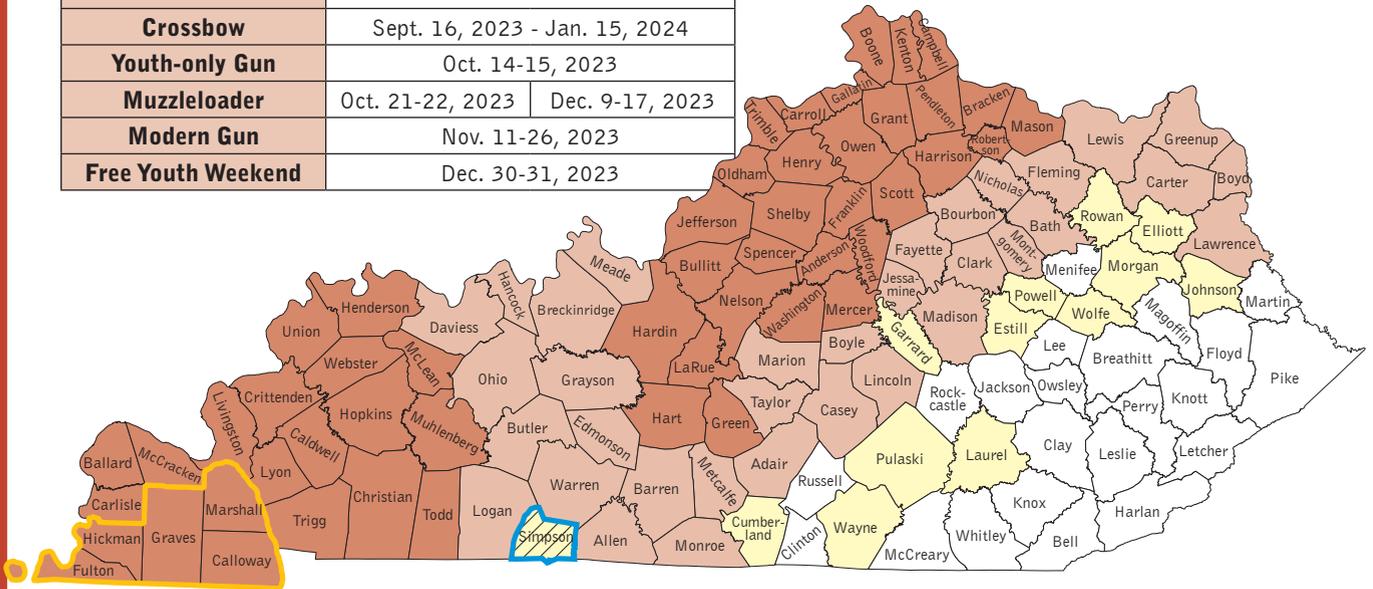


DEER HUNTING

2023-24 DEER HUNTING ZONES and SEASONS

DEER	Early Season	Late Season
Archery	Sept. 2, 2023 - Jan. 15, 2024	
Youth/Senior Crossbow	Sept. 2, 2023 - Jan. 15, 2024	
Crossbow	Sept. 16, 2023 - Jan. 15, 2024	
Youth-only Gun	Oct. 14-15, 2023	
Muzzleloader	Oct. 21-22, 2023	Dec. 9-17, 2023
Modern Gun	Nov. 11-26, 2023	
Free Youth Weekend	Dec. 30-31, 2023	



 CWD Surveillance Zone, see pg. 13
 Zone 1
 Zone 2
 Zone 3
 Zone 4
 Zone change pending.

[Go online to fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) for current status.

