



2023 VERMONT MOOSE HARVEST REPORT



FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
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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

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2023 Moose Harvest Report

Overview

Hunters harvested a total of 78 moose during Vermont's two moose hunting seasons in 2023, providing more than 90,000 servings of local, nutritious moose venison. The Department issued a total of 180 moose hunting permits for wildlife management units E1 and E2. These included 80 either-sex permits and 100 permits for antlerless moose only. Success rates for the archery season were close to normal, while success rates during the regular season were among the lowest ever for these WMUs (**Table 1**).

Temperatures were unseasonably warm during the archery season at the start of October. However, the season coincided with peak rut activity, which helped hunters have some success. The start of the regular season saw three days of steady rain, with warm weather returning later in the week. These poor weather conditions and the late season timing that limited rut activity likely contributed to the lower-than-normal success rates. As is typically the case, the highest daily harvest occurred on the first day of the season, and the lowest daily harvest occurred on the last day (**Table 2**).

Table 1. 2023 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	14	6	0	0	0	6	43%
		E2	9	4	0	0	0	4	44%
		Total	23	10	0	0	0	10	43%
Regular	Either-sex	E1	32	16	1	0	0	17	53%
		E2	25	11	2	1	0	14	56%
		Total	57	27	3	1	0	31	54%
	Antlerless-only	E1	55	0	24	1	0	25	45%
		E2	45	0	11	0	1	12	27%
		Total	100	0	35	1	1	37	37%
Regular Season Total			157	27	38	2	1	68	43%
All Seasons Total			180	37	38	2	1	78	43%

Archery Season (October 1–7, 2023)

The Department issued 20 either-sex permits by lottery for the archery season, and all three auction permit winners elected to hunt the archery season. These 23 hunters harvested 10 moose (all bulls) for a 43 percent success rate (**Table 1**).

The heaviest moose taken during the archery season weighed 893 pounds and was taken in Lemington. This moose also had the widest spread (61 inches) and most antler points (26; **Table 3**).

Table 2. 2023 Moose harvest by day during the archery and regular seasons.

Day of Season	Archery	Regular
1	4	19
2	4	11
3	2	14
4	0	10
5	0	10
6	0	4
7	0	-

Regular Season (October 21–26, 2023)

A total of 157 permits were issued for the regular season, including 154 permits issued by lottery and 3 Special Opportunity Permits issued through a sponsoring organization to youths with a life-threatening illness. One hundred of the permits issued by lottery were for antlerless moose only.

Hunters harvested 68 moose for an overall success rate of 43 percent. Hunters with either-sex permits harvested 31 moose for a 54 percent success rate, while hunters with antlerless only permits harvested 37 moose for a 37 percent success rate (**Table 1**).

The heaviest moose taken during the regular season weighed 883 pounds and was taken in Warren Gore. The widest spread (55.5 inches) was on a bull taken in Lunenburg, and the most antler points (26) were on a bull taken in Granby (**Table 3**).

Biological Data Collection

All harvested moose 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 also collected from cow moose to provide critical information on reproductive rates.

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 38 cow moose in 2023 was an important step in that direction.

The Department will present its 2024 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 (12), Lemington (9), Granby (8), and East Haven (8). **Figure 5** shows the harvest locations for moose taken in 2023.

