



WHITE-TAILED DEER SUMMARY 2025-2026: SHELBY COUNTY

Forest Wildlife Program, Illinois Department of Natural Resources



County Size: 768 square miles

Year Opened to Deer Hunting: 1970

Record Harvest: 2,833 (2024)

Average Harvest (previous 10 years): 2,388

Total 2025-2026 Harvest (all seasons): 2,769

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

Firearm: 3300/3300 **Muzzle:** 495/550

Late Winter: 96

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: 2007 - Present

Recent Archery Harvest by Bow Type

Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Compound	513	510	516	585	560
Crossbow	529	533	559	586	561
Traditional	15	15	15	11	11
Total	1057	1058	1090	1182	1132

Age/Sex Composition of Recent Harvest (%)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
M - Adult	30.0	28.2	31.2	29.2	28.4
M - Yearling	18.1	16.2	17.3	14.8	16.3
M - Fawn	9.2	8.6	8.4	9.0	7.1
F - Adult	35.2	40.3	37.2	39.9	42.0
F - Fawn	7.5	6.7	5.8	7.1	6.2

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

