

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program 2015

By Brad Koele and Noah Balgooyen

Introduction

Each year the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), through the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP), provides damage prevention assistance and partial compensation to agricultural producers when wild deer, elk, bear, cougar, geese and turkeys damage their agricultural crops. The program covers damage to crops and commercial seedlings grown on agricultural land, crops that have been harvested for sale or further use but have not been removed from the agricultural land, orchard trees, nursery stock, apiaries, and livestock.

Wisconsin has had a wildlife damage program since 1931. The basic structure of today's WDACP was created in 1983 by the state legislature in response to concerns from the agricultural community, with input from farmers, hunters, landowners, and wildlife damage specialists. In 2015, seventy of the seventy-two counties in Wisconsin participated in the WDACP, with Kenosha and Menominee counties declining to participate.

Methods

Abatement assistance and claims appraisal investigations for the WDACP are conducted in accordance with State Statute 29.889 and Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 12, using methods documented in the WDACP Technical Manual (a copy of this manual can be obtained by writing to: Wildlife Damage Specialist, Bureau of Wildlife Management, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921). County government is responsible for local implementation of the program. Fifty-four counties subcontracted "On farm" services to the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS-WS) in 2015. The remaining sixteen counties employ a county damage technician or contract with an independent damage technician.

Results

Damage and Abatement: All Eligible Species Combined

In 2015, one thousand and seventy-three landowners voluntarily enrolled in the WDACP requesting damage abatement assistance on 231,512 acres of land. This was a decrease from 2014 when 1,093 landowners enrolled 250,648 acres. The counties with the highest number of enrollees include Marathon (74 enrollees), Vernon (65 enrollees), and Marinette (36 enrollees) Counties.

Two hundred and sixty-nine wildlife damage claims were submitted in 2015, with appraised losses totaling \$1,042,506; (Table 1). Of the claims submitted, WDNR paid \$754,592 on 241 wildlife damage claims. Payment was denied on 28 claims either due to failure to meet program requirements, or because the value of appraised damage did not exceed the \$500 claim deductible. The number of claims filed in 2015 (269 claims) decreased from the number of claims filed in 2014 (293 claims). Assessed damages also decreased from 2014 to 2015, from \$1,157,582 to \$1,042,506. In 2015, 46,445 acres were appraised with 3,649 acres damaged by wildlife compared to 50,082 acres appraised with 4,030 acres damaged in 2014. The amount of compensation paid to farmers decreased from 2014 (\$854,882) to 2015 (\$754,592).

Wildlife damage claims were filed in 54 of the 70 counties enrolled in the program in 2015 (Table 1). On average, 3.8 claims were filed (range 0 - 26) and \$14,893 in damage was appraised (range \$0 - \$98,430) in each county enrolled in the program. Marinette, Sawyer, and Outagamie Counties all had appraised losses from wildlife damage of greater than \$70,000, and Outagamie, Marinette, and Grant Counties had the most acreage damaged by wildlife (>275 acres each). Assessed damages in 2015 increased from 2014 levels in 27 counties, decreased in 31 counties, and were unchanged in 12 counties. The largest increases in assessed damage occurred in Crawford (\$23,367), Washburn (\$16,262) and Dane (\$15,231) counties. The largest decreases in assessed damage occurred in Polk (\$43,031 decrease), Brown (\$42,799 decrease), and Sawyer (\$18,571 decrease) counties. The largest numbers of claims were filed in Marinette (26), Polk (20), and Outagamie (18) Counties. The number of claims filed increased in 14 counties. Washburn County saw the biggest increase in the number of claims from 2014 to 2015 with five additional claims. The number of claims decreased in 27 counties, with the largest decrease coming in Polk County where seven fewer claims were submitted in 2015 than in 2014. There was no change in the number of claims submitted in 29 counties.

State administration costs for WDACP participant counties totaled \$1,025,626 in 2015. In addition to state expenditures on WDACP administration, an additional \$236,654 in administration costs was contributed by the federal government, USDA-APHIS-WS.

State abatement costs for the program totaled \$384,168 in 2015. Of that total, \$230,209 was used for permanent fences, \$80,180 for temporary fences, \$62,427 for bear trapping, \$6,009 for repellents, and \$5,342 for all other abatement efforts.

