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# Archery Deer and Turkey Harvest Increases

FEBRUARY 06TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Archery Deer and Turkey Harvest Increases

*Submitted by  
Dee Loflin, SMT Writer*

**Jefferson City, Missouri** - Bowhunters posted increases in both deer and turkey harvests during Missouri's 2012-2013 archery deer and turkey hunting season, topping the previous year's figures for the second year in a row.

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reports that hunters checked 53,997 deer during the four-month archery season. That is a 2.5-percent increase from the previous year, which was a record. Archers checked 3,217 turkeys, a 10-percent increase from the previous year.

Top archery deer-harvest counties were Jefferson with 1,211 deer checked, St. Louis with 1,098, and Camden with 1,062. Top archery turkey-harvest counties were Jefferson with 95 turkeys checked, Laclede with 79, and Greene with 76.

Adding the archery harvest to the number of deer taken during the six portions of firearms deer season brings Missouri's 2012-2013 deer harvest to 311,304, up 6.8 percent from the previous year. The total 2012-2013 turkey harvest, including the youth and regular spring seasons, the fall firearms season, and the archery season, is 56,511.

Permit sales also increased. MDC issued 202,421 archery deer and turkey hunting permits for the 2012-2013 season, 4.9 percent more than the previous year.

MDC Resource Scientist Jason Sumners says, "The continued growth of bowhunting's popularity is partly responsible for the strong archery harvest, but weather also played an important role."

"With more people taking up bowhunting each year, you would expect to see a corresponding growth in the number of deer taken," says Sumners. "This year hunters also got a boost from weather events that reduced the availability of acorns. Deer rely heavily on acorns for fall food, and when that food item is scarce they have to move around more to meet their nutritional needs. That makes them more visible to hunters."

According to Sumners, acorn availability is a greater factor in determining hunter success in the southern half of the state, where forest land dominates the landscape. So he was not surprised to learn that the 2012-2013 deer harvest increased by approximately 22 percent in the Ozark and Southeast regions.

He says deer numbers in southern Missouri have grown steadily over the past decade. Also, acorns were abundant in the previous two hunting seasons, keeping the deer harvest fairly modest. This combination was bound to produce a substantial deer harvest.

In contrast, deer numbers have been declining slowly in northern Missouri, leading to a decrease of approximately 6 percent in the Kansas City, Northeast, and Northwest regions. Reduced deer numbers in many parts of north Missouri is a result of increased harvest pressure on does that has resulted from liberalization of antlerless harvest opportunities and, in the Kansas City Region, a reduction in buck harvest as a result of the antler-point restriction.

Hunters in the Central and Southwest regions checked approximately 12 percent more deer, and St. Louis Region hunters checked approximately 18 percent more deer than they did in 2011-2012. These trends reflect slowly increasing deer numbers on average in these areas.

Images/Bobby Shipman.jpg  
"Deer numbers vary from county to county in those regions," says Sumners. "The causes of those variations include varying levels of harvest pressure on does, an

outbreak of hemorrhagic disease in 2007 and, in southwest Missouri, reduced availability of antlerless permits.”

Before the 2012-2013 hunting season, Sumners predicted that the statewide deer harvest totals would not be affected significantly by the increased incidence of hemorrhagic disease that accompanied last year’s drought. That turned out to be correct.

“We know that to varying degrees, hemorrhagic mortality affected deer populations across much of Missouri,” says Sumners, “but it is still too early to tell if the decrease in harvest in some areas is the direct result of disease or a combination of recent trends of declining deer numbers as a result of a deliberate effort to reduce deer numbers in much of northern Missouri by harvesting more does. In many parts of central, northern, and western Missouri it is no longer necessary to continue high doe harvest to reduce or stabilize deer numbers.”

Sumners says MDC will consider reducing the availability of antlerless-deer permits where deer numbers seem to be near or below target levels. However, he notes that hunters and landowners also must take an active role in decisions about how many does to shoot.

“Restricting doe harvest can help when deer numbers are down in big areas,” says Sumners, “but it takes a valuable tool away from Missourians who want to manage deer populations locally. We have reached a point in Missouri’s history where hunters and landowners must begin to work together to make localized harvest decisions based on local deer populations. However, in some areas regulation changes may be necessary to curb undesirable declines in deer numbers.”

/images/Colton Thurston.jpg

MDC Resource Scientist Jason Isabelle notes that the 2012-2013 archery turkey harvest was up more than 20 percent from the previous five-year average and was second only to the 2009-2010 harvest of 3,298.

“The increase in the archery turkey harvest is largely a reflection of the improved hatches we’ve had the past couple years,” says Isabelle, “in addition to the increase in the number of archery hunters.”

Isabelle says regional harvest totals were 542 in the southwest, 511 in central Missouri, 425 in the Southeast, 418 in the Ozarks, 383 in the St. Louis area, 319 in the northwest, 318 in the northeast, and 301 in the Kansas City area.

MDC recorded 10 firearms-related deer-hunting incidents during the 2012-2013 hunting season. Three were fatal.

