

St. Joseph Island
Sault College White-Tailed Deer Check Station
2016 summary

This document is intended for information purposes only.

- Operation of the voluntary Deer Check Station is led by 2nd year Fish & Wildlife Conservation Technician students and is supported by the St. Joseph Island Hunters and Anglers Association.
- The Check Station has been a great learning environment for all Sault College Natural Environment & Outdoor Studies students providing an opportunity to collect meaningful field data and to interact with local hunters and the general public.
- The data is provided to the local Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNR) to assist them in making sound, informed management decisions regarding the deer herd in Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 45.
- Some of the data collected from hunters and the harvested deer include:
 - number of deer seen, hours spent hunting
 - date and location of harvest
 - age, sex and weight
 - antler beam diameter and number of points
- The Check Station hours of operation at Mom's Restaurant in 2016 were:
 - Sat. Nov. 12 – Fri. Nov. 18 (gun season end): **9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
 - Sat. Nov. 19: **9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**
 - MNR Chronic Wasting Disease sampling occurred through the duration of the Check Station
- A total of 159 total deer were processed at the Check Station in 2016: 135 from WMU 45 (includes 6 from Archery Season), 21 from WMU 36, 1 from WMU 53A, and 2 unknown.
- Deep snows over an extended period of time often has the largest impact on northern white-tailed deer herds. In recent times, the winters of 2007-08 and 2012-13 were considered moderately severe while the winter of 2013-14 was considered severe based on weekly snow depth measurements taken at the MNR Garside Snow Course. During severe and moderately severe winters fawn survival decreases and pregnant does will experience greater fawn loss at birth.

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Table 1. Highs and lows (2012 – 2016). *Note: dressed weight measured in lbs.

	Buck				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Largest Weight*	198	208	217	241	214
Smallest Weight*	100	109	102	101	94
Most Points	10	11	11	13	12
Widest Antler Beam (mm)	39	38	44	40	39
	Doe				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Largest Weight*	127	166	163	152	143
Smallest Weight*	74	73	99	86	102
	Fawn				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Largest Weight*	85	72	80	81	82
Smallest Weight*	38	52	49	65	62

Table 2. Deer Check Station daily totals (WMU 45, 2016) by day harvested. Totals from 2014 and 2015 are provided for comparison.

Day (2016)	Adult Buck	Yearling Buck	Doe	Fawn	Total
Sat.	16	23	10	7	56
Sun.	9	13	7	6	35
Mon.	3	5	3	1	12
Tues.	0	2	3	1	6
Wed.	2	2	1	2	7
Thurs.	4	4	3	1	12
Fri.	0	0	1	0	1
BOW					6
2016 totals	34	49	28	18	135
2015 totals	18	27	31	15	91
2014 totals	39	15	27	17	98