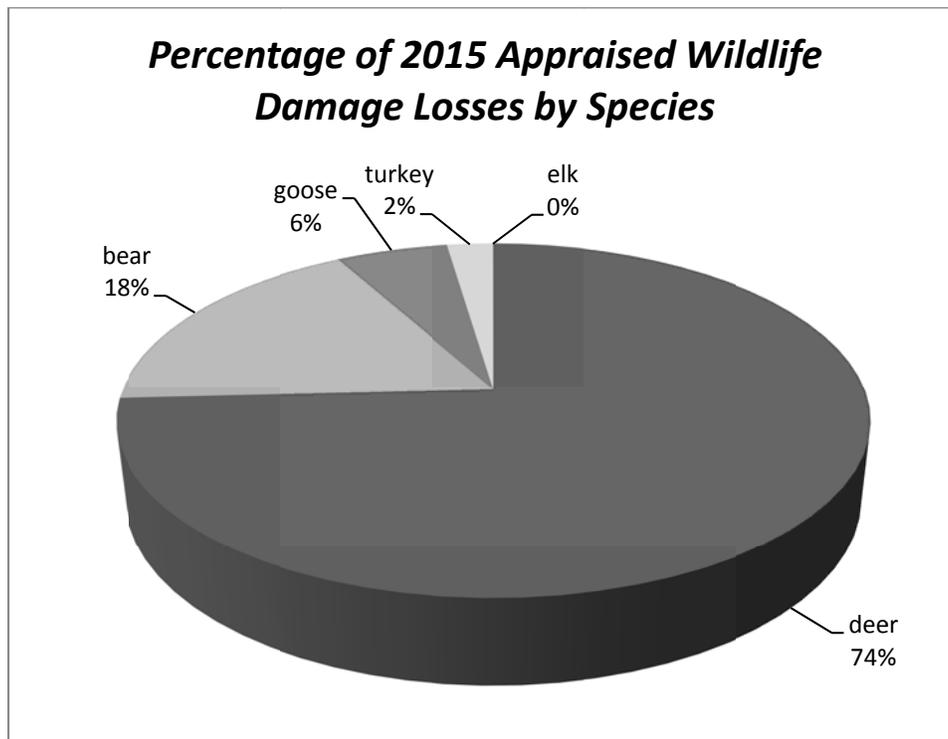


Figure 1. Percent of statewide appraised wildlife damage losses recorded in 2015.

Deer Damage and Abatement

In 2015, six hundred and fifty crop owners enrolled in the program for deer damage abatement assistance. This was down from the 745 enrollees in 2014. Appraised deer damage totaled \$773,582 in 2015, a 14.4% decrease from the previous year and 74.2% of the program's total appraised damages (Figure 1). Appraised losses from deer damage were highest in Marinette (\$97,002), Outagamie (\$73,781), and Green Lake (\$64,292) Counties (Table 1). Statewide, the primary crop damaged by deer was corn (appraised loss \$398,373), and soybeans (appraised loss \$173,718); (Table 4, Figure 4).

The most common form of abatement for deer damage is the issuance of deer shooting permits. The Department issued 542 agricultural damage deer shooting permits across the state in 2015 under which 3,080 deer were removed (see Agricultural Deer Damage Shooting Permits, 2015). Harvest on individual deer shooting permits ranged from 0 – 52 deer. The harvest on deer damage shooting permits totaled approximately 1.0% of the total statewide deer harvest in 2015. Deer harvest on deer damage shooting permits in 2015 ranged from 0.6% to 1.2% percent of the total deer harvest on an individual deer management unit basis. In 2015, 2,066 different hunters registered deer that were removed on agricultural damage deer shooting permits.

The structure of the deer management units (DMU's) were changed in 2014, and DMU's are now designated by county and tribal reservation boundaries. The state has additionally been divided into four new Deer Management Zones: the Northern Forest zone, the Central Forest zone, the Central Farmland zone, and the Southern Farmland zone (Figure 3). Appraised losses from deer damage in 2015 were highest in the Central Farmland zone (\$501,784); (Table 3).

In cases where there is a history of deer damaging high-value crops such as cranberries, orchards, and tree nurseries, the Department may enter into a 15-year agreement with the crop owner for the construction of an eight-foot high-tensile woven wire fence to prevent damages. The WDACP pays for 75% and the crop owner pays for the remaining 25% of fence materials and installation costs. In 2015 the Department gave approvals for the construction of nine permanent fences in six counties. Projected program costs for the fences totaled \$229,549; (Table 7).

Bear Damage and Abatement

In 2015, two hundred and ninety agricultural producers enrolled for bear damage abatement assistance. This was an increase from the 272 producers who enrolled in 2014. Bear damage represented 17.8% of the total appraised damages in 2015, totaling \$185,118 (Figure 1). Appraised bear damage increased 23.6% from 2014 (\$149,810). Appraised damage losses from bear were highest in Sawyer (\$57,892), Rush (\$36,363), and Washburn Counties (\$20,729), with damage occurring primarily to corn (Table 6, Figure 5).

Trapping and relocation is the primary abatement method for bear damage. USDA-APHIS-WS provided assistance to the Department in trapping and relocating 364 bears that were damaging crops, apiaries or threatening livestock. This was up from the 264 bears that were trapped and relocated in 2014. The Department issues shooting permits for bear in situations where trapping and relocation is not effective or conditions for trapping are not conducive. In 2015, thirty agricultural damage bear shooting permits were issued with 65 bears removed under the shooting permits.

Turkey Damage and Abatement

Ninety-two producers enrolled in the WDACP for damage abatement assistance for turkey damage in 2015. The number of enrollees was down from 2014 when 108 producers enrolled for turkey damage abatement assistance. Appraised turkey damage in 2015 totaled \$24,202, a 148% increase from the previous year's damages of \$9,753, and 2.3% of the program's total appraised damages for 2015 (Figure 1). Turkey damage appraisals were conducted in nine counties in 2015, and appraised damages were highest in Marathon County, totaling \$17,185 (Table 1).

The most common abatement method used for preventing turkey damage is the use of temporary barrier fencing. In situations where non-lethal techniques do not achieve the desired results, shooting permits are utilized to decrease conflicts. In 2015, thirty-two turkey shooting permits were issued with 14 turkeys being removed under the shooting permits. Marathon County typically experiences the most problems with turkeys, mainly from damage to ginseng. Eighteen turkey shooting permits were issued with record of 4 turkeys removed in Marathon County in 2015.

Goose Damage and Abatement

One hundred and five agricultural producers enrolled in the WDACP for goose damage abatement assistance in 2015, down from 126 enrollees in 2014. Appraised goose damage totaled \$59,452 in 2015 which represented 5.7% of the program's total appraised damages (Figure 1). Appraised goose damage decreased by 36.2% from 2014 when appraised damages totaled \$93,118. Appraised losses from geese were highest in Sawyer County (\$19,454) in 2015.

