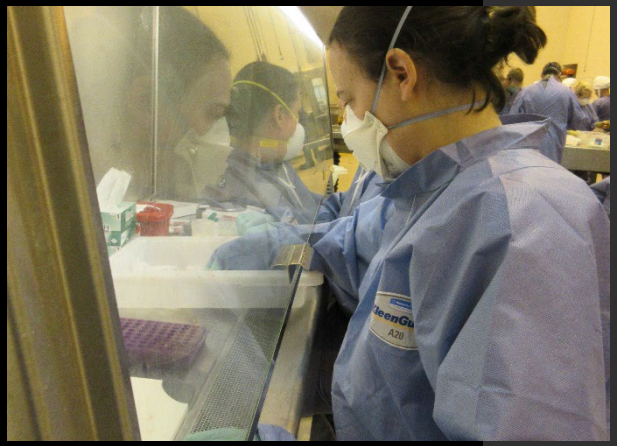
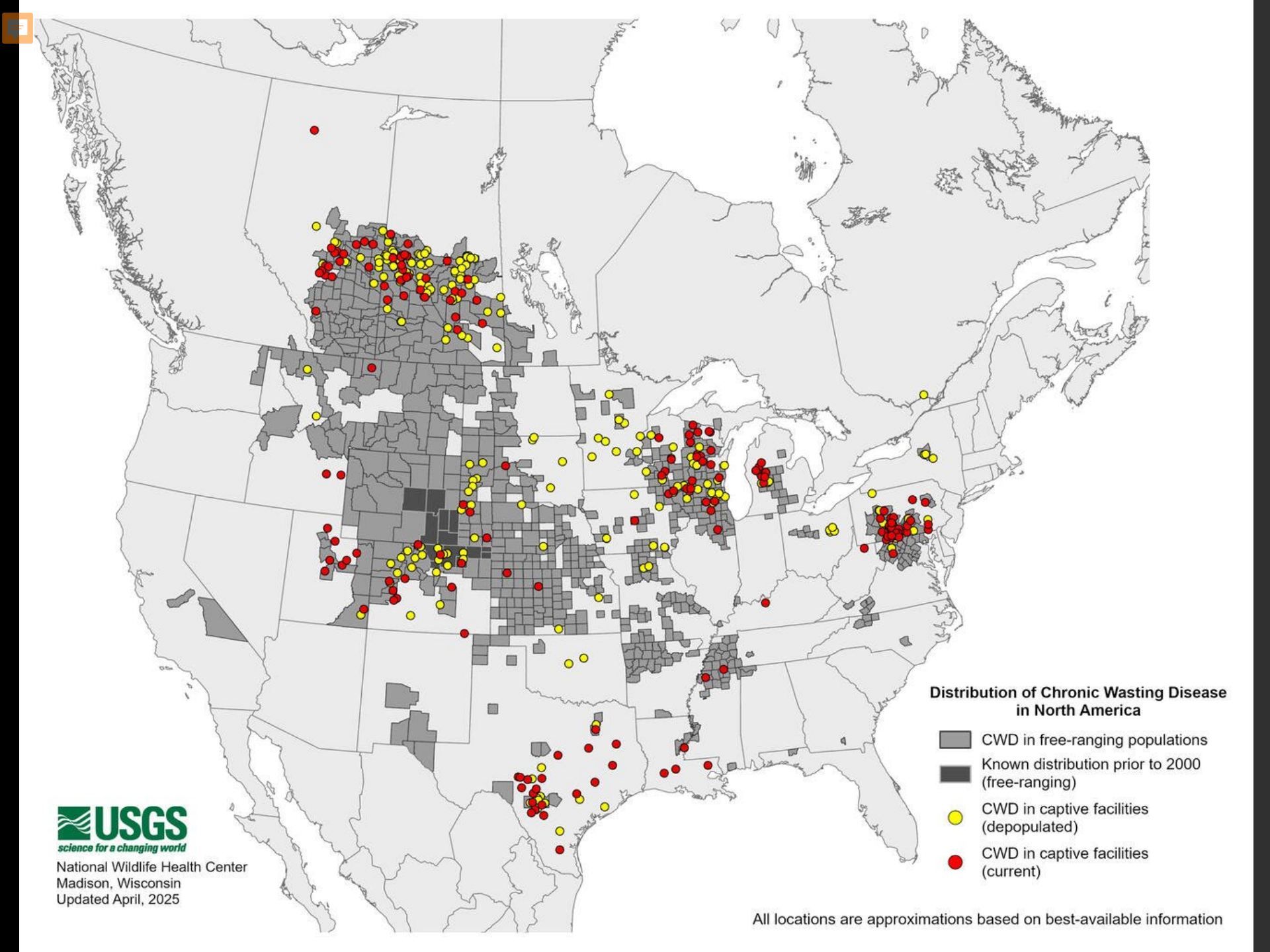
Department of Natural Resources CWD Update

April 10, 2025

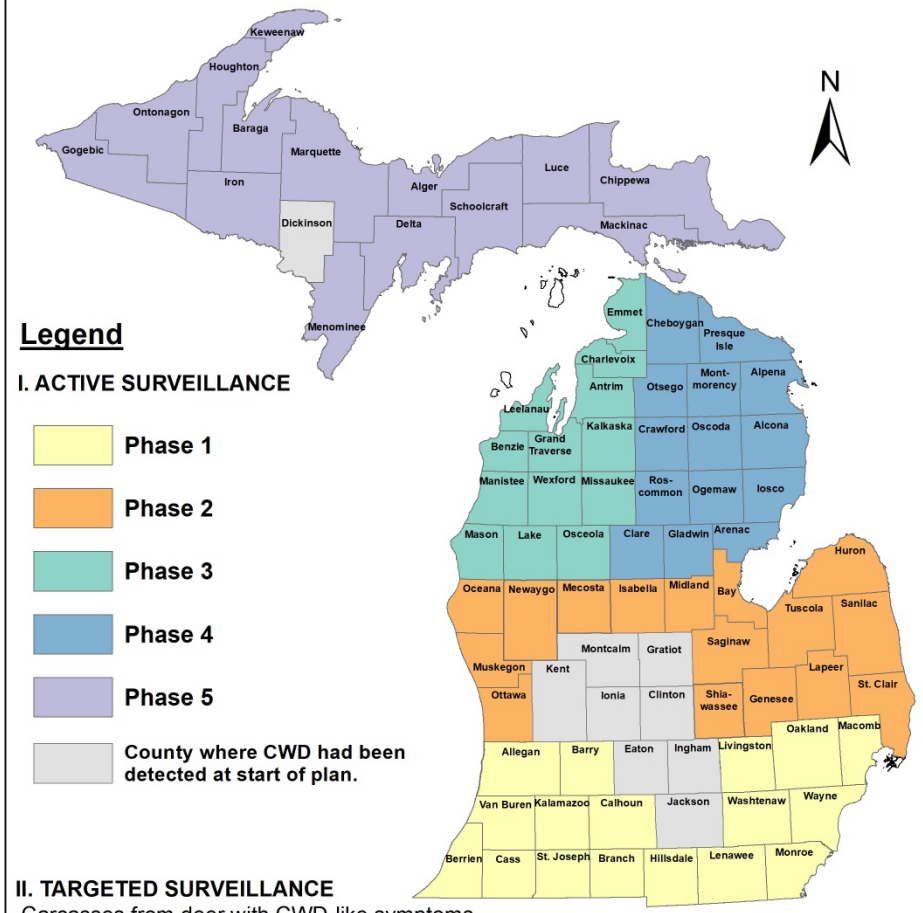
Melinda Cosgrove
Laboratory Scientist Manager
Wildlife Health Section
Wildlife Division

Wildlife Health Section




Distribution of Chronic Wasting Disease in North America
CWD in free-ranging populations
Known distribution prior to 2000 (free-ranging)
CWD in captive facilities (depopulated)
CWD in captive facilities (current)
USGS
science for a changing world
National Wildlife Health Center
Madison, Wisconsin
Updated April, 2025
All locations are approximations based on best-available information

Conceptual Plan for Rotational Approach to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance for Free-ranging White-tailed Deer, Michigan



Legend

I. ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE

- **Phase 1**
- **Phase 2**
- **Phase 3**
- **Phase 4**
- **Phase 5**
- **County where CWD had been detected at start of plan.**

II. TARGETED SURVEILLANCE

Carcasses from deer with CWD-like symptoms accepted statewide, year-round

All deer tested for CWD are also tested for bovine tuberculosis.

0 25 50 Miles

0 50 100 Kilometers

March 11, 2024 (MC)

Weighted Surveillance

- Method developed through analysis of Wisconsin dataset containing 90,000 sampled deer with >1,000 positives
  (Jennelle et al., 2017)
- Deer grouped into categories by collection method/gender/age
  - Hunter harvest vs. sick deer vs. roadkill, etc.
  - Male vs. female; Adult vs. yearling vs. fawn
- Each category assigned value or weight based on likelihood to be positive for CWD
- Builds confidence in absence disease or very low levels of disease, if present.

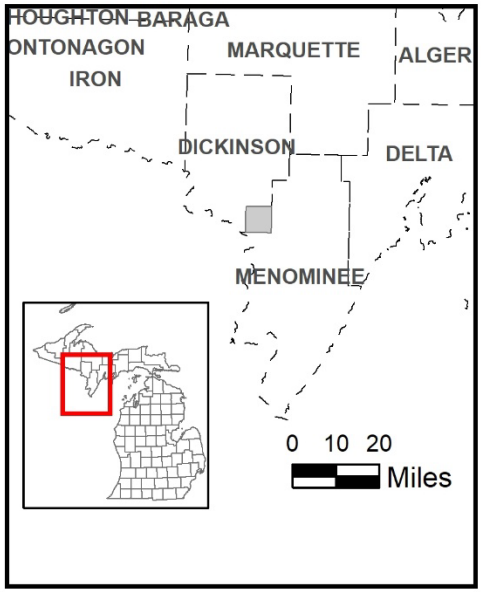
Not all deer are created equal

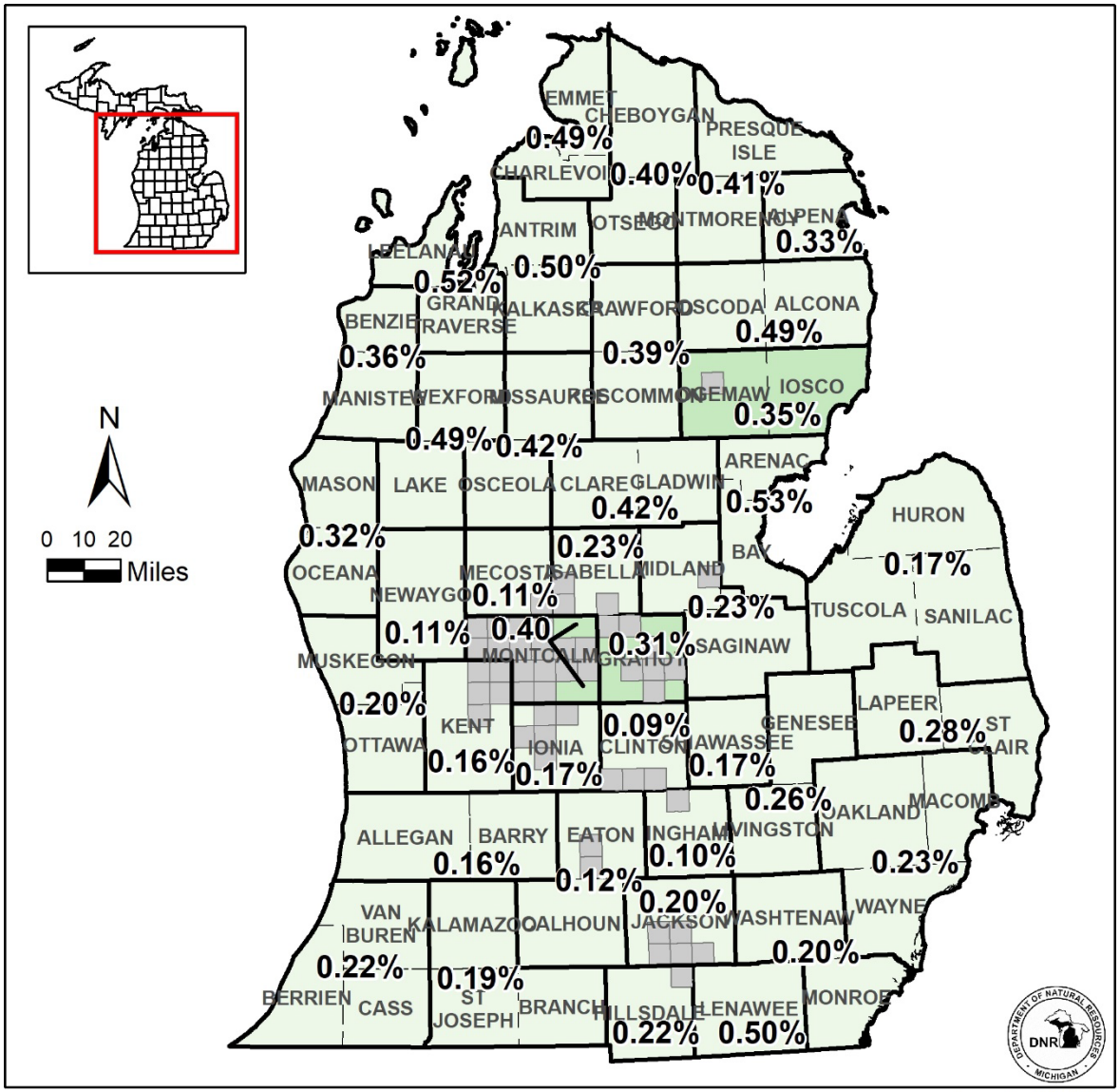
Mortality source	R
Clinical suspect; community reported	33.333
Clinical suspect; hunter reported	9.091
Found dead	7.317
Sharpshot adult male	3.297
Hunter-harvested adult male	3.226
Sharpshot adult female	1.563
Hunter-harvested adult female	1.304
Hunter-harvested yearling male	**1.000**
Hunter-harvested yearling female	0.850
Sharpshot fawn male	0.625
Sharpshot yearling male	0.432
Sharpshot fawn female	0.347
Vehicle collision	0.216
Sharpshot yearling female	0.121
Hunter-harvested fawn female	0.084
Hunter-harvested fawn male	0.001

Jennelle et al. 2018. Surveillance weights developed from white-tailed deer harvest data from 2003 to 2010 in the CWD management zone of Wisconsin.

Estimated Potential Undetected Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Prevalence*, Lower Peninsula Michigan

Based on 2008-2024 Testing





Legend

- Met design prevalence
- Working towards 0.25% design prevalence
- CWD Surveillance Population
- County Line

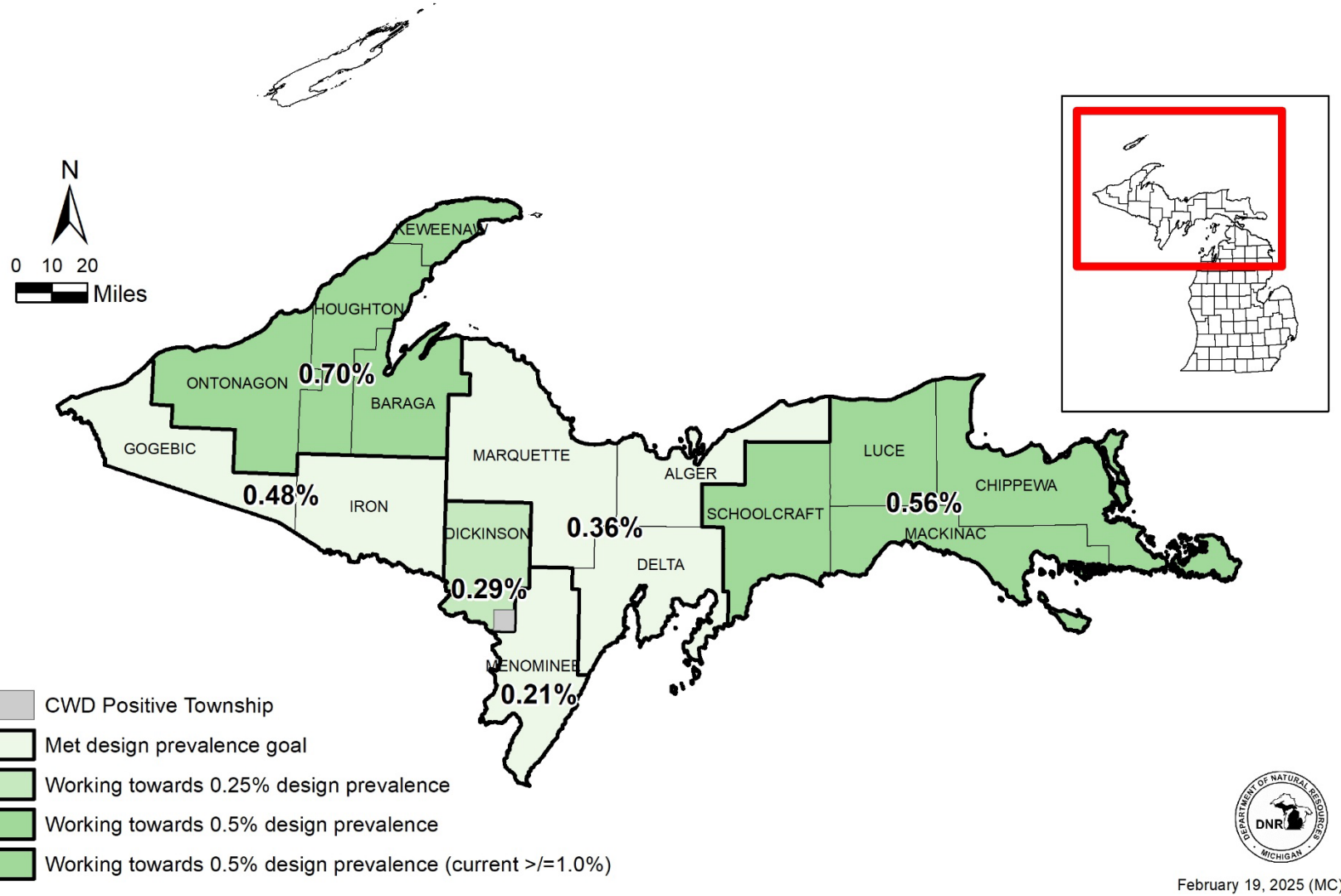
Numbers represent the upper 95% credible limit for undetected prevalence.

*To the extent that CWD is clustered on the landscape and/or the deer tested are not represenative of the underlying population, prevalence could be higher.

February 13, 2025 (MC)

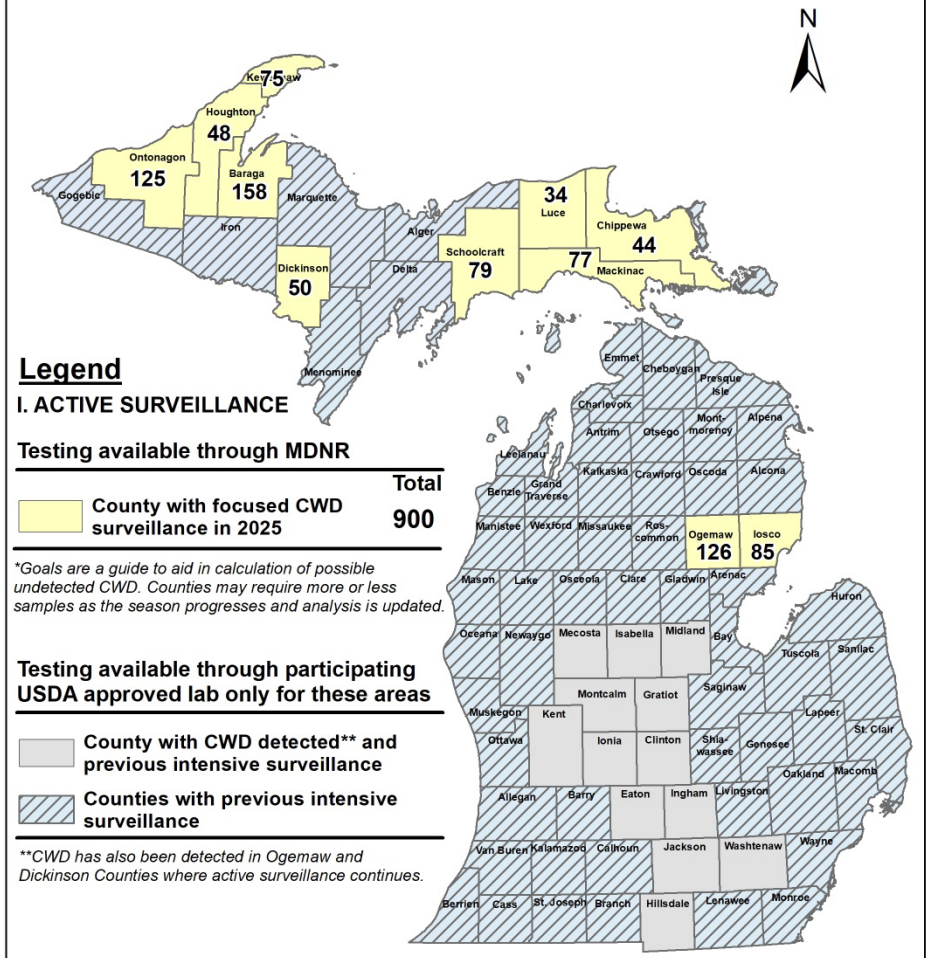
Estimated Potential Undetected Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Prevalence in the Upper Peninsula, Michigan

Based on 2008-2024 Testing



February 19, 2025 (MC)

2025 Michigan Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance Plan for Free-ranging White-tailed Deer



Legend

I. ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE

Testing available through MDNR

	Total
County with focused CWD surveillance in 2025	900

**Goals are a guide to aid in calculation of possible undetected CWD. Counties may require more or less samples as the season progresses and analysis is updated.*

Testing available through participating USDA approved lab only for these areas

- County with CWD detected** and previous intensive surveillance
- Counties with previous intensive surveillance

***CWD has also been detected in Ogemaw and Dickinson Counties where active surveillance continues.*

II. TARGETED SURVEILLANCE

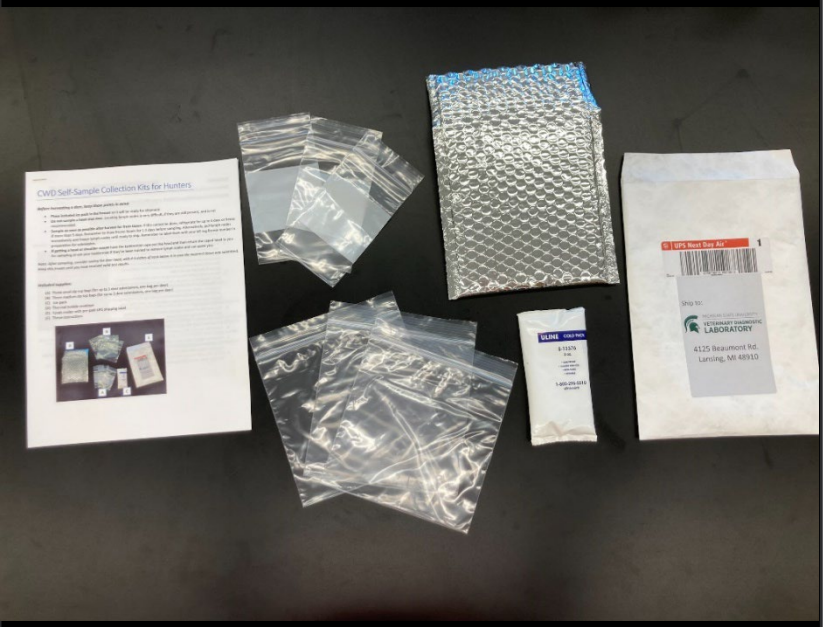
Carcasses from deer with CWD-like symptoms accepted statewide, year-round

All deer tested for CWD are also tested for bovine tuberculosis.

0 25 50 Miles

0 50 100 Kilometers

Aptil 2, 2025 (MC)



Hunter Self-Submissions

- Began in 2020 to ensure testing available to anyone in the state
- Samples submitted by hunter directly to diagnostic labs for a fee in 2020 and 2021
- In 2022 and 2023, USDA grant to DNR – covered test cost for hunters in CWD positive counties
- Both options continue to be available

Michigan White-tailed Deer CWD Direct Sample Submissions to VDL

Includes submissions through for-a-fee testing, free submission kits, and Hunters Feeding Michigan

(Free kits began in 2022, HFM in 2023)

Year	Positive	Total Deer Tested
2020	2	274
2021	0	176
2022	8	274
2023	11	770
2024*	34	1,285
2025**	1	275
Grand Total	56	3,054

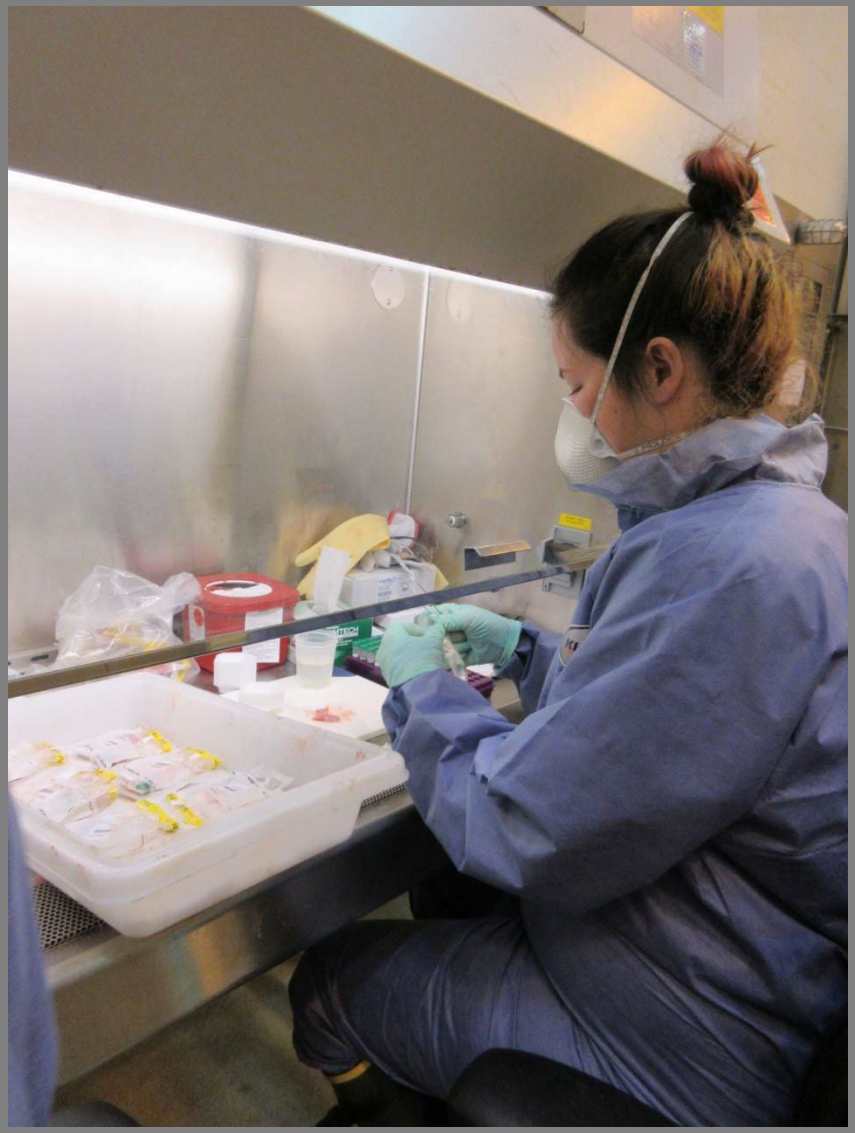
As of March 7, 2025

*final numbers for 2024 still being tabulated

*testing for current year on-going

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DNR MICHIGAN

Michigan White-tailed Deer DNR CWD Surveillance



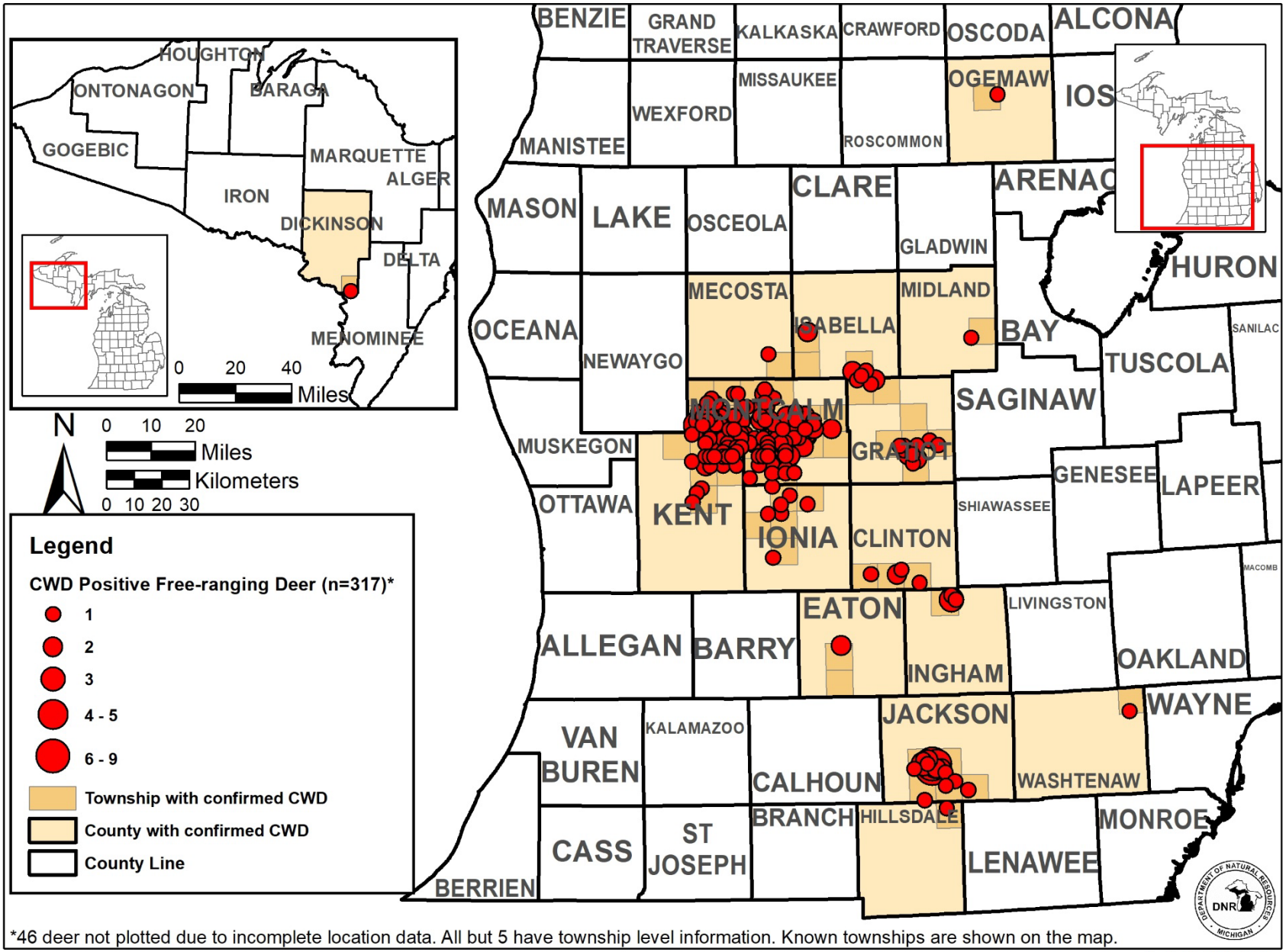
Year	Positive	Total Deer Tested
2002		4,372
2003		5,617
2004		6,822
2005		1,702
2006		1,546
2007		1,406
2008		9,347
2009		1,136
2010		895
2011		798
2012		32
2013		46
2014		33
2015	5	4,226
2016	4	7,624
2017	45	17,414
2018	62	30,773
2019	65	20,071
2020	20	2,276
2021	25	7,770
2022	16	11,204
2023	11	4,142
2024	7	4,458
2025*	1	66
Grand Total	261	143,797

