

Fall & Winter HUNTING GUIDE



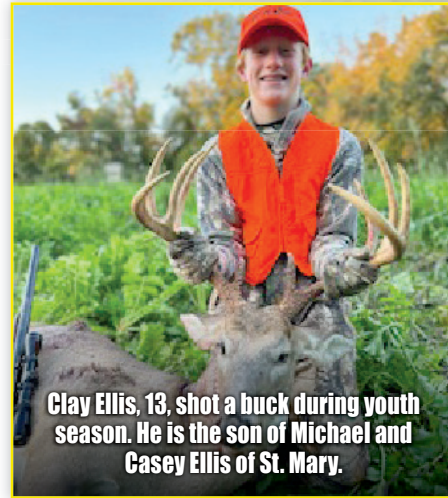
Adilyn Hotop, 13, shot a doe during youth season. She is the daughter of Zach Hotop and Ashley Seyer of Perryville.



Brody Stark, 4, shot a buck during Illinois youth season. He is the son of Matt and Shelby Stark of St. Mary.



Chevy Stark, 13, shot a buck during youth season. He is the son of Zach and Valerie Hotop of Perryville.



Clay Ellis, 13, shot a buck during youth season. He is the son of Michael and Casey Ellis of St. Mary.



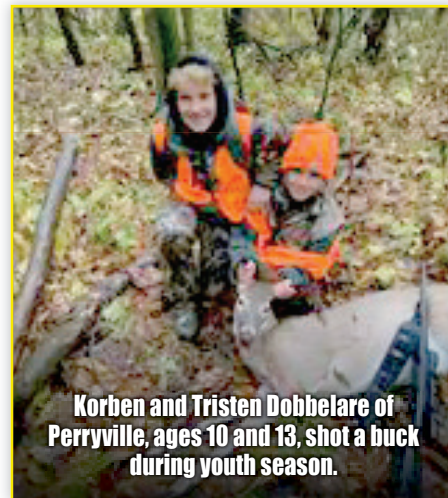
Dawson Lorenz, 8, with his first deer. He is the son of Kyle and Natalie Lorenz of Perryville.



Joshua Staffen, 13, shot a doe during youth season. He is the son of Cody Staffen and Kassie Otte of Ste. Genevieve.



Kholten Ochs, 13, shot a buck during youth season. He is the son of Damon and Alysha Ochs of Perryville.



Korben and Tristen Dobbela of Perryville, ages 10 and 13, shot a buck during youth season.

Perry County harvests 57 deer during early youth season

By Justin Hotop
jhotop@perryvillenews.com

Toward the end of October while many may be thinking of their wardrobe and costume options for another holiday centered around the color of orange, Halloween, and trick-or-treating, for the younger hunters in the area they had other thoughts while donning their orange vests and hats — would they be landing a trophy buck or settling for something a little smaller, such as a doe or button buck during the early portion youth deer hunting season.

Youth hunters — those at least 6 and not older than 15 on the opening day — in Perry County this fall harvested 57 deer during the early portion of the youth deer season. Of those 57 deer, 33 were bucks, 7 button bucks, and 17 does.

This was down from 100 deer that were harvested in the early youth portion in 2022 during the two-day period.

Preliminary data from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) shows that young hunters ages 6 through 15 harvested 11,118 deer during Missouri's early youth portion of the 2023 deer hunting season, Oct. 28-29. Top counties were Franklin with 258 deer harvested, Osage with 224, and Texas with 209. Of the deer harvested, 6,857 were antlered bucks, 3,410 were does, and 851 were button bucks.

Bollinger harvested 90 deer with 47 bucks, 8 button bucks, and 35 does.

Youth hunters harvested 13,877 during last year's early youth portion.

"Although the rain this past weekend was desperately needed given how dry it's been this year throughout much of

the state, it did put a damper on the early youth portion," said MDC's Cervid Program Supervisor Jason Isabelle.

