

## **2017 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 Boone and Crockett Club and Pope and Young Club scoring systems are used to officially score each deer, depending upon method of harvest. Guidelines for the program are as follows:

1. Effective in 2015, deer must be checked electronically and the DNR-issued game check confirmation number (13-digit) 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 signed Fair Chase Affidavit must accompany 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 2017-2018, more than 200 hunters had their deer officially measured by an Official Scorer at a WVDNR District Office, WVDNR field office, at the WV Hunting and Fishing Show in Charleston (sponsored by the West Virginia Trophy Hunter’s Association), or by an Official Scorer at a different location. There are 17 WVDNR Wildlife Biologists and Wildlife Managers throughout the state who are certified as Official Scorers by Boone and Crockett and/or Pope and Young. During the 2017 hunting season, 79 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 15 bucks from previous years were scored and met the requirements needed for a WV Big Buck Certificate.

It is noteworthy that a few score sheets met minimum score requirements but did not have a game check confirmation number listed on the sheet. A good practice is to record the DNR-issued game check confirmation number on the back of a mounted head so that it is not misplaced. A hunter may only have their buck scored by one Official Scorer. “Score shopping” is prohibited and will be dealt with in accordance with policies set forth by the Boone and Crockett Club and/or Pope and Young Club. It is the hunter’s responsibility to work with their Official Scorer to ensure that all documentation is accurately completed and submitted to the WV Big Buck Certification Program Coordinator by March 15<sup>th</sup> following the year during which the buck 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 scored this year!

# WV Big Buck Certification Program 2017 Score Rankings

## Antler Configuration: Typical

## Weapon: Gun

Name	County	Harvest Date	Ranking	Score
Jeff Toney	Raleigh	11/25/2017	1	163 0/8
Rocky Romanello	Summers	11/21/2017	2	159 2/8
Charles Hodge	Nicholas	11/25/2017	3	154 5/8
TJ Morris	Mason	11/20/2017	4	151 6/8
Eric Smith	Raleigh	11/20/2017	5	148 1/8
ER Weatherly	Mercer	11/23/2017	6	146 7/8
Dylan Wright	Lewis	11/21/2017	7	146 0/8
Ray Scott	Mercer	11/23/2017	8	145 4/8
Keith Rittenhouse	Berkeley	11/21/2017	9	143 5/8
Travis Price	Boone	11/20/2017	10	141 3/8
Matthew Deal	Roane	11/20/2017	11	140 0/8

## Antler Configuration: Non-Typical

## Weapon: Gun

Name	County	Harvest Date	Ranking	Score
Bryan Farley	Randolph	11/20/2017	1	189 3/8

## Antler Configuration: Typical

## Weapon: Muzzleloader

None in 2017

## Antler Configuration: Non-Typical

## Weapon: Muzzleloader

None in 2017

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Harvest Date</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Score</b>
Jessie Hatfield	Logan	11/16/2017	1	175 3/8
Mark Lafferty	Wyoming	11/15/2017	2	173 6/8
James Criss	Fayette	11/10/2017	3	170 4/8
David Triplett	McDowell	12/11/2017	4	165 3/8
Samuel Morgan	Wyoming	11/23/2017	5	161 4/8
Trace Butcher	Logan	11/13/2017	6	160 3/8
Evan Muscari	Wyoming	11/13/2017	7	158 7/8
Crockett Pruitt	McDowell	11/17/2017	8	154 5/8
Aaron Fry	Logan	10/01/2017	9	153 3/8
Joel Morgan	Wyoming	11/08/2017	10	147 4/8
Kendall Dingess	Logan	11/11/2017	11	147 0/8
Caleb Cline	Logan	11/20/2017	12	146 5/8
Shane McGraw	Kanawha	11/17/2017	13	146 3/8
Levi Rose	McDowell	11/05/2017	14	146 2/8
Josh Stover	McDowell	11/16/2017	15	145 3/8
Ethan McCallister	Logan	10/01/2017	16	145 1/8
William Merritt	Logan	10/28/2017	17	144 4/8
Raymond Marshall	McDowell	11/20/2017	18	143 6/8
Dustin Woods	Webster	11/14/2017	19	143 0/8
Jason Neal	McDowell	11/03/2017	20	140 4/8
Jeremy Grapes	Mineral	10/28/2017	21	140 0/8
Christopher Keaton	McDowell	11/25/2017	22	139 5/8
Perry Bailey	Logan	10/16/2017	23	138 7/8
Joey Hall	McDowell	10/28/2017	24	138 2/8
Theron Gibbs	Mason	11/17/2017	25	137 5/8

