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. 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 8, 2014 and January 18, 2015 (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. 12 -14), the Youth Season (Oct. 11 - 13), the Late Winter/Special CWD deer seasons (Jan. 1 - 4; Jan. 16 -18), and on those DNR sites that allow archery deer hunting during the firearm deer season (Nov. 21 - 23; Dec. 4 -7). 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.

data:image/png;base64,iVBORw0KGgoAAAANSUhEUgAAAAEAAAABCAYAAAAfFcSJAAAABmJLR0QIAABJRU5ErkJggg==

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 a field, 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.

The primary purpose of registering deer harvest is to gather biological information necessary for proper management. The Illinois department of Natural Resources is committed to gathering this information.

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 were 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.

- Measure the distance in MILLIMETERS from the rear edge of the nostril opening to the front corner of the eye (see Figure 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 measurement; take the measurement just below the brow line.

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.

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