



Youth Turkey Hunting

Just the Facts!!!

The Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP) was launched in 2011 as a way to open up private land for public recreational uses. Included in this program is a youth (under 16) turkey hunting program to give kids the opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy the hunting opportunities we all enjoyed growing up.

Seasons and Access

- Three turkey seasons are being targeted for youth hunters:
 1. Youth Turkey Season (Mar 31-Apr1, 2012 South: April 7-8, 2012 North)
 - Hunters will be allowed access the seven days before the season for scouting purposes.
 2. Turkey Season 3 (April 20-25, 2012 South: April 27-May2, 2012 North)
 - Hunters will be allowed access the day before the season begins for scouting purposes.
 3. Turkey Season 4 (April 26-May 2, 2012 South: May 3-9, 2012 North)
 - Hunters will be allowed access the day before the season begins for scouting purposes.
- Number of hunt sites to be determined by the IRAP Coordinator based on the available habitat as well as access points to the property.
- Each hunt site will only have two people, the youth turkey hunter and the adult guardian.
- Seasons 1, 2, 5, are not eligible to be enrolled into the program. These seasons remain available for the landowners use.
- Youth hunter applies for a specific county in which they would like to hunt. Hunters will be notified of their draw site 7 days prior to the designated hunting season.
- The youth hunter and adult guardian must obtain all necessary permits and licenses as outlined in the IL Digest of Hunting/Trapping Regs.
- IRAP signs will be placed at designated parking areas and the property boundaries will be marked using additional signage and purple paint (new no trespassing law).



Habitat and Incentives

- Landowners who enroll into the program for 3 years become eligible for a wildlife management plan to be established or have an existing plan updated for their property, focusing on forest management.
- Forest management plan will be written to the standards of the EQIP. Management plans will address invasive species, opening of the canopy, natural oak/hickory forest regeneration, etc.
- With the 3 year agreement, IRAP can assist the landowner with project funding to cover management practice implementation.
- Landowners will also receive a stipend for each turkey season that they allow access (Amount based on the acreage offered for the program).

Insurance and Other Information

- Each IRAP participant is required to sign a liability waiver at the time when they apply for the youth turkey hunt.
- Liability for hunting activities on state leased land is covered under the State of Illinois Recreational Use of Leased Land Act, 745 ILCS 67.
- In addition landowners may purchase insurance on their property through IRAP and be reimbursed for their expense (\$2 million liability).
- Landowners may withdraw from the program at any time during the year with a 30 day written notice.
- IRAP payments to landowners will be made in December following the approved activities for the preceding year.
- At times, there could be the possibility that IRAP leased property may not have an assigned hunter use the property (more properties enrolled in the program than hunters that registered for the lottery in any given county).



For Additional Information Please Contact:

Bob Caveny
Illinois Recreational Access Program Coordinator
One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271
Office: 1-217-782-5719 Cell: 1-217-556-0236
bob.caveny@illinois.gov