

Illinois Hunters' Attitudes toward Seasons, Bag Limits, and Regulations 2013-14

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SECTION 1. Hunting activity and harvest.

We received 1,488 completed questionnaires as of 18 July 2014. Eighty-six percent ($n=1444$) of respondents indicated they hunted wildlife in Illinois in the 2013-14 season. Twenty-three hunters harvested an average of 4.83 Eurasian collared doves during the 2013 season. Hunters indicated they increased their hunting effort toward deer (firearm & archery) and turkey, but decreased effort toward rabbit and pheasant. If given only one day to hunt, a majority of hunters (68.2%) identified deer as the species they would target.

SECTION 2. License purchase and Digest Use.

A majority of respondents (57.0%) indicated they use the "Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping" annually, while 13.0% use it most years, 12.3% some years, and 17.7% never use the Digest. Most respondents (77.9%) took a paper copy of the Hunting digest, and 63.0% did so when they purchased their hunting license. Approximately 58.4% of respondents took one copy of the digest, 29.6% took two copies, and 12.0% took three or more. Additional copies were kept most frequently (83.1%) at home, in vehicles (66.7%), with hunting equipment (30.4%), or were given to other hunters (7.2%). Hunting digests were obtained at chain retailers (64.8%), independent retailers (25.3%), and IDNR offices (3.8%). The most popular other sources (6.1%) were from printing the online version, government buildings, and from hunter education courses.

Paper versions of the digest were preferred (86.2%), and inclusion of a removable insert would not change the number of copies taken by 65.6% of respondents. However, 20.9% noted an insert would reduce the number of paper copies needed and 13.5% would take more copies than they currently do. If an insert were included 18.8% would use it always, 36.5% often, 30.8% sometimes, 6.9% rarely, and 7.0% never. When asked what information other than season start and end dates, sunrise sunset tables, and possession limits would be useful for the insert to include, statewide hunting regulations were selected most frequently (50.1%), followed by license and permit information (46.2%), IDNR contact information (38.6%), and hunting zone boundaries (29.4%). The paper version alone was used 50-70% of the time for obtaining important hunting information (hunting regulations and rules, seasons and bag limits, etc.). A combination of online and paper versions were used by 10-20%, and the online version alone was used in the lowest proportion by approximately 10% of respondents. Neither version was used for the steel shot lethality table by 36.6% of respondents, and 21.9% used neither for the maps and information on public hunting areas.

SECTION 3. Upland Game Hunting

Doves

If 20 days were added to the dove season, 47.2% of those who hunted dove in the previous year ($n=195$) would prefer them added from October 27 to November 2 and December 26 to January 10. Running the season from September 1- November 9 and December 26 – January 15 was preferred by 44.1%, and 8.7% would want the October to November gap to remain with the 20 days added after December 26.

Other Upland Species

Participants intended to hunt rabbits (25.9%), pheasants (23.9%), quail (11.6%), and gray partridge (0.8%), while 48.4% did not intend to hunt any of these species. Twenty-seven percent of the 356 pheasant hunters indicated they relied exclusively on the Free Upland Game Permit to hunt pheasant. Similarly, 23.0% of rabbit hunters ($n=386$), 21.5% of quail hunters ($n=172$), and 3 of the 12 gray partridge hunters also relied on the Free Upland Game Permit to hunt those species. However, the majority of respondents (71.9%) had never applied for a Free Upland Game Permit, and 4.7% applied for it in the 2013-14 season. Among applicants, 83.6% had previously applied, 37.2% were satisfied with the application process, 50.8% were unsure, and 12.0% were dissatisfied. Twenty-five percent of applicants indicated they are never drawn for the permit and 21.7% were drawn annually or most years. When applying for a permit, most hunters (63.8%) choose one site only, though 18.9% of respondents applied for two sites (18.9%), and 17.4% applied for 3 or more sites. Private land owned by the hunter or another who gives permission were the types of land hunted most often for small upland game.

