

# PRONGHORN

BY ELDON "BUCK" BUCKNER

The unique pronghorn, its population reduced to some 15,000 head in the early 1900s, is one of America's greatest conservation success stories. Now legally hunted in nearly every western state, it has become one of our most numerous game animals, second only to deer. For the pronghorn hunter, it is also one of the most difficult animals to judge in the field. Nearly always, the first-time successful pronghorn hunter finds the horns of his buck to be much smaller than they appeared to be when he made the shot.

The current B&C scoring system was adopted in 1950 and was first reflected in the 1952 B&C records book. There were 67 total pronghorn entries listed meeting the minimum score requirement of 70 points. In contrast, the latest 1999 book lists 1,443 entries with a score of 82 or more. Only 21 achieved that score in the 1952 book.

A pronghorn with heavy 14-inch horns and four-inch prongs will score about 70 points and is a trophy no one need be ashamed of. If, however, a trophy qualifying for the current B&C all-time records minimum of 82 is the hunter's goal, a buck with 15 to 16 inch horns, 6 to 7 inch bases, and 5 to 6 inch prongs must be found.

When guiding and hunting for pronghorn in several states over the past 36 years, I have used the following methods of evaluating the most critical features of trophy heads. Hunters who have attended the pronghorn hunting seminars where I have recommended these methods say they have worked well for them also.

### HORN LENGTH

Horns should appear to be much longer than the length of the pronghorn's head, measured from base of the ear to tip of nose.

### MAXIMUM VS. MINIMUM

A COMPARISON OF TWO RECORDS-BOOK PRONGHORN



**WORLD'S RECORD  
PRONGHORN  
SCORE: 95**

### TROPHY ANALYSIS

- Length, length, length – Right 19-3/8, Left 18-5/8
- Exceptional mass – bases and 1st Quarter over 7 inches with D-3s of 4-6/8 inches and 4-4/8 inches
- Strong prongs – 6-7/8 inches and 7 inches
- Only 1-6/8 inches symmetry deduction

**MINIMUM ENTRY PRONGHORN  
SCORE: 80**

### TROPHY ANALYSIS

- No significant weaknesses
- Slightly above average horn length – both measuring over 16 inches each
- Average prong length – both over 5 inches
- Average mass – bases both over 6 inches and third quarter measurements at 2-4/8 inches



This distance averages around 13 inches. Also check the horns against ear length. If the horns appear to be 2-1/2 to 3 times the ear length, which averages 6 inches, they are probably long enough. Remember, horns that have pronounced,

rounded curves inward with horn tips ending in downward hooks, may be half again as long as they appear to be, while straight horns with little hooks at the very tips will not yield much of a bonus.

## PRONGS

The prongs of most record-class buck will appear extremely large and will project from the horn at or above the level of the ear tips. Prongs are measured to the rear edge of the horn they project from, so a 6-inch prong will appear to extend about four inches from a heavy horn — or twice the width of the horn viewed from the side. A head with very high prongs may cause the third quarter circumference measurement to be taken below the prong instead of above it, which usually helps the score.

## HORN MASS

As four circumference

measurements are taken on each horn, it is obvious that heavy horns are a must for record-book pronghorn. The eyes of a pronghorn are located directly below the horn base, so they are a convenient feature to judge horn mass. As viewed from the side, the horn base should appear to be twice the width of the eye, which generally measures a little over 2 inches. This equates to horn base that measures 6 to 7 inches in circumference.

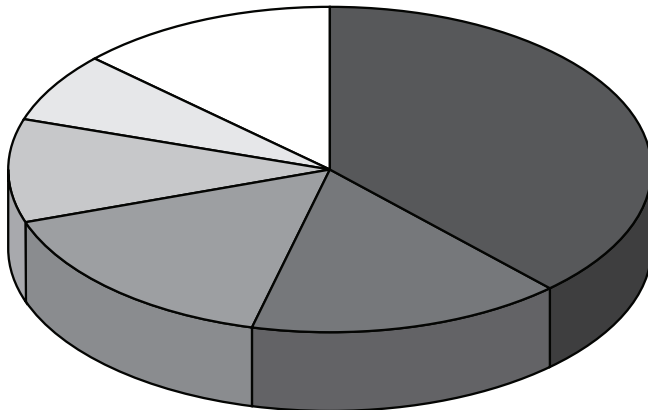
Pronghorn are usually found in open country and have exceptional vision. Therefore, good binoculars and a spotting scope are necessary to evaluate potential trophies at the distances required to avoid spooking them. Good optics and

careful use of them will save the hunter many needless stalks when searching for a record-class buck.

