SUMMARY OF 2026 ILLINOIS SPRING TURKEY SEASON

Forest Wildlife Program, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Regular Spring Turkey Season

General Information

Season Dates: Apr. 6 - May 7, 2026 (South); Apr. 13 - May 14, 2026 (North)

Season Structure: 5 consecutive individual season segments comprising a total of 32 days per zone; the lengths of individual segments were 5, 6, 6, 7, and 8 days, respectively. Regular paid permits were valid for the appropriate season segment only, while landowner permits were valid throughout the entire 32 days.

Number of Counties Open: 100 (closed in Cook and DuPage)

Bag Limit: One gobbler (male) or bearded hen per permit

Number of Permits Allowed: 3 (subject to availability)

Permit Availability: County-specific (or special hunt area-specific) permits issued via a series of three lotteries, with specific permit quotas set for each county/special hunt area. Resident hunters could apply for their first permit in the first lottery; all hunters could apply for one permit in the second lottery, but hunters who had not already been awarded a permit received preference; all hunters could apply for up to three permits in the third lottery, however no one could exceed the maximum number of three permits in total. The remainder of permits were available over-the-counter (OTC) and anyone could purchase their first, second, or third permit during that time.

Harvest Reporting: Mandatory harvest reporting via telephone or internet by 10:00 p.m. on the day of harvest.

Significant Changes: .410-bore and 28-gauge shotguns became legal method of take as of Spring 2025

Regular Season Results (Excludes Youth Season)

Harvest Total: 18,502 (20,821 including Youth Season; New Record Total)

Previous Record Harvest: 16,090 (2025; 18,189 including Youth Season)

Permit Success Rate: 26.9% (Excludes Landowner Permits)

Harvest Age Structure: 91.6% adult; 8.4% juvenile

Harvest Sex Ratio: 99.2% male; 0.8% female

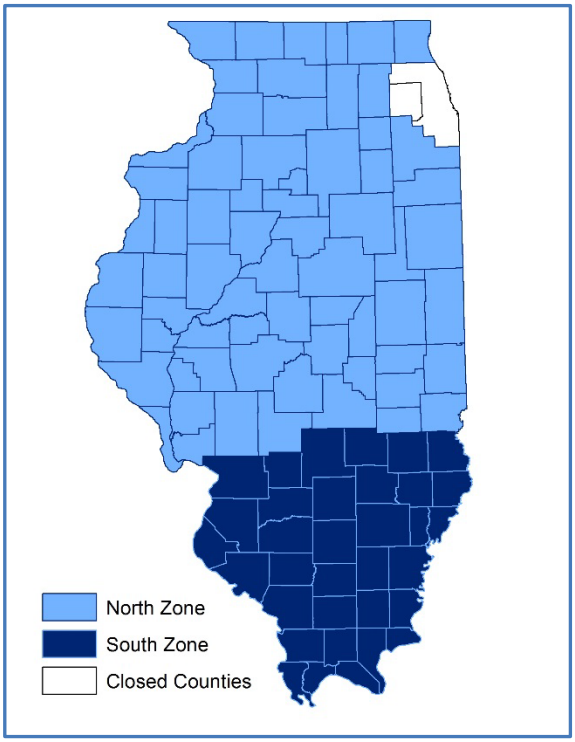
Average # Days Hunted per Successful Permit: 2.5 (Excludes Landowner Permits)

Public Land Harvest: 1,676 (12.1%; excludes Landowner Permits)