SECTION 4. White-tailed deer in Illinois.

Approximately 19.0% of deer hunters observed dead deer between July and October 2013. Among this group an average of 3.37 ± 3.84 dead deer were observed and 31.1% saw ≥ 4 deer. An average of 3.91 ± 4.6 of the deer were reported by hunters who contacted the IDNR; however, 94.2% of those who saw dead deer indicated they did not report them to IDNR. The majority of deer found by respondents were located in Adams, Effingham, Jo Davies, and Pike counties. Approximately 57.6% of hunters believed that EHD & BTV had decreased the number of deer in the areas they hunt, 31.4% saw no change, and 11.1% indicated deer populations increased. Sixty-six percent of deer hunters believed that the statewide population of deer had decreased, 19.1% believed there was no change, and 14.9% indicated the statewide deer population increased. Though only 17.4% of respondents believed EHD and BTV did not affect the area they hunt, a majority of hunters (55.8%) indicated they did not change their approach to deer hunting during the 2013-14 season due to the outbreak. The most commonly adopted changes to hunting strategy were to pass on does (12.4%) and hunt fewer days (11.9%). Few deer hunters (9.1%) indicated they saw more deer than they had 5 years ago and 77.0% saw fewer deer. Over 64% harvested fewer deer this year than 5 years ago and 31.6% indicated there was no change in the number of deer they harvested. The majority of deer hunting occurred on private lands and 8.7% occurred on public lands. Among the 412 hunters who did not deer hunt, lack of time (18.6%), never being a deer hunter (17.0%), loss of interest (11.6%), and no access (11.0%) were the most common reasons for not hunting. The addition of a regulation limiting take to one antlered buck was highly polarized with 42.5% of

hunters in favor, 49.4% in opposition, and 8.0% of hunters unsure. Over 63% of hunters agreed with a 2 antlered buck regulation, 27.6% disagreed, and 7.9% were unsure. Greater unsureness (21.6%) was indicated toward a two buck limit with only one taken before the close of the first firearm deer season, though 48.5% disagreed with this regulation and 29.9% agreed. Approximately 57.5% agreed the dates of the late-winter antlerless season were about right, 17.8% were unsure, and 24.7% disagreed. Twenty-three percent agreed with moving it to a single season in October, 15.9% were unsure, and 60.6% disagreed. Almost fourteen percent agreed with moving late winter antlerless to a single season in September, 16.7% were unsure, and 69.4% disagreed.

