

Mentor's Deer Management Program

Nick Mikash

Natural Resource Specialist

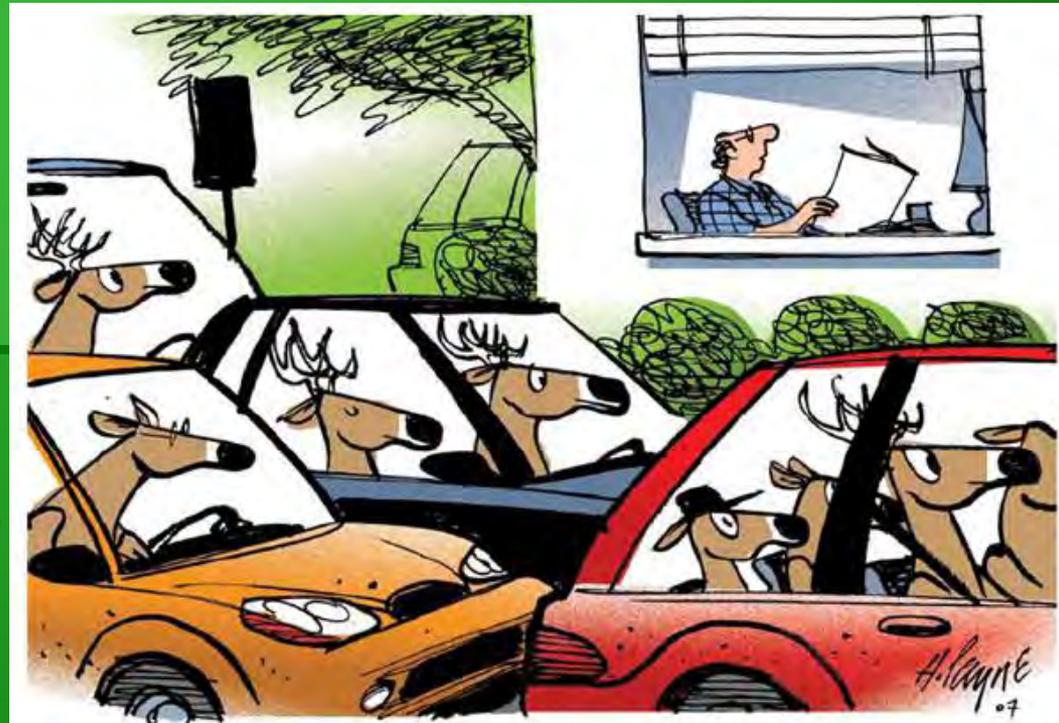
City of Mentor

How did we get there?

- Resident complaints were numerous
- Deer/vehicle accidents were common
- Deer in the yard were no longer a magical moment
- Experts were telling us, you have a problem

Why Manage Deer?

- Public Health and Safety
- Destruction of Natural Habitat
- Destruction of private property



"Hon, have you noticed an increase in the deer population lately?"

Health and Safety

- Deer Vehicle Accidents
- Personal and Pet Safety
- Sanitation and Disease Control