As of March 6, 2025

*testing for current year on-going

Free-ranging White-tailed Deer Positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), Michigan

Data from all sampling sources as of March 10, 2025

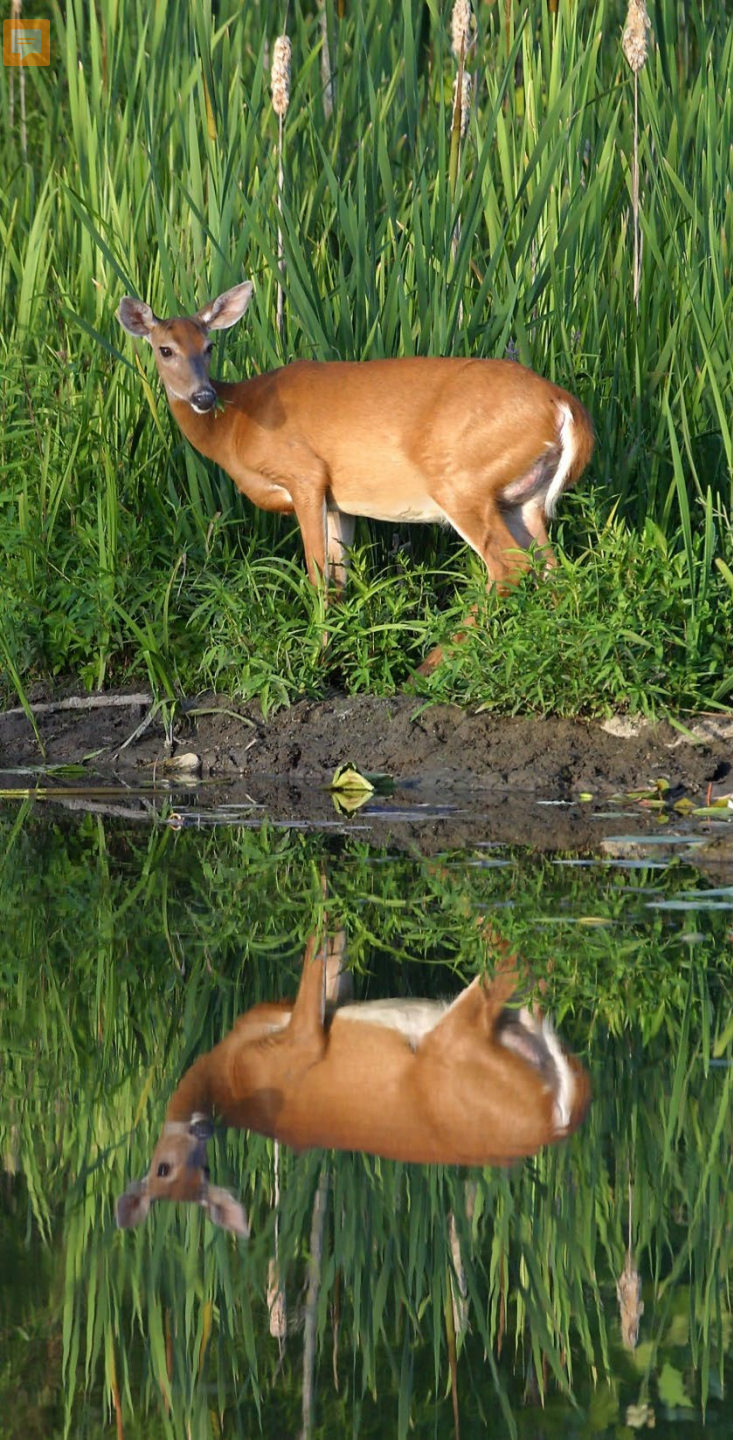


*46 deer not plotted due to incomplete location data. All but 5 have township level information. Known townships are shown on the map.

March 10, 2025 (MC)

Summary

- Entering final phase of plan for rotational sampling
- Increased sampling efficiency – ahead of where we thought we'd be in 2025
- Continued options for anyone in the state to have a deer tested no matter where hunting
- Use of other sampling streams (direct submissions to VDL) continue to increase, lending additional information as a complement to our surveillance
- Testing of targeted deer and sick/dead deer efforts also continue to add valuable information
- To date, through all sources, ~147,000 deer tested statewide with 317 CWD positive deer identified



What's ahead?

- Work to back fill veterinary epidemiologist position to assist with planning efforts
- Use data from the rotational sampling plan to develop next steps and new objectives
- Begin working on revising CWD plan for Michigan
- Continue to consider research and models to better understand various aspects of the disease
- Continue to provide various options for hunters who want to have their deer tested

Thank you

Melinda Cosgrove
cosgrovem1@michigan.gov

2024 Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance and Monitoring

Natural Resources Commission Update

April 10, 2024

Mitch Marcus, Wildlife Health Section Supervisor, MDNR

Emily Sewell, Wildlife Health Specialist, MDNR

Dr. Michael VanderKlok, Cattle Programs Manager, MDARD

Presentation Outline

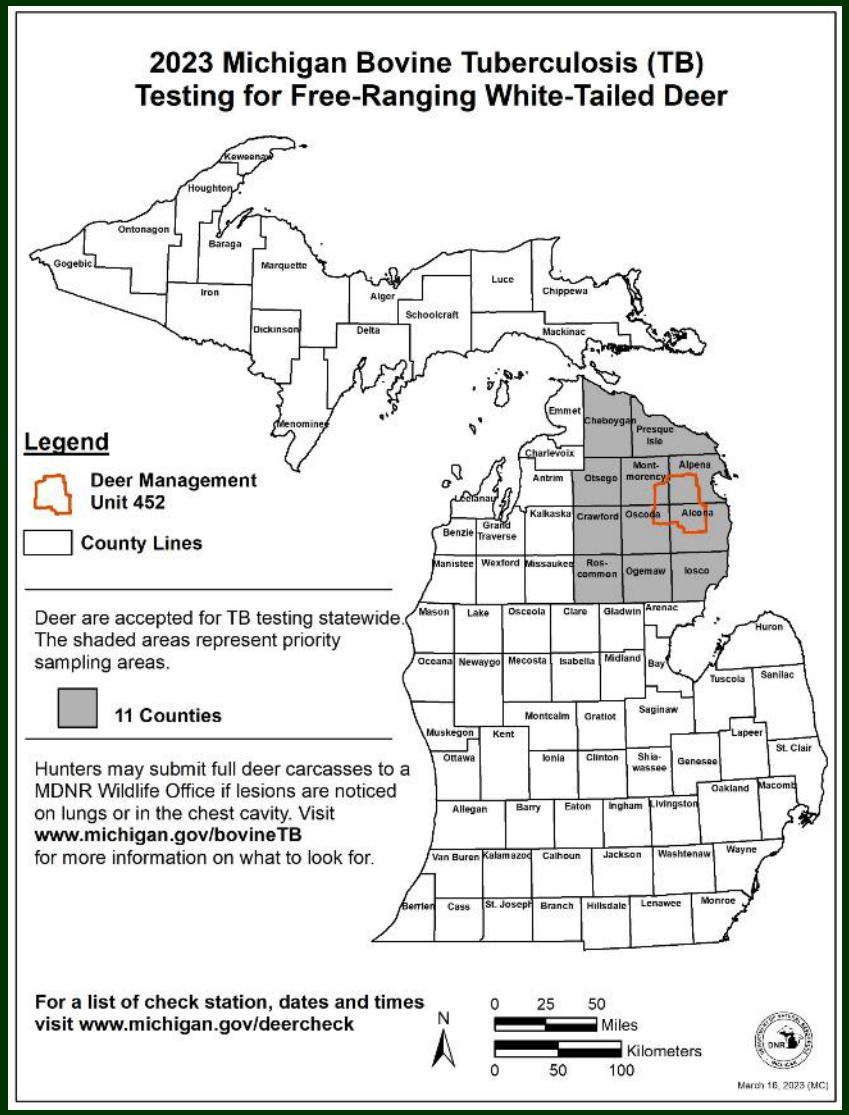
- bTB and One Health
- Sample collection
- Data analysis
- Cattle Update
- Future Directions
- Questions

Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB): One Health

https://twitter.com/WHO/status/918572952517521408

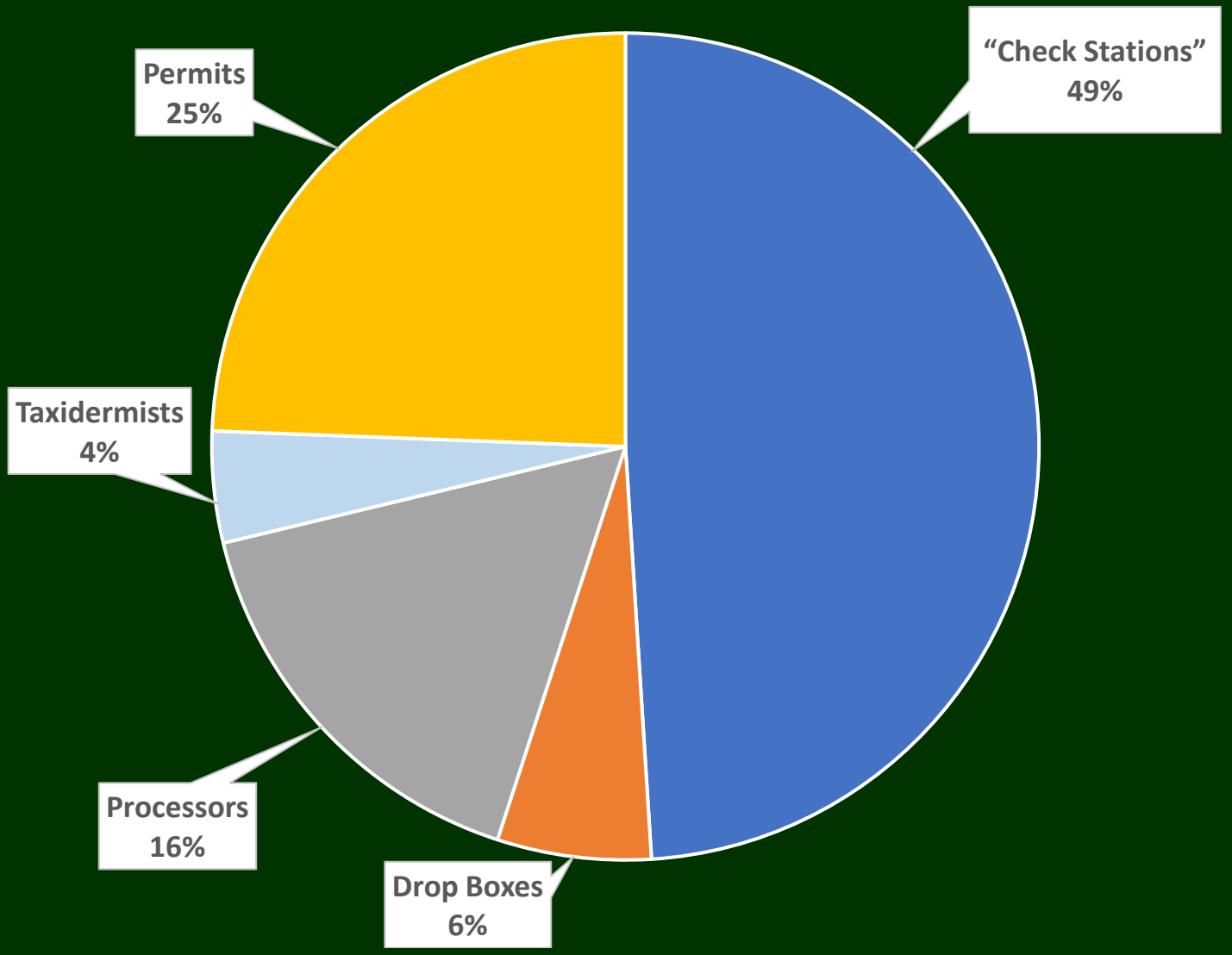
Sample Collection

2024 Bovine TB Efforts

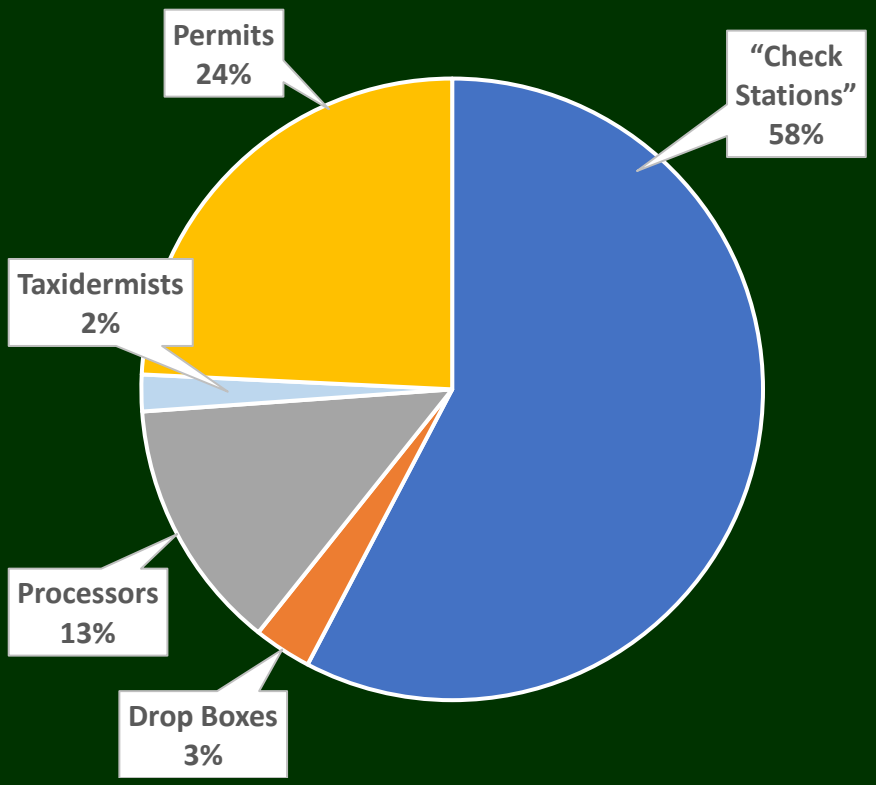


- Staffed locations
- 24-hr. self-service drop boxes
- Permits
- Processors and taxidermists
- Communications

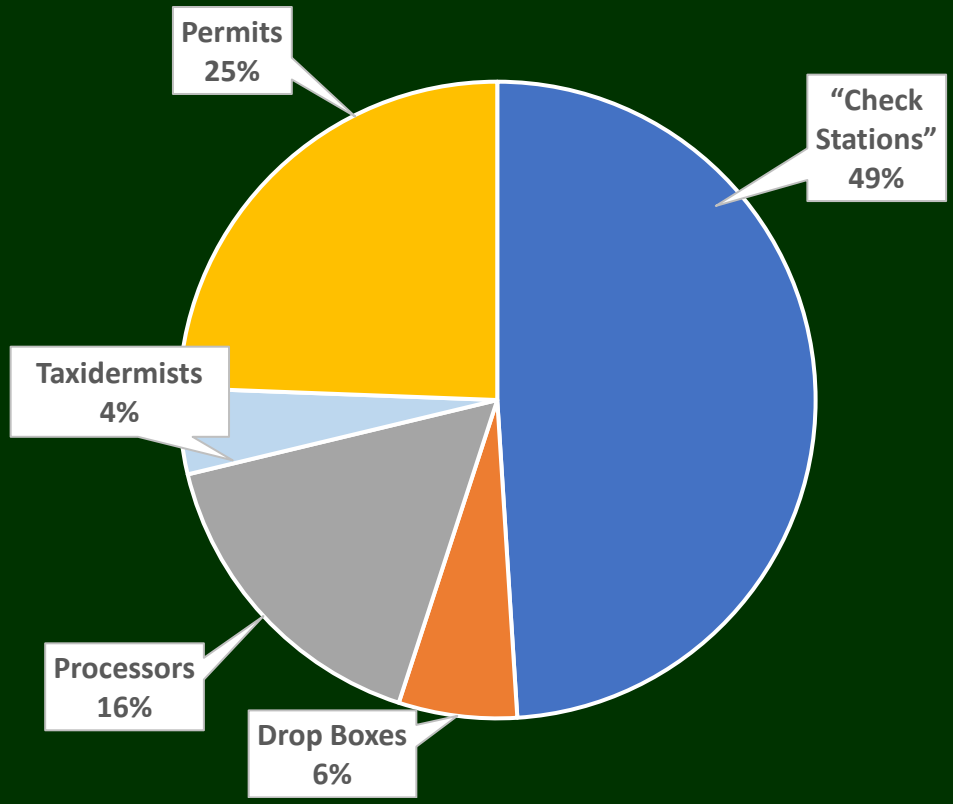
bTB Sample Submission Method



2023 vs. 2024 Sample Submission



2023



2024

2024 Bovine TB Cooperator Program

- Reported collecting avg. of 18% of heads handled
- Primary reasons sample not collected:
  - Keeping head for mount
  - Deer not from surveillance area
  - Didn’t want DNR to test deer
- All likely to participate again

Photo: M. Cosgrove, MDNR

Data Analyses

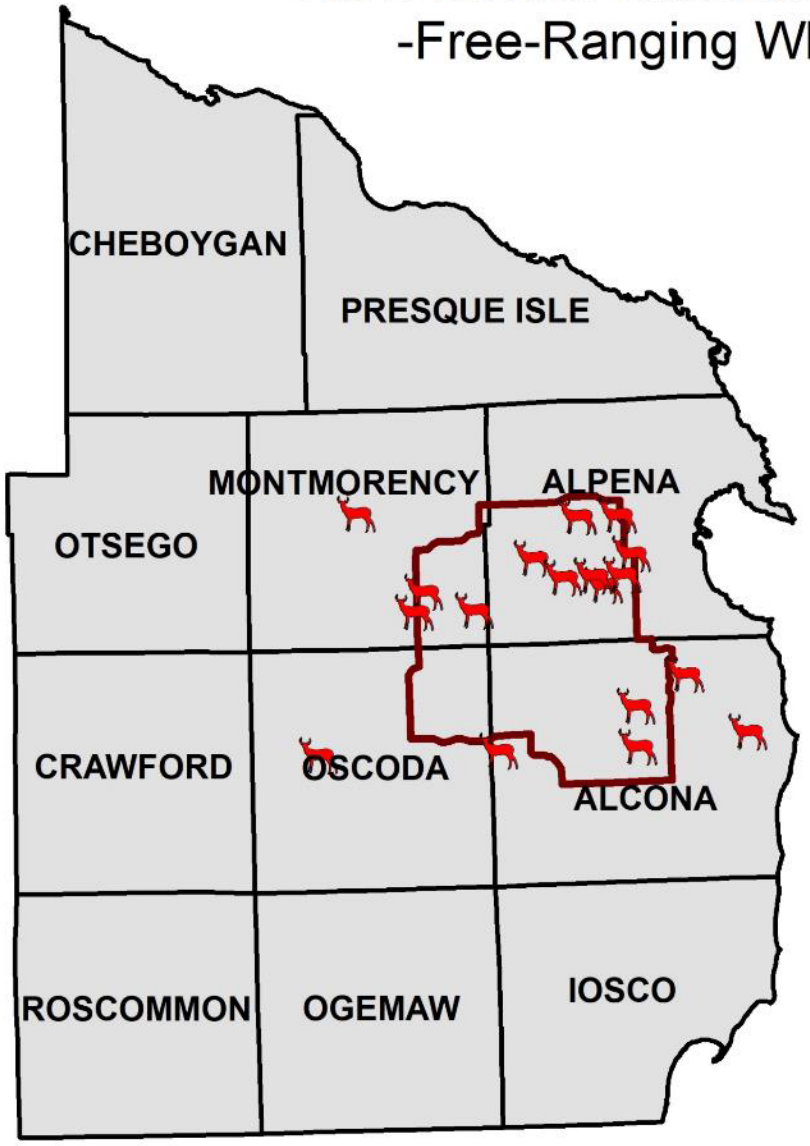
Michigan White-tailed Deer TB Surveillance

Year	Positive	Total Deer Tested
1975 & 1994	2	2
1995	18	403
1996	56	4,966
1997	73	3,720
1998	78	9,058
1999	58	19,497
2000	53	25,855
2001	61	24,278
2002	51	18,092
2003	32	17,273
2004	29	15,096
2005	16	7,349
2006	41	7,913
2007	27	8,307
2008	37	16,264
2009	31	5,716
2010	24	4,974
2011	17	6,026
2012	23	4,725
2013	21	5,903
2014	12	4,266
2015	34	8,458
2016	20	12,031

Year	Positive	Total Deer Tested
2017	49	23,062
2018	26	35,620
2019	31	25,100
2020	20	7,460
2021	18	11,803
2022	28	16,062
2023	28	7,345
2024	21	7,456
Grand Total	1,044	364,080

As of March 6, 2025

2024 Bovine Tuberculosis Survey Results
-Free-Ranging White-tailed Deer-



Legend

- Location of TB Positive Deer*
- DMU 452
- County with Positive Deer 1975-2024
- County Line

*One positive deer in Alpena Co. not shown due to incomplete location data

Positive Deer 2024 = 21
Positive Deer 1975-2024 = 1,044

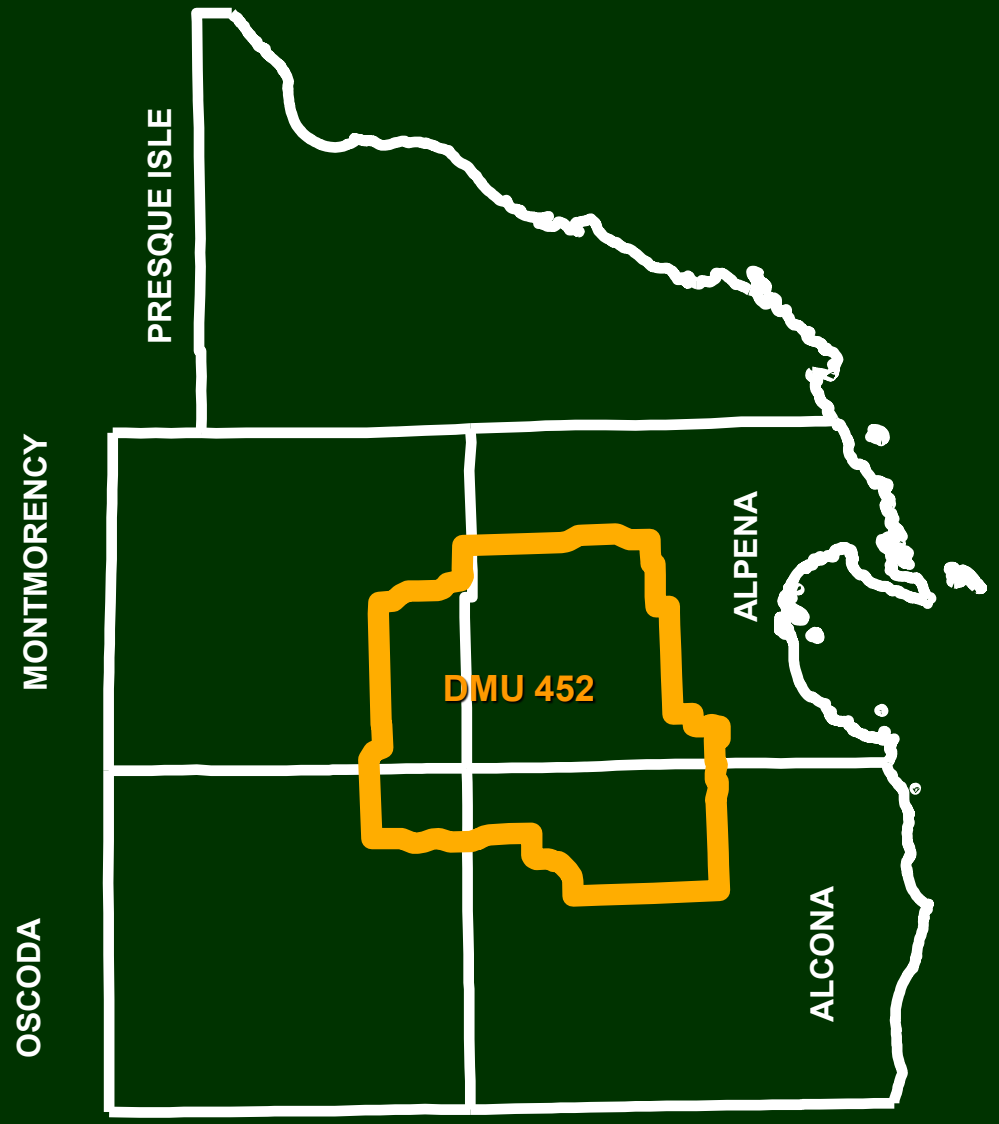
N

0 10 20 Miles

0 15 30 Kilometers

March 6, 2024 (MC)