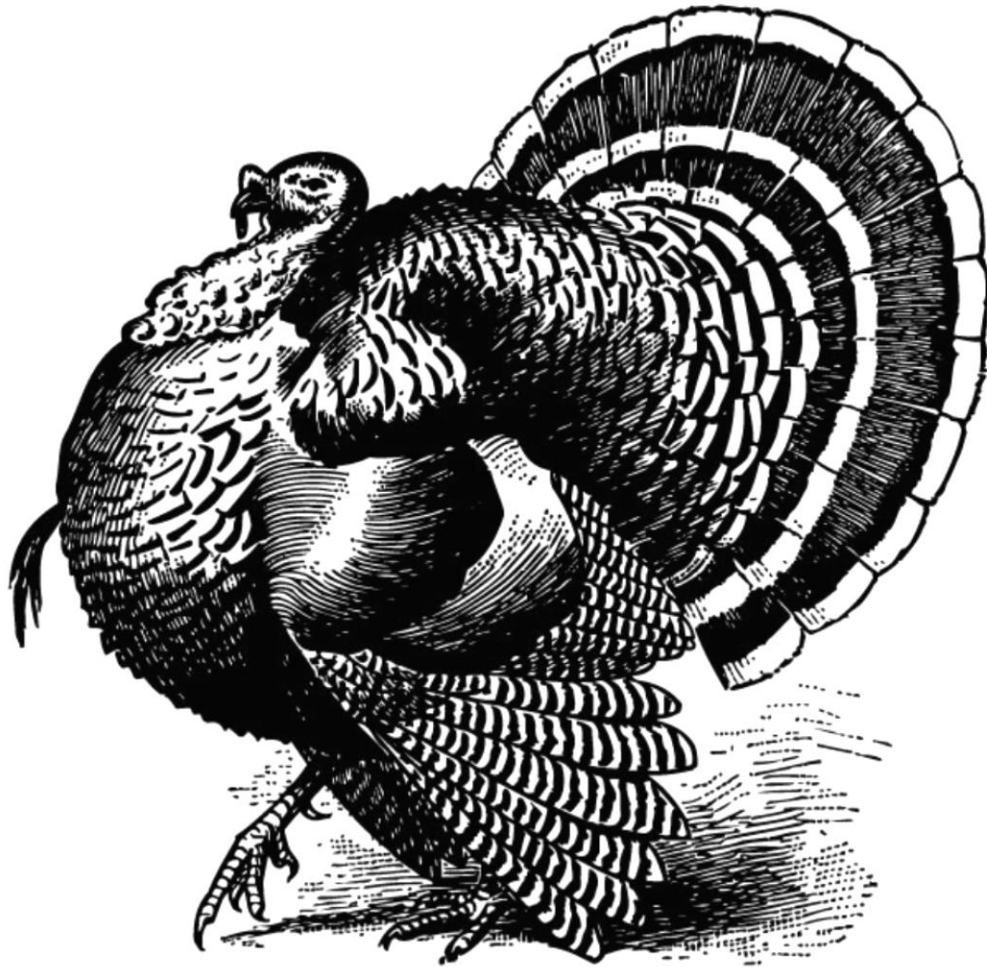
SECTION 5. Wild hogs in Illinois.

Though 44.2% of hunters agreed wild hogs are a source of disease, many (45.0%) were unsure and 10.8% disagreed. More than three-quarters of respondents (77.9%) agreed that wild hogs destroy native wildlife and that they should be eliminated wherever possible. Over 71% agreed that Illinois is better off without wild hogs, while 19.4% were unsure, and 9.4% disagreed. Thirteen participants (0.9%) observed feral hogs during the 2013-14 season. Hogs were observed in Cass, Clay, Fulton, Jackson, Marion, Ogle, Peoria, Pike, Pope Randolph, Wayne, and Woodford Counties. A majority of hunters (78%) said they would attempt to shoot a wild hog if they encountered one while hunting. Over 10% had hunted wild hogs in other states and most often traveled to states in the Southeastern United States to do so.

SECTION 6. Background information.

Hunters were mostly male (91.5%), had hunted for an average of 28 years, and were an average age of 49 years old. Almost 19% were veterans, 0.3% were currently on active duty, and 0.4% were currently serving but not on active duty. Responses were received from every Illinois county and the most commonly hunted counties were Fulton, Peoria, and Will.

Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey: 2013-2014 Seasons



Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources
and
Illinois Natural History Survey



The Department of Natural Resources is requesting disclosure of information that is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined under the Illinois Compiled Statutes, The Wildlife Code, Chapter 520. Disclosure of information is voluntary. This study is funded by the federal Wildlife Restoration Fund through your purchase of hunting arms and ammunition.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

All of your responses will be kept confidential.

Please return this survey in the postage-paid return envelope provided.

Section 1. Hunting Activity and Harvest in Illinois. Please provide the following information to allow IDNR biologists to monitor game species harvest and conserve wildlife populations in Illinois.

1. Did you purchase a hunting license in 2013? **97.0%** Yes **3.0%** No (Please go to **Question 5**) (*n*=1488)
2. Did you hunt any wildlife species in Illinois between March 2013 and February 2014? (*n*=1488)
85.5% Yes **14.5%** No (Please go to **Question 5**)

3. Please report your hunting effort and harvest in Illinois for the following species between March 1, 2013 and February 28, 2014. Include only game harvested and days you personally hunted in Illinois. Count only game you retrieved; **do not count animals you were not able to retrieve or animals that were trapped.** Count any part of a day hunted as 1 day.