A major factor in pronghorn trophy quality is seasonal weather. While not directly related to field evaluation, it may be a factor in where you choose to hunt. Pronghorn shed their outer horn sheaths in the fall, leaving a bony core upon which regrowth of horn material soon begins. A mild winter coupled with a warm, wet spring, and early summer providing abundant feed can result in much larger horns than will a severe winter and drought conditions the next summer.

## PRONGHORN

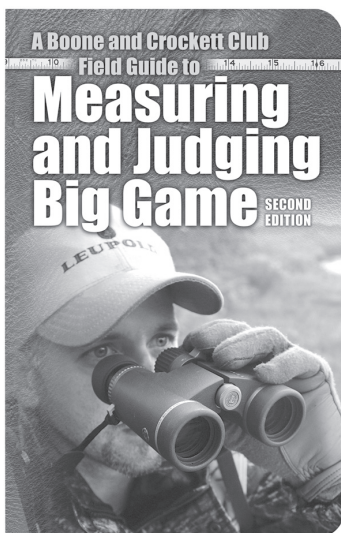
- Length of Horn
- Circumference of Base
- Circumference at first quarter
- Circumference at second quarter
- Circumference at third quarter
- Length of Prong



Average	Pronghorn	% Of Score
15.88	Length of Horn	38%
6.56	Circumference of Base	16%
6.64	Circumference at first quarter	16%
4.04	Circumference at second quarter	10%
2.63	Circumference at third quarter	7%
5.46	Length of Prong	13%
Average Final Score		83.45

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM THE BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB

### Boone and Crockett Club Field Guide to Measuring and Judging Big Game, 2nd Edition



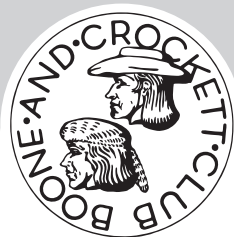
The definitive manual for anyone with a desire to learn the Boone and Crockett Club's world-famous big game measuring system is now available in this updated, convenient field guide that easily fits into backpacks.

Inside you will find detailed instructions on how to score each of the native North American big game categories recognized by the Club, including numerous illustrations to clearly demonstrate techniques for proper measurement. Also included in this field guide are techniques for evaluating and field judging the most popular species of North American big game.

#### Other important sections of the field guide include:

- A chapter on general measuring techniques for native North American big game
- Scoring instructions and scorecharts for all 38 categories of North American big game recognized by the Club
- Boundary descriptions for species such as elk, blacktail deer, grizzly and Alaska brown bear, whitetail, and caribou
- Table of the quarter locations for easy reference when measuring all big game categories with horns
- A chapter on understanding the dynamics of hunting and spotting optics.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ORDER VISIT  
WWW.BOONEANDCROCKETTCLUB.COM OR CALL 406-542-1888**