DEER BAG LIMITS	
Only one antlered deer may be harvested statewide, regardless of zone or method.	
ZONE 1	A hunter may harvest an unlimited number of antlerless deer in Zone 1 using the statewide deer permit and additional deer permits.
ZONE 2	A hunter may harvest no more than four deer in Zone 2.
ZONE 3	A hunter may harvest no more than four deer in Zone 3. A firearm or air gun cannot be used to take more than one antlerless deer.
ZONE 4	A hunter may harvest no more than two deer in Zone 4. Only one can be antlerless. Antlerless deer cannot be harvested during the modern gun season, the early muzzleloader season or the first six days of the late muzzleloader season. The statewide bag limit of one antlered deer still applies.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The statewide deer permit and youth deer permit allow for the harvest of up to four deer. Hunters may take up to one antlered deer and three antlerless deer, or four antlerless deer using the statewide deer permit.
- A hunter may take as many deer as allowed for each zone. In order to take more than four deer statewide, an additional deer permit must be purchased.
- An additional deer permit allows a hunter to take up to two additional deer. Zone bag limits apply. Hunters who did not harvest an antlered deer using their statewide or youth deer permits can take one antlered deer and up to one antlerless deer, or up to two antlerless deer with the additional deer permit.
- Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.
- Hunters must claim any deer they harvest as their own.

BAG LIMITS

Bag limits and harvest restrictions apply to all hunters. There is no daily bag limit on deer. A person may take no more than one (1) deer with visible antlers, excluding male fawns (button bucks). However, on some federally controlled areas, including Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, Fort Campbell and Fort Knox military reservations and Blue Grass Army Depot, a bonus antlered deer may be taken, as determined by the governing agency for each area.

CHECKING and TAGGING

All deer must be telechecked. Hunters must call 1-800-245-4263 or complete the online check-in process at fw.ky.gov. See the “Recording, Checking, Tagging and Transporting” portion of this guide’s “General Information” section for full details.

If the hide or head is removed before the harvested deer is checked in – to quarter the animal, for example – it is necessary to demonstrate proof of sex by retaining the head or keeping the genitalia attached to the carcass. In such cases, it is still necessary to fill out the harvest log immediately after harvest and telecheck the animal before midnight on the day the deer is harvested or recovered.

A carcass tag is required if a harvested deer leaves the hunter’s possession for any reason.

STATEWIDE DEER PERMIT

All deer hunters ages 16 and older, unless license exempt, must first buy

Carry proof

Hunters who buy their license or permit by phone or internet must carry while hunting: a picture ID and proof of purchase (an authorization number, paper license or computer print out). Paper licenses/permits must be signed and all information completed before hunting.

and carry proof of purchasing an annual hunting license and a statewide deer permit while deer hunting. The permit allows a hunter to take four deer: one antlered and three antlerless, or four antlerless. It does not matter if the antlered or antlerless deer is taken first.

ADDITIONAL DEER PERMIT

To take more than four deer, an additional deer permit must be purchased. The additional deer permit is valid for deer of either sex. The additional deer permit allows a hunter to take up to two additional deer beyond those allowed by the statewide permit in the following combinations: one antlered and one antlerless, or two antlerless. Regardless of what permit a deer hunter carries, the statewide season limit for antlered deer is one per hunter. The additional deer permit is not valid unless the hunter has first purchased an annual hunting license and statewide deer permit and is able to show proof of that in the field. A statewide or additional deer permit may be used on public and private land, and during some quota hunts.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

If you hunt big game outside of Kentucky, you may not bring any member of the deer (Cervidae) family, which includes deer, elk, moose, caribou, reindeer and any hybrids, back into Kentucky unless the brain and spinal column have been removed.

Allowed parts from other states and provinces include: quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached, boned-out meat, antlers, antlers attached to a clean skull plate, a clean skull, clean teeth, hides and finished taxidermy products.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has not been detected in Kentucky.

Donations sought for testing

The department seeks donations of deer heads from hunter harvested animals for CWD testing. This will allow Kentucky Fish and Wildlife to better manage an outbreak should CWD be detected. Bucks or does are needed. Hunters should cut off the head a couple inches below the base of skull, then freeze the head. Contact your local biologist or drop off the head at a sample collection site freezer (see page 14).
Online: fw.ky.gov/disease

Up-to-date news regarding CWD can be found at cwd-info.org.

HUNTING EQUIPMENT RESTRICTIONS

MODERN GUN SEASON

During modern gun deer season, hunters may hunt with any centerfire rifle or pistol, including air guns of .35 caliber or larger charged by an external tank, muzzleloaders, and archery and crossbow equipment, and must follow season restrictions, zone guidelines and other hunting requirements.

