

2016-17 Small Game Harvest Report

The general small game harvest survey was conducted by phone. A sample of 8,000 hunters was drawn from the Harvest Information Program database for this survey. More than 4,000 hunters were surveyed (50% response rate).

The 2016-17 small game survey includes estimates of hunter numbers, hunt days and harvest for cottontail rabbit, coyote, dusky grouse, pheasant, Walk-In Access (WIA) use and pheasant harvest. It is important to note that the WIA pheasant harvest is not independent from the estimate of total pheasant harvest. Instead, WIA harvest is included within the overall estimate of pheasant harvest. For 2016-17 approximately 16,717 or 32.5% of total pheasant harvest (51,336) occurred was estimated to occur on WIA properties.

County harvest estimates have been replaced by Region-based estimates to reduce the frequency of data reporting errors that commonly occur at the county level. County-based estimates were commonly developed based on a very small number of hunter responses and were generally accompanied by huge confidence intervals. By asking respondents to report harvest at the larger regionally-based scale, errors in data reporting and standard error estimates are reduced.

Those portions of the report that have frequency designations or are pure percentages are based on the actual number of hunters surveyed and their responses to survey questions. ***The harvest figures are estimates of total harvest extrapolated from survey responses.*** The estimates are followed by the standard error (SE) of the estimate which is a measure of the precision of the estimate. The 95% LCL and 95% UCL columns provide the upper and lower values for the 95% confidence limits around the estimate. For example, we estimated statewide harvest of cottontail rabbits in 2016-17 at 58,002 with a SE of 8,368. The 95% confidence interval range estimates that between 43,779 and 76,846 cottontail rabbits were harvested during the 2016-17 small game season. Further, we calculated the coefficient of variation for each statewide harvest estimate, which is a measure of the standard error divided by the harvest estimate.

**Statewide Small Game Species Harvest,
2016-17**

Species	Hunters	SE(hunters)	LCL Hunters	UCL Hunters	Days Hunted	SE (Days Hunted)	LCL Days	UCL Days	Harvest	SE(harvest)	LCL Harvest	UCL Harvest	Harvest CV
Cottontail Rabbit	9452	345	8800	10153	70959	6644	59085	85220	58002	8368	43779	76846	14%
Coyote	11070	367	10373	11814	211619	23832	169822	263703	37180	5522	27834	49664	15%
Dusky Grouse	7909	320	7306	8563	34753	2545	30113	40109	14875	1260	12603	17557	8%
Pheasant	15115	411	14331	15941	69671	3684	62816	77273	51336	3949	44161	59676	8%

**2016-17 Small Game Harvest by County
Cottontail rabbit (↓)**

Region	Hunters	SE(hunters)	LCL Hunters	UCL Hunters	Days Hunted	SE (Days Hunted)	LCL Days	UCL Days	Harvest	SE(harvest)	LCL Harvest	UCL Harvest
NW	3281	215	2885	3731	19863	3700	13830	28527	23144	7726	12239	43764
SW	3715	228	3294	4190	27952	4428	20531	38055	17182	2333	13183	22393
NE	2666	195	2310	3078	15519	2491	11353	21214	11789	1934	8565	16226
SE	1633	154	1357	1964	7175	1331	5004	10288	5812	870	4341	7782
Unknown	15	15	3	77	449	449	88	2298	60	60	12	306
Total	9452	345	8800	10153	70959	6644	59085	85220	58002	8368	43779	76846

**2016-17 Small Game Harvest by County
Coyote (↓)**

Region	Hunters	SE(hunters)	LCL Hunters	UCL Hunters	Days Hunted	SE (Days Hunted)	LCL Days	UCL Days	Harvest	SE(harvest)	LCL Harvest	UCL Harvest
SE	2562	192	2213	2965	30574	6405	20367	45896	13602	4435	7295	25361
SW	4404	247	3946	4916	72607	13100	51124	103117	8898	1154	6908	11461
NE	3041	208	2660	3476	61717	15134	38433	99106	8643	2053	5461	13680
NW	3236	214	2842	3683	46722	10662	30042	72664	6052	1059	4306	8506
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	11070	367	10373	11814	211619	23832	169822	263703	37180	5522	27834	49664

**2016-17 Small Game Harvest by County
Dusky (Blue) grouse (↓)**

Region	Hunters	SE(hunters)	LCL Hunters	UCL Hunters	Days Hunted	SE (Days Hunted)	LCL Days	UCL Days	Harvest	SE(harvest)	LCL Harvest	UCL Harvest
NW	4734	255	4259	5261	20702	2062	17039	25152	8628	963	6938	10730
SW	3490	222	3082	3953	13871	1389	11404	16872	6187	695	4967	7705
Unknown	60	30	24	151	180	104	63	514	60	60	12	306
Total	7909	320	7306	8563	34753	2545	30113	40109	14875	1260	12603	17557

**2016-17 Small Game Harvest by County
Pheasant (↓)**

Region	Hunters	SE(hunters)	LCL Hunters	UCL Hunters	Days Hunted	SE (Days Hunted)	LCL Days	UCL Days	Harvest	SE(harvest)	LCL Harvest	UCL Harvest
NE	11594	374	10885	12350	47621	2516	42939	52813	34543	2117	30637	38947
SE	3685	228	3265	4159	13706	1376	11264	16679	13212	3245	8221	21233
NW	1138	129	912	1421	4479	1578	2291	8755	2007	422	1335	3017
SW	884	114	687	1137	3865	1177	2156	6927	1558	466	877	2767
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15115	411	14331	15941	69671	3684	62816	77273	51336	3949	44161	59676