Isabelle noted that the below average temperatures were conducive to good deer movement, but the combination of cooler temperatures and rainy conditions that persisted throughout much of the weekend likely reduced the amount of time many young hunters were able to spend afield.

Archery deer hunting continues through Nov. 10 and resumes Nov. 22 through Jan. 15, 2024. The November portion of firearms deer season runs Nov. 11-21 followed by the CWD portion, which is open in CWD Management Zone counties, Nov. 22-26. The late youth portion runs Nov. 24-26. The late antlerless portion of firearms deer season runs Dec. 2-10 in open counties and the alternative methods portion will occur Dec. 23 through Jan. 2, 2024.

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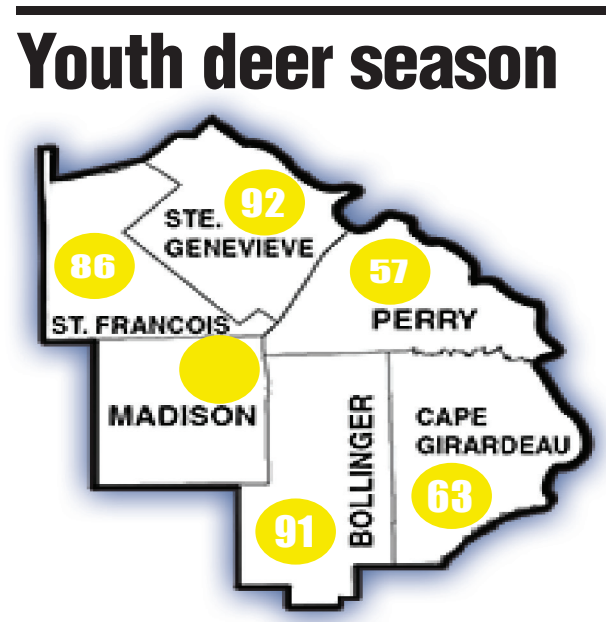
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STATEWIDE

ANTLERED BUCKS: 7,013
BUTTON BUCKS: 863
DOES: 3,461
TOTAL: 11,337

BY COUNTY

COUNTY	AB	BB	D	TOTAL	2022
Bollinger	48	8	35	91	101
Perry	33	7	17	57	50
St. Francois	33	15	38	86	56
Cape	32	11	44	87	32
Ste. Gen.	50	10	32	92	73
Five County Total	202	47	140	389	312

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Whether choosing a firearm and ammo for self defense, hunting, or target practice, we keep a large variety in stock and can order specific firearms if we do not currently carry what you are looking for. We understand that buying a firearm is not just a transaction; it's an investment in your safety, sport, or passion. As seasoned firearms vendors, we understand the weight of your choice and the significance of locating a dealer who shares your values and meets your needs. That's why we take the time to equip you with the necessary knowledge to make an informed choice, allowing you to enjoy your firearm purchase with peace of mind. Since we buy and trade, we carry a wide selections of used firearms that we stand behind and will work to fix if there are any issues.

Hunting seasons come and go and we typically order early in preparations for the seasons carrying firearms, cases, slings, accessories, shooting sticks, ammo, reloading materials and targets. As a family that hunts we are seasoned in breaking youth and new hunters. We carry a wide variety of low recoil calibers, youth and compact firearms, and can help you choose which option will set your future hunter up for a lifetime of success.

Purchasing a self defense firearm is a choice that effects your entire family. Whether you are looking to buy a self-defense firearm for the first time or looking to add to your collection, it is important to make an informed decision with the help of a reputable professional. In helping you make your decision it is important to us that you are able to easily operate your weapon and that you are educated in making your decision. It is also important that you are comfortable knowing how you are going to use the weapon and whether you are purchasing a firearm for concealed carry or home defense. Price is a consideration and we also have a wide range of prices in new and used options.



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Landon Hudson, 13, shot a doe during youth season. He is the son of Nathan and Crystal Hudson of Perryville.