The primary abatement method implemented for goose damage is the use of pyrotechnics and other harassment techniques. In addition to these abatement methods, the Department implemented the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Agriculture Depredation Order in 2010 which allows the Department to issue Canada goose shooting permits during the spring, valid May 1 – August 31, to reduce agricultural damages from geese. In the sixth year of the Department issuing spring goose shooting permits, 62 spring agricultural damage shooting permits were issued on which 207 geese were removed. The Department also has the authority to issue Canada goose shooting permits in the Horicon Canada Goose Hunting Zone during the state goose hunting season. No permits were issued for the Horicon Zone in 2015.

Elk Damage and Abatement

Elk have been an eligible species under the WDACP since 2003; however, 2013 marked the first year in which elk damages were appraised. Two producers enrolled in the WDACP for elk damage abatement assistance in 2015. Appraised elk damage totaled \$153 in 2015 which represented less than 0.1% of the program's total appraised damages (Figure 1). Appraised elk damages decreased by 82.9% from 2014 when appraised damages totaled \$893. Damages due to elk were only appraised in Jackson County.

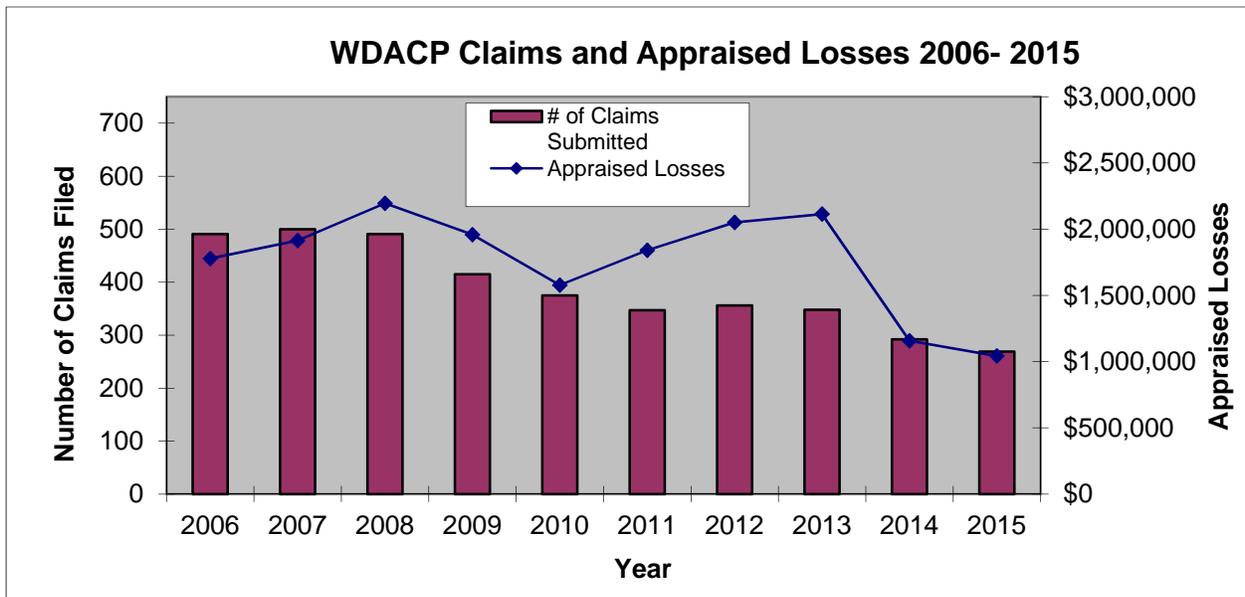


Figure 2. Trends in the number of wildlife damage claims filed and appraised losses in the WDACP, 2006-2015. Data source: WDACP database.

Deer Donation Program

Statute 29.89 authorizes the use of WDACP funds for the processing of venison into burger and subsequent distribution and donation to local food pantries. The county must be enrolled in the WDACP to be eligible to receive funds for venison processing. Wisconsin hunters once again demonstrated their generosity by donating 1,228 deer in 2015. This equates to approximately 49,000 pounds of ground venison going to food pantries and needy families across the state. Fifty-four of the 70 counties enrolled in the WDACP participated, as well as 104 state-licensed venison processors. The venison processors were paid \$65 per deer that were either harvested within the CWD zone or harvested outside the CWD zone and tested for CWD, and \$55 per deer for deer harvested outside of the CWD zone that were not tested for CWD. The venison was ground and packaged into one or two pound packages. Hundreds of food pantry volunteers distributed the venison to their pantries at no cost to the program. Hunters donated the most deer in Dane (91), Buffalo (76), and Pierce (70) Counties (Table 8). The cost of the program in 2015 was \$82,619. Ninety percent, \$74,275, of program costs were for venison processing fees and the remaining 10 percent, \$8,344, went towards administration and advertising costs.

Table 1. WDACP 2015 Wildlife Damage Claims Characteristics by County. Data source: WDACP Database.

