



## Doe-Harvest Diagnosis

Not everyone practicing Quality Deer Management needs to take does. But everyone should ask themselves each year whether or not they need to, and if so, how many. QDMA developed this questionnaire to help you determine the right answer. Please read the [online article that accompanies this PDF](#), then check the most appropriate answer to each question (gathering information as needed to answer any of them), and then total the Yes and No columns.

**If "Yes" far outnumbers "No,"** it's likely you should increase your doe harvest goal.

**If "No" far outnumbers "Yes,"** it's likely you should decrease or eliminate doe harvest.

**If it's a close race or a tie,** a stabilized doe harvest may be appropriate.

In any case, monitor all of these areas and continue to revisit this questionnaire each season to make adjustments as needed. For information about local deer management goals, contact a biologist with your state wildlife agency. For additional guidance, click the blue text in this PDF or use the [Ask QDMA](#) form to contact us.

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### Harvest History Diagnostics

- Did you easily hit your [doe harvest quota](#) at least one of the previous three seasons?  Yes  No
- Is your state/provincial wildlife agency trying to reduce deer density in the zone where you hunt?  Yes  No
- Is the average [deer hunter density](#) in your area below five hunters per square mile?  Yes  No
- Are you killing the lion's share of does in your neighborhood, while neighbors continue to focus mostly on buck harvest?  Yes  No

### Habitat Diagnostics

- Is more than half of the land within 1 mile of where you hunt in commercial row crop agriculture?  Yes  No
- Do commercial crops on or adjacent to your hunting area show signs of severe deer damage?  Yes  No
- If you have food plots, do your [exclusion cages](#) show significantly more forage inside than out?  Yes  No
- Is a browse line evident within or at the forest edge where you hunt?  Yes  No
- Is ground cover lacking in the forest? (More open patches than those with green vegetation growing at ground level)  Yes  No
- If no, are the plants growing at ground level [different species](#) from those that make up the canopy?  Yes  No
- If no, are the plants at ground level more often shrubs, grasses or ferns, rather than tree seedlings or broadleaf forbs?  Yes  No

### Herd Diagnostics - Harvest

- Comparing similar sex and age classes, is the average weight of deer killed where you hunt stable or declining?  Yes  No
- Examining the [jawbones](#) of all the 1½-year-old and older does killed where you hunt, are more than half 4½ or older?  Yes  No
- Is the [lactation rate](#) for all does 2½ or older higher than 75 percent?  Yes  No
- Do you often see [parasites](#) (such as lungworms, abdominal worms, etc.) inside the body cavities or organs of deer you've killed?  Yes  No

### Herd Diagnostics - Camera and Hunter Observations

- Is the estimated pre-hunt adult [doe:buck ratio](#) greater than 3:1?  Yes  No
- Is the estimated deer density where you hunt above what your state/provincial wildlife agency predicts for your management unit?  Yes  No
- Based on [hunter observations](#), do you average seeing more than about two deer per hour of effort?  Yes  No
- If no, is that statistic trending upward over the past three seasons?  Yes  No
- Based on hunter observations, is the [fawn recruitment rate](#) above 0.67 fawns per doe?  Yes  No
- If no, is this trending up over the past three seasons?  Yes  No

### Miscellaneous Diagnostics

- Are large predators (bear, coyote, wolf or bobcat) rarely seen or absent where you hunt?  Yes  No
- Are either [CWD or EHD](#) rarely confirmed or absent where you hunt?  Yes  No
- Are winter weather, drought, or other severe climatic conditions rarely a concern where you hunt?  Yes  No

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Totals	