



Illinois Department of **Natural Resources**

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Hunters Take Preliminary Total of 66,501 Deer During First Weekend of Illinois Firearm Deer Season

Seven-day hunt will conclude Dec. 1-4

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 66,501 deer during the opening weekend of the 2011 Illinois Firearm Deer season on Nov. 18-20, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) announced today. The seven-day firearm season will conclude on Dec. 1-4.

The preliminary total for the first three days of the 2011 firearm season compares with the first weekend harvest of 68,037 deer during the 2010 deer season and 66,126 deer during the opening weekend in 2009. The top county harvest totals last weekend were reported in Pike (1917), Adams (1784), Fulton (1775), JoDaviess (1664), and Jefferson (1496) counties.

Hunters harvested 98,944 deer during the entire seven-day firearm deer season in 2010. The preliminary first-season harvest figures reported for each county include those deer taken on special hunt areas within that county as well as on private land.

”Corn harvest was pretty much complete throughout the state except for some parts of northern Illinois,” said IDNR Forest Wildlife Program Manager Paul Shelton. “Although windy weather on opening day presented a little bit of a challenge to hunters, this was fairly typical fall weather. Biologists working at northern Illinois check stations saw a number of very nice deer being registered, and we seem to be right on target as far as projected harvest.”

Along with the thousands of hunters in the field this weekend, IDNR Conservation Police were also out protecting the public and wildlife while conducting compliance checks throughout Illinois. During the first weekend of firearm deer season, Conservation Police issued 547 citations for wildlife code violations and 630 written warnings throughout the state.

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The IDNR has issued more than 330,000 firearm deer hunting permits to date for the 2011 season. Remaining firearm season and other deer hunting permits are available from DNR Direct vendors. Find a vendor through the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov/LPR/Pages/LicensePermitVendors.aspx

Most hunters register their deer harvest online through the IDNR web site or by phoning 1-866-ILCHECK (1-866-452-4325) by 10 p.m. on the day of harvest. Hunters in Boone, DeKalb, Grundy, Jo Daviess, Kane, LaSalle, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago counties take their deer to county check stations (by 8 p.m. on the day of harvest) where the IDNR registers the deer and conducts sampling for chronic wasting disease (CWD).

Approximately 61 percent of the deer taken during the first weekend of firearm hunting were bucks, compared with a first-season harvest sex ratio of 60% bucks:40% does in 2010.

The Illinois firearm deer season concludes Dec. 1-4. The muzzleloader-only deer season is Dec. 9-11. The split Late-Winter Antlerless-only Firearm Deer Season and the Special CWD Deer Season are Dec. 29, 2011-Jan. 1, 2012 and Jan. 13-15, 2012. The 2011-2012 Illinois Archery Deer Season continues through Jan. 15, 2012 (except closed in firearm counties during the second firearm season Dec. 1-4).

The table below provides preliminary county harvest totals for the first weekend of the 2011 firearm deer season and comparable figures for the first season in 2010.

County	2011	2010
Adams	1784	1741
Alexander	326	296
Bond	551	535
Boone	95	90
Brown	846	892
Bureau	905	1024
Calhoun	713	668
Carroll	708	756
Cass	445	458
Champaign	195	219
Christian	510	459
Clark	871	940
Clay	938	947
Clinton	583	588
Coles	530	560
Crawford	749	819
Cumberland	663	641
DeKalb	131	157
DeWitt	288	283

County	2011	2010
Douglas	176	131
Edgar	513	565
Edwards	248	325
Effingham	745	774
Fayette	1322	1264
Ford	85	101
Franklin	852	820
Fulton	1775	1721
Gallatin	365	402
Greene	917	986
Grundy	298	300
Hamilton	748	812
Hancock	1412	1291
Hardin	780	696
Henderson	423	449
Henry	532	545
Iroquois	481	502
Jackson	1476	1502
Jasper	819	861
Jefferson	1496	1475
Jersey	554	625
JoDaviess	1664	1640
Johnson	1267	1202
Kane	28	37
Kankakee	147	151
Kendall	55	53
Knox	1022	1021
Lake	6	5
LaSalle	812	878
Lawrence	351	399
Lee	509	531
Livingston	394	454
Logan	305	285
Macon	227	200
Macoupin	1184	1192
Madison	606	651
Marion	1218	1276
Marshall	561	569
Mason	443	439
Massac	390	402
McDonough	698	738
McHenry	214	191
McLean	483	550
Menard	272	334

County	2011	2010
Mercer	671	674
Monroe	661	722
Montgomery	834	820
Morgan	650	626
Moultrie	227	232
Ogle	740	742
Peoria	1051	1074
Perry	822	823
Piatt	125	127
Pike	1917	1957
Pope	1360	1294
Pulaski	433	466
Putnam	324	355
Randolph	1406	1520
Richland	524	545
Rock Island	638	591
Saline	688	720
Sangamon	524	569
Schuyler	1120	1130
Scott	357	377
Shelby	1002	1012
St. Clair	651	662
Stark	206	261
Stephenson	687	789
Tazewell	488	514
Union	1163	1162
Vermilion	628	609
Wabash	171	194
Warren	435	429
Washington	754	799
Wayne	1238	1210
White	606	662
Whiteside	512	627
Will	225	208
Williamson	1103	1110
Winnebago	306	307
Woodford	550	700
Total	66501	68037