Apparent bTB Prevalence in Adult Deer in DMU 452

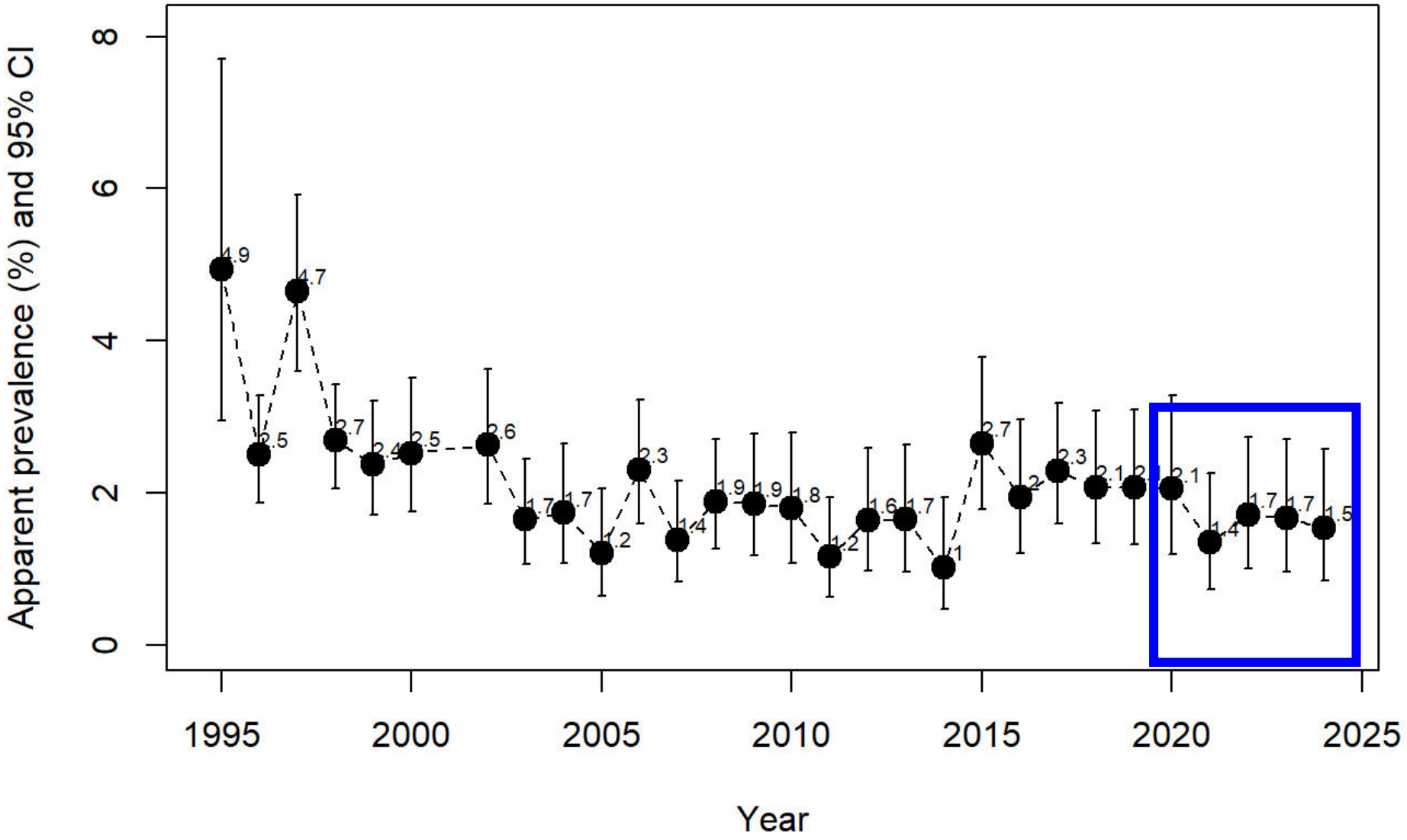


Year	DMU 452	5-Co.Outside DMU 452
1995	4.9%	(no testing)
1996	2.5%	0.2%
1997	4.7%	0.4%
1998	2.7%	0.3%
1999	2.4%	0.2%
2000	2.5%	0.4%
2001	2.3%*	0.5%
2002	2.6%	0.5%
2003	1.7%	0.2%
2004	1.7%	0.2%
2005	1.2%	0.1%
2006	2.3%	0.3%
2007	1.4%	0.2%
2008	1.9%	0.3%
2009	1.9%	0.4%
2010	1.8%	0.2%
2011	1.2%	0.1%
2012	1.7%	0.3%
2013	1.7%	0.2%
2014	1.0%	0.2%
2015	2.7%	0.3%
2016	2.0%	0.3%
2017	2.3%	0.6%
2018	2.1%	0.1%
2019	2.1%	0.4%
2020	2.1%	0.1%
2021	1.4%	0.1%
2022	1.7%	0.4%
2023*	1.7%	0.4%
2024*	**1.5%**	**0.3%**

*Estimates subject to potential bias due to drop in reporting of section level harvest locations by hunters in 2023 and 2024

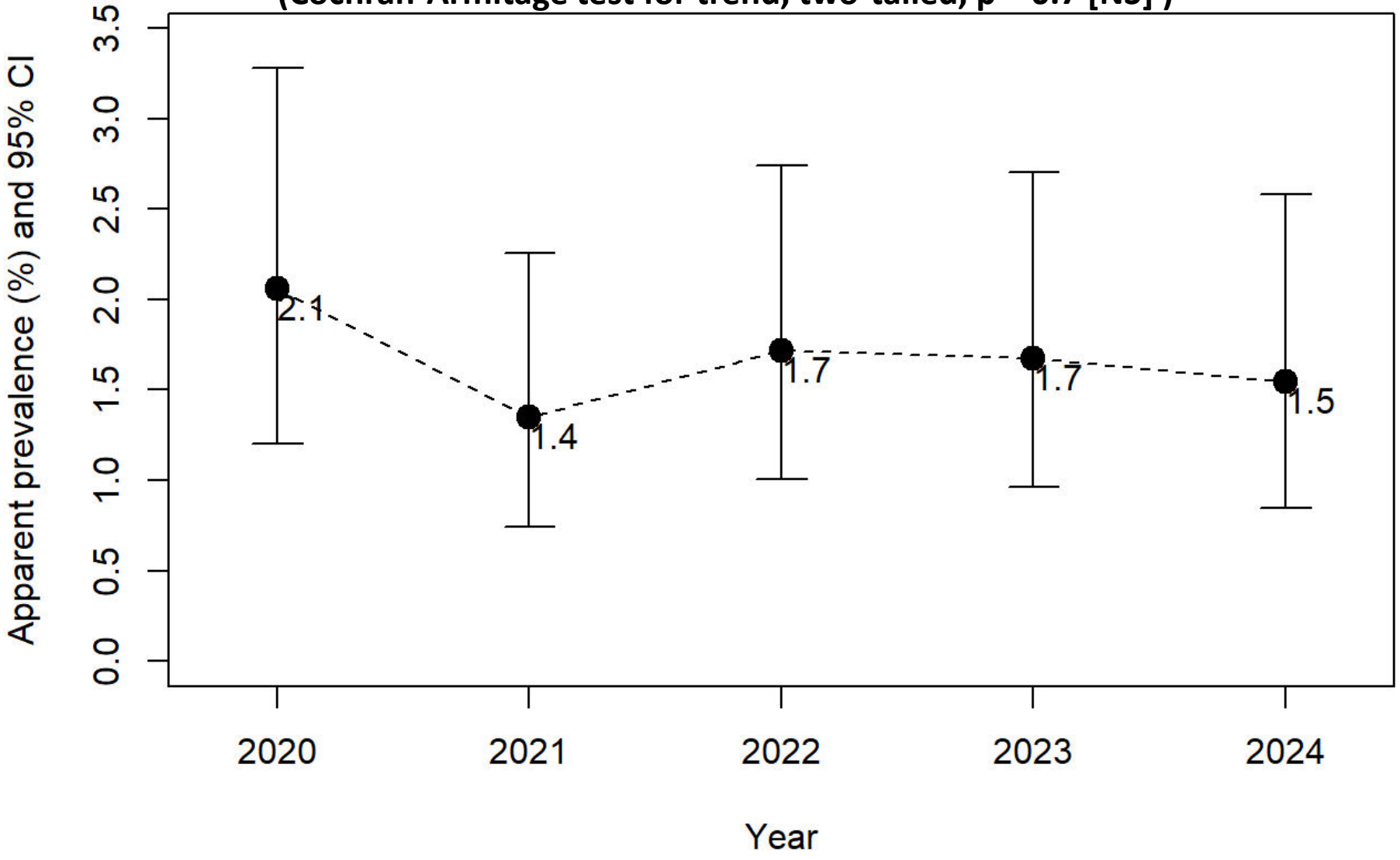
Apparent Prevalence of Bovine Tuberculosis (w/95% Confid. Limits), Adult White-tailed Deer, DMU452, 1995-2024

(Cochran-Armitage test for trend, two-tailed, p< 0.0001)



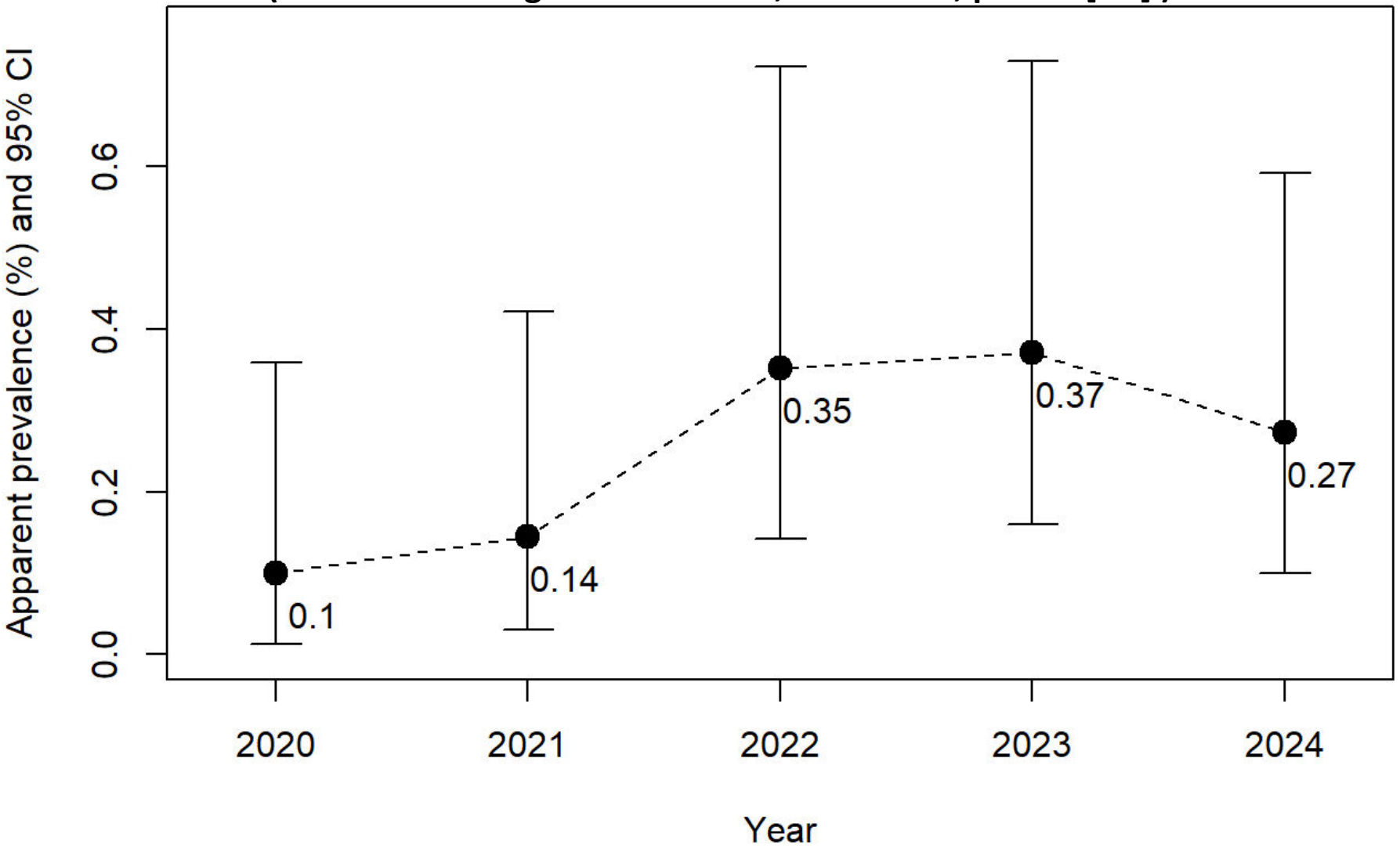
Apparent Prevalence of Bovine Tuberculosis (w/95% Confid. Limits), Adult White-tailed Deer, DMU452, 2020-2024

(Cochran-Armitage test for trend, two-tailed, p = 0.7 [NS])



Apparent Prevalence of Bovine Tuberculosis (w/95% Confid. Limits), Adult White-tailed Deer, 5-County (no core), 2020-2024

(Cochran-Armitage test for trend, two-tailed, p = 0.1 [NS])



Cattle Update & Status of Bovine Tuberculosis Efforts

Michael VanderKlok, DVM

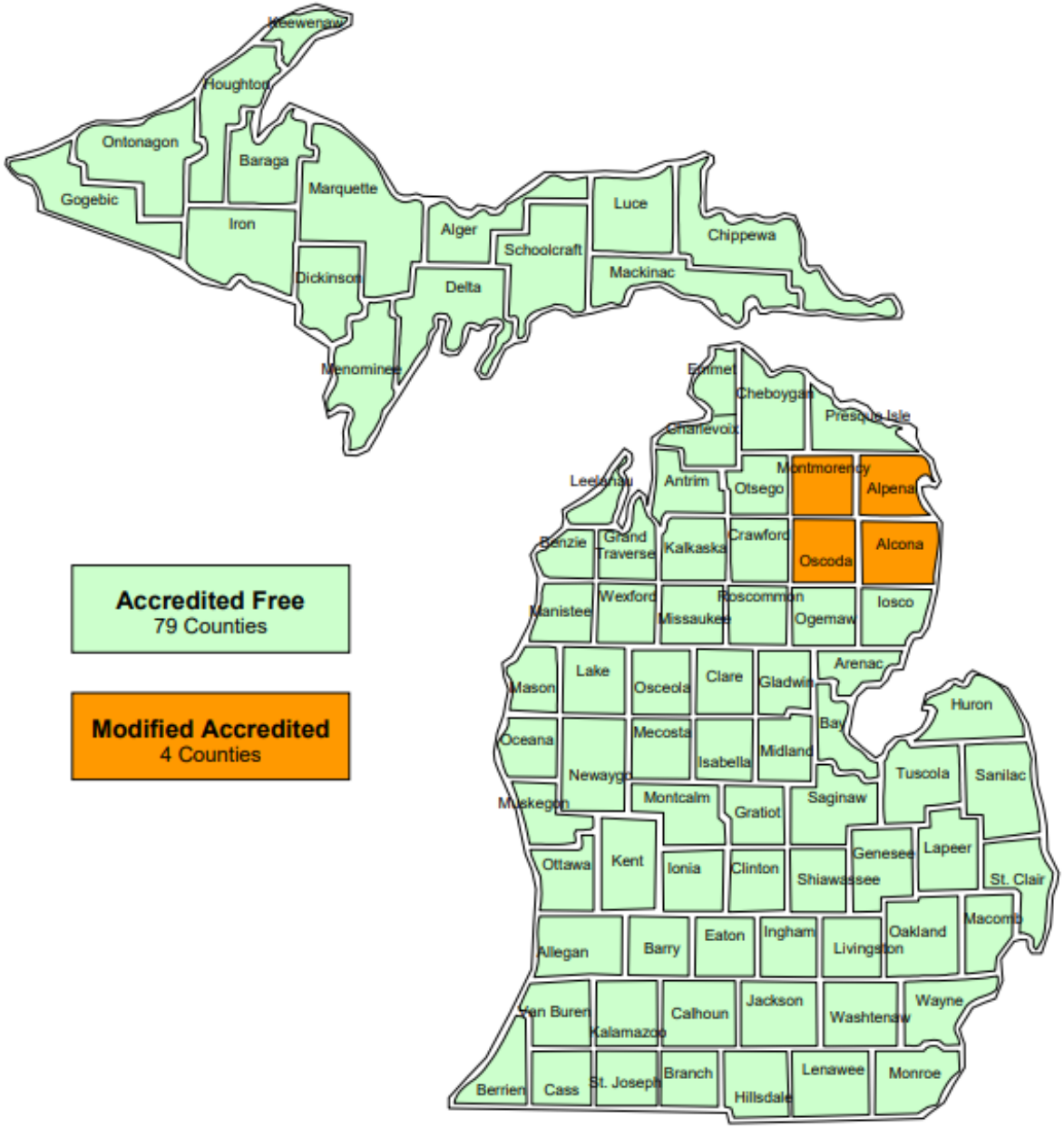
Cattle Programs Manager

Bureau of Food Safety and Animal Health, Animal Industry Division

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

April 10, 2025

Michigan Bovine Tuberculosis Zones

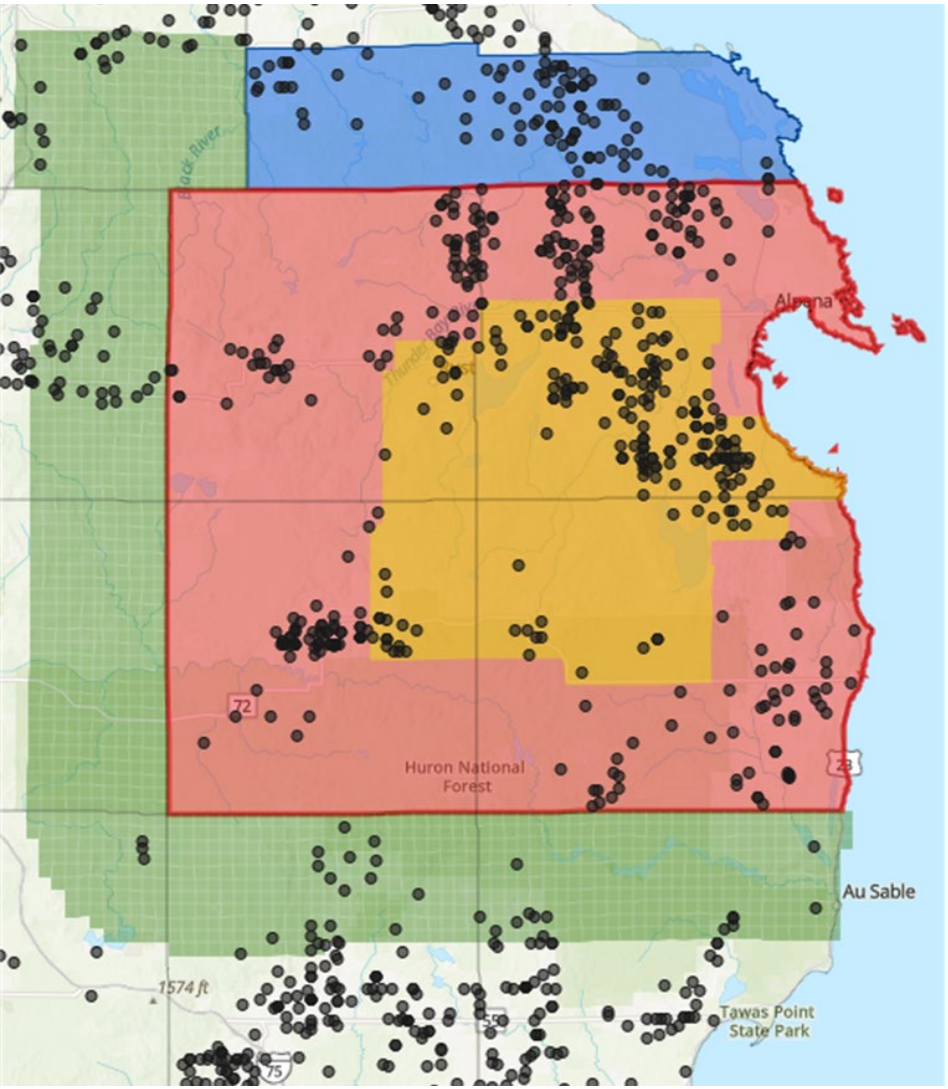


Accredited Free
79 Counties

Modified Accredited
4 Counties

Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

TB Area Cattle Farms



Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) / Presque Isle County

- 605 cattle farms
- MAZ includes Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Oscoda counties
- Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity (EWB) Area
  - 164 cattle farms

Buffer Area

- Includes portions of Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Ogemaw, Otsego, and Roscommon counties
- 72 cattle farms

Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

2024 Bovine TB Surveillance in Cattle

MAZ and Presque Isle County

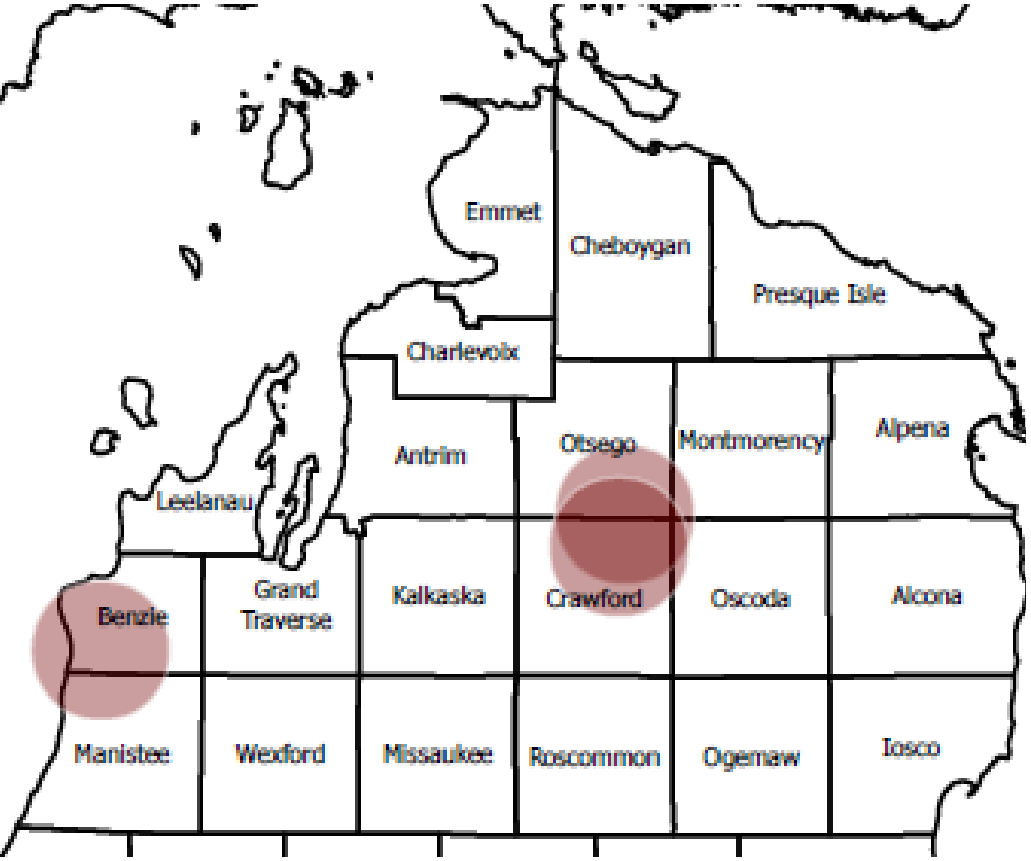
Caudal Fold Tests: 16,541

- Over 1,400 herd visits to complete the required testing
- 1 TB-infected bovine identified (Alcona County)

Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

2024 Circle Testing

Testing of cattle herds within 10 miles of a TB-infected wild deer



- 2023 TB-positive wild deer detected in Benzie County
  - 72 herds tested
  - No TB-infected cattle identified
- 2023 TB-positive wild deer detected in Crawford and Otsego counties
  - 4 herds tested
  - No TB-infected cattle identified

Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

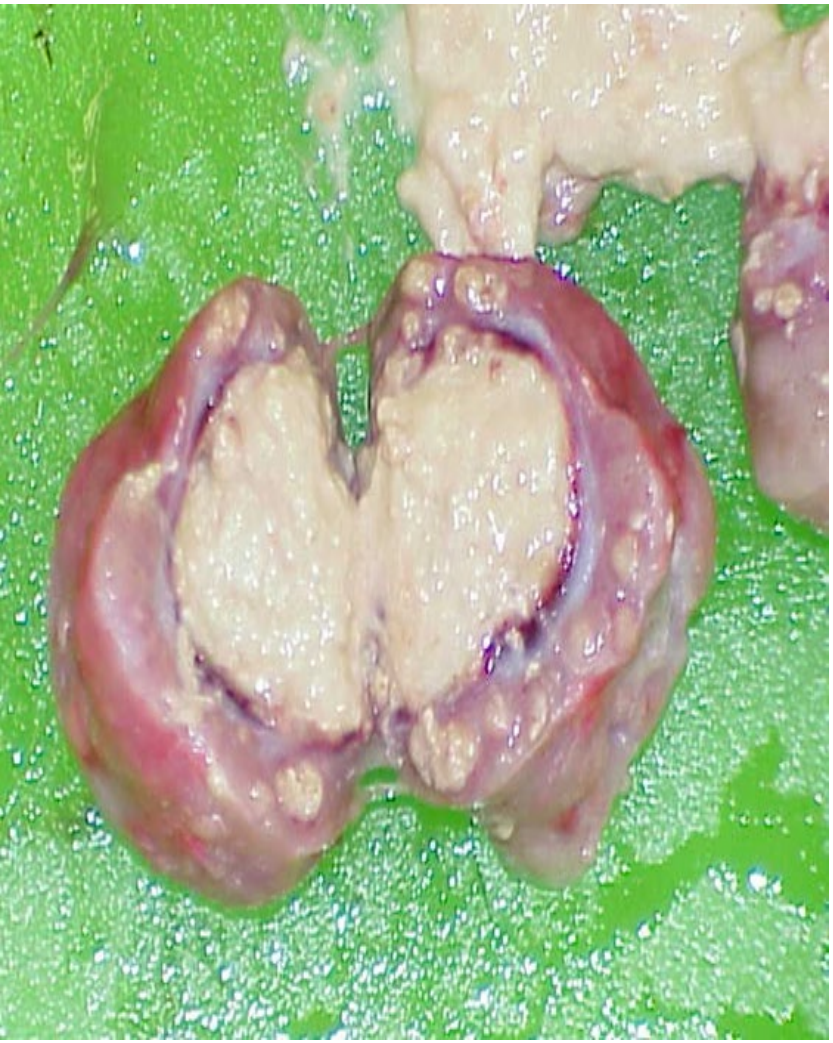
Bovine TB Infection in Cattle

1 Medium-sized Beef Herd – Alcona County

- Completed annual whole herd surveillance test in December 2024
  - One 1-year-old animal positive to testing. All other animals in the herd tested negative for TB
  - Lesions of TB detected at lab. Confirmed positive for TB at National Veterinary Services Laboratories on January 14, 2025

Michigan Department of AGRICULTURE & Rural Development

Bovine TB Infection in Cattle



Herd was previously infected with TB in 2020

- Highly infected
  - Spillover from surrounding TB-infected deer was the most likely source of infection
- Completed a test and removal program
  - 8 TB tests prior to release of quarantine (2021)
  - Negative surveillance tests in 2022 and 2023

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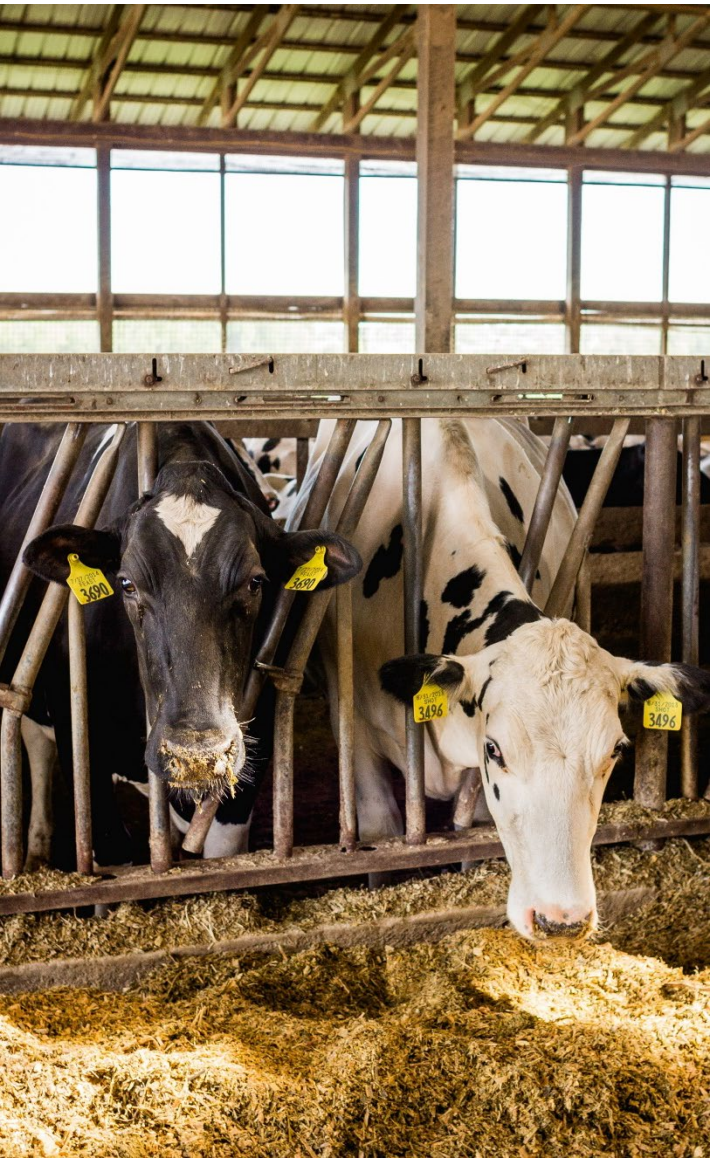
Bovine TB Infection in Cattle