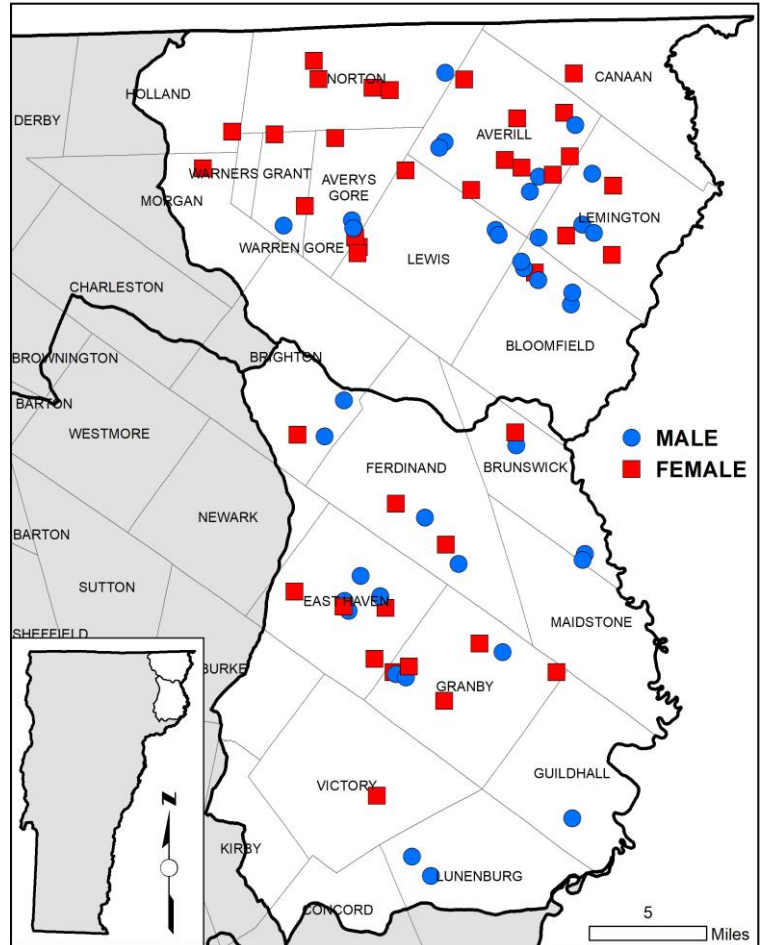


Figure 5. Harvest locations of moose taken during the 2023 moose hunting seasons.

Table 3. Moose harvested during the 2023 moose hunting seasons.

HUNTER	SEASON	WMU	TOWN	SEX	WEIGHT (lbs)	SPREAD (in)	POINTS	AGE
BAIRD	REGULAR	E1	LEMINGTON	M	249			0
BALLANTINE	ARCHERY	E2	GRANBY	M	874	50	17	8
BARNARD	ARCHERY	E1	BLOOMFIELD	M	875	57	18	7
BEAUREGARD	REGULAR	E1	WARREN GORE	F	633			6
BERTRAND	REGULAR	E1	NORTON	F	570			3
BILLINGHAM	REGULAR	E2	GRANBY	F	707			8
BOURDEAU	REGULAR	E1	CANAAN	F	506			6
BRADLEY	REGULAR	E2	FERDINAND	M	510	36	12	4
BRADLEY	REGULAR	E1	NORTON	M	612	40.5	10	3
BUSHEY	REGULAR	E1	AVERILL	F	615			2
COLLINS	REGULAR	E2	EAST HAVEN	M	727	53	15	10
CORROW	REGULAR	E1	LEMINGTON	F	545			8
DESLANDES	REGULAR	E1	AVERILL	F	496			6
DETH	REGULAR	E2	EAST HAVEN	M	743	52	15	8
DRAGON	REGULAR	E2	VICTORY	F	622			2
DUPOUIS	REGULAR	E2	BRIGHTON	M	702	40	12	3
EDDY	REGULAR	E2	BRUNSWICK	M	604	35	10	8
FIFIELD	REGULAR	E1	AVERY'S GORE	F				1
FIFIELD	REGULAR	E1	BLOOMFIELD	F	629			7
FITCH	REGULAR	E1	LEMINGTON	M	502	32	6	2
GAIOTTI	ARCHERY	E2	BRUNSWICK	M	522	30.5	10	1
GEBO	ARCHERY	E1	AVERY'S GORE	M	642	37	10	3
GIGLIO	REGULAR	E2	GRANBY	M	826	51.5	26	7
GRACIE	REGULAR	E2	GRANBY	F				0
GREENWOOD	REGULAR	E1	AVERILL	M	678	50.5	13	5
GRIFFITH	REGULAR	E2	GRANBY	F	690			11
HARRIS	REGULAR	E1	NORTON	F	506			3
HAZARD	REGULAR	E1	LEMINGTON	M	472	22	4	1
HUBBARD	ARCHERY	E1	LEWIS	M	762	45	13	4
KINIRY	ARCHERY	E1	AVERILL	M	819	51	15	4
LEWIS	REGULAR	E1	WARREN GORE	F	591			5
LEWIS	REGULAR	E2	EAST HAVEN	F	507			4
LUTHER	REGULAR	E1	BLOOMFIELD	M	765	44	10	5
MARCOUX	REGULAR	E1	AVERILL	M	808	51	13	7
MARQUIS	REGULAR	E2	GRANBY	F	567			3
MARTELL	REGULAR	E1	NORTON	F	502			8
MCCARTHY	ARCHERY	E1	LEMINGTON	M	893	61	26	8
MCCARTHY	REGULAR	E1	AVERILL	F	536			2
MCDONALD	REGULAR	E1	AVERILL	F	424			1
MCMULLEN	REGULAR	E1	BLOOMFIELD	M	731	53	10	6
MITCHELL	REGULAR	E1	LEMINGTON	M	494	32	8	1
MORIN	REGULAR	E2	EAST HAVEN	F	642			8
NEU	REGULAR	E1	LEWIS	F	485			1
NOLAN	REGULAR	E1	AVERILL	F	528			6
NOWICKI	ARCHERY	E2	EAST HAVEN	M	591	34	13	2