Species	Number of Days Hunted	Number Harvested	County Hunted <u>Most Often</u>
Rabbit	_____	_____	_____
Quail (shooting preserve, club, etc.)	_____	_____	_____
Quail (wild)	_____	_____	_____
Pheasant (shooting preserve, club, etc.)	_____	_____	_____
Pheasant (wild)	_____	_____	_____
Gray Partridge (shooting preserve, club, etc.)	_____	_____	_____
Gray Partridge (wild)	_____	_____	_____
Dove	_____	_____	_____
Woodcock	_____	_____	_____
Snipe	_____	_____	_____
Rail	_____	_____	_____
Crow	_____	_____	_____
Ground Hog (Woodchuck)	_____	_____	_____
Gray Squirrel	_____	_____	_____
Fox Squirrel	_____	_____	_____
Turkey – Spring	_____	_____	_____
Turkey – Fall Shotgun	_____	_____	_____
Turkey – Fall Archery	_____	_____	_____
Deer – Regular Firearm Season	_____	_____	_____
Deer – Muzzleloader-Only Season	_____	_____	_____
Deer – Archery Season	_____	_____	_____
Deer – Late Winter Firearm Season	_____	_____	_____
Deer – Special CWD season	_____	_____	_____
Raccoon	_____	_____	_____
Red Fox	_____	_____	_____
Gray Fox	_____	_____	_____
Coyote	_____	_____	_____
Opossum	_____	_____	_____

4. Did you harvest any Eurasian collared-doves in Illinois during the 2013 season? (*n*=1077)
1.6% Yes; how many? **1: 25.0%, 2: 41.7%, ≥3: 35.3%** **95.9%** No **2.2%** Not sure

5. In the **last five years**, for which species has your hunting effort **increased**? (check **all that apply**.) (*n*=1488)
- | | | | |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| 12.0% Ducks | 9.1% Geese | 32.1% Deer (archery) | 41.5% Deer (firearm) |
| 3.6% Furbearers | 7.3% Pheasants | 3.0% Quail | 11.2% Squirrels |
| 5.5% Rabbits | 17.9% Turkeys | 8.2% Doves | 0.3% Gray partridge |
| 13.7% None | 2.2% Others: coyotes:75%, raccoon:15.6%, Deer-crossbow, elk, & woodchuck: 3.1% | | |
6. In the **last five years**, for which species has your hunting effort **decreased**? (check **all that apply**.) (*n*=1488)
- | | | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| 10.2% Ducks | 9.7% Geese | 13.9% Deer (archery) | 16.4% Deer (firearm) |
| 5.2% Furbearers | 17.1% Pheasants | 12.4% Quail | 15.7% Squirrels |
| 20.9% Rabbits | 10.8% Turkeys | 13.8% Doves | 2.7% Gray partridge |
| 22.3% None | 0.4% Others: coyotes: 66.7%, raccoon: 33.3% | | |
7. If you had only one day to hunt, which **ONE** of the following would you hunt? (check **one**.) (*n*=1436)
- | | | | |
|------------|-----------------|----------------|--|
| 68.2% Deer | 2.0% Furbearers | 5.4% Pheasants | 0.1% Gray partridge |
| 1.3% Quail | 3.6% Squirrels | 1.7% Rabbits | 6.5% Turkeys |
| 6.9% Ducks | 1.5% Geese | 1.5% Doves | 0.9% Other: coyotes: 0.7%, raccoon: 0.2% |

Section 2. License Purchase and Hunting Digest Use. The following questions will help us provide services to Illinois hunters.

