



2022 VERMONT MOOSE HARVEST REPORT



FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
(802) 828-1000 / www.vtfishandwildlife.com



Most of the programs described in this report are funded through the *Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program*. This program was initiated in 1937 as the Federal Aid in Wildlife Act and created a system whereby taxes are paid on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment by the public who hunts. Today this excise tax generates more than one hundred million dollars each year that are dedicated to state wildlife restoration and management projects across the United States. The State of Vermont uses these monies for acquiring land, and for restoring and managing wildlife. These excise tax dollars, coupled with state hunting license fees, have been the predominant source of money funding the successful restoration and management of Vermont’s wildlife resources.

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The MISSION of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

Agency of Natural Resources

1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, Vermont 05620

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2022 Moose Harvest Report

Overview

Hunters harvested a total of 51 moose during Vermont's two moose hunting seasons in 2022, providing more than 60,000 servings of local, nutritious moose venison. The department issued a total of 100 moose hunting permits for wildlife management units E1 and E2. These included 60 either-sex permits and 40 permits for antlerless moose only. Success rates for the archery season were among the highest ever, while success rates during the regular season were among the lowest ever for these WMUs (Table 1).

Temperatures were relatively cool during the archery season at the start of October, and the season coincided with peak rut activity. The start of the regular season saw warm temperatures and greatly reduced moose activity, which limited the harvest. It was the first time since modern moose hunting began in 1993 that the lowest daily harvest occurred on the first day of the season and that the highest daily harvest occurred on the last day (Table 2).

Table 1. 2022 Moose permit distribution and harvest by season, permit type, and Wildlife Management Unit.

Season	Permit Type	WMU	Permits	Bulls	Cows	Male	Female	Total	% Success
						Calves	Calves		
Archery	Either-sex	E1	11	7	1	0	0	8	73%
		E2	6	3	0	0	0	3	50%
		Total	17	10	1	0	0	11	65%
Regular	Either-sex	E1	29	12	3	0	1	16	55%
		E2	15	7	1	0	0	8	53%
		Total	44	19	4	0	1	24	55%
	Antlerless-only	E1	24	0	8	0	0	8	33%
		E2	15	0	7	0	1	8	53%
		Total	39	0	15	0	1	16	41%
Regular Season Total			83	19	19	0	2	40	48%
All Seasons Total			100	29	20	0	2	51	51%

Archery Season (October 1–7, 2022)

The department issued 15 either-sex permits by lottery for the archery season, and two auction permit winners elected to hunt the archery season. These 17 hunters harvested 11 moose (10 bulls, 1 cow) for a 65 percent success rate (Table 1).

The heaviest moose taken during the archery season weighed 1,018 pounds and was taken in Lewis. The widest spread (57.5 inches) and most antler points (21) were on a moose taken in Lemington (Table 3).

Table 2. 2021 Moose harvest by day during the archery and regular seasons.

Day of Season	Archery	Regular
1	6	2
2	1	8
3	1	7
4	1	8
5	1	6
6	0	10
7	1	-

Regular Season (October 15–20, 2022)

A total of 83 permits were issued for the regular season, including 79 permits issued by lottery, 3 Special Opportunity Permits issued through a sponsoring organization to youths with a life-threatening illness, and the remaining auction permit winner. Thirty-nine of the permits issued by lottery were for antlerless moose only.

Hunters harvested 40 moose for an overall success rate of 48 percent. Hunters with either-sex permits harvested 24 moose for a 55 percent success rate, while hunters with antlerless only permits harvested 16 moose for a 41 percent success rate (Table 1).

The heaviest moose taken during the regular season weighed 857 pounds and was taken in Granby. The widest spread (54.5 inches) and most antler points (22) were on a bull taken in Bloomfield (Table 3).

Biological Data Collection

All moose harvested during the regular season were reported to the department-run check station in Island Pond. This allowed department biologists to collect important information from harvested moose to assess the status and health of the population.

