

COTTONTAIL & SQUIRREL

The 2009 cottontail rabbit and squirrel seasons covered 1 September 2009 - 28 February 2010. Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters for the period of 1 September - 31 December. A "late season" harvest survey was sent only to residents who responded to the first survey and indicated that they may hunt during the 1 January - 28 February period.

For cottontail, the daily limit was 10, possession 30, and the season was open statewide. For squirrel, the daily limit was 5, possession 15, and the season was open statewide. Residents holding small game, 1-day small game, adult or junior combination, or youth small game licenses were eligible to participate in the season. Nonresidents were required to obtain either a small game or a youth small game license to hunt upland game.

In 2009, there were 92,465 resident and 101,922 nonresident licenses issued that allowed holders to hunt upland game. Approximately 8% of residents and nonresidents were surveyed for the upland game seasons. Survey response rates were 71.4% for residents and 72.2% for nonresidents.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting cottontail, there were a projected 7,485 resident and 1,304 nonresident cottontail hunters. Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting squirrels, there were a projected 2,827 resident and 181 nonresident hunters. An estimated 71,883 cottontails and 12,465 squirrels were harvested during the 2009 upland game seasons.

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), resident hunters reported an average satisfaction level of 5.17, while nonresidents reported a higher rating of 5.69.

Comparison of the 2000 - 2009 cottontail and squirrel harvests

Year	Cottontails				Squirrels			
	Hunters		Harvest		Hunters		Harvest	
	Resident	Nonres	Resident	Nonres	Resident	Nonres	Resident	Nonres
2000	26,255 *	1,461	266,335	6,764	12,176 *	143	50,863	486
2001	11,518 *	593	74,674	2,900	5,608 *	132	19,949	1,023
2002	11,904 *	1,006	60,146	2,917	7,300 *	268	29,846	603
2003	15,526 *	1,016	146,070	2,103	7,857 *	188	46,308	978
2004	14,794*	1,244	164,480	3,545	7,373*	188	42,748	451
2005	11,414	2,193	130,348	10,022	3,821	86	15,093	0
2006	9,617	2,236	105,787	10,040	3,503	115	19,792	210
2007	8,732	1,676	87,320	11,430	2,644	200	13,405	240
2008	8,714	1,955	96,203	8,915	2,833	230	11,785	442
2009	7,485	1,304	65,793	6,090	2,827	181	12,156	309

Resident hunter totals include projected hunter totals from the late and "regular" season harvest surveys. Survey format changed in 2005 and may not be directly comparable to previous years.

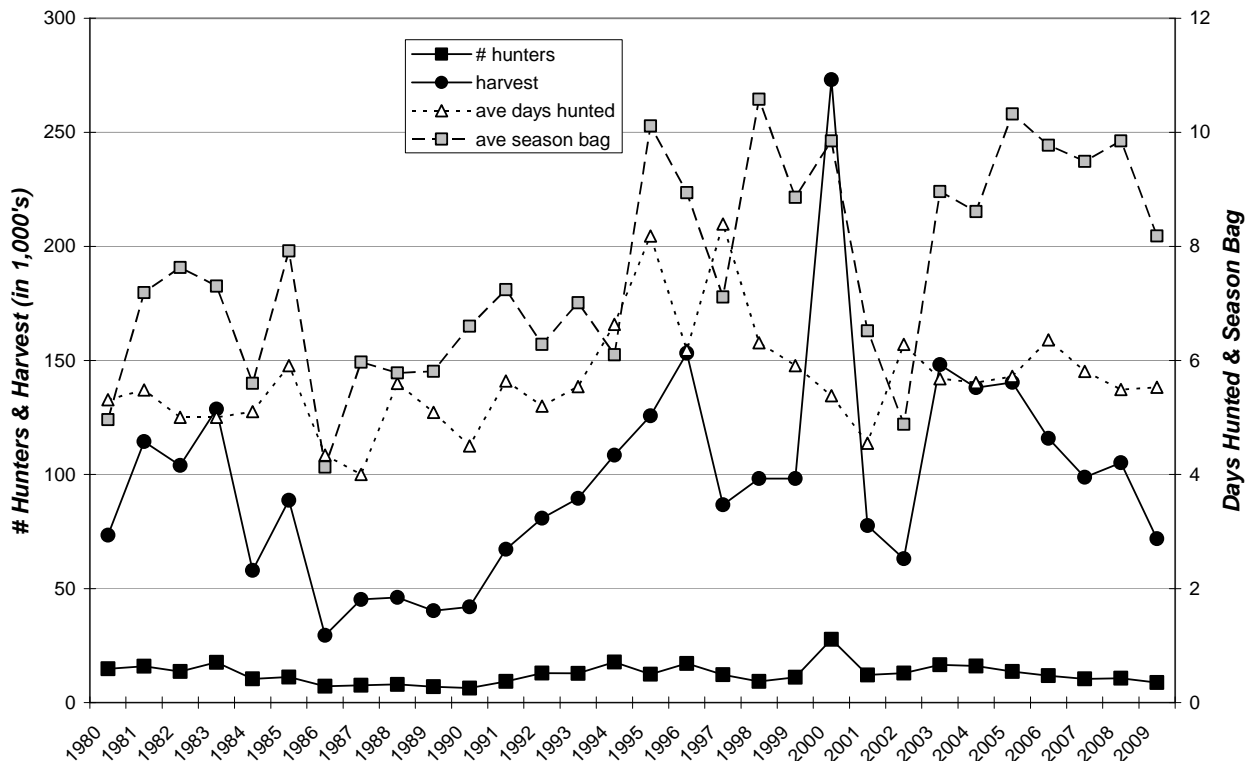
UPLAND GAME HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2009

