



2026-27 FREE UPLAND GAME HUNT PERMIT

Instructions for applying online at: dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/uplandgame

APPLICATION DATES

You must apply online August 1 through August 31. The lottery will take place in early Sept. and all applicants will need to check the Reservation Inquiry System:

dnr2.illinois.gov/OnLineHuntingApplication/UplandGame/SearchUplandPermit on the IDNR website to see if they received a permit.

- ▶ Each applicant must check the website after the lottery to see if they received a permit (results by Sept. 7)
- ▶ IDNR will **NOT** notify successful applicants or mail out permits
- ▶ Successful applicants must print their permit

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applications for the Free Upland Game Hunt Permit are free and must be made online, through the Upland Game Hunting section of the IDNR website: dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/uplandgame.html. If you do not have a computer, access one through a relative, friend, neighbor or local Public Library. Paper applications are no longer available. Most questions regarding this application process can be answered by reviewing the information, instructions and hunting dates/open areas on this document.

You may choose up to six different hunt areas with four hunting dates for each hunt area choice. You may list the same hunt area more than once to increase your choice of dates. We encourage you to use all 24 hunt area/date choices to increase your chances of drawing a permit.

- ▶ Applicants may apply once and receive 1 permit/year.
- ▶ Illinois residents have preference.
- ▶ Permits are not transferable

HOW TO FIX ONLINE APPLICATION ERRORS

If you (1) made a mistake on any portion of your application (DO NOT REAPPLY), (2) mistakenly applied twice or (3) need to cancel an application, please notify us as soon as possible.

Email us at DNR.Upland@illinois.gov – you will need to include your name, customer ID number (xxx-xxx-xxx) birthdate, and a detailed explanation of what needs to be changed (example: please change my first choice area from Sibley to Manito).

SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS

Successful Applicants must print their permit from the Reservation Inquiry System. They are responsible for knowing the boundaries of the hunting area (check the Hunter Fact Sheets available on the IDNR website) and any special restrictions for their site and permit (e.g. Permits for some sites may be for rabbit only after quail and pheasant seasons close or limit quail harvest to 4).

- ▶ Permit holders must carry their permit while hunting
- ▶ Permit holders must report harvest— **Harvest reporting materials will be mailed to the permit holder via the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS), with harvest reporting now being conducted online.**

LICENSE INFORMATION

You must have a valid Illinois Hunting, Sportsman's or Apprentice License unless you are:

- ▶ An Illinois resident who is disabled. A State disabled person I.D. card (available from the Secretary of State through the driver's license examining station) showing a P2, P2A, H2 or H2A disability.
- ▶ An Illinois resident on active duty and on leave from the U.S. Armed Forces.
- ▶ A disabled veteran. A veteran's disability card (at least 10% service related); available from local Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs offices.

Hunters born on or after January 1, 1980 must show proof that they have successfully completed the Hunter Safety Training Course provided by the Department.

To obtain information about Hunter Safety Education classes scheduled in your area, call the Safety Education Unit 1-800-832-2599.

Licenses/stamps can be purchased from a vendor or online. To find your nearest vendor visit:

www.exploremoreil.com/agentlocator. To purchase a license/stamp online visit: www.exploremoreil.com.

NON-TOXIC SHOTS

On sites that are indicated by **(A)**, only nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of size #3 steel or tin, #4 bismuth shot or #5 tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix or smaller may be used or possessed.

FREE UPLAND GAME HUNTING DATES & OPEN AREAS

Each hunter selected may bring three hunting partners to the hunting areas, except at Finrock, Green River, Mackinaw, Sand Prairie, Saybrook, Sibley and Victoria where they may bring five and at Pyramid SP and Burning Star SFWA where they may bring two.