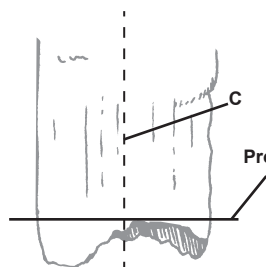


# BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB®

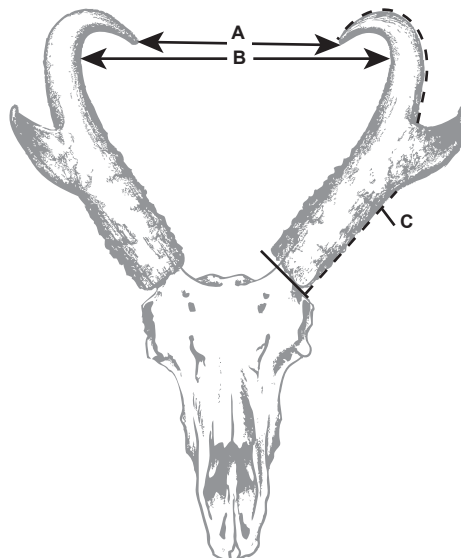
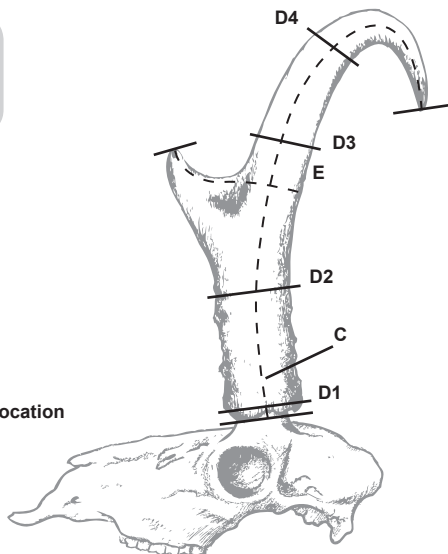
OFFICIAL SCORING SYSTEM FOR NORTH AMERICAN BIG GAME TROPHIES

## PRONGHORN

**MINIMUM SCORES**  
AWARDS ALL-TIME  
80 82



Proper D-1 Location



A & B DO NOT CALCULATE IN THE FINAL SCORE BUT ARE REQUIRED		SEE OTHER SIDE FOR SCORING INSTRUCTIONS		Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
A. Tip to Tip Spread				Right Horn	Left Horn	Difference
B. Inside Spread of Horns						
C. Length of Horn						
D-1. Circumference of Base						
D-2. Circumference at First Quarter		Location of First Quarter Circumference: _____				
D-3. Circumference at Second Quarter		Location of Second Quarter Circumference: _____				
D-4. Circumference at Third Quarter		Location of Third Quarter Circumference: _____				
E. Length of Prong						
TOTALS						
ADD TOGETHER:	Column 1		Exact Locality Where Killed:*	County: _____ State/Prov: _____		
	Column 2		Hunter (Legal Name):	Date Killed: _____		
	Subtotal		Trophy Owner (Legal Name):	Telephone #: _____		
SUBTRACT:	Column 3		Trophy Owner's Address:			
			Trophy Owner's Email:		Guide's Name:	
FINAL SCORE			Remarks (Mention Any Abnormalities or Unique Qualities):			
*Geographic location (lake, mountain, river, etc.) required for trophies taken in Canada. State is required for trophies taken in Mexico.						
At the time of official measurement, were the sheaths reattached to the cores by the use of some type of filler or adhesive? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						

I, \_\_\_\_\_, certify that I have measured this trophy on \_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT NAME MM/DD/YYYY

at \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS CITY STATE/PROVINCE

and that these measurements and data are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, made in accordance with the instructions given.

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
B&C OFFICIAL MEASURER

Boone and Crockett Club® Official Measurer I.D. Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: Boone and Crockett Club ■ 250 Station Drive, Missoula, MT 59801 ■ (406) 542-1888 ■ [www.booneandcrockettclub.com](http://www.booneandcrockettclub.com)

No part of this scoring system may be altered in any way. No part of this score chart may be altered or copied without express written permission from the Boone and Crockett Club. A score chart is not authenticated until signed and dated by a certified Boone and Crockett Club Official Measurer. No scores are official Boone and Crockett scores until verified and the trophy is accepted by the Boone and Crockett Club. All trophy entries into the Boone and Crockett Club's Awards Programs are subject to verification.

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## BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB® INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEASURING PRONGHORN

All measurements must be made with a 1/4-inch wide flexible steel tape to the nearest one-eighth of an inch. Enter fractional figures in eighths, without reduction. Official measurements cannot be taken until the horns have air dried at a habitable room temperature for at least 60 days after the animal was killed. The 60-day drying period for a trophy that has been frozen or boiled begins the day it is removed from the freezer, boiling pot, or submersion in any liquid.

