



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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Firearm Deer Season Preliminary Harvest Totals 74,191

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Firearm deer hunters in Illinois took a preliminary total of 74,191 deer during the seven-day firearm deer season on Nov. 22-24 and Dec. 5-8, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) announced today. This year’s preliminary firearm season harvest total compares with the 99,546 deer taken during the 2012 firearm season.

The preliminary second-season (Dec. 5-8) harvest total was 18,483, compared with the 27,213 deer taken by hunters during the second segment of the season last year. This year’s preliminary first-season (Nov. 22-24) deer harvest was 55,708, compared with a first-season harvest of 72,111 in 2012. The preliminary harvest totals include deer taken in all counties in which firearm deer hunting is permitted, as well as at Chain O’Lakes State Park in Lake County.

During the second segment of the firearm season (Dec. 5-8), opening day saw falling temperatures and gusty winds throughout the state, and southern Illinois saw rain/freezing rain turning to snow that continued through Friday with substantial accumulations. Frigid temperatures persisted Friday and Saturday, with single-digit lows throughout the state on Saturday and highs that reached 20 degrees only in the south. Temperatures increased slightly on Sunday, with snow falling through much of the day in northern Illinois. Windy conditions prevailed throughout much of the season.

“Clearly this year’s preliminary firearm harvest numbers are below previous seasons, and while bad weather conditions throughout the state played a role, it cannot be the only factor. Once all deer seasons are complete, our biologists will evaluate deer management goals on a county-by-county basis to achieve stability in our deer herd,” said IDNR Director Marc Miller.

Beginning in 2008, the IDNR adopted deer herd management goals based on recommendations of the General Assembly’s Joint Task Force on Deer Population Control. Those recommendations called for a 14 percent reduction statewide (from peak levels) in the rate of automobile accidents with deer. Many counties have met their goal, and other counties are close to meeting this directive.

The reduction in county deer populations, combined in some instances with localized effects of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) outbreaks in the deer herd and less than optimal hunting conditions, have resulted in a lower firearm deer harvest than in previous years. In the coming months, IDNR biologists will examine available data for each county, including hunter surveys and comments received during open house forums this past spring to determine where adjustments in deer management will be made for the coming year.

Continuing and upcoming deer hunting opportunities in Illinois include:

- The Archery Deer Season, continuing through Jan. 19, 2014;
- The three-day Illinois Muzzleloader-only Deer Season is this week, on Dec. 13-15, 2013;
- The seven-day split Late-Winter Firearm Antlerless-only Deer Season and Special CWD Deer Season are Dec. 26-29, 2013 and Jan. 17-19, 2014.

For detailed information on the Late-Winter and CWD deer seasons, including information sheets listing open counties and permit limits, check the IDNR website at this link: www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/deer. Note that Greene County was closed to the Late-Winter Season this year.

The counties with the highest preliminary harvest totals for deer taken during the seven-day firearm season were Pike (2,269), Jackson (1,931), Fulton (1,886), Jo Daviess (1,870), Randolph (1,786), and Adams (1,783).

The table below includes preliminary county harvest totals for the first and second portions of the 2013 firearm deer season.

County	1st Season 2013	2nd Season 2013	2013 Total	2012 Total
Adams	1393	390	1783	2538
Alexander	319	156	475	453
Bond	427	135	562	754
Boone	49	25	74	145
Brown	734	274	1008	1409
Bureau	730	253	983	1402
Calhoun	532	258	790	990
Carroll	597	230	827	1151
Cass	421	185	606	816
Champaign	147	77	224	342
Christian	401	134	535	664
Clark	725	279	1004	1323
Clay	659	204	863	1219

Clinton	420	125	545	755
Coles	355	96	451	670
Crawford	632	174	806	1168
Cumberland	444	147	591	934
DeKalb	100	35	135	196
DeWitt	202	109	311	469
Douglas	108	35	143	193
Edgar	453	195	648	843
Edwards	269	70	339	431
Effingham	517	150	667	935
Fayette	1067	326	1393	1723
Ford	70	26	96	136
Franklin	853	220	1073	1310
Fulton	1409	477	1886	2816
Gallatin	323	114	437	516
Greene	763	336	1099	1351
Grundy	237	112	349	468
Hamilton	778	197	975	1189
Hancock	1183	401	1584	2074
Hardin	719	212	931	1027
Henderson	374	141	515	634
Henry	458	179	637	848
Iroquois	413	214	627	828
Jackson	1526	405	1931	2219
Jasper	658	177	835	1160
Jefferson	1340	348	1688	2183
Jersey	479	171	650	932
JoDaviess	1356	514	1870	2518
Johnson	1134	248	1382	1719
Kane	23	12	35	55
Kankakee	106	94	200	248
Kendall	56	22	78	114
Knox	750	269	1019	1606
Lake	3	0	3	8
LaSalle	588	214	802	1209
Lawrence	341	125	466	591
Lee	385	166	551	784
Livingston	306	108	414	613
Logan	251	83	334	491
Macon	159	85	244	329
Macoupin	890	332	1222	1815

Madison	502	153	655	924
Marion	1007	323	1330	1773
Marshall	424	146	570	777
Mason	318	110	428	621
Massac	422	128	550	701
McDonough	569	218	787	1074
McHenry	168	104	272	418
McLean	427	138	565	784
Menard	211	111	322	469
Mercer	565	185	750	1019
Monroe	645	166	811	1011
Montgomery	656	175	831	1047
Morgan	543	224	767	975
Moultrie	138	52	190	302
Ogle	632	245	877	1126
Peoria	689	225	914	1490
Perry	832	200	1032	1294
Piatt	84	34	118	194
Pike	1535	734	2269	3073
Pope	1108	258	1366	1583
Pulaski	409	152	561	660
Putnam	278	83	361	520
Randolph	1436	350	1786	2222
Richland	465	114	579	751
Rock Island	544	178	722	969
Saline	569	136	705	1028
Sangamon	395	146	541	874
Schuyler	981	315	1296	1704
Scott	299	105	404	490
Shelby	714	205	919	1273
St. Clair	483	164	647	891
Stark	156	49	205	342
Stephenson	517	226	743	1059
Tazewell	338	139	477	841
Union	1297	364	1661	1803
Vermilion	386	186	572	947
Wabash	189	60	249	310
Warren	394	107	501	758
Washington	715	173	888	1099
Wayne	1037	231	1268	1719
White	556	134	690	872

Whiteside	482	157	639	869
Will	202	110	312	389
Williamson	1107	374	1481	1676
Winnebago	223	89	312	534
Woodford	429	143	572	977
Total	55708	18483	74191	99546

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