Youth hunters and their Wildlife Unlimited of Iron County hunting mentor/guides gather at Crystella Ski Hill for a luncheon and to share hunting stories. WU completed another successful hunting program with area youth during the 2012 Michigan Youth Hunt weekend of Sept. 22-23. After the first morning of hunting, there were four successful youth hunters. At the end of the weekend, 14 youths had bagged their deer. (WU photo) More youth hunt photos on this week's Outdoors page.

IRON COUNTY—Wildlife Unlimited of Iron County completed another successful hunting program with area youth during the 2012 Michigan Youth Hunt weekend of Sept. 22-23.

Twenty-six young hunters participated in Wildlife Unlimited's mentored youth hunting program. Youth were paired up with mentor/guides and set up across Iron County.

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They hunted over food plots on private property of which seven of the food plots were WU managed. These hunting areas were established in part through a grant a from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative with monies from the Deer Range Improvement Program.

Of the 26 youth that hunted, 14 were successful. Seven does and seven bucks were harvested, said Program Coordinator Scott Westphal.

Successful youth hunters included, with their WU mentors, McKenna Carlson with dad Kevin, Dakota Hawkes with Darin Long, Jayden Lundry with Dennis Vissering, Ryan Lohrey and Caleb Londre with Scott Westphal, Jacob Grant with Louise Noteboom, Lee Hedtke with Floyd Dropps, Kevin McKinnon with Ted Sammond, Trevor Heide with Craig Oberg, Eric Stine with Rick Commenator, Josh Sande with Diane Grondin, Alexis Jacks with Karen Sundell, Kaylee Gill with Larry Pifke and Robbie Ivey with Dave Painter.

Each of the youth's deer was processed at Sommers Sausage Shop in Crystal Falls with costs from the hunt handled by Wildlife Unlimited.