

Looking for a Public Hunting Area in Illinois?

In Illinois, we are fortunate to have ten sites where the IDNR sponsors a Controlled Pheasant Season. [IDNR Controlled Pheasant Season Permit Instructions](#)

Each area has a different type of grounds and atmosphere and it can be a lot of fun to experience what each site has to offer. When hunting these areas, you have two options; purchasing a permit in advance through the online system [IDNR Online Pheasant Registration](#) or by showing up ahead of time and registering for a standby hunt. Each site may handle their standby hunts differently, so we suggest calling the site a few days ahead of time to see how their system works. At Des Plaines, for example, once the doors open at 7:00 standby hunters can register their group and will then receive a number for the lottery. At 8:00 the standby lottery numbers are called until the number of open spots are filled. There is really no advantage to being there much before 8:00 as the numbers are chosen at random. Other sites may use a first come, first served system for standby hunts. Overall, your chances for success can be guaranteed by using the online advance permit system [IDNR Online Pheasant Registration](#).

The 2014 Illinois CPH season runs from October 29th through December 28th at most sites.

Reserving a hunting permit online is easy and will guarantee that you and your hunting party will have a place to hunt on that date.

This is how you can purchase a permit:

1. Go to [Pheasant Permit Applications](#)
2. Click on Controlled Pheasant Hunts (T Miller is a different system)
3. At the top of the page you can use the View Quota Calendar drop down to view registration and available permits for each site [Permit Quotas](#). You can view the availability for each of the sites in the system from here.
4. Once you determine the site you are interested in and confirm that there are permits available, go back to the [Application Page](#) and begin filling out the application. You can register up to four hunters on your permit. You will need your 9-digit IDNR Customer number from your current Illinois hunting license to populate the fields. Continue filling out the application and hit Review and Payment.
5. They will ask for a credit card number for payment
6. Click submit
7. Print out your permit
8. You can check the status of all your permits, or reprint them at [Check Status of Permits](#)

The sites vary on their system for assigning fields, but you should plan on being there prior to 8:00 a.m. to get your choice of field to begin your hunt in. Be sure to bring a copy of your permit, driver's license or other ID and your hunting license for

check-in. Be sure you are clear on the site's check out procedure so you can report your harvest, tag your birds and retrieve your license.