

# 2012-2013 Season Dates and Limits Information

Small Game	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	HOURS	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
	Rabbit (Cottontail & Swamp)	Nov. 3, 2012- Jan. 8, 2013 (North) Nov. 3, 2012- Jan. 22, 2013 (South)	Sunrise to sunset	4	10 <sup>a</sup>
	Cock Pheasant	Nov. 3, 2012- Jan. 8, 2013 (North) Nov. 3, 2012 - Jan. 15, 2013 (South)		2	6 <sup>a</sup>
	Hungarian (Gray) Partridge			2	6 <sup>a</sup>
	Quail (Bobwhite)		8	20 <sup>a</sup>	
	Squirrel (Fox and Gray)	Aug. 1, 2012- Feb. 15, 2013 (Statewide) Closed Nov. 16-18 and Nov. 29-Dec. 2 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	5	10 <sup>a</sup>
Woodchuck (Groundhog)	June 1, 2012-March 31, 2013 Closed Nov. 16-18; Nov. 29-Dec. 2 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Sunrise to sunset	No Limit		

Deer & Turkey	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	HOURS	LIMIT
	Firearm Deer (Handgun, Muzzleloader & Shotgun)	Nov. 16-18; Nov. 29-Dec. 2, 2012	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	One deer per firearm permit <sup>f</sup>
	Deer (Muzzleloading rifles only)	Dec. 7-9, 2012 (also allowed Nov. 29-Dec. 2)		One deer per muzzleloading rifle permit <sup>f</sup>
	Special CWD Deer Season	Dec. 27-30, 2012 and Jan. 18-20, 2013		One deer per valid deer permit <sup>g</sup>
	Late-Winter Antlerless Deer (Handgun, Muzzleloader & Shotgun)			One antlerless deer per permit
	Deer (Archery in counties with a firearm season and west of Rt. 47 in Kane County)			One deer per archery permit <sup>f</sup>
	Deer (Archery in Cook, DuPage, Kane [east of Route 47] and Lake counties)	Oct. 1, 2012-Jan. 20, 2013		
	Youth Firearm Deer Season	Oct. 6-7, 2012	One deer	
	Youth Turkey Season	March 30-31, 2013 (South) April 6-7, 2013 (North)	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.	One gobbler or bearded hen, counts towards maximum of 3 spring permits
	Turkey (Spring Shotgun or Archery)	April 8-May 9, 2013 <sup>b</sup> (South) April 15-May 16, 2013 <sup>b</sup> (North)		One gobbler or bearded hen per permit, maximum of 3
Turkey (Fall Shotgun Season)	Oct. 20-Oct. 28, 2012	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	One either sex turkey per permit, maximum of 2	
Turkey (Fall Archery)	Oct. 1, 2012-Jan. 20, 2013, except closed during firearm deer season in counties open to firearm deer hunting	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset		

Migratory Game Birds	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	HOURS	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	
	Dove <sup>e</sup>	Sept. 1-Oct. 28; Nov. 3-14, 2012	Sunrise to sunset	15 <sup>e</sup>	30 <sup>e</sup>	
	Teal	Sept. 8-23, 2012		4	8	
	Early Canada Goose	Sept. 1-15, 2012	North and Central	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	5	10
			South Central & South		2	4
	Rail (Sora & Virginia only)	Sept. 8-Nov. 16, 2012	Sunrise to sunset	25	25	
	Common Snipe	Sept. 8-Dec. 23, 2012		8	16	
	Woodcock	Oct. 20-Dec. 3, 2012		3	6	
Crow	Oct. 28, 2012-Feb. 28, 2013	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	No Limit			
The season dates for Migratory Waterfowl seasons that occur after Oct. 1 will be available in September. See 2012-2013 Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations.						

