



# 2012 FIREARM DEER HUNTING INFORMATION FOR COUNTIES TESTING FOR CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Your Firearm Deer Permit entitles you to participate in the privilege of deer hunting. Please review this information to assure that you comply with all of the firearm deer hunting regulations. While hunting please respect the rules of good sportsmanship and the property of others. Have a safe and successful deer hunt.

*And remember – **SAFE HUNTING IS NO ACCIDENT.***

## 2012 FIREARM DEER HUNTING SEASONS

**Youth Firearm:** October 6 & 7.

**Firearm:** A full season permit allows hunting November 16, 17 & 18 and November 29, 30 and December 1, 2. A second season only permit allows hunting November 29, 30 and December 1, 2.

**Muzzleloader Only:** December 7, 8 & 9. You may also use a muzzleloader permit with a muzzleloader during the second firearm season on November 29, 30 and December 1, 2.

**Permit:** Before hunting, you must sign your permit. Your deer permit shall be carried on your person while hunting.

**Hunting Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Persons hunting deer must have gun unloaded during hours when deer hunting is unlawful. Removal of percussion cap or removal of prime powder from frizzen pan with frizzen open and hammer all the way down or removal of prime powder from flashpan and wheel unwound or removal of prime powder and match with match not lit, or removal of the battery from the CVA electronic ignition muzzleloader, shall constitute an unloaded muzzleloading firearm.

**Legal Firearms:** You may use either a shotgun, muzzleloader or a handgun with a firearm permit. Shotguns must be not larger than 10 nor smaller than 20 gauge (a rifled barrel is legal), not capable of firing more than three consecutive slugs (buckshot or birdshot is illegal). Minimum barrel length is 18 inches.

A muzzleloading firearm is defined as a firearm that is incapable of being loaded from the breech end.

**Muzzleloaders:** a single or double barreled muzzleloading firearm of at least .45 caliber shooting a single projectile through a barrel of at least sixteen inches in length; must be percussion cap (a shotgun primer is a legal percussion cap), wheellock, matchlock or flint type ignitions only, except the Connecticut Valley Arms (CVA) electronic ignition shall be legal to use and only use black powder or a "black powder substitute" such as Pyrodex. Modern smokeless powders (nitrocellulose-based) are an approved blackpowder substitute only in muzzleloading firearms that are specifically designed for their use.

**Handguns:** The only legal handguns are centerfire revolvers or centerfire single-shot handguns of .30 caliber or larger with a minimum barrel length of 4 inches. It shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take white-tailed deer by the use of semiautomatic handguns, muzzleloading handguns, or handguns altered to allow for shoulder firing.

The only legal ammunition for a centerfire handgun is (1) a bottleneck centerfire cartridge of .30 caliber or larger with a case length not exceeding 1.4 inches, or (2) a straightwalled centerfire cartridge of .30 caliber or larger, with no minimum case length; both of which must be available with the published ballistic tables of the manufacturer showing a capability of at least 500 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle.

Non-expanding, military-style full metal jacket bullets cannot be used to harvest white-tailed deer; only soft point or expanding bullets (including copper/copper alloy rounds designed for hunting) are legal ammunition.

**Clothing:** Any person attempting to take or taking deer by use of a firearm shall wear, when in the field, a cap and upper outer garment of solid blaze orange color, displaying a minimum of 400 square inches of blaze orange material.

**Hunting Area:** The specific county or hunt area for which the permit is issued. Permission to hunt on private property must be obtained from the property owner or tenant.

Property Only Hunting Permit Holders: All of the land owned, leased or rented in the counties open for deer hunting. A hunting rights lease, or other non-agricultural lease, is not valid as a

basis for obtaining a property only hunting permit. UNFILLED property only hunting firearm deer permits are valid during the muzzleloader-only season (with a muzzleloading rifle) and the late-winter antlerless-only firearm season (if open in that county).

*Special Note:* Any unfilled firearm, muzzleloader or youth permits except special hunt area permits that were valid during the previous firearm, muzzleloader-only or youth seasons are valid during the CWD special season (if open in that county).