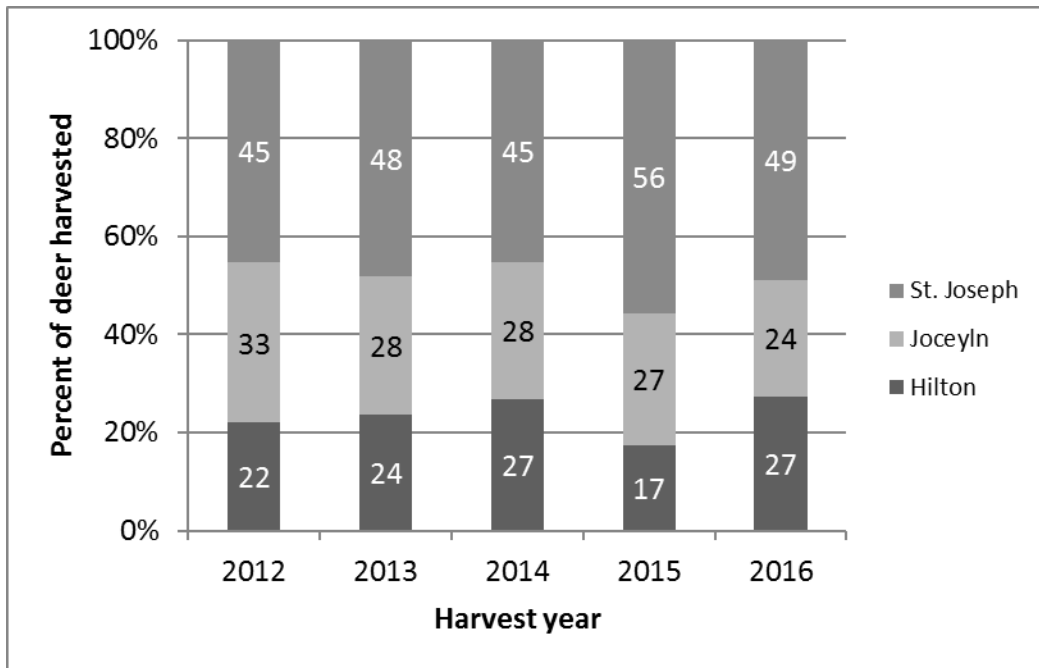


Figure 1. Harvest by township (2012-16).

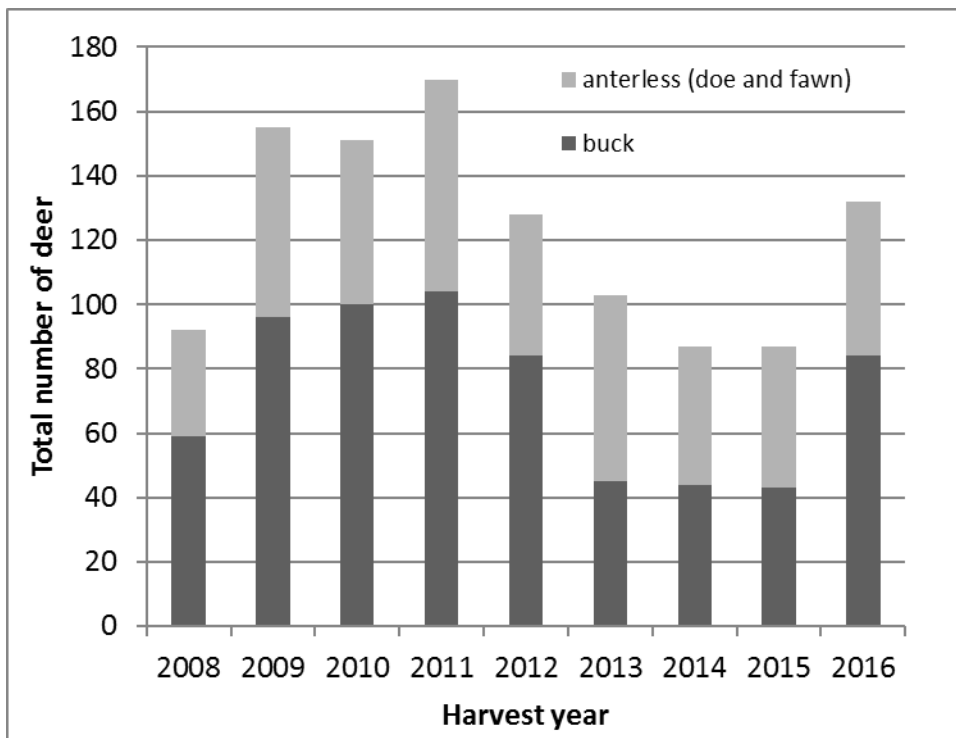


Figure 2. Total number of deer through Check Station by sex and year.