- With any infection, a plan is put in place to prevent future spillover from deer:
  - Deer exclusion fencing on areas used by cattle
  - Protection of feed storage
  - Protection of feeding and watering areas
  - Surveillance for and removal of deer pressuring a herd
- Epidemiologic investigation and whole genome sequencing of the isolate indicate a recrudescence of the previous infection, and not a new introduction of TB

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Protection of Herds from TB-Infected Deer

(Required in the MAZ to move cattle other than directly to slaughter)

- Feed Storage
- Feeding and Watering Sites
- Cattle Housing Areas
- Reduce Deer Presence on Areas Used for Cattle
- Removal of Deer Attractants
- Surveillance and Removal of Habituated Deer

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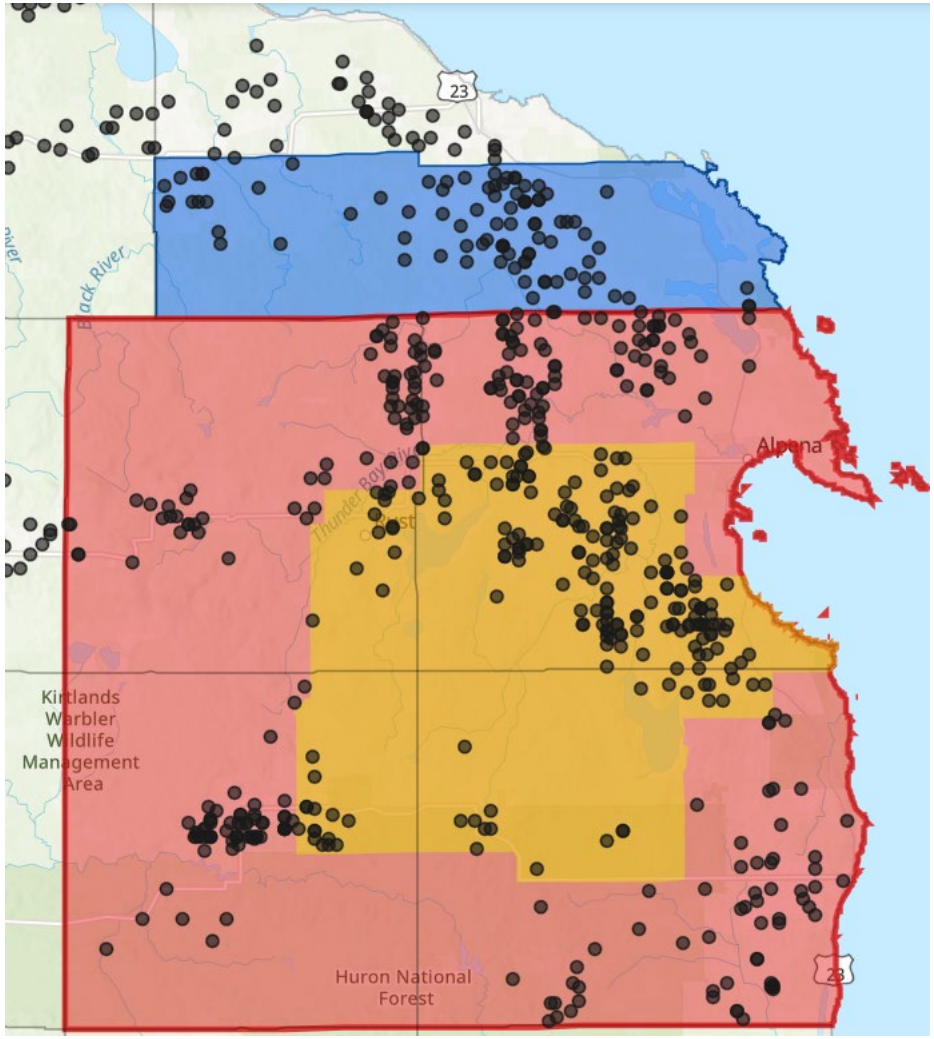
Protection of Herds from TB-Infected Deer



MAZ

- EWB Area - 81% enrolled
- Non-EWB Area – 79% enrolled

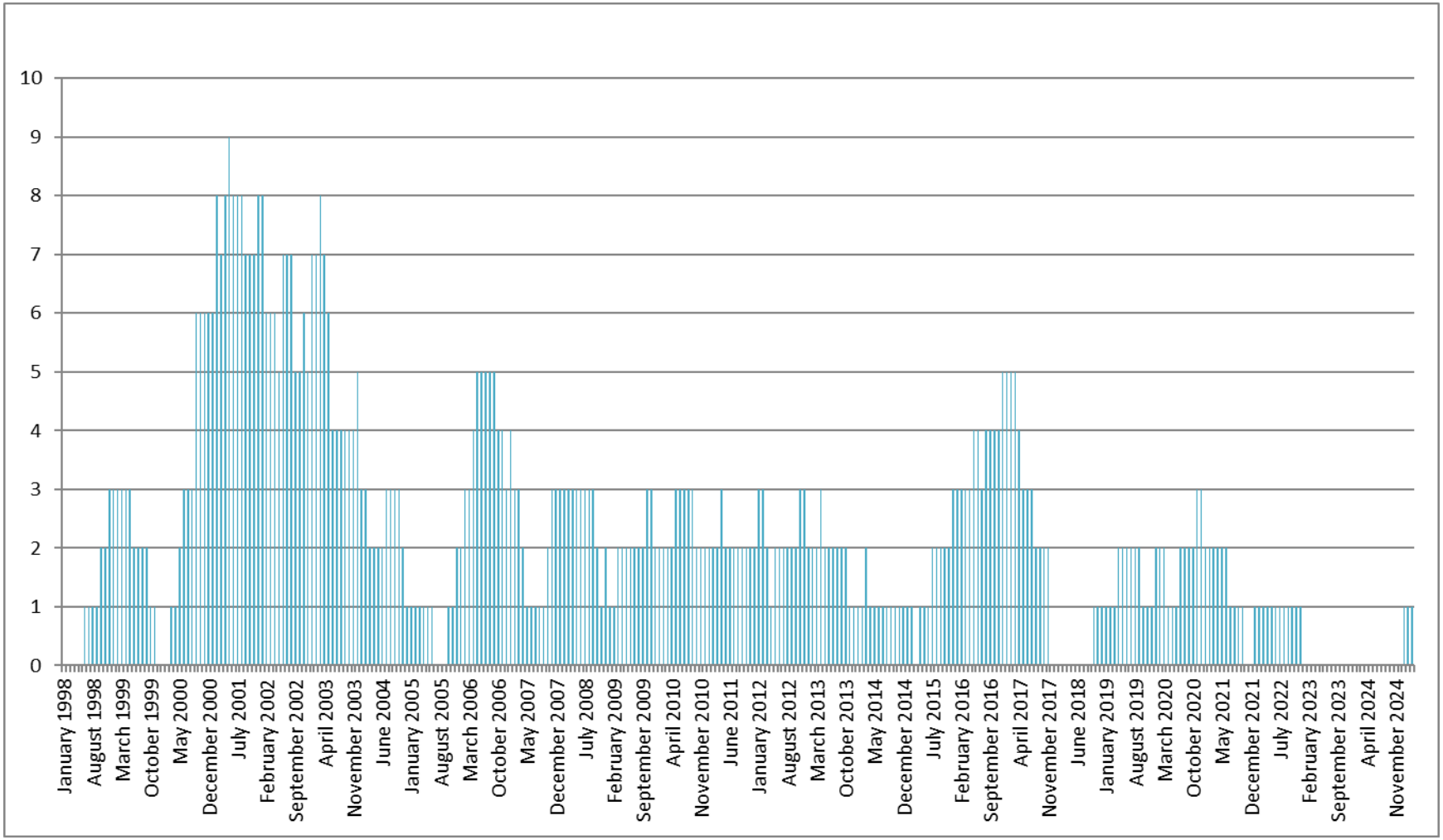
Presque Isle County

- EWB Program - 25% enrolled
- WRM Program – additional 54% enrolled

Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

TB-Infected Cattle Herds in the MAZ

Since 1998



Michigan Department of AGRICULTURE & Rural Development

Thank you!

@MichDeptofAg

Michael VanderKlok, DVM

VanderKlokM@Michigan.gov

Cattle Program Manager

Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

Looking Ahead

Future bTB Connections

- Efficient head collection – building partnerships
  - Expand processor and taxidermist program
  - Cooperation with groups, clubs, etc.
- Herd & Hunter TB meetings
- Revision to Interagency bTB MOU

Thank You! Questions?

Mitch Marcus: MarcusM2@Michigan.gov

Emily Sewell: SewellE@Michigan.gov

Dr. Michael VanderKlok:
VanderKlokM@Michigan.gov

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

April 2025 Update

Dr. Scott Larsen
Veterinarian, Wildlife Health Section, Wildlife Division

Avian Influenza

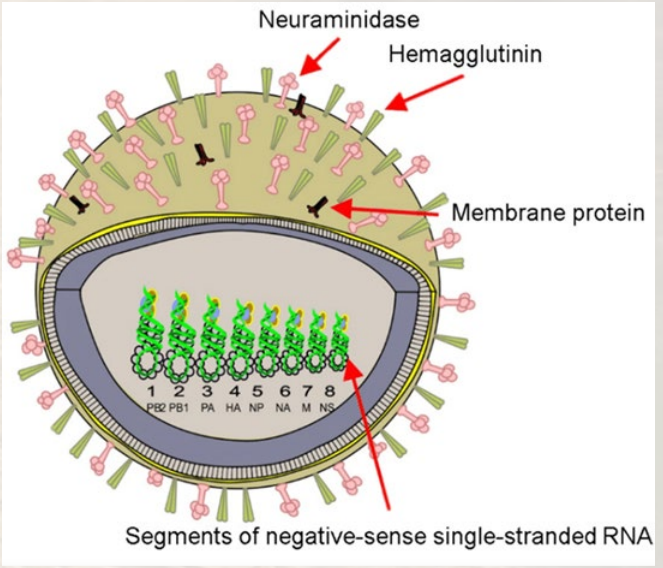
H5N1

Classified by two groups of proteins:

- Hemagglutinin proteins (**H1–H16**)
- Neuraminidase proteins (**N1–N9**)
- Many different combinations of “H” and “N” proteins are possible
  - Each combination = different subtype
  - Further differentiates by strains / clades

AI viruses also classified by *pathogenicity* in poultry

- **Low:** Minimal disease in domestic birds
- **High:** High rate of death in domestic birds



https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Scheme-of-the-avian-influenza-virus_fig4_349682451

Eurasian lineage goose / Guandong H5 clade 2.3.4.4b

Avian Influenza

Waterfowl are natural reservoirs

Flu viruses reassort / evolve

Low Path H5 can become High Path H5

Historically minimal disease in wild birds

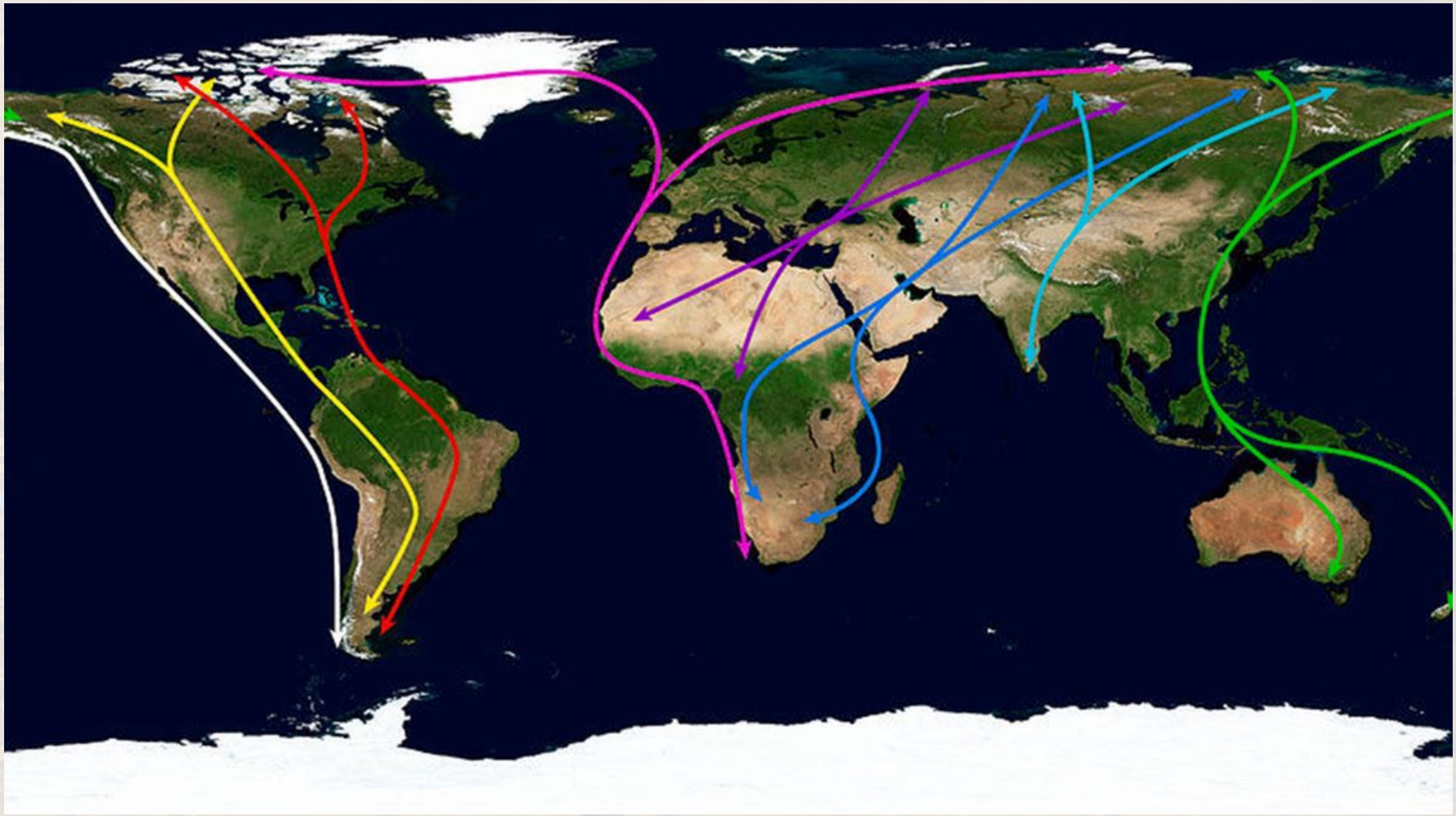
Avian Influenza H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b

Adapted to wild birds as well as poultry

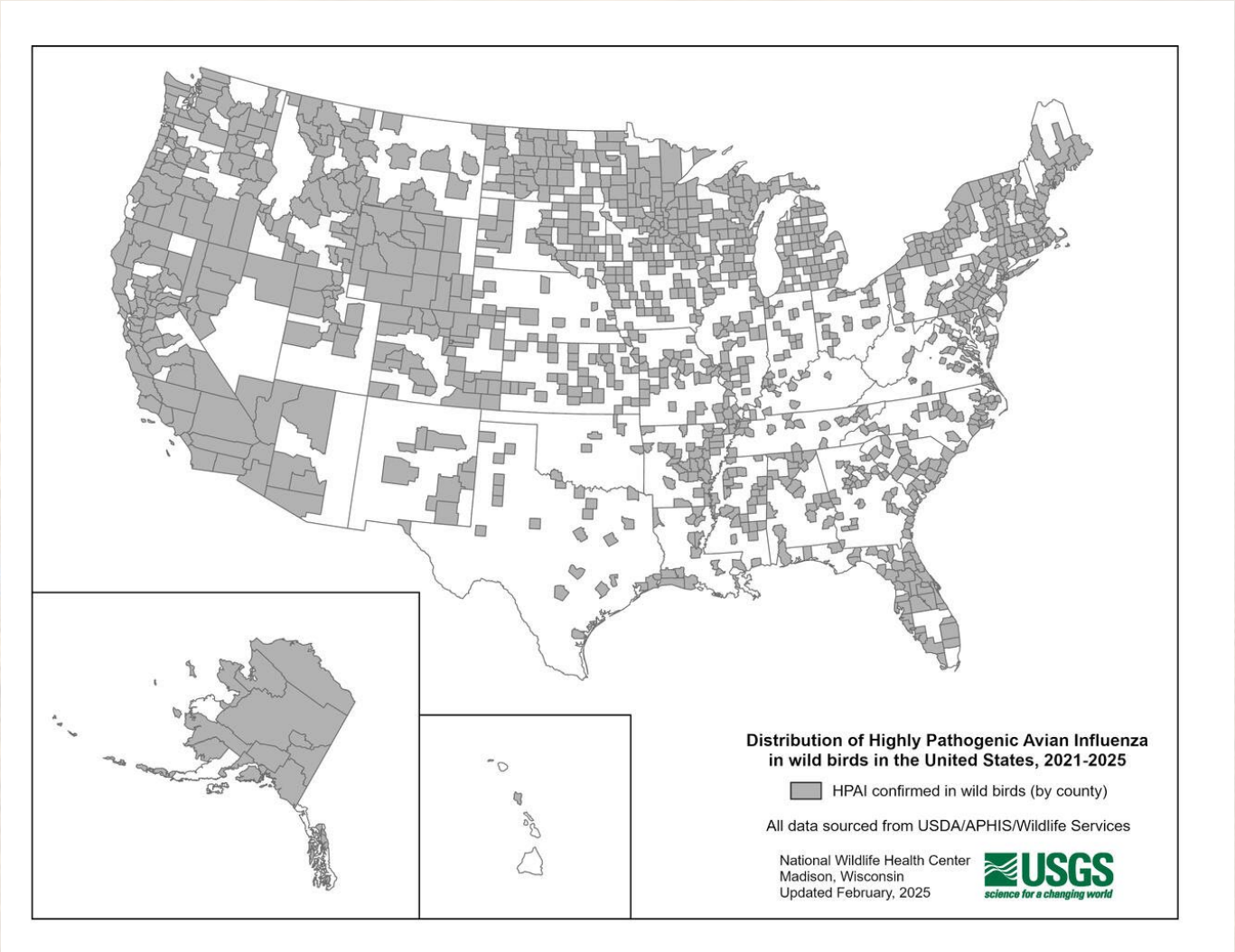
Mortality events in wild birds

- Visible mortalities, especially of large birds
- Waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, scavengers
- Scavenging mammals (fox, raccoons, opossum)
- Non-specific clinical signs –
  sudden death, neurologic, respiratory signs
- Wild Birds can be asymptomatic
- Generally, not population-level threat
  - May be exceptions with small populations

World Bird Migration Routes



Distribution of HPAI in Wild Birds 2021-2025



Updated 2/10/2025

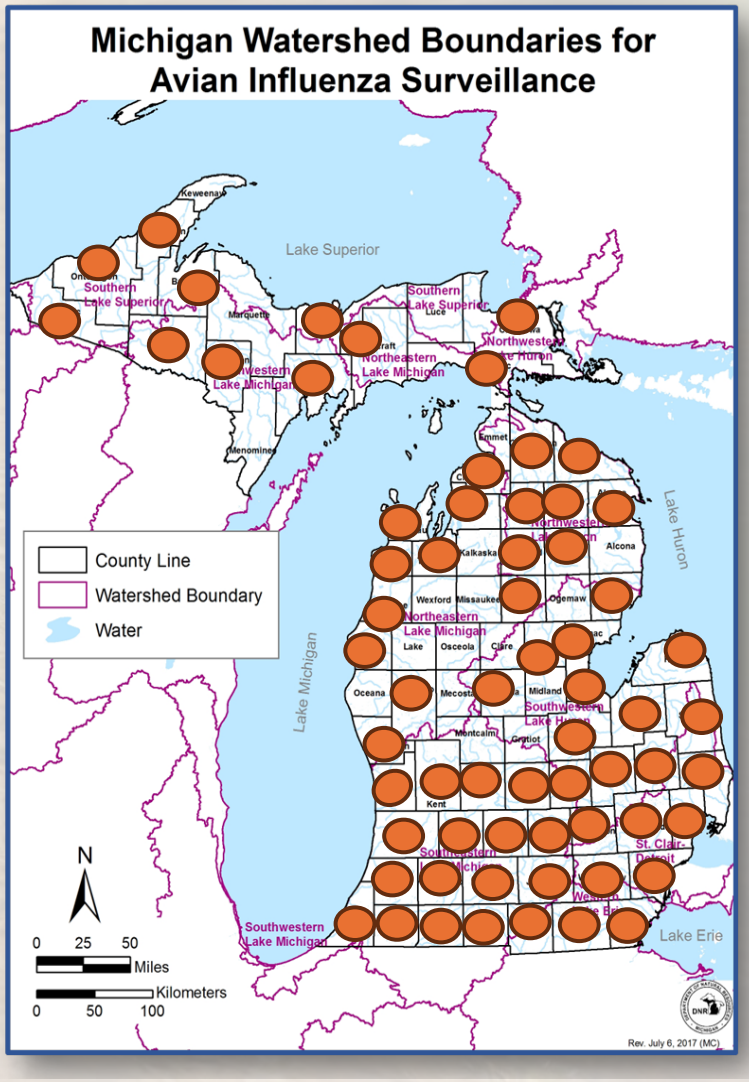
HPAI in Michigan Wildlife - 2022

- **Passive surveillance** for HPAI
  - Regional, watershed-based approach
  - Representative, fresh samples from each species

HPAI in Michigan Wildlife – 2022

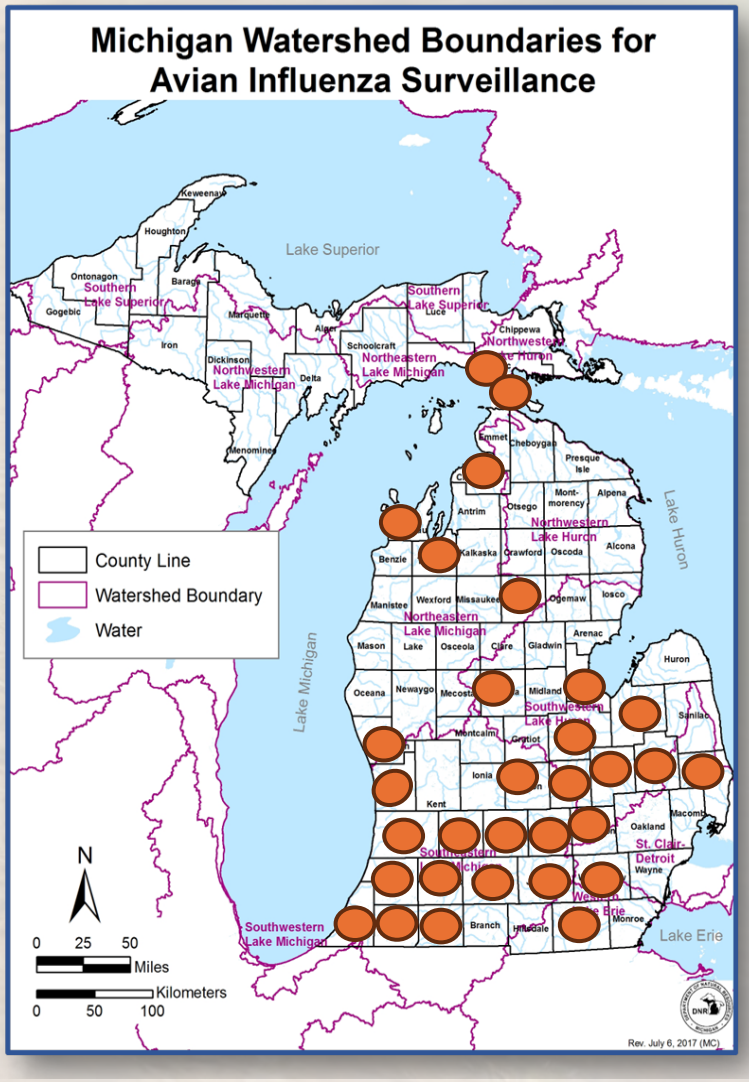
- Focus on watersheds where HPAI undetected
- Larger mortality events (> 5 dead birds)
- Species of concern (e.g., eagles, mammals)
- Public health concern
- Proximity to domestic poultry

239 samples **H5N1** positive



HPAI in Michigan Wildlife - 2025

H5N1 Positive	6
Non-negative (pending NVSL)	68
	74

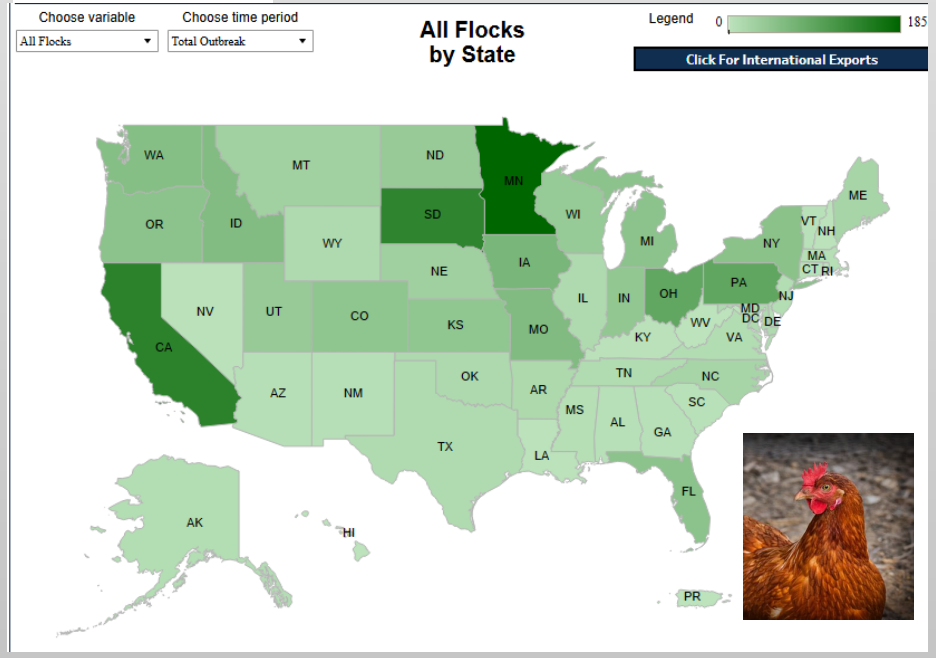


Avian Influenza Testing

- Clinical Signs are not specific
- Swabs taken and submitted to MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
- Molecular testing for highly pathogenic strains of avian influenza
- "Non-negative" tests --> National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL)
  - **Only** NVSL testing can confirm high path HPAI

Maps of Poultry and Dairy Cattle Affected by HPAI

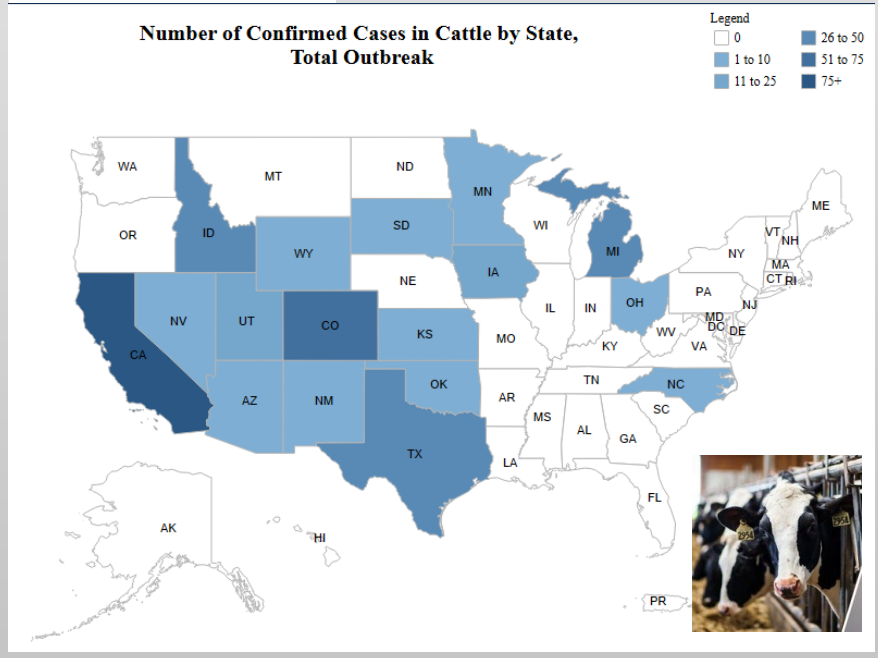
Poultry



2025: 37 million domestic birds affected
155 commercial flocks
140 backyard flocks

www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/commercial-backyard-flocks

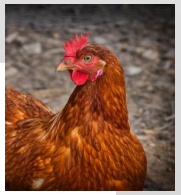
Dairy Cattle



2024-2025: 994 Confirmed Cases (Herds)

www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/hpai-confirmed-cases-livestock

Michigan Avian Influenza – Poultry



HPAI Detections

Use the table below to find detections in your area. You can filter by county, date, or facility.