REGULATIONS

- ▶ Hunting is for cock pheasant, Hungarian partridge, bobwhite quail, cottontail rabbit and mourning dove (if the site is open to dove hunting).
- ▶ * Indicates **rabbit hunting only** dates, which follow the close of upland bird (bobwhite quail, Hungarian partridge, and pheasant) seasons. ***Harvest of upland birds is prohibited during rabbit hunting only dates. If your intention is to pursue upland birds, do not apply for rabbit only dates.*** For more Information regarding locations and requirements of hunt areas only, call the Division of Wildlife at (217) 782-6384.
- ▶ (A) indicates non-toxic shot site

QUAIL MANAGEMENT AREAS

Pyramid State Park – Captain Unit (Perry)
Pyramid State Park – Denmark Unit (Perry)
Pyramid State Park – East Conant (Perry)

November 7, 11, 14, 18, 25, 28;
December 2, 9, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30;
January 6, 9, 13, 20*, 23*, 27*, 30*;
February 3*, 6*, 10*, 13*
**** Rabbit hunting only!***

PHEASANT HABITAT AREAS

Hunting dates for the following sites:

Nov. 7, 8, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28;
Dec. 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24

Birbeck PHA (DeWitt)
Bradford PHA (Stark) (A)
Chatsworth PHA (Livingston) (A)
Clifton PHA (Iroquois)
Dublin Highlands PHA (Stephenson)
Finrock PHA (DeWitt)
Gifford PHA (Champaign)
Hallsville PHA (DeWitt)
Herschel Workman PHA (Vermilion)
Hindsboro PHA (Douglas)
Loda PHA (Iroquois)
Manito PHA (Tazewell)
Maytown PHA (Lee)
Milks Grove PHA (Iroquois)
Perdueville PHA (Ford)
Sand Prairie PHA (Lee)
Saybrook PHA (McLean)
Sibley PHA (Ford)
Steward PHA (Lee)
Victoria PHA (Knox) (A)
Whitefield PHA (Marshall) (A)



UPLAND GAME AREAS

Hunting Dates for the following 6 sites:

November 7, 8, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28;
December 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24
1. Franklin Creek SNA – Nachusa Prairie (Lee)
2. Ilo Dillin HA (Tazewell) (A)
3. Larry D. Closson (Douglas)
4. Little Rock Creek HA (Carroll)
5. Mautino SFWA (Bureau) (A)
6. Willow Creek HA (Edgar)

Hunting Dates for the following 2 sites:

November 7, 8, 11, 14, 18, 25, 28;
December 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 29
1. Paul C. Burrus (formerly Hurricane Creek) HA (Coles)
2. Mackinaw SFWA (Tazewell) (A)

Hunting Dates for the following 3 sites:

November 11, 18, 25; ***Only 4 quail/hunter limit***
December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30;
January 6, 13, 20*, 27*;
February 3*, 10* **** Rabbit hunting only!***
1. Coffeen Lake SFWA – (Montgomery)
2. Maxine Loy Land & Water Reserve (Marion) (A)
3. Ramsey Lake State Park (Fayette)

Edward Madigan SP (Logan)

November 9, 16, 23, 30;
December 7, 14, 21

Freeman Mine (Montg.) ***Limit of quail is 4/hunter and rabbit is 2/hunter***

November 9, 16, 23, 30;
December 7, 14, 21, 28

Green River SWA (Lee) (A)

November 9, 11, 12, 16, 18, 19, 23, 25, 26, 30;
December 2, 7, 9, 10, 14, 16, 17, 21

Jim Edgar Panther Creek SFWA (Cass) (A)

November 10, 14, 17, 24, 28;
December 1, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29;
January 2, 5, 9, 12, 16*, 19*, 23*, 26, 30*;
February 2*, 6*, 9*, 13* **** Rabbit hunting only!***

Sand Ridge SF–Sparks Pond Land & Water Reserve (Mason) (A)

November 7, 10, 14, 17, 24, 28;
December 1, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29

Sangchris Lake SP (Christian)

November 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28;
December 2, 5, 9, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30

Burning Star SFWA (Jackson) (A)

November 11, 18, 25;
December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30