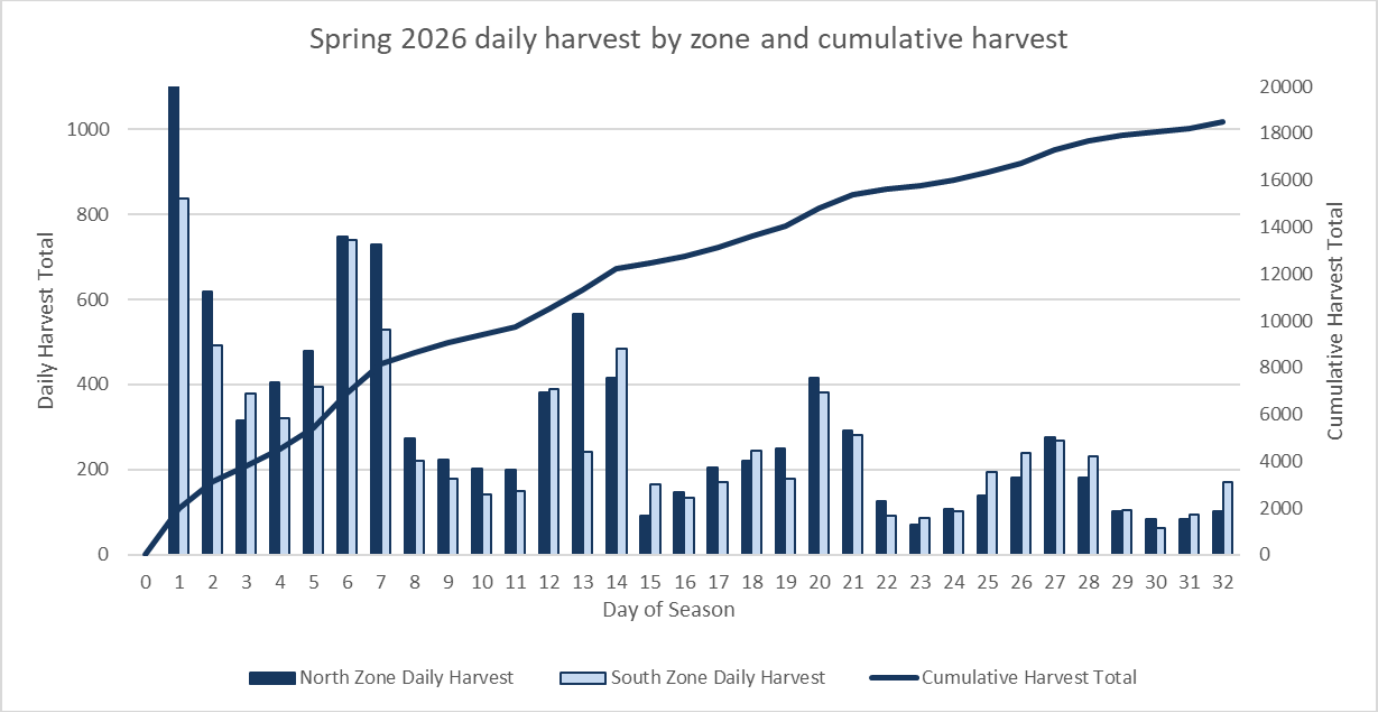
Top 5 Counties: Jo Daviess (611), Jefferson (567), Pike (460), Marion (457), Pope (422)

Statewide General Weather Conditions:

March: Temp above normal; precipitation below normal.
April: Temp near normal; precipitation slightly above normal.
May: Temperature slightly above normal; precipitation slightly above normal.

