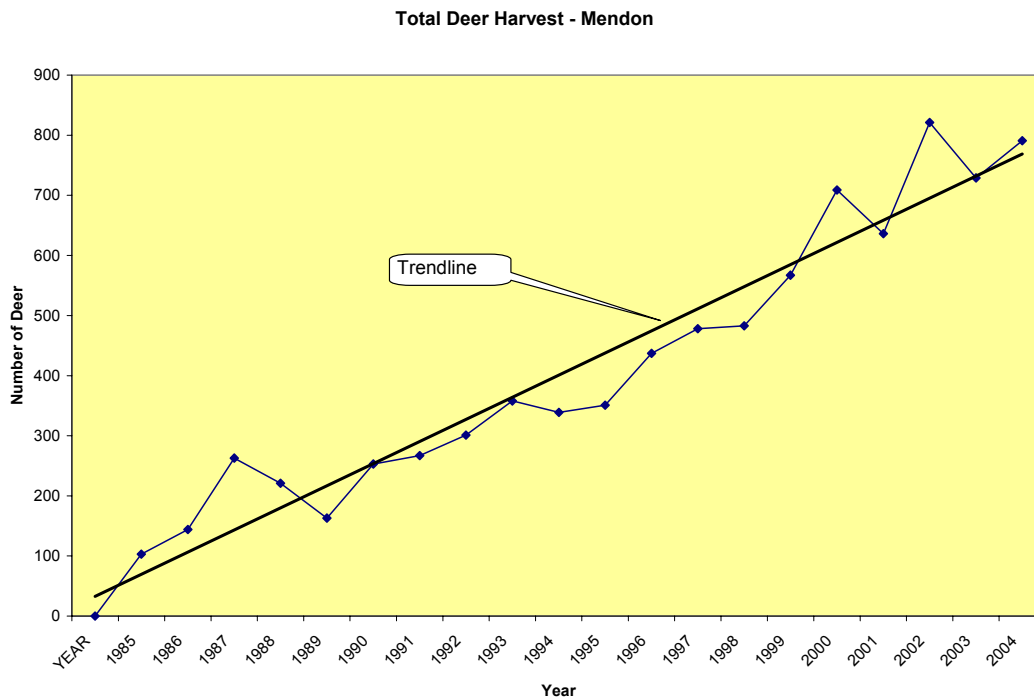


Annual Deer Harvest Results for Mendon

The annual deer harvest throughout the northeast was lower than expected in 2004. This may be the result of several factors, including the extremely harsh winter conditions experienced in 2003 – 2004. Despite this dip from previous harvest results, hunter success in Mendon was slightly higher than 2003, with a total deer take of 791.

The trend in deer harvest results for Mendon has climbed dramatically in the past twenty years:



Hunter success is a key indicator of deer population. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) divides New York State into 96 Deer Management Units, and establishes hunting quotas for each unit based on the specific area's habitat carrying capacity.

Mendon lies within the DEC's Management Unit 8H, which has an established management objective of 2.80 bucks per square mile. With a three-year average mature buck take of 6.28 bucks per square mile, Mendon boasts one of the highest hunter success rates in the area; however, such a high harvest density may also indicate a current overpopulation.

After considering numerous proposals, the DEC has established the following hunting season dates for the 2005 season in Southern Zone of New York, including Mendon:

- ◆ Early Archery Season - First Saturday in October after Columbus Day to the day before the Regular Season (35 days)

For 2005: October 15 through November 18

- ◆ Regular Season - Third Saturday in November for 23 days

For 2005: November 19 through December 11 (includes four weekends)

- ◆ Late Archery and Muzzleloader Seasons - First day after the close of the regular season, running for nine days

For 2005: December 12 through December 20 (leftover tags still valid)

Additional information on New York state deer hunting results can be found on the DEC website at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/deer/deerpubs.htm>.

*Submitted July 2005
by William Graff*