1. How often do you use the Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations? (check **only one**.) (*n*=1465)
- | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 17.7% Never (Please go to question 7) | 12.3% Some years | 13.0% Most years | 57.0% Every year |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
2. Did you get a paper copy of the Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations last year? (*n*=1279)
- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| 77.9% Yes | 22.1% No |
|-----------|----------|
- 2a. If “Yes,” did you get your copy at same time as when you bought your hunting license? (*n*=992)
- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| 63.0% Yes | 37.0% No |
|-----------|----------|
- 2b. How many paper copies did you pick up last year? (*n*=993) \bar{x} = 1.65±1.81 (1: 58.4%, 2: 29.6%, 3+: 12.0%)
- 2c. If you took more than one paper copy last year, where did you keep them? (**all that apply**) (*n*=414)
- | | | |
|---|------------|-------------------|
| 66.7% Vehicle | 83.1% Home | 30.4% Hunting Bag |
| 19.8% Other: Gave to someone: 35.5% Camp/cabin/blind 28.0%, work 26.9%, etc | | |
3. Have you ever tried to get a paper copy of the Digest, but one was not available? (*n*=1233) 40.3% Yes 59.7% No
4. Which best describes **where** you picked up your **most recent** paper copy of the Digest? (**only one**.) (*n*=1156)
- | |
|--|
| 3.8% IDNR office or state headquarters |
| 64.8% Chain retail store (e.g. Wal-mart, Dick’s Sporting Goods) |
| 25.3% Independent retail store (e.g. local bait shop, local grocery store) |
| 6.1% Other: printed online version: 22.9%, courthouse/police /bank/gov’t bldg:18.6%, hunter safety school: 18.6%, State fair: 10%, etc |

5. Consider the various sections of the Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations. Please indicate which version of the Digest (paper, electronic, both or neither) you use for each section.

	Paper Copy	Electronic Copy	Both versions	Neither version
Seasons and bag limits (<i>n</i> =1154)	68.3%	10.6%	19.0%	2.2%
Maps and information on public hunting areas (<i>n</i> =904)	51.4%	11.6%	15.0%	21.9%
Hunting rules and regulations (<i>n</i> =1161)	71.1%	10.1%	17.6%	1.2%
Hunting zone boundaries (<i>n</i> =944)	59.9%	9.6%	15.5%	15.0%
Sunrise-Sunset time tables (<i>n</i> =1083)	68.5%	9.4%	14.5%	7.6%
Steel shot lethality table (<i>n</i> =655)	48.3%	5.9%	9.2%	36.6%
License, permit, and stamp information (<i>n</i> =1073)	62.4%	12.6%	19.9%	5.1%

6. Which version of the Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations do you prefer? (check **one**) (*n*=1243)
86.2% Paper copy of the Digest **13.8%** Electronic copy of the Digest

7. If future versions of the Digest included a **removable insert** with **Season Start/End Dates, Sunrise/Sunset Tables, and Possession Limits**, would it change how many paper copies you take? (*n*=1436)

65.6% No **20.9%** Yes, I would take **fewer** copies **13.5%** Yes, I would take **more** copies

8. If the insert included **Season Start/End Dates, Sunrise/Sunset Tables, and Possession Limits**, how frequently do you think you would use the insert? (*n*=1433)

7.0% Never **6.9%** Rarely **30.8%** Sometimes **36.5%** Often **18.8%** Always

- 8a. What information, other than that listed in question 8, do you think would be useful for this insert to include? (Check **all that apply**) (*n*=1433)

46.2% License and permit information **29.4%** Hunting zone boundaries **50.1%** Statewide hunting regulations
9.1% Steel shot lethality table **38.6%** IDNR Contact information
2.7% Other: new laws, blaze orange **30.0%**, game warden info **12.5%**

Section 3. Upland Game Hunting. IDNR biologists are interested in learning about hunters who hunt upland and furbearing game in order to better manage hunting opportunities.