County	# of claims filed	Assessed Damage	Eligible Claims	Average Claim	Acres Appraised	Acres Damaged	Deer Damage	Bear Damage	Turkey Damage	Goose Damage
Adams	4	\$10,681	\$8,681	\$2,670	626	57	\$10,681	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ashland	4	\$6,016	\$4,750	\$1,504	801	10	\$0	\$6,016	\$0	\$0
Barron	3	\$5,676	\$4,522	\$1,892	1220	8	\$0	\$5,676	\$0	\$0
Bayfield	2	\$4,462	\$3,611	\$2,231	213	7	\$0	\$4,462	\$0	\$0
Brown	7	\$28,028	\$23,390	\$4,004	633	200	\$9,354	\$0	\$228	\$18,447
Buffalo	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Burnett	7	\$9,825	\$6,692	\$1,404	671	74	\$3,172	\$6,652	\$0	\$0
Calumet	1	\$7,042	\$6,234	\$7,042	589	48	\$6,885	\$0	\$0	\$157
Chippewa	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Clark	3	\$5,905	\$4,405	\$1,968	240	34	\$5,905	\$0	\$0	\$0
Columbia	4	\$30,394	\$21,336	\$7,599	1368	83	\$30,394	\$0	\$0	\$0
Crawford	4	\$35,601	\$23,820	\$8,900	242	16	\$35,601	\$0	\$0	\$0
Dane	3	\$23,254	\$10,906	\$7,751	279	21	\$23,254	\$0	\$0	\$0
Dodge	6	\$5,036	\$1,491	\$839	534	25	\$1,348	\$0	\$197	\$3,491
Door	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Douglas	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Dunn	2	\$2,635	\$1,869	\$1,318	7	6	\$2,369	\$266	\$0	\$0
Eau Claire	1	\$2,380	\$1,880	\$2,380	19	5	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,380
Florence	2	\$3,959	\$2,959	\$1,980	508	56	\$3,959	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fond du Lac	1	\$8,199	\$7,159	\$8,199	450	21	\$8,199	\$0	\$0	\$0
Forest	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Grant	7	\$60,791	\$43,663	\$8,684	1515	283	\$60,791	\$0	\$0	\$0
Green	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Green Lake	8	\$64,292	\$53,372	\$8,037	1442	216	\$64,292	\$0	\$0	\$0
Iowa	5	\$17,637	\$14,962	\$3,527	1052	67	\$17,637	\$0	\$0	\$0
Iron	1	\$3,183	\$2,738	\$3,183	615	6	\$0	\$3,183	\$0	\$0
Jackson	2	\$4,051	\$3,398	\$2,026	408	19	\$3,898	\$0	\$0	\$0
Jefferson	1	\$2,621	\$2,121	\$2,621	30	5	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,621
Juneau	1	\$3,015	\$2,515	\$3,015	1	1	\$0	\$0	\$3,015	\$0
Kenosha		NOT	IN	PROGRAM			NOT	IN	PROGRAM	
Kewaunee	2	\$8,903	\$7,328	\$4,451	145	36	\$7,310	\$0	\$1,593	\$0
La Crosse	1	\$1,424	\$924	\$1,424	63	4	\$1,424	\$0	\$0	\$0
Lafayette	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Langlade	1	\$1,933	\$1,433	\$1,933	26	4	\$0	\$1,933	\$0	\$0
Lincoln	3	\$3,439	\$2,269	\$1,146	531	16	\$3,439	\$0	\$0	\$0
Manitowoc	4	\$18,809	\$16,572	\$4,702	271	85	\$13,195	\$0	\$1,699	\$3,915

County	# of claims filed	Assessed Damage	Eligible Claims	Average Claim	Acres Appraised	Acres Damaged	Deer Damage	Bear Damage	Turkey Damage	Goose Damage
Marathon	11	\$56,242	\$39,857	\$5,113	2029	168	\$37,057	\$2,000	\$17,185	\$0
Marinette	26	\$98,430	\$71,621	\$3,786	7518	437	\$97,002	\$459	\$58	\$911
Marquette	5	\$59,817	\$46,625	\$11,963	1030	195	\$59,817	\$0	\$0	\$0
Menominee		NOT	IN	PROGRAM			NOT	IN	PROGRAM	
Milwaukee	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Monroe	3	\$4,003	\$2,503	\$1,334	107	14	\$4,003	\$0	\$0	\$0
Oconto	1	\$3,238	\$2,738	\$3,238	9	1	\$3,238	\$0	\$0	\$0
Oneida	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Outagamie	18	\$73,781	\$60,679	\$4,099	2290	454	\$73,781	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ozaukee	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pepin	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pierce	1	\$530	\$30	\$530	8	8	\$530	\$0	\$0	\$0
Polk	20	\$48,080	\$30,077	\$2,404	3017	119	\$27,405	\$18,767	\$0	\$1,908
Portage	5	\$19,034	\$16,103	\$3,807	602	85	\$11,900	\$7,134	\$0	\$0
Price	7	\$13,104	\$9,604	\$1,872	562	31	\$2,246	\$10,858	\$0	\$0
Racine	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Richland	5	\$26,222	\$22,823	\$5,244	597	74	\$24,029	\$0	\$0	\$2,193
Rock	1	\$864	\$364	\$864	22	3	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$864
Rusk	12	\$36,363	\$29,234	\$3,030	2799	55	\$0	\$36,363	\$0	\$0
Saint Croix	6	\$17,774	\$14,565	\$2,962	1496	33	\$17,774	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sauk	2	\$4,069	\$3,069	\$2,035	42	13	\$2,150	\$1,919	\$0	\$0
Sawyer	14	\$86,033	\$60,875	\$6,145	3548	130	\$8,677	\$57,892	\$10	\$19,454
Shawano	1	\$842	\$342	\$842	64	11	\$842	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sheboygan	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Taylor	2	\$2,695	\$1,695	\$1,347	65	5	\$0	\$810	\$0	\$1,885
Trempealeau	4	\$13,410	\$11,108	\$3,352	471	50	\$13,410	\$0	\$0	\$0
Vernon	3	\$5,604	\$4,104	\$1,868	310	13	\$5,604	\$0	\$0	\$0
Vilas	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Walworth	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Washburn	8	\$21,990	\$17,900	\$2,749	1814	29	\$1,261	\$20,729	\$0	\$0
Washington	4	\$9,403	\$7,403	\$2,351	672	36	\$9,187	\$0	\$216	\$0
Waukesha	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Waupaca	1	\$3,720	\$2,400	\$3,720	33	30	\$3,720	\$0	\$0	\$0
Waushara	7	\$18,745	\$15,290	\$2,678	1014	86	\$18,745	\$0	\$0	\$0
Winnebago	4	\$9,499	\$7,734	\$2,375	434	50	\$8,273	\$0	\$0	\$1,227
Wood	8	\$29,822	\$24,288	\$3,728	1408	110	\$29,822	\$0	\$0	\$0
Totals:	269	\$1,042,506	\$788,029	\$3,875	\$46,456	\$3,649	\$773,582	\$185,118	\$24,202	\$59,451