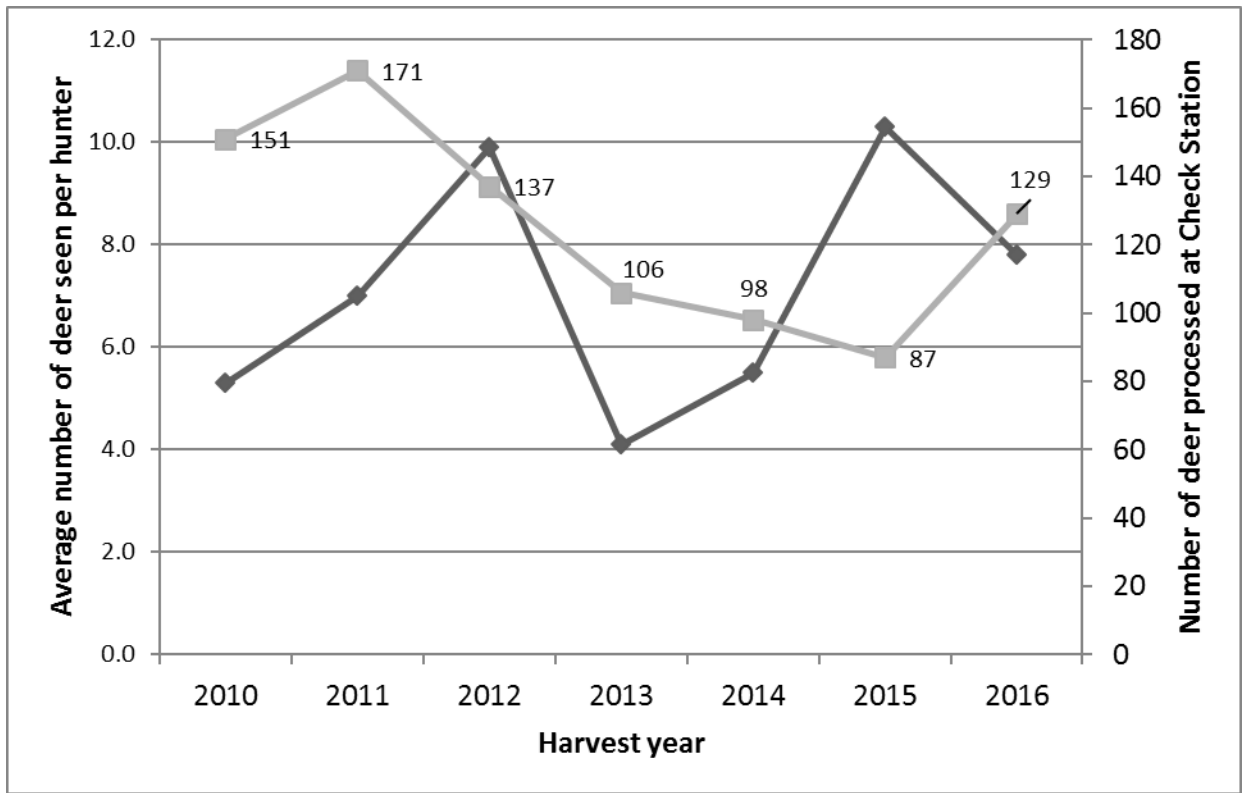


Figure 3. Average number of deer seen per hunter compared to the total number of deer processed during the rifle hunt at the Check Station (2010-16) in WMU 45.

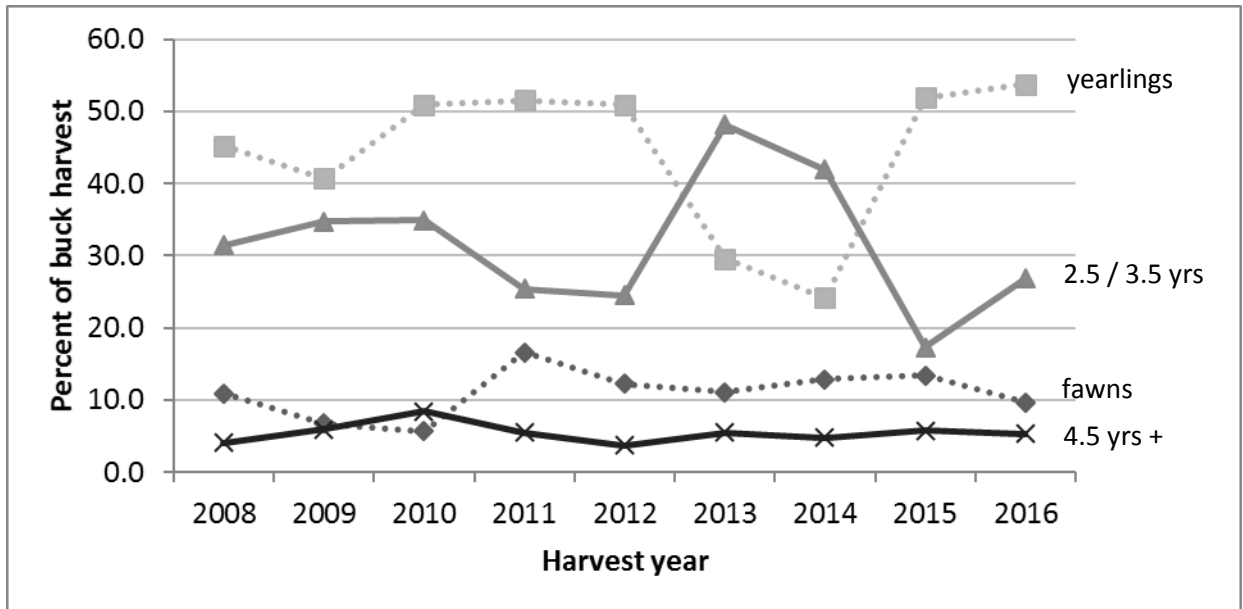


Figure 4. Distribution of buck harvest by age (2008-16). Note: Yearling buck harvest is typically 40-60% of all bucks harvested in areas with no antler restrictions and/or healthy deer herds.

