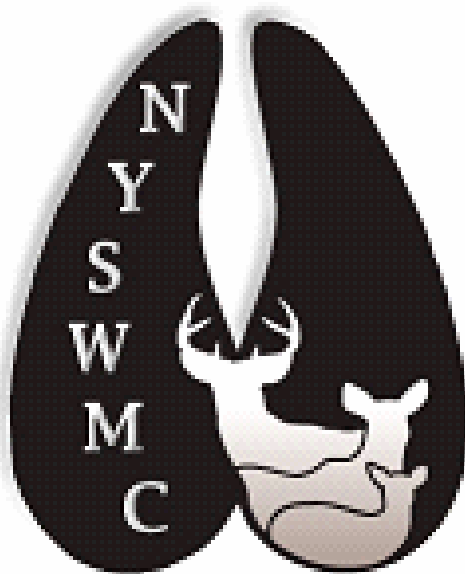


# **NEW YORK STATE WHITETAIL MANAGEMENT COALITION, INC.**



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# Yearling Buck Conservation With Antler Restrictions

Is it working in New York?

Assessment and Evaluation of Yearling Buck Protection  
with Antler Restrictions in New York

# Objectives of Yearling Buck Protection Program

- Goal: to reduce the harvest of yearling bucks and increase the population and harvest of adult 2.5+ year old bucks
- This program was initiated by sportsmen in the current areas and implemented by NYSDEC regulation

