



# 2012 SPRING WILD TURKEY HUNTING INFORMATION

Your Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Permit entitles you to participate in the privilege of wild turkey hunting. Please review this information to assure that you comply with all of the wild turkey hunting regulations. While hunting, please respect the rules of good sportsmanship and the property of others. Have a safe and successful hunt.

And remember – **SAFE HUNTING IS NO ACCIDENT.**

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

Successful hunters must report their harvest by 3 p.m. on the day of harvest on-line at [www.dnr.illinois.gov/vcheck](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/vcheck), or by telephone (toll-free) at 1-866-452-4325 (1-866-IL-CHECK). The telephone system is fully automated, and no longer uses live operators, so that we could accommodate a higher volume of callers. We hope you are pleased with the ease and convenience of this system.

Please have a pen/pencil on hand (an extra-fine tipped permanent marker works best)- you will be given a 10-character confirmation number which you must write on the leg tag (this serves as proof you have checked in your harvest). When reporting harvest, hunters will be asked to provide a variety of information to assist biologists in managing Illinois' turkey population. Please look over the questions listed on the back of your permit prior to reporting your harvest.

**TAGGING INSTRUCTIONS:** You must cut out the designated notch on the leg tag to invalidate it immediately upon harvest. The adhesive leg tag must be attached to the leg of the turkey immediately after it is killed. It is unlawful to move, transport, or field dress a turkey without the tag attached and notched. 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.

**PERMIT COMPLETION before hunting, you must sign your permit. You must carry the completed permit, along with your Hunting, Sportsman's or Apprentice License and Habitat Stamp (unless exempt), while hunting wild turkey.**

## HUNTING REGULATIONS (Shotgun and Archery)

**Bag Limit:** One male turkey (gobbler); or one hen with a visible beard per permit, with a maximum of three permits. Once you have your limit, you may not further participate with a weapon in any turkey hunting party.

**Baiting:** Use of live or electronic turkey decoys, recorded calls, dogs or bait is illegal.

**Calling:** It is illegal for any person to use a turkey call that imitates sounds made by a turkey or to attempt to call a turkey by making these sounds while in the field in the Southern Zone from March 15 through the day before turkey season and in the Northern Zone from March 22 through the day before turkey season. This prohibition only applies in counties open to spring turkey hunting. This prohibition does not apply to participants in the Youth Turkey Season with a valid permit, or their accompanying adult, during that season.

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

**Hunting Area:** Only that county, counties or special hunt area designated on your permit. Permission to hunt on private property must be obtained from the property owner or tenant. "Property Only Hunting" permit holders are permitted to hunt on their property ONLY in the counties open for turkey hunting.

Special Hunt area permits are not valid anywhere else in the county. County permits are not valid for the Special Hunt areas.

**Hunting Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise until 1:00 p.m.

**Roost:** It is illegal to shoot a wild turkey while it is in a tree BEFORE 7:00 A.M.

**Weapons:** The only legal hunting devices to take or attempt to take turkey are:

- 1) a long, recurved or compound bow with a minimum pull of 40 pounds at some point within a 28 inch draw; minimum arrow length is 20 inches, and broadheads must be used. Broadheads may have fixed or expandable cutting surfaces, but they must have a minimum 7/8 inch 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. A crossbow device is illegal except for: a) Permanently disabled persons, as defined by law (520 ILCS 5/2.33), may apply to the IDNR's Office of Law Enforcement (217-782-6431) for an exemption to allow the use of a crossbow (a physician's certification is required); or b) Persons age 62 and older may hunt with use of a 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.

Crossbows used in hunting shall:

- a) have a minimum peak draw weight of 125 pounds and a maximum peak draw weight of 200 pounds.
- b) have a minimum overall length (from butt of stock to front of limbs) of 24 inches.
- c) have a working safety.
- d) be used with bolts or arrows of not less than 14 inches in length (not including point).
- e) use broadheads as defined above.

All other bows and arrows, including electronic arrow tracking systems using radio telemetry, are illegal. Any mechanical device capable of maintaining a drawn or partially drawn position on a bow is illegal, except for those hunters using a crossbow.

- 2) shotgun (20 gauge to 10 gauge only, no .410 or .28 gauge allowed); overall minimum length is 26 inches. Minimum barrel length is 18 inches; #4 shot is the largest, and #7 1/2 is the smallest size that may be legally used or possessed.

## Seasons:

A permit is only valid for the one season identified on the permit. A spring wild turkey "Property Only Hunting" permit is valid for the entire 32 days encompassed by the five seasons in either the Northern or Southern Zones (depending upon where your land is located), but allows the taking of only one wild turkey. A hunting rights lease, or other non-agricultural lease, is not valid for a "Property Only Hunting" permit.

## HUNTING ZONES

There are north and south turkey hunting zones WITH DIFFERENT SEASON DATES in each zone. *Special Hunt* area permits are not valid anywhere else in the county. County permits are not valid for *Special Hunt* area.

**Northern Zone** includes that portion of Illinois north of Crawford, Jasper, Effingham, Fayette, Bond, and Madison Counties. Southern Zone includes the remainder of the state.

## NORTHERN ZONE SEASON DATES

### NORTH ZONE YOUTH SEASON:

**APRIL 7 & 8**

(Holders of special Youth Turkey Hunting permits only.)

- 1st Season: Monday, April 16– Friday, April 20
- 2nd Season: Saturday, April 21 – Thursday, April 26
- 3rd Season: Friday, April 27 – Wednesday, May 2
- 4th Season: Thursday, May 3 – Wednesday, May 9
- 5th Season: Thursday, May 10 - Thursday, May 17

## SOUTHERN ZONE SEASON DATES

### SOUTH ZONE YOUTH SEASON:

**MARCH 31 & April 1**

(Holders of special Youth Turkey Hunting permits only.)

- 1st Season: Monday, April 9 – Friday, April 13
- 2nd Season: Saturday, April 14 – Thursday, April 19
- 3rd Season: Friday, April 20 – Wednesday, April 25
- 4th Season: Thursday, April 26 – Wednesday, May 2
- 5th Season: Thursday, May 3 – Thursday, May 10

**LICENSE:** In addition to your turkey permit you must have a valid Illinois Hunting, Sportsman's 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) 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.
  - 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.

**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 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.

### It is illegal:

- For any person to hunt wild turkey without possessing a Wild Turkey Hunting Permit.
- For any person to have in their possession while in the field during wild turkey season, any turkey permit issued to another person.
- To buy, sell or offer to buy or sell wild turkeys or any part thereof including their nest or eggs.

### 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,
- 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 information is only a guide to the highlights of the rules and regulations governing turkey hunting. More complete information is available from Department of Natural Resources Regional Offices, Wildlife Resources, Law Enforcement Office or the Permit Office. Region I – Sterling, 815-625-2968; Region II – Bartlett, 847-608-3100; Region III – Clinton, 217-935-6860; Region IV – Alton, 618-462-1181; Region V – Benton, 618-435-8138; Chicago – 312-814-2070; Springfield, Permit Office – 217-782-7305; Hunter Safety Education Classes – 1-800-832-2599. Department of Natural Resources information is available to the hearing impaired by calling DNR's TTY: 217-782-9175. This information may be provided in an alternative format if required. Contact the DNR Clearinghouse at 217/782-7498 for assistance.



Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, 217-785-0067; TTY 217-782-9175. This information may be provided in an alternative format if required. Contact the DNR Clearinghouse at 217-782-7498 for assistance.

Additional copies of this form can be obtained from our home page [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)

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