State of Illinois
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

2016 ARCHERY DEER HUNTING INFORMATION AND ON-LINE/TOLL FREE TELEPHONE CHECK-IN SYSTEM

Your 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 deer hunting regulations. While hunting please respect the rules of good sportsmanship and the property of others. Have a safe and successful deer hunt.

ATTENTION HUNTERS: Deer check-in system online at https://www.il.wildlifelicense.com/harvestReport/harvestReport.php

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 deer, 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.

Again this season, successful deer hunters must report their harvest using an automated check-in system. They may choose to report harvest on-line at **https://www.il.wildlifelicense.com/harvestReport/harvestReport.php** or by telephone (toll-free) at 1-866-452-4325 (1-866-IL-CHECK). For your convenience this number is also printed on the front of your deer permit.

In instances where deer are checked in while the hunter is still afield, the deer may not be dismembered while afield beyond quartering the animal. If quartered, all parts of the carcass (except the entrails removed during field dressing) must be transported together and evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the carcass.

Evidence of sex is:

A) for a buck: head with antlers attached to carcass, or attached testicle, scrotum, or penis,

B) for a doe: head attached to carcass, or attached udder (mammary) or vulva.

If the head/antlers are left with a taxidermist, the confirmation number must be recorded on the "head tag" portion of the permit and both must remain with the deer. If the carcass is taken to a meat processor, the temporary harvest tag (leg tag) with confirmation number must remain with the deer while it is processed, and 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 must supply the tanner with either their deer permit number, their confirmation number, or written certification by the person from whom the deer was received that the specimen was legally taken or obtained.

TAGGING: Immediately upon kill and before the deer is moved, transported or field dressed you must detach the appropriate leg tag from the permit to invalidate it, and attach the tag to the leg using your own fastener through the holes provided (see Figure 1). A head tag is also provided to hunters which must be used if the head or antlers are delivered to a taxidermist.

HARVEST REPORTING: You must register your deer by 10:00 p.m. on the day of harvest. 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). If the condition of the tag precludes writing on the tag in the appropriate space (i.e. bloody, etc.), the confirmation number shall be written elsewhere on the tag, or onto a piece of paper and attached to the deer along with the leg tag. The leg tag and confirmation number must remain attached to the deer until it is at the legal residence of the person who legally took or possessed the deer, the deer has been checked in, and final processing is completed.

You will be asked a series of questions when you call including your permit number, the county or special hunt area of harvest, and the season in which you are hunting. You will also be asked the following questions. 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.

- Select the type of deer that you harvested: (1) a buck with antlers; (2) a buck without antlers; or (3) a doe.
- Was your deer a fawn last summer or is it an adult?
- How many bobcats did you see while hunting this location during this season?
- How many turkeys did you see while hunting this location during this season?
- How many wild pigs did you see while hunting in this county during this season?
- Measure the distance in MILLIMETERS from the rear edge of the nostril opening to the front corner of the eye (Fig. 3).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR BUCKS WITH ANTLERS ONLY:

- How many antler points at least 25mm long are present? Count the total number of points on both beams, including the tip of the main beam.
- Measure the circumference in MILLIMETERS around the thickest antler beam one inch above the base.
- If the brow line interferes with this measurement; take the measurement just below the brow line. (Fig. 2)

ANTLERED DEER

- A deer having at least one antler of a length of 3 or more inches

ANTLERLESS DEER

- A deer without antlers or a deer having antlers less than 3 inches long.

Fig. 1

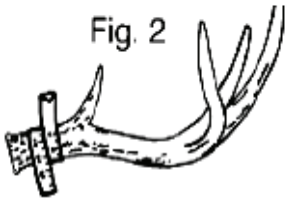
Fig. 2

Fig. 3

NOTE: Obtain permission before entering private land.
Your permit does not authorize trespassing!

2016 ARCHERY DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS

Hunting Hours:
One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. No bow and arrow device shall be carried with the arrow in the nocked position during hours when deer hunting is unlawful.

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

1. 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.

Hunting Area:
All Illinois counties. 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 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.

Clothing:
No special clothing is required, EXCEPT during any gun deer seasons that are open concurrently with the archery season. These include the Muzzleloader Season (Dec. 9 - 11), the Youth Season (Oct. 8 - 10), the Late Winter/CWD deer seasons (Dec. 29, 2016 - Jan. 1, 2017 & Jan. 13 - 15, 2017), and on those IDNR sites that allow archery deer hunting during the firearm deer season (Nov. 18 - 20; Dec. 1 - 4). Any person attempting to take or taking deer 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 in all Illinois counties open to those seasons.

It is unlawful:

a) to carry any firearm or sidearm while hunting deer with a bow and arrow.
b) for any person having taken the legal limit of deer by bow and arrow to further participate with bow and arrow in any deer hunting party.
c) 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 archery range of one or more participating hunters.

2016 ARCHERY DEER HUNTING SEASONS

Archery: Oct. 1, 2016 - Jan. 15, 2017 in Cook, DuPage, Lake and that portion of Kane County east of State Route 47. In all other counties and that portion of Kane County west of State Route 47 the archery deer season is Oct. 1 through Jan. 15 EXCEPT archery hunting is CLOSED for the two seasons of firearm hunting. Archery deer hunting is OPEN during the muzzleloader-only season, youth firearm season, and the Late Winter/CWD deer seasons (Dec. 29, 2016 - Jan. 1, 2017 & Jan. 13 - 15, 2017).

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

Bag Limit: One deer per legally authorized permit. 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 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.

License: In addition to your deer permit, you must have a valid Illinois Hunting, Sportsmen, Youth or Apprentice License AND Habitat Stamp (unless exempt).
Licenses/stamps are available **www.dnr.illinois.gov**

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 dog to track wounded deer.

- Totally white white-tailed deer are protected by Illinois Law and are illegal to kill.

For more information contact:
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Springfield, Permit Office	217-782-7305
Springfield Law Enforcement Office	217-782-6431
Springfield Wildlife Office	217-782-6384
Hunter Safety Education Classes	1-800-832-2599
DNR TTY	217-782-9175