



2011-12 LATE-WINTER FIREARM ANTLERLESS-ONLY DEER HUNTING INFORMATION

Your Late-Winter Firearm Antlerless-Only Deer Permit entitles you to participate in the privilege of wild deer hunting. Please review this information to assure that you comply with all of the late-winter antlerless-only deer hunting regulations. While hunting, please respect the rules of good sportsmanship and the property of others. Have a safe and successful hunt.

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

“Late-Winter Firearm Deer Permits are antlerless-only because the late-winter firearm season is being implemented to harvest surplus deer and the best way to reduce deer numbers is to harvest does.”

ATTENTION HUNTERS: Deer Check-In System on-line at www.dnr.illinois.gov, or call toll-free 1-866-IL-CHECK

Attention Cell Phone Users: The most common reason hunters are unable to complete their harvest reporting is because of a poor cell phone connection. Once you have properly tagged your deer, you have until 10 p.m. on the day of harvest to report. Wait until you are out of the woods and receive a clear, strong cell phone connection before placing your call. Successful deer hunters must report their harvest using our automated check-in system. They may choose to report harvest on-line at www.dnr.illinois.gov, or by telephone (toll-free) at **1-866-452-4325 (1-866-IL-CHECK)**. For your convenience, this number is also printed on the front of your deer permit. Immediately upon kill and before the deer is moved, transported or field dressed the hunter must cut out the designated notch on the leg tag to invalidate it, and the tag shall be attached and properly sealed. Hunters must check in their harvest via telephone by 10 p.m. on the day of kill. The deer must remain whole (or field dressed) until it has been checked in. When checking in their deer, hunters will be asked to provide a variety of information to assist biologists in managing Illinois' deer population. Please look over the questions listed on the back of your permit prior to making the call, and be prepared to answer them when asked. After providing all of the information, hunters will be given a 10-character confirmation number to verify that they checked in their harvest. The confirmation number must be written onto the leg tag in the appropriate boxes, so please have a pencil or pen handy when making the call (an extra-fine tipped permanent marker works best). If the condition of the tag precludes writing on the tag in the appropriate space (i.e., bloody, etc.), the confirmation number shall be written elsewhere on the tag, or onto a piece of paper and attached to the deer along with the temporary harvest tag. The leg tag and confirmation number must remain attached to the deer until it is at the legal residence of the person who legally took or possessed the deer, the deer has been checked in, and final processing is completed.

In instances where deer are checked in while the hunter is still afield, the deer may not be dismembered while afield beyond quartering the animal. If quartered, all parts of the carcass (except the entrails removed during field dressing) must be transported together and evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the carcass. Evidence of sex is:

- A) for a buck: head with antlers attached to carcass, or attached testicle, scrotum, or penis,
- B) for a doe: head attached to carcass, or attached udder (mammary) or vulva.

If the head/antlers are delivered to a taxidermist for processing, the confirmation number must be recorded on the “head tag” portion of the permit and both must remain with the deer while at the taxidermist's. If the carcass is taken to a meat processor, the temporary harvest tag (leg tag) with confirmation number must remain with the deer while it is processed, and 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 either their deer permit number, their confirmation number, or written certification by the person from whom the deer was received that the specimen was legally taken or obtained.

The primary purpose of registering deer harvest is to gather biological information necessary for proper management. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is committed to gathering this information.

2011-12 LATE-WINTER FIREARM DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS

- Season:** December 29-January 1 & January 13-15.
- Permit:** Before hunting, you must sign your permit. Your deer permit shall be carried on your person while hunting. Illinois resident hunters must have a current, valid Late-Winter Deer Season Permit, or an unfilled deer permit valid for the previous firearm, muzzleloader or youth deer season and valid for one of the open counties. Non-resident hunters must have an unfilled firearm or muzzleloader deer permit valid for the previous firearm or muzzleloader deer season and valid for one of the open counties. A Late-Winter Deer Season Permit is issued for one county or special hunt area and is valid only in the county or special hunt area stated on the permit. Unfilled firearm, muzzleloader or youth deer permits are valid only for the county for which they were originally issued, except that unfilled landowner property-only hunting firearm deer permits are valid only for the farmlands that the person to whom it was issued owns, leases, or rents within the open counties/portions of counties. Unfilled firearm, muzzleloader or youth deer permits that were originally issued for special hunt areas are not valid during the Late-Winter Deer Season unless: A) the hunter's name is redrawn at the daily site lottery to hunt at the same special hunt area during the Late Winter Season, or B) the special hunt area is open to persons with a county permit and the special hunt area does not conduct a daily site lottery. Sites conducting a daily site lottery will be announced publicly.
- 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 late-winter firearm permit. **YOUTH HUNTERS USING UNFILLED YOUTH DEER PERMITS**

MAY ONLY USE SHOTGUNS OR MUZZLELOADERS. 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 rifle of at least .45 caliber shooting a single projectile through a barrel of at least sixteen inches in length; must be 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.

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 and single-shot muzzleloading handguns (blackpowder handguns that are incapable of being loaded from the breech end) of .50 caliber or larger capable of producing at least 500 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle according to published ballistic tables of the manufacturer. It shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take white-tailed deer by the use of semi-automatic 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 straight-walled centerfire cartridge of .30 caliber or larger; 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. Single-shot muzzleloading handguns must use a projectile of .44 caliber or larger with sufficient blackpowder or “blackpowder substitute” (such as Pyrodex) to produce at least 500 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle. A wad or sleeve is not considered a projectile or part of a projectile.

