

2022-23 Small Game Harvest Report

The general small game harvest survey was conducted by phone and internet. A sample of 8,500 hunters was drawn from the Harvest Information Program database for this survey. More than 4,200 hunters were surveyed (49% response rate).

The 2022-23 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 2022-23, approximately 6,091 (35.7%) of total pheasant harvest (17,041) 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County harvest estimates have been replaced by Region-based estimates to reduce the frequency of data reporting errors that commonly occur at the county level.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 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 2022-23 at 18,088 with a SE of 3,863. The 95% confidence interval range estimates that between 14,610 and 22,379 cottontail rabbits were harvested during the 2022-23 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,
2022-23**

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	5646	226	5221	6106	38724	4819	30370	49375	18088	1971	14619	22379	11%
Coyote	6412	238	5963	6896	132942	17438	102916	171728	26530	3625	20323	34634	14%
Dusky Grouse	6982	246	6516	7482	34994	2127	31068	39417	15663	1437	13091	18742	9%
Pheasant	7645	256	7161	8163	33171	1955	29555	37229	17041	1627	14139	20539	10%
WIA	9562	278	9032	10122	59463	3212	53494	66098					

**2022-23 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	Harvest CV
NW	1885	137	1636	2173	14192	4257	7984	25228	6785	1597	4305	10695	24%
NE	1709	130	1472	1985	8018	1327	5809	11067	4682	867	3267	6711	19%
SW	2144	145	1878	2449	11851	1645	9040	15537	4662	612	3609	6022	13%
SE	1015	101	835	1234	4475	760	3216	6227	1823	434	1151	2888	24%
Unknown	21	15	6	72	186	151	46	749	83	60	23	298	73%
Total	5646	226	5221	6106	38724	4819	30370	49375	18088	1971	14619	22379	11%

**2022-23 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	Harvest CV
NE	1958	139	1704	2250	48244	11318	30649	75938	9479	2661	5525	16263	28%
SE	1585	126	1357	1851	24428	7694	13368	44636	6785	1721	4160	11069	25%
SW	2310	151	2033	2625	40826	9279	26297	63384	6371	1072	4592	8840	17%
NW	1616	127	1386	1885	19300	5531	11127	33473	3833	985	2335	6292	26%
Unknown	41	21	16	105	145	82	52	405	62	46	17	229	75%
Total	6412	238	5963	6896	132942	17438	102916	171728	26530	3625	20323	34634	14%

**2022-23 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	Harvest CV
NW	4196	198	3825	4602	18564	1628	15638	22038	8681	1225	6592	11432	14%
SW	3398	180	3063	3770	16358	1352	13915	19229	6899	721	5625	8462	10%
Unknown	41	21	16	105	73	37	28	188	73	40	26	200	55%
Total	6982	246	6516	7482	34994	2127	31068	39417	15663	1437	13091	18742	9%

2022-23 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	Harvest CV
NE	5760	228	5331	6223	22470	1370	19940	25320	10256	971	8522	12342	9%
SE	2051	142	1791	2350	6899	726	5617	8474	3678	601	2676	5054	16%
NW	549	75	421	717	2838	1119	1347	5980	2134	1105	821	5548	52%
SW	352	60	253	491	777	181	495	1220	632	256	294	1358	41%
Unknown	21	15	6	72	186	158	44	791	259	195	70	961	75%
Total	7645	256	7161	8163	33171	1955	29555	37229	17041	1627	14139	20539	10%