

## **2015 WEST VIRGINIA BIG BUCK CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

The West Virginia Big Buck Contest was established in 1964 to recognize hunters who harvested extraordinarily large-antlered bucks. Although the contest was discontinued in 2013, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources continues to score deer as part of their Big Buck Certification Program. This program is co-sponsored by the Division of Natural Resources, 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 or Pope and Young Club scoring system is used to score each buck, depending on method of kill. Guidelines for the certification program are as follows:

1. The deer must have been checked at an Official Game Checking Station, and the official West Virginia Game Check Tag must be attached to the antlers. Beginning in 2015, deer must be checked electronically and the DNR-issued game tag confirmation number must be written on a tag and attached to the antlers.
2. To be eligible, the buck must have been scored by an Official Scorer approved by Boone and Crockett or Pope and Young.
3. To be eligible, any bow or crossbow-killed buck must score at least 125 typical or 155 non-typical. Any gun or muzzleloader-killed buck 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 2015, 169 hunters had their deer scored at one of six WVDNR District Offices, a field office, or at the West Virginia Hunting and Fishing Show in Charleston (sponsored by the West Virginia Trophy Hunter's Association). There are 18 WVDNR Wildlife Biologists and Wildlife Managers throughout the state that are certified as Official Scorers by Boone and Crockett and/or Pope and Young. During the 2015 hunting season, 82 bucks (Table 1) were harvested with a gun, muzzleloader, bow, or crossbow and met minimum score requirements, as well as the other requirements listed above. An additional 12 bucks from previous years were scored and met the requirements for a Big Buck Certificate.

It is noteworthy that 3 score sheets met minimum score requirements but did not have a Game Check Tag verified, or did not have a signed Fair Chase Affidavit attached. These are common reasons why a hunter's buck gets excluded from the certification list and does not warrant a Big Buck Certificate. A good practice is to record the DNR-issued game tag confirmation number on the back of a mounted head so that it is not misplaced. A hunter may only take their buck to be scored by one Official Scorer. "Score shopping" is prohibited by the Big Buck Certification Program and will be dealt with in accordance with policies set forth by Boone and Crockett and/or Pope and Young. It is the hunter's responsibility to work with their Official Scorer to ensure that all documentation is completed and sent to the Big Buck

Certification Program Coordinator by March 15<sup>th</sup> following the year in which the buck was harvested.

The WV Big Buck Certification Program Coordinator would like to congratulate all hunters whom 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 2015 Score Rankings

### Antler Configuration: Typical

### Weapon: Gun

Name	County	Harvest Date	Ranking	Score
Brandon Church	Kanawha	11/23/2015	1	172 3/8
Mike McFarland	Kanawha	11/23/2015	2	162 2/8
John Shultz	Kanawha	11/24/2015	3	160 0/8
Paul Tyree	Kanawha	11/23/2015	4	156 4/8
Matt Mewshaw	Tucker	12/03/2015	5	155 2/8
Justin Morrison	Nicholas	11/27/2015	6	154 1/8
Regina Holdren	Mercer	11/23/2015	7	152 5/8
Joel Davis	Marshall	11/23/2015	8	148 5/8
Adam Maltempie	Mercer	11/23/2015	9	148 4/8
Henry Mullins III	Calhoun	11/27/2015	10	146 2/8
Dakoda Linville	Fayette	11/23/2015	11	142 5/8
Shannon Bridges	Monroe	12/05/2015	12	141 4/8
Lloyd Bloom	Raleigh	11/25/2015	13	141 0/8
Steve Bolen	Summers	11/24/2015	14	140 0/8

### Antler Configuration: Non-Typical

### Weapon: Gun

Name	County	Harvest Date	Ranking	Score
None in 2015				

### Antler Configuration: Typical

### Weapon: Muzzleloader

Name	County	Harvest Date	Ranking	Score
Scotty Slater	Jackson	12/08/2015	1	147 7/8