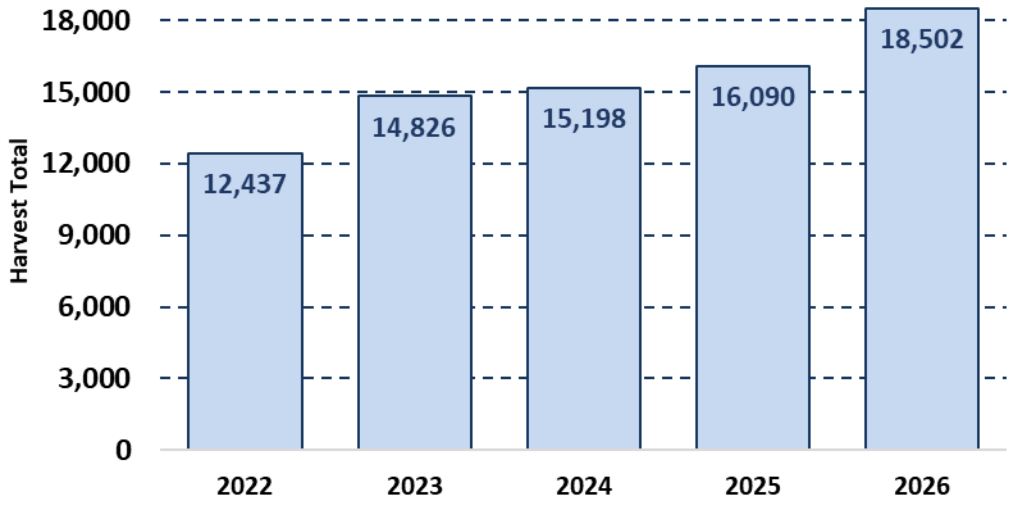


Spring Turkey Hunting Zones



Trends in the number of regular spring turkey season permits issued statewide (no youth)					
Permit Type	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Landowner Permits (free for residents)	24,335	22,500	24,894	26,828	28,445
Special Hunt Area-specific Permits	2,515	2,612	2,655	2,744	2,694
County-specific Permits	49,843	50,247	52,485	53,470	54,868
TOTAL	76,693	75,359	80,034	83,042	86,007

Recent trend in regular season spring harvest



2026 Youth Turkey Season

General Information

Season Dates: March 28 – 29 & Apr. 4 - 5, 2026 (Statewide)

Season Length: 4 days, total

Number of Counties Open: 100 (closed in Cook and DuPage)

Bag Limit: One gobbler (male) or bearded hen per permit

Number of Permits Allowed: 1 (counts towards maximum of 3 allowed in Regular Spring Season)

Special Regulations: Limited to youth hunters under the age of 18, accompanied by a responsible non-hunting supervising adult. One county-specific permit (available over-the-counter) or one special hunt area permit (issued via lottery) allowed per hunter. Mandatory harvest reporting by 10:00 p.m. on day of harvest.

Season Results

Harvest Total: 2,319 (Record total)

Previous Record: 2,099 (2025)

Permit Success Rate: 31.7%

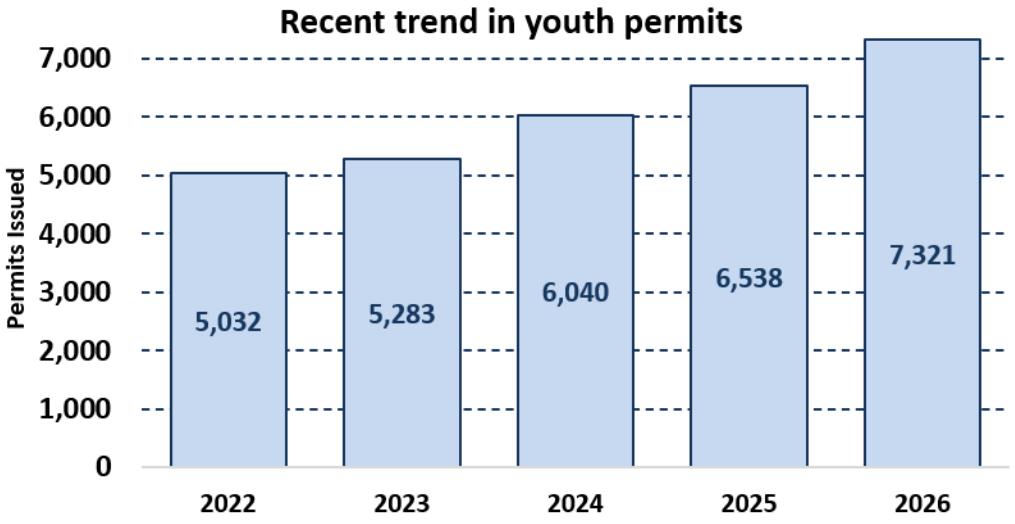
Harvest Age Structure: 89.9% adult: 10.1% juvenile