1. The current Illinois Dove Season is open **September 1 – October 27 and November 2 – November 14**. If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines that Illinois could add 20 days to the Dove Season, within the window of September 1 – January 15, which option would you prefer? (Please check **only one**.) (*n*=195)

47.2% Fill the 5 day gap between October 27 and November 2 and add 15 days from December 26 – January 10.
8.7% Leave the October – November gap and add 20 days from December 26 – January 15.
44.1% Run the season from September 1 – November 9 and add 20 days from December 26 – January 15.

2. Which species did you **intend** to hunt during the 2013-14 season? (Please check **all that apply**) (*n*=1488)

23.9% Pheasant **11.6%** Quail **0.8%** Gray partridge **25.9%** Rabbit **48.4%** None

- 2a. 2013-14, which of the following did you rely **exclusively** on receiving a Free Upland Game Permit? (*n*=606)

16.2% Pheasant **6.1%** Quail **0.5%** Gray partridge **14.7%** Rabbit **62.0%** None

3. Did you apply for a Free Upland Game Permit for the 2013-14 season? (n=1384)

4.7% Yes 23.4% No 71.9% No, and **I have never applied** for one. (Please skip to question 11)

4. Was the 2013-14 season your first time applying for this permit? (n=61) 16.4% Yes 83.6% No

4a. If "No", when did you last apply for a Free Upland Game Permit? (n=28)

2012: 75.0% 2011: 7.1% 2010: 7.1% 2009 or before 10.8%

5. Please rate your satisfaction with the Free Upland Game Permit application process. (circle **one.**) (n=250)

Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Slightly Dissatisfied	Unsure	Slightly Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
5.6%	4.0%	2.4%	50.8%	4.0%	27.2%	6.0%

6. Which best describes how often you apply for a Free Upland Game Permit? (check **one.**) (n=404)

65.8% Never (Skip to 11) 10.9% Rarely 8.7% Occasional years 6.2% Most years 8.4% Every year

7. Which best describes how often you are drawn for a Free Upland Game Permit? (check **one.**) (n=134)

25.4% Never 23.9% Rarely 29.1% Occasional years 15.7% Most years 6.0% Every year

8. If you do not apply for a Free Upland Game Permit every year please indicate why. (**all that apply.**) (n=370)

12.7% Not enough time 3.0% Do not have enough people
 5.4% Poor habitat quality 5.4% Do not have enough dogs
 3.8% I am never drawn for my preferred site 6.8% Too much competition from other hunters
 2.7% I have limited internet access 1.9% My preferred site is too far away
 8.9% I forgot or missed the drawing deadline 9.7% I prefer to hunt other game during upland season
 2.4% Other: dog too old: 22.2%, not enough sites for hunters: 11.1%,

9. When you apply for a Free Upland Game Permit, to how many sites do you typically apply? (circle **one.**) (n=132)

1 – 63.8% 2 – 18.9% 3 – 12.1% 4 – 3.0% 5 – 0% 6 – 2.3%

10. Did you receive a Free Upland Game Permit for the 2013-14 season? (n=219)

84.5% Yes 15.5% No

10a. If "No," when did you last receive a Free UGP ?(n=57) 2012: 36.8%, 2011: 17.5%, 2010: 17.6%,

11. How often did you hunt upland game in Illinois at the following types of sites during the 2013-14 hunting season?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
IDNR controlled pheasant hunts (n=1021)	89.3%	3.3%	2.9%	2.7%	1.7%
Public hunting areas (n=1021)	83.5%	4.9%	6.2%	2.6%	2.7%
Private hunting preserves (n=1021)	86.2%	4.4%	4.0%	2.2%	3.2%
Private land I lease (n=985)	93.9%	1.6%	0.9%	1.9%	1.6%
Private land owned by me (n=1056)	77.9%	3.8%	3.7%	4.6%	9.9%
Private land owned by someone who gave me permission (n=1160)	60.4%	5.9%	9.1%	7.2%	17.3%

Section 4. White-tailed Deer in Illinois. Please answer the following questions about white-tailed deer and Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and Blue Tongue Virus (BTV) in Illinois **during 2013.**

1. Using the table below, please report the number of dead deer you saw in or next to bodies of water (creeks, ponds, lakes, etc.) from **July through October 2013**. Report **ONLY** deer that (1) **YOU** actually saw; (2) were fresh enough to have died **DURING** the July-October period; (3) were **IN** or **BESIDE** a water source; and (4) **DID NOT** show any visible signs of trauma (broken bones or other wounds).