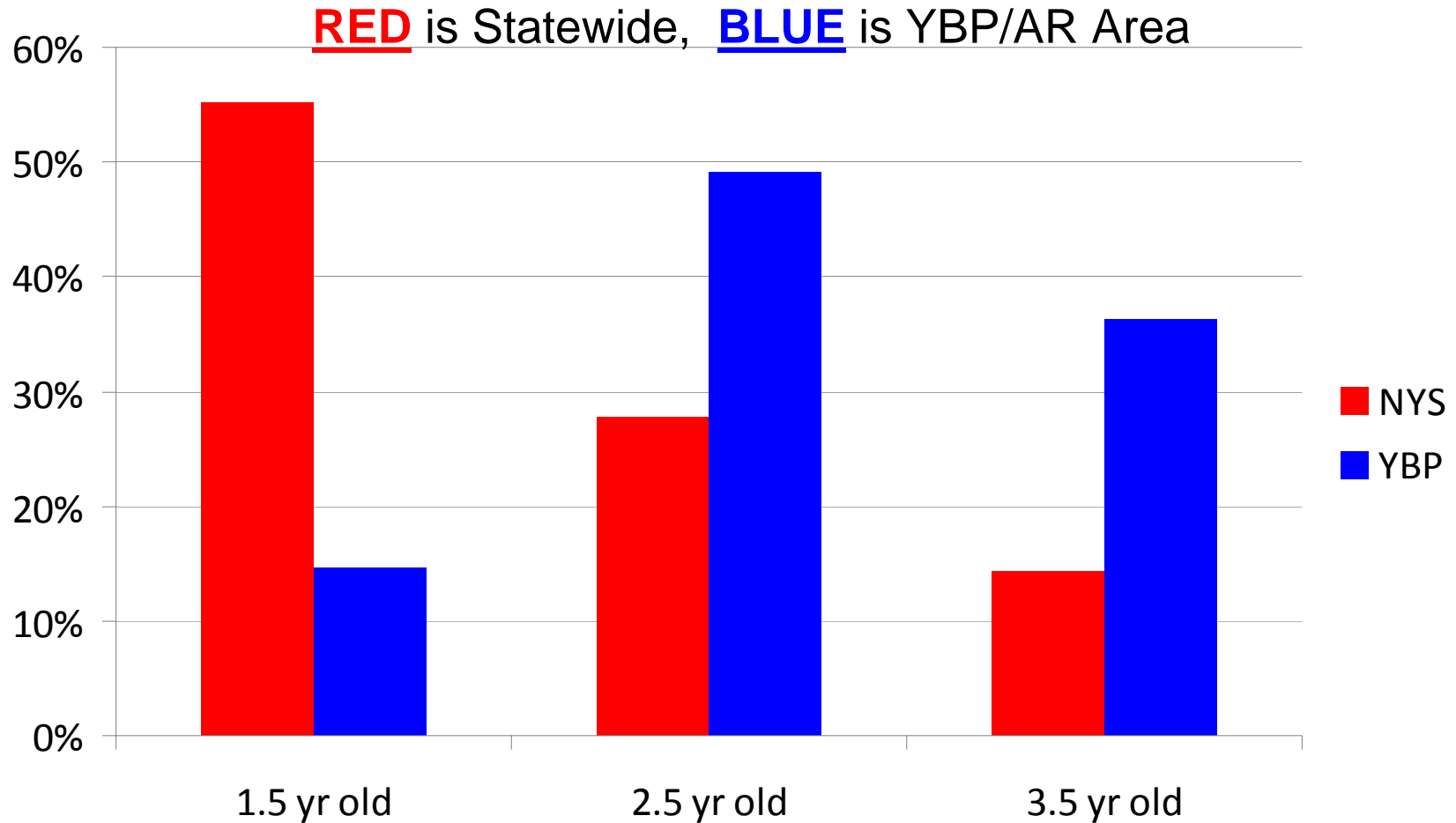
# Harvest Criteria

- Yearling Buck Protection with Antler Restrictions (YBP/AR): bucks must have at least 3 one inch points on one side. This was expected to protect 70% of the yearling bucks.
- The program was implemented in Ulster County Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 3J and 3C in 2005 and in Sullivan County in WMUs 3H and 3K in 2006.