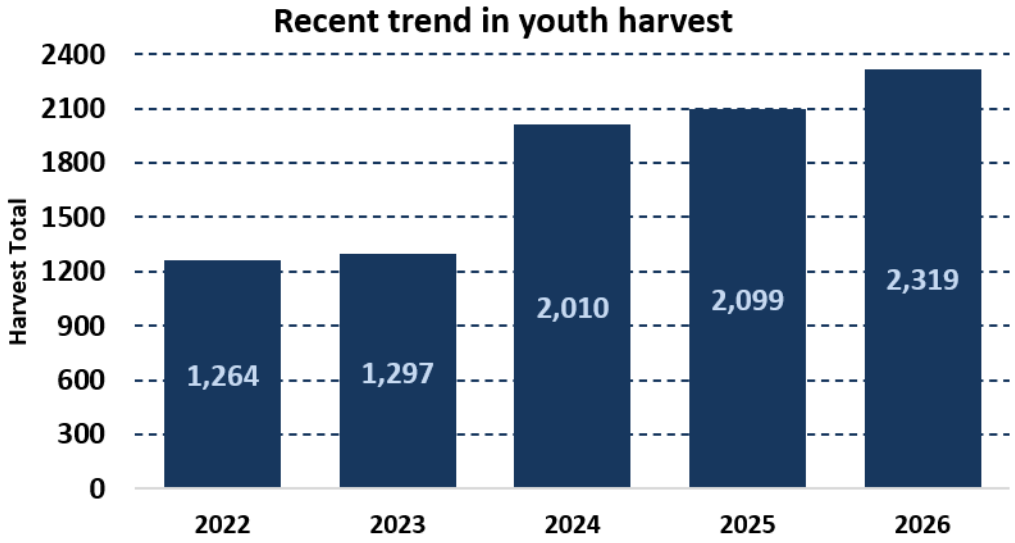
Harvest Sex Ratio: 99.1% male: 0.9% female

Average # Days Hunted per Successful Hunter: 1.7

Public Land Harvest: 204 (8.8%)

Top 5 Counties: Fayette (75), Jefferson (74), Marion (68), Adams (63), Clay (62)





2026 County Harvest Totals by Season Segment

County	Youth	POH	Regular Season Permit Results*						
			1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total	Regular Season Success
ADAMS	63	61	93	76	52	40	27	288	22.1%
ALEXANDER	29	25	51	25	28	17	21	142	25.5%
BOND	26	35	40	47	31	24	17	159	32.2%
BOONE	4	4	20	19	11	20	7	77	27.9%
BROWN	33	42	62	53	35	22	11	183	24.1%
BUREAU	12	25	52	42	29	25	14	162	23.9%
CALHOUN	40	81	86	52	42	29	18	227	25.8%
CARROLL	8	31	56	38	46	27	15	182	26.2%
CASS	19	19	68	39	37	24	20	188	28.8%
CHAMPAIGN	5	4	5	6	5	6	4	26	14.7%
CHRISTIAN	14	22	18	16	6	4	4	48	20.1%
CLARK	44	59	53	46	35	33	44	211	33.4%
CLAY	62	95	46	51	45	45	48	235	35.4%
CLINTON	37	36	28	23	22	21	9	103	25.9%
COLES	7	13	23	14	13	10	9	69	25.9%
CRAWFORD	34	49	47	44	38	27	29	185	33.6%
CUMBERLAND	27	30	18	12	11	11	12	64	23.9%
DEKALB	0	0	3	3	4	0	6	16	16.2%
DEWITT	3	6	12	11	5	5	5	38	18.9%
DOUGLAS	1	2	3	2	1	1	2	9	12.0%
EDGAR	8	25	24	28	16	20	17	105	27.1%
EDWARDS	14	19	26	14	14	18	11	83	35.5%
EFFINGHAM	43	69	29	28	16	16	17	106	23.9%
FAYETTE	75	114	76	60	42	47	35	260	30.2%
FORD	0	6	3	4	0	3	1	11	14.7%
FRANKLIN	35	35	68	51	47	47	50	263	38.3%
FULTON	29	56	66	63	48	39	32	248	18.0%
GALLATIN-HARDIN	48	45	87	61	54	45	40	287	30.4%
GREENE	31	52	42	36	24	22	11	135	20.7%
GRUNDY	4	9	17	20	10	10	8	65	24.6%
HAMILTON	35	58	73	59	60	47	46	285	46.6%
HANCOCK	44	61	92	49	56	30	31	258	25.5%
HENDERSON	12	14	46	36	31	21	10	144	27.1%
HENRY	18	23	30	27	20	20	17	114	31.3%
IROQUOIS	7	17	12	16	16	15	9	68	26.8%
JACKSON	47	55	106	50	41	41	48	286	23.3%

