



WHITE-TAILED DEER SUMMARY 2025-2026: CLAY COUNTY

Forest Wildlife Program, Illinois Department of Natural Resources



County Size: 469 square miles

Year Opened to Deer Hunting: 1970

Record Harvest: 2,752 (2025)

Average Harvest (previous 10 years): 2,154

Total 2025-2026 Harvest (all seasons): 2,752

Permits issued/quota 2025-2026 (excludes landowner; archery and youth are statewide):

Firearm: 3500/3500 **Muzzle:** 397/475

Late Winter: 94

Chronic Wasting Disease Detected: No

Check Station Location: N/A

Late Winter Season in 2026-2027: Yes. Deer Vehicle Accident (DVA) rates (accidents per billion miles driven) are used as an index of deer population size. Counties remain or are added to Late Winter season if DVA rates are above goal, or other factors (excessive crop damage and/or disease issues) are present.

Last year in Late Winter: 2005 - Present

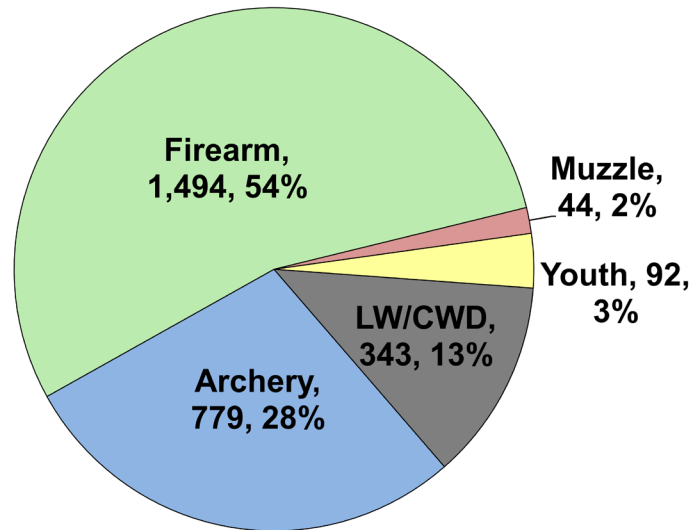
Recent Archery Harvest by Bow Type

Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Compound	338	316	358	373	365
Crossbow	326	329	355	411	394
Traditional	7	6	16	6	20
Total	671	651	729	790	779

Age/Sex Composition of Recent Harvest (%)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
M - Adult	27.4	26.0	29.9	26.2	26.1
M - Yearling	15.3	15.1	15.2	14.1	14.2
M - Fawn	12.5	11.3	9.8	10.1	9.3
F - Adult	36.0	38.3	36.8	40.1	42.3
F - Fawn	8.8	9.3	8.2	9.5	8.1

M - Adult = 2.5 and older; F - Adult = 1.5 and older



Recent Harvest (all seasons)