# Goal Achieved: Change In Buck Harvest In YBP/AR Areas

- Juvenile yearling buck harvest dropped 80%
- In 2010, YBP/Antler Restriction area harvest consists of 86% adult 2.5+ bucks and only 14% yearlings
- 3.5 year old harvest up 258%
- Increased table meat due to older larger buck harvest

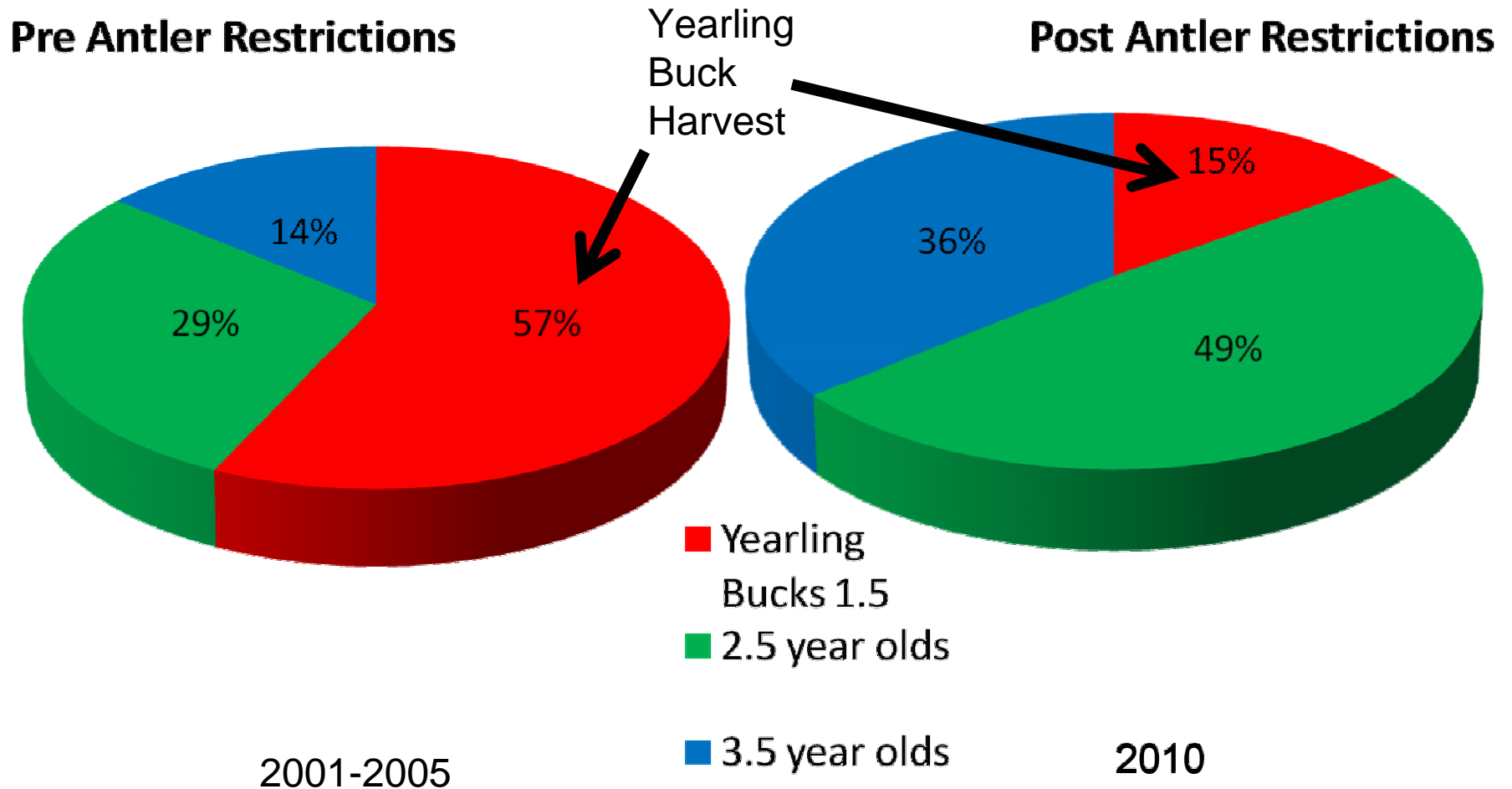
# Age of Bucks Harvested: NY Statewide vs. YBP/AR Area 2010