- A. Tip to Tip Spread** is measured between tips of horns. **Tip to tip spread does not add into the final score.**
- B. Inside Spread of Horns** is measured at a right angle to the center line of the skull, at widest point between horns. **Inside spread does not add into the final score.**
- C. Length of Horn** is measured on the outside curve on the general line illustrated. The line taken will vary with different heads, depending on the direction of their curvature. Measure along the center of the outer curve from tip of horn to a point in line with the lowest edge of the base, using a straight edge to establish the line end.
- D-1. Circumference of Base** is measured at a right angle to axis of horn. Do not follow irregular edge of horn; the line of measurement must be entirely on horn material.
- D-2-3-4. Divide measurement C** of longer horn by four. Starting at base, mark both horns at these quarters (even though the other horn is shorter) and measure circumferences at these marks. If the prong interferes with D-2, move the measurement down to just below the swelling of the prong. If D-3 falls in the swelling of the prong, move the measurement up to just above the prong.
- E. Length of Prong:** Measure from the tip of the prong along the upper edge of the outer side to the horn; then continue around the horn to a point at the rear of the horn where a straight edge across the back of both horns touches the horn, with the latter part being at a right angle to the long axis of horn.

### BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB® MATERIALS RELEASE FORM FOR ALL NON-HUNTER-TAKEN TROPHIES

I certify by my signature that the information I have provided on this form is accurate and correct. I also understand that all my entry materials, including photographs, as well as any additional photographs taken by Boone and Crockett (our representatives or agents) during Awards Programs or Judges Panels, or likenesses rendered from these photographs become the property of the Boone and Crockett Club and may be used to promote the Club, and its records-keeping activities.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Trophy Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

### BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB® ENTRY AFFIDAVIT FOR ALL HUNTER-TAKEN TROPHIES

For the purpose of entry into the Boone and Crockett Club's® records, North American big game harvested by the use of the following methods or under the following conditions are ineligible:

- I. Spotting or herding game from the air, followed by landing in its vicinity for the purpose of pursuit and shooting;
- II. Herding or chasing with the aid of any motorized equipment;
- III. Use of electronic communication devices to guide hunters to game, artificial lighting, electronic light intensifying devices (night vision optics), sights with built-in electronic range-finding capabilities, thermal imaging equipment, electronic game calls or cameras/timers/motion tracking devices that transmit images and other information to the hunter;
- IV. Confined by artificial barriers, including escape-proof fenced enclosures;
- V. Transplanted for the purpose of commercial shooting;
- VI. By the use of traps or pharmaceuticals;
- VII. While swimming, helpless in deep snow, or helpless in any other natural or artificial medium;
- VIII. On another hunter's license;
- IX. Not in full compliance with the game laws or regulations of the federal government or of any state, province, territory, or tribal council on reservations or tribal lands;

I certify that the trophy scored on this chart was not taken in violation of the conditions listed above. In signing this statement, I understand that if the information provided on this entry is found to be misrepresented or fraudulent in any respect, it will not be accepted into the Awards Program and 1) all of my prior entries are subject to deletion from future editions of **Records of North American Big Game 2)** future entries may not be accepted. I also certify by my signature that the information I have provided on this form is accurate and correct. I also understand that all my entry materials, including photographs, as well as any additional photographs taken by Boone and Crockett (our representatives or agents) during Awards Programs or Judges Panels, or likenesses rendered from these photographs become the property of the Boone and Crockett Club and may be used to promote the Club, and its records-keeping activities. I also agree to make my trophy available for DNA analysis if deemed necessary by the Club to determine the proper entry category.

FAIR CHASE, as defined by the Boone and Crockett Club®, is the ethical, sportsmanlike and lawful pursuit and taking of any free-ranging wild, native North American big game animal in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper advantage over such game animals.

The Boone and Crockett Club® may exclude the entry of any animal that it deems to have been taken in an unethical manner or under conditions deemed inappropriate by the Club.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Hunter: \_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE MUST BE WITNESSED BY AN OFFICIAL MEASURER OR A NOTARY PUBLIC.)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Notary or Official Measurer: \_\_\_\_\_