Last Revised: 14 May 2010

	RESIDENT TOTALS BY LICENSE TYPE					NONRESIDENT TOTALS		
	Small Game	Combination	Junior Combo	Youth SmGm	Sum Estimates	Non Res Sm Game	Youth Sm Gm	Sum Estimates
Licenses Sold	34,411	43,675	7,856	6,523	92,465	98,615	3,307	101,922
Projected ACTIVE UPLAND GAME HUNTERS	2,017	4,098	897	909	7,921	1,297	116	1,413
Number Sampled by Survey	2,838	3,630	630	552	7,650	7,464	273	7,737
Number Responded to Survey	1,996	2,739	359	366	5,460	5,420	169	5,589
Responded and Participated in Season	117	257	41	51	466	73	6	79
Responded but DID NOT HUNT upland game	1,879	2,482	318	315	4,994	5,347	163	5,510
Survey Response Rate	70.3%	75.5%	57.0%	66.3%	71.4%	72.6%	61.9%	72.2%
Number Hunters Reporting Cottontail Days	113	239	39	49	440	68	5	73
Sum Cottontail Hunted Days	672	1,237	313	323	2,545	286	12	298
Average Days Hunted Cottontails	5.95	5.18	8.03	6.59	5.78	4.21	2.40	4.08
Sum Cottontails Bagged	954	2,152	315	448	3,869	325	16	341
Average Cottontail Bag for Season	8.44	9.00	8.08	9.14	8.79	4.78	3.20	4.67
Projected Days Cottontail Hunting	11,591	19,741	6,850	5,753	43,263	5,086	230	5,316
Projected Number Cottontail Hunters	1,948	3,811	853	873	7,485	1,208	96	1,304
Projected Cottontail Bag	16,441	34,299	6,892	7,979	65,793	5,774	307	6,090
TOTAL COTTONTAIL HARVEST =						71,883		
Number Hunters Reporting Squirrel Days	36	96	17	17	166	8	2	10
Sum Squirrel Hunted Days	179	431	72	87	769	22	6	28
Average Days Hunted Squirrels	4.97	4.49	4.24	5.12	4.63	2.75	3.00	2.80
Sum Squirrels Bagged	130	435	55	94	714	13	4	17
Average Squirrel Bag for Season	3.61	4.53	3.24	5.53	4.30	1.63	2.00	1.70
Projected Days Squirrel Hunting	3,086	6,874	1,577	1,551	13,089	391	117	508
Projected Number Squirrel Hunters	621	1,531	372	303	2,827	142	39	181
Projected Squirrels Bag	2,242	6,935	1,205	1,676	12,156	231	78	309
TOTAL SQUIRREL HARVEST =						12,465		
Mean Satisfaction Score *	5.18	5.23	5.15	4.88	5.17	5.67	6.00	5.69

* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1="very dissatisfied" and 7="very satisfied"

SOUTH DAKOTA COTTONTAIL HARVEST, 1980-2009



SOUTH DAKOTA SQUIRREL HARVEST, 1980-2009