Did you observe dead deer in this period? (n=1007)	If Yes, how many dead deer, did you see? (n=191)	Did you report any to the IDNR? (n=191)	If Yes, how many did you report to the IDNR? (n=11)
19.0% Yes 81.0% No	3.37 ± 3.84 dead deer 1: 29.8% 2: 25.7% 3: 13.6% 4+: 31.1%	5.8% Yes 94.2% No	3.91 ± 4.46 deer reported

2. Which county did you observe the **most** deer that died from EHD or BTV? (n=191)

Adams: **4.7%**, Pike: **4.7%**, Jo Davies: **3.7%**, & Effingham: **3.1%**

3. How do you think EHD and BTV impacted the deer population **during 2013** in areas **you typically hunt**? Please circle the number that matches your response. (n=876)

Decreased Considerably	Decreased Moderately	Decreased Slightly	No Change	Increased Slightly	Increased Moderately	Increased Considerably
21.0%	16.6%	20.0%	31.4%	3.0%	4.1%	4.0%

4. How do you think EHD and BTV impacted the deer population **during 2013** throughout the **entire state**? Please circle the number that matches your response. (n=880)

Decreased Considerably	Decreased Moderately	Decreased Slightly	No Change	Increased Slightly	Increased Moderately	Increased Considerably
21.3%	24.1%	20.6%	19.1%	5.5%	4.7%	4.7%

5. How did the 2013 EHD/BTV outbreak in the deer population change your approach to hunting? (Check **all that apply**). (n=816)

17.4% EHD and BTV did not affect my area **1.0%** I went hunting, but did not intend to eat my deer
12.4% I passed on does **11.9%** I did not hunt as many days
1.8% I moved to a new hunting area **1.3%** I did not hunt at all (*Missing those that did not deer hunt*)
55.1% It did not change my approach at all **8.3%** I usually hunt the Late-Winter Season, but not this year
3.9% Other: observed fewer deer: **29.3%**, was very selective: **24.4%**, Passed on smaller deer: **12.2%**

6. How did the number of deer **you saw** during the 2013-14 season compare to 5 years ago? (n=986)

Decreased Considerably	Decreased Moderately	Decreased Slightly	No Change	Increased Slightly	Increased Moderately	Increased Considerably
38.0%	20.9%	18.1%	13.9%	5.4%	2.9%	0.8%

7. How does the number of deer **you harvested** during the 2013-14 season compare to 5 years ago? (n=967)

Decreased Considerably	Decreased Moderately	Decreased Slightly	No Change	Increased Slightly	Increased Moderately	Increased Considerably
30.4%	15.5%	18.2%	31.6%	2.4%	1.0%	0.8%

8. Which type of land do you hunt **most often** for deer? (Please check **one**). (n=969)

- 27.5% Private land owned by me
- 6.6% State land
- 3.1% Private land under a lease
- 2.1% Federal land
- 60.8% Private land owned by someone who gave me permission

9. If you **did not hunt deer** during the 2013-14 season, please select the reason(s) from the list below. (Please check **all that apply**). (n=447)

- 7.8% - Fewer deer where I hunt
- 2.9% - Didn't draw a permit
- 3.8% - Too expensive
- 11.6% - Lost interest
- 11.0% - No access to places to hunt
- 18.6% - Not enough time
- 0.7% - Deer hunting takes too much effort
- 17.0% - I've never been a deer hunter
- 10.1% - I was in poor health
- 6.9% - Other: Weather, elderly, too many out of state hunters

10. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.

