



# FALL WILD TURKEY HUNTING INFORMATION AND ON-LINE/TOLL FREE TELEPHONE CHECK IN SYSTEM

Review this information to assure you comply with all of the wild turkey hunting regulations. While hunting, respect the rules of good sportsmanship and the property of others. Have a safe and successful hunt.

## ATTENTION HUNTERS:

### Harvest Reporting on-line at [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov), or call toll-free 1-866-ILCHECK

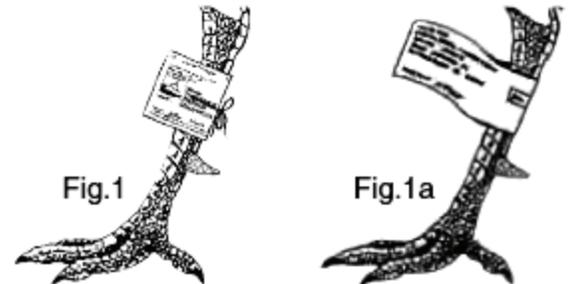
Successful hunters must report their harvest by 10 p.m. on the day of harvest online at [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov), or by telephone (toll-free) at 1-866-452-4325 (1-866-IL-CHECK). The telephone system is fully automated with no operators.

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 turkey, 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.

When reporting, have a pen/pencil on hand (a permanent marker with an extra-fine tip works best). You will be given a 10-character confirmation number which you must write on the leg tag (as proof you have checked in your harvest). When reporting harvest, hunters will be asked for information to assist biologists in managing Illinois' turkey population. Look over the questions below prior to reporting your harvest.

**TAGGING INSTRUCTIONS:** Immediately upon kill and before the turkey is moved, transported or field dressed, you must invalidate the leg tag by detaching it from the permit, or cutting out the designated notch if it is an adhesive tag. Attach the leg tag using your own fastener through the holes provided (Figure 1) or use the adhesive leg tag (Figure 1a).

The tag must remain attached to the leg of the turkey until it is at the legal residence of the person who legally took or possessed the turkey and it has been reported via Internet or telephone.



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHECKING YOUR TURKEY

You will be asked a series of questions when you call, including the county or special hunt area of harvest and the questions below. It will be helpful if you fill in the answers on this sheet before making the call. Use the ruler on the back of your permit to make any necessary measurements.

- ◆ What is your permit number?
- ◆ How many days did you hunt using this permit?
- ◆ Look at the outermost two wing flight feathers (Figure 2). Are the tips of the feathers sharply pointed with no white markings on the last 2 inches? If like Figure 3a, answer "yes." If like Figure 3b, answer "no."
- ◆ What is the sex of the turkey? (male or female)
- ◆ Do any of the breast feathers on your turkey have black tips (Yes or No) (Figure 4).  
Brown-tipped feathers may have a black band, but not at the very tip of the feather. If all of the breast feathers appear to have light brown tips, brush the feathers forward using your hand and look for new feathers coming in under the outer feathers. Check these as well.
- ◆ To the nearest millimeter, what is the length of the turkey's spur? (Figure 5). Measure from the base of the spur to the tip. If no spur, answer "Zero."
- ◆ To the nearest millimeter, what is the length of the turkey's beard? (Figure 6). Measure from the breast to the tip of the beard. If no beard, answer "Zero."

Fig. 2

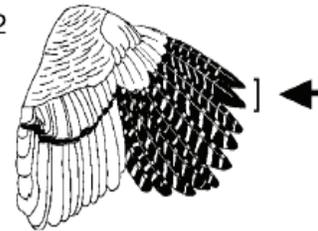


Fig. 3a



Fig. 3b



BLACK

OR

LIGHT BROWN

Fig. 4

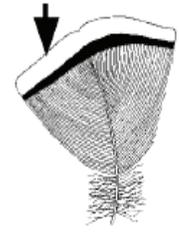


Fig. 5

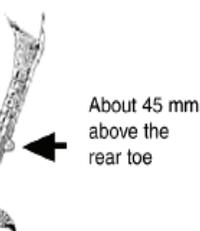
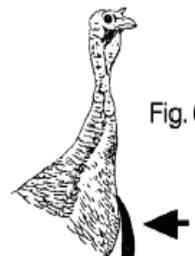


Fig. 6



## FALL TURKEY HUNTING REGULATIONS

Sign your permit before hunting. You must carry the completed permit, along with your Illinois Hunting or Sportsmen's license and Habitat Stamp (unless exempt), while hunting wild turkey.