Health and Safety

- Deer-Vehicle

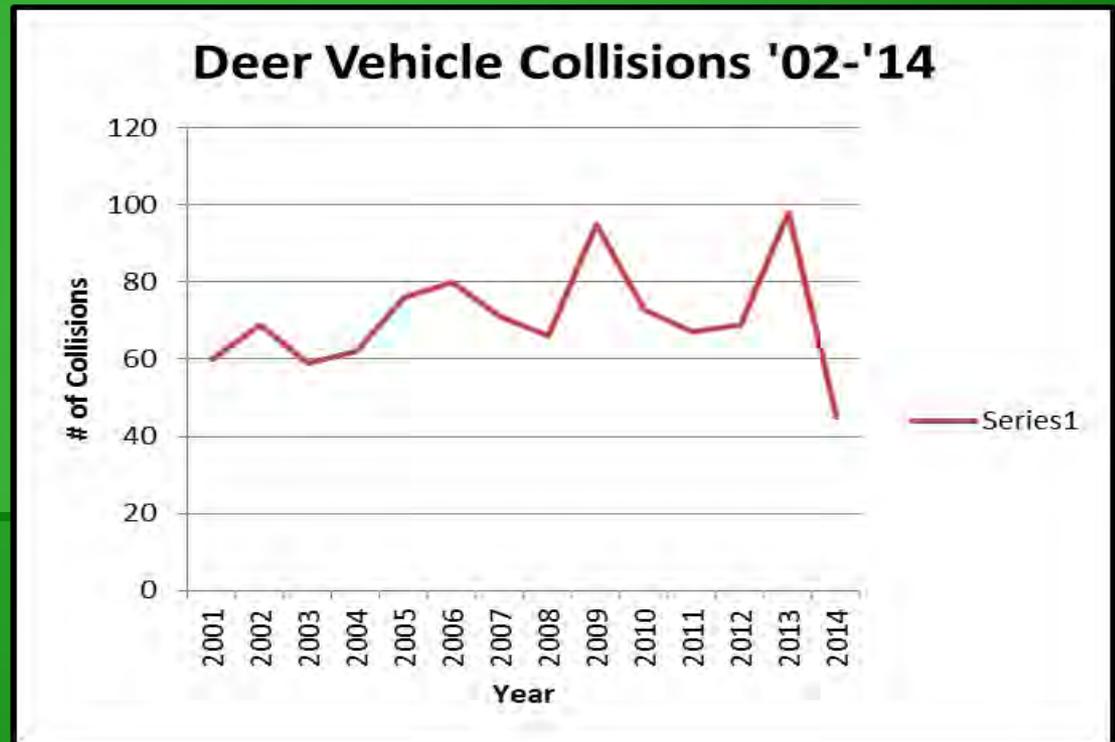
Accidents:

- Police recorded 856 accidents from 2000-2012
- 37 Injuries and 1 Fatality
- Average cost of a deer Accident is \$4135 (2015 State Farm)

