



2016 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.

2016 FIREARM DEER HUNTING SEASONS

Youth Firearm: October 8 - 10. Unfilled, valid Youth Deer Permits may also be used during the first firearm deer season (November 18-20) on private land, and on public sites that allow unrestricted deer hunting access with a county permit (i.e., no site permit quotas, etc.).

Firearm: A full season permit allows hunting November 18 - 20 and December 1 - 4. A second season only permit allows hunting December 1 - 4.

Muzzleloader Only: December 9 - 11. You may also use a muzzleloader permit with a muzzleloader during the second firearm season on December 1 - 4.

Permit: Before hunting you must sign your permit. Your deer permit shall be carried on your person while hunting at all times.

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. For muzzleloaders, a gun is considered unloaded if the percussion cap is removed; or if the prime powder is removed from frizzen pan with frizzen open and hammer all the way down; or if prime powder is removed from flashpan and wheel is unwound; or if prime powder is removed and match is not lit; or if the battery is removed from the CVA electronic ignition muzzleloader.

Legal Hunting Devices:

- Shotguns, loaded with slugs only, of not larger than 10 nor smaller than 20 gauge, not capable of firing more than three consecutive slugs; or
- Single or double barreled muzzleloading rifles of at least .45 caliber shooting a single projectile through a barrel of at least 16 inches in length; or
- Centerfire revolvers or centerfire single-shot handguns of .30 caliber or larger with a minimum barrel length of 4 inches; or
- *On private land only*, archery equipment as allowed during the archery season, except that crossbows may only be used by persons age 62 and older with a valid photo ID containing proof of age, or by a disabled person to whom the Department has issued a permit to use a crossbow.

Legal Ammunition:

- For shotguns and muzzleloading firearms, the minimum size of the projectile shall be .44 caliber. A wad or sleeve is not considered a projectile or a part of the projectile.
- For handguns, a bottleneck centerfire cartridge of .30 caliber or larger with a case length not exceeding 1.4 inches, or a straight-walled centerfire cartridge of .30 caliber or larger, both of which must be available as a factory load with the published ballistic tables of the manufacturer showing a capability of at least 500 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle. There is no case length limit for straight-walled cartridges.
- Non-expanding, military-style full metal jacket bullet 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.

Additional Muzzleloading Regulations:

- A muzzleloading firearm is defined as a firearm that is incapable of being loaded from the breech end.
- Only black powder or a "black powder substitute" such as Pyrodex may be used. Modern smokeless powders (nitrocellulose-based) are an approved blackpowder substitute only in muzzleloading firearms specifically designed for their use.
- Percussion caps (shotgun primers are legal percussion caps), wheellock, matchlock or flint type ignition only may be used, except the Connecticut Valley Arms (CVA) electronic ignition shall be legal to use.

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. For property only hunting permit holders, the hunting area is 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.

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 season.

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.

Other Regulations:

- 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 leashed 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.

2016 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 during the 7-day firearm deer season 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 counties listed in the table below, 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 IDNR 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 confirmation 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 Street, 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
Kane	Use Boone, DeKalb, Kendall, or McHenry check station	
Kankakee	Kankakee River State Park Visitors Center	4 mi. N.W. of Bourbonnais at 5214 W. State Rt. 102
Kendall	Silver Springs State Park	4.5 mi. W. of Yorkville at 13608 Fox Road
LaSalle	Buffalo Rock State Park	3 mi. W. of Ottawa on Dee Bennett Road
Livingston	Pontiac Sportsman's Club	1/2 mi. N.W. of Livingston Co. Ag Fairgrounds at 18663 4-H Park Road., Pontiac (just west of I-55)
McHenry	Moraine Hills State Park McHenry Dam Day Use Area	East 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
Willi	Des Plaines Game Propagation Center	East of I-55 at 30550 S. Boathouse Road, Wilmington
Winnebago	Rock Cut State Park	6425 Hart Rd., Loves Park: 0.9 mi. E. of N. Perryville Rd. on Hart Rd.

License: In addition to your deer permit, you must have a valid Illinois Hunting, Sportsmen's, Youth 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 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.
- 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 IDNR Direct at 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.
F.O.I.D. Card Information 217-782-7980.



This is only a guide to the highlights of the rules and regulations governing deer hunting. More complete information is available on our site at www.dnr.illinois.gov.