

Deer Damage

Survey

Appendix A: Deer Damage Questionnaire

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DEER DAMAGE SURVEY

Research conducted by the
Human Dimensions Research Unit
Department of Natural Resources
Cornell University

Cooperators in this research study:

Cornell University (Ithaca) Agricultural Experiment Station
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
New York Farm Bureau

This study focuses on deer damage to crops but also seeks to identify other types of wildlife damage to crops and nurseries. In addition, we want to learn about use of deer damage permits, and give farmers the opportunity to provide other information that will help DEC manage the deer population in your region.

Would the person to whom this is addressed or another household head please complete this questionnaire at your earliest convenience, seal it, and drop it in the nearest mailbox. No postage is needed.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

1. Your farm is located in the Town(s) of _____
2. Counting acres that you lease as well as those you own, how many total acres were in your farm in 2002? _____ acres
3. Consider the property immediately bordering your farm on all sides, including that which is across a road, and answer Questions 3a and 3b.
 - a. Roughly what proportion of the land adjacent to your property line is in brush and woodlands? (Please check one.)
 Less than 15% 45%-59% 85% or more
 15%-29% 60%-74%
 30%-44% 75%-84%
 - b. Roughly what proportion of this adjacent land to your farm do you think is hunted for deer (by anyone, regardless of the owners' hunting policies)? (Please check one.)
 Less than 15 45%-59% 85% or more
 15%-29% 60%-74%
 30%-44% 75%-84%
4. What is the largest number of deer you or your family have seen on your farm at one time in the past 12 months?
_____ number of deer
5. Over the past five years, what trend have you seen in the deer population in the area of your farm?
 more deer now than five years ago
 fewer deer now than five years ago
 about the same number of deer now as five years ago
 don't know

6. How would you compare the amount of deer damage you experienced in 2002 to what you experienced five years ago? (Check one.)

- much less damage in 2002 than five years ago
- somewhat less damage in 2002 than five years ago
- about the same damage in 2002 as five years ago
- somewhat more damage in 2002 than five years ago
- much more damage in 2002 than five years ago
- I was not farming here five years ago

7. In the table below, for each type of crop you grew in 2002, please provide your best estimate of the total acres you grew, the dollar value of deer damage to that crop, and percent of the total value of the crop lost to deer. Then, in the last column, consider all wildlife damage to that crop and estimate the percent of that total that was caused by deer.

Crop	Acres grown, 2002	Estimated dollar loss from deer damage to crop	Estimated percent of total crop value lost to deer damage	Percent of total wildlife damage caused by deer
Alfalfa	_____ acres	\$ _____	_____ % lost	_____ %
Other hay crops	_____ acres	\$ _____	_____ % lost	_____ %
Grain crops	_____ acres	\$ _____	_____ % lost	_____ %
Vegetables	_____ acres	\$ _____	_____ % lost	_____ %
Tree fruits	_____ acres	\$ _____	_____ % lost	_____ %
Berries	_____ acres	\$ _____	_____ % lost	_____ %
Grapes	_____ acres	\$ _____	_____ % lost	_____ %
Nursery products	_____ acres	\$ _____	_____ % lost	_____ %
Other out-door crops:	_____ acres	\$ _____	_____ % lost	_____ %
TOTALS	_____ acres	\$ _____		_____ %

8. Please write in below the three types of wildlife (including deer) that resulted in the **most** damage to your crops (including orchards, vineyards, and plantations) in 2002, in terms of dollar loss. Then estimate the percent of your total wildlife damage to all crops that each type of wildlife caused. For bird damage, please be as specific as possible about the type of bird (e.g., blackbirds, geese).