2026 County Harvest Totals by Season Segment

County	Youth	POH	Regular Season Permit Results*						
			1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total	Regular Season Success
JASPER	30	37	43	35	26	31	32	167	31.1%
JEFFERSON	74	90	118	99	90	84	86	477	39.6%
JERSEY	32	32	64	63	51	22	22	222	26.1%
JO DAVIESS	34	53	142	150	121	99	46	558	29.5%
JOHNSON	34	47	71	77	38	41	37	264	27.6%
KANE	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	4.0%
KANKAKEE	7	7	13	13	12	10	15	63	29.3%
KENDALL	1	1	3	5	1	3	3	15	15.0%
KNOX	6	51	59	49	44	22	23	197	23.2%
LA SALLE	7	11	37	34	24	20	16	131	23.9%
LAKE	1	0	2	5	7	2	0	16	17.2%
LAWRENCE	11	27	56	41	40	22	21	180	33.3%
LEE	10	8	32	26	19	16	21	114	32.2%
LIVINGSTON	5	12	5	8	10	9	6	38	29.5%
LOGAN	7	7	19	5	5	5	2	36	20.2%
MACON	3	7	9	6	5	7	5	32	25.0%
MACOUPIN	57	42	80	61	57	33	28	259	19.8%
MADISON	44	26	77	63	48	41	25	254	24.5%
MARION	68	96	97	71	68	61	64	361	35.1%
MARSHALL-PUTNAM	11	32	35	33	24	27	12	131	30.3%
MASON	20	29	41	43	28	28	20	160	29.1%
MASSAC	17	17	32	29	20	23	18	122	30.0%
MCDONOUGH	11	31	32	28	19	11	9	99	22.0%
MCHENRY	12	3	36	39	39	22	25	161	32.5%
MCLEAN	11	10	14	15	12	9	12	62	24.8%
MENARD	12	25	22	13	13	14	9	71	23.7%
MERCER	12	22	53	49	32	33	27	194	29.4%
MONROE	34	34	53	35	24	19	18	149	23.6%
MONTGOMERY	39	42	47	50	30	32	21	180	30.4%
MORGAN	15	7	51	38	22	20	9	140	22.9%
MOULTRIE	6	3	9	7	7	7	9	39	39.0%
OGLE	19	10	60	56	42	41	39	238	39.1%
PEORIA	20	30	49	40	33	26	12	160	24.7%
PERRY	41	72	63	53	48	46	33	243	35.0%
PIATT	0	3	4	3	5	5	3	20	26.7%
PIKE	59	89	125	85	63	55	43	371	26.0%

2026 County Harvest Totals by Season Segment

County	Youth	POH	Regular Season Permit Results*						
			1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total	Regular Season Success
POPE	38	33	132	84	58	61	54	389	20.7%
PULASKI	23	16	29	20	17	15	19	100	29.2%
RANDOLPH	55	74	95	65	53	53	35	301	26.2%
RICHLAND	8	18	26	24	25	20	18	113	31.7%
ROCK ISLAND	12	23	54	61	42	40	25	222	30.6%
SALINE	34	30	36	41	29	36	22	164	33.5%
SANGAMON	23	24	39	30	17	14	15	115	24.4%
SCHUYLER	26	39	54	53	33	20	18	178	17.6%
SCOTT	9	15	30	18	17	7	1	73	22.6%
SHELBY	32	45	39	31	25	23	24	142	31.7%
ST. CLAIR	49	23	36	30	32	20	19	137	23.1%
STARK	4	3	6	3	3	1	0	13	17.1%
STEPHENSON	22	19	47	32	30	40	22	171	29.6%
TAZEWELL	8	6	22	24	10	8	12	76	23.0%
UNION	34	48	79	60	51	41	28	259	23.0%
VERMILION	8	11	39	18	23	15	14	109	19.6%
WABASH	8	12	18	15	6	12	5	56	31.1%
WARREN	8	11	14	15	8	9	5	51	25.5%
WASHINGTON	27	44	42	32	37	25	26	162	28.6%
WAYNE	51	89	74	67	69	52	61	323	38.9%
WHITE	36	33	40	50	33	29	28	180	36.8%
WHITESIDE	25	12	39	39	24	31	28	161	30.6%
WILL	5	4	28	27	24	14	5	98	32.8%
WILLIAMSON	48	55	91	80	68	49	66	354	37.1%
WINNEBAGO	28	8	51	48	46	30	34	209	28.9%
WOODFORD	10	19	15	13	12	13	13	66	21.6%
TOTAL	***2319***	***3024***	***4409***	***3628***	***2910***	***2458***	***2073***	***15478***	***27.5%***