All hunters, including archery and crossbow hunters, and persons accompa-

nying hunters, must wear hunter orange clothing during modern gun season.

Persons ages 15 and younger hunting deer with a firearm must be accompanied by an adult who shall be in a position to take immediate control of the youth’s firearm at all times.

ARCHERY SEASON

Hunters using archery equipment during a deer, elk or bear firearms sea-

Antler traps

Devices designed to entangle or trap the antlers of a deer cannot be used.

son must follow all firearms deer season restrictions, zone guidelines and other hunting requirements, and must wear hunter orange clothing. The only exception is on state-owned or managed WMAs where firearms hunting for deer or elk is prohibited.

CROSSBOW SEASON

Hunters using crossbows during a deer, elk or bear firearms season must

follow all firearms deer season restrictions, zone guidelines and other hunting requirements, and must wear hunter orange clothing. The only exception is on state-owned or managed WMAs where firearms hunting for deer or elk is prohibited. A legal resident hunter age 65 years or older and a youth hunter age 15 or younger may hunt deer with a crossbow from the first Saturday in September through the third Monday in January.

MUZZLELOADER SEASON

Muzzleloaders, archery and crossbow equipment may be used during this season. All hunters must comply with the hunter orange clothing law. Youths ages 15 and younger hunting deer with a muzzleloader must be accompanied by an adult who shall remain able and in a position to take immediate control of the youth's muzzleloader at all times.

TREE STANDS

Construction and use of tree stands on private lands is regulated by landowners.

Hunter orange required!

Hunters and people accompanying them must wear solid, unbrotten hunter orange color visible from all sides on the head, back and chest when hunting for any species during modern gun, muzzleloader and youth gun deer seasons, or a firearm elk or firearm bear season. However, hunter orange is not required when hunting waterfowl or doves during a gun deer, elk or bear season, or when hunting furbearers at night during a legal furbearer season.

SUBMIT IMAGES OF YOUR DEER'S JAW BONE FOR AGING

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife would like to age your harvested female deer. Visit the webpage "Deer Hunting" at fw.ky.gov/Hunt/Pages/Deer.aspx for more information.

LEGAL DEER HUNTING EQUIPMENT

Scopes are allowed on all hunting equipment (used for statewide seasons).

MODERN GUN EQUIPMENT

- Any caliber centerfire rifle or centerfire handgun.
- Rifle, handgun or shotgun magazines may not be capable of holding more than 10 rounds.
- Rifles or handguns may not be fully automatic (capable of firing more than one round with one trigger pull).
- Full metal jacketed or tracer bullet ammunition is prohibited.
- Shotguns, no larger than 10-gauge, shooting slug ammunition only (includes sabot bullets).
- Muzzle-loading rifles, handguns, or shotguns shooting round balls, conical bullets, or sabot bullets.
- Air guns of .35 caliber or larger charged by an external tank, shooting single projectile ammunition designed to expand upon impact.

ARCHERY EQUIPMENT

- Longbows, recurves and compound bows of any draw weight (no minimum).

- Wood, carbon or metal arrows, but arrows may not be chemically treated.
- Fixed blade or mechanical broadheads at least 7/8" wide (when blades extended), but broadheads may not be chemically treated.

CROSSBOW EQUIPMENT

- Crossbows of any draw weight (no minimum), with a working safety.
- Wood, carbon or metal arrows (bolts), but arrows (bolts) may not be chemically treated.
- Fixed blade or mechanical broadheads at least 7/8" (when blades extended), but broadheads may not be chemically treated.

MUZZLELOADING EQUIPMENT

- Muzzle-loading rifles or handguns of any caliber, shooting round balls, conical bullets or sabot bullets.
- Muzzle-loading firearms equipped with open sights or telescopic sights (scopes).
- Muzzle-loading shotguns no larger than 10-gauge, shooting round balls, conical bullets or sabot bullets.

