

2016 WEST VIRGINIA BIG BUCK CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The West Virginia Big Buck Certification Program was established in 1964 to recognize hunters who harvested extraordinarily large-antlered bucks. Although the official “contest” was discontinued in 2013, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) continues to officially score deer as part of this program. The program is co-sponsored by the WVDNR, the Izaak Walton League of West Virginia, the West Virginia Bowhunter’s Association, the West Virginia Muzzleloader’s Association, the Physically Challenged Advisory Board, and Toyota.

The Boone and Crockett Club and Pope and Young Club scoring systems are used to officially score each deer, depending upon the method of harvest. Guidelines for the program are as follows:

1. Deer must be checked online, by phone, or by visiting a license agent, and the DNR-issued game check confirmation number (13 digits) must be written on a tag and attached to the antlers.
2. To be eligible, the deer must be officially scored (after a 60-day drying period) by an Official Scorer whom is approved by Boone and Crockett and/or Pope and Young.
3. Any bow or crossbow-killed deer must score at least 125 Typical or 155 Non-Typical. Any gun or muzzleloader-killed deer must score at least 140 Typical or 165 Non-Typical.
4. A Fair Chase Affidavit must be signed and attached to the Official Score Sheet.
5. For state record entries, field photos of the freshly killed deer (antlers attached) must be submitted at the time of scoring.

In 2016–2017, 209 hunters had their deer scored by an Official Scorer at a WVDNR District Office, WVDNR field office, at the WV Hunting and Fishing Show (sponsored by the WV Trophy Hunter’s Association), or by an Official Scorer at a different location. There are 18 WVDNR Wildlife Biologists and Wildlife Managers throughout the state whom are certified as Official Scorers by Boone and Crockett and/or Pope and Young. During the 2016 hunting season, 95 bucks (*See attached table) were harvested with a gun, muzzleloader, bow, or crossbow and met the respective minimum score requirement, as well as the other requirements listed above. An additional 13 bucks from previous years were officially scored and met the requirements for a WV Big Buck Certificate.

It is noteworthy that several score sheets met minimum score requirements but did not have a DNR-issued game check confirmation number listed on the sheet. This is a common reason why a hunter gets excluded from the certification list and does not receive a WV Big Buck Certificate. A good practice is to record the game check confirmation number (13 digits) on the back of a mounted head so that it is not misplaced. A hunter may only have their deer scored by one Official Scorer. “Score shopping” is strictly prohibited by the WV Big Buck Certification Program and will be dealt with in accordance with policies set forth by Boone and Crockett and Pope and Young. It is the hunter’s responsibility to work with their Official Scorer to ensure that all documentation is accurately completed and submitted to the Coordinator of the

WV Big Buck Certification Program by March 15th following the year during which the deer was harvested.

The WVDNR would like to congratulate all hunters who harvested bucks that qualified for a certificate this year. In addition, a special thanks to all hunters who participated and had their deer officially scored this year!

WV Big Buck Certification Program 2016 Score Rankings

Antler Configuration: Typical

Weapon: Gun

Name	County	Harvest Date	Ranking	Score
Norman Troyer	Wood	11/21/2016	1	168 1/8
Joe Terango	Jefferson	11/21/2016	2	159 0/8
Gary Bartley	Kanawha	11/21/2016	3	155 2/8
Michael Richmond	Raleigh	11/22/2016	4	153 2/8
Dave Allman	Monongalia	11/21/2016	5	152 7/8
James Rieser	Harrison	11/22/2016	6	152 3/8
James Stamm	Cabell	11/25/2016	7	149 0/8
Anthony Bender	Upshur	11/21/2016	8	148 5/8
Andrew Smith	Lewis	11/21/2016	9	148 4/8
Daniel Deuly	Braxton	11/21/2016	10	147 1/8
Misti Treadway	Greenbrier	11/21/2016	10	147 1/8
Jordan Butcher	Raleigh	11/26/2016	12	145 6/8
Josh Parks	Monroe	11/21/2016	13	144 0/8
James Bowen	Pendleton	11/26/2016	14	143 7/8
Hannaha Jones	Mason	11/21/2016	15	140 7/8

Antler Configuration: Non-Typical

Weapon: Gun

Name	County	Harvest Date	Ranking	Score
Charles Hoover	Pendleton	11/26/2016	1	185 2/8

Antler Configuration: Typical

None in 2016

Weapon: Muzzleloader**Antler Configuration: Non-Typical**

None in 2016

Weapon: Muzzleloader**Antler Configuration: Typical****Weapon: Bow**

Name	County	Harvest Date	Ranking	Score
Ryan Linville	Logan	11/21/2016	1	177 3/8
Ryan Stacy	Logan	11/24/2016	2	174 1/8
Chase Herndon	Logan	11/13/2016	3	170 7/8
Adam Meadows	McDowell	11/21/2016	4	164 5/8
Destiny Reynolds	Roane	11/06/2016	5	164 4/8
Fred Chaffins Jr.	McDowell	11/11/2016	6	159 2/8
Jack Lambert	Wyoming	11/18/2016	6	159 2/8
Brian Enoch	Wood	11/08/2016	8	158 3/8
Michael Thompson	Logan	11/08/2016	9	158 2/8
Brian Adkins	Logan	11/22/2016	10	156 0/8
Joshua Mullins	Logan	11/18/2016	11	155 7/8
Johnny Woolum	Mingo	11/10/2016	12	155 4/8
Herbert Castle III	McDowell	11/23/2016	13	153 7/8
Brian Russ	Webster	11/17/2016	14	150 5/8
Amos Lane	Wyoming	11/25/2016	15	147 1/8
Joey Hall	McDowell	11/12/2016	16	147 0/8
Dennis Sole	Pleasants	09/24/2016	17	146 6/8
Jeremy Ash	Cabell	09/30/2016	17	146 6/8
Chad Drainer	Monongalia	10/06/2016	19	146 5/8