Permission to hunt on private property must be obtained from the property owner or tenant. Your permit does not authorize trespassing!

Property-only hunting permit holders are permitted to hunt on their owned, leased or rented property ONLY in the counties open for turkey hunting. A hunting rights lease, or other non-agricultural lease, is not valid for a property-only hunting permit.

Permits are not transferable and no refunds will be made.

## BAG LIMIT & BAITING

**Bag Limit:** One wild turkey of either sex per permit. Once you have your limit, you may not participate with a weapon in any turkey hunting party, except that a person without a weapon may accompany a turkey hunter as a caller or observer.

**Baiting:** Use of live or electronic decoys, recorded calls, dogs or bait is illegal. An area is considered as baited during the presence of and for 10 consecutive days following the removal of bait.

### It is illegal to:

- possess while in the field, during turkey season, any turkey permit issued to another person.
- hunt wild turkeys without having a signed Wild Turkey Hunting Permit in possession, except that a person without a weapon may accompany a turkey hunter as a caller or observer.
- purchase or obtain more than two fall turkey archery permits.
- apply for or receive more than two fall turkey shotgun permits.

## LICENSE

In addition to your turkey permit, you must have a valid Illinois Hunting, Sportsman's, Youth or Apprentice License unless you are:

- a person who is disabled and able to show proof of disability in the form of 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, or
  - 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.

To be issued a license, hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1980 must show proof that they have successfully completed the DNR Hunter Safety Training Course (except for Youth or Apprentice) or from their resident state, or must show a previous year's hunting license. To obtain information about classes scheduled in your area, visit [www.dnr.illinois.gov/safety](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/safety) or call 1-800-832-2599.

## 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 must first obtain a State Habitat Stamp. Disabled veterans, former prisoners of war and persons who obtained a Lifetime License before Jan. 1, 1993 are not required to obtain a State Habitat Stamp.

Licenses/stamps are available at DNR Direct Automated License System agents or [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov).

## SHOTGUN REGULATIONS AND SEASON DATES

**Season Dates: Oct. 22 - Oct. 30, 2016**

**Hunting Devices:** Shotgun (20 gauge to 10 gauge only, no 410 or 28 gauge allowed). Overall minimum length is 26 inches and the minimum barrel length is 18 inches. #4 shot is the largest and #7 1/2 the smallest size that may be used.

**Clothing:** No special clothing is required.

### Hunting Hours:

One-half hour before sunrise until sunset. It is illegal for any person to shoot a wild turkey while it is in a tree before 7 a.m.

### Hunting Area:

Only the county or counties designated on your permit.

### 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, 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.

**FOID Card information (217) 782-7980**

## ARCHERY REGULATIONS AND SEASON DATES

**Season Dates:** October 1, 2016 through January 15, 2017 except closed during the 1st and 2nd firearm deer hunting seasons. All counties are open to the Fall Archery Turkey Season.

### Hunting Devices:

The only legal hunting devices to take, or attempt to take deer are:

1. Vertical bows, limited to longbows, recurve bows, or compound bows with minimum pull of 40 pounds at some point within a 28-inch draw. Minimum arrow length is 20 inches. Any mechanical device capable of maintaining a drawn or partially drawn position on a vertical bow without the hunter exerting full string tension is illegal.
2. Crossbows, so long as one or more of the following conditions is met:
  - a) If the user is a person age 62 and older with a valid photo ID containing proof of age; or
  - b) If the user is a disabled person to whom the Department has issued a permit to use a crossbow (for information call the Office of Law Enforcement at 217-782-6431; a physician's certification is required); or
  - c) If the date is between December 5, 2016 and January 15, 2017 (both inclusive).

Broadheads must be used while archery deer hunting. Broadheads may have fixed or expandable cutting surfaces, but they must be a minimum 7/8 inch in diameter when fully opened. Broadheads with fixed cutting surfaces must be metal or flint-, chert-, or obsidian-knapped; broadheads with expandable cutting surfaces must be metal. All other hunting devices, including electronic arrow tracking devices utilizing radio telemetry, are illegal.

**Clothing:** No special clothing required, except during the muzzle-loader-only, youth firearm, late-winter and CWD deer seasons and on those DNR sites that allow archery turkey hunting during the 1st and 2nd firearm seasons. Under the above circumstances any person attempting to take or taking a turkey by use of a bow and arrow 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 Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.