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## Ashley Stephens, Employee of the Month

FEBRUARY 06TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Ashley Stephens, Employee of the Month

Written by  
Dee Loflin, SMT Writer

**Dexter, Missouri** - Taco Bell has named Ashley Stephens of Bernie, Missouri as Taco Bell's Employee of the Month in Dexter, Missouri.

Ashley is a 17 year old Senior at Bernie High School, home of the Mules. She loves ice skating, photography and hockey. She is also an avid artist who enjoys drawing cartoon characters.

Most students would find holding down a part-time job and attending high school extremely difficult, but Ashley juggles both very well and seems to excel in most everything she tries.

Working at Taco Bell has helped Ashley, like many other young student employees, grow as a person. She has learned how to take on more responsibility at work and at home, handle money and customers, make a commitment to her hours of work as well as hours of studying for school and she is learning a much needed skill; time management.

Congratulations Ashley! The Stoddard County community is very proud of you and your accomplishments!

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## Want to Help the Missouri Department of Conservation?

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FEBRUARY 05TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Want to Help the Missouri Department of Conservation?

*Written by  
Dee Loflin, SMT Writer*

**Jefferson City, Missouri** – Do you enjoy hunting, fishing or just being outdoors? Do you own land and manage it for wildlife? If you answered yes to either of these questions, the Missouri Department of Conservation needs your assistance!

If you are interested in helping the Missouri Department of Conservation with a project, here is your chance. They are seeking volunteers to help test website improvements and provide suggestions. The website is [www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov).

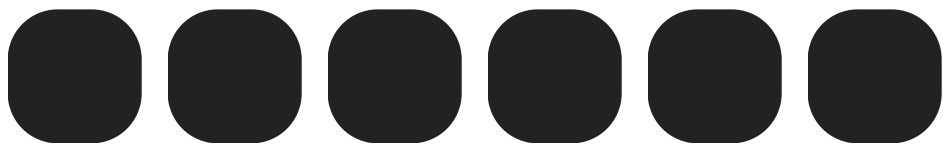
The Conservation Department is redesigning its website to provide better interests, meet user needs and they would like you to participate.

Throughout the next year, volunteers may be contacted by the MDC to participate in an online survey, help group similar topics by subject, or test portions of the new website.

To complete the registration form, go to <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/20485>.

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## End Poverty in Stoddard County Coat Drive Surpasses Their Goal

FEBRUARY 05TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

End Poverty in Stoddard County Coat Drive Surpasses Their Goal

*Written by  
Dee Loflin, SMT Writer*

**Dexter, Missouri** - The ShowMe Times is continuing our support of these two amazing teenagers in Dexter, Missouri. We published an article recently of how "Two People With One Goal" were able to create a beautiful collaboration between a community and those that needed their help. They established "End Poverty in Stoddard County" and decided as their first commitment to the community was to host a Coat Drive.

Just in case you have not heard about these wonderful students , the "End Poverty in Stoddard County" Coat Drive surpassed its goal of 100 coats. **The final count was 348**

**coats donated!! Awesome job!!**

It's truly amazing how two Dexter High School Students can do so much in such a short period of time. The Stoddard County community is so proud of Alexis Smith and Jacob Robinson. They proved that they are truly "two people with one goal!"

Alexis and Jacob, both wish to thank so many who helped make this Coat Drive a success. Special thanks to the Corner Cottage of Dexter, Southern Bank, Dexter Medical Center, Kim Williams and Kellie Reese.

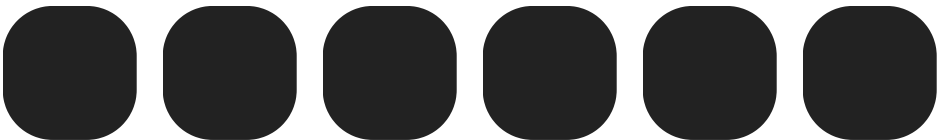
Jacob and Alexis delivered the coats to the Stoddard County Mission and will be giving away many coats to the elementary schools throughout the county this week.

To find out what their next community project will be or for more information about this new organization, "End Poverty in Stoddard County", they have established a website, **[www.endpovertystoddardcounty.com](http://www.endpovertystoddardcounty.com)** and a Facebook page.

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# Dixie Live Wires to Perform Saturday Night

JANUARY 31ST 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Dixie Live Wires to Perform Saturday Night

**New Madrid, Missouri** - Maggie May Bodi, Live Wires Director would like to invite the public to the Little Dixie Theater Saturday evening.

"Come enjoy some of the top Disney songs from some of the top Disney movies as the Dixie Live Wires take the stage performing everything from The Zorro Theme Song to Annie's Hard Knock Life!" Bodi proclaimed.

Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck & Goofy will be putting on a special performance and also be on hand at intermission to say Hi to the kids!

Fun time begins at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, February 2nd at the Dixie Theater in New Madrid. Admission is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for ages 12 and under. Concessions will be available.

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