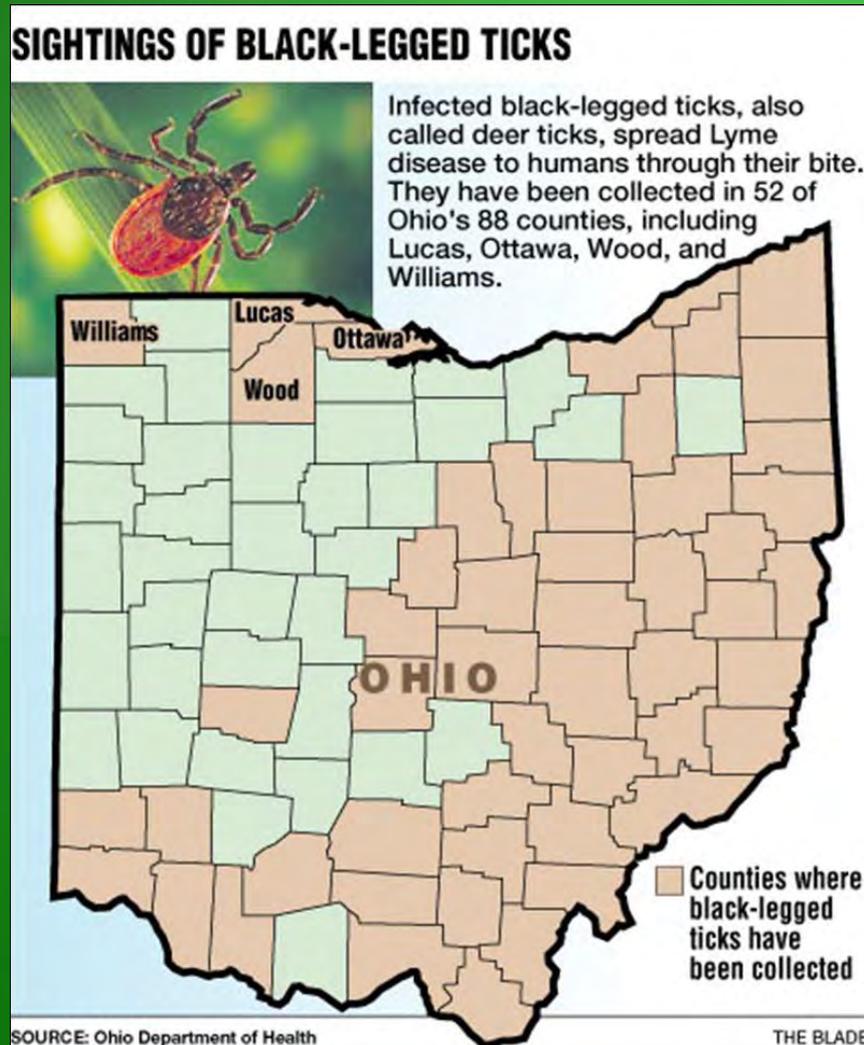


Health and Safety

- Deer management started 2013
 - 2013 totaled at 98 collisions resulting in 5 injuries
 - 2014 totaled at 45 collisions resulting in 1 injury
 - September 2014 first zero collision month since August 2009.



Health and Safety



- Sanitation and Disease control:
 - Spread of Lyme Disease through deer ticks
 - Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
 - Fecal matter throughout environment

Destruction of Natural Habitat

- Browse Lines in Natural Areas
- Inhibiting Forest Regeneration
- Facilitating Invasive Plants

Browse Lines



Forest Regeneration

- Due to the overabundance of deer browse, the potential for new trees and shrubs to grow on the forest floor has become nearly impossible
- Without forest regeneration there will not be new trees to replace old stands as they die off, leading to potential system collapse



Invasive Plants



- Deer show preference to the native vegetation they evolved along side
- Since new growth of native vegetation is being consumed, there is now a gap in the ecosystem for exotic plants to take root and grow
- Deer are facilitating invasive plants by not eating the new exotic plants that take root

Management Techniques

- Not Used:

- Electric Fence
- Repellents
- Barriers
- Trapping
- Contraception

- Used:

- Sharp Shooting
- Controlled Hunting
- Habitat Modification
- Deer Deter Systems
- Road Signs

Techniques Not Used

- **Electric Fence-** Not practical in wide spread areas
- **Repellents-** Not practical in large areas, particularly natural areas. Very site specific
- **Barriers/Fencing-** Not practical in a large scale. Very site specific
- **Trapping-** Too labor intensive to be practical at this time
- **Contraception-** Has not been proven to be effective in open populations. Prohibited by state regulation

Techniques Used (Lethal)

- Sharpshooting/ Culling
- Controlled archery hunting

Techniques Used (Lethal)

- Sharp Shooting
 - In house, Mentor SWAT team
 - Focus on antlerless deer (Maximum 20% antlered)
 - Functioning on City and private lands
 - Areas closed and secured by Mentor PD

Techniques Used (Lethal)

- Sharp Shooting
- Ability to record biological data
- Meat donated through Cleveland Food Bank and distributed across Lake County to feed local hunger shelters



Techniques Used (Lethal)

- Controlled Hunting
 - Archery Hunters on private land
 - Target Shooting Proficiency Test
 - Highly regulated
 - Low cost to the City