Source NYS DEC Harvest Data

# Five Years into the YBP/Antler Restrictions Program **85% of the Harvest is Adult Bucks**

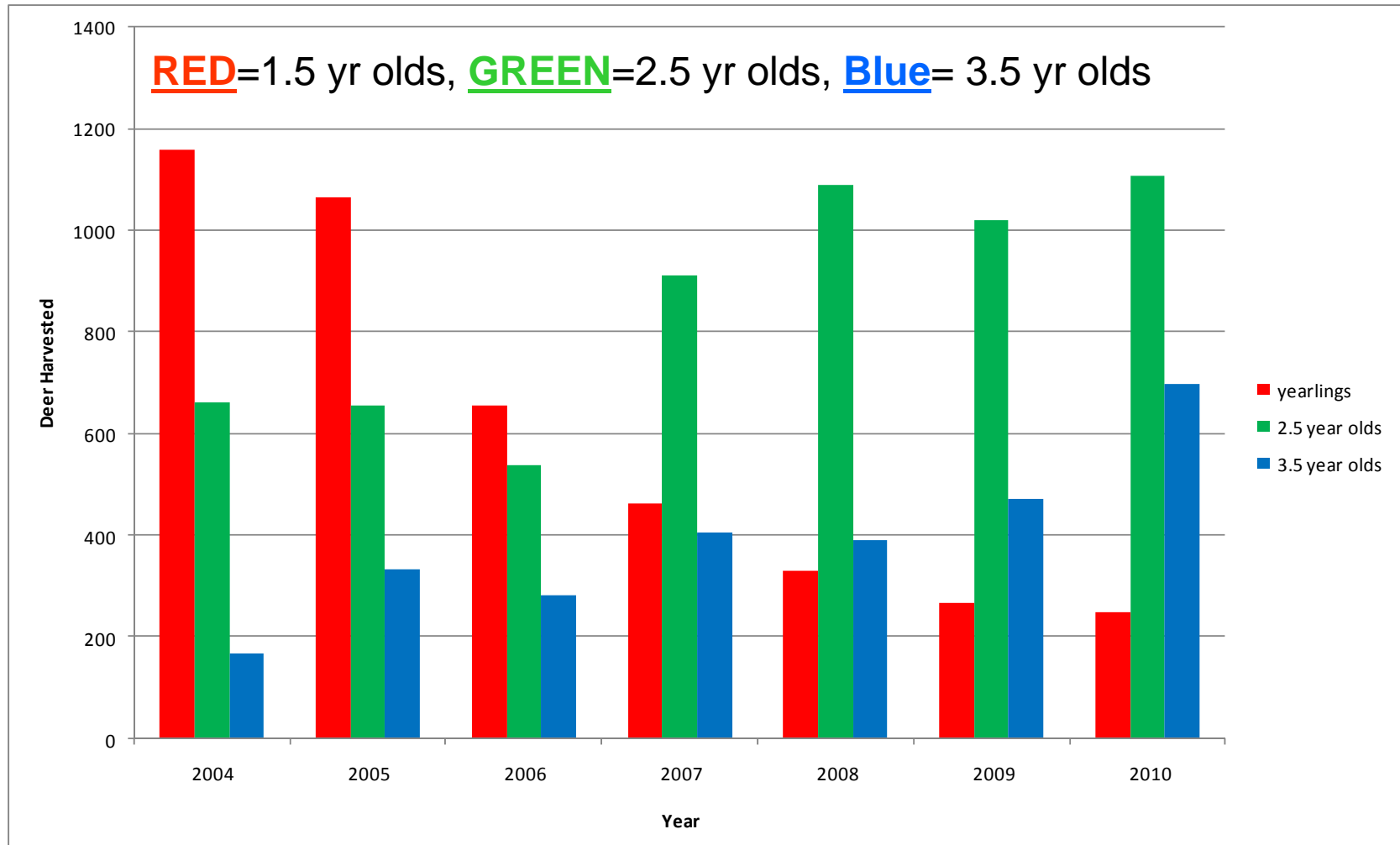
## Before and After



Source NYSDEC Harvest Data

# Number of Bucks Harvested 3H/3K

Adult 2.5 and 3.5 buck harvest continues a steady and dramatic rise



Source NYS DEC Harvest Report Data



# An additional benefit is the best bucks since the 1920s



This monster 18 point buck was taken with a bow in Ulster County, NY on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The 10-pointer had 18 scoreable points and grossed 173 B&C and aged at 3.5 years old. It is the largest buck taken in Ulster County since 1920. The second largest was taken in 2009.



This 10-point was taken in Sullivan county in scored 154, weighed 179 lbs, and was 3.5 years old, The biggest buck he has taken in 40 years of hunting. Won 2008 Big Buck Contest., It was the second largest buck taken in the Sullivan county since 1929.

# Sportsmen Support Continuing and Expanding YBP/ARs

- The federations of sportsmen from the two counties that currently have YBP/Antler Restrictions are seeking to continue and expand the YBP/Antler Restrictions
- Five Counties have proposed expanding the YBP/AR's in 2009, 2010 and 2011 into 7 new WMUs.
- NYSDEC Deer Management Plan, 2011 includes YBP/Antler Restrictions continuing in current units and expanding into 7 units beginning with 2012 hunting season. It also calls for developing a criteria to adopt YBP/Antler Restrictions in other parts of NY.

# Surveys Demonstrate Strong Support for YBP/ARs in NY

- NYSDEC March 2009 Survey found that a super majority, 67%, of those who go afield in the 8 proposed WMUs, supported YBP/AR.
- Cornell 2011 survey found continuing the YBP/ AR program acceptable to 77% to 90.5% of respondents
- Cornell Surveys found 57-59% of hunters statewide support YBP/ARs

# Summary

- Yearling Buck Protection with Antler Restrictions is achieving stated goals
- Hunters and the communities support the program and it's expansion
- Surrounding areas wish to join the program and majority of hunters statewide think Antler Restrictions are a good idea

# Conclusions

After 5 years, YBP/ARs are a success. They have greatly reduced yearling buck harvest and increased the buck age structure. They have maintained strong support from hunters who wish to continue and expand the program. Hunters are harvesting older bucks that provide more meat.

# Additional Information

Please Contact Us For Additional  
Information and Visit Our Website at

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