Detections in Last 60 Days | **All Detections from Current Outbreak**

HPAI detections

This table shows historical detections by date. You may filter by county, or by other parameters to the side.

County | Dairy only | **Poultry only** | Reset Filters

Initial Date Detected	Facility Type	County	Active Disease Reponse*	Number
Mar 20, 2025	Backyard poultry	Ingham	Yes	2025-9
Mar 4, 2025	Backyard poultry	Monroe	Yes	2025-8
Feb 24, 2025	Backyard poultry	Monroe	Yes	2025-7
Feb 11, 2025	Backyard poultry	Monroe	Yes	2025-6
Jan 31, 2025	Backyard poultry	Alpena	Yes	2025-5
Jan 14, 2025	Backyard poultry	Wayne	Yes	2025-4
Jan 8, 2025	Backyard poultry	Oakland	Yes	2025-3
Jan 2, 2025	Commercial poultry	Ottawa	No	2025-1
Jan 2, 2025	Commercial poultry	Ottawa	No	2025-2

Michigan Avian Influenza – Dairy Cattle

HPAI Detections

Use the table below to find detections in your area. You can filter by county, date, or facility.

Detections in Last 60 Days | **All Detections from Current Outbreak**

HPAI detections

This table shows historical detections by date. You may filter by county, or by other parameters to the side.

County | **Dairy only** | Poultry only | Reset Filters

Initial Date Detected	Facility Type	County	Active Disease Reponse*	Number
Dec 30, 2024	Dairy	Missaukee	No	2024-44
Oct 14, 2024	Dairy	Clinton	No	2024-38
Sep 9, 2024	Dairy	Shiawassee	No	2024-37
Aug 23, 2024	Dairy	Van Buren	No	2024-36
Jul 26, 2024	Dairy	Van Buren	No	2024-35
Jul 5, 2024	Dairy	Gratiot	No	2024-34

www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/diseases/avian/avian-influenza

Poultry and Dairy Farm Statistics

MICHIGAN ALLIED POULTRY INDUSTRIES

7

Michigan ranks 7th in the nation in the production of eggs.

8

Michigan has eight farm owners with a combined 15 million birds on 17 farms.

$1.4 BILLION

The egg industry has a total of $1.4 billion in economic impact in the state of Michigan.

5.3 MILLION

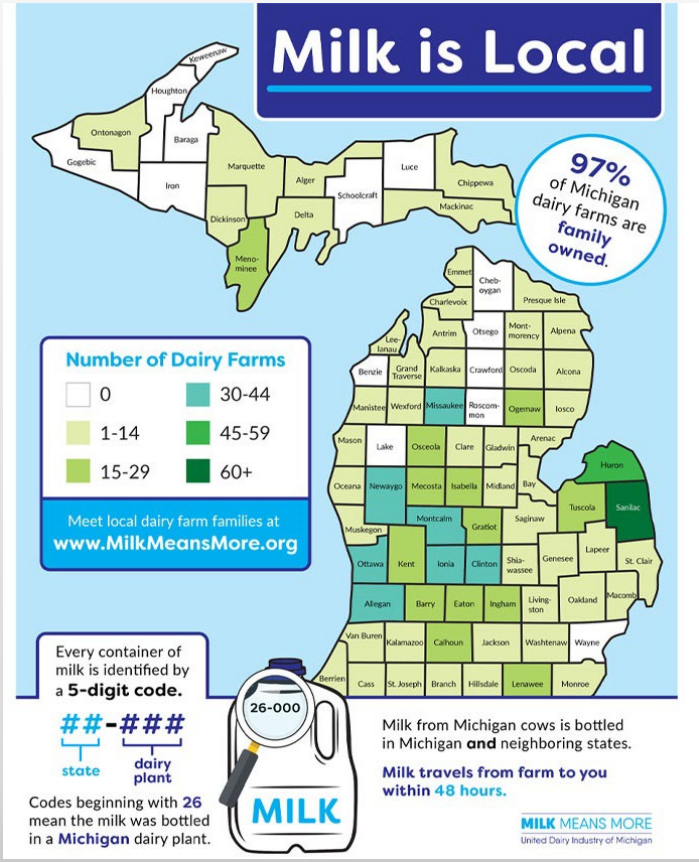
The total annual turkey production in Michigan is 5.3 million birds.

40 POUNDS

The average weight of a Michigan turkey is 40 lbs.

$100 MILLION

The turkey industry has a total economic impact of $100 million in Michigan.



Avian Influenza – Human Health Impacts

H5 Bird Flu: Current Situation | Bird Flu | CDC

National Total Cases: 70

Cases	Exposure Source
41	Dairy Herds (Cattle)*
24	Poultry Farms and Culling Operations*
2	Other Animal Exposure†
3	Exposure Source Unknown‡

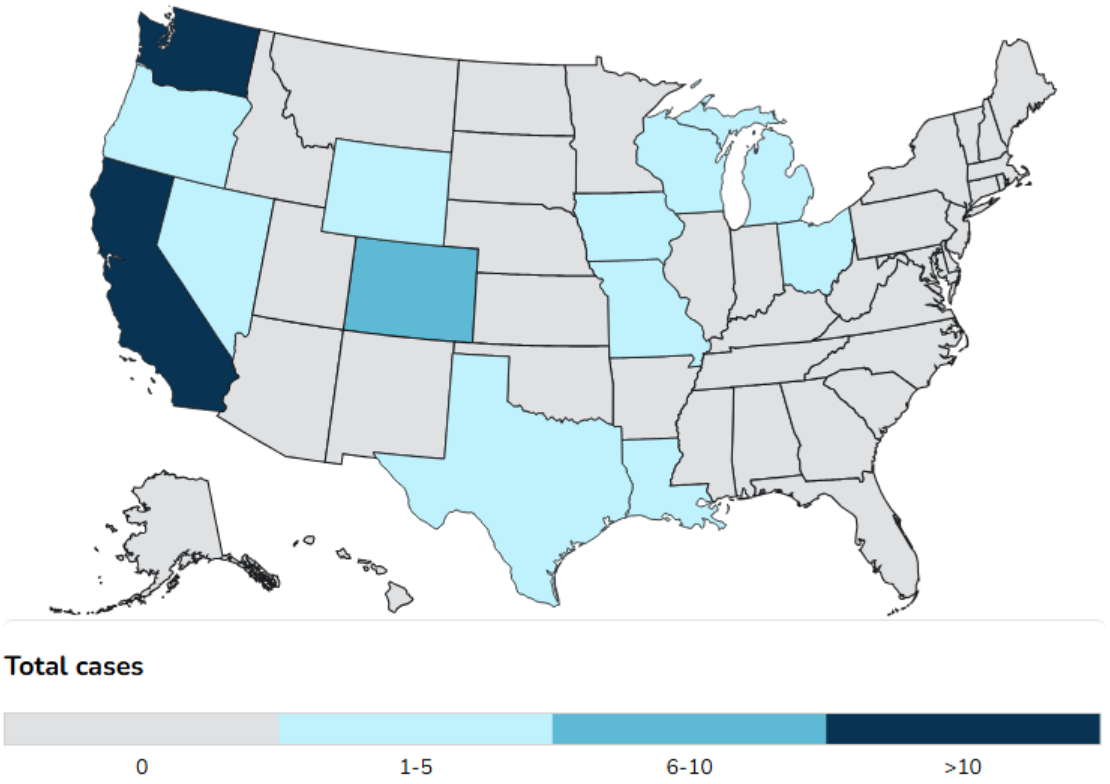
Current public health risk

LOW

The current public health risk is Low.

Deaths in U.S.

1 death



Engagement and Support of Partners


Thank You
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DNR
MICHIGAN

Small Game Regulations

Adam Bump
DNR Wildlife Division

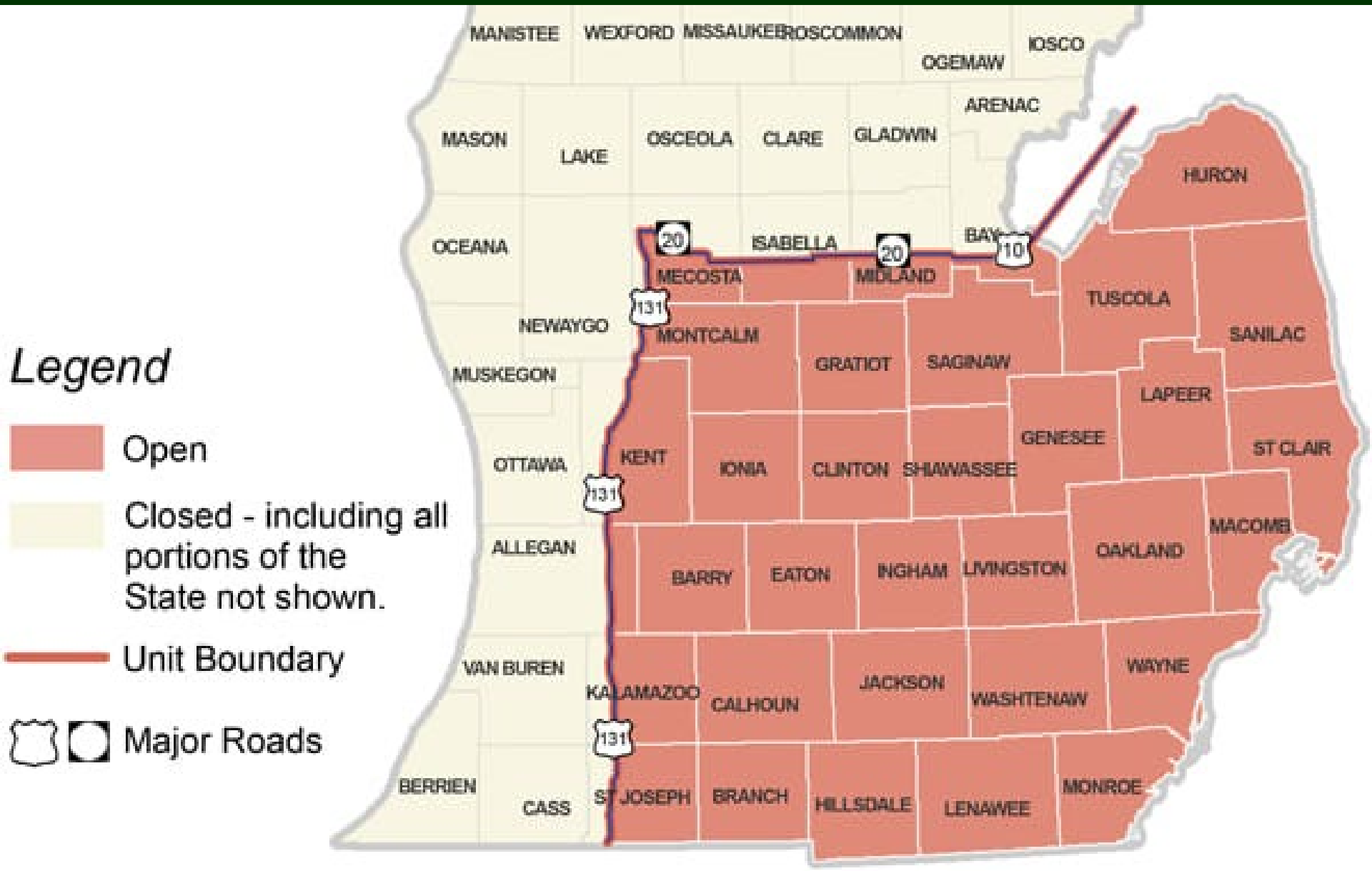
Overview

- Expansion of December Pheasant Hunting Unit in SLP
- Discussion/Review of Woodcock Season Timing
- Technical Changes (Squirrels)

December Pheasant Background

- December season since 1993.
  - Extended from Dec 1-15 to Dec 1- Jan 1 in 2004.
  - Expanded into the Thumb to current zone 2005.
  - Westside areas were excluded in part due to snow depth
    - Congregation of pheasants
      - Susceptible to harvest
      - Clustered by pressure in marginal habitats

Current December Pheasant Zone



December Pheasant Background

- In recent years there has been an increase in requests for expansion
  - Wild pheasant hunters
    - Declines in hunters reduces concerns of impacts
    - Snow depths in December usually not limiting
  - Pheasant Release Program hunters
    - Potential to open the 3 release areas currently outside the boundary
- Internal and external support

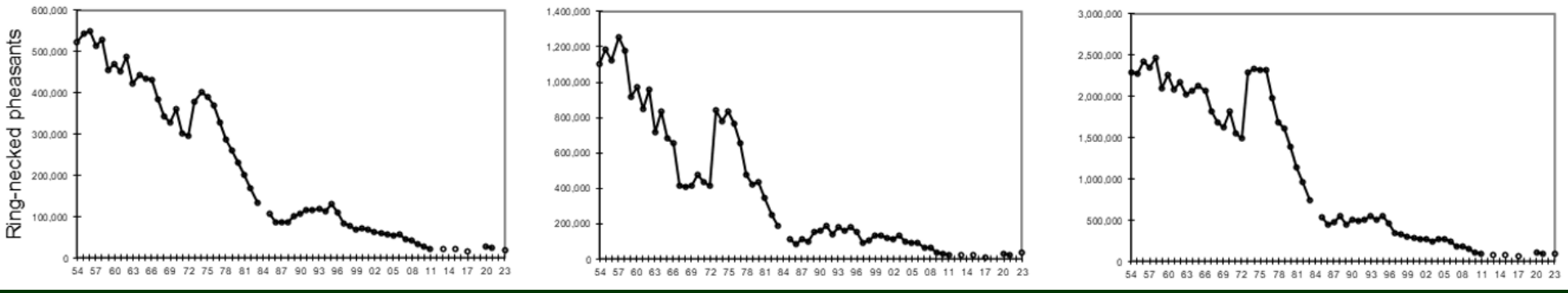
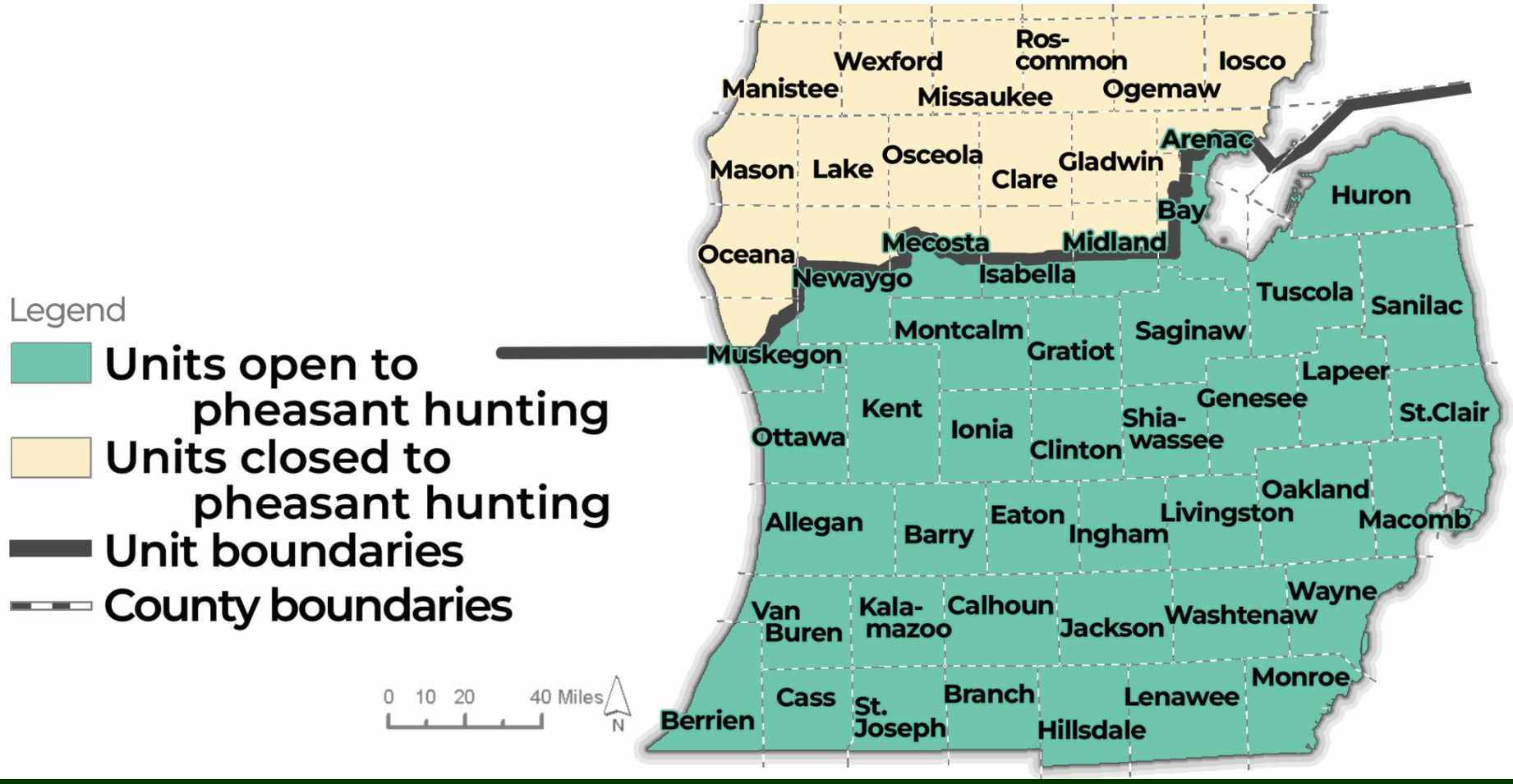


Figure 3. Estimated number of hunters (first column), harvest (middle column), and hunting effort (third column) in Michigan during the small game hunting seasons, 1954-2023. No estimates were available, or no seasons existed during years when no data are plotted.

Recommendation

- Expand the December Pheasant Unit to include all of Zone 3
  - Captures most of pheasant range
  - Existing boundary
  - Would include the 3 pheasant release areas

Proposed December Pheasant Zone



Woodcock Season Background

- Woodcock season historically had been a 45-day season which began on the Saturday closest to September 22nd.
  - Met Federal framework provisions
- Regular requests to make season begin with ruffed grouse season (September 15)
  - Federal framework did not allow for earlier start date

Woodcock Season Background

- After Federal framework change, Michigan season was moved to begin September 15
  - Remained maximum season length- 45 days
- Since the change, Department has received requests to return to historic start date
  - Woodcock migration timing
  - Leaf/weather conditions
- Commitment to review, conducted survey to inform

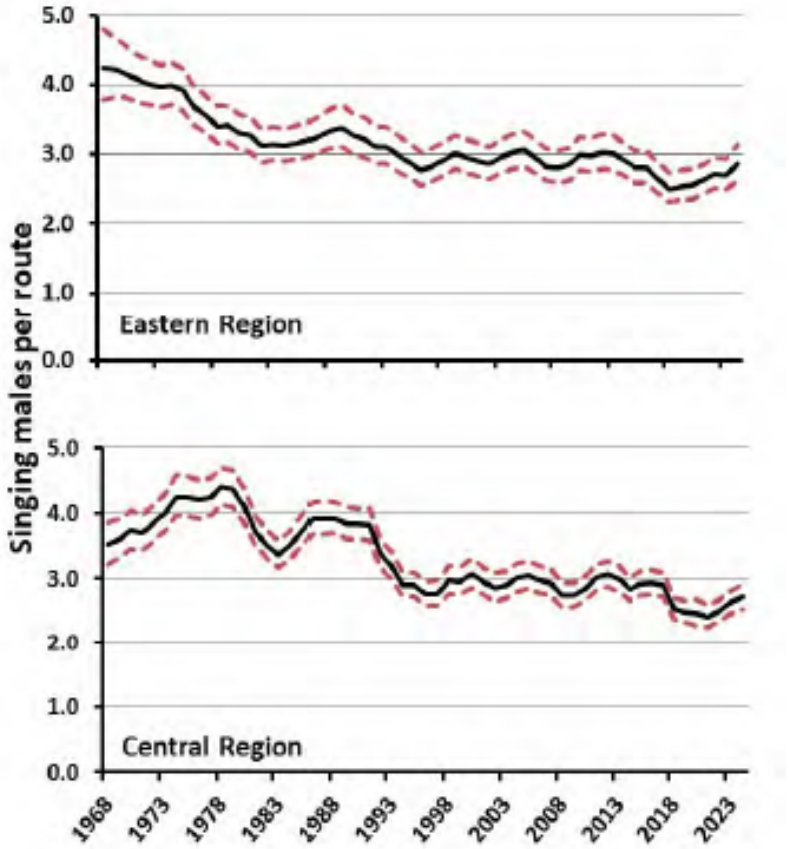


Fig. 4. Annual indices of the number of woodcock heard during the Singing-ground Survey, 1968–2024 as estimated using hierarchical modeling. The red dashed lines represent the 95% credible interval for the estimate.

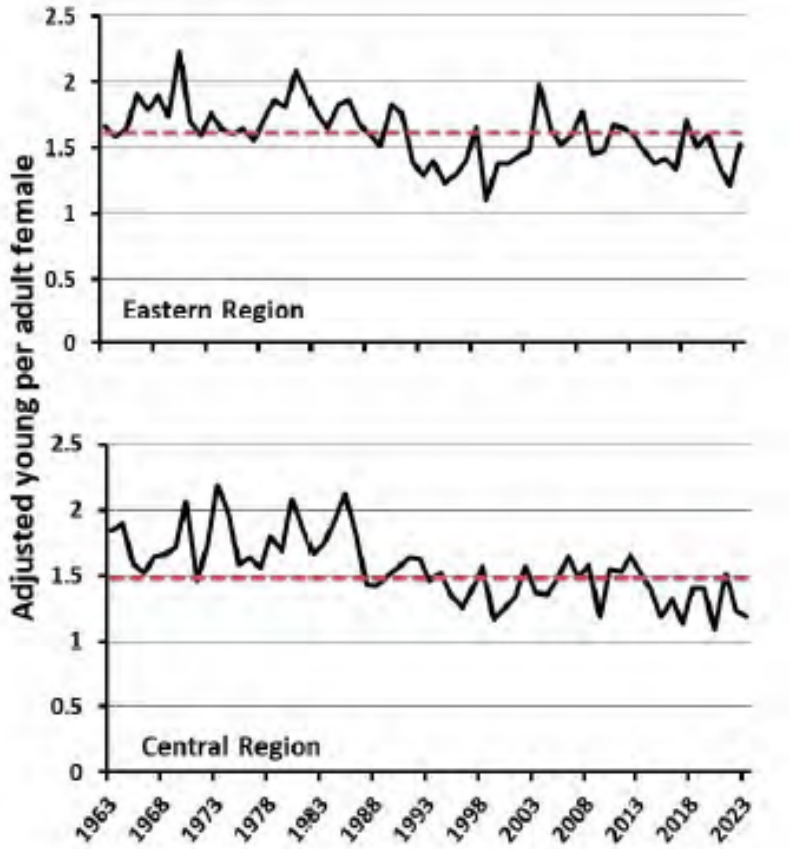


Fig. 5. Annual indices of recruitment (U.S.), 1963–2023. The red dashed line is the 1963–2022 average.