Table 3. Moose harvested during the 2023 moose hunting seasons, continued.

HUNTER	SEASON	WMU	TOWN	SEX	WEIGHT (lbs)	SPREAD (in)	POINTS	AGE
OTIS	REGULAR	E1	LEWIS	F	652			3
PELKEY	REGULAR	E1	LEMINGTON	M	811	52	23	7
PERKINS	REGULAR	E1	WARREN GORE	M	883	43.5	17	5
PETERS	REGULAR	E1	AVERILL	F	428			1
PETERS	REGULAR	E1	AVERILL	F	403			2
PRESCOTT	REGULAR	E1	LEWIS	M	665	34	9	2
RHODES	REGULAR	E1	NORTON	F	610			13
RICHARDSON	REGULAR	E1	BLOOMFIELD	M	778	46.5	18	6
RIVERS	REGULAR	E2	FERDINAND	F	682			9
ROCKWOOD	REGULAR	E1	LEMINGTON	M	767	51	20	6
SCONYERS	REGULAR	E1	LEMINGTON	F	451			2
SLOWIK	REGULAR	E1	BLOOMFIELD	M	663	41	6	4
SMIDUTZ	REGULAR	E1	LEWIS	F	389			4
SNOW	ARCHERY	E1	AVERY'S GORE	M	684	30.5	11	2
SPAULDING	REGULAR	E2	GRANBY	F	642			4
SPAULDING	REGULAR	E2	BRUNSWICK	F	533			7
STOODLEY	REGULAR	E2	LUNENBURG	M	229			0
TAFT	REGULAR	E2	BRIGHTON	M	655	40.5	17	3
TERK	REGULAR	E2	FERDINAND	F	468			4
THOMAS	REGULAR	E1	AVERY'S GORE	F	439			1
THOMAS-DANYOW	REGULAR	E2	LUNENBURG	M	763	55.5	22	7
THRESHER	REGULAR	E1	HOLLAND	F	516			2
TOBIN	REGULAR	E1	AVERY'S GORE	M	746	40.5	10	3
VALLEE	REGULAR	E2	FERDINAND	M	535	30	8	3
WAGNER	REGULAR	E2	BRIGHTON	F				6
WATSON	REGULAR	E2	EAST HAVEN	F	634			6
WHIPPLE	ARCHERY	E2	EAST HAVEN	M	685	39	13	4
WILEY	REGULAR	E2	GRANBY	M	761	48	18	10
WILLIAMS	REGULAR	E2	BRUNSWICK	M	646	33	7	2
WOOD	REGULAR	E1	AVERILL	F	697			8
WOOD	REGULAR	E1	AVERILL	M	654	36.5	10	7
YOUNG	REGULAR	E2	EAST HAVEN	F	533			3