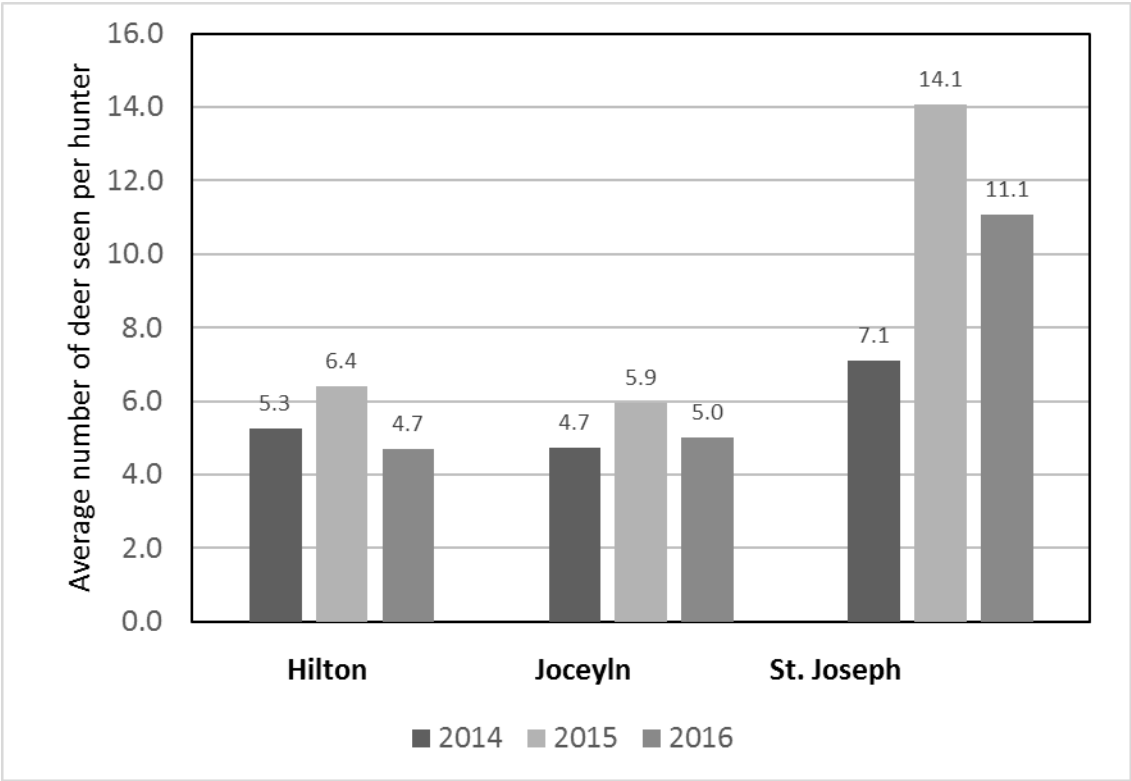


Figure 5. Average number of deer seen per hunter by Township (2014-16).