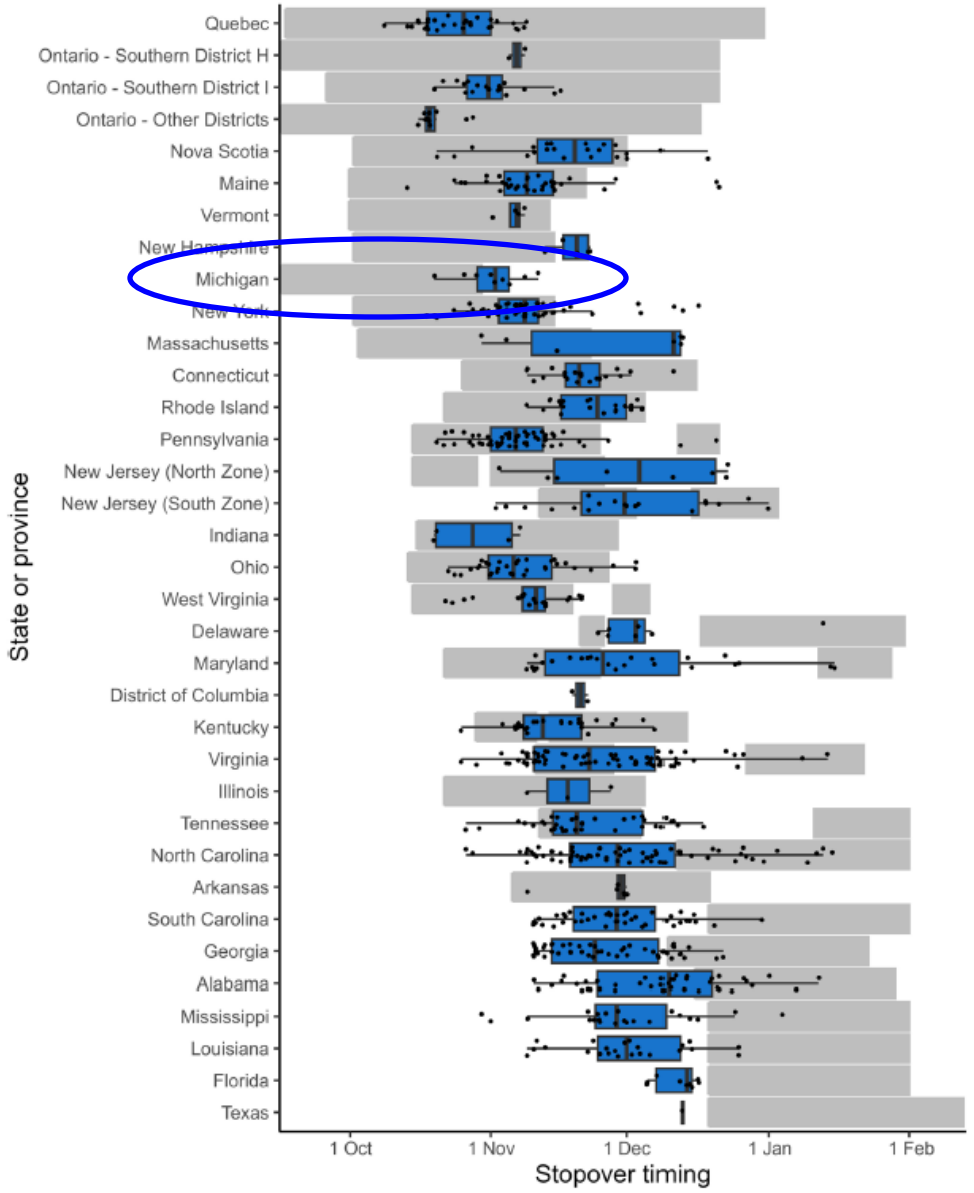
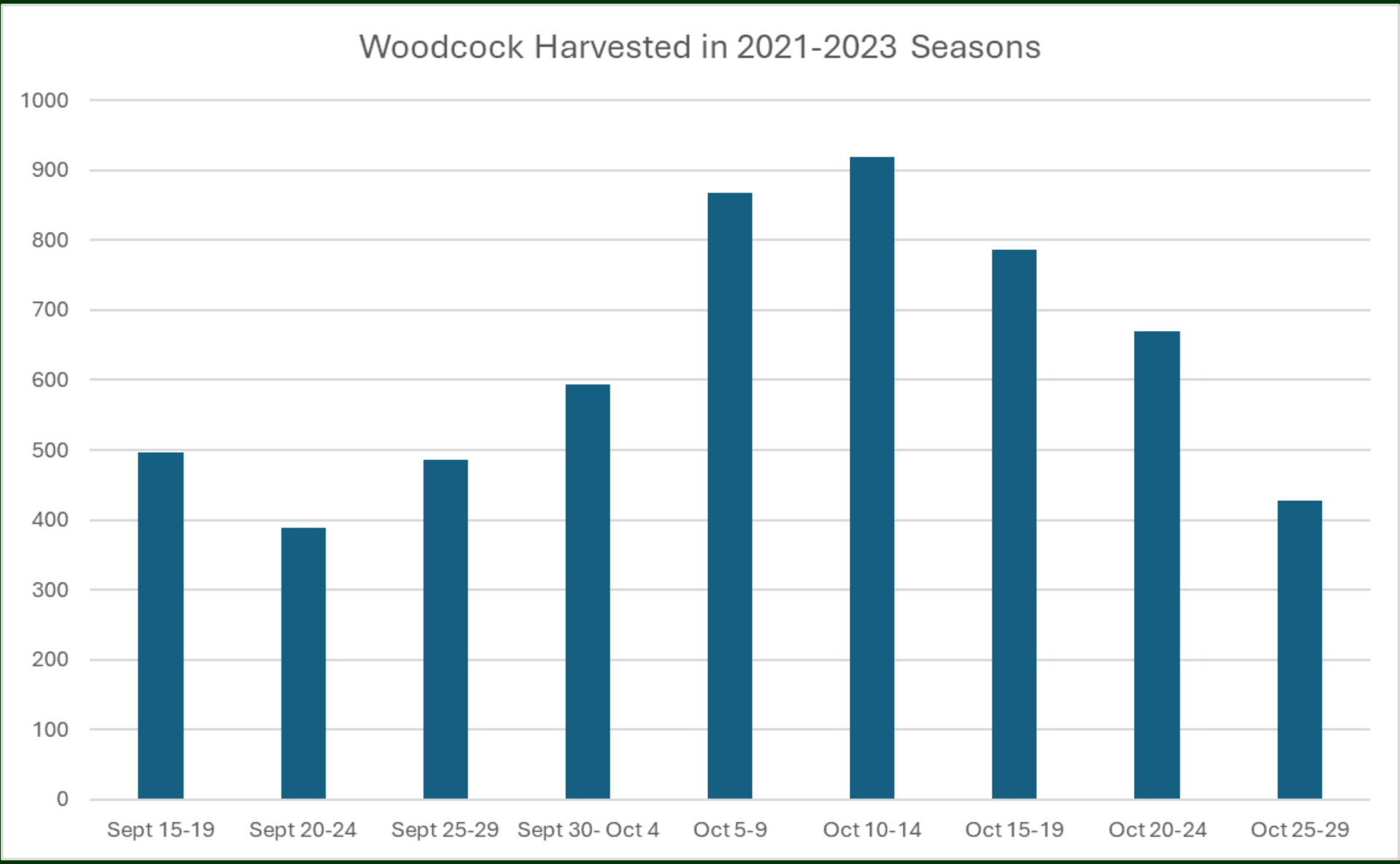
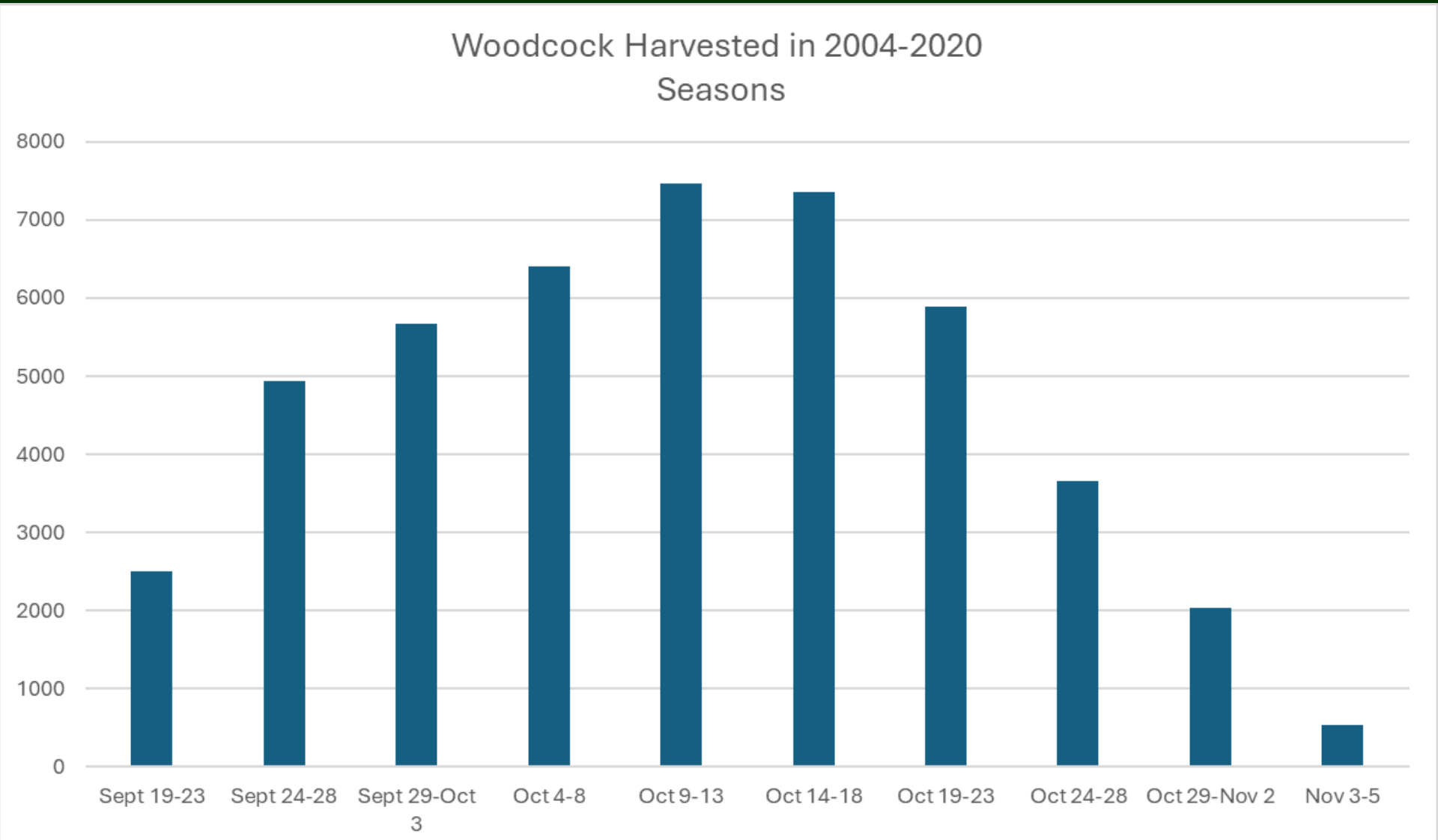


FIGURE 6 Timing of fall migration stopovers by state or province collected from American woodcock marked in in eastern North America, 2017–2019. Black circles represent the mid-point of individual stopover dates, and box-and-whisker plots display the median (solid line), 50th percentile (box), and 90th percentile (whiskers) distributions of the data for each administrative division. Grey boxes represent woodcock hunting seasons for each state or province, or within a subsection of state or province when hunting seasons were stratified by zones.

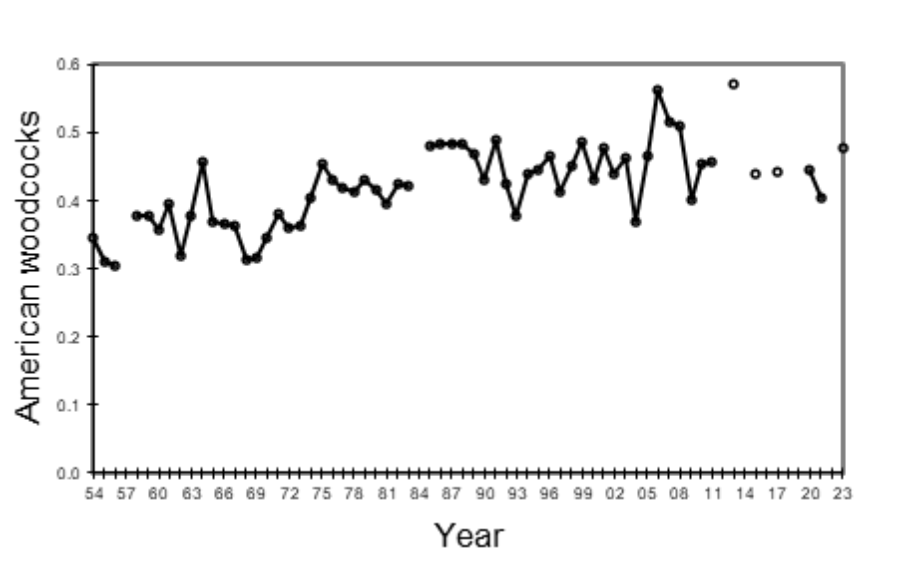
How to cite this article: Fish, A. C., A. M. Roth, G. Balkcom, L. Berigan, K. Brunette, S. Clements, G. Costanzo, C. L. Graham, W. F. Harvey, M. Hook, et al. 2024. American woodcock migration phenology in eastern North America: implications for hunting season timing. Journal of Wildlife Management e22565. https://doi.org/10.1002/jwmg.22565


Woodcock Harvested in 2021-2023 Seasons
1000
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
Sept 15-19
Sept 20-24
Sept 25-29
Sept 30- Oct 4
Oct 5-9
Oct 10-14
Oct 15-19
Oct 20-24
Oct 25-29


Woodcock Harvested in 2004-2020 Seasons
8000
7000
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
Sept 19-23
Sept 24-28
Sept 29-Oct 3
Oct 4-8
Oct 9-13
Oct 14-18
Oct 19-23
Oct 24-28
Oct 29-Nov 2
Nov 3-5

Harvest and Hunter Trends

- Hunter #s, harvest and effort may have increased slightly in the last 10 years
  - Still near historic lows
- Harvest per effort stable for mid-term but is volatile year to year

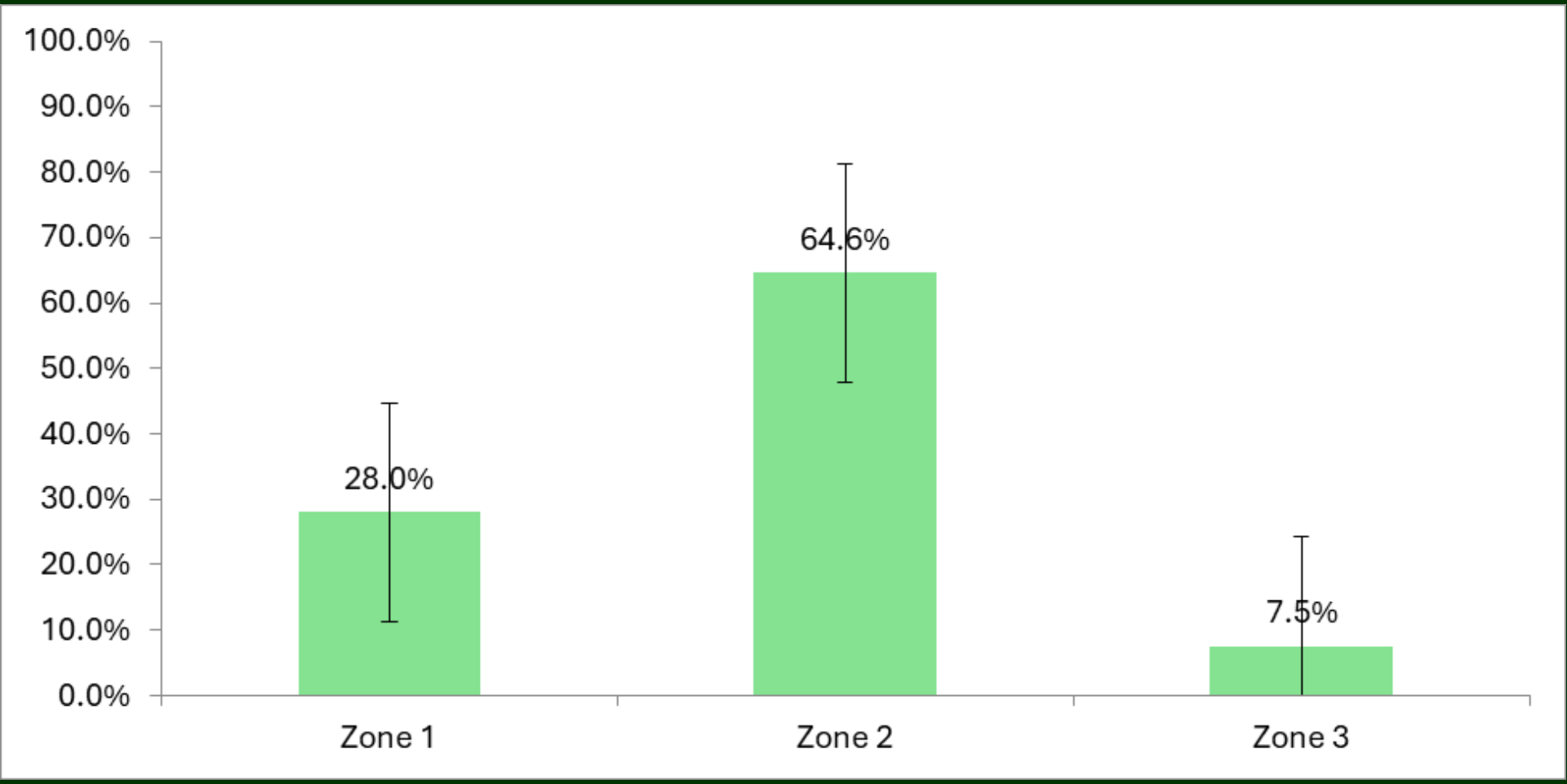


Hunter Perspectives

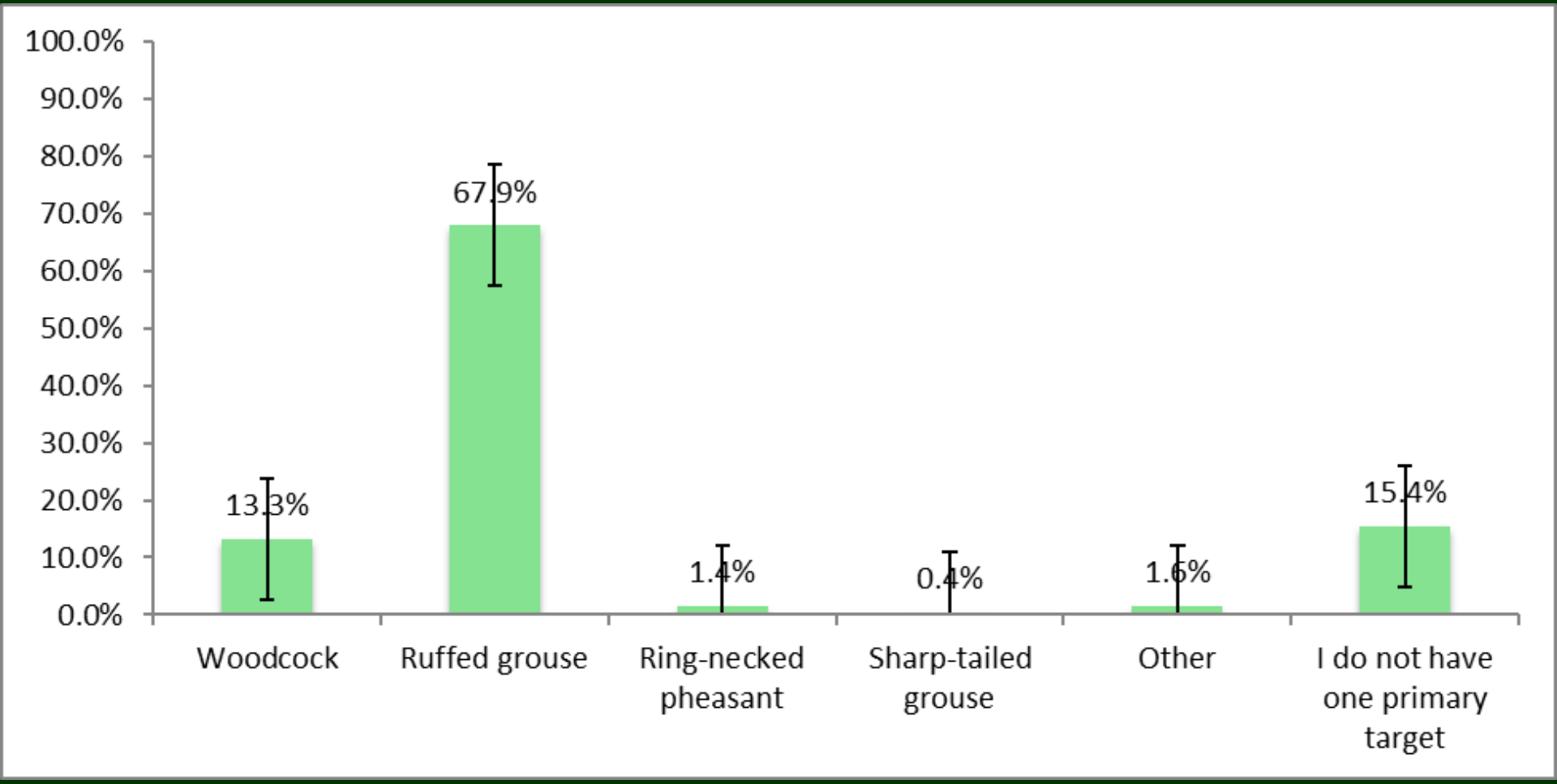
From MSU Survey

- Conducted Survey in December 2024
- Used woodcock hunters from last 5 years
  - Emails went to those that provided email and allowed DNR to send information
  - Received 6,188 responses out of 93,159 individuals
  - Survey asked a variety of questions about perceptions of the woodcock season and population as well as hunter information

Primary woodcock hunting zones reported by surveyed woodcock hunters



Primary small game target of surveyed hunters during woodcock season



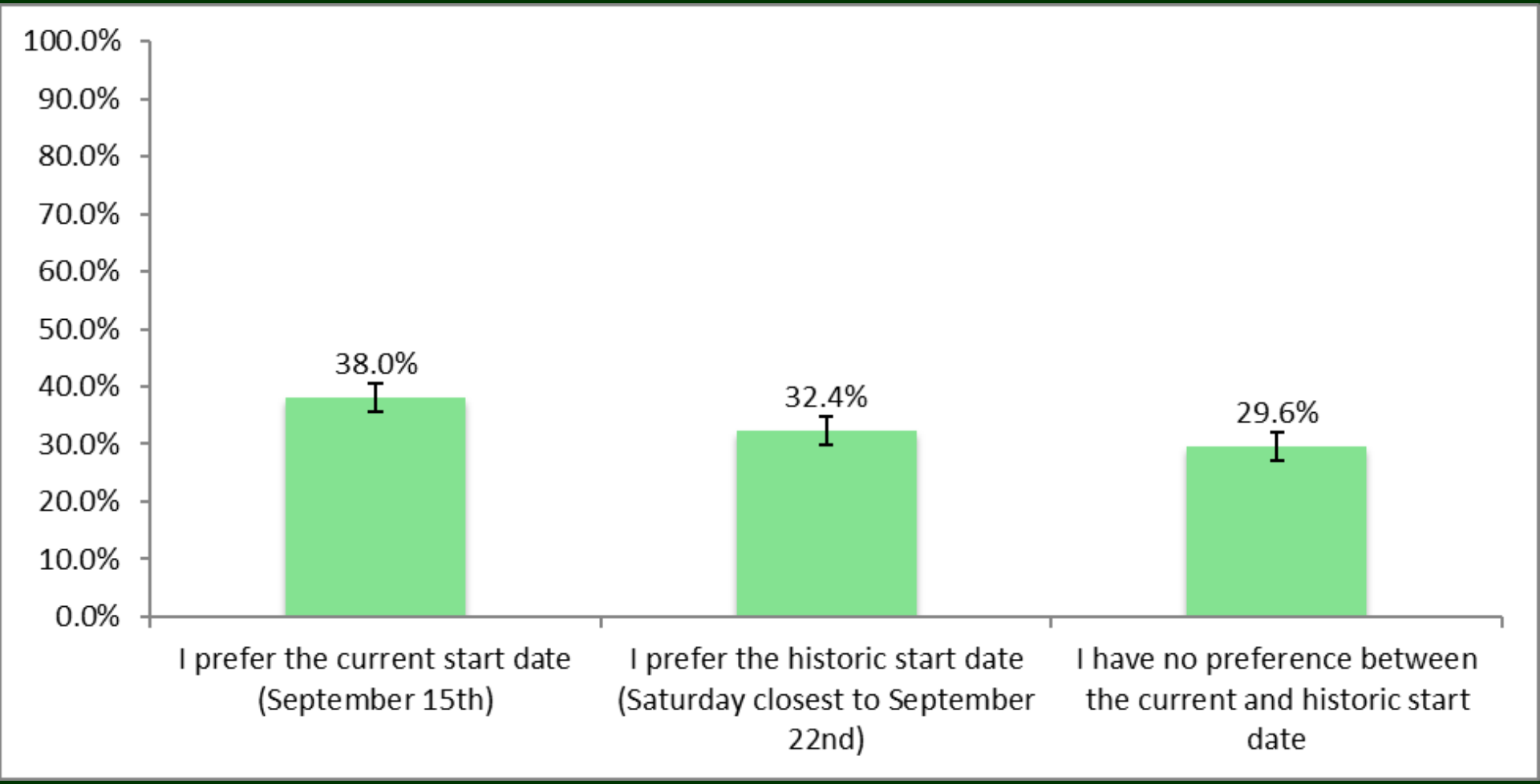
Hunter Satisfaction Over Last 5 Years

- 51%- same
- 34%- decrease
- 15%- increase
- Cause of decline in satisfaction
  - 74%- change in woodcock numbers
  - 45%- changes in chance to harvest a woodcock
  - 22%- change in woodcock season start date
  - Other categories 10% or less each

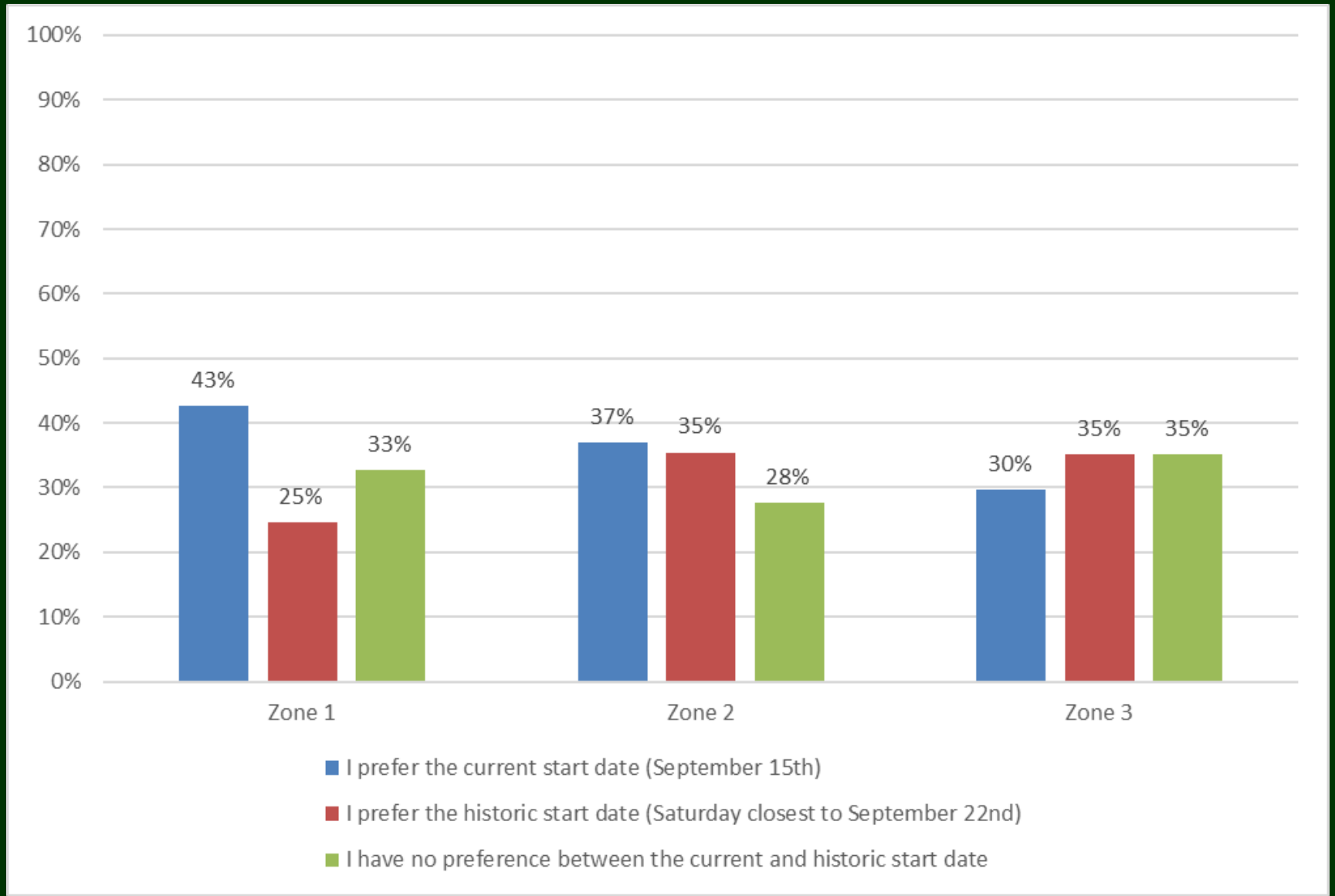
Hunter Perspectives Population Size

- 53%- too low
- 38%- about right
- 9%- way too low
- Less than 1% too high

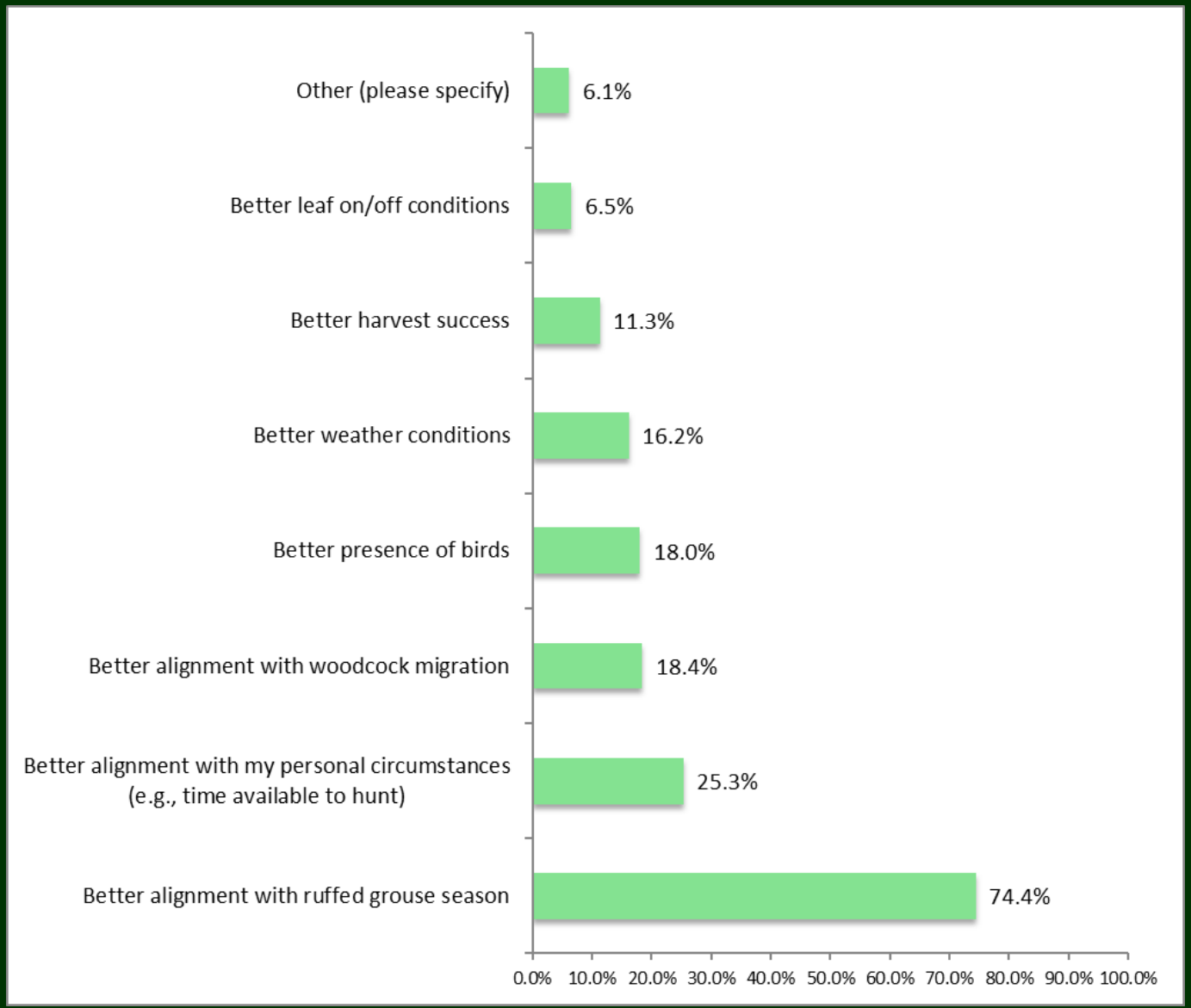
Preferred woodcock season start date among surveyed hunters