Lucas Winston of Ste. Genevieve shot a 13-pointer in Illinois with his grandpa, Charlie.



Madalynn Cissell, 13, of Perryville shot her biggest doe during youth season.



Maverick Hotop, 7, shot a buck during youth season. He is the son of Zach and Valerie Hotop.

Tips for successfully hunting white-tailed deer

Hunting white-tailed deer is an exciting and enjoyable experience. Careful planning and preparation can increase your chances of harvesting game. Here are a few tips for a successful hunt.

- Choose the right place. Do your research to find out where white-tailed deer hunting is permitted in your area and where you're most likely to spot them. Consider the terrain, vegetation and other factors.
- Consider the different seasons. Depending on where you live, certain times of the year may be more productive than others. Consider factors such as weather conditions and available food sources when deciding what time of year to go hunting.
- Prepare your equipment. Make sure all your gear is in good condition. If necessary, invest in high-quality binoculars and scent control products. These products will maximize your ability to spot deer from a distance or go unnoticed as they approach.



- Be patient. Deer movement patterns vary based on the season. Therefore, you must be patient when trying to locate one in the wild.

Follow these tips to increase your chances of success.



Mitchel Klaus, 7, shot a buck during youth season. He is the son of Michael and Amanda Klaus of Frohna.



Raelyn Copeland, 10, shot a buck during youth season. She is the daughter of Clayton and Jenna Copeland.



Cooper Catoor, 13, shot a buck on his uncle's farm. He is the son of Derek and Amanda Cattoor.

Four mistakes to avoid when hunting

Hunting is a fun and popular hobby for many people. However, it can be risky or unproductive if you don't take the proper precautions. If you're a novice hunter planning a trip, it's important to avoid these four common

mistakes to stay safe and increase your chances of success.

1. Failing to wear the required safety equipment. Wearing the appropriate safety equipment, such as an orange bib, prevents accidents by ensuring you're seen by other nearby hunters.
2. Using the wrong weapon. It's essential to use the right equipment, like a rifle or bow when hunting certain types of game. This will make your hunt more profitable and avoid causing unnecessary suffering to the animal.
3. Failing to remain alert. When you're out in the field, it's important to frequently scan in all directions. You don't want an animal, hunter or hiker to break your concentration or cause you to unintentionally pull the trigger.
4. Neglecting to pay attention to wind direction and temperature. When planning your hunt, make sure to keep these factors in mind. The wind direction and ambient temperature can increase your chances of being spotted or influence where animals hide.

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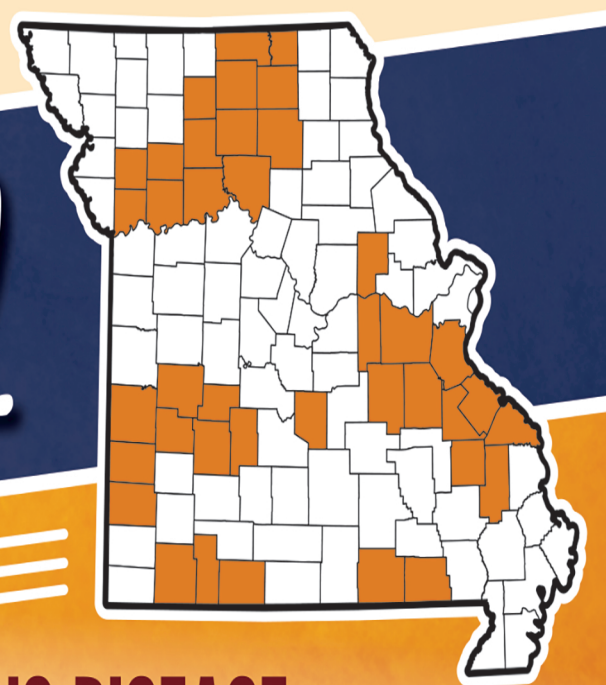
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