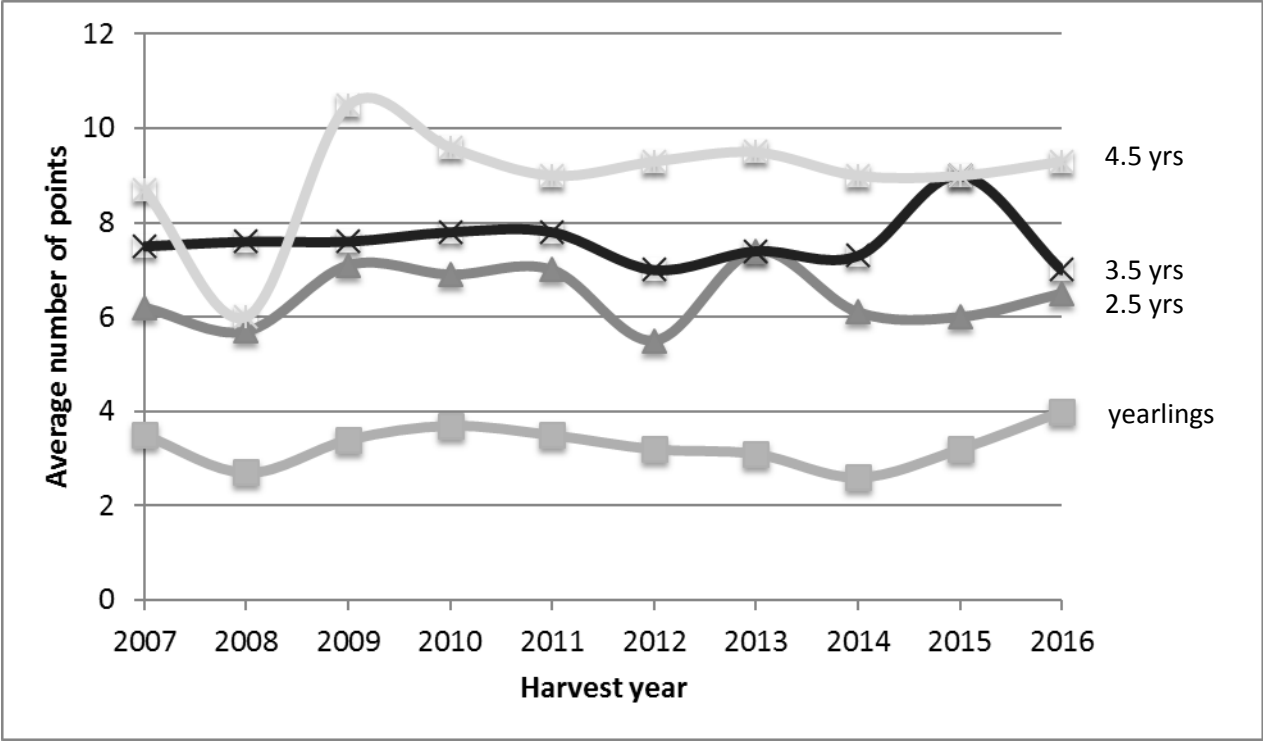


Figure 6. Average number of points on bucks (2007-16).