*Property Only Hunting Permits (POH; Landowner Tags) and Youth Permits not included in Regular Season Permit Results

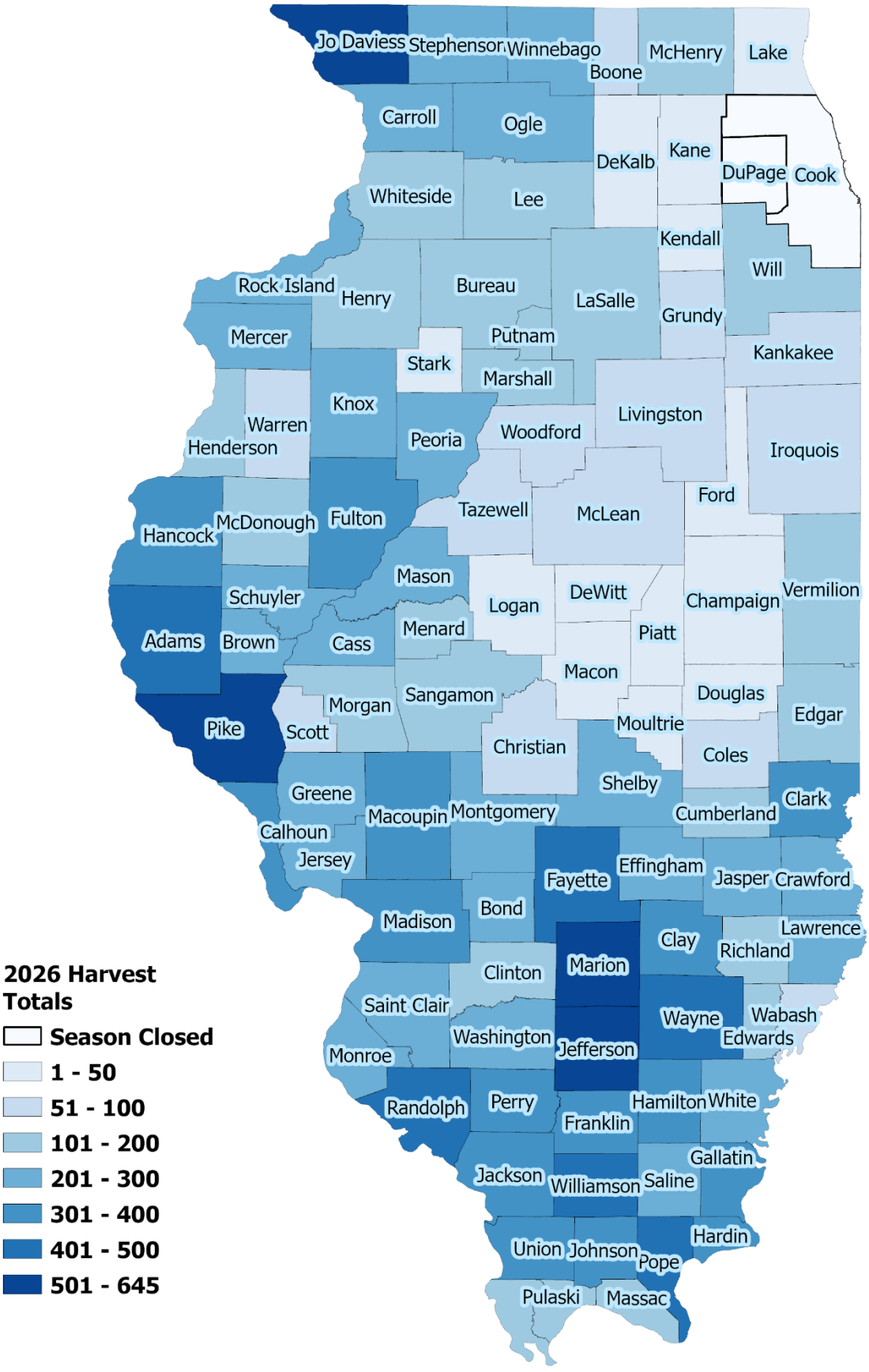
Site Name*	Location County/Counties	Total
Apple River Canyon SP	JO DAVIESS	9
Argyle Lake SP	MCDONOUGH	1
Beaver Dam SP	MACOUPIN	2
Big Bend SFWA	WHITESIDE	18
Big River SF	HENDERSON	16
Burning Star SFWA	JACKSON	8
Cache River SNA	JOHNSON/PULASKI/MASSAC	28
Carlyle Lake SFWA	FAYETTE	6
Carlyle Lake SFWA-East Fork Unit	CLINTON	1
Carlyle Lake UACOE Lands	CLINTON	11
Castle Rock SP	OGLE	8
Cedar Glen SNA	HANCOCK	1
Chain O Lakes SP	LAKE	4
Chauncey Marsh	CRAWFORD/LAWRENCE	4
City of Carbondale – Cedar Lake	JACKSON	1
Clinton Lake SRA	DEWITT	10
Coffeen Lake SFWA	MONTGOMERY	9
Copperhead Hollow SFWA	JERSEY	4
Crab Orchard NWR	WILLIAMSON	64
Crab Orchard NWR Open Hunting Area	JACKSON/UNION/WILLIAMSON	41
Crawford County CA	CRAWFORD	9
Cypress Creek NWR	ALEXANDER/JOHNSON/PULASKI/UNION	17
Devil's Island	ALEXANDER/UNION	13
Dog Island	POPE	1
Eagle Creek SP	SHELBY	1
Edward Madigan SP - EMSP (James Helfrich Prop Center)	LOGAN	1
Eldon Hazlet SP	CLINTON	4
Embarras River Bottoms SHA	LAWRENCE	4
Ferne Clyffe SP	JOHNSON	8
Flag Pond	CLAY	1
Fort Massac SP	MASSAC	5
Fox Creek SFWA	RICHLAND	3
Fox Ridge SP/Hurricane Creek SHA	COLES	1
French Bluff SNA	CARROLL	5
Giant City SP	JACKSON/UNION	8
Great River NWR – Long Island and Bear Creek	ADAMS	9
Green River SWA	LEE	11
Hamilton County CA	HAMILTON/WHITE	17
Hanover Bluff SNA	JO DAVIESS	6
Harry “Babe” Woodyard SNA	VERMILION	4

