early in the season	<input type="checkbox"/> I had already used my buck tag(s)																																																																														
<input type="checkbox"/> I was waiting for a buck with larger antlers	<input type="checkbox"/> I prefer to shoot antlerless deer for venison																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> I was waiting for an older buck	<input type="checkbox"/> I was concerned it might have CWD																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> It was early in the season and knew I would get more chances to harvest a buck	<input type="checkbox"/> I did not want to deal with a harvested deer at the time it gave me an opportunity																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> I wanted to let the buck go so it might have larger antlers next season	<input type="checkbox"/> I was targeting a specific buck I had scouted during the year																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> I didn't want to use my buck tag early in the season	<input type="checkbox"/> I had already used my buck tag(s)																																																																																								
<p><b>20.</b> For each weapon type, list the number of shots taken at ANY deer, number of deer hit, and number of deer recovered during the 2019 deer season. Enter a ZERO for each weapon you used but no shots were taken, deer hit, or deer recovered.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Weapon</th> <th style="text-align: left;"># of Shots taken</th> <th style="text-align: left;"># of Deer hit</th> <th style="text-align: left;"># of Deer recovered</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Vertical Bow</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crossbow</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Firearm</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Weapon	# of Shots taken	# of Deer hit	# of Deer recovered	Vertical Bow				Crossbow				Firearm																																																																											
Weapon	# of Shots taken	# of Deer hit	# of Deer recovered																																																																																						
Vertical Bow																																																																																									
Crossbow																																																																																									
Firearm																																																																																									
<p><b>21.</b> For each weapon type you USED to hunt deer, please tell us the <b>maximum</b> range that you would expect to kill a deer (antlered or antlerless) with one shot. (<i>Check all that apply</i>)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Weapon</th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>I did not use this weapon</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>Less than 10 yards</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>11 – 30 yards</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>31 – 50 yards</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>51 – 75 yards</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>76 – 100 yards</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>101 – 150 yards</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>151 – 200 yards</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>201 – 250 yards</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>251+ yards</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Recurve/longbow</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Compound Bow</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crossbow</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muzzleloader</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shotgun</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Handgun</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rifle</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Weapon	<i>I did not use this weapon</i>	<i>Less than 10 yards</i>	<i>11 – 30 yards</i>	<i>31 – 50 yards</i>	<i>51 – 75 yards</i>	<i>76 – 100 yards</i>	<i>101 – 150 yards</i>	<i>151 – 200 yards</i>	<i>201 – 250 yards</i>	<i>251+ yards</i>	Recurve/longbow											Compound Bow											Crossbow											Muzzleloader											Shotgun											Handgun											Rifle										
Weapon	<i>I did not use this weapon</i>	<i>Less than 10 yards</i>	<i>11 – 30 yards</i>	<i>31 – 50 yards</i>	<i>51 – 75 yards</i>	<i>76 – 100 yards</i>	<i>101 – 150 yards</i>	<i>151 – 200 yards</i>	<i>201 – 250 yards</i>	<i>251+ yards</i>																																																																															
Recurve/longbow																																																																																									
Compound Bow																																																																																									
Crossbow																																																																																									
Muzzleloader																																																																																									
Shotgun																																																																																									
Handgun																																																																																									
Rifle																																																																																									

**Figure 1.** The 2019 Deer Hunting Questionnaire

**\*\*Now think about all the deer hunting you did in Wisconsin during the 2019 deer seasons\*\***

**22.** Overall, how would you rate the quality of your 2019 deer season? *(Check one)*  
 Very High     Fairly High     About Average     Fairly Low     Very Low

**23.** Considering all of your experiences leading up to and participating in the 2019 deer season, please rate the amount of fun you had. *(Circle ONE number)*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
No fun at all			Neither			A lot of fun

**24.** What is your overall satisfaction with the current state of deer hunting in Wisconsin? *(Circle ONE number)*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Very dissatisfied			Neither			Very satisfied

**25.** Which of the following categories best describes you, as a deer hunter? *(Check ONE)*

I enjoy deer hunting, but it is not as important to me as some other leisure activities.

Deer hunting is an important part of my life, but a few other leisure activities are just as important.

Deer hunting is the most important leisure activity in my life.

**26.** Which of the following weapons is currently your most preferred way to hunt deer? *(Check only one)*

Recurve or longbow     Muzzleloader     Rifle

Compound bow     Shotgun

Crossbow     Handgun

**27.** During the 2019 deer season did you know of any hunters:

who may have hunted without a license?  
 Yes     No

who may have harvested a deer but did not register it?  
 Yes     No

(You will NOT be contacted about your responses)

**Figure 1.** The 2019 Deer Hunting Questionnaire.