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.

Hunting Area: The specific county for which the permit is issued. Permission to hunt on private property must be obtained from the property owner or tenant. The following sites are open to hunters with Late Winter Deer permits issued for the county that the site is located in. Unfilled county (where site is located) or site specific firearm, muzzleloader or youth deer permits are also valid for the sites listed below.

Adams — Mississippi River Pools 21 & 22
Brown — Weinberg-King SP – Spunky Bottoms; Siloam Springs/Buckhorn Unit
Bureau — Miller Anderson Woods (Bureau portion only)
Calhoun — Mississippi River Pool 25 & 26
Carroll — Mississippi River Pool 13
Clinton — Carlyle Lake – East Fork Unit, Eldon Hazlet SP (North side of Allen Branch)
Crawford — Crawford County SWA
Effingham — Wildcat Hollow SHA
Fayette — Carlyle Lake SFWA
Hamilton — Hamilton County SFWA
Hamilton and Jefferson — Ten Mile Creek SFWA
Henderson — Big River SF, Mississippi River Pool 18
Jefferson — Rend Lake SFWA & Rend Lake C.O.E. property
Jersey — Copperhead Hollow SFWA, Pere Marquette (Open Area), Mississippi River SFWA (Pools 25 & 26 in Jersey County)
Johnson — Deer Pond SNA, Ferne Clyffe SP, Skinner Farm, Cache River (Johnson portion only), Wise Ridge SNA
Johnson and Union — Cypress Creek NWR, Cypress Pond SNA
Knox — Spoon River SF
Lawrence — Chauncey Marsh
Lee — Green River SWA
Marshall and Peoria — Marshall SFWA
McDonough — Argyle Lake SP
Mercer — Mississippi River Pool 17
Perry — Pyramid SP (Captain, Denmark & “Old Park” units only)
Pike — Mississippi River Pools 22 & 24, Ray Norbut SFWA
Putnam — George S. Park SNA, Miller Anderson Woods (Putnam portion only)
Randolph — Fort deChartes SHS, Turkey Bluffs SFWA
Randolph, St. Clair, Monroe — Kaskaskia River SFWA
Rock Island — Mississippi River Pool 16
Saline — Saline County SFWA
Schuyler — Weinberg-King SP, Weinberg-King SP/Scripps Unit
Tazewell — Mackinaw River SFWA
Union — Trail of Tears SF, Devil’s Island SFWA (Union portion only), Giant City SP (Union portion only)
Vermilion — Harry “Babe” Woodyard SNA, Kickapoo SP, Middle Fork SFWA
Whiteside — Mississippi River Pool 14

Bag Limit: (per legally authorized permit) Regardless of permits in possession (either-sex or antlerless-only) only ANTLERLESS deer may be harvested. An antlerless deer is defined as a deer without antlers or a deer having antlers less than 3 inches long during the late-winter firearm season.

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

- It is unlawful:
 - a) to possess a rifle in the field during gun deer season EXCEPT muzzleloading rifles used by deer hunters only. No person may have in his possession any firearm not authorized by administrative rule for a specific hunting season when taking deer.
 - b) for any person having taken the legal limit of deer by firearm to further participate with a firearm in any deer hunting party.
 - c) 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.
- Hunters shall not have in their possession, while in the field during deer season, any deer permit issued to another person.

- Totally white white-tailed deer are protected by Illinois Law and are illegal to kill.
- It is illegal to feed or bait deer by use of corn, salt, or any other food or mineral, at any time in Illinois.
- In those counties where deer hunting is permitted, it is unlawful to hunt any species protected by the Wildlife Code, except migratory waterfowl, unless the blaze orange clothing required for deer hunters is worn during the late-winter firearm deer season.
- 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. Disposal of unfit deer taken shall be the responsibility of the hunter.
- 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. Any person using a dog for tracking wounded deer must maintain physical control of the dog at all times by means of a maximum 50 foot lead attached to the dog’s collar or harness. Tracking wounded deer is permissible at night, but at no time outside of legal deer hunting hours or seasons shall any person handling or accompanying a dog being used for tracking wounded deer be in possession of any firearm or archery device. Persons tracking wounded deer with a dog during the firearm deer seasons shall wear blaze orange as required. Dog handlers tracking wounded deer with a dog are exempt from hunting license and deer permit requirements so long as they are accompanied by the licensed deer hunter who wounded the deer.
 - d) without first obtaining a valid “deer permit” in accordance with prescribed regulations.
- Violations of the provisions of Title 17, Chapter 1, Subchapter b, Part 680 of the Illinois Administrative Code, or Chapter 520, Illinois Compiled Statutes, in addition to other penalties, may result in deer hunting privileges being revoked.

LICENSE: In addition to your deer permit, you must have a valid Illinois Hunting, Sportsman’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.

HABITAT STAMP: Before any person 16 years of age or older takes, attempts to take, or pursues any species of wildlife protected by the Wildlife Code, except migratory waterfowl, coots, and hand-reared birds on licensed game breeding and hunting preserve areas and state controlled pheasant hunting areas, 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 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,
- 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.

F.O.I.D. Card information 217-782-7980.

This information is only a guide to the highlights of the rules and regulations governing turkey hunting. More complete information is available from 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.illinois.dnr.gov

 Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source’s civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, 217-785-0067; TTY 217-782-9175. This information may be provided in an alternative format if required. Contact the DNR Clearinghouse at 217-782-7498 for assistance.