YOUTH DEER HUNTING

YOUTH DEER HUNTING

Youths may hunt deer during any open season, including two special deer seasons for resident and nonresident hunters who have not reached their 16th birthday.

Adults accompanying youth deer hunters during either of these hunts may not use firearms to take deer.

Adults accompanying youth hunters are not required to possess a hunting license or deer permit if the adult is not deer hunting, but by law, the hunter and the accompanying adults must wear hunter orange clothing.

YOUTH-ONLY GUN SEASON/ FREE YOUTH DEER HUNTING WEEKEND

The first special youth deer season is on the second weekend of October. Youth hunters may take deer with fire-

arms, or any other legal method, statewide. During the October youth-only firearms season, the appropriate hunting license and deer permits are required for hunters ages 12-15. Youth hunters younger than age 12 are not required to have a hunting license or deer permit. On the first weekend following Christmas, resident and nonresident youth 15 years of age and younger, who are accompanied by an adult, are eligible to participate in the free youth weekend. Youth hunters may hunt deer with firearms, or any other legal method, statewide without a hunting license or deer permit. During these seasons, youth hunters may harvest antlered or antlerless deer regardless of zone but must still abide by all bag limits and other deer hunting requirements.

SPECIAL DEER REGULATIONS affecting Calloway, Fulton, Graves, Hickman and Marshall counties

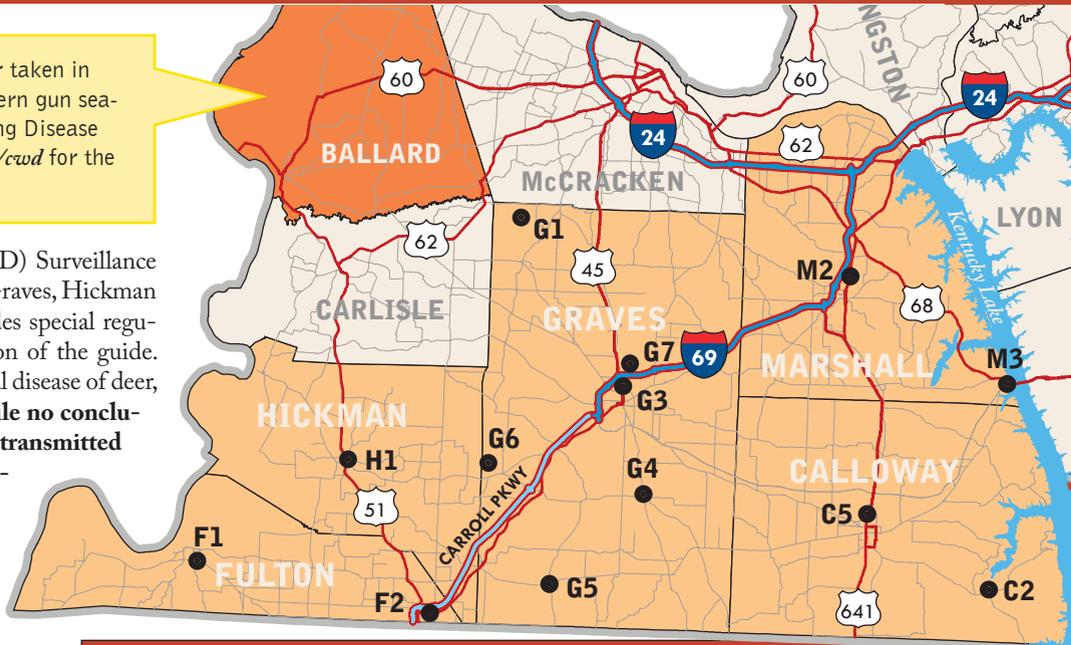


DECEMBER 2023 UPDATE: A deer taken in Ballard County during the 2023 modern gun season tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Please go online to fw.ky.gov/cwd for the most current information.

A Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance Zone is in effect for Calloway, Fulton, Graves, Hickman and Marshall counties. The zone includes special regulations which are detailed in this section of the guide. Chronic wasting disease is an always fatal disease of deer, elk and species in the deer family. **While no conclusive evidence exists that CWD can be transmitted to people, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends refraining from eating meat from animals that test positive for CWD.** Hunters may take a deer head to one of the voluntary deer sample collection stations listed on page 14 for free sampling.