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

None in 2015

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Harvest Date</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Score</b>
Trey Dotson	Logan	11/03/2015	1	165 1/8
Kaleb Gannon	Lewis	10/22/2015	2	163 6/8
Darrin Haynes	Mercer	10/21/2015	3	162 4/8
Bradley Walls	Wyoming	11/24/2015	4	160 5/8
Jeremy Preston	Tyler	10/14/2015	5	158 1/8
Henry Dawson	McDowell	11/28/2015	6	156 5/8
Justin Hamilton	Kanawha	11/13/2015	7	154 3/8
Larry Carder	Gilmer	11/14/2015	8	152 0/8
Rusty Reed	Clay	11/14/2015	9	150 2/8
Trace Butcher	Logan	11/13/2015	9	150 2/8
David Miller	Mingo	11/06/2015	11	150 0/8
Luke Stevens	Wyoming	11/30/2015	12	148 2/8
Jordan Butcher	Logan	12/05/2015	13	145 2/8
Jarod Sizemore	Wyoming	10/31/2015	14	143 7/8
Sydnee Roberts	Logan	10/31/2015	15	143 4/8
Ethan McCallister	Logan	12/21/2015	16	142 1/8
Justin Parker	McDowell	11/20/2015	17	141 7/8
Darren Belcher	Logan	10/17/2015	18	141 3/8
James Paitsel	McDowell	11/14/2015	19	140 6/8
Derik Johnson	Nicholas	10/26/2015	20	140 2/8
Larry Swaney Jr	Monongalia	11/19/2015	21	137 4/8
Dillon Cline	McDowell	11/21/2015	22	137 3/8
Darin Stauffer	Mercer	11/14/2015	23	137 2/8
David Shrewsberry Jr	Wyoming	12/05/2015	24	136 7/8
Bobby Swim	McDowell	11/18/2015	25	135 5/8
Brandon Herndan	Logan	10/09/2015	26	135 0/8
Christopher Watts	Mingo	11/09/2015	27	134 4/8
Bart Gentry	Raleigh	11/13/2015	27	134 4/8
David Shrewsberry	Wyoming	11/23/2015	29	134 1/8
Brent Runion	Logan	10/06/2015	30	134 0/8
Chase Oney	Braxton	09/28/2015	31	133 7/8

Clarence Shrewsbury	Wyoming	11/14/2015	32	133 1/8
Jack Wright	McDowell	11/06/2015	33	133 0/8
Austin Denton	McDowell	11/25/2015	34	132 7/8
Andrew Robertson	Monroe	09/28/2015	34	132 7/8
Jeffery S. Myers	Preston	10/20/2015	36	132 6/8
David Little	McDowell	11/16/2015	37	132 2/8
Beth Coleman	Mason	11/08/2015	38	131 3/8
Conley "Tad" Bailey	Boone	11/15/2015	39	131 0/8
Michael Brooks	McDowell	11/11/2015	40	130 3/8
Robert Colocci	Wyoming	11/14/2015	41	130 0/8
Seth Enoch	Wirt	11/21/2015	41	130 0/8
Matthew Poorman	Jackson	11/07/2015	43	129 6/8
Reggie Woodrum	Boone	10/29/2015	44	129 5/8
Tom Riddle	Lewis	11/18/2015	45	129 3/8
Casey Russell	Nicholas	11/20/2015	46	129 1/8
Matthew Helmick	Braxton	10/11/2015	47	128 7/8
Holden Eads	Putnam	10/14/2015	48	128 6/8
Whitney Miller	Logan	10/15/2015	48	128 6/8
Ben Tolliver	Wyoming	10/29/2015	50	128 2/8
Jimmy Way	Wyoming	12/08/2015	51	128 1/8
Waylon Kincaid	Clay	11/15/2015	52	128 0/8
Mark Moles	Putnam	10/05/2015	53	127 5/8
Steve Deweese	Kanawha	11/21/2015	54	127 1/8
Larry Perkins	McDowell	11/24/2015	55	126 4/8
Brian Kessell	Kanawha	10/22/2015	56	126 3/8
Daniel Sumpter	Fayette	10/31/2015	57	125 3/8
Michael Miller	Mercer	09/26/2015	58	125 2/8

**Antler Configuration: Non-Typical**

**Weapon: Bow**

<b>Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Harvest Date</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Score</b>
Jacob Miller	Logan	12/16/2015	1	185 7/8
Steven Ellis	Mingo	11/29/2015	2	185 2/8

**Antler Configuration: Typical****Weapon: Crossbow**

<b>Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Harvest Date</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Score</b>
James Kemp	Wyoming	11/24/2015	1	160 1/8
Rickie Jarvis	Roane	10/15/2015	2	151 5/8
James Honaker	Greenbrier	11/05/2015	3	148 7/8
Nathaniel Haynes	Kanawha	10/04/2015	4	141 5/8
Nick Costello	Marion	10/16/2015	5	139 2/8
Brian Shingleton	Lewis	10/08/2015	6	126 0/8

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Harvest Date</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Score</b>
Rob Peddicord	Preston	10/12/2015	1	156 5/8