In addition to age, weight, and antler measurements, biologists also counted winter ticks to assess their abundance and continuing impact on moose. Ovaries were collected from cow moose to provide critical information on reproductive rates, and DNA samples were collected to aid current and future genetic analyses.

A summary of these biological data and the current status of the moose population will be provided in the department's annual moose harvest recommendation.

Looking to the Future

The management objective for wildlife management units E1 and E2 continues to be the reduction of the moose population to reduce the impacts of winter ticks and improve the health of moose. The harvest of 20 cow moose in 2022 was an important step in that direction.

The department will present its 2023 Moose Harvest Recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Board in February.

Geographic Distribution

Moose were taken in 17 different towns. Towns with the highest harvests were Averill (8), Lemington (6), Avery's Gore (5), and East Haven (5). Figure 5 shows the harvest locations for moose taken in 2022.

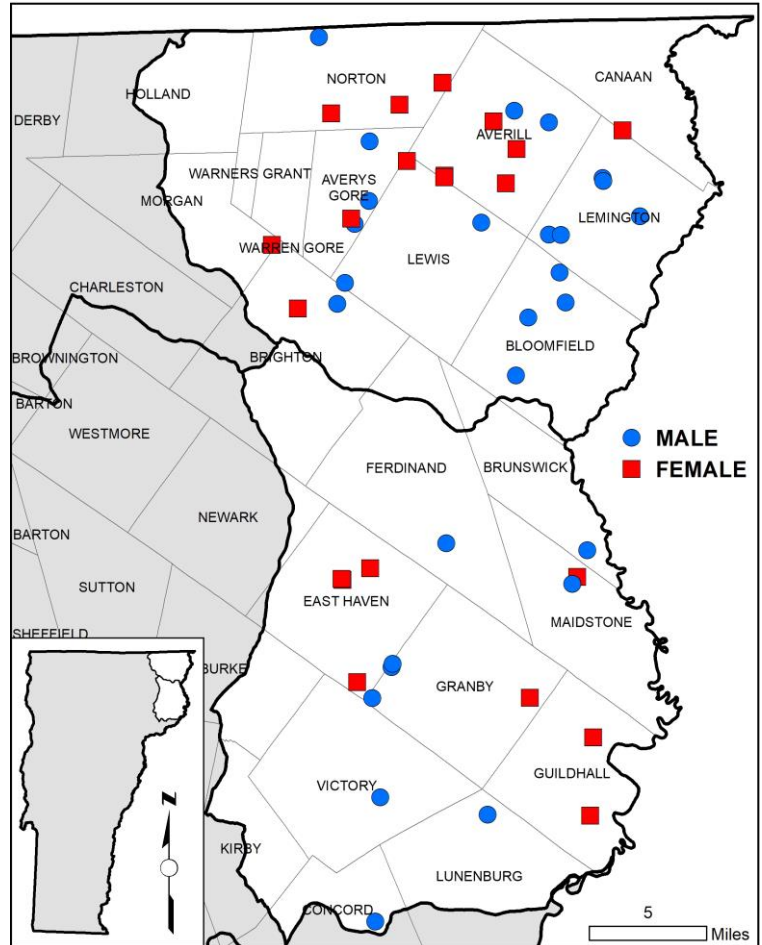


Figure 5. Harvest locations of moose taken during the 2022 moose hunting seasons.

Table 3. Moose harvested during the 2022 moose hunting seasons.