Inclusion in a Surveillance Zone does not change deer seasons or bag limits in the county. However, some special regulations apply:

- Mandatory CWD Check Stations for some season dates (see details below).
- No feeding or baiting of deer or other wildlife at any time in the CWD Surveillance Zone.
- No transportation of harvested deer out of the CWD Surveillance Zone. Whole deer carcasses and high-risk parts, including intact heads containing brain material, cannot be moved out of the zone.



CWD CHECK STATION LOCATIONS

C2	Calloway	New Concord Fire Dept., 284 Dunbar Rd.	New Concord
C5	Calloway	First Choice Firearms, 1205 Stadium View Dr.	Murray
F1	Fulton	Fulton County Extension Office, 2114 7th Street	Hickman
F2	Fulton	Fulton City Fire/Rec Area, 340 Browder St.	Fulton
G1	Graves	Burnett's Deer Processing, 1580 Penny Corner Rd.	Melber
G3	Graves	Patriot Ag LLC, 400 Crittendon Ln.	Mayfield
G4	Graves	Sedalia Fire Dept., 5414 KY 97	Sedalia
G5	Graves	Southern Reds BBQ, 5085 KY 94 West	Water Valley
G6	Graves	Dowdy's Taxidermy, 1461 Baltimore Church Rd.	Mayfield
G7	Graves	Farmer's Slaughterhouse, 181 Fowler Rd.	Mayfield
H1	Hickman	Hickman Co. Extension Office, 329 James H Phillips Dr.	Clinton
M2	Marshall	Clarks River NWR, 91 U.S. 641 N	Benton
M3	Marshall	Kenlake Bayview Building, 466 Bayview Rd.	Hardin

CWD SURVEILLANCE ZONE INFORMATION

MANDATORY DEER CWD CHECK STATIONS

Hunter participation is vital to disease monitoring efforts. To obtain an adequate sample size for scientific testing, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is operating 13 mandatory CWD Check Stations within the CWD Surveillance Zone.

All deer harvested within the

CWD Surveillance Zone (Calloway, Fulton, Graves, Hickman and Marshall counties) by any method during the following dates in 2023 must be brought to a CWD Check Station for sampling.

Check stations will only operate during dates listed to the right. There is no mandatory deer check station requirement outside of Nov. 11-13, 2023.

CWD check station dates:

Nov. 11-13, 2023

Stations will be open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Central) during these dates.

Self-serve drop-off freezers will also be available Nov. 11-26 at each CWD Check Station.

However, free voluntary testing is available through Deer Sample Collection Sites (see below).

Mandatory CWD Check Station requirements include license-exempt hunters, such as landowners hunting on their own property, and those who take deer during these dates by other methods, such as muzzleloader or archery equipment. Deer given to others by a hunter during these dates must be physically checked as well. All deer should be telechecked before coming to the check station.

Check stations will operate from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Central). Hunters may bring in an intact deer carcass, a field-dressed deer or just the head of the deer for sampling at a check station. Biologists will take samples at the check stations to monitor for the presence of CWD. Hunters will be asked for an approximate location where they harvested the deer, name of taxidermist or processor if being used, and provide telecheck and licensing information.

Hunters will receive a card verifying their visit to the check station. Cards will contain information about how to view test results for their deer. Test results are generally available within six weeks or less.

VOLUNTARY DEER SAMPLE COLLECTION STATIONS

Freezers are available at 12 self-serve Voluntary Deer Sample Collection Stations in the CWD Surveillance Zone, and at several other locations throughout the state. Deer Sample Collection Stations allow hunters to voluntarily have their deer tested when the mandatory CWD Check Stations are not open. Testing is available through these sites for deer taken anywhere in the state. Only the deer head is needed for sampling; instructions, bags and tags are located at each sampling site. A location map of Deer Sample Collection Stations is available online at fw.ky.gov/cwd.