Donald Toney	Wyoming	11/10/2017	25	137 5/8
Joshua Schrader	McDowell	11/26/2017	25	137 5/8
Steve Addair	McDowell	11/10/2017	28	137 3/8
John Rucker	Logan	11/17/2017	29	136 7/8
Jimmy Way	Wyoming	11/10/2017	30	136 6/8
Olin Neil	Wyoming	11/17/2017	31	136 4/8
Ty Carter	Jackson	09/30/2017	32	136 1/8
Kristina Miller	Boone	09/30/2017	33	136 0/8
Danny Hicks	Kanawha	11/16/2017	33	136 0/8
Franky Dalton Jr.	Wyoming	11/08/2017	35	135 3/8
Justin Whisman	Logan	11/13/2017	36	135 1/8
Kirk Price	Logan	11/20/2017	37	133 7/8
Derek Davidson	Upshur	11/02/2017	38	133 6/8
Robert Price	McDowell	11/22/2017	38	133 6/8
Ron Cook	Wyoming	12/31/2017	40	133 5/8
Philip Farrish	Wyoming	10/30/2017	41	133 2/8
Tori Hensley	Logan	11/16/2017	42	132 6/8
Nick Christian	Wyoming	11/07/2017	43	132 4/8
Henry Mullins IV	Calhoun	11/04/2017	44	132 2/8
Willy Lilly	Wyoming	11/16/2017	45	131 5/8
Victor Bonnett	Putnam	11/05/2017	46	129 3/8
Tyler Prichard	McDowell	10/26/2017	47	128 5/8
Ryan Huffman	McDowell	11/24/2017	48	127 7/8
Logan Casto	Kanawha	09/30/2017	49	127 6/8
Devin Meadows	McDowell	11/11/2017	50	127 2/8
Brian Smith	Jackson	10/29/2017	51	127 1/8
Tracy Butcher	Logan	11/14/2017	52	126 5/8

Steve Daniels	Doddridge	11/16/2017	52	126 5/8
Cody DeLong	McDowell	11/04/2017	54	126 3/8
Timmy Jones	McDowell	11/03/2017	55	126 1/8
Terry Kennedy	Logan	10/20/2017	55	126 1/8
Courtney Luikart	Putnam	10/07/2017	57	125 7/8
Ryan Butcher	Logan	11/13/2017	58	125 5/8

**Antler Configuration: Non-Typical**

**Weapon: Bow**

<b>Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Harvest Date</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Score</b>
-------------	---------------	---------------------	----------------	--------------

None in 2017

**Antler Configuration: Typical**

**Weapon: Crossbow**

<b>Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Harvest Date</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Score</b>
Zachary Coleman	Fayette	11/09/2017	1	163 0/8
Roy McClanahan	Roane	11/10/2017	2	156 1/8
Richy Sanders	Upshur	10/21/2017	3	145 0/8
Samuel Mullins	McDowell	11/25/2017	4	142 6/8
Ryan Mooney	Kanawha	11/14/2017	5	141 0/8
Will Thompson	McDowell	11/04/2017	6	140 6/8
Rodney Johnson	McDowell	11/27/2017	7	136 7/8
Dennis Wright	McDowell	10/13/2017	8	136 2/8
Roy Cummings	Roane	11/12/2017	9	125 3/8

**Antler Configuration: Non-Typical**

**Weapon: Crossbow**

<b>Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Harvest Date</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Score</b>
-------------	---------------	---------------------	----------------	--------------

None in 2017