



WHITE-TAILED DEER SUMMARY 2023-2024: STEPHENSON COUNTY

Forest Wildlife Program, Illinois Department of Natural Resources



County Size: 565 square miles

Year Opened to Deer Hunting: 1957

Record Harvest: 1,829 (2007)

Average Harvest (previous 10 years): 1,288

Total 2023-2024 Harvest (all seasons): 1,101

Permits issued/quota 2023-2024 (excludes landowner; archery and youth are statewide):

Firearm: 2169/3250 **Muzzle:** 199/525

CWD: 52

Chronic Wasting Disease Detected: Yes

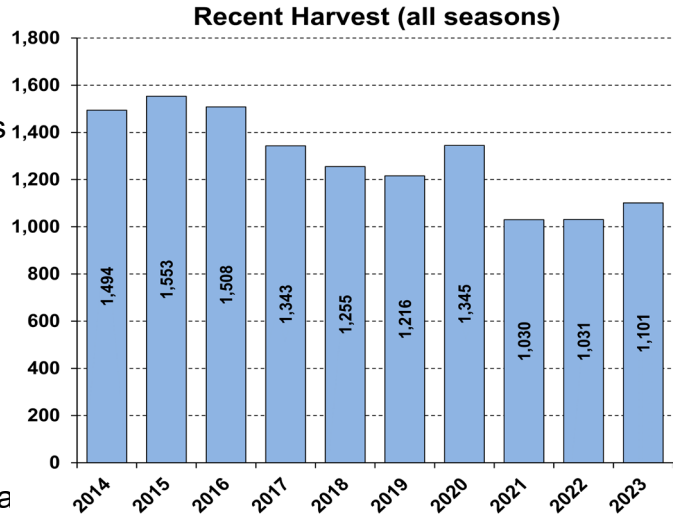
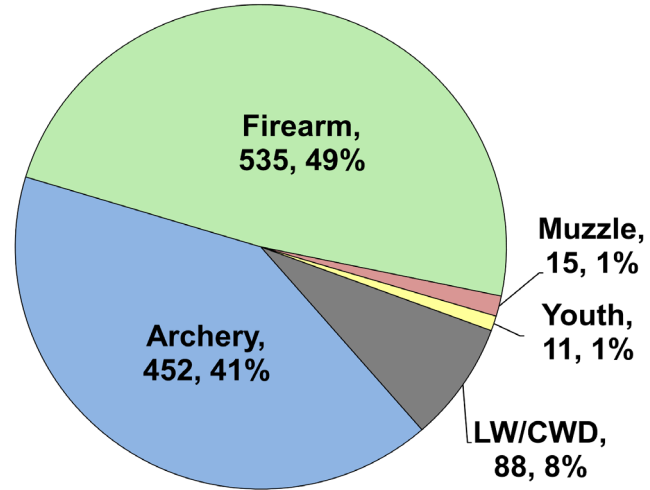
Check Station Loc: Stephenson Co. Fairgrounds

CWD Season in 2024-2025: Yes. CWD has and continues to be detected in this county. CWD season allows for extra hunter harvest to reduce deer density and disease transmission.

Number tested for CWD in 2023-24: 456

CWD positive deer in 2023-24: 52

IDNR sharpshooting: 177 deer were removed via sharpshooting which is used to supplement hunter harvest, allows localized deer reductions in known CWD positive areas to reduce transmission rates and environmental contamination.



Recent Archery Harvest by Bow Type

Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Compound	274	251	166	170	163
Crossbow	258	296	237	238	284
Traditional	0	5	4	5	5
Total	532	552	407	413	452

Age/Sex Composition of Recent Harvest (%)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
M - Adult	30.7	27.4	26.8	28.5	32.1
M - Yearling	19.4	17.9	19.9	18.0	19.5
M - Fawn	8.5	9.7	8.8	10.7	8.6
F - Adult	35.0	39.8	36.8	35.6	34.2
F - Fawn	6.5	5.1	7.6	7.2	5.6

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