Table 2. WDACP Claims Filed and Appraised Damage Losses by County, 2011 – 2015.

County	2015		2014		2013		2012		2011	
	# of Claims	Assessed Damage								
Adams	4	\$10,681	5	\$14,755	4	\$16,469	4	\$20,524	4	\$18,885
Ashland	4	\$6,016	5	\$4,904	6	\$7,596	7	\$19,153	4	\$11,776
Barron	3	\$5,676	4	\$11,270	8	\$15,177	8	\$14,598	7	\$19,234
Bayfield	2	\$4,462	5	\$3,352	8	\$10,589	9	\$39,725	10	\$21,978
Brown	7	\$28,028	11	\$70,827	9	\$57,449	11	\$71,268	10	\$83,640
Buffalo	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$2,538	1	\$2,216	0	\$0
Burnett	7	\$9,825	3	\$2,900	7	\$11,039	11	\$26,064	9	\$22,146
Calumet	1	\$7,042	2	\$7,148	3	\$12,080	2	\$17,072	1	\$10,075
Chippewa	0	\$0	2	\$4,576	0	\$0	0	\$0	3	\$26,011
Clark	3	\$5,905	3	\$6,173	6	\$44,343	5	\$22,905	5	\$16,518
Columbia	4	\$30,394	6	\$28,426	9	\$49,083	8	\$46,660	7	\$36,046
Crawford	4	\$35,601	2	\$12,234	6	\$173,625	2	\$32,251	2	\$16,980
Dane	3	\$23,254	5	\$8,024	3	\$9,714	5	\$13,650	4	\$23,854
Dodge	6	\$5,036	5	\$11,228	14	\$68,181	13	\$41,463	9	\$46,593
Door	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Douglas	0	\$0	1	\$1,280	0	\$0	2	\$2,899	3	\$2,680
Dunn	2	\$2,635	3	\$12,277	1	\$12,544	0	\$0	0	\$0
Eau Claire	1	\$2,380	1	\$106	1	\$705	0	\$0	4	\$41,367
Florence	2	\$3,959	2	\$5,103	2	\$4,302	2	\$3,273	4	\$3,145
Fond du Lac	1	\$8,199	1	\$4,104	4	\$15,381	4	\$8,935	6	\$24,349
Forest	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$605	0	\$0	1	\$140
Grant	7	\$60,791	9	\$64,907	11	\$99,701	10	\$138,705	11	\$117,588
Green	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Green Lake	8	\$64,292	7	\$62,537	8	\$78,431	7	\$66,831	7	\$74,602
Iowa	5	\$17,637	3	\$11,007	4	\$16,907	6	\$24,353	4	\$18,393
Iron	1	\$3,183	1	\$1,610	1	\$1,479	1	\$6,819	1	\$6,329
Jackson	2	\$4,051	1	\$4,149	2	\$13,685	2	\$15,819	2	\$12,318
Jefferson	1	\$2,621	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$934	2	\$3,630
Juneau	1	\$3,015	1	\$1,126	1	\$9,657	1	\$1,423	0	\$0
Kenosha		NOT	IN	PROGRAM		NOT	IN	PROGRAM		
Kewaunee	2	\$8,903	4	\$8,767	5	\$21,932	4	\$5,134	3	\$5,016
La Crosse	1	\$1,424	1	\$2,768	1	\$3,535	1	\$3,715	1	\$2,457
Lafayette	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Langlade	1	\$1,933	1	\$769	0	\$0	2	\$18,839	4	\$3,957
Lincoln	3	\$3,439	2	\$2,875	2	\$2,127	2	\$2,756	2	\$3,340
Manitowoc	4	\$18,809	4	\$24,251	7	\$36,835	4	\$12,637	4	\$19,865