NO DEER BAITING OR WILDLIFE FEEDING

Grain, feed, mineral blocks, salt blocks and other baits used to attract deer cannot be used in CWD Surveillance Zone counties year-round. This helps prevent deer from concentrating,

VOLUNTARY DEER SAMPLE COLLECTION STATIONS

County	Location Name/Address	City
Bell	Rose Taxidermy, 7 Ennismore Dr.	Middlesboro
Breckinridge	Yellowbank WMA Office, Grady-Frymire Spur Rd.	Stephensport
Calloway	KDFWR Murray Office, 30 Scenic Acres Dr.	Murray
Calloway	First Choice Firearms, 1205 Stadium View Dr.	Murray
Calloway	Hazel Fire Department, 215 Main St.	Hazel
Christian	MSU Breathitt Veterinary Center, 101 MSU Dr.	Hopkinsville
Franklin	KY Dept. Fish & Wildlife Resources, 1 Sportsman's Ln.	Frankfort
Fulton	Fulton Co. Extension Office, 2114 S 7th St.	Hickman
Fulton	Fulton City Fire Department, 340 Browder St.	Fulton
Gallatin	Gallatin Co. Extension Office, 395 U.S. 42	Warsaw
Grant	Curtis Gates Lloyd WMA Office, 230 Gardnersville Rd.	Crittenden
Graves	Graves County Extension Office, 4200 U.S. 45	Mayfield
Graves	Patriot Ag LLC, 400 Crittenden Ln.	Mayfield
Graves	Sedalia Fire Department, 5414 KY 97	Sedalia
Graves	Southern Reds BBQ, 5085 KY 94 West	Water Valley
Harlan	Harlan Co. Extension Office, 519 South Main St.	Harlan
Hickman	Hickman Co. Extension Office, 329 James H. Phillips Dr.	Clinton
Knox	Parkway Monument, 4528 North U.S. 25E	Gray
Marshall	Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, 91 U.S. 641 N	Benton
Marshall	Kenlake Bayview Building, 466 Bayview Rd.	Benton
McCracken	Paducah Shooter Supply, 3919 Cairo Rd.	Paducah
McCreary	Big South Fork Outdoors, 45 Job Corp Rd.	Pine Knot
Metcalfe	Critter Creations Taxidermy, 954 Harvey White Cemetery Rd.	Summer Shade
Nelson	Kentucky Gun Company (KYGUNCO), 401 Glenwood Dr.	Bardstown
Nicholas	Blue Licks State Park, 10299 Maysville Rd.	Carlisle
Rowan	Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, 120 Fish Hatchery Rd.	Morehead
Simpson	USDA NRCS Franklin Office, 1300 Bluegrass Rd. Ste. B	Franklin
Warren	KDFWR Green River Regional Office, 970 Bennett Ln.	Bowling Green
Whitley	Good Steward Forestry, 133 Tom Taylor Rd.	Corbin
Woodford	USDA NRCS Versailles Service Office, 184 Beasley Rd.	Versailles

which increases spread of disease. Bird feeders in yards, planted food plots and normal agricultural practices such as mineral blocks or feed for cattle are allowed. Hunters can use products that are not ingested by deer, such as scent attractors and deer urine products.

SPECIAL CARCASS TAGS NO LONGER REQUIRED

Carcass tags are required if the deer leaves a hunter's possession. Special CWD Surveillance Zone carcass tags are no longer required. Hunters must complete a harvest log prior to moving the carcass and telecheck their deer before midnight on the day the animal is recovered, prior to processing.

Need more information?
Go online to fw.ky.gov/CWD, call 1-800-858-1549 from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Eastern) weekdays, or send an email at any time to info.center@ky.gov.

CARCASS TRANSPORTATION RESTRICTIONS

Carcasses or high-risk parts of deer harvested within the 5-county CWD Surveillance Zone may not be taken outside of the zone. Only de-boned meat, antlers, antlers attached to a clean skull cap, a clean skull, clean teeth, hides and finished taxidermy products may be taken out of the CWD Surveillance Zone.