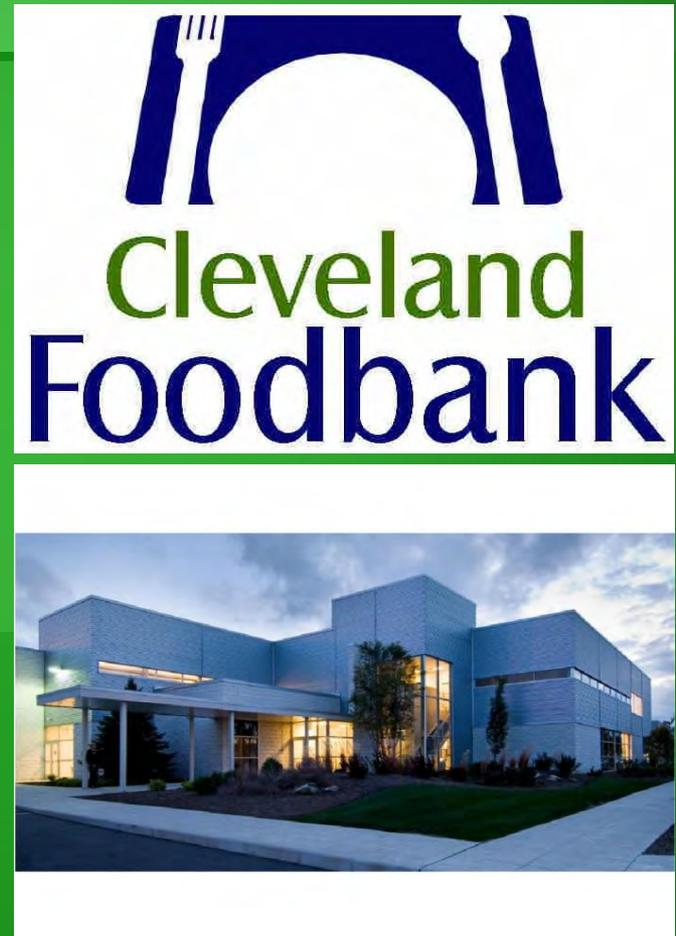
Techniques Used (Non lethal)

- Habitat Modification
 - Roadway modification for increased driver visibility
- Deer Deter System
 - Set up in high traffic areas
 - Flashing lights, high frequency noise
- Road Signs
 - Placed in high traffic areas
 - Increased driver awareness



Processing

- In three culling seasons, the City of Mentor has donated over **26,500 lbs** of venison to:
- The Cleveland Foodbank
- Painesville Baptist Church
- Lake Metroparks Penitentiary Glen