	2015		2014		2013		2012		2011	
County	# of Claims	Assessed Damage								
Marathon	11	\$56,242	13	\$73,472	14	\$91,004	14	\$101,609	13	\$120,134
Marinette	26	\$98,430	31	\$100,513	37	\$395,379	38	\$283,010	33	\$232,476
Marquette	5	\$59,817	6	\$69,410	6	\$61,902	7	\$60,076	7	\$92,229
Menominee		NOT	IN	PROGRAM		NOT	IN	PROGRAM		
Milwaukee	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$3,476
Monroe	3	\$4,003	4	\$22,091	4	\$51,153	2	\$2,552	2	\$6,947
Oconto	1	\$3,238	2	\$64	0	\$0	2	\$4,316	1	\$1,520
Oneida	0	\$0	1	\$558	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Outagamie	18	\$73,781	15	\$69,226	17	\$107,103	20	\$143,165	23	\$142,151
Ozaukee	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	3	\$11,663	0	\$0
Pepin	0	\$0	1	\$5,929	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Pierce	1	\$530	1	\$1,589	1	\$591	0	\$0	2	\$4,823
Polk	20	\$48,080	27	\$91,112	31	\$122,323	30	\$136,674	23	\$85,509
Portage	5	\$19,034	8	\$16,719	9	\$24,016	6	\$14,258	9	\$20,701
Price	7	\$13,104	4	\$7,141	4	\$14,570	7	\$18,939	6	\$14,181
Racine	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$567	0	\$0	1	\$42,932
Richland	5	\$26,222	7	\$23,738	5	\$18,526	8	\$47,242	8	\$41,678
Rock	1	\$864	1	\$1,082	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$2,465
Rusk	12	\$36,363	10	\$35,184	11	\$44,171	8	\$48,980	11	\$51,225
Saint Croix	6	\$17,774	3	\$7,486	2	\$19,653	5	\$10,618	3	\$18,698
Sauk	2	\$4,069	2	\$2,531	4	\$6,481	0	\$0	3	\$1,981
Sawyer	14	\$86,033	14	\$104,604	21	\$169,289	19	\$273,724	16	\$110,395
Shawano	1	\$842	3	\$7,290	4	\$13,157	1	\$2,505	2	\$4,424
Sheboygan	0	\$0	2	\$2,601	0	\$0	1	\$2,038	0	\$0
Taylor	2	\$2,695	0	\$0	1	\$130	2	\$5,235	4	\$11,547
Trempealeau	4	\$13,410	4	\$10,800	4	\$22,608	4	\$22,773	3	\$7,870
Vernon	3	\$5,604	5	\$12,304	5	\$37,079	3	\$16,773	3	\$5,697
Vilas	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Walworth	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Washburn	8	\$21,990	3	\$5,729	3	\$5,325	12	\$28,208	6	\$11,918
Washington	4	\$9,403	4	\$11,789	7	\$24,014	4	\$26,918	5	\$20,896
Waukesha	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$651	1	\$340	5	\$8,514
Waupaca	1	\$3,720	1	\$19,008	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Waushara	7	\$18,745	7	\$23,310	9	\$41,785	9	\$33,319	9	\$42,441
Winnebago	4	\$9,499	6	\$12,735	6	\$24,346	8	\$38,746	6	\$27,799
Wood	8	\$29,822	8	\$26,117	6	\$22,101	6	\$35,483	7	\$13,330
Total	269	\$1,042,506	293	\$1,157,582	348	\$2,113,633	355	\$2,049,783	347	\$1,840,868

Table 3. 2015 WDACP claims of deer damage, appraised loss from deer damage, and appraised loss by crop from deer damage, per deer management zone. These zone designations were new for 2014, and along with the change to designating deer management units by county, replace the past DMU designations.

Deer Management Zone	No. of claims	Total Assessed Damage	Corn ¹	Soybeans	Forage ²	Orchards & Nursery Stock	Fruits and Veggies	Small Grains ³	Christmas trees	Other
Northern Forest Zone	18	\$32,267	\$14,917	\$5,279	\$7,032	\$0	\$0	\$328	\$0	\$4,711
Central Farmland Zone	117	\$501,784	\$287,607	\$118,875	\$27,388	\$20,028	\$20,377	\$4,518	\$0	\$22,992
Central Forest Zone	10	\$29,536	\$8,943	\$10,875	\$653	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,065	\$0
Southern Farmland Zone	38	\$209,995	\$86,906	\$38,688	\$12,928	\$22,354	\$29,079	\$240	\$0	\$19,800
Totals:	183	\$773,582	\$398,373	\$173,717	\$48,001	\$42,382	\$49,456	\$5,086	\$9,065	\$47,503

¹ Corn includes corn grain, corn silage, sweet corn, and organic corn.

² Forage includes alfalfa, alfalfa/grass, hay, and haylage

³ Small Grains includes oats and wheat.

Figure 3. Map of new Deer Management Zones, effective 2014.

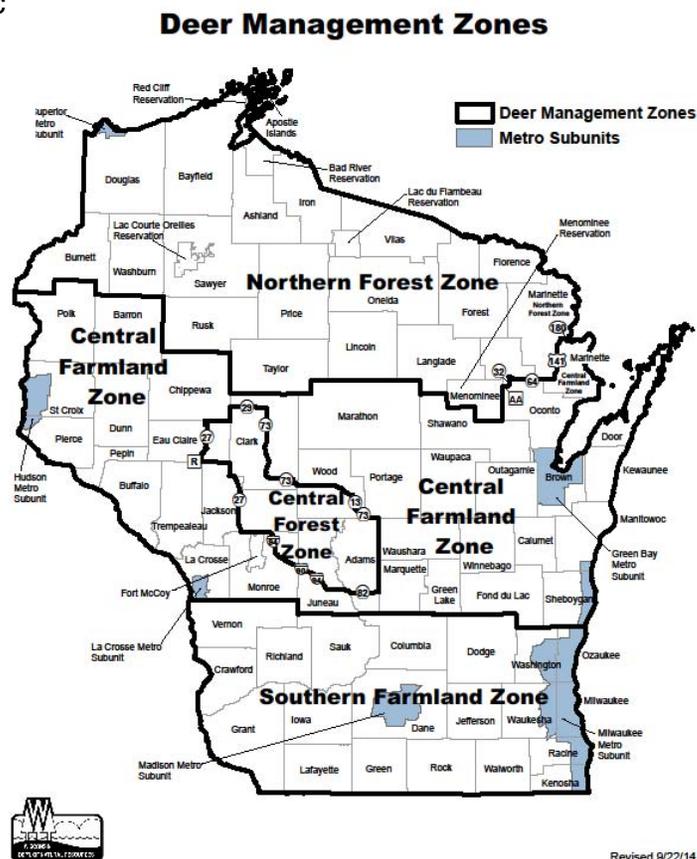


Table 4. WDACP 2015 statewide deer damage crop appraisals summarized by crop category.

