

Though the map below suggests that large antlered bucks occur more frequently in certain counties, large bucks have been harvested and recorded in many Iowa counties. The rankings below also reflect the historic number of hunters in the area and the number of successful hunters who choose to enter their bucks in the Big Game Records.

Opportunities exist to harvest a large buck in all areas of Iowa; however, hunters should know that success rates in Iowa average 65-70% for shotgun hunters (50% for blackpowder hunters, 30% for archers), but also that 55% of the average annual harvest is antlerless (does and button bucks). In addition, hunters should realize that even in Iowa there is not a "wall-hanger" hiding behind every tree.

Top 10 Iowa counties in terms of the number of bucks recorded in the Iowa Big Game Records between 1953 and 1998.

