

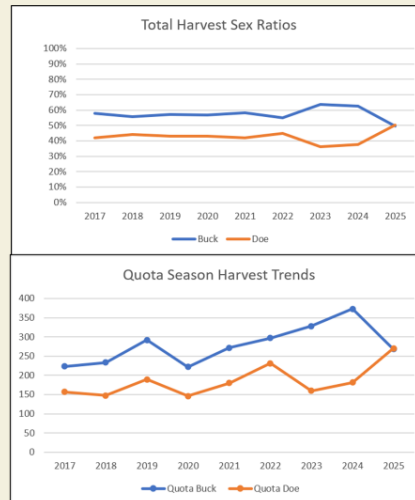
Quality Deer Management on Fort Knox



Habitat Management
Herd Management
Herd Monitoring
Hunter Management

Program Facts

- Antler restrictions implemented in 2001
- Average annual harvest: 856 deer (2021-2025)
- 2025 Quota Gun Harvest Sex-Ratios: 50% Bucks, 50% Does
- 2025: 62% of Quota buck harvest $\geq$ 3.5 y.o.



Program Goals

- Maintain deer population at or below carrying capacity
- Maintain a balanced buck to doe ratio
- Maximize fawn recruitment
- Balanced buck age structure
- Limit incidental harvest of button bucks & spike bucks
- What is carrying capacity?
 - The threshold of available resources (food, water, cover, space) to sustain a healthy population.
- When carrying capacity is exceeded
 - Deer may not express full potential
 - Stress on food resources
 - Fawn recruitment decreases
 - Increased disease risk
- Maintaining ideal buck to doe ratios
 - **Emphasis on doe harvest, doe harvest should be $\geq$ 50% total harvest**
 - **Utilize your antlerless tags!**

What NRB does to improve deer herds

Habitat Management

(RX fire, exotic plant removal, food plots)

Timber Management

(Timber harvest, timber stand improvement) promotes cover & forage availability

Herd Monitoring

Survey deer herds for population indices

Hunter Management

Monitor deer harvests (iSportsman, quota check stations)

Herd Management

Prevent over harvest in individual hunting areas

- How can you as a hunter help?
 - Actively harvest does!
 - Critical to a healthy herd
 - Don't wait until you "fill your buck tag"
 - Don't pass up a doe that has fawns
 - Fawns are weaned ~10 weeks after birth.
 - Avoid harvesting button bucks
 - Fawns are obviously much smaller than does when side by side
 - Adult does have elongated facial structure and necks
 - Fawns have compacted and shortened body structure
 - Fawns will lose their spots in the fall
 - Know your target before committing to a shot!
 - This will help you avoid shooting button bucks, doe fawns, and spikes
- Report suspicious and illegal activity: 502-624-2111

- For more in-depth information, check out the research article referenced below:

• PB1643-Quality Deer Management - Guidelines for Implementation, The University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service, PB1643-2M-S/03 E12-4915-00-002-04, http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_agexfish/8