Crop	# of Claims	Appraised Damage	Acres Appraised	Acres Damaged
Corn ¹	153	\$398,373	12,594	1,136
Soybeans	99	\$173,718	7,189	797
Fruits/Veg.	9	\$49,456	365	31
Forage ²	70	\$48,001	9,237	965
Other	18	\$47,502	623	58
Orchards & Nursery	8	\$42,382	1,843	40
Christmas Tree	1	\$9,065	2	1
Small Grains ³	13	\$5,085	565	58
Totals:	371	\$773,582	32,418	3,087

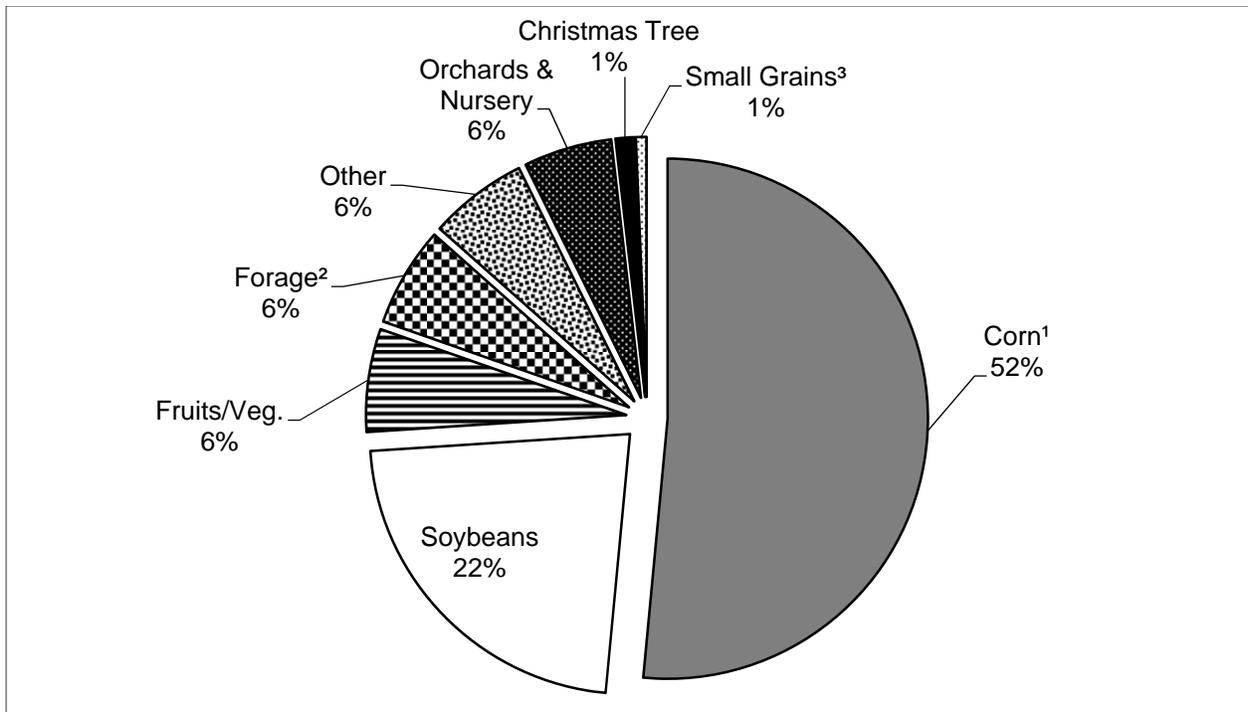


Figure 4. Percent of statewide appraised deer damage losses recorded in the WDACP in 2015 by crop category.

¹ Corn includes corn grain, corn silage, and sweet corn

² Forage includes alfalfa, alfalfa/grass, grass, and hay

³ Small Grains includes oats and wheat.

Table 5. 2015 WDACP claims of bear damage, appraised loss from bear damage, and appraised loss by crop from bear damage, per deer management zone. These zone designations are new as of 2014, and along with the change to designating deer management units by county, replace the past DMU designations.

Deer Management Zone	No. of claims	Total Assessed Damage	Corn ¹	Forage ²	Bee Hives	Livestock	Christmas Trees	Other
Northern Forest Zone	56	\$149,356	\$137,432	\$2,870	\$1,399	\$7,500	\$155	\$0
Central Farmland Zone	21	\$33,844	\$22,140	\$1,823	\$7,400	\$2,000	\$0	\$480
Central Forest Zone	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Southern Farmland Zone	1	\$1,919	\$0	\$0	\$1,919	\$0	\$0	\$0
Totals:	78	\$185,119	\$159,572	\$4,693	\$10,718	\$9,500	\$155	\$480

¹ Corn includes corn grain, corn silage, sweet corn, and organic corn.

² Forage includes alfalfa, alfalfa/grass, grass, and haylage

Table 6. WDACP 2015 statewide bear damage crop appraisals summarized by crop category.