Type of wildlife causing damage _____ % of all wildlife damage in 2002

1. _____ %
2. _____ %
3. _____ %

9. Approximately how much did you spend in 2002 to prevent deer and other wildlife damage?

\$ _____ expenditures in 2002 primarily for preventing deer damage
 \$ _____ expenditures in 2002 primarily for preventing other wildlife damage

10. How do you feel about the total amount of deer damage you experienced in 2002?

- negligible damage
- the amount of damage was tolerable in exchange for having deer around
- the amount of damage was unreasonable

11. Have you stopped farming a particular field because of excessive damage by deer to crops on that field?

- No
- Yes ° crop usually grown there _____ ; acres _____

14. Check below if you place restrictions on the type of deer you allow hunters to take from your property.

- I allow only bucks to be taken
- I require some does or antlerless deer to be taken
- I don't restrict the type of deer hunters can take
- Other: _____

12. Consider all of the risks you face in farming each year. This includes weather, insect damage, disease damage, wildlife damage, keeping farm equipment in working order, finding reliable farm labor, and meeting various government regulations. Where does deer damage rate in comparison to these other factors in determining your ability to farm profitably? (Check one.)

- Deer damage has little or no influence on my ability to make a profit.
- Deer damage is one of several significant factors that affects whether I make a profit in a particular year.
- Deer damage is the most significant factor affecting whether I make a profit.

13. Who do you allow to hunt deer on your farm? (Check all that apply.)

- Family members who hunt
- Friends or neighbors
- Strangers who ask, if I think they are trustworthy
- Specific group of sportsmen or sportsman's club
- I don't allow any hunting on my farm.

Why not? (Check all that apply.)

- Hunters cause me too many problems.
- The potential liability is too great to allow hunting.
- I don't believe in hunting.

Other: _____

15. Before reading about the topic here, were you aware of Nuisance Deer Permits, available through DEC, which allow removal of nuisance deer at any time of the year outside of the big game hunting seasons?

- No, I was not aware of these permits ° go to Question 16.
- Yes ° did you apply for any of these permits in 2002?

- No
- Yes: Number of permits obtained: _____

Number of deer killed: _____

15A. Have you had difficulty finding designated shooters to kill deer?

- No
- Yes

16. Before reading about the topic here, were you aware of Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permits, available through DEC, which provide additional antlerless deer tags that landowners can give out to licensed hunters for use during hunting season?

- No, I was not aware of these permits ° go to Question 17.
- Yes ° did you apply for any of these permits in 2002?

- No
- Yes: Number of permits obtained: _____

Number of deer killed: _____

17. From all hunting sources, including damage permits, approximately how many deer are you aware of that were killed on your farm in 2002?

_____ number of antlered bucks

_____ number of does and antlerless fawns

_____ total number of deer killed

18. Who have you contacted within the past two years for information about controlling deer damage? (Check all that apply.)

- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Department of Environmental Conservation
- USDA-APHIS wildlife services technician
- Farm supplies store
- Private, commercial damage control specialist
- Other: _____

19. Please check whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

- a. To keep the deer population under control, a significant number of does (female deer) must be killed each year.
 Agree Disagree Uncertain
- b. Current hunting pressure in my area is sufficient to keep the deer herd from growing.
 Agree Disagree Uncertain
- c. My ability to control deer numbers that are impacting my crops is limited by local ordinances that prohibit discharge of firearms.
 Agree Disagree Uncertain
- d. Too many hunters in this area won't take antlerless deer.
 Agree Disagree Uncertain

20. For any of the deer control methods listed below **that you have used**, please check how effective they have been. Check the box in the far right column for methods you have not used.

Deer Control Method	Generally Effective	Somewhat Effective	Not Effective	Have Not Used
a. Deer repellents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Deer netting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Deer fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Electric fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Dogs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. DEC nuisance damage permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. DEC DMAP permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Encouraging hunters with regular deer management permits to hunt on my land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The following information is useful in classifying farmers with deer and other wildlife damage. This information is kept strictly confidential and will never be associated with your name.

21. How many years have you owned or managed your farm?
 _____ years

22. Do you lease any acres of your farm to hunters?

- Yes No

23. Please circle the number below that most closely approximates the percentage of your total net household income that comes from your farming operation.

10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Use this space to provide any additional comments you wish to make about controlling deer populations on farms.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

To return this questionnaire, simply seal it and drop it in the nearest mailbox. Postage has been provided.