



Montana Correctional Enterprises

Prison Ranch



Hunting Program Summary

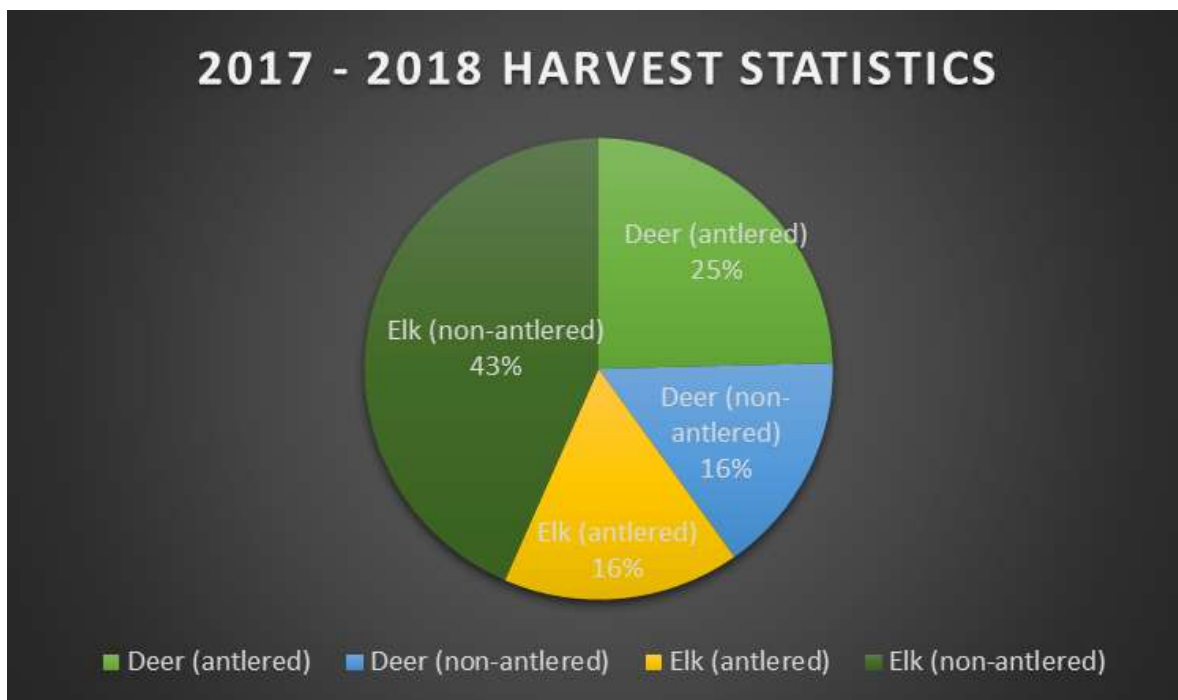
2017 - 2018 MCE Ranch Hunting Summary

We reached the end of another successful hunting season on the prison ranch. There were 278 permits processed with 8 of those being denied (either due to background checks or the hunter didn't have a bow & arrow endorsement). Of the 270 permits approved, 164 hunters hunted (61%). The 164 hunters hunted a total of 759 days.

There were 122 animals harvested this season. We enjoyed a large bull elk harvest this season as 20 bulls were taken on the MCE Ranch. This is considered by most to be the premier animal available on the ranch.

The harvest statistics are as follows:

Deer – antlered	30
Deer – non-antlered	19
Elk – antlered	20
<u>Elk – non-antlered</u>	<u>53</u>
Total animals harvested	122



The season was rewarding in many ways. During our special hunt we guided young people that harvested their first elk, and hunters who, for health reasons, had not gotten an elk in many years. The gratitude expressed by these hunters made it a memorable experience that we in the MCE Hunting Program cherish.

Successful hunters during the 2017 – 2018 season:



MCE Prison Ranch Hunting Program

The Hunting Program at Montana Correctional Enterprises (MCE) Prison Ranch allows many opportunities for hunters to enjoy the ranch including:

- **Archery**
- **Rifle Regular (above power lines)**
- **Rifle Damage Control**
- **Rifle Special Drawing**

Archery Hunting

MCE offers archery hunting that extends beyond the General Hunting Season and allows for the taking of 5 whitetail deer, either sex.

Permit Process Archery Hunt

1. Hunter submits Permit Application
Application must be accompanied by copies of:
 - Driver's License
 - Bow endorsement / Conservation / Hunting License
2. Background Check is conducted by MCE
3. Hunter information is entered into a database
4. Permit is printed and laminated
 - sent to the hunter or;
 - taken to checkpoint or;
 - saved at the Ranch office if additional information is needed.
5. Hunter is called to notify that the permit is complete
6. Application is filed in the MCE Ranch Administration records

Day of the Hunt

1. Hunter checks in with Checkpoint
2. Notifies checkpoint where they will be hunting and provides needed information
3. Parks in parking lot (1 – 4)
4. Hikes from area
5. A hunter can have someone drop them off at a parking area
6. If game is harvested the hunter checks in at checkpoint
7. Hunter may receive help in retrieval

Rifle Hunting

Regular Rifle Hunting (Above power lines)

No special permit is needed to hunt with a rifle on prison land that is above the power lines. A more detailed description of areas that are available for rifle hunting and parking areas to access these areas is found on the map and regulations page for MCE Ranch provided each year by MT FWP.

Hunters must go to checkpoint after harvesting game to provide information about the harvest.

Help with game retrieval may be provided by ranch staff. The hunter must get the animal to a road prior to retrieval by staff.

Special Rifle Hunts

MCE has a Special Rifle Hunt that is conducted on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the General Hunting Season for Youth Hunters and Hunters that have an Elk B tag for the 212 Area.

There is a drawing in October at the Deer Lodge Community Center to develop the list of hunters eligible for the Special Rifle Hunt.

Damage Control Hunts

MCE participates in Damage Control Hunts with MT FWP. The purpose of these hunts is to reduce the number of grazing animals on the property that are damaging crops and causing excessive loss of production. These hunts occur before and/or after the General Hunting Season.

Hunters interested in participating in the Damage Control Hunts must apply through MT FWP. The MCE Ranch may or may not have Damage Control Hunts. It is based on wildlife numbers and MT FWP decisions.