**Bag Limit:** One deer per legally authorized permit. All either-sex permits are subject to the following restriction: no hunter, regardless of the quantity or type of permits in his/her possession, may harvest more than 2 antlered deer during a year, including the youth, archery, muzzleloader and firearm seasons. For purposes of this bag limit, deer seasons are considered to be in the same year if their opening dates fall within the same 12-month period that begins July 1. A hunter in possession of an either-sex permit after having harvested 2 antlered deer during a year may only use the permit to harvest an antlerless deer. Subject to this restriction, an either-sex permit holder is allowed to take a deer with or without antlers during the legal firearm season.

An antlerless-only permit holder is allowed to take only a deer without antlers or a deer having antlers less than 3 inches long during the legal season. It is unlawful for any person having taken the legal limit of deer by firearm to further participate with a firearm in any deer hunting party. Refer to the back of your deer permit for detailed instructions on tagging your deer.

- Hunters shall not have in their possession, while in the field during deer season, any deer permit issued to another person.
- It is illegal to use salt, corn or any other kind of bait. An area is considered as baited during the presence of and for 10 consecutive days following the removal of bait. **NOTE:** Feeding deer is also illegal, although there are certain exemptions such as food plots. Consult the hunting digest for more complete information.
- In those counties where deer hunting is permitted, it is unlawful to hunt or trap any species protected by the Wildlife Code, except migratory waterfowl, unless the blaze orange clothing required for deer hunters is worn during the firearm deer seasons.
- No person may have in his possession any firearm not authorized by administrative rule for a specific hunting season when taking deer.
- Permits will not be reissued in circumstances involving deer that are found to be diseased or infected from old injuries to the point that the meat is inedible. Legal disposal of unfit deer taken shall be the responsibility of the hunter.
- It is unlawful to possess a rifle in the field during gun deer season EXCEPT muzzleloading rifles used by deer hunters only.
- It is unlawful to take or attempt to take deer:
  - a. in excess of the legal limit.
  - b. during closed season.
  - c. by use of dogs\*, horses, automobiles, aircraft, boats or other vehicles.

*\* This does not prohibit the use of a dog to track wounded deer.*

  - d. without first obtaining a valid "deer permit" in accordance with prescribed regulations.
- Totally white white-tailed deer are protected by Illinois Law and are illegal to kill.
- It is unlawful to drive deer, or participate in a deer drive, on all Department owned or managed properties. A deer drive is defined as a deliberate action by one or more persons (whether armed or unarmed) whose intent is to cause deer to move within firearm range of one or more participating hunters.

# 2012 FIREARM DEER CHECK STATIONS IN CWD-TESTING COUNTIES

Refer to the back of your deer permit for detailed instructions on tagging your deer.

Testing of deer for Chronic Wasting Disease by IDNR personnel will occur in:

- 1) counties where deer have been documented with the disease.
- 2) counties considered high-risk for the disease, and/or
- 3) counties in which additional surveillance is warranted.

In the following counties, hunters shall take their whole (or field dressed) deer to a designated firearm deer check station by 8:00 p.m. of the day the deer was killed. A permanent harvest tag will be attached to the leg of the deer upon registration at the check station. If a hunter is not able to locate a harvested deer in sufficient time to enable checking the deer by 8:00 p.m., the hunter must take the deer to the appropriate check station upon its opening at 8:00 a.m. the following morning, or immediately upon retrieving it if that occurs later than the opening of the check station. If this situation occurs on a Sunday (e.g. the check station will not be

open on Monday), the hunter must contact the appropriate regional DNR Law Enforcement Office by 10:00 a.m. Monday morning for instructions on checking in the deer. If the head/antlers are delivered to a taxidermist for processing, the temporary harvest tag must accompany them and be kept with the head/antlers while at the taxidermist. If the carcass is taken to a meat processor, the permanent harvest tag must remain attached to the leg of the deer until it is processed, then must remain with the processed deer until it is at the legal residence of the person who legally took or possessed the deer. Persons delivering deer/parts of deer to a tanner for processing must supply the tanner with their deer permit number to verify lawful acquisition. In the absence of a permit number, the tanner may rely on the written certification of the person from whom the deer was received that the specimen was legally taken or obtained.