Adam Wilson	Wood	10/01/2016	19	146 5/8
Caleb Bower	Wyoming	10/16/2016	21	145 3/8
Freddie Shanklin	Logan	11/13/2016	22	145 1/8
Matthew Poorman	Jackson	11/09/2016	23	144 1/8
Trace Butcher	Logan	11/04/2016	24	140 7/8
Jonathan Melhorn	Jackson	11/12/2016	24	140 7/8
Eric Eversole	Boone	11/08/2016	24	140 7/8
William Lester	McDowell	11/21/2016	27	140 2/8
Jim Bare	Jackson	11/11/2016	28	138 7/8
Donnie Bailey	Mercer	11/10/2016	29	138 0/8
Branden Shirley	Mason	11/08/2016	30	137 2/8
Russell Cox	Lincoln	09/24/2016	31	136 2/8
Kevin Standifur	Mercer	11/11/2016	32	136 1/8
Jason Holcomb	Kanawha	11/11/2016	33	136 0/8
Herbert Dawson	McDowell	11/07/2016	34	135 4/8
Ryan McWhorter	Harrison	11/15/2016	35	135 3/8
Robert Hale	Braxton	11/10/2016	36	135 2/8
Robert Wood	Wyoming	11/15/2016	37	134 7/8
Stevie Addair	McDowell	11/25/2016	38	134 5/8
Lena Shell	Wyoming	11/16/2016	39	133 1/8
Vincent Eplin	Kanawha	10/25/2016	40	133 0/8
Chris Snoderly	Hancock	10/23/2016	41	132 7/8
Robert Meadows	McDowell	11/16/2016	42	132 4/8
Terry Smith Sr.	Boone	11/17/2016	43	131 6/8
Mike Anderson	Harrison	11/10/2016	44	131 4/8
Keith Gibson	Kanawha	11/14/2016	45	130 6/8
Jeff Cooper	McDowell	11/11/2016	46	129 3/8

Tori Hensley	Logan	09/30/2016	47	129 2/8
Ryan Huffman	McDowell	11/26/2016	48	129 0/8
Ryan Butcher	Logan	11/23/2016	49	128 7/8
Daniel Dorsey	Greenbrier	11/15/2016	50	128 4/8
Jordan Butcher	Wyoming	11/24/2016	51	127 6/8
Joshua Fry	Logan	11/09/2016	52	127 4/8
Marlin Vaughn	Upshur	11/07/2016	53	127 3/8
Robert Young	Putnam	10/29/2016	53	127 3/8
Eddie Harmon	Mercer	11/19/2016	55	127 1/8
Henry Dawson	McDowell	11/28/2016	56	127 0/8
Travis Scragg	Kanawha	10/13/2016	57	126 4/8
Samuel Mills	Wyoming	11/21/2016	58	126 3/8
Jerry Payne	Putnam	11/04/2016	58	126 3/8
Todd Starkey	Ohio	11/06/2016	58	126 3/8
Larry Rockel	Mingo	11/03/2016	61	126 1/8
Larry Finney	Wyoming	12/10/2016	62	126 0/8
Jeff Arrington	McDowell	11/11/2016	63	125 6/8
Bruce Turner	Mercer	12/19/2016	64	125 5/8
Nicholas Colucci	Wyoming	11/10/2016	65	125 0/8

Antler Configuration: Non-Typical

Weapon: Bow

Name	County	Harvest Date	Ranking	Score
Brandon Vinson	Wyoming	11/07/2016	1	166 5/8

Antler Configuration: Typical**Weapon: Crossbow**

Name	County	Harvest Date	Ranking	Score
Terry Collins	Tyler	10/10/2016	1	164 4/8
Kevin Harris	Jackson	09/24/2016	2	159 7/8
Dana McKenzie	Monongalia	10/22/2016	3	153 5/8
Todd McConnell	Doddridge	11/07/2016	4	152 2/8
Eric Frame	Clay	11/13/2016	5	143 4/8
Benny Cozort	Logan	11/01/2016	6	142 5/8
Russell H. Taylor Jr.	Wood	09/11/2016	7	139 1/8
Donald Nichols	Nicholas	11/04/2016	8	138 5/8
James Webb	Wayne	11/12/2016	9	134 2/8
Kevin Whited	Putnam	10/07/2016	10	133 3/8
Roger Dickerson	Kanawha	11/04/2016	11	132 7/8
Gary Coleman	Mason	10/24/2016	12	127 3/8
Nick Costello	Marion	11/11/2016	13	125 2/8

Antler Configuration: Non-Typical**Weapon: Crossbow**

Name	County	Harvest Date	Ranking	Score
None in 2016				