CARCASS IMPORTATION PROHIBITED

Whole carcasses or high-risk parts (head, skull cap or skull with any brain material, or spine) of any deer, elk, moose or caribou harvested in another state cannot be brought back into Kentucky.

DOES CWD INFECT LIVESTOCK OR PEOPLE?

CWD is not known to infect people. It does not appear to naturally infect cattle or other domesticated animals. As a precaution, however, people should avoid eating deer or elk that appear to be sick or have tested positive for CWD.

KENTUCKY'S TROPHY BUCKS



201 5/8
Brett Salyers
Pike County
Non-typical
Archery

HOW TO GET ON NEXT YEAR'S TROPHY LIST

To be eligible for next year's trophy list a hunter must take a white-tailed deer in Kentucky this season that officially net scores 160 or higher typical, or net scores 185 or higher non-typical, as determined by the Boone and Crockett scoring system. Velvet deer scored under the Pope and Young Club system for bowhunters.

No later than May 1, send the completed and signed score sheet with a photo to Kentucky Hunting & Trapping Guide, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601. Include the county in which the deer was taken, and the equipment used to harvest the deer. Please send a copy as score sheets and photos will not be returned. Emailed submissions to info.center@ky.gov also will be accepted. To get a list of official Boone and Crockett Club scorers in Kentucky visit: www.boone-crockett.org.

BOONE & CROCKETT TROPHY DEER 2022 SEASON - TYPICAL			
SCORE	Hunter	County	Method
200 3/8	Joby Gossett	Pulaski	Modern Gun
173 2/8	Austin Ponder	Whitley	Modern Gun
172 7/8	Jared Kenner	Logan	Archery
170 5/8	Aaron Jolly	Breckinridge	Modern Gun
170 1/8	Jearmy S. Wilson	Casey	Archery
169 6/8 (velvet)	Clark Vice	Bath	Archery
167 3/8	Craig Browning	Edmonson	Archery
166 2/8	James Dalton	Boone	Muzzleloader
165 7/8	Justin Berry	Todd	Archery
165 4/8	Dale Vickers	Woodford	Crossbow
164 3/8	Christopher A. Anderson	Oldham	Modern Gun
162 5/8	Allen R. McQueary	Russell	Modern Gun
162 4/8	William Joey Reid	Madison	Crossbow
162	Braden Cheek	Scott	Archery
161 1/8	Jerry Loughran	Pulaski	Modern Gun
160 6/8	James A. Williams	Henderson	Modern Gun
160 2/8	Craig S. Burrell	Pulaski	Crossbow
160 2/8	Josh Earlywine	Roberston	Archery
160 2/8	Brannon Whisman	Jefferson	Modern Gun
160	David Andrew Newton	Nelson	Modern Gun

BOONE & CROCKETT TROPHY DEER 2022 SEASON - NON-TYPICAL			
SCORE	Hunter	County	Method
232 5/8	Ian Meredith	Grayson	Archery
229 4/8	Bridgett Smith	Union	Modern Gun
219 2/8	Dawson Mashburn	Muhlenberg	Modern Gun
216 4/8	Daniel Lappe Jr.	Henderson	Modern Gun
215 4/8	Kevin Clements	Casey	Crossbow
206 2/8	Colt Stumbo	Hardin	Modern Gun
203 4/8	Philip Travis	Edmonson	Crossbow
201 6/8	Roger Maynard	Johnson	Modern Gun
201 5/8	Brett Salyers	Pike	Archery
195 2/8	Jeff Humphrey	Franklin	Crossbow
195	Kevin W. Dunn	Meade	Crossbow
191 5/8	Kyle Montgomery	Jessamine	Modern Gun
189 1/8	Aaron C. Johnson	Edmonson	Crossbow
188 4/8	Curt Bangerter	Roberston	Crossbow
187 1/8	Allison Nardi	Todd	Modern Gun
186 7/8	Josh Harlow	Barren	Archery
185 1/8	Charles Watkins	Breathitt	Modern Gun

This list includes deer scored and reported to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. It is possible that unreported bucks taken last year in Kentucky may have scored 160 typical or 185 non-typical or higher.