Heidecke SFWA (Jugtown Unit)	GRUNDY	4
Hidden Springs SF	SHELBY	7
Horseshoe Lake CA	ALEXANDER	7
Horseshoe Lake SP	MADISON	4
Horseshoe Lake SP - Chouteau, Gabaret, or Mosenthein Islands	MADISON	22
Iroquois County SWA	IROQUOIS	4
Jim Edgar Panther Creek SFWA	CASS	59
JohnsonSauk Trail SP	HENRY	4
Joliet Army Training Area	WILL	24
Jubilee College SP	PEORIA	12
Kankakee River SP	KANKAKEE/WILL	4
Kaskaskia River SFWA	MONROE/RANDOLPH/ST CLAIR	46
Kickapoo SP	VERMILION	4
Kinkaid Lake SFWA	JACKSON	15
Kishwaukee River SFWA	DEKALB	4
Lake Shelbyville Project-Moultrie	MOULTRIE	20
Lake Shelbyville Project-Shelby	SHELBY	22
Lowden Miller SF	OGLE	19
Mackinaw River FWA	TAZEWELL	5
Marseilles FWA	LASALLE	12
Marshall FWA	MARSHALL/PEORIA	3
Matthiessen SP	LASALLE	1
Mautino SFWA	BUREAU	2
Meeker SHA	JASPER	4
Mermet Lake SFWA	MASSAC	8
Mermet Lake SFWA Disabled	MASSAC	1
Middlefork FWMA	VERMILION	3
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie	WILL	10
Mississippi Palisades SP	CARROLL	15
Mississippi River Pool 13	CARROLL	2
Mississippi River Pool 18	HENDERSON	1
Mississippi River Pool 21	ADAMS	9
Mississippi River Pool 22	ADAMS	1
Mississippi River Pool 24	PIKE	1
Mississippi River SFWA	CALHOUN/JERSEY	8
Momence Wetlands	KANKAKEE	5
Moraine View SP	MCLEAN	8
Morrison Rockwood SP	WHITESIDE	3
Mt. Vernon Game Propagation Center	JEFFERSON	7
Newton Lake FWA	JASPER	10
Oakford CA	MENARD	1
Oakwood Bottoms	JACKSON	11

