

## HUNTING AND TRAPPING

### Hunting Near Fires

*It is unlawful to hunt adjacent to or near any peat, grass, brush or other flammable substance when it is burning.*

### Hunting Devices and Ammunition Restrictions

*It is unlawful to:*

- hunt any protected species except with a gun or bow and arrow.
- use any shotgun larger than 10 gauge while taking or attempting to take any protected species. Barrel length shall not be less than 18 inches, and the overall length shall not be less than 26 inches.
- hunt with, or have in your possession while hunting, a shotgun shell with shot larger than lead shot size BB, steel shot size T or number BBB of any other non-toxic shot. Except: Shot size is unrestricted for furbearer hunting and deer may be taken with a shotgun no larger than 10 gauge or smaller than 20 gauge loaded with slugs.
- take any species of wild game except deer and fur-bearing mammals with a shotgun loaded with slugs.
- use a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined. Any shotgun having a capacity of more than three shells must be fitted with a one-piece plug that is irremovable without dismantling the shotgun or otherwise altered to render it incapable of holding more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined. Except: This does not apply on licensed hunting preserves unless hunting wild migratory game birds and does not apply during Conservation Order light goose (snow, blue and Ross' geese) seasons that occur after Canada goose season has closed.
- use a crossbow to take wild birds or mammals except as provided for certain disabled persons (see page 34 under Disabled Outdoor Opportunities—Special Permits), and persons 62 years of age or older who carry a valid photo ID with proof of age; however, all hunters may use a crossbow beginning the second Monday following Thanksgiving. See “Hunting With Crossbows” box on this page.
- use a rifle, handgun or airgun to take game birds or migratory game birds.
- discharge a rifle, handgun or airgun on, over or into water or ice.
- use a gun equipped with a silencer.
- possess any rifle in the field during the gun deer season (Nov. 20-22 and Dec. 3-6, 2015) except muzzleloading rifles used by deer hunters only. Note: The lawful possession of rifles to take furbearing mammals and game mammals other than deer shall

not be prohibited during the Youth Deer Season (Oct. 10-12, 2015), muzzleloader rifle-only deer season (Dec. 11-13, 2015) and the Late-winter Antlerless Only Deer Season, Dec. 31, 2015 - Jan. 3, 2016 and Jan. 15-17, 2016.

### Using Drones to Interfere With Legal Hunting

*It is unlawful to use a drone in a way that interferes with another person's lawful taking of wildlife or aquatic life. “Drone” means any aerial vehicle that does not carry a human operator.*

### Dogs — Deer and Turkey

*It is unlawful to allow your dog to chase, harass or kill deer. Dogs may be used for hunting except for deer and turkey. See page 15, “Hunting Deer with Dogs, Horses, Vehicles, Boats and Aircraft.”*

### Maintaining Separate Bags

*It is unlawful to possess wildlife for which there is a daily or possession limit unless each hunter maintains his bag of such species separately and distinctly from those of all other hunters.*

### Possessing Another's Wildlife

*It is unlawful to receive or have in custody any protected species belonging to another person, except in the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such protected species are tagged with the hunter's name and address, the total number of species and the date such species were taken. (See “Gift of Migratory Game Birds” on page 23.)*

### Possession and Daily Bag Limits

*It is unlawful to possess wild game birds, wild game mammals or wild fur-bearing mammals or any parts thereof in excess of the legally established daily limit or possession limit, whichever applies.*

### Feeding Wildlife

*It is unlawful to make available food, salt, mineral blocks or other products for ingestion by wild deer or other wildlife in areas where wild deer are present at any time.*

Except:

- elevated bird/squirrel feeders providing seed, grain, fruit, worms or suet for birds or squirrels located within 100 feet of a dwelling devoted to human occupancy.
- incidental feeding of wildlife within active livestock operations.
- feeding of wild animals, other than wild deer, by hand as long as a reasonable attempt is made to clean up unconsumed food.
- feeders for wildlife other than deer so long as deer are excluded from the feed in and around the feeder by fencing or other barriers.
- standing crops planted and left standing as food plots for wildlife.

- grain or other feed scattered or distributed solely as a result of normal agricultural, gardening or soil stabilization practices.
- standing, flooded or manipulated natural vegetation or food/seed deposited by natural vegetation.
- grain or other feed distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown, for purposes of dove hunting.
- food material placed for capturing or killing wildlife pursuant to 520 ILCS 5/2.37, 2.30, and 1.3.
- scientific permits issued pursuant to 17 Ill. Adm. Code 520 that allow food to attract wildlife.
- any other permits issued by DNR that require the attraction of wildlife for purposes of management, research or control.

## Hunting With Crossbows

Recent changes to Illinois law (520 ILCS 5/2.5) expand opportunities for hunters to use crossbows in Illinois. One significant change allows all archery hunters the option of using a crossbow during certain dates (see below). Specific crossbow hunting requirements remain in effect for a portion of the season. Only those hunters who are eligible to use a crossbow due to disability, or are age 62 or older (see crossbow eligibility requirements p.34) may hunt with a crossbow. However, beginning the Monday following second firearm deer season until the close or archery deer season, all hunters, regardless of age or disability, may use a crossbow to hunt for any species of wildlife that can be legally taken by bow.

Crossbows used in hunting shall:

- a) have minimum and a maximum peak draw weight of 125 and 200 pounds, respectively.
- b) have a minimum overall length (from butt of stock to front of limb) of 24 inches.
- c) have a working safety.
- d) be used with fletched bolts or arrows of not less than 14 inches in length (not including point).
- e) use broadheads that may have fixed (must be metal or flint-, chert- or obsidian-napped) or expandable blades (must be metal), but they must be a minimum 7/8 inch diameter when fully opened.
- f) NOT use electronic tracking systems utilizing radio telemetry. Note: On state-owned and -managed hunting areas flu-flu arrows must be used for taking upland game.