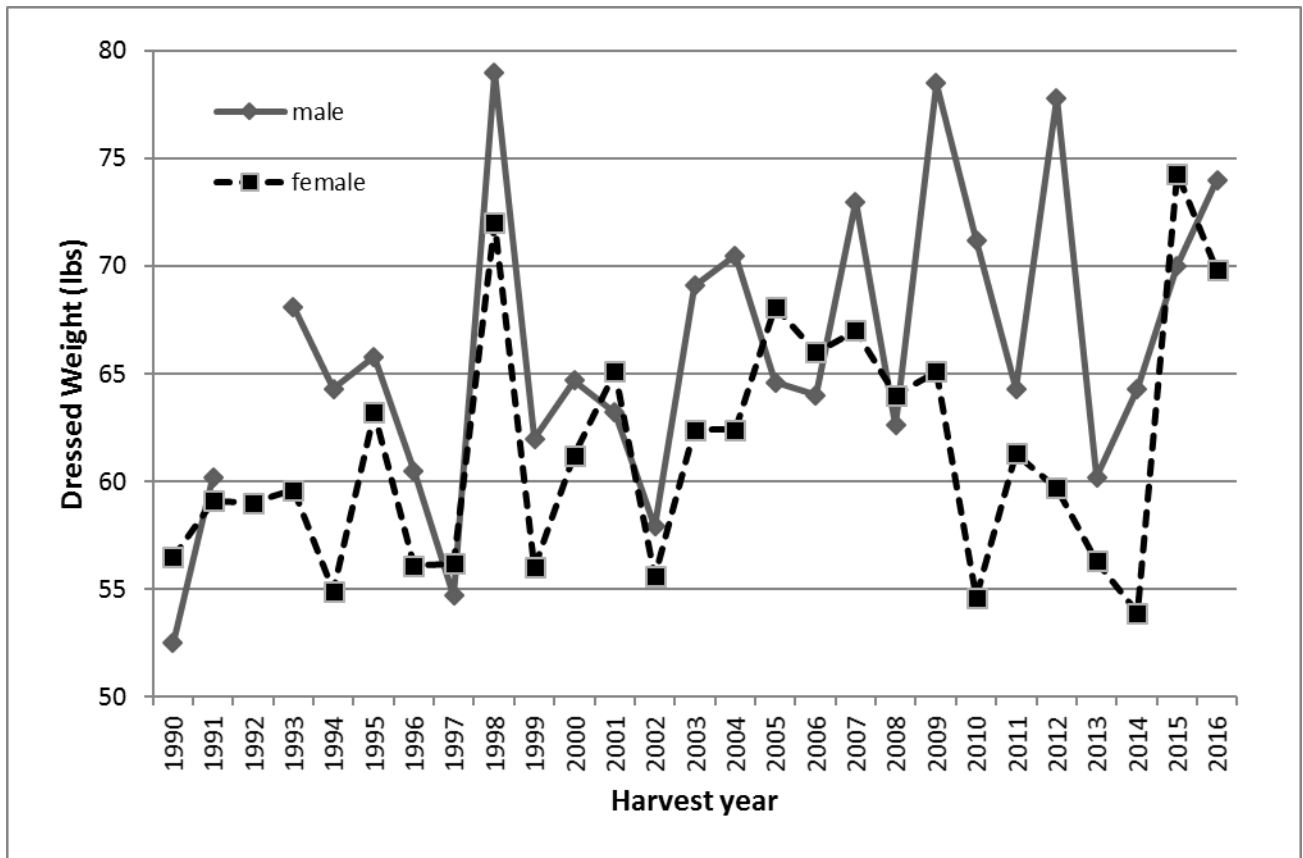


Figure 7. Average weights of male and female fawns (1990-2016). Note: average weights are based on small sample sizes.

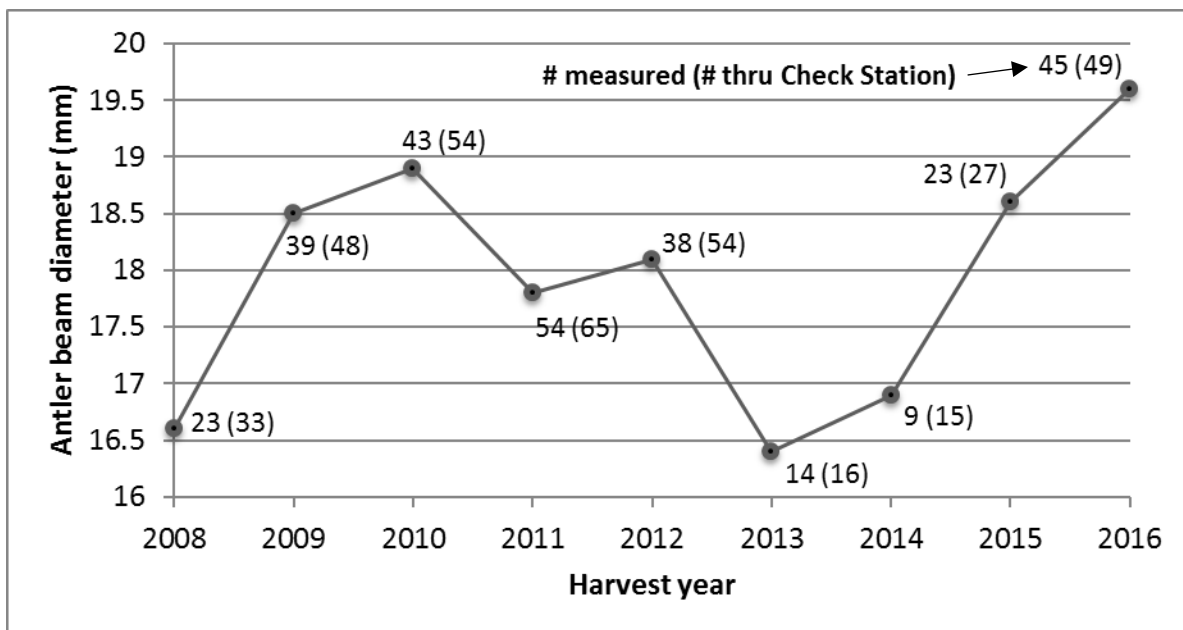


Figure 8. Average antler beam diameter (mm) of yearling bucks (2008-16). This measurement is often used as an indicator of the overall health of a deer herd.