Paul C. Burrus SHA	COLES	4
Peabody River King SFWA	ST. CLAIR	4
Pere Marquette SP - Open Hunting Area	JERSEY	7
Pere Marquette SP - Piasa, Quotoga, Potawatomi Camp Areas	JERSEY	12
Pyramid SP	PERRY	7
Pyramid SP-Captain Unit	PERRY	6
Pyramid SP-Denmark Unit	PERRY	6
Pyramid SP-East-Conant Unit	PERRY	12
Pyramid SP-Galum Unit	PERRY	3
Rall Woods (Falling Down Prairie) SNA	JO DAVIESS	2
Ramsey Lake SP	FAYETTE	7
Randolph County CA	RANDOLPH	9
Ray Norbut SFWA	PIKE	4
Red Hills SP	LAWRENCE	1
Rend Lake Corps of Engineers lands	FRANKLIN/JEFFERSON	49
Rend Lake SFWA	JEFFERSON	13
Rockton Bog SNA	WINNEBAGO	1
Sahara Woods SFWA	SALINE	7
Saline County CA	SALINE/GALLATIN	2
Sam Dale Lake SFWA	WAYNE	10
Sand Ridge SF	MASON	31
Sandy Ford SNA	LASALLE	1
Sanganois CA – Squirrel Timber Unit	MASON	1
Sanganois SFWA	CASS/MASON	3
Sangchris Lake SP	CHRISTIAN/SANGAMON	3
Shawnee National Forest	ALEXANDER/GALLATIN/HARDIN/ JACKSON/JOHNSON/MASSAC/POP E/ SALINE/UNION/WILLIAMSON	635
Shelbyville SFWA	MOULTRIE	1
Siloam Springs SP	ADAMS/BROWN	6
Siloam Springs SP-Buckhorn Unit	BROWN	13
Spoon River SF	KNOX	8
Starved Rock SP	LASALLE	1
Stephen A. Forbes SP	MARION	9
Ten Mile Creek FWA	HAMILTON/JEFFERSON	28
Trail of Tears SF	UNION	6
Turkey Bluffs SFWA	RANDOLPH	12
Union County CA	UNION	8
Vesely Land and Water Reserve	WILL	3
Washington County CA	WASHINGTON	3
Wayne Fitzgerrell SRA	FRANKLIN	5
Weinberg King SP-Scripps Unit	SCHUYLER	5
Weinberg-King SP	SCHUYLER	3

Weinberg-King SP-Spunky Bottoms Unit	BROWN	1
Weldon Springs SP-Piatt Unit	PIATT	4
Winston Tunnel SNA	JO DAVIESS	3
Witkowsky SFWA	JO DAVIESS	5
Wolf Creek SP	SHELBY	1
Other Public Land Not Listed	Multiple	129

*Sites with no harvest reported not included


Jo Daviess
Stephenson
Winnebago
Boone
McHenry
Lake
Carroll
Ogle
DeKalb
Kane
DuPage
Cook
Whiteside
Lee
Kendall
Will
Rock Island
Henry
Bureau
LaSalle
Grundy
Mercer
Putnam
Kankakee
Stark
Marshall
Knox
Livingston
Warren
Henderson
Peoria
Woodford
Iroquois
Hancock
McDonough
Fulton
Tazewell
McLean
Ford
Mason
Schuyler
Logan
DeWitt
Champaign
Vermilion
Adams
Brown
Cass
Menard
Piatt
Macon
Douglas
Morgan
Sangamon
Edgar
Pike
Scott
Moultrie
Christian
Coles
Shelby
Greene
Clark
Macoupin
Montgomery
Cumberland
Calhoun
Jersey
Effingham
Fayette
Jasper
Crawford
Bond
Madison
Clay
Lawrence
Richland
Marion
Clinton
Saint Clair
Wayne
Wabash
Washington
Edwards
Monroe
Jefferson
Randolph
Perry
Hamilton
White
Franklin
Gallatin
Jackson
Williamson
Saline
Union
Johnson
Hardin
Pope
Pulaski
Massac
2026 Harvest Totals
Season Closed
1 - 50
51 - 100
101 - 200
201 - 300
301 - 400
401 - 500
501 - 645