

NEWS RELEASE

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From: Kinzua Quality Deer Cooperative

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RESULTS OF FIRST TWO DAYS OF DEER HARVEST WITHIN THE KINZUA QUALITY DEER COOPERATIVE, MCKEAN COUNTY

The health of the deer herd within the Kinzua Quality Deer Cooperative (KQDC) continues to improve. The KQDC research deer biologist has completed the analysis of the first two days of data from 2008 and the indication is the trends in improvement continue. A more complete analysis will be done after the data from the three official check stations for the two Saturdays within the firearm deer season has been collected.

Body weights of yearling and adult bucks and does have continued to increase, reflecting increases in quantity and quality of forage with fewer deer. Some landowners within the KQDC have also removed fencing around harvest sites; this allows some additional forage for deer. The table below shows approximate changes in deer body weights from 2001 to 2008.

Adult bucks	Slightly over 110	Slightly under 140
Weight of deer in pounds	Year 2001	Year 2008
Adult does	Slightly under 100	Slightly over 110
Yearling bucks	Approximately 95	Approximately 115
Yearling does	Approximately 90	Slightly over 100

However, although the increases in quality of antlers for adult bucks have been good, the increases have been slower to occur, possible reflecting the need to create additional forage for deer to eat now that the deer herd is healthy and in concert with the habitat.

Antler spreads for adult bucks (measured as inside antler spread) now approximate 16 inches – an impressive measurement for an average adult buck within the KQDC.