



No. 7: What possible advantage could stotting offer a mule deer?

Answer: Well, at first thought it might not seem like there is an advantage, especially considering it takes about 13 times more energy to lift the body up than the equivalent horizontal movement. Plus, while galloping is faster, it's not that much faster. The advantage to stotting is it allows mule deer to gain height to clear obstacles — such as brush and rocks — provides better views of the runway area ahead, makes tracking more difficult because it spaces hooves farther apart, provides an economical method of scaling high, sharp hilly inclines, and provides instantaneous and unpredictable directional changes. Stotting even allows mule deer the opportunity to quickly charge and strike potential predators, such as coyotes. Yes, indeed, “bouncy, bouncy” has its advantages.

No. 8: North Dakota has four members of the deer family: deer, moose, white-tailed deer and mule deer. Which of those four is the oldest of all members of the deer family in the Western Hemisphere?

Answer: White-tailed deer take top honors. It's not even close — according to “Mule Deer Country”, fossil records dating back 4 million years of white-tailed deer were found in southern North America.

No. 9: What is the predominant disease for white-tailed deer occurring in southwestern North Dakota?

Answer: EHD, epizootic hemorrhagic disease, is a viral disease transmitted by midges that can cause death in just a few days.

No. 10: What was the longest recorded movement of a white-tailed doe in North Dakota?

Answer: Yes, admittedly, this is another tough question. It's almost unfair to end on such a challenging note but the answer is 273.6 kilometers — about 170 miles.

Now go out there and enjoy North Dakota's unofficial state holiday, the deer gun season.