Harvest Statistics

➤ Year

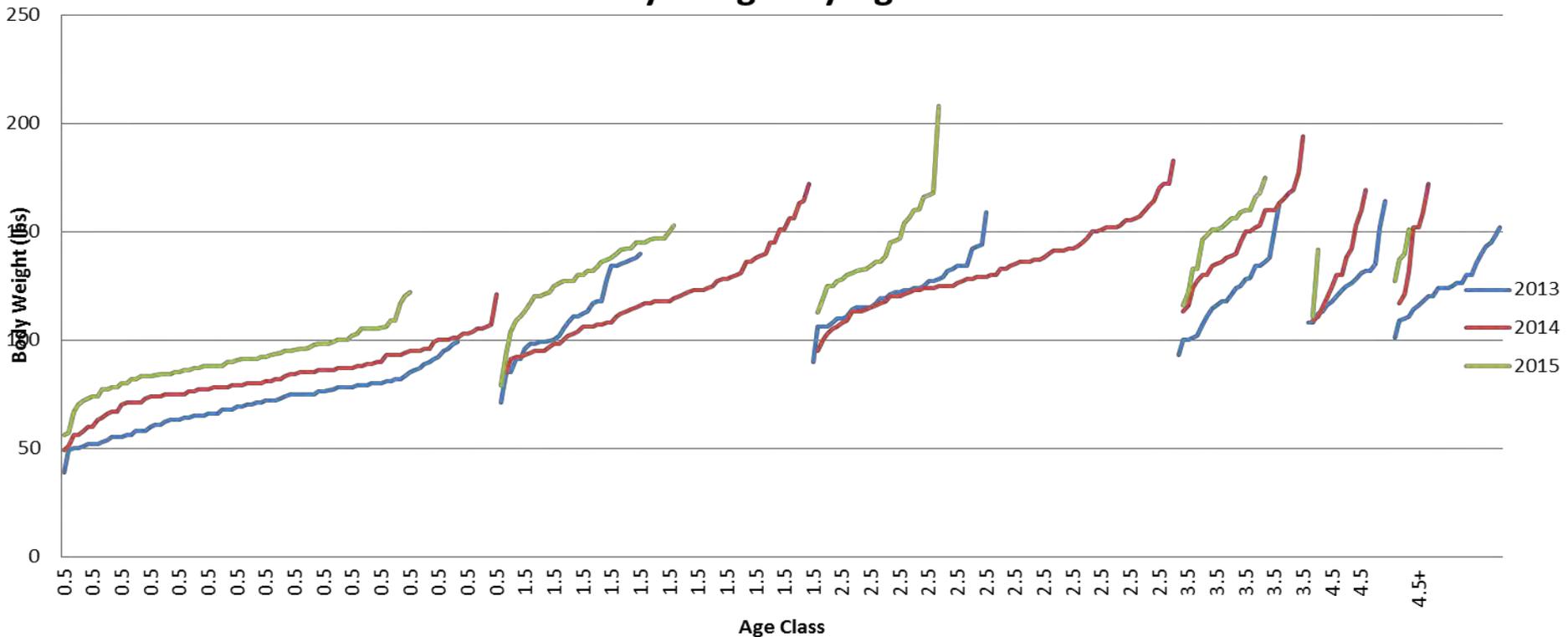
➤ Hunting/ Culling

- | | | |
|------------|---|------------|
| ■ 2012-13: | → | ■ 131/ 212 |
| ■ 2013-14: | → | ■ 137/ 277 |
| ■ 2014-15: | → | ■ 91/ 161 |

Deer Demographics

- '13-'15 Weight by Age

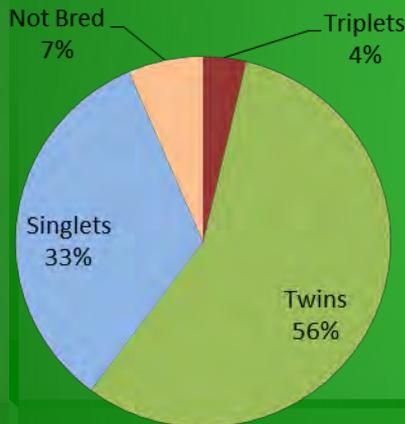
Body Weight by Age Class



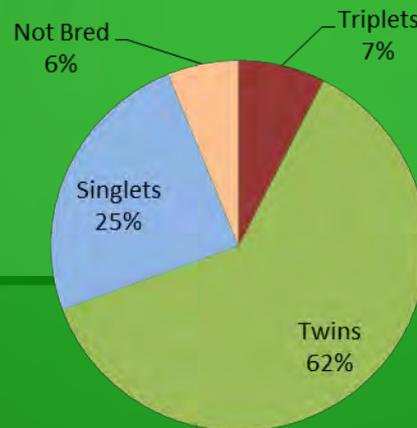
Deer Demographics

■ '13-'15 Culling Birth Rates

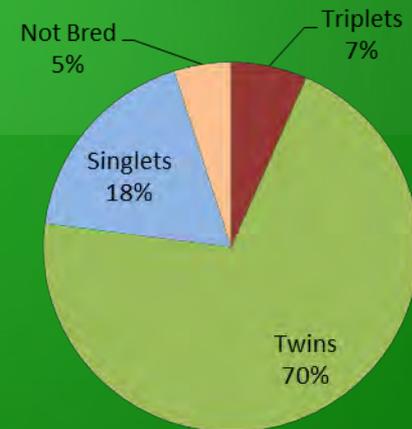
2013 Culling Birthrates



2014 Culling Birthrates



2015 Culling Birthrates



Progress

- Deer population is nearing sustainable levels in most areas is
- Management efforts are less intensive
- Accidents are reduced
- Complaints from most areas are down