# 2012-2013 Season Dates and Limits Information *(continued)*

Furbearers—Hunting	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	HOURS	LIMIT
	Raccoon and Opossum	Nov. 5, 2012-Feb. 10, 2013 (North) Nov. 10, 2012-Feb. 15, 2013 (South) Closed Nov. 16-17 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 18 and closed Nov. 29-Dec. 1 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 2 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Unrestricted except Nov. 5 (North) and Nov. 10 (South) opens at sunrise <sup>d</sup>	No Limit
	Fox (Red and Gray)	Nov. 10, 2012-Jan. 31, 2013 (Statewide) Closed Nov. 16-17 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 18 and closed Nov. 29-Dec. 1 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 2 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Unrestricted except Nov. 10 opens at sunrise <sup>d</sup>	
	Coyote and Striped Skunk	Year round (Statewide) Closed Nov. 16-17 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 18 and closed Nov. 29-Dec. 1 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 2 in counties open for firearm deer hunting <sup>d,e</sup>	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hr. after sunset; open 24 hours Nov. 10, 2012-Feb. 15, 2013 <sup>d,e</sup>	

Furbearers—Trapping	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	LIMIT	SPECIAL REGULATIONS (SEE PP-PP FOR DETAILS AND ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS)
	Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel, Mink, Muskrat, Fox (Red and Gray), Coyote, Badger	Nov. 5, 2012-Jan. 20, 2013 (North) Nov. 10, 2012-Jan. 25, 2013 (South)	None except for badger, which is limited to 2 per person per season in north zone and 1 per person per season in south zone	
	Woodchuck (Groundhog)	June 1-Sept. 30, 2012 (Statewide)	None	
	Beaver	Nov. 5, 2012-March 31, 2013 (North) Nov. 10, 2012-March 31, 2013 (South)		
	River Otter	Nov. 5, 2012-March 31, 2013 (North) Nov. 10, 2012-March 31, 2013 (South)	5 per person per season (statewide)	Must purchase Otter Registration Permit within 48 hours after each otter is trapped. Must affix official CITES tag to each pelt.
	Extended Spring Season for Mink and Muskrat	Jan. 20, 2013-Feb. 15, 2013 (North) Jan. 25, 2013-Feb. 15, 2013 (South)	None	No foothold traps may be set for mink or muskrat. Body-gripping (killer) traps must be completely submerged underwater.

<sup>a</sup> On the 2nd day of the hunting season, you may possess no more than twice the daily bag limit.

<sup>b</sup> South — 1st season—April 8-12; 2nd season—April 13-18; 3rd season—April 19-24; 4th season—April 25-May 1; 5th season—May 2-9  
North — 1st season—April 15-19; 2nd season—April 20-25; 3rd season—April 26-May 1; 4th season—May 2-8; 5th season—May 9-16

<sup>c</sup> The daily bag and possession limits include mourning doves and white-winged doves in the aggregate. There is no bag limit on Eurasian-collared doves and ringed turtle doves, but they may be taken only during the established season dates and hours and using only legal methods for mourning doves. Hunters may not remain in the field for the purpose of taking Eurasian-collared doves or ringed turtle doves after they reach their daily bag limit for mourning/white-winged doves.

<sup>d</sup> During the Archery Deer Season bow hunting hours for coyote, striped skunk, raccoon, opossum, red fox and gray fox will be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

<sup>e</sup> Hunters with unfilled firearm deer permits may take coyotes during firearm deer season by shotgun with slugs, muzzleloader or handgun from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

<sup>f</sup> No hunter, regardless of the quantity or type of permits in his/her possession, may harvest more than two antlered deer during a year, including the archery, muzzleloader and youth firearm seasons. For the purpose of this bag limit, deer seasons are considered to be in the same year if their opening dates are within the same 12-month period that begins July 1.

<sup>g</sup> Antlered deer bag limit does not apply to this season.