## Permit Requirements and Application Periods

- Muzzleloading rifle deer hunters must have a current, valid Muzzleloading Rifle Deer Season Permit, or an unused Property-Only Landowner/Tenant Deer Permit valid for that year's Firearm Deer Season.
- Unfilled Property-Only Firearm Deer Permits shall be valid only on lands owned/leased by the permit holder, and the holder must use a muzzleloading rifle.
- Application periods for muzzleloading rifle deer permits are the same as for the firearm deer permits.

## Permit Limit

Prior to the Third Lottery Drawing in August, no hunter may receive, or attempt to receive, more than one either-sex muzzleloader permit and one antlerless-only permit for the muzzleloader deer season.

## ARCHERY DEER HUNTING SEASON INFORMATION

### Legal Archery Equipment

- A long, recurve or compound bow with a minimum pull of 40 pounds at some point within a 28-inch draw.
- Minimum arrow length is 20 inches.
- Broadheads must be used and may have fixed (must be metal or flint-, chert- or obsidian-knapped) or expandable (must be metal) cutting surfaces, but they must have a minimum 7/8 inch diameter when fully opened.
- Electronic tracking systems utilizing radio telemetry are illegal.
- See page 11 for rules regarding use of crossbows.
- A crossbow device is illegal except for:
  - A) Permanently or temporarily disabled persons, as defined by law (520 ILCS 5/2.33), may apply to the DNR Office of Law Enforcement (217/782-6431) for an exemption to allow use of a crossbow (a physician's certification is required); or
  - B) Persons age 62 and older may hunt with use of crossbow without first obtaining a crossbow permit. A valid photo I.D. with proof of age must be carried by persons age 62 and older.
  - C) Any person, regardless of age or disability, may utilize a crossbow for archery deer hunting beginning the Monday after the second firearm deer season.

NOTE: It is unlawful to have any firearm in possession while hunting deer with a bow and arrow or crossbow.

### Resident Permits and Limits

Resident antlerless-only and combination archery deer permits can be purchased without limit from your local hunting license ven-

dor. Resident hunters may apply for only one of the single either-sex permits on paper applications printed from Aug. 1-Sept. 1 ([www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)) with an application deadline of September 1. (see Deer Bag Limit, page 16)

### Non-Resident Permits and Limits

- Nonresident combination archery deer permits, each consisting of an either-sex tag and an antlerless-only tag, are available via lottery for \$411 plus a processing fee. Nonresidents may apply for and receive only one archery combination permit per license year. A non-resident landowner who has obtained landowner archery permits is also eligible for one combination non-resident archery permit.
- Applications are accepted June 1-30 via DNR's telephone vendor system (1-888-673-7648) or via DNR Direct Online License Sales at [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov).
- The number of permits is limited to 25,000, with clients of resident outfitters licensed by DNR given preference in the drawing for the first 7,500. Clients of licensed resident outfitters should contact the outfitter prior to applying to receive a certification number to be used in the application process to verify their outfitter client status. Permits will be allocated using a computerized, random lottery drawing conducted after June 30. If the number of eligible outfitter clients in the drawing is less than 7,500, all remaining permits will be allocated to the remaining applicants until the quota is reached. If the number of eligible outfitter clients in the drawing exceeds 7,500, those outfitter clients unsuccessful in obtaining one of the first 7,500 permits will compete against non-client applicants for the remaining 17,500 permits.
- Non-resident archery deer permits issued to outfitter clients who received a permit based on the preference given to outfitter clients are valid only on property controlled by the outfitter used to gain preference; all other archery permits are valid statewide.
- Any permits remaining after the drawing will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis.

• Non-resident archery antlerless-only permits are planned to be unavailable for the 2015-2016 hunting season.

- Nonresidents may not purchase a combination archery deer permit after Sept. 30 if they have previously purchased any single antlerless-only archery deer permit.

## LATE-WINTER ANTLERLESS DEER HUNTING SEASON INFORMATION

### Counties Open to Hunting (all harvest is checked electronically)

DNR will announce in October the counties open to late-winter antlerless deer hunting. The county map will be available by Oct. 1 at [www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting).

## Permit Requirement and Application Periods

- Illinois resident hunters must have a current, valid Late-Winter Deer Season Permit (\$1750), or an unfilled firearm, youth or muzzleloader deer permit valid for the previous firearm, youth or muzzleloader 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 youth, firearm or muzzleloader deer season and valid for one of the open counties.
- Unfilled firearm, youth or muzzleloader 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 on lands owned/leased by the permit holder within the open counties.
- Unfilled firearm, youth or muzzleloader deer permits that were originally issued for special hunt areas are not valid during the Late-Winter Deer Season unless the hunter is redrawn to hunt at the same site at a special site lottery, or if the special hunt area is open to persons with a county permit without conducting a lottery.
- Persons using an unfilled firearm, youth or muzzleloader deer permit valid for the previous firearm, youth or muzzleloader deer season (including landowner permits) may harvest only antlerless deer even when using an either-sex permit.

### Resident Permits and Limits

- Special Hunt Area permits will be issued in a lottery from online applications received Oct. 28-Nov. 24.
- There is no limit on the number of Resident Permits which may be purchased for counties designated as open.
- Resident Late-Winter County Deer Permits will be available for sale over-the-counter from license vendors beginning Dec. 16 through the last day of Late-Winter Deer season.

### Legal Firearms

Hunters using:

- unfilled Firearm Deer Season or Late-Winter Season permits may use all firearms described under the firearms section on page 17, as well as single-shot muzzleloading handguns (blackpowder handguns 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. 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.