HUNTER	SEASON	WMU	TOWN	SEX	WEIGHT (lbs)	SPREAD (in)	POINTS	AGE
ALBERICO	REGULAR	E2	CONCORD	M	709	39	11	3
ALEXANDER	REGULAR	E1	BLOOMFIELD	M	815	54.5	22	7
BARTOCK	REGULAR	E2	EAST HAVEN	F	424			1
BENSON	REGULAR	E1	LEWIS	M	459	26.5	6	1
BOMBARDIER	ARCHERY	E2	FERDINAND	M	733	41.5	16	7
BRUNELLE	REGULAR	E2	MAIDSTONE	M	769	37.5	7	6
CARTER	ARCHERY	E1	CANAAN	F	606			6
COLLINS	REGULAR	E1	AVERYS GORE	M	619	38	13	3
CRAFTS	REGULAR	E1	AVERILL	M	651	42	9	3
DIX	ARCHERY	E1	LEWIS	M	1018	46	15	7
DIX	REGULAR	E2	GUILDHALL	F	550			4
FARNHAM	REGULAR	E2	LUNENBURG	M	647	38	6	4
FARROW	REGULAR	E2	EAST HAVEN	F	264			
FLEMING	REGULAR	E2	GUILDHALL	F	481			1
FOOTE	REGULAR	E1	AVERILL	F	595			3
FORTUNE	REGULAR	E1	NORTON	F	450			1
FULLER	REGULAR	E1	AVERYS GORE	F	536			2
GERVIA	REGULAR	E1	AVERILL	F	524			2
GORDON	ARCHERY	E1	LEMINGTON	M	835	57.5	21	8
GRAY	REGULAR	E2	GUILDHALL	F	435			2
HANSON	ARCHERY	E2	GRANBY	M	761	51	13	8
HOGABOOM	REGULAR	E1	BRIGHTON	F	559			6
HULL	REGULAR	E1	AVERYS GORE	M	661	42	7	5
KNIFFIN	ARCHERY	E1	LEMINGTON	M	760	44.5	12	7
LAMBROU	REGULAR	E1	LEMINGTON	M	703	35	12	3
LATTERELL	REGULAR	E2	EAST HAVEN	M	711	47	13	4
LAWRENCE	REGULAR	E1	AVERILL	F	656			7
LEFEBVRE	REGULAR	E1	BRIGHTON	F	473			1
LEHOUIILLER	REGULAR	E2	GRANBY	M	433	24.5	4	1
LOOMIS	ARCHERY	E2	MAIDSTONE	M	543	30	12	2
MAHONEY	ARCHERY	E1	LEMINGTON	M	871	50.5	17	5
MCCUIN	REGULAR	E1	LEWIS	F	219			
MORABITO	REGULAR	E1	AVERILL	F	543			2
MORSE	REGULAR	E1	AVERILL	F	365			1
PERKINS	REGULAR	E1	AVERILL	F	672			3
PERRIGO	REGULAR	E1	LEMINGTON	M	771	45	15	4
PERSONS	REGULAR	E1	NORTON	M	533	30.5	5	4
PLOOF	REGULAR	E1	BLOOMFIELD	M	768	48.5	13	9
PROVOST	ARCHERY	E1	AVERYS GORE	M	611	42	9	2
PROVOST	REGULAR	E1	MORGAN	F	576			3
RICHARDSON	REGULAR	E2	GRANBY	M	857	48	14	12
RIORDAN	REGULAR	E1	AVERILL	M			11	5
SAWYER	ARCHERY	E1	BLOOMFIELD	M	550	28	6	1
SCHOLTZ	REGULAR	E2	MAIDSTONE	F	513			4
SCOTT	REGULAR	E2	EAST HAVEN	F	506			7

Table 3. Moose harvested during the 2022 moose hunting seasons, continued.

HUNTER	SEASON	WMU	TOWN	SEX	WEIGHT (lbs)	SPREAD (in)	POINTS	AGE
ST. JAMES	REGULAR	E2	VICTORY	M		34.5	8	3
SULLIVAN	REGULAR	E1	BLOOMFIELD	M	631	38	13	3
SUPERCHI	ARCHERY	E1	AVERYS GORE	M	828		11	9
VAILLANCOURT	REGULAR	E2	EAST HAVEN	F	514			8
WHITAKER	REGULAR	E2	GRANBY	F	533			6
WRIGHT	REGULAR	E1	LEWIS	M	704	43.5	17	9