Changes in check station locations will be publicly announced.		
Boone	Boone Co. Fairgrounds	1/2 mi. N. of Rt. 76 and Bus. Rt. 20, Belvidere
DeKalb	Shabbona Lake State Park	4201 Shabbona Grove Rd., Shabbona
Grundy	Gebhard Woods State Park	401 Ottawa St., Morris
JoDaviess	Elizabeth Community Bldg.	210 N. West St., Elizabeth 1/2 mi. W. of business district on Hwy. 20, next to Highland C.C. Elizabeth campus
LaSalle	Buffalo Rock State Park	3 mi. W. of Ottawa on Dee Bennett Rd.
Kane	Shabbona Lake S.P. (DeKalb Co.)	4201 Shabbona Grove Rd., Shabbona
McHenry	Moraine Hills State Park McHenry Dam Day Use Area	E. of McHenry on River Rd., 2.2 mi. S. of Rt. 120
Ogle	Castle Rock State Park	Rt. 2, 3 mi. S. of Oregon
Stephenson	County Fairgrounds	1 mi. E. of Rt. 26 and Fairgrounds Rd., Freeport
Winnebago	Rock Cut State Park	Loves Park, Rt. 173 entrance

**License:** In addition to your deer permit, you must have a valid Illinois Hunting, Sportsmen's or Apprentice License unless you are:

- A person who is disabled and able to show proof of disability in the form of one of the following:
  - a. A State disabled person I.D. card (available from the Secretary of State through the drivers license examining station) showing a P2, P2A, H2 or H2A disability.
  - b. Veterans disability card (at least 10% service related); available from local Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs offices.
- An Illinois resident on active duty and on leave from the U.S. Armed Forces.
- A landowner or tenant residing on farm lands, or the children, parents, brothers and sisters permanently residing on such lands, and hunting only the lands resided on.

## ILLINOIS LAW REQUIRES NON-RESIDENTS TO HAVE A NON-RESIDENT HUNTING LICENSE IN ADDITION TO A PERMIT AND HABITAT STAMP.

Licenses/stamps are available at DNR Direct Automated License System agents, by phone at 1-888-6Permit or [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov).

**Habitat Stamp:** Before any person 16 years of age or older takes, attempts to take, or pursues a deer, he or she shall first obtain a State Habitat Stamp. Disabled veterans and former prisoners of war shall not be required to obtain State Habitat Stamps. Any person who obtained a Lifetime license before January 1, 1993, shall not be required to obtain a State Habitat Stamp.

**FIREARM OWNERS I.D. CARD (Issued by Illinois State Police):** Regardless of who owns the gun, anyone who has a firearm, including muzzleloaders, or firearm ammunition in their possession must have in their possession a valid Firearm Owners' I.D. (F.O.I.D.) Card unless he or she is: a) A licensed out-of-state-sportsman hunting in Illinois, or b) Under the age of 21 and under the immediate control of a parent, guardian, or responsible adult who has in their possession a valid F.O.I.D. Card. FOID Card Information 217-782-7980.

**ILLINOIS** This is only a guide to the highlights of the rules and regulations governing deer hunting. More complete information is available from the Department of Natural Resources Regional Offices, Wildlife Resources, Law Enforcement Office or the Permit Office.



Region I – Sterling, 815-625-2968; Region II – Bartlett 847-608-3100; Region III – Clinton, 217-935-6860; Region IV – Alton, 618-462-1181; Region V – Benton, 618-435-8138; Chicago, 312-814-2070; Springfield – Permit Office, 217-782-7305; Hunter Safety Education Classes, 1-800-832-2599. IDNR information is available to the hearing impaired by calling DNR's TTY: 217-782-9175. IDNR Website: [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)

Violations of the provisions of Title 17, Chapter 1, Subchapter b, Parts 650, 660 & 670, of the Illinois Administrative Code, or Chapter 520, Illinois Compiled Statutes, in addition to other penalties, may result in deer hunting privileges being suspended.