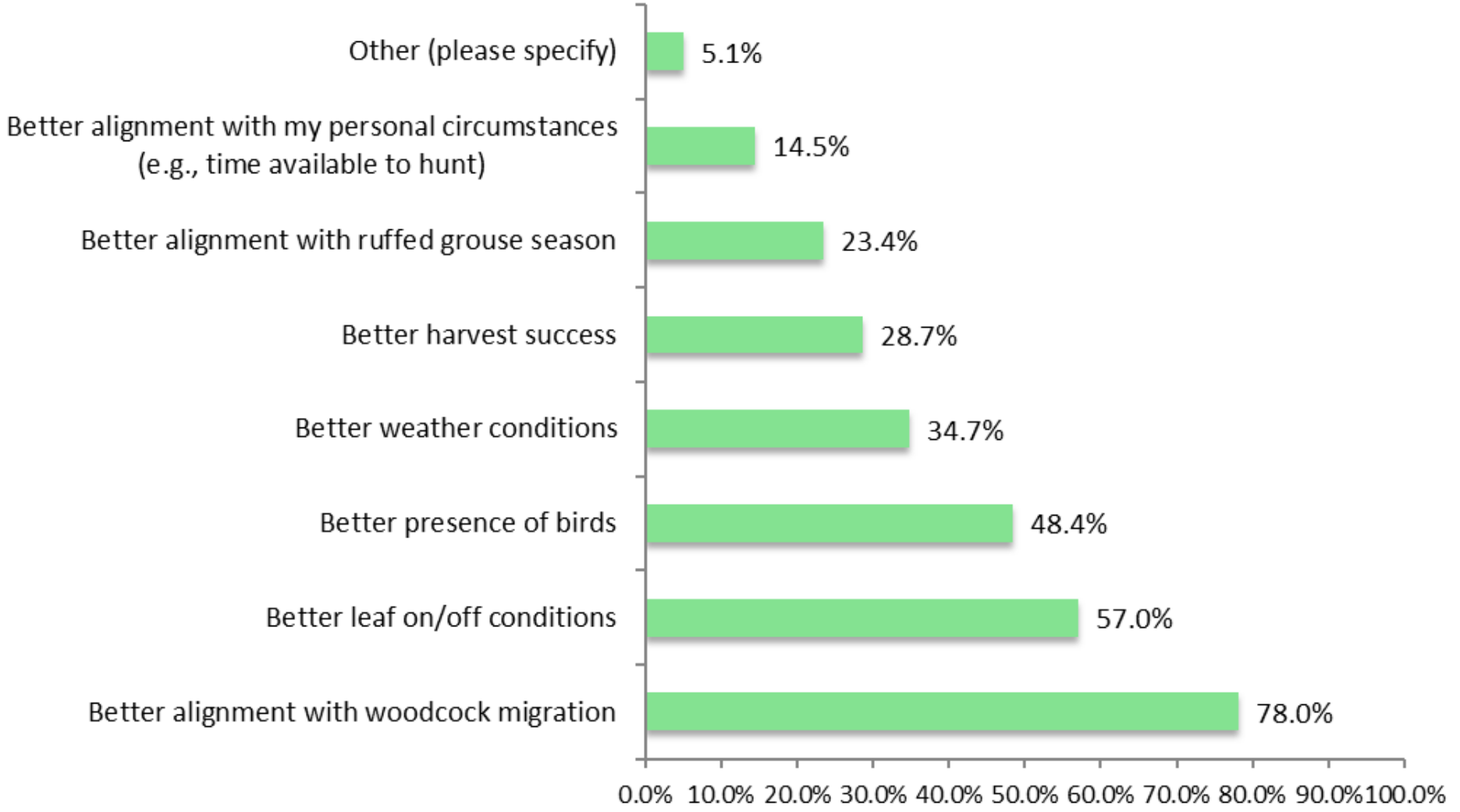
Preferred woodcock season start date among surveyed hunters



Start date preference “whys” for those who prefer the current start date



Start date preference “whys” for those who prefer the historic start date



Woodcock Season Recommendation

- No strong preference from Department or stakeholders
- Slight “slant” toward retaining the September 15th opener timing
  - More hunters prefer
  - Migration stop over timing is likely covered in primary hunting range
  - Low participation in Zone 3
  - Consistency of regulations
  - High probability of flip-flopping regulation

Technical/Administrative Changes

- Move red squirrel and ground squirrel harvest language from Chapter 9 to Chapter 3
- Eliminate duplicate language on hunting restrictions on PRD lands in Chapter 9. Retain in Chapter 7.

Summary

- Expand December pheasant hunt zone
  - Expand hunting opportunity
  - No expected impact on populations
- Woodcock season timing
  - No change recommended but open to return to historic opening date
  - Federal process timing does not allow delay in decision making for 2025 season dates
- Several minor technical WCO adjustments

Thank You

Fall Turkey Regulations

Adam Bump
DNR Wildlife Division

Michigan Fall Turkey Season

- 3 Year cycle
- Fall turkey season has been relatively unchanged for years
- Review the objective, performance of season
- Look for ways to simplify and streamline regulations

Michigan Fall Turkey Season

- Season objective has been to maintain turkeys within biological and social carrying capacities.
  - Reduce populations/nuisance control
    - Harvest is low, does not achieve the objective
  - This objective restricts consideration of season structure changes/open areas

Michigan Fall Turkey Season

- Objective of fall season has been changed
  - Recognition of harvest realities
  - Provide flexibility in management decisions
- New objective is to provide recreational opportunities
  - No undesired population impacts
  - Spring season priority
  - Recognize value for local scale nuisance control

Current Fall Season

- 11 Turkey Management Units
- Mix of private land only and general licenses
- Multiple different quota hunts
  - All have a drawing although most licenses are purchased as leftovers
- Portions of SE and NLP closed
- If quotas are unmet, hunters may purchase 1 license per day until gone

Fall Season License Review

- Most hunters buy 1 license
- Most only harvest 1 bird
- Majority of licenses bought OTC or leftovers
- In recent years little expansion in area open
  - No population/nuisance issues documented
  - Desire from staff/public for increased opportunity

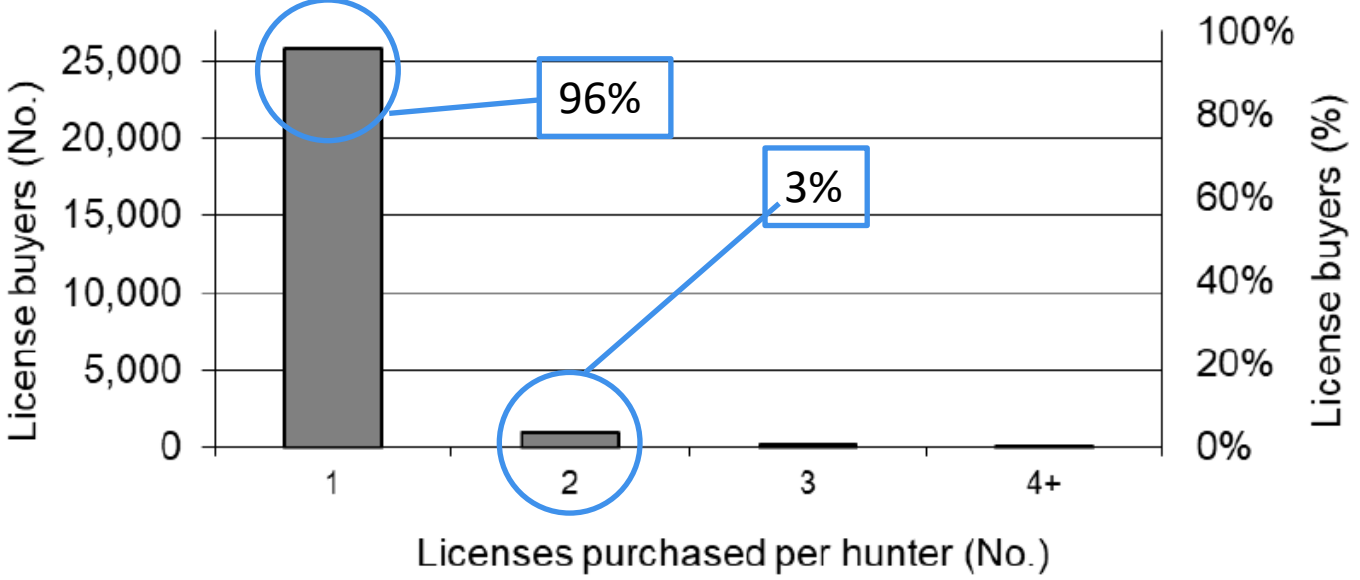


Figure 4. Number of licenses purchased per person for hunting turkey in Michigan during the 2023 fall hunting season (included all hunting license types).

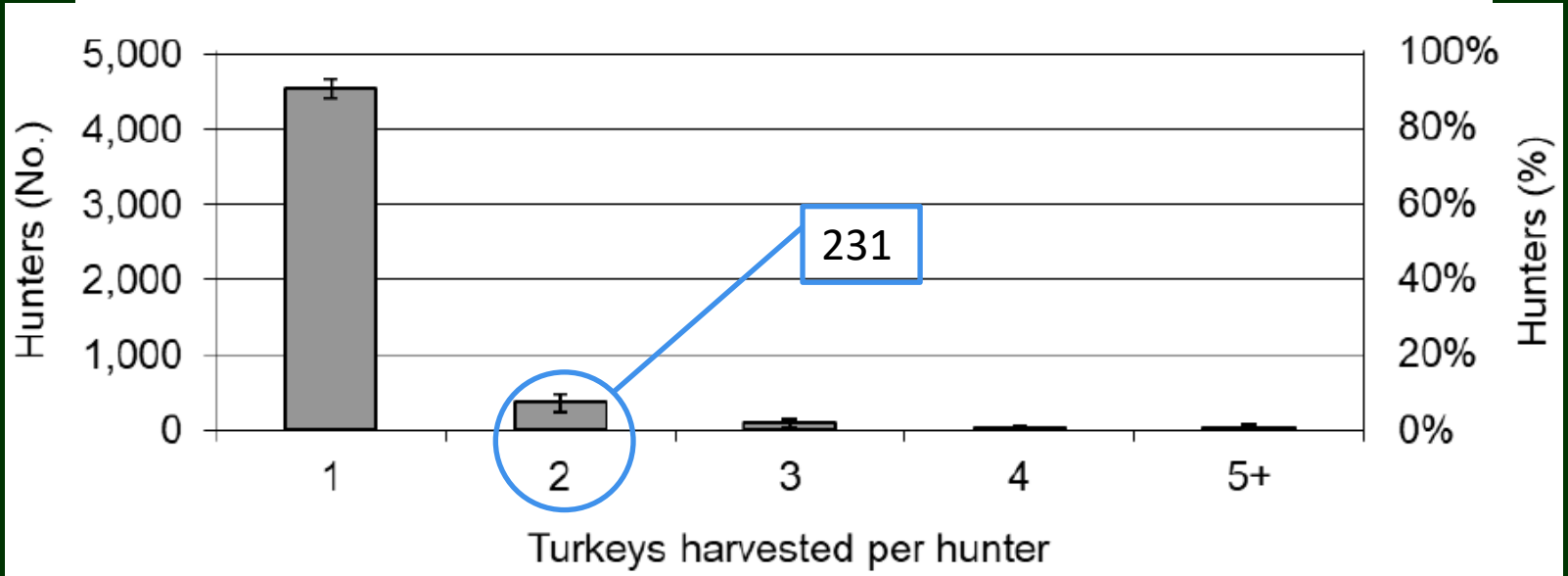


Figure 7. Number of turkeys harvested per successful hunter in Michigan during the 2023 fall hunting season.

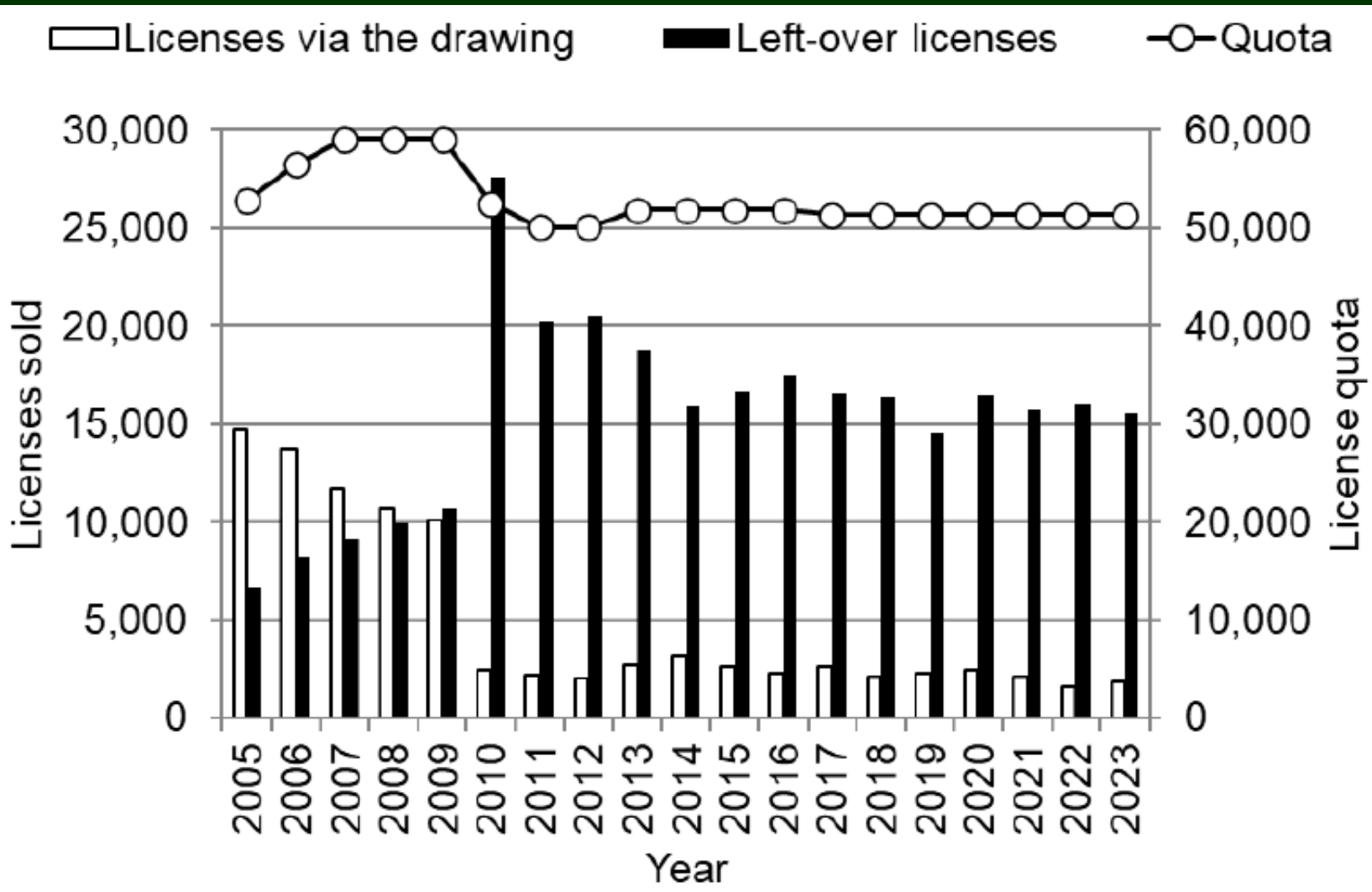
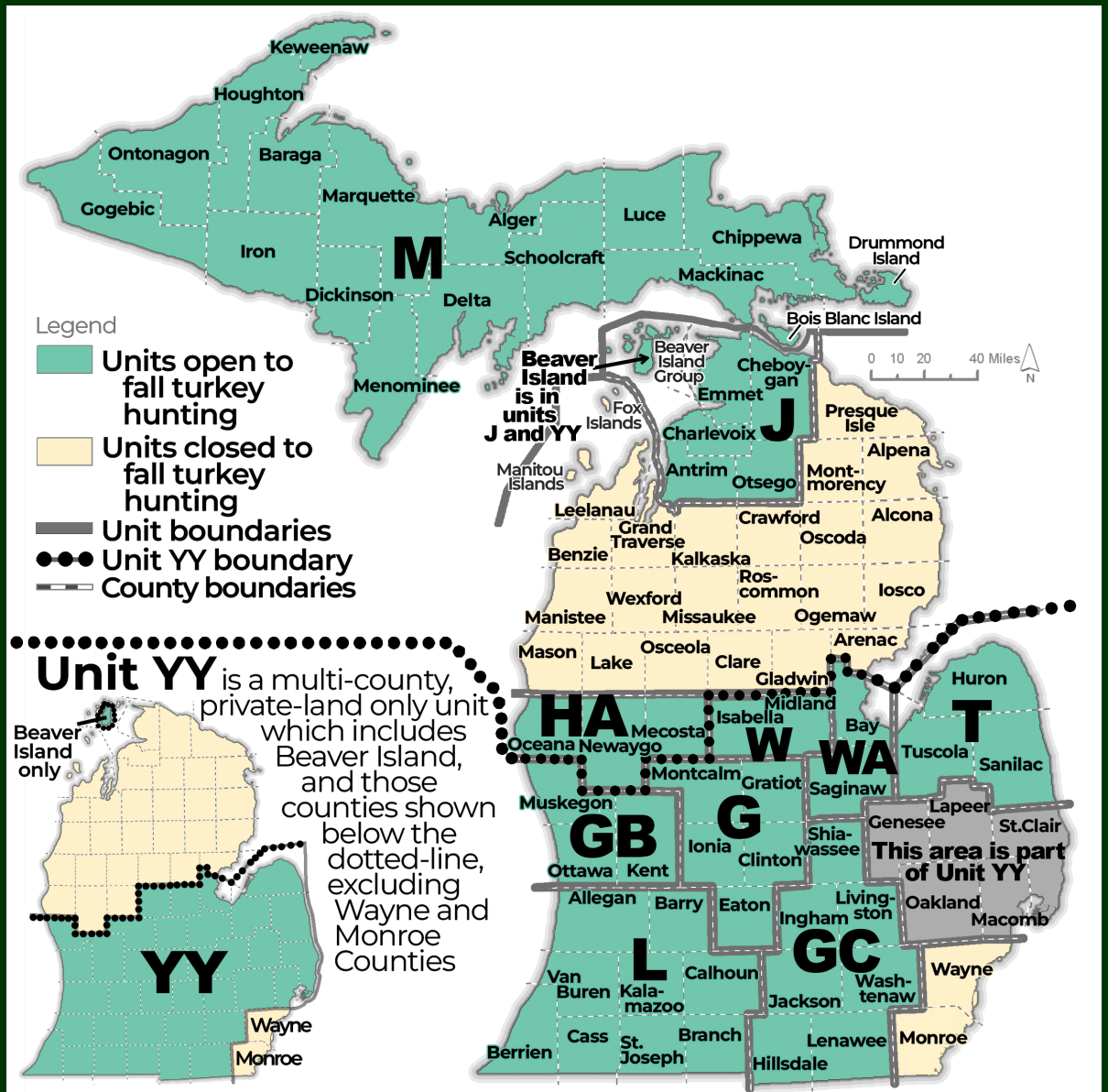


Figure 2. The number of fall turkey hunting licenses available for quota hunts (excluded Mentored Youth licenses and Pure Michigan hunts), the number of quota hunt licenses sold via the drawing, and the number of quota hunt licenses sold as left-over licenses during 2005-2023.

2023 Fall Turkey Harvest

- Total statewide harvest: 3,679
  - 26% success rate
  - 91% on private land
  - 60% male (turkeys with a beard)
  - Hen harvest is about 1,472 statewide
    - Minimal hen harvest = no population level impacts

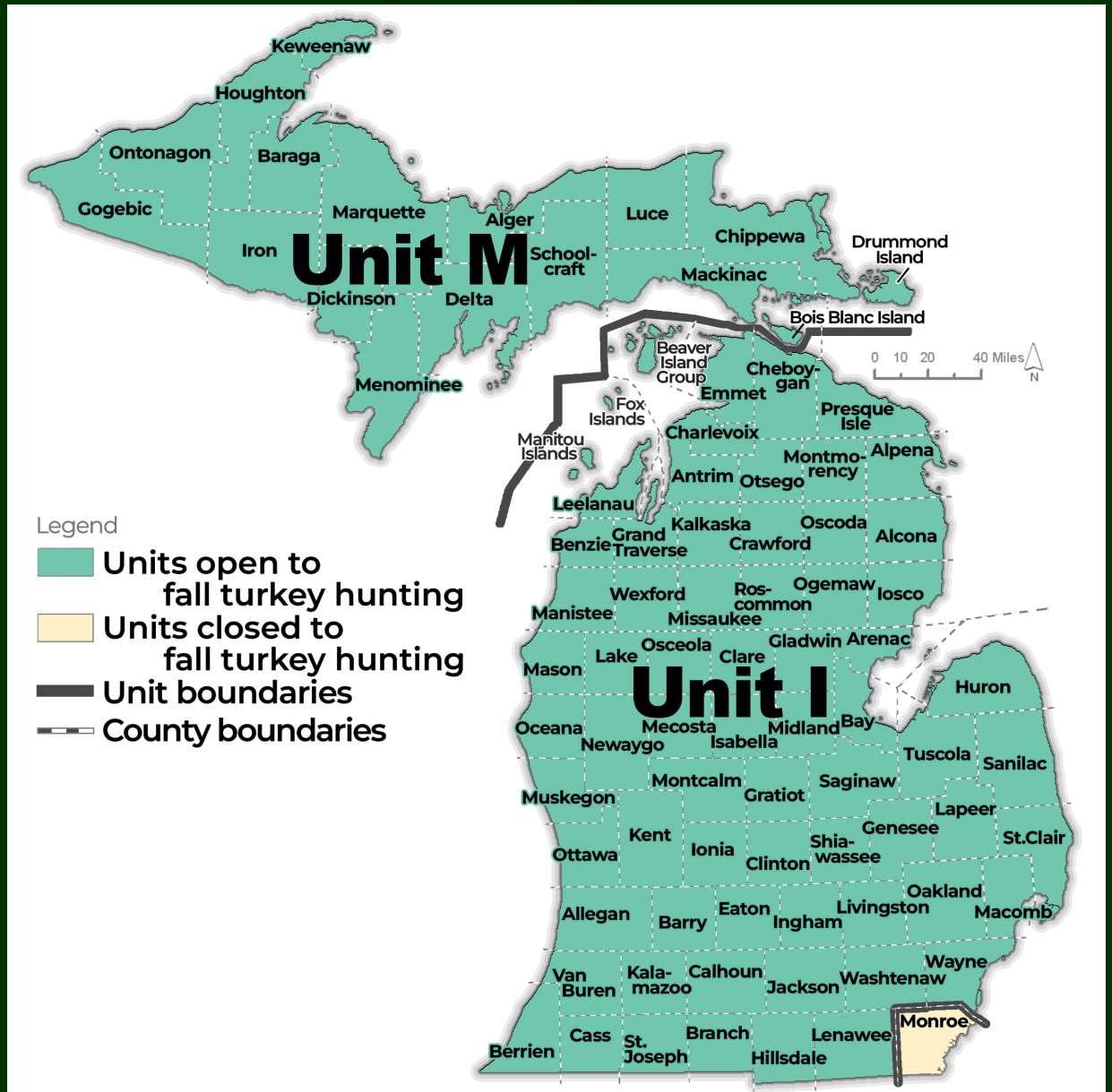
Current Fall Turkey Regulations Map

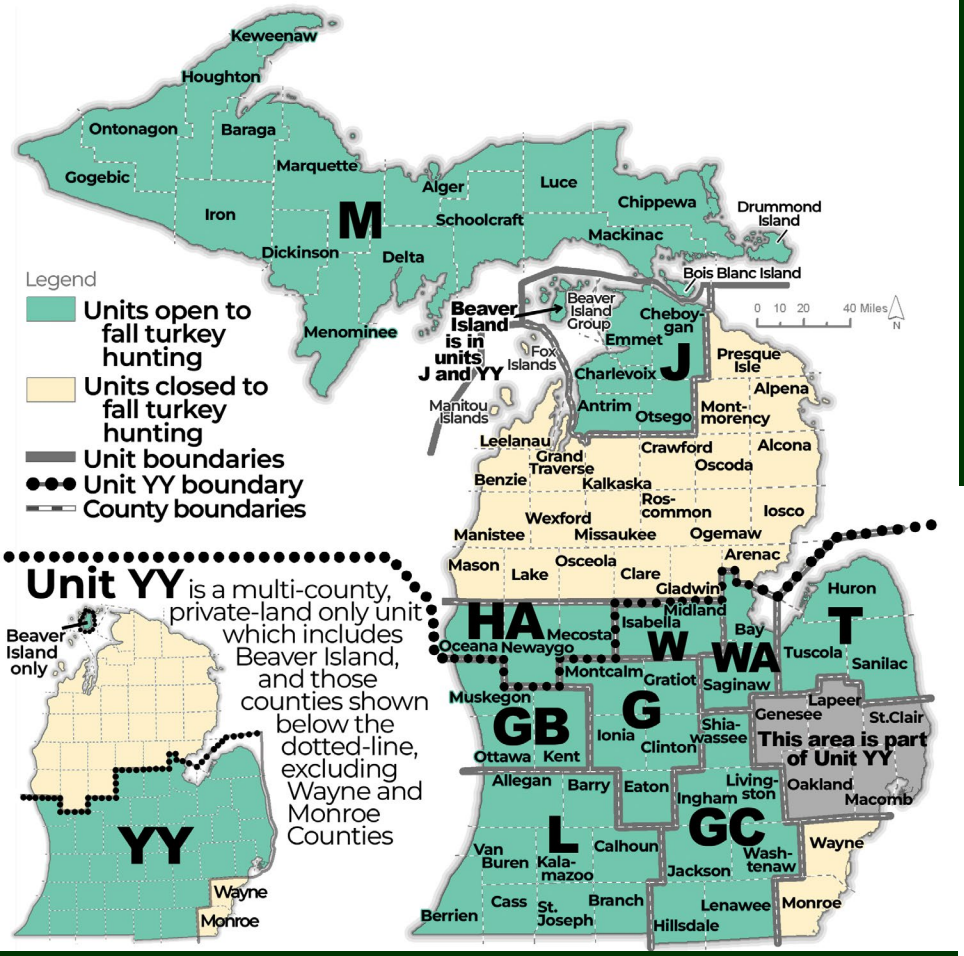


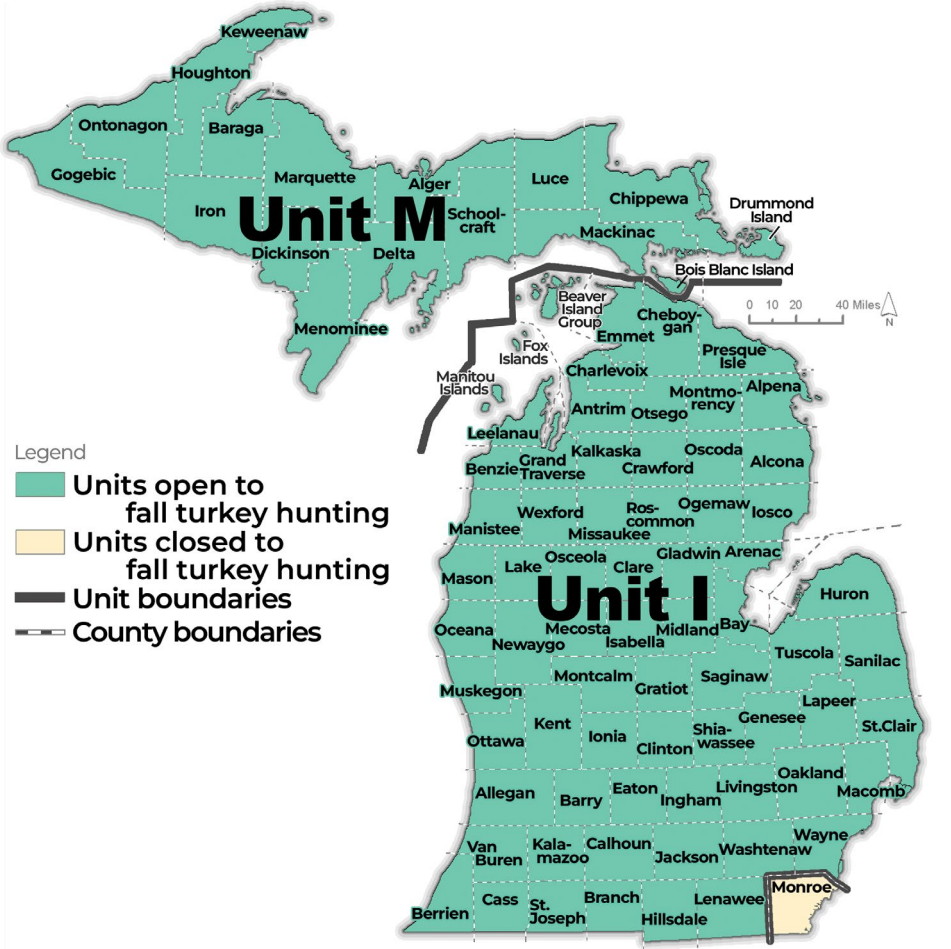
Recommendation

- Reduce Fall Turkey Management Units to 2
  - Unit M- entire UP
  - Unit I- entire LP except Monroe County
- Move all licenses to OTC with no drawing
  - All General licenses valid for all lands
  - Unit M 2,200 quota (first come, first served)
  - Unit I- no quota
- One license per person