Crop	# of Claims	Appraised Damage	Acres Appraised	Acres Damaged
Corn ¹	71	\$159,572	13,030	266
Bee Hives	4	\$10,718	21	21
Livestock	6	\$9,500	7	6
Forage ²	3	\$4,693	4	4
Other	1	\$480	1	1
Christmas Tree	1	\$155	4	0
Total	86	\$185,118	13,066	298

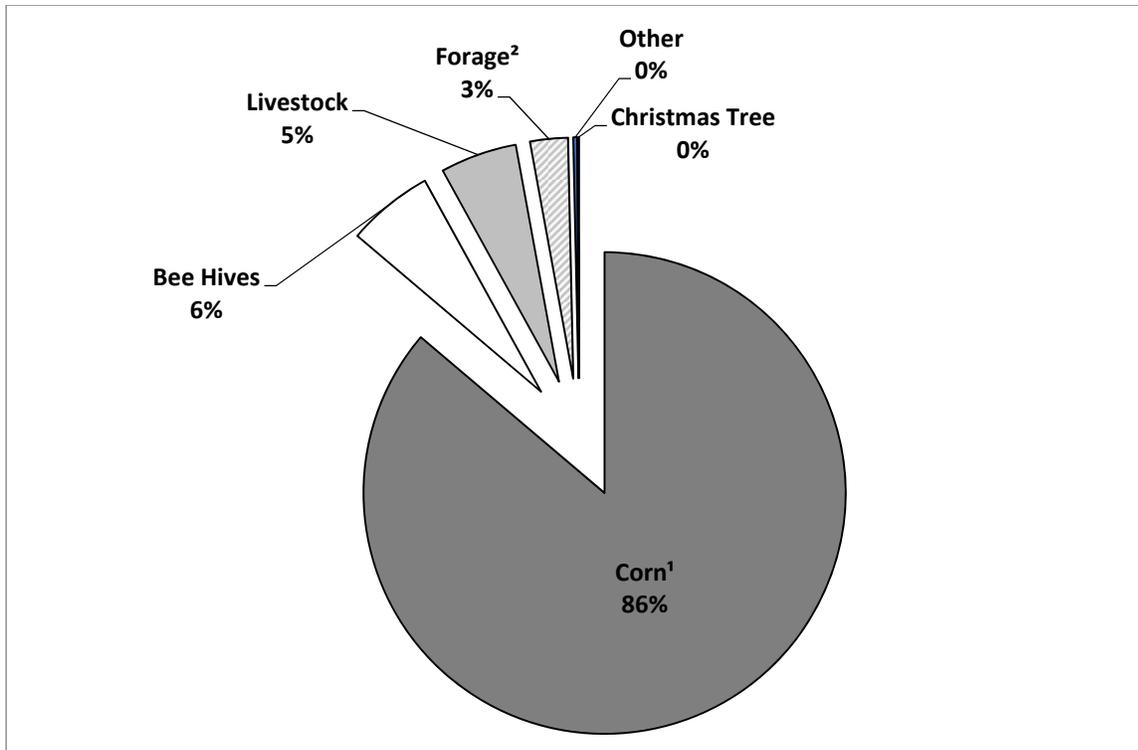


Figure 5. Percent of statewide appraised bear damage losses recorded in the WDACP in 2015 by crop category.

¹ Corn includes corn grain, corn silage, sweet corn, and organic corn.

² Forage includes alfalfa, alfalfa/grass, grass, hay, and haylage

³ Small Grains includes oats and wheat.

Table 7. WDACP Approved Permanent Fence Projects in 2015.

County	Crop	Acres Protected	Total Projected Cost	Projected WDACP Cost
Columbia	Organic Produce	15	\$14,750.00	\$11,062.50
Adams	Cranberries	68	\$40,700.00	\$30,525.00
Waushara	Christmas Trees	78	\$35,785.00	\$26,838.75
Wood	Cranberries	140	\$47,800.00	\$35,850.00
Wood	Nursery Stock	4	\$9,300.00	\$6,975.00
Wood	Nursery Stock	160	\$52,800.00	\$39,600.00
Wood	Cranberries	80	\$55,780.00	\$41,835.00
Chippewa	Apple Tree	14	\$17,250.00	\$12,938.00
Dane	Apple Trees/Apples	20	\$31,900.00	\$23,925.00
Totals:		578	\$306,065	\$229,549

Table 8. Numbers of deer and pounds of venison donated through the Wisconsin Deer Donation program in 2015. Pounds of venison are estimated, assuming 40 lbs. of venison per deer donated.

County	# of Deer Donated	Pounds of Venison (approximate)
Adams	10	400
Ashland	5	200
Barron	33	1,320
Brown	8	320
Buffalo	76	3,040
Burnett	10	400
Calumet	16	640
Chippewa	26	1,040
Columbia	27	1,080
Crawford	8	320
Dane	91	3,640
Dodge	22	880
Door	31	1,240
Dunn	25	1,000
Eau Claire	20	800
Fond du Lac	53	2,120
Forest	2	80
Grant	33	1,320
Green	12	480
Jackson	20	800
Jefferson	13	520
Juneau	39	1,560
Kewaunee	20	800
La Crosse	45	1,800
Lafayette	5	200
Langlade	5	200
Lincoln	2	80

County	# of Deer Donated	Pounds of Venison (approximate)
Manitowoc	4	160
Marathon	29	1,160
Marinette	46	1,840
Milwaukee	3	120
Monroe	6	240
Oneida	4	160
Outagamie	63	2,520
Ozaukee	24	960
Pierce	70	2,800
Polk	18	720
Portage	2	80
Richland	4	160
Rusk	6	240
St. Croix	53	2,120
Sawyer	5	200
Shawano	31	1,240
Sheboygan	20	800
Taylor	11	440
Trempealeau	35	1,400
Vernon	32	1,280
Vilas	1	40
Washington	19	760
Waupaca	29	1,160
Waushara	29	1,160
Winnebago	13	520
Wood	14	560
Totals:	1,228	49,120