



Colorado County **Wildlife Management Associations News**

Ryan Schoeneberg
Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.
1117 Travis St
Columbus, Texas 78934
979-732-3458
[**rvantpwd@gmail.com**](mailto:rvantpwd@gmail.com)

SURVEYING AND HARVESTING ANTLERLESS DEER

With the ever increasing White-tailed Deer population and the increasing of hunting pressure I have been receiving numerous inquests about the status of our deer herd. When trying to manage a deer herd the hardest thing to do is to figure out the population. How many deer do we have? What is the sex ratio? And is the recruitment in our herd? These are the questions that I strive to answer every year to monitor the population. This is something that I *absolutely cannot* do on my own. I need the help of every coop member! I need YOUR help!

Included in this newsletter is a form to help facilitate the collecting of the herd composition data. This form allows me to determine 2 of the 3 questions that are required to figure out the population, sex ratios and fawn recruitment. This survey is so simple to conduct most people dismiss it saying that it can't possible help determine the population, but in reality it is the cornerstone to our management. Simply mark down the deer you see during August and send the survey to your coop president who will compile it and return them to me for analysis.

The other required information is the deer density. The only reliable way to collect this data is through a spotlight survey. (Please note that this is not simply driving around at night shining a spotlight and counting the deer, there is method to it) When counting deer on a predefined and established route, we can come up with a reliable estimate of how many deer per acre inhabit the area. Couple this with the herd composition data and we are ready to manage our deer herd. The management of the deer herd normally requires for excess animals to be removed or for a correction of the buck to doe ratio, this is done through the issuance of MLDP doe permits.

Also included in this newsletter is a Harvest Data Sheet. This is equally important! Using the harvest data we monitor what the actual harvest was, and can track the health of the population by looking at the age and weights of the harvested deer.

I encourage every member to help by collecting accurate data and return it so that we can make our deer herd as strong as possible.

You are a member of a Wildlife Management Association
So let's do it... Let's manage our wildlife!



Wildlife Management Association Website

www.CCWMA.org

The Association maintains a website to help the members keep up with the happenings of the coop. This website is about to undergo a renovation to help it be more functional for the members. We would like to have your input on what you would like to see on this website. Any ideas you have please email them directly to me at ryantpwd@gmail.com. We will still be putting up pictures of deer harvested and providing data sheets for downloading. Ideas that we are entertaining are things like: being able to sign up for automated emails that notify of deadlines and have a calendar with upcoming events. Please let us know what you would like to see!

Sam Lauro has been the web master for numerous years. He has dedicated his services to build and maintain the website free of charge!
We thank him for all his work and greatly appreciate his dedication.

SECOND ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

We will be holding a photo contest at the Spring meeting again this year! There was some great feed back from the contest so we are doing it again. There will be 2 divisions, "Game Camera" and "Still Photo".

To enter simply bring a 4"x6" picture with your name and phone number written on the back (limit 1 pictures per division per person, and please do not write on the front of the picture). The photos can be of anything wildlife related and will be displayed at the Spring meeting on a board to be voted on by everyone at the meeting.

A prize of \$50 will be awarded to the most popular picture in each division, as well as awards for just entering a picture. So keep track of the good pictures you take and bring them to the Spring meeting to show off and possibly win some Cash!



(Photos will not be returned. For more information contact your WMA president.)



HERD COMPOSITION DATA

Herd Composition data (often called incidental observations) may be the most valuable data collected on a deer herd. When properly collected, herd composition data can reflect the overall health of a herd and help guide the manager in making proper harvest recommendations.

Herd composition data should be collected between August 1 and September 1.

The form should be back to the WMA president by **September 1st**. The fawns have become a part of the herd by this time, yet they are small enough to be easily distinguished from adult deer. Observations outside this period may result in inaccurate data. Observations may be collected any time during the day. However, the first and last hours of daylight are often the most productive.

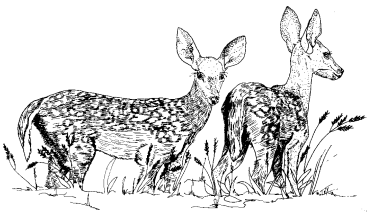
All deer recorded must be viewed through binoculars or a spotting scope.

Small antlers are easily overlooked without optical aids. Fawns whose spots have started to fade are also hard to distinguish when they are observed alone. Be sure to look at the hips of deer that you think could possibly be fawns because the hips are the last place to lose spots.

Ideally, a minimum of 150 deer should be identified.

If possible, a larger sample size is desirable to strengthen the data and increase the confidence in the harvest recommendations. Observations can be made during routine ranch operations or as a special effort. On smaller ranches (<300 acres), it may not be feasible to obtain 150 deer observations, but efforts should be made to get **at least 50**. Members of **Wildlife Management Associations** should get at least 30 deer observations for ranches <300 acres and 50-100 deer observations for ranches >300 acres. Observing the same deer recorded on a previous count is not a concern. If a conscientious effort is made to record accurate data, a small amount of duplicate recording should not affect the ratios. All deer should be recorded as a buck, doe, or fawn. Recording bucks according to number of antler points is also beneficial. The occurrence of inferior animals versus multi point animals can be used to measure progress in the quality of the deer herd over time. But the main information needed is number of bucks, doe, and fawns.

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO TOTAL THE NUMBERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FORM!



Submit data by

September 1st



Harvey Creek WMA

**Wayne Zimmerhanzel
808 Front Street
Columbus, Tx. 78934
979-732-8285**

Colorado River WMA

**Verl Cash
1574 FM 102
Alleyton, Tx. 78935
979-733-8552**

Sandy Creek WMA

**Charlie Haines
P.O. Box 264
Sheridan, Tx. 77475
979-234-5074**

**Central Colorado Co. WMA
WMA**

**Lynn Schaefer
1785 CR 151
Columbus, Tx. 78934
979-733-9973**

Northeast Colorado Co. WMA

**Terrell Maertz
1380 Piney Woods Rd.
Alleyton. Tx. 78935
979-732-5339**

Oak Ridge Ranch

**David Mitchem
1848 Oak Ridge RD
Weimar, Tx. 78962
979-732-2759**

HERD COPOSITION / INCIDENTAL OBSERVATIONS

Landowner Name: _____ Year: _____

Observer: _____ Phone number: _____

County: _____

Wildlife Management Association: _____

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO TOTAL THE NUMBERS AT THE BOTTOM!

Date	2-3 Point Bucks	4-7 Point Bucks	8+ Point Bucks	Undetermined Bucks	Does	Fawns	Comments
8/4	II	IIII	I	III	IIII III	III I	Example
Total:							

PLEASE TOTAL EACH COLUMN

Does/Buck: _____ Fawns/Doe: _____

Below are the dates and deadlines that you need to be aware of.

If you have any questions please contact your WMA directors.

- If you did not receive permits in 2009-10 deer season you must fill out and return MLDP Issuance Registration form BY **September 1st**
- Submit survey data by **September 1st**
- Harvest data due by **February 14th**
- Last day to pick up permits **November 20th**

All data sheets and question should be submitted directly to the president of your WMA.

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