## Trapper Education Classes Scheduled

**SIU Wildlife Annex, Carbondale** – Sept. 15, 2012. Call (618) 967-3299

**Phillips Park, Aurora** – Sept. 30, 2012. Call (630) 851-7119 or e-mail  
varmintsherriff@hotmail.com

**Logan County Fairgrounds, Lincoln** – Oct. 6, 2012. Call (618) 637-9061

**Farm Bureau Building, Joliet** – Oct. 20, 2012. Call (815) 783-5305

**Rock Springs Center, Decatur** – Oct. 27, 2012. Call (217) 423-7708

**American Legion, Collinsville** – Oct. 27, 2012. Call (618) 795-6046

## Trapper Education On-line Study

**F**irst-time trappers under the age of 18 are required to complete a trapper education course before purchasing a license. Part of this requirement can be met by completing an on-line study course at [www.trapped.com](http://www.trapped.com). Students may study course material online. After completing each section of the course, they must attend a Field Day which includes hands-on participation and a final exam. Schedules for instructor-taught courses can be accessed by calling 1-800-832-2599 (Ameritech Relay 1-800-526-0844) or at [www.dnr.illinois.gov/safety](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/safety).

## Season Dates – Rules of Thumb

Many hunters need to plan vacations and hunting trips in advance of the annual distribution of the *Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations*. For such planning purposes, here are the general rules of thumb used for setting annual season dates. Although there are no guarantees that these season dates will be used in future years, this is the best information available for those who must make plans well in advance of announcements of official season dates.

**Rabbit – North** – First Saturday in November through Jan. 8.  
**South** – First Saturday in November through Jan. 22.

### Pheasant, Quail and Partridge –

**North** – First Saturday in November through Jan. 8.  
**South** – First Saturday in November through Jan. 15.

**Squirrel** – Aug. 1-Feb. 15, except closed during firearm deer seasons.

**Woodchuck** – June 1-March 31, except closed during firearm deer seasons.

**Deer – Archery** – Oct. 1 through the first Sunday after Jan. 13 (closed during firearm deer season except in Cook, DuPage, Kane [that portion east of Hwy. 47] and Lake counties).

**Firearm** – The Friday, Saturday and Sunday immediately before Thanksgiving and the first four-day weekend (Thursday–Sunday) after Thanksgiving.

**Youth Firearm Deer Season** – The weekend preceding the observance of Columbus Day.

**Muzzleloader** – The third three-day weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) following Thanksgiving. Hunting also allowed during the second firearm deer season.

**Late Winter Antlerless Deer and Special CWD Deer** – The first Thursday-Sunday after Dec. 25; and the first Friday-Sunday after Jan. 11.

**Turkey – Spring Youth Turkey** – The weekend 9 days prior to the opening of each zone's first season.

**Spring South Zone** – Begins on the first Monday in April after April 2 and ends 32 days later. Lengths for each season (in days) are 5, 6, 6, 7 and 8, respectively.

**Spring North Zone** – Same as South Zone except one week later.

**Fall Gun** – The nine days beginning on Saturday of the second complete three-day weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) after Oct. 11.

**Fall Archery** – Oct. 1 through the first Sunday after Jan. 13 (closed during firearm deer seasons).

### Early Canada Goose – Sept. 1-15

**Teal** – 9 or 16 days, opens on 1st or 2nd Saturday in Sept.

**Rail** – Opens with teal season and runs for 70 days.

**Snipe** – Opens with teal season and runs for 107 days.

**Woodcock** – 45 days beginning on the third Saturday in October.

**Furbearer Hunting and Trapping** – Season dates listed for the 2012-2013 season will be used as guidelines.

**Crow** – Oct. 28-Feb. 28.

**Dove** – Split season opens Sept. 1–late Oct.; reopens with upland game season for about 9-16 days, depending on gun deer season dates.