I support a limit of...	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Unsure	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
(1) antlered buck per hunter per year for all seasons combined (n=933)	24.8%	16.6%	8.0%	8.0%	7.8%	12.2%	22.5%
(2) antlered buck per hunter per year for all seasons combined (n=948)	15.1%	7.5%	5.0%	7.9%	8.9%	27.7%	28.0%
(2) antlered buck per hunter per year for all seasons combined, only one of which may be taken before the close of the first firearm deer season. (n=890)	26.3%	15.7%	6.5%	21.6%	7.9%	11.7%	10.3%
“Late-Winter” Antlerless-only Firearm							
The current dates for the Late-Winter Antlerless-only Firearm Deer Season (held last season during Dec. 26-29 and Jan. 17-19) are about right. (n=961)	13.4%	6.6%	4.7%	17.8%	9.5%	31.7%	16.3%
The “Late-Winter” antlerless-only firearm deer season should be moved to a single season in mid-October. (n=906)	37.4%	18.1%	5.1%	15.9%	6.3%	8.7%	8.5%
The “Late-Winter” antlerless-only firearm deer season should be moved to a single season in mid-September. (n=900)	44.9%	19.8%	4.7%	16.7%	4.7%	4.2%	5.1%

Section 5. Wild Hogs in Illinois. Please answer the following questions about wild (feral) hogs in Illinois.

1. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Unsure	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Wild hogs are a source of disease. (n=1344)	4.2%	4.5%	2.1%	45.0%	6.0%	18.0%	20.2%
Wild hogs destroy native wildlife. (n=1358)	2.4%	1.5%	1.3%	17.1%	7.7%	31.8%	38.4%
Wild hogs should be eliminated wherever possible. (n=1364)	2.5%	2.3%	2.3%	17.4%	8.1%	26.6%	40.8%
Illinois is better off without wild hogs. (n=1374)	3.1%	3.1%	3.2%	19.4%	4.9%	24.0%	42.4%

2. Did you observe wild hogs in the field at any point during the 2013-14 Illinois hunting seasons? (*n*=1382)
0.9% Yes - Cass, Clay, Fulton, Jackson, Marion, Ogle, Peoria, Pike, Pope, Wayne, & Woodford each had 1 report
 Randolph had 2 reports.
99.1% No
3. Would you attempt to shoot a wild hog if you saw one while hunting during the firearm deer seasons? (*n*=1386)
77.3% Yes **22.7%** No
4. Have you ever hunted wild hogs before in any state? (*n*=1445) **10.7%** Yes **89.3%** No
- 4a. If “Yes”, which state(s)? (*n*=155) Texas: **30.3%**, Florida: **17.4%**, Tennessee: **16.8%**, Missouri: **9.0%**

Section 6. Background Information. The following questions allow us to understand more about the people involved in hunting in Illinois. All responses are kept confidential.

1. How many years have you hunted in Illinois? (*n*=1440)
 $\bar{x} = 28.45 \pm 18.45$ years
2. What is your county of residence? (*n*=1488)
 Cook County: **4.8%** Marion County: **4.1%** St. Clair County: **3.1%**
3. What county do you hunt in **most often**? (*n*=1456)
 Fulton County: **3.0%** Peoria County: **2.6%** Will County: **2.5%**
4. What is your gender? (*n*=1488) Male: **91.5 %** Female: **8.5%**
5. Please give your age. (*n*=1471) $\bar{x} = 48.70 \pm 16.80$ years
6. What is your military status? (Please check **one**) (*n*= 1424)
18.8% I am a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces.
0.3% I am currently on active duty in the U.S. military.
0.4% I am currently serving in the U.S. military but not on active duty.
80.5% I have never served in the U.S. military.

Comments



THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ASSISTANCE!
Please return this survey in the postage-paid envelope provided.

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