

2024 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 2015, deer must have a 13-digit DNR-issued game check confirmation number.
2. To be eligible, the deer must be officially scored after a 60-day drying period by an Official Measurer who 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. All other deer must score at least 140 Typical or 165 Non-Typical.
4. For state record entries, field photos of the freshly killed deer (antlers attached) must be submitted at the time of scoring.

In 2024-2025, 333 deer were measured by an Official Measurer at a WVDNR District Office, WVDNR field office, or by an Official Measurer at a different location. There are 33 WVDNR Wildlife Biologists and Wildlife Specialists throughout the state who are certified as Official Measurers by Boone and Crockett Club and/or Pope and Young Club. During the 2024 hunting seasons, 22 bucks met the requirements listed above.

It is noteworthy that a few deer met the respective minimum score requirement, however proper game check information or other important data was not provided. A good practice is to record the DNR-issued game check confirmation number and keep it with the mount/skull plate so that it is not misplaced. A hunter may only have their deer scored by one Official Measurer. It is the hunter’s responsibility to work with their Official Measurer to ensure all documentation is accurately completed and submitted to the coordinator of the WV Big Buck Certification Program by the annual deadline.

Thank you to all participants in the WV Big Buck Certification Program this year!

2024 BIG BUCK SCORE RANKINGS

Antler Configuration: Typical

Weapon: Bow

Name	County	Harvest Date	Rank	Score
Anthony Cline	McDowell	11/25/2024	1	172 2/8"
Shawn Laughery	Fayette	11/03/2024	2	159 6/8"
Matthew Pierce	Wyoming	11/15/2024	3	151 7/8"
David Weakley	Monroe	11/15/2024	4	144 4/8"
Trevor Castle	McDowell	12/15/2024	4	144 4/8"
James Paynter	Wyoming	11/05/2024	6	140 4/8"
Frank Holtzopfel	Wyoming	11/15/2024	7	139 4/8"
Brian Fitzko	Wyoming	11/29/2024	8	136 2/8"
Adam Smithson	Monroe	11/07/2024	9	135 6/8"
Anthony Fitzko	Wyoming	10/15/2024	10	132 4/8"
Troy Carter	Wyoming	11/20/2024	11	130 5/8"
Andrew D Angelo	Barbour	10/02/2024	12	130 2/8"
Timothy Hunt	Lewis	10/06/2024	13	129 7/8"
Cole Kidd	Mercer	11/02/2024	14	129 2/8"

Antler Configuration: Non-Typical

Weapon: Bow

Name	County	Harvest Date	Rank	Score
None				

Antler Configuration: Typical

Weapon: Gun

Name	County	Harvest Date	Rank	Score
William Stewart	Clay	11/27/2024	1	150 4/8"
Todd Lowe	Roane	12/06/2024	2	144 5/8"
William Craver	Lincoln	11/25/2024	3	140 2/8"

Antler Configuration: Non-Typical

Weapon: Gun

Name	County	Harvest Date	Rank	Score
None				

Antler Configuration: Typical

Weapon: Crossbow

Name	County	Harvest Date	Rank	Score
Dwayne Hickman	Roane	11/24/2024	1	152 3/8"
Kevin Blevins	McDowell	11/17/2024	2	148 2/8"
Luke Stewart	Clay	10/01/2024	3	132 7/8"
Thomas Link	Raleigh	11/17/2024	4	130 7/8"
Travis Lusk	Mercer	11/18/2024	5	125 1/8"

Antler Configuration: Non-Typical

Weapon: Crossbow

Name	County	Harvest Date	Rank	Score
None				

Antler Configuration: Typical

Weapon: Muzzleloader

Name	County	Harvest Date	Rank	Score
None				

Antler Configuration: Non-Typical

Weapon: Muzzleloader

Name	County	Harvest Date	Rank	Score
None				