## Waterfowl Hunting Zones

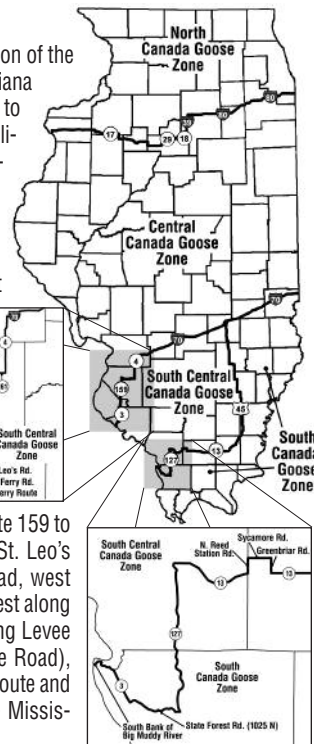
**NOTE:** These zone lines only apply during the September Canada Goose season. Check the 2012-13 Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations for zones used during the regular goose and duck seasons.

**North September Canada Goose Zone:** That portion of the state north of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Interstate 80 to I-39, south along I-39 to Illinois Route 18, west along Illinois Route 18 to Illinois Route 29, south along Illinois Route 29 to Illinois Route 17, west along Illinois Route 17 to the Mississippi River, and due south across the Mississippi River to the Iowa border.

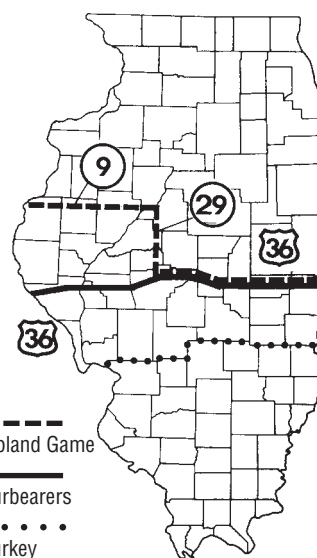
**Central September Canada Goose Zone:** That portion of the state south of the North Goose Zone line to a line extending west from the Indiana border along I-70 to Illinois Route 4, south along Illinois Route 4 to Illinois Route 161, west along Illinois Route 161 to Illinois Route 158, south and west along Illinois Route 158 to Illinois Route 159, south along Illinois Route 159 to Illinois Route 3, south along Illinois Route 3 to St. Leo's Road, south along St. Leo's road to Modoc Road, west along Modoc Road to Modoc Ferry Road, southwest along Modoc Ferry Road to Levee Road, southeast along Levee Road to County Route 12 (Modoc Ferry entrance Road), south along County Route 12 to the Modoc Ferry route and southwest on the Modoc Ferry route across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

**South Central Goose Zone:** The remainder of the state between the south border of the Central Zone and the north border of the South Zone.

**South Canada Goose Zone:** That portion of the state south and east of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Interstate 70, south along U.S. Highway 45, to Illinois Route 13, west along Illinois Route 13 to Greenbriar Road, north on Greenbriar Road to Sycamore Road, west on Sycamore Road to N. Reed Station Road, south on N. Reed Station Road to Illinois Route 13, west along Illinois Route 13 to Illinois Route 127, south along Illinois Route 127 to State Forest Road (1025 N), west along State Forest Road to Illinois Route 3, north along Illinois Route 3 to the south bank of the Big Muddy River, west along the south bank of the Big Muddy River to the Mississippi River, west across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.



## Upland Game, Furbearers & Turkey Zones



### Upland Game:

Cock pheasant, quail, Hungarian partridge, rabbit: Divided by U.S. Route 36 from the Indiana state line to Springfield, Illinois Route 29 from Springfield to Pekin, and Illinois Route 9 from Pekin to Dallas City, then due west to the Mississippi River.

### Furbearers:

Hunting (Raccoon, Opossum) and trapping: Divided by U.S. Route 36.

### Turkey:

North Zone includes that portion of Illinois north of Crawford, Jasper, Effingham, Fayette, Bond and Madison counties. South Zone includes the remainder of the state.