

Instructions for Collecting Deer Harvest Data

All data must be recorded for each deer harvested. Harvest data is entered upon check-out from iSportsman, by website or telephone. The following information must be collected on all deer harvested.

1. Deer Number – deer numbers are assigned to the deer jawbone tag provided to you by ODR. If after hours, a deer jawbone tag will be left outside of ODR, near the weigh station.

2. Harvest Date – record month, date, year.

3. Sex – record “buck” for male and “doe” for females. Remember that male fawns, commonly called button bucks (lacking antlers), must be recorded as a “buck”. Button bucks do not count against the season bag limit for antlered deer.

4. Weight – record dressed weight (body cavity completely empty) to the nearest pound using the digital scale provided. No live weights will be used (guts still remaining). Do not bounce deer on gambrel or scale as these are sensitive items and prone to malfunction if handled haphazardly.

5. Sloughing/Splitting Hooves – mark yes if two or more feet of a deer show clear evidence of sloughing or splitting (Figure 1). This condition usually occurs as a result of Hemorrhagic Disease.

Figure 1. Sloughing/Splitting Hooves



Sloughing or splitting hooves on two or more feet of a deer taken during the fall hunting season are typical of chronic HD. Photo used courtesy of the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study.

6. Milk – if it is a doe, mark “yes” if she is lactating. Cut into the udders and check for milk. See the link on www.ftbelvoir.isportsman (Activities→Bowhunting→ Presence of Milk) for directions.

7. Antler Points – record the total number of points that are greater than 1” in length. Do not count projections less than 1” in length.

8. Antler Beam Diameter – the diameter of antler beams should be measured one inch above the burr with calipers (Figure 2). The measurement should be taken twice, once side to side and once front to back (i.e. at right angles from each other) and the two measurements averaged to the nearest millimeter (mm). Use the seamstress measuring tape to measure the distance between the calipers. Do not use the numbers labeled on the calipers. For example a front to back measurement of 26 mm and a side to side measurement of 30 mm should be entered as 28 mm $(26 + 30)/2$. Measure only one antler (either right or left). Spikes less than one inch long should be measured half-way between the burr and the tip.

Figure 2. Antler Beam Diameter and Calipers



(side to side)



(front to back)



Use the seamstress tape to measure the width of the caliper using millimeters (mm), do this for both measurements (side to side/front to back). Add the measurements together and divide by 2.

9. Outside Antler Spread – measure the greatest outside antler spread of the main beams perpendicular to the center line of the skull to the nearest 1/8 of an inch (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Outside Antler Spread



10. Comments – use this space to record unusual observations about the deer. For example; broken antlers, shed antlers, piebald, etc.