

2024 Female Youth Hunter of the Year

Caroline Ellerbe, 13 – Wisner, LA

This was my 2nd year to have buck fever, having no luck the previous year, I hunted every chance I got this year. It was a Monday evening and my last chance to hunt until the next weekend so my aunt Kalli and I went to a different stand trying to swap things up. As we were walking into the woods, my aunt Kalli whispered “us girls are going to show them how it’s done today”. When we got to the stand everything seemed to go wrong. The door screeched so loud and opened up to a thousand lady bugs and a few red wasps. We swatted at the wasps with a chip bag and I thought I’ll never see anything today. Finally, we got settled in the stand and about 10 minutes later 2 does walked out and I giggled and said “where’s your boyfriend” to my aunt. They only stayed in the lane a few minutes before walking off and no more than 5 minutes had passed and my aunt tapped me and whispered “there’s the boyfriend” and all I could see was horns. I was so excited and nervous my heart was pounding and everything on me was shaking. I put my 7mm08 out the window and started watching him through my scope, waiting for the perfect shot. When he finally stepped out just right, I pulled the trigger and dropped him right in his tracks! I thought my heart was going to beat out of my chest! We got down, retrieved and tagged my deer before having a whole photo shoot with my first set of horns. I harvested an 8pt weighing about 180lbs and if I wasn’t before, I can definitely say I’m hooked on hunting forever! Definitely a hunting trip I’ll never forget!