

2017-18 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 2017-18 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 2017-18 approximately 16,041 or 35.4% of total pheasant harvest (45,234) 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County harvest estimates have been replaced by Region-based estimates to reduce the frequency of data reporting errors that commonly occur at the county level.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 2017-18 at 29,659 with a SE of 2,545. The 95% confidence interval range estimates that between 25,076 and 35,080 cottontail rabbits were harvested during the 2017-18 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,
2017-18**

Species	Hunters	SE(hunters)	LCL	UCL	Days	SE (Days	LCL	UCL	Harvest	SE(harvest)	LCL	UCL	Harvest
			Hunters	Hunters	Hunted	Hunted)	Days	Days			Harvest	Harvest	CV
Cottontail Rabbit	7308	285	6770	7889	40466	2795	35348	46325	29659	2545	25076	35080	9%
Coyote	9109	312	8518	9741	143736	15756	116020	178072	34972	3910	28109	43510	11%
Dusky Grouse	6349	269	5844	6898	31681	2305	27475	36530	12361	1092	10400	14693	9%
Pheasant	14175	365	13478	14909	67702	3192	61729	74253	45234	2339	40877	50055	5%

**2017-18 Small Game Harvest by County
Cottontail rabbit (↓)**

Region	Hunters	SE(hunters)	LCL	UCL	Days	SE (Days	LCL	UCL	Harvest	SE(harvest)	LCL	UCL
			Hunters	Hunters	Hunted	Hunted)	Days	Days			Harvest	Harvest
SW	2889	188	2544	3282	14383	1577	11609	17819	8396	1197	6358	11088
NW	2099	162	1806	2440	8487	1057	6655	10823	8267	1615	5658	12079
NE	2125	163	1830	2468	10340	1605	7641	13992	7178	1017	5446	9462
SE	1283	127	1056	1558	7152	1234	5113	10006	5598	1100	3822	8198
Unknown	26	18	7	90	104	92	23	460	155	155	30	795
Total	7308	285	6770	7889	40466	2795	35348	46325	29659	2545	25076	35080

**2017-18 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	2268	168	1962	2621	37382	7426	25421	54970	13566	2761	9141	20134
SW	3537	207	3155	3966	50974	9931	34918	74413	8163	1417	5823	11444
NE	2566	178	2240	2938	32043	7539	20331	50502	7956	1294	5796	10921
NW	2410	173	2095	2773	23297	5355	14933	36346	5287	1091	3542	7889
Unknown	13	13	3	66	39	39	8	199	0	0	NA	NA
Total	9109	312	8518	9741	143736	15756	116020	178072	34972	3910	28109	43510

**2017-18 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	3589	208	3204	4021	15251	1409	12729	18272	6530	811	5124	8322
SW	3213	198	2849	3625	16119	1800	12959	20050	5792	713	4554	7366
Unknown	78	32	36	168	311	151	126	766	39	29	11	143
Total	6349	269	5844	6898	31681	2305	27475	36530	12361	1092	10400	14693

2017-18 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	10949	334	10313	11624	46011	2427	41495	51019	31655	1919	28111	35645
SE	3835	215	3437	4279	15341	1527	12628	18638	9277	994	7525	11438
NW	1127	120	916	1387	3796	705	2646	5447	2695	540	1827	3976
SW	674	93	515	882	2553	839	1363	4781	1594	458	918	2767
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14175	365	13478	14909	67702	3192	61729	74253	45234	2339	40877	50055

