

# Deer Program Accomplishments

*FY 2023–2024*

## Overview

The 2023-24 deer season was excellent with a total harvest of 298,022 deer. Updates to the Deer Harvest Dashboard show total harvest estimates adjusted for reporting compliance. Hunter satisfaction for the 2023-24 deer season was excellent with 92% of survey respondents rating their season as satisfactory, good, or excellent. Georgia’s Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) is progressing well with 178 cooperators managing over 200,000 acres of land. Program participants receive detailed habitat and herd management plans, harvest data analysis, and assistance with camera surveys.

## Disease

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has not been found in Georgia to date, however recent discoveries in Florida, Alabama and North Carolina have increased our level of concern. We are continually monitoring the population and adapt our disease surveillance strategy whenever new scientific information becomes available. WRD staff collected 1,887 samples in 2023-24. With the most recent discovery only 40 miles from our border we are increased sampling in southwest Georgia and added a full-time technician responsible for coordinating sampling in the region.

## Research

UGA is completing a research project on human dimensions surrounding CWD among hunters, taxidermists, and deer processors. The project was designed to identify educational needs in these groups that are most affected by CWD, what CWD management actions are supported/opposed, and willingness of taxidermists and processors to assist with sampling efforts.



