

HOW'D WE DO?

An overview of the first year using the Automated Harvest Report System

By Carole Stanko, Deer Project Leader

The 2012–13 deer season was the inaugural year of Fish and Wildlife's Automated Harvest Report System (AHRs), which opened with great anticipation and some apprehension on the part of New Jersey's deer hunters. The new system replaced the mandatory deer check station — in place since 1972 — where hunters were required to present their deer carcass at one in the network of check stations throughout the state. The new system replaces that with the hunter's choice of registration of his or her harvest either by telephone or through the Internet.

♦ **Hunter compliance was excellent!** The 2012–13 total harvest was only 167 deer short of the 2011–12 harvest, showing that hunters understood, used and were successful in registering their deer with the new system.

♦ **Law Enforcement's efforts were enhanced** by the data availability afforded by the new system: some hunters were inspected at their home to prove the

validity of their harvest report; summonses were written if violations were revealed.

♦ **The majority of hunters submitted Deer Management Unit (DMU) data.** Sixty-seven percent of hunters included DMU data with their harvest registration. While this is a great response for the first year, it falls short of the 91 percent of hunters who submitted DMUs in 2011–12.

Please make every effort to submit DMU data for each harvest, using the instructions below! This data is extremely valuable to Fish and Wildlife, enabling biologists to monitor the harvest at local levels, estimate losses from diseases such as epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) or others and to assess if there is a need to change zone boundaries.

A strong effort is being made to further improve the Automated Harvest Report System. *Fish and Wildlife appreciates the cooperation of our deer hunters. Thank you!*



To locate your DMU (Deer Management Unit) go to: NJFishandWildlife.com/ahrs.htm. Click on "Deer Hunting Location Viewer" near the middle of the box to view a Deer Management Zone (DMZ) map.

1. Use the slider tool on the viewer's left or your mouse wheel to zoom in on the zone where you hunt. Zoom closer within your DMZ until landmarks like roadways are identifiable to find your exact hunting location.




2. When you recognize your hunting location, click on that spot on the map; all four levels of location data will pop up.



3. Locate your DMU before you go hunting! Take this information with you into the field, available for when you report a deer harvest.



4. Cut out this card. Enter your location data. Keep in your license holder.



My Deer Hunting Location

Zone (DMZ): _____

County: _____

Township: _____

Unit (DMU): _____