

2023-24 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 3,467 hunters were surveyed (40% response rate).

The 2023-24 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 2023-24, approximately 6,364 (40%) of total pheasant harvest (15,897) 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County harvest estimates have been replaced by Region-based estimates to reduce the frequency of data reporting errors that commonly occur at the county level.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 2023-24 at 13,419 with a SE of 1,810. The 95% confidence interval range estimates that between 10,315 and 17,459 cottontail rabbits were harvested during the 2023-24 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,
2023-24**

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	4525	230	4096	5000	26291	2596	21676	31889	13419	1810	10315	17459	13%
Coyote	6651	272	6139	7206	104356	13430	81175	134157	25522	3619	19355	33653	14%
Dusky Grouse	7160	280	6631	7731	32655	1723	29450	36210	19458	1446	16823	22505	7%
Pheasant	8033	294	7478	8630	32434	1852	29001	36272	15897	1163	13776	18345	7%
WIA	9324	311	8735	9954	55112	3307	49003	61983					

**2023-24 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
SW	2087	161	1794	2427	9324	1291	7117	12217	4695	922	3207	6873	20%
NW	1448	135	1206	1738	6899	1063	5110	9314	4421	933	2937	6656	21%
NE	1265	127	1040	1539	7329	1593	4810	11168	2504	491	1711	3664	20%
SE	756	98	587	975	2739	513	1903	3940	1800	386	1187	2728	21%
Unknown	0	0	NA	NA	0	0	NA	NA	0	0	NA	NA	
Total	4525	230	4096	5000	26291	2596	21676	31889	13419	1810	10315	17459	13%

2023-24 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
NW	1617	143	1361	1922	26487	7296	15590	45001	7720	2732	3938	15136	35%
SW	2726	183	2390	3108	36685	7584	24568	54779	7420	1223	5384	10227	16%
NE	1761	149	1493	2077	18584	5142	10913	31646	6351	1171	4438	9088	18%
SE	1878	153	1601	2203	22600	6311	13209	38668	4030	751	2805	5790	19%
Unknown	0	0	NA	NA	0	0	NA	NA	0	0	NA	NA	NA
Total	6651	272	6139	7206	104356	13430	81175	134157	25522	3619	19355	33653	14%

2023-24 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
SW	3730	211	3338	4167	17162	1287	14819	19876	10198	1081	8290	12546	11%
NW	3899	216	3499	4345	15337	1138	13263	17735	9064	916	7439	11044	10%
Unknown	26	18	7	91	156	133	37	664	196	196	38	1000	100%
Total	7160	280	6631	7731	32655	1723	29450	36210	19458	1446	16823	22505	7%

2023-24 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	6064	262	5573	6599	22405	1410	19807	25344	10146	843	8624	11936	8%
SE	2243	167	1939	2594	7890	1030	6116	10179	4278	668	3155	5799	16%
SW	326	65	221	480	1004	253	617	1634	743	236	405	1363	32%
NW	483	79	351	663	1135	242	750	1716	730	239	390	1366	33%
Unknown	0	0	NA	NA	0	0	NA	NA	0	0	NA	NA	
Total	8033	294	7478	8630	32434	1852	29001	36272	15897	1163	13776	18345	7%