Proposed Fall Turkey Regulations Map




Keweenaw
Houghton
Ontonagon
Baraga
Gogebic
Marquette
Alger
Luce
Iron
M
Schoolcraft
Chippewa
Drummond Island
Mackinac
Dickinson
Delta
Bois Blanc Island
Menominee
Beaver Island is in units J and YY
Beaver Island Group
Cheboy-gan
Emmet
Fox Islands
Charlevoix
J
Presque Isle
Alpena
Manitou Islands
Antrim
Otsego
Mont-morency
Leelanau
Crawford
Alcona
Grand Traverse
Oscoda
Benzie
Kalkaska
Ros-common
Iosco
Wexford
Manistee
Missaukee
Ogemaw
Arenac
Mason
Lake
Osceola
Clare
Gladwin
Huron
HA
Midland
Isabella
Bay
T
Mecosta
Oceana
Newaygo
W
WA
Tuscola
Sanilac
Montcalm
Gratiot
Saginaw
Muskegon
Lapeer
Genesee
St.Clair
GB
G
Ionia
Shia-wassee
This area is part of Unit YY
Ottawa
Kent
Clinton
Allegan
Barry
Eaton
Living-ston
Ingham
Oakland
Macomb
L
GC
Calhoun
Wayne
Van Buren
Kala-mazoo
Wash-tenaw
Jackson
Cass
Branch
Monroe
Berrien
St. Joseph
Lenawee
Hillsdale
0 10 20 40 Miles
N
Legend
Units open to fall turkey hunting
Units closed to fall turkey hunting
Unit boundaries
Unit YY boundary
County boundaries
Unit YY is a multi-county, private-land only unit which includes Beaver Island, and those counties shown below the dotted-line, excluding Wayne and Monroe Counties
Beaver Island only
YY
Wayne
Monroe


Keweenaw
Houghton
Ontonagon
Baraga
Gogebic
Marquette
Alger
Luce
Iron
Unit M
School-craft
Chippewa
Drummond Island
Mackinac
Dickinson
Delta
Bois Blanc Island
Menominee
Beaver Island Group
Cheboy-gan
Emmet
Fox Islands
Presque Isle
Charlevoix
Manitou Islands
Alpena
Antrim
Otsego
Mont-morency
Leelanau
Kalkaska
Oscoda
Grand Traverse
Crawford
Alcona
Benzie
Wexford
Ros-common
Ogemaw
Iosco
Manistee
Missaukee
Gladwin
Arenac
Lake
Osceola
Clare
Mason
Unit I
Huron
Oceana
Mecosta
Midland
Bay
Newaygo
Isabella
Tuscola
Sanilac
Montcalm
Saginaw
Muskegon
Gratiot
Lapeer
Genesee
Kent
Ionia
Shia-wassee
St.Clair
Ottawa
Clinton
Oakland
Allegan
Barry
Eaton
Ingham
Livingston
Macomb
Wayne
Van Buren
Kala-mazoo
Calhoun
Jackson
Washtenaw
Monroe
Cass
St. Joseph
Branch
Lenawee
Berrien
Hillsdale
0 10 20 40 Miles
N
Legend
Units open to fall turkey hunting
Units closed to fall turkey hunting
Unit boundaries
County boundaries

Summary

- Fall season proposal will expand opportunity and reduce regulation complexity
  - Area open, flexibility (ability to move around)
  - No expected impact on populations
  - Reduction of licenses per person has minimal impact on opportunity
  - Supported by field biologists
  - Supported by NWTF, UP Turkey Group
  - Minor admin changes to mentored section (delete word “youth”, remove duplicate words)

Thank You

2025 Deer Regulation Recommendations

Chad Fedewa
Acting Deer, Elk, and Moose Specialist
April 10, 2025

Deer Management Initiative Conclusion

- Per direction from NRC, Department has established two deer advisory teams

- Upper Peninsula Deer Advisory Team (UPDAT)
- Lower Peninsula Deer Advisory Team (LPDAT)

Deer Advisory Teams

- Build long-term process for reviewing deer regulations
- Continued stakeholder engagement and recommendations for 2026-2028 cycle
- Stay on established 3-year regulation cycles

WCO Amendment No. 6 of 2024

- Only allows antlerless harvest during Liberty and Independence Hunts starting in 2025
- Department was asked to review this regulation

Recommended Changes

- Remove antlerless only provision from Liberty and Independence Hunts
- Reverting back to previous regulation
- Department has maintained that mentors are best suited for assisting with harvest decisions

Harvest Distribution
Liberty Hunt

Deer Type	2022	2023	2024
Antlered	4,930	4,856	4,129
Antlerless	1,384	1,310	1,204
Total	**6,314**	**6,166**	**5,333**
Antlered	78%	79%	77%
Antlerless	22%	21%	23%

Harvest Totals

	Liberty Hunt Total	Total Harvest (% of Total Harvest)
2022	6,314	303,081 (2.1%)
2023	6,166	274,294 (2.2%)
2024	5,333	299,049 (1.8%)

Youth Participation Rates

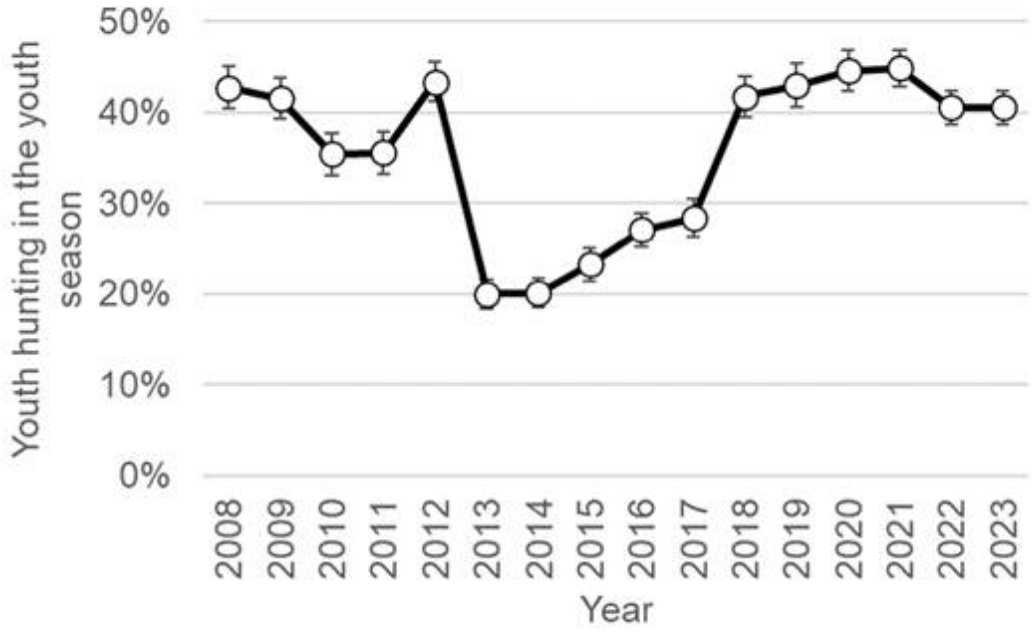


Figure 23. The proportion of young deer hunters who participated in the youth hunting season from 2008 to 2023. The youth eligible to participate in the youth season included those aged 10 to 16 from 2008 to 2011 and those aged 16 or younger from 2012 to 2023.

Agreement with Prior Regulation

Table 39. The proportion of deer hunters active in 2023 who agreed or disagreed with the regulations for the youth hunting season.[a]

Preferred hunt area	Agree %[b]	Agree 95% CL	Neither %	Neither 95% CL	Disagree %[b]	Disagree 95% CL	No answer %	No answer 95% CL
West UP	30	2	30	2	31	2	9	1
East UP	34	5	33	5	27	5	7	3
NE LP	32	2	30	2	29	2	9	1
NW LP	34	2	28	2	31	2	7	1
Sag. Bay	36	2	27	2	29	2	7	1
SW LP	42	2	31	2	18	2	8	1
SC LP	40	2	30	2	21	2	9	1
SE LP	37	3	31	3	24	3	8	2
UP	31	2	30	2	30	2	9	1
NLP	33	1	29	1	30	1	8	1
SLP	40	1	30	1	22	1	8	1
Statewide	36	1	29	1	26	1	8	<1

[a]In 2023, young hunters in the youth season (Sept 9-10) could harvest multiple antlerless deer (one per kill tag) and only one antlered deer.

[b]The agree category combined respondents who indicated that they strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with the regulation, while the disagree category included respondents who somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Age Breakdown

Youth Season Regulations

Table 40. The proportion of deer hunting license buyers active in 2023 who agreed or disagreed with the regulations for the youth hunting season.[a]

Group	Agree %[b]	Agree 95% CL	Neither %	Neither 95% CL	Disagree %[b]	Disagree 95% CL	No answer %	No answer 95% CL
All license buyers	37	1	29	1	26	1	9	0
Males buyers	36	1	29	1	26	1	9	0
Female buyers	44	2	27	2	22	2	7	1
Completely rural buyers	29	3	26	3	39	4	6	2
Mostly rural buyers	36	1	28	1	28	1	8	1
Mostly urban buyers	37	1	30	1	24	1	9	1
New buyers[c]	49	3	33	3	10	2	8	2
Repeat buyers	36	1	29	1	27	1	9	0
Ages 0-9	67	4	16	3	9	3	7	3
Ages 10-19	61	2	24	2	10	1	5	1
Ages 20-29	38	3	35	3	17	3	11	2
Ages 30-39	42	3	33	3	15	2	10	2
Ages 40-49	39	2	31	2	22	2	8	1
Ages 50-59	34	2	32	2	26	2	8	1
Ages 60-69	32	1	29	1	31	1	8	1
Ages 70-79	31	2	27	2	33	2	10	1
Ages 80+	28	3	24	3	34	4	14	3

[a]In 2023, young hunters in the youth season (Sept 9-10) could harvest multiple antlerless deer (one per kill tag) and only one antlered deer.

[b]The agree category combined respondents who indicated that they strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with the regulation, while the disagree category included respondents who somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed.

[c]New license buyers were defined as people that had not purchased a license during the previous 11 years (2012-2022).

Agreement with antlerless only

Table 43. The proportion of deer hunters active in 2023 who agreed or disagreed that youth should be restricted to taking only antlerless deer in the youth season.[a]

Preferred hunt area	Agree %[b]	Agree 95% CL	Neither %	Neither 95% CL	Disagree %[b]	Disagree 95% CL	No answer %	No answer 95% CL
West UP	36	2	25	2	30	2	8	1
East UP	36	5	24	4	33	5	6	3
NE LP	42	2	22	2	28	2	8	1
NW LP	44	2	21	2	29	2	7	1
Sag. Bay	45	2	19	2	29	2	7	1
SW LP	32	2	23	2	36	2	9	1
SC LP	36	2	23	2	31	2	9	1
SE LP	40	3	22	3	30	3	8	2
UP	36	2	25	2	30	2	8	1
NLP	44	1	21	1	28	1	7	1
SLP	37	1	22	1	32	1	8	1
Statewide	40	1	22	1	30	1	8	<1

[a]In 2023, young hunters in the youth season (Sept 9-10) could harvest multiple antlerless deer (one per kill tag) and only one antlered deer.

[b]The agree category combined respondents who indicated that they strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with the regulation, while the disagree category included respondents who somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Age Breakdown

Table 44. The proportion of deer hunting license buyers in 2023 who agreed or disagreed that youth should be restricted to taking only antlerless deer in the youth season.[a]

Group	Agree %[b]	Agree 95% CL	Neither %	Neither 95% CL	Disagree %[b]	Disagree 95% CL	No answer %	No answer 95% CL
All license buyers	39	1	22	1	31	1	8	0
Males buyers	40	1	22	1	30	1	8	0
Female buyers	32	2	21	2	40	2	7	1
Completely rural buyers	50	4	20	3	24	3	7	2
Mostly rural buyers	44	1	19	1	30	1	7	1
Mostly urban buyers	38	1	24	1	30	1	9	1
New buyers[c]	19	2	29	3	43	3	10	2
Repeat buyers	40	1	22	1	30	1	8	0
Ages 0-9	13	3	13	3	65	4	9	3
Ages 10-19	19	2	18	2	58	2	5	1
Ages 20-29	28	3	26	3	35	3	11	2
Ages 30-39	29	3	24	2	37	3	10	2
Ages 40-49	34	2	21	2	37	2	9	1
Ages 50-59	40	2	24	2	28	2	8	1
Ages 60-69	46	2	23	1	24	1	8	1
Ages 70-79	48	2	22	2	22	2	8	1
Ages 80+	48	4	18	3	22	3	12	3

[a]In 2023, young hunters in the youth season (Sept 9-10) could harvest multiple antlerless deer (one per kill tag) and only one antlered deer.

[b]The agree category combined respondents who indicated that they strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with the regulation, while the disagree category included respondents who somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed.

[c]New license buyers were defined as people that had not purchased a license during the previous 11 years (2012-2022).

Statement of Support

Upper Peninsula Deer Advisory Team

"The Upper Peninsula Deer Advisory Team urges the Department of Natural Resources to **reinstate antlered harvest opportunities** during the Liberty and Independence hunts. Seeing no biological imperative for the changes that were made, and seeing the adverse social impacts of that decision, as well as the potential to deter hunter recruitment, we recommend immediate reinstatement for the 25' season state-wide."

Statement of Support
Lower Peninsula Deer Advisory Team

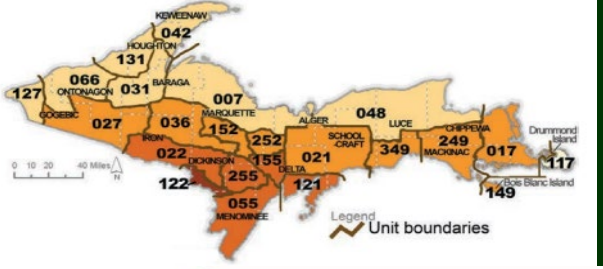
"After considering the Wildlife Conservation Order of 2024, which changed the Liberty and Independence hunts to only allow antlerless harvest, the Lower Peninsula Deer Advisory Team **recommends restoring antlered opportunity** for those hunts. The Lower Peninsula Deer Advisory Team recognizes the 2024 Liberty/Independence Hunt change was to destigmatize antlerless harvest, and we acknowledge antlerless harvest as an effective management tool where additional antlerless harvest is necessary. Our team commits to working with the MI DNR on further opportunities to educate Michigan hunters on antlerless harvest."

Antlerless Harvest During Archery Season in UP

- Department has been asked to review regulations pertaining to antlerless deer harvest during the archery season in the Upper Peninsula

Antlerless Option During Archery in UP

Current Regulations:



		Seasons				
		Early archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Late archery (through Dec. 10)	Late archery (after Dec. 10)
Single deer license						
Deer combo license	Regular tag					
	Restricted tag					
Single deer license		or			or	
Deer combo license	Regular tag	or			or	
	Restricted tag	or			or	
Single deer license		or			or	
Deer combo license	Regular tag	or			or	
	Restricted tag	or			or	
Single deer license		or			or	or
Deer combo license	Regular tag	or			or	or
	Restricted tag	or			or	or
Single deer license		or			or	or
Deer combo license	Regular tag	or			or	or
	Restricted tag	or			or	or

DMU 117 has a limit of ONE antlered deer.

High-Snowfall Deer Management Units

Current Regulations:

- Antlerless harvest is prohibited on single deer and combo license during any archery season in northern DMUs

- No universal antlerless licenses available

		Seasons				
		Early archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Late archery (through Dec. 10)	Late archery (after Dec. 10)
Single deer license						
Deer combo license	Regular tag					
	Restricted tag					
Single deer license		or			or	
Deer combo license	Regular tag	or			or	
	Restricted tag	or			or	
Single deer license		or			or	
Deer combo license	Regular tag	or			or	
	Restricted tag	or			or	
Single deer license		or			or	or
Deer combo license	Regular tag	or			or	or
	Restricted tag	or			or	or
Single deer license		or			or	or
Deer combo license	Regular tag	or			or	or
	Restricted tag	or			or	or

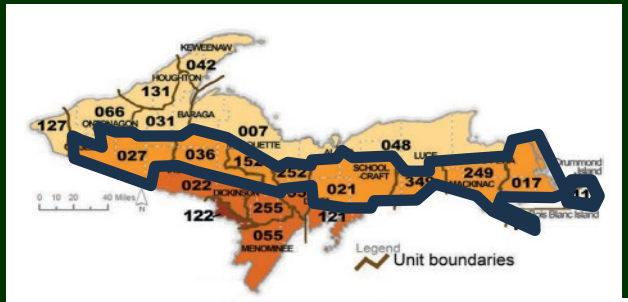
DMU 117 has a limit of ONE antlered deer.

Mid-Snowfall Deer Management Units

Current Regulations:

- Antlerless harvest is prohibited on single deer and combo license during late archery after Dec. 10 in mid-snowfall DMUs

- Universal antlerless licenses
  - 500 available via application for west half of UP in this zone (DMU 352)
  - No antlerless licenses available in east half (DMU 351)



		Seasons				
		Early archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Late archery (through Dec. 10)	Late archery (after Dec. 10)
Single deer license						
Deer combo license	Regular tag					
	Restricted tag					
Single deer license		or			or	
Deer combo license	Regular tag	or			or	
	Restricted tag	or			or	
Single deer license		or			or	
Deer combo license	Regular tag	or			or	
	Restricted tag	or			or	
Single deer license		or			or	or
Deer combo license	Regular tag	or			or	or
	Restricted tag	or			or	or
Single deer license		or			or	or
Deer combo license	Regular tag	or			or	or
	Restricted tag	or			or	or

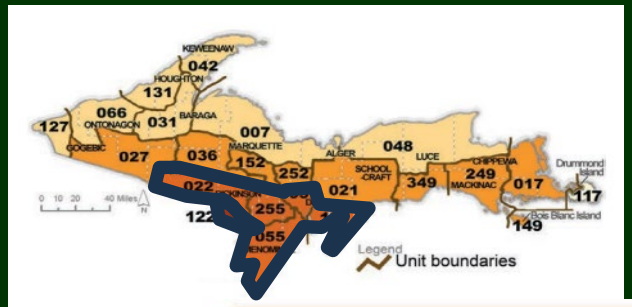
DMU 117 has a limit of ONE antlered deer.

Low-Snowfall Deer Management Units

Current Regulations:

- Antlerless harvest allowed on single deer and combo license in southern DMUs during all archery seasons

- Universal antlerless licenses available over the counter



		Seasons				
		Early archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Late archery (through Dec. 10)	Late archery (after Dec. 10)
Single deer license						
Deer combo license	Regular tag					
	Restricted tag					
Single deer license						
Deer combo license	Regular tag					
	Restricted tag					
Single deer license						
Deer combo license	Regular tag					
	Restricted tag					
Single deer license						
Deer combo license	Regular tag					
	Restricted tag					
Single deer license						
Deer combo license	Regular tag					
	Restricted tag					

DMU 117 has a limit of ONE antlered deer.

Antlerless Option During Archery in UP

- Appropriate sections of WCO will be open to facilitate discussions

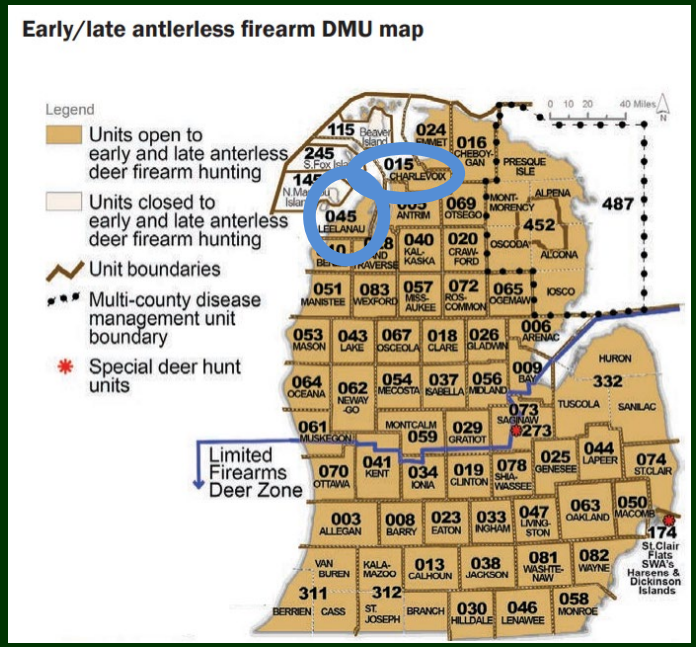
- Department has made this recommendation in 2020 and 2023
- Part of a package of recommendations from the UP DMI in 2024

UP Deer Advisory Team Recommendation

- Recommendation to “encourage the Department of Natural Resources to **reinstate the archery doe tag option on the combination license U.P. wide effective for the 2025 season**. Given that there are well-documented significant and direct biological benefits to healthy balanced sex ratios, given that socioeconomic variables would be positively impacted by restoring opportunity, and in recognition of the fact that such management practices have past precedent, as well as fall in line with the comparable state’s policies, and are consistent with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation we recommend immediate reinstatement”.

Administrative Changes

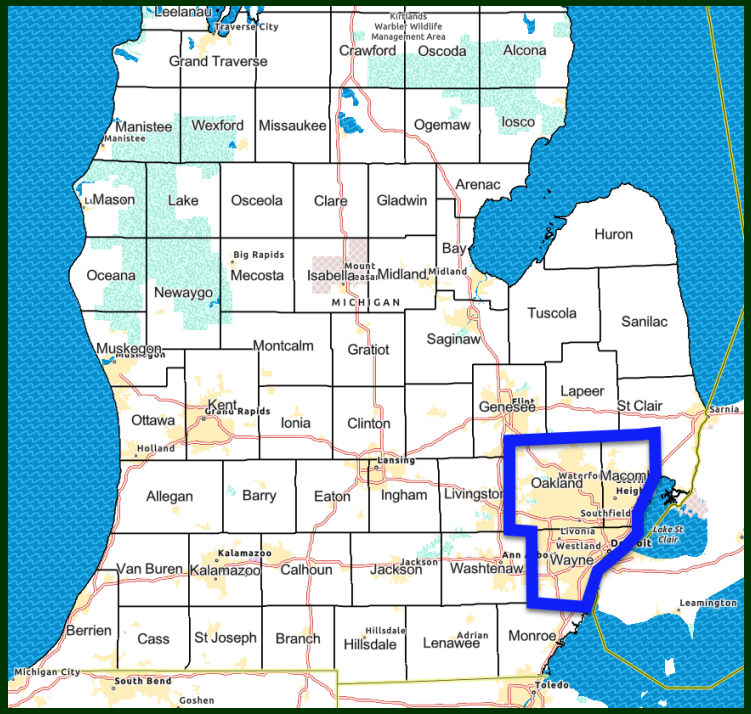
- Early and Late Antlerless Firearm Seasons
  - Open DMUs 015 (Charlevoix) and 045 (Leelanau) for public and private lands
  - Intention of regulation passed on July 11, 2024 was to open all mainland LP DMUs to hunters on public and private lands
  - Inadvertently left out last year



Administrative Changes

Urban Archery

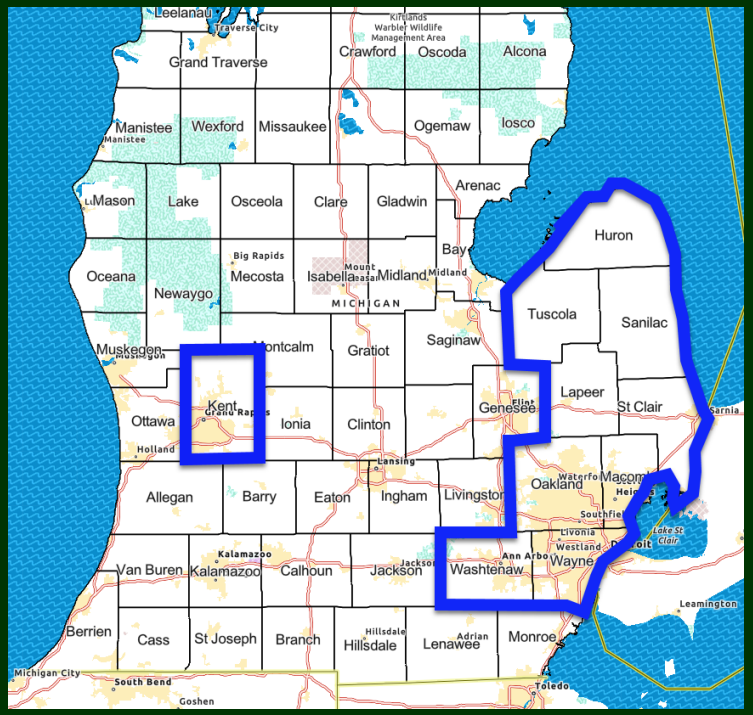
- Urban Archery season Jan 2-31
  - Created in 2017
    - Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland



Administrative Changes

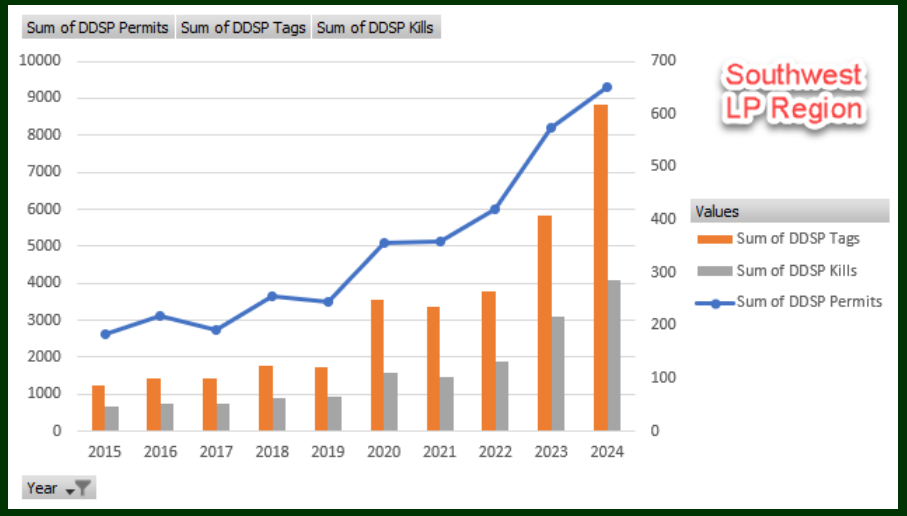
January Archery

- Urban Archery season Jan 2-31
  - Created in 2017
    - Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland
  - 2024
    - Expanded to allow more opportunity
- Propose to change name to **January Archery Season** to better align with current regulation and reduce confusion



Administrative Changes

Deer Damage Shooting Permits



Southern Lower Peninsula Permits Issued

- 176% increase last 5 years
  - 508 (2019) vs 1402 (2024)
- 236% increase last 10 years
  - 417 (2015) vs 1402 (2024)

Administrative Changes

Deer Damage Shooting Permits-Authorized Shooters

Remove authorized shooter list

- Currently
  - Permittees required to maintain a list of no more than 15 authorized shooters
  - Changes require staff approval
- Proposed change
  - allow anyone with tag issued under a permit to be legal shooter
  - Provides flexibility for permittee as well as alleviates workload of staff

Administrative Changes

Deer Damage Shooting Permits – Permittee Designation

Allow authorized designee to apply for and administer permit (with written permission)

- Currently
  - permit has to be issued to landowner
- Proposed change
  - Allows more flexibility to combine permits
    - Immediate family member
    - Neighboring landowners working together
    - Leasing farmer with multiple properties
  - Reduces staff workload

Thank You